

Mayor Speech

Fast Track Cities

The city of Kingston signed the Paris Declaration on December 1, 2014. *The Paris Declaration allows Mayors and elected leaders to partner with public health departments and communities to end the HIV, tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis epidemics by 2030.*

Ending the HIV epidemic is within reach if we all work together within the existing public-private-people partnerships. It is with this understanding that the City of Kingston has partnered with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, UNAIDS, IAPAC and civil society to enable fast track Kingston which includes:-

- 1) The development of the City's health profile
- 2) The shelter Health Programme. Fast Track Kingston has taken on a holistic approach to health services tailored for the homeless population. The program will expand services beyond those of HIV to include mental health and chronic diseases, which are some of the

common disorders in the homeless population.

- 3) Environmental sanitation is also being included given the various challenges that exist with dengue and other vector borne illnesses heavily driven by the state of the environment.

The path to the growth of the City of Kingston must respond to the increasing demands of our residents for a healthier and resilient city. So, while we take the lead in planning for and investing in urban development we must find the avenues for the increased participation of our residents in the decision making process. This along with collaborative approaches ought to be central to our development strategies since creating a resilient and healthy city is primary.

Creating a resilient, healthy and liveable city requires that our policy formulation processes be inclusive and integrated, working and partnering across sectors and communities to involve different stakeholders. Resilience requires greater collaboration with our communities in an effort to

foster strong community bonds, and therefore, forging deeper support networks that become critical during times of needs.

As Mayor of Kingston, I say to this gathering that the KSAMC is committed to building a city that can survive, adopt and prosper regardless of the stresses and shocks. Resilience is continuously built through the long term planning and integrated city governance.

Understanding is a process we comprehend through the process of thought. Building the infrastructure of a resilient and healthy city requires understanding. The word understanding carries with it the carefulness in thinking and planning. Therefore, the process to create resilience and public health must be deliberately designed to bring the strongest ideas to the center. Deliberate planning to specific outcomes – this is how we create great cities, resilient, healthy, liveable and sustainable.

