



**EPN CONSULTANTS
LIMITED**

Suite No. 7, Main Plaza
83½ Red Hills Road
Kingston 20
Jamaica, W.I.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MOUNT EDGECOMBE CEMETERY – BELMONT, WESTMORELAND



2009 March 18

Submitted to:



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND
PLANNING AGENCY**
10 Caledonia Avenue
Kingston 5

On behalf of:

**WESTMORELAND PARISH
COUNCIL**
Great Georges Street
Savanna-la-mar
Westmoreland

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL FOR PUBLIC PRESENTATION.....	3
2. METHODOLOGY.....	3
3. ATTENDANCE.....	3
4. VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS.....	3
5. CONCLUSIONS.....	22
6. APPENDICES.....	23

1. CALL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The call for a public presentation on the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery, Belmont, Westmoreland was made in response to a National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) correspondence dated 2008 October 13 (Appendix I). The request was to “conduct a public presentation as part of the review process and that a notification of period of three (3) weeks is required prior to the presentation.”

2. METHODOLOGY

As requested by NEPA, 3 advertisements notifying the public about the meeting was placed in *The Western Mirror* on Friday, 2009 January 30, Wednesday, February 11 and Monday, February 16 (see Appendix V). An announcement was also aired on the Vibe FM radio station on Thursday, 2009 February 19. In addition, flyers were circulated to the Whitehouse Primary and Junior High School in Whitehouse and to the Belmont Missionary Church for distribution. Copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment summary were distributed to those in attendance prior to the start of the meeting.

This was the rescheduled meeting that was originally planned for 2009 December 08 advertised in the Daily Gleaner of Friday, 2008 November 14, and in *The Western Mirror* on Wednesday, November 28, 2008, but was abandoned due to a poor turn out of the community and stakeholders.

3. ATTENDANCE

The public meeting was held on 2009 February 23 at the Belmont Missionary Church and commenced at approximately 6.00 pm and adjourned at 7.45 pm. There were over twenty-five (25) persons in attendance at the meeting including Mr. Bertel Moore – Mayor, Savanna-la-mar; Mr. Valdense Gifford – Councillor, Whitehouse; Mrs. Beverline Brown Smith – President, EPN Consultants Limited and, representatives from NEPA. The audience included members of the Belmont community, as well as, representatives of the Bluefields Community Development Committee (CDC). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Haile Mika’el, member of the Bluefields CDC (see the Agenda in Appendix III). A list of attendees is shown in Appendix IV.

4. VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS

Opening Remarks

Mr. Mika’el: I am Haile Mika’el, PRO of the Bluefields Community Development Committee and I have been asked to chair this Environmental Impact Assessment Programme here at the Belmont Missionary Church.

I am going to ask Mr. Derrick Senior, Elder of the Belmont Missionary Church to say a word of prayer for the proceedings.

Mr. Senior: Prayer

Mr. Mika’el:

Welcome everyone present this evening – residents from Belmont and its environs, I’d like also to welcome our Councilor – Valdense Gifford from the Whitehouse division, also persons from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). Could we give them a welcome please? And we’d also like to take the time now to welcome the persons from the Environmental Planners and Navigators Consultants Limited they are the ones who did the assessment and you’ll be hearing more about it later on, so can you give them also a round of applause.

This Environmental Impact Assessment was done for the proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery here in Belmont, Westmoreland. And a little background – a need for a cemetery in the Whitehouse Division arose where persons like yours truly not having access to family plots...a cemetery was seen as the solution, a public cemetery, that is. The Former Councilor, Mr. Ivan Bob Pinnock, he made recommendation prior to 2001 for the Westmoreland Parish Council to use lands in the community for a public cemetery. As such, the Westmoreland Parish Council acquired the land, 19 acres - as a gift from the UDC. The land in question is just feet from the new development: the Bluefields High School.

In 2006 the Environmental Impact Assessment was ordered by the Westmoreland Parish Council and had been undertaken by EPN (Environmental Planners and Navigators). That assessment was completed in October 2008 and report went out to NEPA and now today February 23, in fulfilling part of that assessment NEPA requested that a public consultation be done and coming out of this evening the report will be sent to NEPA to let them know how the community feels about this development. So in a nutshell that is what has happened up to now and to crack the nut open a bit more; the persons from EPN Consultants Ltd. have been established in 2001, their headquarters is on Red Hills Road in Kingston and they have worked on housing developments in Richmond, St. Ann, Smithfield and Whitehall here in Westmoreland. They are architects, environmental planners, ecologists and to make the presentation on behalf of the company is Mrs. Traci-Ann Lewis a project officer. I would like also to mention Mrs. Beverline Brown Smith; she is the president, Mr. Robert Smith – Vice President and Ms. Monique Roberts – Planning Officer.

So could we now put our hands together and open our ears as we listen to the report from Mrs. Traci – Ann Lewis.

Presentation on Main Findings of the EIA by Mrs. Traci-Ann Lewis

Mrs. Lewis:

Good evening everyone, welcome once again to the presentation on the main findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery, Belmont, Westmoreland. I’m asking that you hold all questions until the end of the presentation to ensure a smooth flow. Thank you.

Need for a Cemetery

The proposed development would go a long way in meeting the demand of the parish for a cemetery. This cemetery is intended to increase capacity as the publicly owned Tate Cemetery in Savanna-la-mar is nearing its carrying capacity and will be unable to meet the needs of the area, including Whitehouse for the amenity.

This site was chosen based on four (4) main considerations:

- (1) The site is government owned
- (2) The site is accessible
- (3) There were no obvious issues related to environmental sustainability
- (4) The development would not breach Development Order guidelines.

It must be mentioned here that in a survey conducted when asked of their views on the proposed cemetery, 55% of the respondents said positive while 44% said negative.

The cemetery will consist of:

- Vaults – There will be 2,600 vaults; 1,600 double vaults and 1000 single vaults. The size of each vault will be 1,200m X 2,250m. The base of the vaults will be sealed with concrete to a thickness of 100mm.
- Chapel – A chapel to conduct funeral services will be constructed and will have the capacity to seat up to 80 persons.
- Parking – Parking will be made available.
- Landscaped Area – Open spaces, verges and roadways will be landscaped.

The Proposed Burial Process

- (1) Cemetery workers will cut the grave using a backhoe or other mechanical equipment to a depth of 6 feet (1.8 metres).
- (2) The material dug up (excavated spoil) will be piled close to the grave for backfilling.
- (3) Vaults will be sealed with concrete to prevent grave leachate from entering the soil and the groundwater system.
- (4) The casket will then be lowered into the vault and the grave backfilled (leveled) to complete burial.

World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines

- The base of all burial pits must maintain a minimum of one metre clearance above the highest natural water table. (Any variability in the water table should be taken into account.)

- Burial excavations should be backfilled as soon as the remains are interred, providing a minimum of one metre soil cover at the surface.

The Physical Environment

- Temperature – the coolest months are January and February with temperatures of 20.2 and 19.8 degrees Celsius respectively. The hottest months are in the summer (July, August and September) with temperatures of 31.1, 31.4 and 31 degrees Celsius respectively.
- Precipitation – Rainfall data from the Meteorological Office of Jamaica over a thirty-year period (1951 – 1980) shows the mean monthly rainfall for Frome, Westmoreland as 181 mm with the highest of 308 mm in May followed by 294 mm in August.

The Physical Environment – Geology

- The Belmont property and its environs is comprised of Gibraltar-Bonnygate Limestone of the White Limestone Group and Alluvium derived from the deposition of weathered soil from the upper slopes to the north and northeast.
- This limestone features - low storage and poor transmissivity characteristics. Fissures, solution channels, sinkholes and caves are developed in this formation, however, solution channels are often shallow and poorly developed; with little interconnection between subsurface drainage systems.
- The Newmarket 1:50,000 Geology Sheet 5 indicates that there are no geological faults on the site. The nearest geological fault is estimated to be 600 m to the north-east and therefore has no influence on the property.

The Physical Environment – Topography

- The property and surrounding areas exhibit minor variations in terrain features. The site is situated near the margin of a south-west facing slope (4-6 degrees) which rises from an elevation of 7.6 m in the south west to approximately 151m in the north-east (10-13 degrees). The approximate site elevation ranges from a low of 4.54 m to a high of 21m above mean sea level.

North-east of the property the land rises gradually where it culminates into conical and semi-conical hills, typical of less immature limestone karst topography. South-east of the site, the topographic features change into a marsh/wetland environment and the terrain flattens out into the Caribbean Sea.

The Physical Environment – Soils

- Typically, reddish brown lateritic soil is found on the south-western half of the property.

- Further to the north and north-east, the soil thins out and limestone outcrops are interspersed with very thin soils.
- It is estimated that approximately 40 to 50% of the property is located on soil not exceeding 30 cm in thickness

The Physical Environment – Soil Percolation Test Result

TEST PIT #	DEPTH		PERCOLATION RATE	
	Ft	Meters	min/inch	min/cm
1	5	1.50	17	6.7
2	4	1.20	23	9
3	4.3	1.30	12	4.7
4	3.7	1.12	21	8.3

The Physical Environment – Hydrology

- The proposed cemetery site is located within the Cabarita River hydrologic basin. The Gibraltar-Bonnygate Formation constitutes the principal limestone aquifer in the vicinity of Belmont/Mt. Edgecombe. The dominant water resource type associated with aquifers is groundwater. There are no surface water features on, or in close proximity to the proposed development.
- There is inadequate data for the characterization of the regional groundwater flow system, however, hydrologic analyses of the nearest wells (Edgecombe - 0.25 km and Edgecombe #2 - 2.9 km) located south-east of the Project Site indicate that the groundwater elevation is approximately 5 meters below ground level. The Auchindown well further east indicates that depth to groundwater is 27 m below ground level. Water levels are fairly constant throughout the year and do not reflect the seasonality of rainfall providing further evidence that surface water does not percolate rapidly to the groundwater table.
- Groundwater flows in a south-easterly direction to the sea. The low permeability of the limestone, and the physical characteristics (type and internal drainage capacity) and the presence of clayey silt of the overlying soil unit do not make the regional water resources.

The Physical Environment – Risk Assessment of Natural Hazards

An assessment of the vulnerability of the site is based on the physical characteristics of the site and surrounding areas and historical events which have impacted the area. The Belmont/Bluefields area has been affected mainly by inland and coastal flooding.

The 1979 flood rains was the last major flood event to affect the project area.

Terrestrial Ecology – Flora/Vegetation

- The proposed development area is severely degraded – more than 80% of the site. A significant proportion of the site had been clear-cut since 2005 – 2006. The property has, and continues to undergo frequent and severe human modification by way of mechanical clearing, fire, the harvesting of wood, and the grazing of cattle.
- The majority of species identified on the Belmont property could not be classified as trees because either their growth form or maturity did not meet the criterion used for tree classification. The property was covered primarily by a mixture of shrubs (for example, Caster Oil (*Ricinus communis*) – a common plant of waste places across Jamaica) and grasses, interspersed with seedlings or young trees representative of either the adjoining semi-natural dry forest ecosystem.
- The more mature trees of the eastern sections of the property and those that were maintained along the property boundary revealed that the original vegetation was much more diverse. These trees were almost always covered with epiphytic species.

Terrestrial Ecology – Fauna/Animals

- No wild mammals, reptiles, or amphibians were identified from the study area. Domesticated animals were, however, present. Several goats and one cow were observed grazing at the time of the site assessment.
- Generally, bird species diversity was low on the property. Forty-three (43) birds belonging to nineteen (19) species were observed. Of these, four (4) were Jamaican endemic species while an additional four were Jamaican Endemic sub-species. No bird species identified during the survey is currently considered either to be nationally uncommon or a species of conservation concern.

JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SPECIES	JAMAICAN ENDEMIC SUB-SPECIES
Red-billed Streamertail	Caribbean Dove
Jamaican Woodpecker	Vervain Humming Bird
Jamaican Vireo	Jamaican Oriole
Jamaican Euphonia	Greater Antillean Grackle

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

The main issues are:

- The pending implications for social services & amenities, physical infrastructure and employment
- The effects of local cultural practices
- Public and Occupational Health and Safety
- The effects of the development on existing and adjacent populations

Will the development:

- Assure Public & Occupational Health & Safety?
- Employ measures to conserve energy and natural resources?
- Take advantage of its uniqueness in terms of population, climate, geography, history, culture and industry in its design?

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

- Demographics – In 2001 the population of Savanna-la-mar stood at 19,893, the population of Whitehouse was 3,498 and Westmoreland's total population was 138,947 (STATIN, 2003).
- Mortality Rate – Jamaica's life expectancy at birth stood at 71.2 years, while crude birth rate stood at 17.03 per 1000 of the population. Crude death rate stood at 6.37 per 1000 of the population (STATIN, 2007).
- Employment & Income – In 2003, 11,200 persons were unemployed in Westmoreland. Based on a survey conducted among residents in the social impact area, employment spans a wide range of occupations including - fishers, fish vendor, barbers, dressmakers and construction workers. As it relates to salary, 46% or the majority of the respondents receive less than **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** per month.
- Economic Activities – tourism, agriculture & manufacturing.
- Social Amenities & Infrastructure – police station, post office, fire station etc.

Cemeteries	There are currently fourteen (14) cemeteries operating of which thirteen (13) are operated by the Westmoreland Parish Council. Five (5) cemeteries have exceeded 50% of their burial capacity.
Solid waste	Arrangements will be made with the WPM for solid waste disposal
Post Office	The Bluefields Post Office serves the community
Police Station	The Bluefields Police Station serves the community
School	The new high school under construction adjacent to the site (location of the former Bluefields All-Age School)
Health Service	No health centre serves the immediate communities
Church	The Belmont Missionary Church is among the churches present in the area.
Health and Safety	A number of plans will be put in place to reduce pollution, traffic, disasters and also to promote job safety.

Potential Environmental Impacts – Physical Resources (Construction Phase)

- Soils - no major impacts are expected

- Water Quality - water quality is not likely to be affected. Groundwater levels are fairly constant throughout the year and do not reflect the seasonality of rainfall.
- Hazards - wind, water, or structural damage to property – with possible effects on business operations and insurance.

Operation/Maintenance Phase

- Water Quality – Residents will not be affected by poor water quality during the operational phase of the cemetery
- Local Climate – It is likely that the micro-climate at the project site will be altered from its present condition.

Potential Environmental Impacts – Terrestrial Resources (Construction Phase)

- Flora/Vegetation – the site is severely degraded and the proposed development will not result in any major negative impact to the vegetation.
- Fauna/Animals – there will be no significant impact as the abundance and diversity of fauna on the site were also low.
- Wetlands – the disturbance of the soil during construction could result in an increase in the movement of soil, rubble among other water transported material into the wetlands located to the south west of the site.

Operation/Maintenance Phase

- Wetlands – The disturbance of the soil during burial could result in an increase in the movement of soil etc. into the fringe of wetlands located to the south west of the site.

Potential Social Impacts

Construction Phase

- Scenery - the scenic vista of the area will not be greatly affected by the development as there are few trees to be removed from the property. Those along the main road will be maintained as far as is possible.
- Air Quality – heavy-duty vehicles and equipment are likely to produce increased combustion emissions. Also, there is the potential for increased atmospheric dust from bare soils, stockpiles, uncovered, overloaded trucks and storage equipment.
- Noise & Vibration – are likely to be produced by heavy machinery, vehicles and equipment. Ambient level noise during construction is expected to affect on site workers and to a lesser degree the community.
- Solid Waste – will be produced by construction and other activities on site. Wastes will include vegetation and construction debris, construction packaging materials, and some domestic wastes from the construction camp.

- Employment – the proposed project will provide the opportunity for livelihood opportunities for labourers and tradesmen, shop and store owners, taxi and mini bus operators. Priority will be given to residents within the immediate community for employment possibilities created during the implementation of the project.
- Utilities and services – increased demand for landfill space and municipal collection services. The nature of the development requires water for everyday usage including landscaping which requires large quantities of water, there is also water in case of fire.
- Traffic – there will be an increase in traffic volume due to travel of employees to and from work especially during peak hours, while the transportation of construction material and solid waste may increase traffic flow during both peak and off-peak periods. An increase in traffic flow may inadvertently result in traffic accidents.
- Community Conservation – the cemetery will be located adjacent to a school.

Operation/Maintenance Phase

- Scenery – the site will be aesthetically pleasing.
- Air Quality – there is expected to be an increase in particulate matter (dust) once the cemetery is in operation as a result of ground preparation activities (for burial plots). Bare soils have the potential to generate fugitive dust. However, as it relates to odour nuisances, there should be no impact as no activities, such as, cremations etc. will take place on the property.

Mitigation Measures –

Physical Resources

- Water Quality & Hazards – little impact is expected to groundwater as proposed drainage solutions would reduce any potential impact including the erosion of the burial sites. The most vulnerable structure to natural disasters, such as, hurricanes would be the Chapel. It is recommended that a Disaster Management Plan be developed for the property.
- Local Climate – It is recommended that the developers try to maintain as much tree cover as possible.

Terrestrial Resources

- Flora/Vegetation – the large trees on the property should be retained including the vegetation along the borders of the property should be maintained.
- Wetlands – deliberate activities such as dumping or unintentional impacts, such as, the movement of silt or solid materials by runoff will be monitored to ensure that neither organic nor inorganic matter enter and overwhelm the wetland system. Additionally, appropriate engineering.

- Scenery – the scenic vista of the area will be restored once construction activities begin, bringing a new landscape to the area. Additionally, specific trees will be marked for landscaping purposes and others required will be obtained.

Social Impact

- Air Quality – roads, dust-carrying equipment and facilities should be wetted frequently to minimize the possibility of dust emissions. Trucks carrying construction and solid materials are covered with tarpaulins to reduce air pollution. Vehicles should be properly maintained and serviced to reduce emissions. Dust masks and other Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) should be provided to workers on the site in order to safeguard their health.
- Noise & Vibration – the implementation of a schedule of activities during the construction phase which will help to alleviate the impacts. The number of burials conducted on week-days would have to be limited to particular hours of the day (mainly outside school hours).

Mitigation Measures

- Solid Waste – develop a Waste Management Plan for the project life cycle at the construction camp. Waste materials will be recycled where possible. Arrangement would be made with WPM or with a private contractor to dispose of solid waste at the authorized dumpsite at Retirement land fill, St. James.
- Utilities and services – water: re-use of treated wastewater and storm water for irrigation. There should be on site reserves of water in the event of disruption of public supplies. Energy: There should be energy saving lighting installed for the chapel and the use of Energy Star rated equipment.
- Traffic – the development of a funeral schedule; e.g. during the off-peak hours would help to alleviate the effects of traffic congestion. While the use of flag-men during the construction period could aid in the direction and flow of traffic during peak periods.
- Community Conservation – dialogue to be initiated with the citizens, teachers and students to ensure that their interests are protected

Management/Monitoring Plan

INDICATORS	TARGET	AGENCY/INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE
Preparation & Construction Phases		
1. Health & Safety	Implement measures to reduce the health and safety risks.	Developer/Contractor
2. Solid Waste	Development of a Waste Management Plan for the proper and timely disposal of solid waste (including construction waste) from the site.	Western Parks and Markets/Developer
3. Sewage Treatment Facility	Implement measures to prevent the sewage treatment facility from flooding and from odour nuisances. Construction of a sewage treatment facility, that produces treated wastewater of the quality that could be used for irrigating landscaped areas.	Engineer/Contractor/ Parish Council /Project Engineer
4. Traffic Control	Reduce the accumulation of traffic through measures such as: use of flag men and the erection of signs.	Developer/Contractor
5. Building Plans	Ensure strict adherence to the approved building/development plans.	Westmoreland Parish Council/Contractor/ Developer
6. Flood Control Measures	- Prevent flooding of vaults, parking lot - Protect roads from inundation.	Engineer/Contractor
7. Construction Materials	Obtaining construction materials from the nearest legitimate sources	Contractor/Westmoreland Parish Council /Project Engineer

Mr. Mika'el:

Thanks very much Mrs. Lewis. At this time I'd like to recognize the presence of the Mayor for Westmoreland – Bertel Moore. So there you've heard the report of persons commissioned by the Parish Council, EPN Consultants Limited to carry out the assessment. The floor is now open for questions.

Public Participation (Questions and Answers)

Resident:

I am Keith Wedderburn, Justice of the Peace and a member of this community. Having listened to the report presented there are five main things that I have listed here....first one is there is a health centre being mentioned as not available; just to say that we have a health centre available - the Bluefields Health Centre. You said fire station is available but it's not available, 2001 survey used, could this be outdated? Fourthly, what about the site's impact on the proposed housing development and adjacent lands? And the fifth one is the need for improvement in essential services – health and security to match the developments school and cemetery so what about the health what about security?

- Mr. Mika’el:** Mrs. Smith you care to speak on that?
- Mrs. Smith:** Ok...Mr. Wedderburn’s third question related to the population data, he indicated that it is out of date...
- Councilor:** 2001, but I could provide information from the SDC 2007.
- Mrs. Smith:** Ok, the site’s impact on the proposed housing development adjacent to the land...well we do not consider a cemetery adjacent to a residential area a compatible land use. That’s one of the things that the Parish Council will have to look at when they are reviewing their proposal for the cemetery.
- And the fifth question: need more improvement in essential service...well I think that question should go to the powers that deals with that, Mr. Mayor would you like to give a response to that question?...updating of essential services – health and security to match the development of the school and the cemetery and I suppose the housing scheme that’s proposed for the area as well.
- Mayor:** Well I have not seen anything on the housing scheme yet but there are two communities that are close by which are the Bluefields area and the Whitehouse area. At present there is police station at Bluefields, there is a police station at Whitehouse but what I think is essential especially at the Whitehouse section I think it is time that we possibly have a fire station in that area and if the fire service should come I am quite sure the ambulance will come along with that. But from the local government section I could not tell you when these things are coming because they mainly go through central government. At present the fire such and such is with local government but in my estimation when the reforms take place in September I think it is going to be in the lap of the local authorities.
- Mrs. Smith:** Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor.
- Mr. Mika’el:** Any other questions?
- Resident:** Yes Mr. Chairman...Mrs. Smith had suggested that it is not recommended that a cemetery be located in close proximity to a housing development is that from a health concern or is it more social and cultural disposition that we currently have in Jamaica where we still “fraid a duppy?”
- Mrs. Smith:** Well the panel from NEPA could probably assist me here, but I think the nature of planning; we have compatible and incompatible uses of land and in addition to that there’s the cultural issue where persons are afraid of this duppy, so I don’t think it’s a health concern. Well persons might have some perceptions about health as well but I don’t think that health is the main concern; I think it’s more cultural.

- Resident:** Can I just suggest too that there is no doubt that Jamaica is not growing in any size and has not done so and we have lost some land space in the last major earthquake and so we cannot continue along that old fashion line of duppy, we ourselves will one day become duppy. It is imperative that we who lead the charge in the communities try and dispel that sort of misconception or perception that cemeteries cannot be close to housing developments. What is important is how we manage them, the aesthetics of our cemeteries...because for those of us who have been fortunate to see what prevails elsewhere cemeteries are almost like recreational parks overseas, in some instances people pay to visit cemeteries. So if our intent is to build a cemetery like we always do and treat it like we always do or we are going to build this one as a model to carry us forward. So it is where we are planning to go...what is the perception, or the plan of the cemetery? Is it being modeled off what already exist? Or is it going to be a new dispensation as far as cemeteries go?
- Councilor:** The answer to the question was they are thinking in this day and era of our living the 21st Century we have to emulate the best practices and that means to emulate those that we see in North America and elsewhere probably then that is what we would have to do for us to make it blend with the environment and the persons around it. But I too have a number of questions but I would like to ask probably two now; the first one has to do with the chapel it was mentioned that it would seat 80...now I'm sure when I die if and when I die the family members alone are more than 80 obviously... so 80 seats would have been a concern to me. Now the depth of six feet I have happened to visit funerals in every parish in this country including cemeteries and I cant recall seeing a six feet grave anywhere again, that was when I was a boy in the seventies. And third, the wetlands, how far away from the proposed site are the wetland and the possible impact of such an activity?
- Mrs. Smith:** I think the intention of the Parish Council is for those who do not have their church... for those persons who might not have a home church so those persons can utilize the chapel. Whereas, those persons with their home church might not use the chapel.
- Councilor:** If a bigger chapel than the church is there then probably they would go there.
- Mrs. Smith:** The information that we are using regarding the depth of the grave is from the Parish Council
- Resident:** The subject of the day two thousand six hundred (2600) vaults
- Resident:** 2600 - 1000 single and 1600 double
- Councilor:** I posed that question because the low permeability infiltration of the site was mentioned also deforestation relative to other areas on the property was

mentioned which tells me that some level of erosion must be taking place...and the wetland which I know is across the road.

Mrs. Smith: Is it just across the road...its about 250 meters...Traci can you find it?

Resident: No it's almost immediately across the road.

Mayor: This is my biggest concern about the cemetery because I don't know if you even put the drains in...

Mrs. Lewis: It's 50 metres.

Councilor: The distance to the wetland is the nursery for the fish...and when you look at the occupation of the residents of the area.

Mrs. Smith: No, we accept that it is close and we have indicated that that is one of the potential impacts.

Councilor: What I didn't hear in a summary is whether or not you recommended or authorized the parish council to go ahead with the proposed site; I didn't hear that in the presentation. I think you should have a conclusion to state whether or not the site is suitable.

Mr. Mika'el: Let us clarify what the Councilor has been asking; would someone from NEPA be able to clarify that question?

Mr. Kristos: Just to put some information on the table; a new Health Centre is proposed for Whitehouse up to last year that the land was identified as a new Health Centre is to be built. There is also information that a new police station is to be built here in Bluefields because the one that was set up is temporary now. One vital piece of information is that the site which is presently in discussion was actually applied for by the board of the Bluefields Basic School to house the school...and we are talking about over three years and the UDC have written us and said yes they are considering it and they're going to look into it and then we just found where conversations between us and the UDC died. I guess now we know why...but the Bluefields Basic School presently sits on a piece of land close to a mangrove for several years now andwe have been trying to work with the ministry to put it next to the all-age school which is now becoming a High School. And my proposal is that given the closeness of the wetlands I think the cemetery is needed but I think we need to put it further so there'll be a greater distance between the cemetery and the wetland. I personally think that the cemetery is badly needed....because even recently someone had to exhume (is that the term?) for the land to be sold and that is just up street and the children did that and brought it up to the cemetery in Sav and sold the property...and so it brings down the value of property in the area. So I believe we need to stop that practice of burying persons on the land...persons on our land so I think it needs to go further in the vicinity.

Councilor: Let me first say this site was asked for by the late Bob Pinnock...years ago. At the time the developments that were taking place in this area was nothing like what is going on and you see more things start to take place you can see a difference in the community...but when I look at the distance in which the cemetery is supposed to go and the wetlands just across the street I am of the opinion too that it should not be at that location...and we have discussed it time and time again that there is a big piece of land and if we can move it back and I know UDC is the owner of all the land up here and I think that if you just step back that you can have a longer distance between the cemetery and the wetlands I think it would do so much better in this position.

Resident: If not another cemetery...If another development comes wont there be the same concerns regarding runoff directed to the wetland etc, etc...let us step back and create a buffer zone so that the distance between the actual cemetery and the wetland will increase. But I think it also falls upon the planners to design settlement ponds as well to reduce the sediment load in the runoff and it would require you to call upon the requisite expertise. Now let us go to sewage treatment, you mentioned a septic tank and evapotranspiration bed I take it that that is just a summary, its not straight from the septic tank you, are gonna have some ponds in between and you're guaranteed meeting the required standards.

Representative of NEPA: That is a treatment system...a tertiary system so it should meet the requirements.

Mayor: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say one single thing more. If we go ahead with a cemetery in this area let me say this it will be a top class cemetery, it won't be anything like you're seeing around the areas right now. We are not going for anything that people are going to come in there...we are going to make sure it's a model cemetery in this parish once we get the go ahead as long as I'm here in Sav-la-mar.

Resident: We won't accept anything less.

Resident: I would like to make a comment and that is in regard to the cultural aspect. Mr. Mayor spoke about having a model cemetery. In other countries people pay to go and take photographs and this cultural thing we have about duppy and being close to a housing development is foolish because we know that almost every school is located next to a cemetery in a church yard. So what we have to try to do is simply go out there and educate those who might not understand that a cemetery or a grave cannot harm you as long as it is covered and sealed.

Resident: Before we go we'd like to put it to the Mayor seeing that it's a Parish Council project...as we have said before...is it possible to move it further on up the road, is there that possibility where we can negotiate with UDC?...because all I'm saying is that even though...the distance between the cemetery

downhill and the wetland... how can we at this stage say to UDC that further east or west is a better location and ...

Mayor: We'd have to negotiate with the UDC that possibility. I couldn't tell you yet but I never forgot when we were negotiating with UDC and I remember when UDC was giving a very hard time and Bob Pinnock came out and said he'd like to know if is Lawrence is the Prime Minister or P.J. Patterson. So who's at the top of UDC now I don't know but we'd have to negotiate for relocation of the cemetery.

Mr. Mika'el: We have to take into consideration too people that ...I stand corrected... if a different section of the property is to be used then this whole process will have to be done over again. Is that so Mrs. Smith? And remember there's a fault line 600m above the development towards the southeast.

Resident: The land between the fault ... and I mean is there great distance out there? I know going towards Farms you have far more flat land out there.

Resident: Regarding the vault; will there be uniformity in this or can anybody design their own?

Mayor: No, no, no... everything will be done by the Westmorland Parish Council and all the work there will be done by the Westmoreland Parish Council and when someone comes in they will have to pay the council and everything. Because we don't want someone to come in and do their own thing, they have to conform to the Parish Council.

Councilor: I heard at one point that responses in terms of questions that were asked ...55% of them say not negative – 5 of 9 is 55%, 4 of 9 is 44%. The question is what percentage of the residents were interviewed?

Mrs. Lewis: Ten percent (10%)

Councilor: I will accept ten percent but anything less I think would not be accurate. I want to recommend that during your presentation you mention metric and standard because not all of us here remember our metric system from 1990 so not all of us understood the metrics. I know it is a easy answer to a question by tens, hundreds, thousands but some of us still didn't understand so it's good to mention all the time and make it understandable to all your audience.

Also in your Socio-Economic Impact I think you could've added a little bit more about aesthetics...secondly according to my brother Kristos here, they had to exhume a body from a property, private property and that says a lot. So it does depreciate the value of the land. Let me also add that there are news that new hotels are to be built along that road side because if we notice there is a rivalry between certain chains of hotels and there is one such hotel that doesn't have a competition as yet but there is a competition coming

hopefully sooner than later so these are things that we also need to take into consideration...Okay. Thank you.

Resident: What will happen after tonight? The report goes to NEPA and then NEPA will meet with the Parish Council?

Mrs. Smith: NEPA can probably assist me with this... can NEPA help our chairman here understand the process? In addition to a required Environmental Impact Assessment the process also requires public consultations...it requires that a verbatim report be submitted to NEPA and this report along with the Environmental Impact Assessment form the total assessment. So these are the two documents that NEPA will use to decide whether or not approval is granted for the cemetery.

Mayor: And when all is completed you will send back a report to the Parish Council...

Representative of NEPA: Our purpose here is to observe if there are any objections to the proposal

Resident: What happens next? Is there a timeline?

Representative of NEPA: Members of the community have 30 days to submit a written comment to us, to NEPA so we can see what their views are. After that, we take it to our internal meetings where our technical committee look at it and make a decision for approval or refusal.

Councilor: One sentence Mr. Chairman, cause I have to make noise you know as the representative of the 25,000 residents that live in the Whitehouse division. I want to state emphatically that the need for a cemetery in the division cannot be over-emphasized our greatest concern is the location relative to the wetland relative to the school and other proposed development that are in store for the area. The Mayor in one of his remarks did mention that when the submission for that land was made no such development was thought of or was in the making and subsequent to that lots of changes took place. The property by my information is over 1600 acres owned by the U.D.C. I am of the opinion that if we could shift somewhere that's convenient for a cemetery we welcome it because the area does need a cemetery. Thank you.

Resident: And I want to add to that again being a community person who is in three organizations I would say to that if the Parish Council...

Mrs. Smith: Mr. Chairman would you like to come up here and introduce this person?

Mr. Mika'el: Being Chairman of this function I'd like to introduce Mr. Kristos who can ably represent a lot of us. He is the chairman of the Bluefield Community Development Committee. He's on the committee for the Bluefields Bay

Friendly Fishermen Society, he is director for the Bluefields Community Association and he has the first and only eco-tour organization in this part of the island – Mr. Wolde Kristos.

Mr. Kristos: Thank you to the Parish Council, since this is your project. What we can do for you is to have a petition, so if the council needs Bluefields and its environs to sign a petition we will be willing to do so.

Councilor: 12,000 signatures

Mr. Kristos: Easy and we can go on the mission and by the end of next month we can have something. So that is what we are putting on the table...we definitely want a cemetery here but we want to see it in a much better location.

Mr. Mika'el: Yes Sir.

Representative of NEPA: I'm just asking out of sheer curiosity; I heard the concern raised as it regards the proposed siting of the cemetery vis-a-vis the wetlands. I'm curious to know if the developers (the Parish Council), if the additional proposal to move the site further away from the wetland if that does not materialize, are there plans afoot to mitigate the runoff from the actual development into the wetland? I am not asking to represent NEPA, just sheer curiosity.

Mayor: Actually there's nothing at this time.

Resident: With all that is taking place how long will it take to get a cemetery in the area, assuming that there are no objections?

Mr. Mika'el: How long will it take NEPA to do the assessments?

Representative of NEPA: You're asking how long it will take NEPA to make a report to the Parish Council from our end? Well as Errol had stated earlier, it takes 30 days for community members to respond to us and it has to go through a series of meetings and approvals before it gets to the parish council and once it gets to the parish council and once it gets to the parish council its either permit or refusal. So we can't give you an exact time period of how long the process will take.

Councilor: So it could be six months, it could be a year then since you can't give us a time.

Mr. Mika'el: Ok, do we have any more questions? Do we have any more questions?

Residents: No

Mr. Mika’el:

In closing I’d like to thank the Belmont Missionary Church for hosting us and even when the Almighty provided the much needed rain he already provided a P.A system for us use so we were not up here shouting and straining our voices. I’d also like to thank the persons from NEPA who journeyed here to listen to the report. I hope that they will make favourable recommendations and that we will have our cemetery. Also, the persons here; Mrs. Smith, Lewis rather who made the presentation on behalf of EPN Consultants Limited and Mrs. Smith and other team members. Also, the Mayor who came out with his Councilors and you the citizens I thank you all very much. And if we could just stand and say the National Pledge we would have completed a wonderful evening here.

The National Pledge

THE END

5. CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the main areas of concern raised by residents during the consultation were related to the proposed site for the cemetery in relation to the wetlands located south-east of the proposed site and the Bluefields High School, located adjacent to the site.

Residents fear that runoff from the cemetery may have a negative impact on the wetlands which act as a nursery for fishes which provide a livelihood for residents (fishermen) in the area. In addition, some residents believe the cultural impact as it relates to duppy and other beliefs associated with cemeteries may be significant.

It was suggested, that the physical impact on the wetlands may be reduced if the cemetery is moved further away from the wetlands and the negative cultural beliefs associated with cemeteries may be dispelled if knowledgeable and influential persons in the community educate other members of the community who have such beliefs.

Despite these concerns the residents indicated great need for a cemetery in the Whitehouse, Westmoreland division.

6. APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

NEPA LETTER REQUESTING PUBLIC MEETING



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING AGENCY

10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.; Tel: (876) 754-7540/3 Fax: (876) 754-7595-6 Hotline: 1-888-991-5005
E-mail: ceo@nepa.gov.jm, Web Site: <http://www.nepa.gov.jm>

Ref. No: 2007-10017-EP00246

October 13, 2008

Mrs. Beverline Brown-Smith
President
EPN Consultants Limited
Suite #7, Main Plaza
83 ½ Red Hills road
Kingston 20

Dear Mrs. Smith,

**Re: Environmental Impact Assessment for Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery,
Belmont, Westmoreland**

The National Environment and Planning Agency is in receipt of fourteen (14) copies of your Environmental Impact Assessment Report, as well as an electronic copy on October 10, 2008.

Please be advised that the documents will be circulated to the reviewing agencies, as well as other stakeholders for comments. As soon as the comments are received, they will be collated and forwarded to you for a response.

Please be reminded that you are required to conduct a public presentation as a part of the review process and that a notification period of three (3) weeks is required prior to the presentation. Please consult the guideline for conducting public presentations on NEPA's website (www.nepa.gov.jm) for the proper procedures.

Please feel free to contact the Applications Secretariat Branch if there is any query at 754-7540 or email, applications@nepa.gov.jm.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Blair (Ms.)
for Chief Executive Officer

FB/db

Cc: Mrs P. Sinclair-Stair, Secretary Manager, Westmoreland Parish Council

APPENDIX II

IMAGES FROM THE MEETING



Mr. Haile Mika'el

Mr. Haile Mika'el – Chairman giving the opening remarks



Mr. Derrick Senior

Prayer by Mr. Derrick Senior – Elder, Belmont Missionary Church



Mrs. Traci – Ann Lewis

Mrs. Traci – Ann Lewis – EPN Consultants Ltd. presenting the EIA



Valdense Gifford - Councillor

Members of the audience including the Councillor and the Mayor



Representatives of NEPA

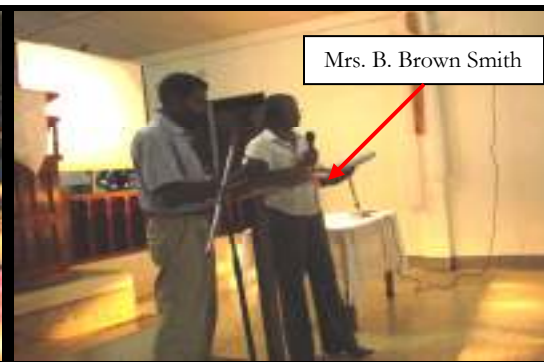


Bertel Moore – Mayor of Savanna-la-mar

The Mayor addressing a concern of a member of the audience



A member of the audience raising a question



Mrs. B. Brown Smith

Mrs. Beverline Brown Smith addressing a question raised by a member of the audience

APPENDIX III

MEETING AGENDA

AGENDA

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery, Belmont, Westmoreland

Presentation on the Main Findings

**Belmont Missionary Church, Belmont, Westmoreland
Monday, February 23, 2009
5.30 pm**

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 5.30 – 5.40: | Opening Remarks – Mr. Haile Mikae’l –
Chairman |
| 5.40 – 5.45: | Introduction of Consultant – Mr. Haile
Mikae’l, Chairman |
| 5.45 – 6.10: | Presentation of Main Findings of EIA –
Mrs. T. Lewis (EPN Consultants Limited) |
| 6.10 – 6.40: | Public Participation (Questions &
Answers) – Mrs. B. Brown Smith (EPN
Consultants Limited) |
| 6.40 – 6.45: | Closing Remarks – Mr. Haile Mikae’l –
Chairman |

APPENDIX IV

MEETING ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Joni Jackson	NEPA	745-7540	jjackson@nepa.gov.jm
Chalene Roye	NEPA	754-7540	charlene.roye@nepa.gov.jm
Steven Panton	NEPA	754-7540	steven.panton@nepa.gov.jm
Ramon Hutchinson	NEPA	745-7540	rhutchinson@nepa.gov.jm
Haile Mika'el	Bluefields CDC	865-4240 421-7449	hailemikael1@gmail.com
Valdenge Gifford	Councillor	545-0528	valdenceg@yahoo.com
Loris Lewis		393-8020	
Agolino Pinnock	NEPA	512-9116	apinnock@nepa.gov.jm
Kenneth Brooks			
Ryan Peart	NEPA	846-6105	peartryan@yahoo.com
Errol Morris	NEPA	376-9896	
Keith Wedderburn	BPCA	373-6435	Keith
Verona Mitchell		401-2489	
Derrick Samor		404-5344	
Desreen Wedderburn	Belmont Missionary Church	847-7748	honeyb_1961@hotmail.com
Whitney-Ann Mitchell	Belmont Missionary Church	892-7953	whitneyannmitchell@yahoo.com
Carol Senior		955-8915	
P.J. Vassel	Christ Church	574-9353	
Kevin Lattibeauderre	Fisherman	387-8645	
Mr. Senior	Belmont Missionary Church	404-5344	
Wolette Kristos	Municipal Police	871-9192	
Delecita Turner	Tour Guide	451-2300	
Judel Johnson	Belmont S.D.A	955-8155	
Bertel Moore	Mayor, Savanna-la-mar	955-2647	
Beverline Brown Smith	EPN Consultants Limited	925-6418	epn@cwjamaica.com
Robert Smith	EPN Consultants Limited	925-6418	
Traci – Ann Lewis	EPN Consultants Limited	925-6418	
Monique Roberts	EPN Consultants Limited	925-6418	

APPENDIX V

NOTIFICATIONS OF THE MEETINGS

CAST YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS

'Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.' - Ecclesiastes 11: 1-2 (KJV)

Have you ever done a good deed to a person and wasn't even looking for a simple thank you, just doing it out of the goodness of your heart, and just being grateful and happy within yourself that at least you could be of service to someone?

Recently, a host of events occurred to my friends and I, that even though we are but believers, we had to lift our hats to the great one to say a simple 'Amen'.

People keep on asking us everyday, if we can get a work for them, sometimes we are troubled because we wonder if they view us as walking employment agencies.

Owing to the fact that the network is a large one and we always know someone who wants someone to do something, so much so that a man will see you on the street and even give you a résumé, when in the back of your mind you are questioning, "a who dis Father?"

So we obtained a job for a young lady from an upper western parish to work on the plains of a lower western parish at a service station. The young lady worked herself up through the ranks from pump attendant to cashier, then to supervisor, etc.

The last we heard is that the wife of the service station operator was involved in an accident and died shortly thereafter, mourning period was observed and guess who was seen with the operator? No one but the young lady from the upper region of the parish!

Rumour started to make the rounds that she killed the man's wife to get the man, however, when we asked we were told that

the romance began from the day we sent her to work and has blossomed until maturity, we became official agents for this service station operator since we had produced a winner, he believed in us.

The young lady and her prospective husband treated us royally and we were given preferential treatment especially when it came to our choice of beer, the sub zero, a member of the network, tried kicking out the bottom of the bucket, he, however, was unsuccessful, had to be hospitalized as his condition was unstable. When we went to assist but the young lady from upper parish pre-empted us and insisted that we should utilize the back benches provided at the hospital and the medical facilities (prior to the Government saying health care was complimentary) as this was her specialty and her way of saying thank you.

Hadn't it been for us and our busy-body selves, she would not reach where she was today, having received primary and secondary education during the foundation years but did not utilize it as the hormones were raging and she had to experiment. But, thanks to us, she now has a new outlook on life and she intended to make the best of it, her children from her previous relationships now occupy the house which she and the operator now share and they plan to take it further to legalize the union.

Now if all our efforts could prove fruitful, but alas there are positives and negatives. We found another job at a supermarket chain for another young lady who would use the big bust that God gave her to cart home the people's canned goods and other produce. When she was discovered, the members of the network who recommended her were the ones who received the lambasting as we were told birds of a feather flock together. However, more often than not success stories can be had from these persons whom we cast our bread on their waters and we



find it after many days.

Most times a simple act of gratitude and our inner satisfaction for doing these little acts of kindness, and little deeds of love is enough for us, because persons from the blue whom we don't always know offer acts of kindness that shows that someone up there is watching over us after all.

GIVE THANKS

Big up to the bus driver that plies the route from the unfriendly city to gun town. We want to utilize this column on behalf of my 'sistren' to say a hearty thank you. My 'sistren' recently bought a Honda Integra and received a flat tyre on the Mount Carey main road sometime ago. She came out of the vehicle locked it up and was about to take the bus home when the bus driver stopped with his load of passengers on their way home, enquired what happened to the vehicle wherein she was told. A male passenger in the bus alongside the driver chipped in and changed her tyre and the driver went beside her, giving the conductor the bus to drive and accompanied her all the way to Ferria.

Live up, large up, bless up.

Until same place same time next week, walk good.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters in the end."

- Ursula K. Le Guin.

Prime Minister Bruce Golding has expressed that the government remains committed to transforming the customs department into an executive agency using a methodology developed years ago and applied to a number of other government agencies and departments.

The intention is to bring that same framework of management to the customs department to give it greater autonomy so that it won't be shackled by some of the strictures that apply to other government agencies. "It will have to establish its own

'Gov't transforming Customs Department'

internal rules and regulations and to demonstrate that it is enforcing those rules and is consistent in the applications of those regulations," Mr. Golding said.

He said one of the benefits of moving towards an executive agency status, would be that the customs department would become even more business friendly and this would remove some of the requirements born out of years of layers of bureaucracy. The Prime Minister was speaking on Tuesday January

27 at the Jamaica Customs Department's Consultation Workshop on the new customs department at the Mona Visitors' Lodge at the University of the West Indies.

In the transformation that should take place, Mr. Golding called on those in attendance to focus on the processing and competence of the staff, the motivation of staff and productivity. Mr. Golding said he was confident that these goals could be achieved under the leadership of the Commissioner of Customs, Danville Walker, who has distinguished himself with an impressive record of service that has been recognized not only in Jamaica but other parts of the world.

Lamenting the fact that corruption has become part of our culture, Mr. Golding called for a culture change and for the

customs officers and officials to become partners in the effort to root out corruption. "I'd like you to pay attention to the importance of preserving integrity as none of us can be anything but ashamed when we are keeping company with some countries that we should have nothing more than diplomatic relations with," Mr. Golding said.

Government he said was playing its role and would be putting a bill before Parliament to establish a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute acts of corruption. He said government is also working on a security vetting policy designed initially for the security forces but which will be extended to other areas of the government service.

Minister of Finance, Andrew Shaw in his address, said the

Custom Department's consultation workshop is coming "at a time of transformation when we have to transform our way of doing things and to make the business of investment easier and simpler to lay out a carpet where its not seen as something so difficult to get into business."

Mr. Shaw said the country has been overburdened by bureaucracy for too long. He is of the view that if ways are found to lessen the bureaucracy, we will be able to deal with some of the problems of corruption in the system. Mr. Shaw said

he has sent a signal that as Minister of Finance he will be very uncompromising on the issue of corruption.

-Press Release

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NEW OPENING HOURS

As of February 1, 2009, the opening hours for the original store at 82 Barnett Street will be 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays. Tel: 952-7386.

**THE OPENING HOURS FOR
the new store at 92 Barnett Street
will remain 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. (Mon. - Sat.)
Sundays & Public Holidays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Tel: 940-4263**

**Embassy Place
8:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Mondays to Saturdays.
Tel: 940-4820.**

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public presentation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report

Of: **The Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery Belmont, Westmoreland**

Venue: **Belmont Missionary Church, Belmont, Westmoreland**

Date: **February 23, 2009**

Time: **5:30 p.m.**

Residents of Mount Edgecombe/Belmont and surrounding communities are invited to the presentation and to participate by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project.

A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report may be consulted at:
The Westmoreland Parish Council and the Westmoreland Parish Library

Also at:

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)

10 Caledonia Avenue
Kingston 5
Tel: 876-754-7540

Website: www.nepa.gov.jm

EPN Consultants Limited
Suite #7, Main Plaza
83 1/2, Red Hills Road
Kingston 20
Tel: 876-925-6418

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PORTMORE: Port Henderson Plaza, Tel: (876) 988-7212, (876) 286-6816
MONTEGO BAY: Georgian House, Union Street, Montego Bay, Tel: (876) 916-7113, Fax: (876) 940-7379, email: preunobay@preuniversity.net
MANDEVILLE: Jamaica Bible College, 7 Brumfield Road, Mandeville, Tel: (876) 393-0253

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KOKONUTZ SPORTS BAR AND LOUNGE

- The all in one vibes centre



By Rickie Morris
Western Mirror Staff
Reporter

Montego Bay has long been lacking sufficient entertainment centers and places with that relaxing vibe but with the upbeat tempo. It is nothing uncommon to hear people complaining that if they need a good night out they have to plan a trip to Ocho Rios or Kingston. Also, Montego Bay has been without sufficient places to relax with friends on a nice Saturday or Sunday afternoon at a place where fine food and fun is readily available under one roof.

Just on the outskirts of the commercial district, as one approaches the traffic light at the foot of Long Hill, a new establishment has opened its doors to attend to people with all objectives except to work.

Kokonutz Sports Bar and Lounge, as this new point is called is a multi-faceted entertainment center that is so designed to attend to multiple desires.

Upon entering the conveniently located establishment, one is immediately introduced to the clean and enticing dining area where one can dine in fine style as they watch cable television on strategically placed television sets. As one makes their way out of the dining area and to the stairs that

will take you to the club, along the way will be two very inviting pool tables.

The club, which also has a VIP section, is the place to be on the nights of the weekends. Popular deejays such as Krazy Chris and Dj Mega Watt are the vibe masters for the party sessions which end only when the patrons say so.

Kokonutz, which is a strict non-smoking entity, has for the convenience of its patrons, wireless internet that is available to whoever might possess a laptop computer or even a blackberry. A dress code is also advocated and is especially supported for persons seeking to enter the upstairs party area.

Kokonutz looks off each week with a party entitled 'Exact Mondays' which was conceptualised by the popular Krazy Chris who

is also the main feature on this weekly party and he of course is one of the finest in party vibe promotion. Friday nights also feature a special party environment called 'Cross Fire' with Dj Mega Watt of Linkz 96 FM.

Specially for this Valentine's Day, Kokonutz will be bringing in Egyptian and Dj Kentucky also of Linkz 96 FM for a night called 'Infatuation'.

Starting this Friday 13th, Kokonutz will be hosting a competition entitled 'Best of the West' where DJs, singers, dancers, selectors and comedians will be performing for prizes. Each Friday will see a different category of performers in competition and the winning Dj in the Dj's competition will be given the opportunity to become the Kokonutz house Dj.

'Love is in the Air'

Reading Preparatory and Kindergarten, in association with Martina's Juice Bar and Grill, presents a red and white affair called 'Love is in the Air'.

The event which is set to take place on February 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., will feature Kahlil Kwaku Vytz from Linkz FM, Caribbean Fantasy Dancers among other entertainers.

Interested patrons may buy tickets at the Reading Preparatory and Kindergarten School.

Proceeds are in aid of the school's development fund.

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Music Engineering Class (12 weeks) \$10,000.00
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Technician Class (10 weeks) \$15,000.00
Learn to Build, Repair, Upgrade, Install OS, Troubleshooting, Data Backup/Recovery and more...

Networking Class (8 weeks) \$25,000.00
Peer to Peer - Windows XP, Client/Server - Windows 2003 Server

Just across the road from Emerald Escape, Reading, Montego Bay, is where you'll find Kokonutz.

-Rickie Morris Photo

THE J-1 TRAVEL/WORK PROGRAMME

for College/University students during their summer vacation.

This programme offers you a chance to work and travel in the United States.

For more information please come to our meeting at the Montego Bay Civic Centre,

Sam Sharpe Square on Thursday February 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

For more details give us a call at (876) 505-6643

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NOTICE CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

invites all Teachers present and Prospective Students and Parents to
A MEETING

at St. John's Methodist Church Hall
4 Duke Street, Montego Bay
(corner of Duke Street and Hunner Avenue)

On
**Sunday, February 15, 2009
at 3:00 p.m.**

The Principal will speak on:
The Status of
Caribbean School of Business and
"Where Do We Go From Here Chaos Or Community"

(Extracts from Book by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)

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NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public presentation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report Of:
The Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery
Belmont, Westmoreland

Venue: **Belmont Missionary Church, Belmont, Westmoreland**

Date: **February 23, 2009**

Time: **5:30 p.m.**

Residents of Mount Edgecombe/Belmont and surrounding communities are invited to the presentation and to participate by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project.

A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report may be consulted at:
The Westmoreland Parish Council and the Westmoreland Parish Library

Also at:

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
10 Caledonia Avenue
Kingston 5
Tel: 876-754-7540
Website: www.nepa.gov.jm

EPN Consultants Limited
Suite #7, Main Plaza
83 1/2, Red Hills Road
Kingston 20
Tel: 876-925-6418

STRONG LINE-UP FOR MAJOR LLOYD'S BIRTHDAY BASH

By Joel Lawson

Veteran crooner, Major Lloyd, has put together a strong line-up for his annual birthday bash which is scheduled for the Black Shop Community Centre

playfield in St. James on March 28, 2009. Major Lloyd will also use the occasion for his new album launch courtesy of Ison Reymz Production.

Fresh from his recent New York tour, Major

Lloyd has invited big names such as Luciano, Chemidek, Lamey Murray, Mikey General, Mackie Conscious, Gujah, Terry Gonzie, Roland Burrell, Mr. Chumma, Raymond Militant, Omascho, Nash Lawson, Ion -1, I Jon I, Chacka Chamba, Izaniga, Jah Moore, Fire Lion, Warface, Eva Sparks, Mikey Rankin, Serial Killer, Lazer Matrix, Atown, Javante, Andrew Paul, Hitman Wally, Bingy Iress, Jah Brandish, Skankin' Drend, Jah Weiss and females Lady Kay, Suzen and Major Lloyd's three daughters who go by the name Vital Three.

Three radio personalities have been invited for the event. They are Brian Bowen (Mello FM), Abouk Quashie (Best FM) and DJ Matrix (One FM). Music will be provided by Crystal, Crazy Dawg, Viper Sound and Unique Super Mix from Kingston. Special selectors are Trophy Snapper and Dexter Peppers.

"For this event I am indebted to Naturetizer Restaurant, Computer World, Ison Reymz.com, Metro Tailoring and R&B Auto Parts," said an appreciative Major Lloyd.

Masters of ceremony are Allan Rankin and Major Warren.



Major Lloyd

Joan Andrea Hutchinson performs in Montego Bay



Jamaican poet and writer, Joan Andrea Hutchinson

Joan Andrea Hutchinson, noted poet, storyteller and writer, will bring her entertaining brand of pure comedy for the entire family to Montego Bay on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Montego Bay Civic Centre in Sam Sharpe Square.

The event titled 'An Evening with Joan Andrea Hutchinson' comes on the heels of the actress' latest project, *Jamaican Proverbs...Pretty and Proud*: a CD of sayings passed down through generations of Jamaicans, each accompanied by amusing explanations delivered with Hutchinson's trademark wit.

An Evening with Joan Andrea Hutchinson is presented by MediaSok Marketing and Communications Professionals in commemoration of Black History Month, under the theme "Keeping the Legacy Alive...Proudly".

The organizers promise an entertaining package, including performances by Actor Boy nominee cum stand-up comedian, Marlon Brown and others.

The event being part-sponsored by the Jamaica Public Service Company and Klook Television will also have as highlight, a presentation by Hutchinson of an entire collection of her published books and CDs to the St. James Parish Library.

Entertainment Ann Shakes back and better

Jamaican born, German based female singer, Ann Shakes dubbed the 'Lovermuffin', is back in Jamaica, with the aim of a massive promotion on her musical career. Born in Seaford Town, Westmoreland, Shakes began in the music business just over 10 years ago. Her debut album was entitled *Ann Shakes the Lovermuffin* and had several popular songs which got major airplay on our local radio stations and several parts of Germany. She also released music videos which were shot in Germany.

Other videos such as *Miss Catch Eye*, *Girls Liberation*, *Shakes Go Do It*, *Be My Man* and *Factory as Medley* are some of her music videos to date. One of her singles, *All Music* did well in Spain, where she received several interviews and stage shows. Ann Shakes has teamed up with several artists including *Beams Man*



Ann Shakes

to come up with the song *Factory Fault* (with *Beams Man*) and *God's Girl*. She has promoted several stage shows in Germany and Jamaica. Her label is called Hybrid.

Pool Bar and Grill Now Open

The Jayda's Hideaway and Pool Bar is just one of the latest additions to the entertainment scene in the Hip Strip, Gloucester Avenue area of Montego Bay. The venue has a medium sized pool and is gearing up to stage pool parties, whether by management or for rentals. The place, which has a cool ambience is opened for lunch and dinner, and provides

something for every one. Plans are in place to have a weekly Saturday Pool Party.

Shellee Thomas, one of Montego Bay's top models, will be getting the girls to do a fashion show, which will also take the form of a wet T-shirt bikini affair. The venue is located

behind the Fantasy Craft Market across from the Cornwall Bathing Beach in Montego Bay for parties, weddings and other functions. Pauline Lynne is the manager, while Jill Bucknor and Erica Gaynor are the waitress and bartender respectively.

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public presentation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report

Of: **The Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery Belmont, Westmoreland**

Venue: **Belmont Missionary Church, Belmont, Westmoreland**

Date: **February 23, 2009**

Time: **5:30 p.m.**

Residents of Mount Edgecombe/Belmont and surrounding communities are invited to the presentation and to participate by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project.

A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report may be consulted at:
The Westmoreland Parish Council and the Westmoreland Parish Library

Also at:

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)

30 Caledonia Avenue

Kingston 5

Tel: 876-754-7540

Website: www.nepa.gov.jm

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THE GLEANER, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008
SECTION B

**NOTIFICATION
OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**There will be a public presentation of the
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report**

OF: The Proposed Mount Edgecombe Cemetery
Belmont, Westmoreland

VENUE: Belmont Missionary Church, Belmont
Westmoreland

DATE: 2008 December 8

TIME: 4:00 PM

Residents of Mount Edgecombe/Belmont and surrounding communities are invited to the presentation and to participate by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project.

A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report may be consulted at: The Westmoreland Parish Council and the Westmoreland Parish Library

Also at:
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