



## **National Caucus of PNP Councillors Demands Urgent Action on Parochial Roads**

Kingston, Jamaica. 5 December 2024: Prime Minister Andrew Holness recently announced an additional \$2 billion for road repairs, bringing the total allocation under the REACH (Relief Emergency Assistance and Community Help) programme to \$5 billion. While this investment is welcome, the National Caucus of PNP Councillors remains deeply concerned that the government's efforts continue to fall short in addressing the critical needs of community roads.

The REACH programme appears to prioritise major thoroughfares, leaving our community roads riddled with neglect and potholes. Furthermore, the much-touted SPARK programme, which was promoted as a transformative solution to our road infrastructure challenges, remains shrouded in uncertainty. There has been no clear communication about which roads are earmarked for repairs or when the project will commence.

We call on the Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, to provide immediate clarity regarding the implementation of the SPARK programme, including a detailed timeline and a transparent plan for the repairs. The Government must begin to realise that the majority of roads are parochial and scheme roads, and failure to address these roads is an already failed attempt to truly remedy the road crisis in Jamaica.

As councillors, we are increasingly frustrated with the continued neglect of community roads in our divisions. Our constituents expect and deserve action. We urge the government to develop a comprehensive and equitable plan to address the state of parochial roads, with a clear timeline for repairs and ongoing maintenance. Transparency and accountability in the allocation of road repair resources must be prioritised.

The people in our respective divisions are relying on us to advocate for real change. Empty promises are not enough. We demand definitive answers and concrete action. We also call on the government to actively engage with us and the communities we serve to develop practical solutions to the ongoing road crisis. It is time to move beyond words and deliver meaningful progress.

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For more information, contact:

His Worship the Mayor

Councillor Norman Scott

President

National Caucus of PNP Councillors

PNP Media Unit - Tel: 876-408-3160