



# Contribution to the State of Constituency Debate

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OCTOBER 6, 2021

2PM

GORDON HOUSE

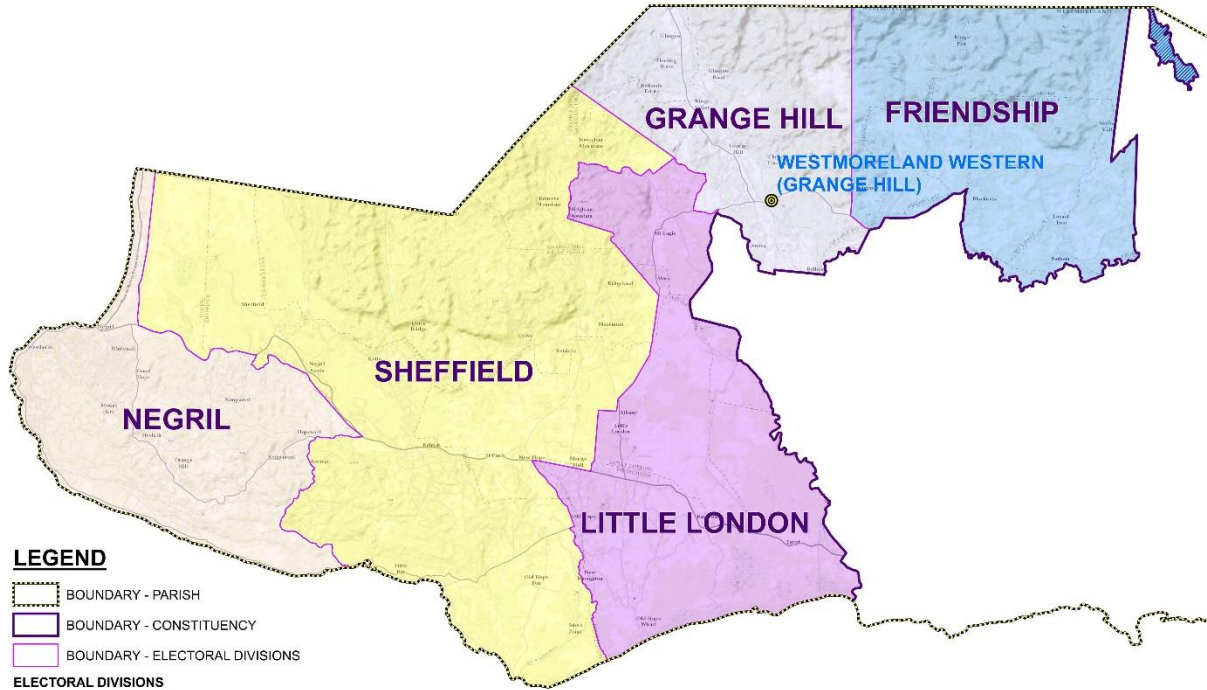


Morland Wilson  
Member of Parliament,  
Westmoreland Western

"FORWARD STRONGER TOGETHER"



# WESTMORELAND WESTERN



## LEGEND

- BOUNDARY - PARISH
- BOUNDARY - CONSTITUENCY
- BOUNDARY - ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

## ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

- FRIENDSHIP
- GRANGE HILL
- LITTLE LONDON
- NEGRIL
- SHEFFIELD
- PARISH BOUNDARY ANOMALY
- CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

SCALE 1:36,000  
1 CM = 0.36 KM  
0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Kilometres

NOTE: The Parish Boundary Anomalies displayed in this map are constitutional breaches that are pending approval.

MORLAND WILSON

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

+

“FORWARD STRONGER TOGETHER”

**STATE OF THE CONSTITUENCY**  
**MORLAND WILSON – MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT – WESTMORELAND WESTERN**  
**OCTOBER, 2021**

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# INTRODUCTION

I must first give thanks and praise to the almighty God for his guidance on this journey thus far.

I want also to thank our Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, party leader, and the caucus of the Jamaica Labour Party, for the opportunity to represent the people of Westmoreland Western.

I must express thanks and appreciation to the

- ✚ Late former Prime Minister Honourable Edward Seaga and to
- ✚ Former Prime Minister Bruce Golding for their illuminating guidance on my political journey.

To my family and friends, I say a big thank you, for your unwavering commitment and support.

To you my beloved people of Westmoreland, Western.

September 3, 2020 will be forever etched in my heart, because, on that historical day you bestowed on me the honour to serve you, to lead the charge, in making the constituency of Westmoreland Western the place where we can live, raise families and do business.

To my sitting Councillor Kevin Murray, Councillor/Caretakers Basil Thompson, Carlus Cooke, Altrecia Maitland and Owen James Jr, my executive and management teams, and our hardworking and committed political workers of the constituency, I thank you.

I rise today, as the proud and rightful Member of Parliament, representing the people of the Constituency of Westmoreland Western.

In making my first of many contributions to come, to the State of the Constituency Debates in this Honourable House I want to place on record that I have not taken lightly; the mandate given to me by the people of the constituency, especially the fact, that they have had no proper representation nor leadership for several decades, until now.

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## **NEW VISION SHARED PURPOSE**

We believe that a partnership with the people is necessary, to take this constituency into a glorious future, where citizens have tangible jobs to provide for themselves and their families.

We are restoring hope in the constituency, where opportunities are many, where hard work and productivity results in prosperity for all. A constituency where the workforce is educated and skilled, and where each and every citizen can enjoy a high standard of living.

We are building a stronger and better constituency with the people as the architects, engineers and designers so that residence can once again live in peace and harmony. A place where our culture can flourish, where children are cared for and family life is celebrated.

Westmoreland, Western is one of the great assets of Jamaica, as such **“I am on a mission to transform the lives of the people of this great constituency; giving families more security; boosting the self- esteem and confidence of our young people; and providing HOPE and opportunities for those who in need.”**

# COVID 19

Over the past 9 months Westmoreland became the epic centre for the COVID 19 virus, we will recall in January 2021, Westmoreland had one the highest infection rates in the country warranting a special two weeks' curfew; and again, in July 2021 during the infamous third wave.

The parish was again under the microscope, with our numbers being amongst the highest in the country, however, in all those circumstances, with united leadership, the people of Westmoreland conformed and brought down the numbers.



Westmoreland had three blitz vaccination sessions, which saw vaccination shuttles being provided during the lock down days. To date, of the total population of 144,103 some 33,245 Westmorelites have being vaccinated and counting – over 24,000 received the first dose, and some 9,000 are fully vaccinated - (16.86% 1st coverage and 6.21% fully).

		Wednesday, September 15, 2021			
Parish	Total Population	1st Dose	2nd + Single	1st Coverage	Fully
Westmoreland	144103	24290	8955	16.86	6.21

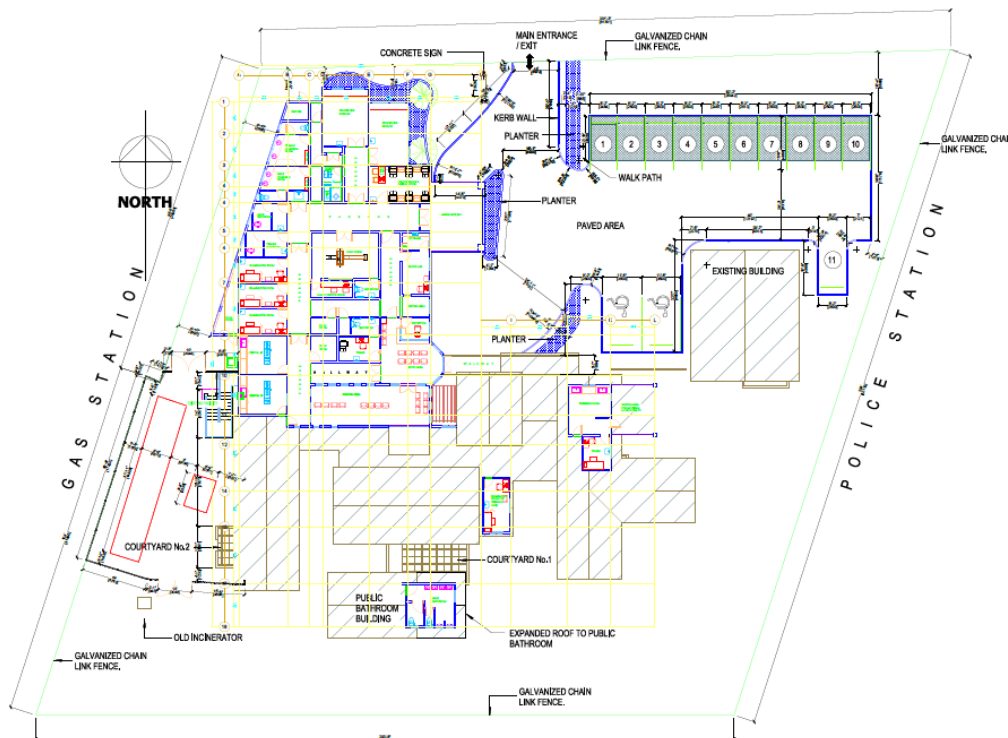
With a donation from the Minister of Health and Wellness to Members of Parliaments, I distributed approximately 3,000 masks between January and February of this year, and we continue our appeal for everyone to get vaccinated.



Our vaccination efforts are being hampered by implementation inefficiency. Some \$42 million, was disbursed as far back as 2017, to construct the matron's quarters and male ward at the Savanna-la-Mar Infirmary. Three years later the project is still incomplete with some 20+ social cases occupying much needed beds within the Hospital. As a representative of my people, I would like to see this project recall, thereby dismissing the contractor and a new arrangement made. The people deserve better, the people deserve a system that works for them.

Despite all of that, I want to thank the chairman of Western Regional Health Authority, our health care workers and other stakeholders who work consistently to keep our number down and Jamaica safe

In consultation with key stakeholders in the constituency, we will be making the recommendation to the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness for the Negril Health Centre to be upgraded to a Type A medical facility, thereby enabling a 24-hour operation.



Several partners have already committed their support. Among them the Negril Chamber of Commerce, the ISSA TRUST, and Rotary club of Negril; who in partnership with her sister Rotarian clubs in Calgary, Canada has donated US\$107,000 which is currently being used to do rehabilitation work on the building.

I also want to put on record, my appreciation to our Honourable Prime Minister for the care program, which allowed me as Member of Parliament to help constituents in need through the provision of over 3000 care packages, and over 300 care grants.

## ROADS

I inherited a constituency that is plagued with poor road conditions. My constituents complain bitterly about the roadways from Locust Tree to Bath Mountain, Town Head to Blackness, Truro to Grange Hill, Grange Hill to Glasgow, Delveland to Moreland Hill and Little London to Grange Hill.

I would like to report to this Honourable House and to my constituents that (60) sixty-millions of their tax dollars will be spent shortly to rehabilitate roadways Locust Tree to Bath Mountain, Town Head to Blackness, and Grange Hill to Glasgow.



Thanks to the partnership with the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation Minister Warmington for making this possible.

Several motorists have sustained injuries, and many have lost their lives along the Norman Manley Boulevard in Negril based on the condition of the road surface.

This was due to a series of concrete medians which were installed nearly 10 years ago to reduce speeding, and due to poor maintenance, these hard structures have contributed to numerous motor vehicle accidents on the roadway.

Since taking office as Member of Parliament, I have corrected the problem by having the National Works Agency install rumble strips replacing the concrete medians. To this end we are saving more lives because there have not been any fatalities along that roadway.

In fact, the new measure has been so successful to the point where calls are now being made for rumble strips be installation on the West End Road and along the Nonpariel Road ways.

I want to thank our Minister of Transport and Mining, for opening the Negril Aerodrome's Fire Station and resurfacing the Runway. Minister, we look forward to continuing discussions on upgrading Negril Aerodrome to accommodate small jets





# FLOODING

The constituency of Westmoreland Western has several low lying and flood prone areas.

Communities such as McNeil Land, Bay Road, Egypt Gardens, Nile, Nancy Pond, and Broughton are consistently inundated once it rains.

I want to report to this honourable house that in addition to cleaning critical drains such as Margarett Gutter, a head of the Hurricane season, National Works Agency conducted an assess on the drainage system in Whitehall community in Negril and have submitted an estimate to construct a concrete culvert, which will solve the longstanding issue of flooding in that community.

Residents and visitors alike, dreamt about a sidewalk on West End road in Negril for over 30 years, with some holding the view that it was an impossibly feat.

Today however, I am happy to report that phase one of the sidewalk construction is near completion, which include re-pavement of sections of the roadway and installing of new water mains leading to West End by National Water Commission.



# WATER

Even with the natural gift of the Roaring River there are over 18 communities that are without regular potable water in the constituency; From Moreland Hill to Orange Hill, from New Hope to Old Hope, from Bath Mountain to Jerusalem Mountain, from Brighton to Broughton, sections of Blackness, and the list goes on.

The challenge is that eighty percent 80% of the constituency water supply comes from Bulstrode Treatment Plant, which was built to supply 3,000 residents but now is serving some 30,000. Water supplied by the plant is inconsistent at best.



Since my election, one of the first things I did, was to convene a meeting with the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator Aubin Hill where we identified a solution to what seems to be a generational problem.

I am delighted to inform you of the Negril Water Improvement Project, which will see water being routed from Roaring River to Negril.

There is more good news, the Orange Hill Water system is in its final stages of testing and will be online very soon, serving communities in Revival, Hopewell, and Brighton

There is small community called Blackness, my hometown, there were sections without water for 30 years. Today I am reporting that as of July 2021 the laying of pipes, has commenced and the National Water Commission is now calling on residents to sign up to get their meters.



## EDUCATION

I am a big advocate of education, I firmly believe every child deserves the best start in life. A good education is not a luxury, it's an economic imperative for good-paying jobs, a strong middle class and an innovative workforce.

Westmoreland Western has some seventeen (17) schools, which include the Little Bay Primary, Brought Primary, and Mount Airy Primary; all have risen to national fame. Keron King, the young vibrant Principal for Little Bay Primary, was recognized for his innovation, dedication and resilience during the height of the pandemic, when he hired a motorbike to deliver school work to students.

While I have visited all the schools in the constituency, I have also convened a meeting with all the Principals to discuss challenges, opportunities and strategies for reaching our children and teacher fatigue from coping with COVID-19.

To date, some 180 tablets and laptops were distributed to children, 150 book vouchers, and 60 scholarship to University Students across the constituency. It should be noted, madam speaker, that this, is in addition to the 250 tablets issued by the Ministry of Education and the 100 to be distributed by the Serve Jamaica Program.



I want to thank the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology for his continued leadership in development of the community Wi-Fi Hotspot initiative; which allows for easy internet access for residents. Madam speaker this community Wi-Fi component is particularly important to my people, as of the 17 schools within the constituency majority have poor internet service while a few have none. On behalf of the people of Westmoreland Western, we thank you Minister, but check the budget and see whether you can include Negril in the free Wi-Fi initiative for major sites.

The Jamaica Library Services played a huge part in expanding my thinking as a youth, it was a different time, indeed, it was a time prior to the internet and widely accessible computers.

I toured both the Grange Hill and the Negril Libraries, and I must admit both are in need of urgent repairs. I'm committed to working with the Jamaica Library Services to develop a sustainable model for service delivery in an evolving world.



The Educhest Foundation was created, to support the youths of Westmoreland Western, and promote education and training. The foundation is lead by a group of young, intelligent Jamaicans who are committed to the development of their community and Jamaica.

It focuses on developing a generation of technically sound students in mathematics, engineering, science and computing literacy. The Foundation has since commenced discussions with several educational institution to explore training in 'computer coding, app development and animation.



It's also important to recognize the work of Corner Stone Jamaica Foundation, as they have adopted several schools in western Jamaica; suppling them with tablet donations and free internet.

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## HOUSING

There is a housing crisis in Westmoreland Western which is now an emergency.

With population growth, the decline of the sugar industry removing thousands of hectares from production and with the Jamaican dream of owning your own home, there are multitude of informal settlement popping up right across constituency.

Land dispute are far too common and are totally avoidably once adequate leadership, urban planning and demographic forecasting are done. Communities such as Little Bay, Top Lincoln, Prospect, Masemuir, Alma and Nonpareil have seen rapid expansion of informal settlements.

I am pleased to inform you that I have met Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change and discussions have already started with Housing Agency of Jamaica to lay plans for a development in the Constituency.

Our most vulnerable are not left behind, I want to say thanks to The Minister of Local Government and Rural Development who toured Westmoreland in July and initiated the construction of a new two-bedroom home for the family of six, who are currently living in a small one-bedroom board dwelling.

**As it was written in the good book: Proverbs 19:17 — Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.**

Climate Change and the Environment are of great importance to the resort community. The Negril Great Morass, which is constituency's largest environmental asset, spans some 2,289 hectares (5,657 acres), and accounts for approximately one-fifth of all wetland areas in Jamaica. The Morass, madam speaker, is the second largest wetland in Jamaica, and one of the largest natural coastal wetland ecosystems in the Caribbean. Negril Environmental Protection Area (EPA) covers approximately 271 square km extending in to Hanover and provides a home to many diverse species of plants and animals, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world such as the endemic Morass Royal Palm and the endangered West Indian Whistling Duck. It acts as a nursery for many marine organisms, thereby protecting, our coastal communities against damage from storms, hurricanes and floods.

I continue to support the IWeco project team, whose objective is to strengthen the management of the Negril EPA to ensure the long-term sustainability of wetland biological resources and support the Government of Jamaica laws for the sustainable management of land, water and ecosystem services.

I have also met with National Environment and Planning Agency, Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust, and Negril and Green Island Area Local Planning Authority to discuss partnership with the Office of the Member of Parliament to devise strategies to curb destructive and unsustainable human practices such as slash and burn to clear land, cutting down of trees and indiscriminate use of farm chemicals which put a strain on the natural resources of the area.

I am happy to report to this house, that under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between TPDCo and the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), a box truck valued at approximately \$7 million, was donated to Recycle Partners of Jamaica for collecting bottles from established collection points and depots for recycling in the western section of the island in Negril,

The Government continues to develop and find sustainable pathways to **economic independence**, while preserving our environment.



## SPORTS

Jamaica is a country deeply invested in various sporting disciplines. It runs deep into our DNA and we must cease the opportunities to move our country forward, to be stronger together

Sport matters. It helps to define us. It inspires us. It entertains us. It is important to us at both the elite and the grassroots level. Westmoreland Western continues to add to the pool of talented sportsmen and women representing Jamaica internationally.

Yes, we have the likes of Tina and Tia Clayton from Grange Hill. Just this year, Tina Clayton ran her personal best time 11.09s to win the 100m final at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Nairobi, Kenya, just two days after celebrating her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.



With such calibre of talent within the constituency, I have written to Sport Development Foundation, requesting that they develop appropriate plans, policies and programmes for three sports playgrounds; Blackness, and Prospect playgrounds both in Friendship and Allan Rae Oval playground in Sheffield

I am happy to report to this Honourable House and to my constituents that the Sport Development Foundation will commence a project at the Bell Isle playfield in the Grange Hill division under a programme known as the High School Sport Infrastructure Improvement Programme.

The programme, Madame speaker was design for former Sugar dependent areas and is funded by the European Union under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I want to Thank Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport for identifying the Belle Isle playfield project as it will greatly assist the Grange Hill High School and the wider community.

I would like to make a special commendation to Minister of Tourism, Minister Edmund Bartlett, CD, MP for helping to transform SPORTS tourism in my constituency.

It was under his visionary leadership, that the Negril Mini Stadium was constructed at a cost of \$83-million-dollars by the Tourism Product Development Company Limited (TPDCo), through funding from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF).

Today, the facility is available to the public and our visitors alike, following the official opening this past July.

This facility madam speaker highlights the interconnectedness of tourism as driver of economic growth, as well as a facilitator, for social enrichment, growth and development of our local communities.



The Negril Beach Park is an area of concern, as over the years, several plans have been presented, but none has been put to action.

Madam Speaker, I will be seeking partnership, with the Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Product Development Company Limited (TPDCo), and the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) to develop the park with recreational areas, similar to emancipation park, to include access to the beach.



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## AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

Agriculture, and Tourism are the lifeblood of the citizens in Westmoreland Western and key engines of the local economy, sparking innovation, generating higher-wage jobs, and strengthening entire communities.

At this moment, I want to express my deepest condolences to the family and friends of the RADA Parish Manager for Westmoreland Roan Vassell and Secretary Barbara Dawson both did not recover from COVID 19.

In our first meeting, Mr Vassell and I shared a vision of reclaiming sugar lands to increase our production and productivity. I am waiting on the appointment of a new parish manager to return to those plans.

I want to report to this House, with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, over the past year, some 60 fisher folks got fishing supplies and gears, over 30+ black tanks distributed, and over \$1,000,000 worth of seedlings and fertilizers distributed to just under 100 farmers.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, must be commended for the support extended to the constituents of Westmoreland Western on its overseas Farm work program. Minister, we hope you will find a way to expand this program, as farm work cards is the most requested item from my office.

Hoteliers, residents and visitors alike have been advocating for a Fresh Fruits and vegetable market, which was stuck in the pipeline for over 20 years.

I am pleased that having toured the Negril Market, recently the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, has set aside (75) seventy-five million dollars for the construction of the Negril Fruits and Vegetable Market.

There was need to have the soil tested and the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation who will benefit from market fees, failed to cover the cost.

Many thanks to the members of the Negril Chamber of Commerce who volunteered and paid the cost to test the soil, which forms part of the requirement for final approval, ground breaking and construction.

### **This is Jamaica's agriculture sector recovering stronger together**

Negril is an important asset to Jamaica, with some 6,500 hotel rooms and counting, our beautiful seven (7) miles beach employs over 10,000 workers directly and indirectly and continues to attract visitors from across the global to experience the best of Jamaica.

Ground was broken for the construction of a US\$2 million Red Stripe Experience museum in Negril, an indication of the positive trends and confidence that investors have of brand Jamaica.



Mention must be made of the craft vendors. Our Minister of Tourism proposed a new Artisan Village, which will benefit vendors and community.

There is also the issue of security, Negril has a closed-circuit television camera system covering the West End road, Norman Manley Boulevard and Nonpareil road towards the gas station.

As is, the system is very effective, however, it needs updating. I stand ready to work with the Minister of National Security to ensure that they are rehabilitated with the very latest technology on the market.

In closing, I stand here with a clear plan, courageous, undaunted by the challenges, optimistic that the will of the people is the way. Thank you,

God bless this house

God bless the people of Jamaica

God bless Jamaica land we love.