

The Ministry of Local Government, during the financial year 1968/69, carried on its normal activities as set out in the Budget.

I now set out for the information of the House the performance of my Ministry under the various votes:-

1. Expenses Beach Control Authority:

The Beach Control Authority is responsible by law for the control of the foreshore and beaches throughout the island. The net cost of its administration is met from a subvention provided in the Recurrent Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government. The amount of £17,314 was provided in the 1968/69 Budget. The provision for 1969/70 is £17,889.

The Beach Control Authority is also responsible for planning the programme of development to rural public bathing beaches which is financed from a provision under the Capital Head of the Ministry of Local Government's Estimates. Under this programme, change room and other facilities were provided in 1968/69 for the following beaches:-

- (i) Prospect Bathing Beach in St. Thomas
- (ii) Innis Bay Bathing Beach in Portland
- (iii) Salem Bathing Beach in St. Ann
- (iv) Burwood Bathing Beach in Trelawny
- (v) Crane Bathing Beach in St. Elizabeth
- (vi) Jackson Bay Bathing Beach in Clarendon.

Development of bathing beaches is done on a rotational basis, and a similar programme of work is to be carried out in 1969/70 within the limits of the provision of £2,000

2. Maintenance Palisadoes Gardens and Beaches:

The responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Palisadoes Gardens and Beaches has since the 1st April, 1969, been transferred from the Ministry of Youth & Community Development to the Ministry of Local Government. This entails the maintenance

and operation/

and operation of the following:-

- (a) The Harbour Head Bathing Beach and Gardens;
- (b) The Gun Boat Bathing Beach and Gardens; and
- (c) The Buccaneer Bathing Beach and Gardens.

The provision for this purpose in the 1968/69 financial year was £17,822 Recurrent Expenditure, and £1,200 Special Expenditure. The provision in respect of this year is £18,189 Recurrent Expenditure.

3. Housing Assistance to Indigents:

Under the Indigent Housing Scheme operated by Government and administered by the Ministry of Local Government, one-room wooden houses are provided free of cost to indigent persons and families who, after investigation, are found to merit such assistance. Grants to carry out repairs to houses of indigents and for the construction of latrines are also provided under this scheme to the indigents throughout the island. The cost of a complete unit varies between £120 and £150, and the cost of constructing a latrine £25. Repair grants vary between £20 and £100. The organisation for investigating and reporting on the applicants for assistance under this scheme is the Board of Supervision.

In the financial year 1968/69 Government provided £150,000 in the Budget for this purpose. Provision in respect of the 1969/70 financial year is £185,000.

4. Rehabilitation Grants & Family Allowance Scheme:

Members are well aware of the nature of the Rehabilitation Grants and Family Allowance Scheme.

In the 1968/69 financial year the provisions were:-

Rehabilitation Grants	...	£58,300
Family Allowances	...	<u>25,000</u>
		<u>£83,300</u>

These were administered in 1968/69 as follows:-

(i) No. of applicants interviewed	4,194
(ii) No. of applications received	5,363
(iii) No. of applications investigated	5,534
(iv) No. of persons for whom grants were approved	4,496

(v) The costs were as follows:-

Rehabilitation Grants	£49,726
Family Allowances	<u>18,608</u>
	<u>£68,334</u>

The provisions for 1969/70 are:-

Rehabilitation Grants	£45,000
Family Allowances	<u>30,000</u>

5. Clothing for Poor Children:

Under this Scheme children between the ages of 7 and 15 years whose parents or guardians are not financially able to provide them with school uniforms, are provided with uniforms by Government to enable them to attend regularly at school. The Board of Supervision administers this scheme and maintains an organisation for receiving applications and reports, investigating these and carrying out the making and distribution of the uniforms.

The following were the operations carried out in 1968/69 from the provision of £45,000 for this purpose:-

	<u>Uniforms Ordered</u>	<u>Uniforms Received</u>	<u>Uniforms Distributed</u>
Boys	15,332	9,704 pants) 12,421 Shirts)	5,639
Girls	<u>5,438</u>	2,385	<u>3,617</u>
	<u>20,770</u>		<u>9,256</u>

The provision for 1969/70 is £50,000

6. Distribution of Church World Service Supplies:

The programme under which the Jamaica Government received free food from the Church World Service for distribution among poor persons in Jamaica terminated on the 30th June, 1968. Government, as is customary, met the cost of wharfage and freight on the food received up to that time and also the distributional expenses. The organisation for distributing this food was maintained beyond the 30th June and until the end of the financial year at an overall cost in 1968/69 of £41,645.

The organisation was after the 30th June, 1968, mostly utilised in connection with the repackaging and distribution of food received

from/

from F.A.O. and the Canadian Government for drought relief.

A provision of £8,000 is made in the 1969/70 Budget to maintain the Food Distribution Organisation during the winding-up period.

7. Localized Disasters:

Government, through the Central Emergency Relief Committee, gives assistance to persons and families who are rendered temporarily indigent as a result of local disasters such as fires and floods. A notable example of this was the Trench Town Fire of the 4th May, 1968, which caused the destruction of 250 shacks and resulted in the displacement of 122 families comprising 275 children and 224 adults.

In the 1968/69 financial year Government provided £11,020 for this type of assistance. The number of families who received assistance was 476 and the number of persons including children 2,012. The assistance given in kind took the form of clothing, bedding, tables, chairs, eating, cooking and washing utensils. Those in cash were in respect of rental of living quarters, casual labour, transportation and personal grants. The contribution of several charitable organisations greatly assisted Government not only in invaluable social work, but in food and wearing apparel as well.

The token provision of £2,000 is made in the 1969/70 Budget in respect of Localized Disasters.

8. Emergency Food Supplies:

In recent years Government has found it necessary to assist small farmers in drought-stricken areas of the island who suffer loss of crops. The assistance takes the form of food distribution.

In the 1968/69 financial year 14,197 families received assistance under this programme, at a cost of £9,544. 4. 0

The Drought Food Distribution Programme which was implemented by Government in the latter part of 1968, was also financed from a provision of £61,000 under this sub-head of estimates.

Under this programme the Government secured gifts of 2,280 tons of free food from F.A.O. - the United Nations agency responsible for the World Food Programme - and \$100,000 (Can.) worth of food from the Canadian Government, for distribution to families, chiefly small farmers who suffered loss of crop on account of the prolonged drought.

Distribution of this food was made to approximately 30,000 families.

In the overall, the provision of £71,000 was made under the Emergency Food Supplies sub-head of estimates and approximately 44,197 families throughout the island received assistance in the form of food distribution therefrom.

A provision of £10,000 has been made in the 1969/70 Budget from which to maintain this programme.

9. Local Government Contributions:

In the 1968/69 financial year Government contributed the sum of £5,890,579 towards the revenue of the Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. This was made up as follows:-

(a) General Assistance Grants	£1,969,024
(b) Specific Grants	2,140,711
(c) Market Fees Subsidy	73,703
(d) Deficit Grants	<u>1,707,141</u>
Total ..	<u>£5,890,599</u>

The notes on the Estimates indicate the formula on which the grants to Parish Councils are provided and the application of this formula indicate the following provision for 1969/70:-

(a) General Assistance Grants	£1,845,992
(b) Specific Grants	2,156,370
(c) Market Fees subsidy	74,100
(d) Deficit Grants	<u>1,963,000</u>
	<u>£6,039,426</u>

10. Flood Damage Grants:

Government makes annual provision on its Budget to assist Parish Councils in carrying out repairs to roads damaged by flood rains. The original provision for this purpose in the 1968/69 financial year was £100,000, and this was later supplemented by £130,000 to meet additional needs which developed later on in the year.

A provision of £100,000 has been made in the 1969/70 financial year.

11. Special Works for Christmas:

£451,000 was provided in 1968/69 to undertake an island-wide programme of labour intensive work and thus to provide work for

the unemployed throughout the island during the Christmas Season of 1968.

12. Capital Grants to Parish Councils for Development and Improvement of Roads:

The development and improvement of parochial roads are financed on two bases:-

(1) Improvement to existing roads by annual road improvement

Programmes drawn up by Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. in accordance with broad conditions laid down by the Minister of Local Government and subject each year to the approval of the Minister. These are financed 25% by Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. and 75% from provisions in the island's Annual (Capital) Budget.

The sum total of these programmes in the 1968/69 financial year was £347,333 of which the Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. contributed £260,500. A similar arrangement is contemplated for the 1969/70 financial year and the provision of £610,000 under the Sub-head Capital Grants to Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. for development and improvement of roads includes £260,500 to meet the Government cost thereof.

(2) Rural Roads:

£250,000 was provided and spent in the 1968/69 financial year. The sum of £349,500 is provided in the 1969/70 Budget for this purpose (i.e. an increase of £99,500). This will enable a stepping up of the programme for improving the standard of parochial roads.

13. New Roads:

The construction of new Parochial Roads is financed entirely from provisions in the annual Budget of the island.

Each financial year Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. carry out programmes of New Roads as prepared by them and approved by the Minister. In the 1968/69 financial year £78,000 was spent on such programmes and this was provided in the island's Budget for that year. A further amount of £122,000 was spent on ad hoc programmes and the work involved in both the regular and ad hoc pro-

grammes/

grammes was superintended and carried out by the Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C

The amount of £300,000 has been provided in the 1969/70 Budget to finance programmes on a similar arrangement as obtained in 1968/69.

14. Grants to K.S.A.C. for emptying pits at Harbour View:

Pending construction by the Water Commission of the Harbour View sewerage system due for completion in July of next year, the Government has been making grants to the K.S.A.C. for the emptying of pits in that area. During the 1968/69 financial year the grant made to the K.S.A.C. for this purpose was £2,337. 10. 0 and the number of pits emptied 396. The amount of £2,800 has been provided in this financial year to ensure the continuation of the programme.

15. Beautification:

The Ministry of Local Government has since the 1968/69 financial year made allocations of capital funds to the K.S.A.C. and several Parish Councils to finance programmes of beautification works proposed by these Local Government Authorities. The works involved include mainly beautification and improvement of parks and sidewalks and the total amount spent on these was £50,000, i.e. the sum provided in the Capital Budget of the Ministry of Local Government for that purpose.

The provision to enable the carrying on of this programme in the 1969/70 financial year is £50,000.

16. Loans to Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C.

Loan funds are provided in the Capital Budget from year to year for making loans to Parish Councils and the K.S.A.C. to finance the loan programmes of these Local Government Authorities. The overall loan provision in the 1968/69 financial year was £384,000. This was allocated for the following purposes:-

(a) K.S.A.C. Loan Programme	£100,000
(b) Minor Water Supplies	160,000
(c) Catchment and Tanks	23,500
(d) Purchase of Water Meters & Misc.	<u>100,000</u>
Total ..	<u>£384,000</u>

The loans listed at (b) and (c) are matched by a similar amount of grant funds and so the total provision for Minor Water Supplies is in fact £320,000 and for Catchment & Tanks £47,000. Loans for miscellaneous projects include such projects as Market improvements, purchase of garbage collection disposal units, Fire Brigade engines and General Amenities.

Similar loan funds provided in the 1969/70 Budget of the island are in respect of the following:-

Loans to K.S.A.C.	£100,000
For Minor Water Supplies	210,000
Catchments & Tanks	23,500
For Water Meters and Miscellaneous projects	<u>66,500</u>
	£400,000

17. Communal Sanitation (Water) Facilities Scheme

Under this scheme Capital Grants are made to Parish Councils for the purpose of establishing communal wash houses in areas where the facilities for washing and bathing are not available. In the 1968/69 financial year three such wash houses were erected and three others completed from the provision of £3,000 made in the island's Budget for that year.

The provision included in the 1969/70 Budget to carry on the scheme is £3,000.