

Remarks by The Honourable Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment &
Climate Change

RE: Negril / Green Island Development Order

Friday, January 30, 2015

@ 2:00 p.m.

Negril Community Centre

Norman Manley Boulevard

Salutations

I am please to be here with you today to discuss the Development Order for Negril-Green Island. I am happy to state that my ministry has always employed an inclusive and consultative approach in drafting its policies and carrying out its mandate, and this stakeholder consultation is no different.

We believe that stakeholder involvement is critical to the achievement of sustainable development for our beloved island and indeed it is a goal that we should all strive to achieve in our quest to make Jamaica, the “place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”.

It was no less that the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, who state and I quote, the “Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offer a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance”... end of quote.

Ladies and gentleman, I have before me for confirmation the Negril / Green Island Development Order (DO). My authority as Minister to confirm the Development Order, is outlined in Section 7 of the Town & Country Planning Act.

You may be wandering about the process followed and how we arrive here (to the) at the point of confirmation.

Well, the process was very involved and started with consultations led by the National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA) many years ago on behalf of the Town & Country Planning Authority (TCPA).

The consultations would have involved the major stakeholders including the political representatives: the Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Councils; the Negril Green

Island Area Local Planning Authority (NGIALPA); the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT); the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS); the major land owners and developers in the area.

The Development Order would have gone through sequential reviews by NEPA and the Councils, then by the Forward Planning Committee of the TCPA, then to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) for review and final acceptance by the TCPA. It is the TCPA that has forwarded the Development Order for my (the Minister's) approval.

So, having completed the consultations and the various stages of reviews, as the Minister responsible for planning, I propose to make a change to the allowable height of building in the NGIALPA area.

This change would move the allowable height from 3 to 4 floors.

This change is considered *de minimis* (meaning a minor adjustment) and will set the policy guideline for the NGIALPA and the Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Council on how planning applications are to be considered.

I am about to make a decision on the new provision, and any decision I make on this matter will be final. However, I welcome your comments on the proposed change.

As such, I look forward to a fruitful, involved and orderly discussion, and anticipate your input in going forward.