

2009-2010

**ACCESS TO
INFORMATION UNIT
PUBLIC EDUCATION
REPORT**



JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009
Second Quarter



Sensitization Programme



Mrs. Cameron-Anglin delivers a presentation at the National Works Agency North-East Regional Office in St. Ann

The National Works Agency, Transport Authority and the regions of the Ministry of Education were treated to the majority of training sessions to public sector employees this quarter. A decision was taken to do a comprehensive sensitization of these entities bearing in mind the nature and scope of their operations. The National Works Agency is charged with the all-important mission of planning, building and maintaining a reliable, safe and efficient main road network and flood control system. Their projects are therefore of vital importance to the everyday movement of all individuals and as such prone to great scrutiny. It was therefore felt that a comprehensive approach had to be taken to strengthening the reporting and accountability framework of this entity. Sessions were held at the Corporate Area Headquarters' in Half-Way-Tree, attended by thirty-one (31) members of staff, and an additional session held with Directors and the Chief Executive Officer, attended by nineteen (19) persons. Additional sessions were held at the Western Regional Office in Montego Bay (17 persons); the North East Regional Office in St. Ann and the Central Regional Office in Clarendon (18 persons). This represents a total of one hundred and seven (107) persons for the National Works Agency being sensitized.

The Transport Authority is the agency charged with the responsibility for licensing all public and commercial vehicles and regulating and monitoring public transportation in Jamaica, also of importance to the free movement of Jamaicans on a daily basis. Two sessions were held with the Transport Authority's St. Andrew location, with a total of forty-five (45) employees and inspectors; in St Mary with twelve (12) persons in attendance; Montego Bay with twenty-three (23) persons, and Mandeville with nineteen (19) persons. This is a total of seventy-two (72) persons being sensitized.

In a School Bulletin, updated from Circular 13/05, the Ministry advised all regional directors, school board chairmen and principals of public educational institutions that i) each school will have responsibility for administering the Access to Information Act (2002); ii) members of the

public will apply directly to the relevant schools for access to documents held at the particular schools; iii) the principal will assume the responsibilities of the Principal Officer as outlined in the Act and iv) the duties of an Access officer must be assigned to a member of the academic staff, responsible for the processing of Access to Information applications. With this mandate in place, the Unit partnered with the Jamaica Teaching Council to conduct sensitization sessions with principals and school regions in Jamaica. A session was held at the Sam Sharp Teachers' College for schools in Region 4, for which thirty (30) school representatives were in attendance. The session for Region 6 was conducted at the Dinthill High School where thirty (30) schools were represented. Regions one and two combined at the Jamaica College, with eighty-one (81) persons in attendance and ten (10) at the Moneague Teachers' College for Region three. This represents a total of one hundred and fifty-one (151) principals and school representatives sensitized.

Additional sessions were conducted at the Cabinet Office (16 persons); the Ministry of Educations' Heroes Circle Head Office (12 persons) and The Caenwood Centre (16 persons).

Public Expos



Public Education Manager Tricia Cameron-Anglin speaks with this student of the National Heart Academy Training Centre in Above Rocks St. Catherine

This quarter's public expos was limited to one event held at the National Heart Academy Above Rocks Vocational Training Centre in St. Catherine. Here ninety (90) kits and brochures were distributed to attendees.

Right to Know Day Initiatives

The Unit marked the Seventh International Right to Know Day with a public display at the Pavilion Mall. The aim of Right to Know Day is to raise awareness of every individual's right of access to government-held information, and to promote the principles of active

public participation, transparency and accountability in the public sector.



ATI Administrator Grace Bigby-Love responds to queries at the ATI booth during the Right to Know Day Exhibition at the Pavilion Mall, September 28, 2009

This venue was selected based on the fact that it is strategically located in the busy commercial district of Half-Way-Tree; with over 40 stores, the Unit was confident that we would be able to target a large population of Jamaican shoppers as well as students from the several high

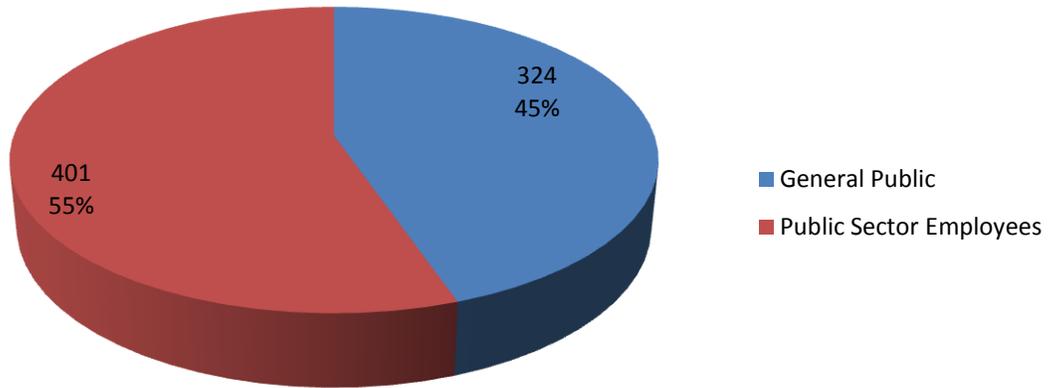
schools in the vicinity that traverse the mall daily. The Unit was able to distribute

one hundred and seventy-four (174) brochures and sixty-two (62) kits for a total of two hundred and thirty-six (236) sensitized.

Total

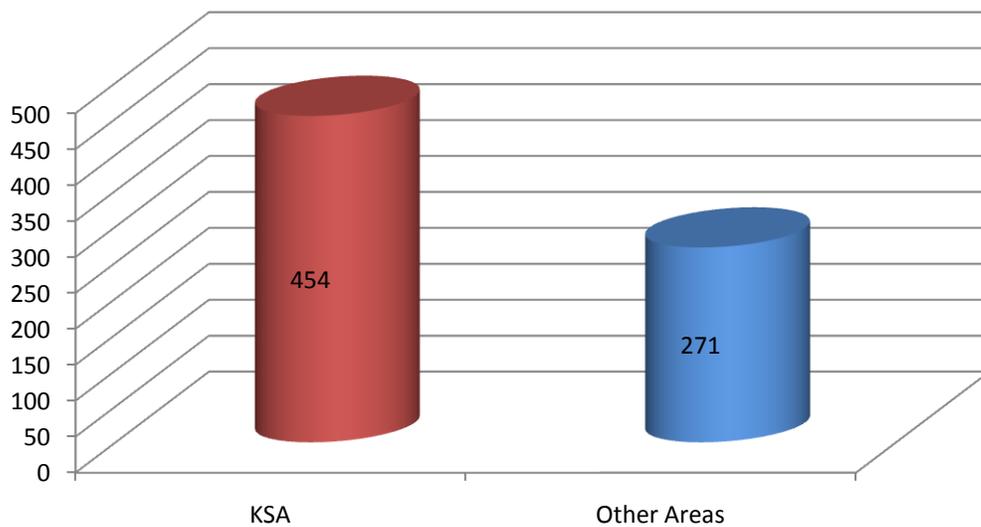
The period between July and September saw seven hundred and twenty-five (725) persons being sensitized. Of this total, three hundred and twenty-four (324) represents members of the general public sensitized through two public exhibitions and the remaining four hundred and one (401) being public sector employees. As at September 30, 2009, twenty-six thousand, three hundred and twenty-two (26,322) persons have been sensitized since the inception of the Unit. It is also worth noting that two hundred and seventy-one (271) persons represented groups and entities outside of the corporate area, while the remaining four-hundred and fifty-four (454) were entities and groups in and around the corporate area.

Public Sector Employees v. General Public

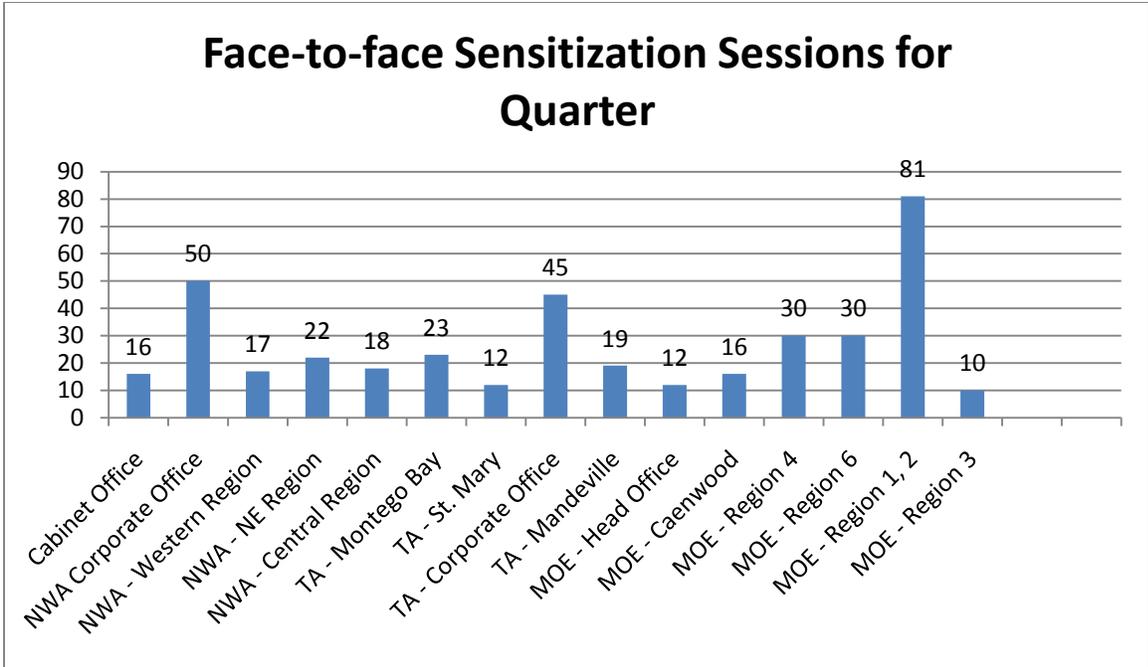


The chart above compares the number of persons sensitized in the public sector versus members of the general public.

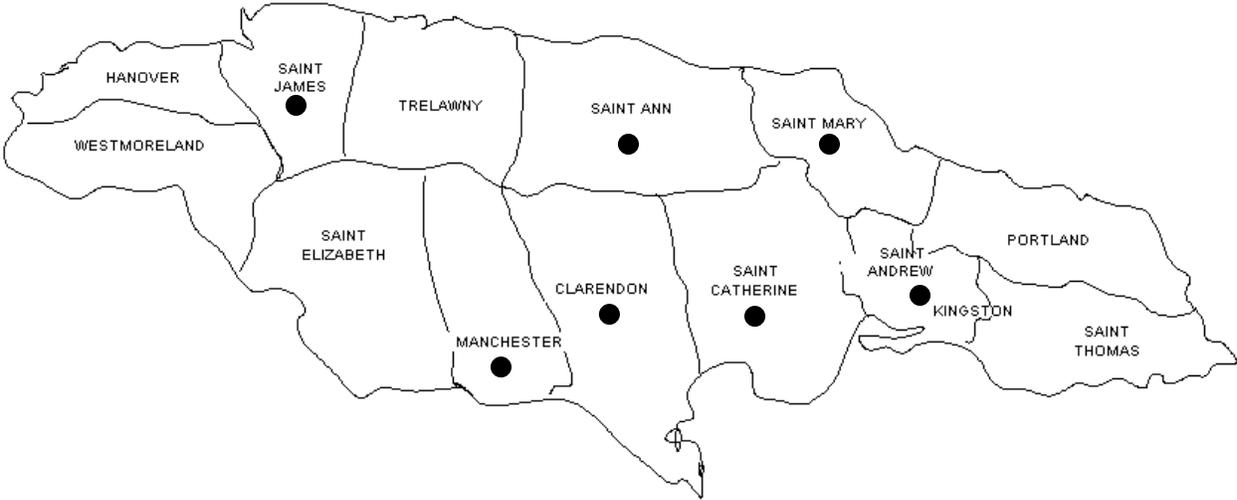
KSA v. Other Areas



The chart above shows the number of person in Kingston and St. Andrew sensitized compared with persons in other parts of the island.



The table above shows the direct face-to-face sensitization sessions Unit conducted during the quarter



The map above shows the parishes in which public education events were held between July to September 2009.