



Houses of Parliament

Jamaica

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Report on the Project Grant under the CPwD Capital Investment Fund

1.0 Background

The building housing the Houses of Parliament at George William Gordon House, Kingston, Jamaica is not currently physically structured with proper access for persons with disabilities. The Disabilities Act of Jamaica (“the Act”), which recently came into effect, stipulates that measures be implemented to promote individual dignity and autonomy. To assist with compliance with the Act, the Houses of Parliament, on the invitation of the Commonwealth Parliaments with Disabilities (CPwD) of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, submitted a proposal for assistance with a project designed to make the building more “disability-friendly” for Parliamentarians and its other users. The intent is to implement changes to reinforce full and effective participation and inclusion in the proceedings of the Parliament. The CPwD has awarded a grant of **Ten Thousand Pounds (£10,000.00)**, to assist with this project.

This project will be done through:

1. Reconfiguration of restrooms to facilitate access to wheelchair users. This activity will include widening of doorways; installation of automatic, hands-free door at the main entrance; adjustment of placement of light switches and door handles; installation of grab bars and automatic faucets and dispensers; adjustment of washbasins; installation of easy access toilets.
2. Acquisition of a wheelchair to utilise with Scalamobil mobile stair climber to facilitate movement along stairways.
3. Reconfiguration of two spaces on the floor of the Chamber of Parliament to facilitate access to wheelchair users.
4. Installation of “buddy buttons” press button switches where on/off lights and other switches are required, to provide accessibility to the blind and visually impaired.

Installation of tactile markings and way-finding signage along floors, stairways and walls for ease of access to the blind and visually impaired

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5. Acquisition of Job Access with Speech (JAWS) software licences for use on computers by the blind and visually impaired.

Direct Beneficiaries:

- Direct beneficiaries will be Parliamentarians. Stakeholders with disabilities who wish to participate in the parliamentary process by attending the Parliament are also slated to benefit from changes made as persons with disabilities may wish to visit the Parliament to observe sittings of the House of Representatives and the Senate and to participate in and observe Parliamentary Committee meetings.

Timeline and Cost:

From:	July 2022
Until:	October 2022
Total	£10,138.80

The Project commenced with the reconfiguration of the bathrooms as indicated at item 1 above.

2.0 Scope

Demolition of the existing area:

- Remove existing toilets.
- Remove existing face basins.
- Remove existing lighting fixtures.
- Remove existing walls and floor tiles
- Remove existing wooden doors Remove existing glass door.

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Works:

- Cut concrete wall to create door openings.
- Installation of drywall partition to separate disabled section of bathroom from abled body section.
- Block out door opening with drywall.
- Installation of toilet stalls partition. Installation of toilets.
- Installation of face basins. Tiling of wall surfaces.
- Tiling of floor surfaces. Installation of doors that are disability friendly.
- Installation of doors, jambs and strips
- General painting of ceiling. General painting of doors, jambs and strips.
- Electrical installation (light switch, light fixtures and LED tubes)

3.0 Status

The Project started on September 16, 2022. This late start was due to several unforeseen circumstances. The areas that were affected by this project is the doorways leading to the members' bathroom and the members' bathroom.

The two doors leading to the Members Bathroom on the ground floor have been widened and doors for automation installed. The Members' Bathroom has been renovated and is being prepared for accessibility to persons with disabilities. The bathroom that once served two persons at a time can now accommodate three persons. One section is specially designed for wheelchair access.

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The projected cost for this project is JMD3,996,000.00 (£19,028.60). This cost is for the bathroomrenovation, the widening of the doors and the automated doors.

Below are the before and after pictures, respectively with a narrative of the work done:

Figure 1

Before



The original doorway at the Entrance of Gordon House – This entrance was not fully accessible for wheelchair users as a result it needed to be widened for wheelchair access.

After



The new doorway at the Entrance of Gordon House – It has now been widened for wheelchair access and new doors have been installed to facilitate automation.

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Figure 2.



Before

Original Doorway leading to the Member's bathroom
This entrance was not fully accessible for wheelchair users as a result it needed to be widened for wheelchair access.

After



New Doorway leading to the Member's bathroom - It has now been widened for wheelchair access and new doors have been installed to facilitate automation.

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Figure 3.

Before



Original entrance to bathroom – The original section had one entrance to the bathroom (brown door on the right) to the bathroom with two cubicles.

After



New entrance to bathroom – The bathroom has now been divided into two bathrooms with two separate entrances. One section with a sliding door and one section designated for wheelchair access.

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Figure 4.



Before

Closer view of original entrance of the Members Bathroom
– Original Entrance to the bathroom.



After

Closer view of new entrance of the Members Bathroom – New entrance to the bathroom that is wheelchair friendly.

Figure 5.



Before

Original Members' Bathroom Layout – This picture shows the original layout of the bathroom. This was not disability friendly.

After



The New Members' Bathroom – Newly renovated bathroom is disability friendly, with faucets installed for automation and an automated dispenser in place, both situated at a suitable height to facilitate ease of access.

Figure 6.

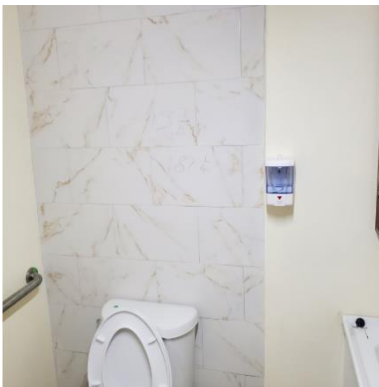


Before

Original Members' Bathroom Cubicle – This section was not disability friendly and could not facilitate someone with a wheelchair.

After

New Members' Bathroom Cubicle – Newly renovated bathroom cubicle with grab bars and includes space for wheelchair access.



4.0 Funds Expended

To date no funds have been expended as the contractor is not finished with the project hence no invoice has been submitted for payment.

5.0 Next Steps

The next steps are as follows:

- The motion sensors faucets, the mechanisms for the automated doors and the final finishes will be completed.
- The contractor should complete the project by the **November 30, 2022**. This timeline is given as the contractor is awaiting material from overseas to finish the project.
- After the above is completed and the works are satisfactorily done, the contractor will submit their invoice for payment.
- The other sections of Gordon House that were listed in the original project proposal will be addressed at a later date. This will be entirely funded by the Houses of Parliament.