



RYAN WALTERS

PASSION | PURPOSE | PROGRESS | PEOPLE

CONNECTING WITH ST MICHAEL NORTH WEST



MEET THE CANDIDATE

Ryan Walters



Ryan Walters is no stranger to the community after having spent his adolescent years living in Ferniehurst. He is a “hometown boy.” Educated at Queen’s College and the Barbados Community College with an emphasis on business studies, he also holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Finance.

Having worked in the International Business Sector in senior management, his exceptional management skills led him to the helm of the Barbados chain of an international Fast Food Franchise; a position he has held for the past eight years.

Ryan loves sports. Growing up in the community he played for the Deacons Basketball Club and he has always enjoyed an evening of football on the Ferniehurst pasture. Playing a game of road tennis through the gap or a game of dominoes over by Edward’s shop on evenings are familiar activities for him.

The qualities of drive, passion and commitment have led Ryan to this path of service and he is more than ready to serve the people who helped mould him. His positive attitude, experience and professionalism will ensure that he will work on behalf of each community, neighborhood and constituent. His objective is not only to represent but to empower the constituents of St. Michael North West by showing them how to utilize their education, skills and experience to achieve their life goals.

This son of St. Michael North West currently serves as an officer of the Democratic Labour Party in the capacity of Vice President and as Spokesperson on Small Business & Entrepreneurship. He executes his duties at a very high standard and is a consistently dependable member of the team.

We know that this same dedication and commitment will be afforded to the people of St Michael North West as Ryan “Empowers the Constituency”.

CONNECTING THROUGH SPORTS



Over the past 3 years Ryan has been working assiduously in the constituency. He has committed his time and financial resources to execute on various initiatives to assist the people he seeks to serve as their Parliamentary Representative.

Ryan acknowledges the importance of sporting activities in a community like St Michael North West. Ryan hosted a Gap Football tournament in Deacons Farm that saw over 100 young men from Deacons Farm, Rosemont, Bridge

Gap and Brandons coming together over a four week period. The tournament also allowed for small business owners and entrepreneurs in the constituency to earn an extra dollar by retailing their goods during matches. The tournament is expected to be an annual tournament but interruption from Covid19 has temporarily paused the execution of the annual event. The constituency is rich with talent and Ryan intends to build on this and execute a full calendar of sporting events.

CONNECTING THROUGH SUPPORT



Our communities have been hard hit by the coronavirus. Many persons have been displaced from work or have seen a reduction of income due to curfews and lockdowns. Ryan has been there for his constituents and he continues to, where possible, provide for vulnerable families. In April of 2020, Ryan delivered over 250 Covid Care packages to needy persons across the constituency. This out reach program continued into a hamper distribution during Christmas.

In 2019, Ryan spearheaded a fund raising event to assist one of his constituents who was in need of critical medical care abroad. He was glad to be apart of such an initiative that in the end contributed to the constituent and her family overcoming a very difficult period in the lives.

CONNECTING THROUGH COMMUNITY

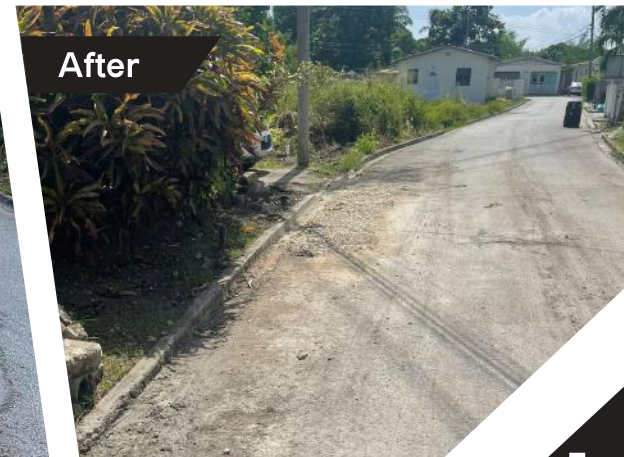
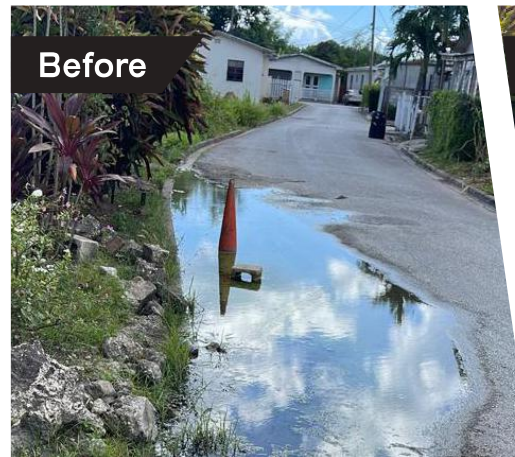


issues such as leaking water mains, rodent infestation and debushing of electricity wires, he is on the job getting things done.



As part of his efforts to bring the community together, Ryan has focused on hosting community events across the constituency. Ryan hosted a series of community activities across the constituency in Pile Bay, Brandons and Deacons Farm. He also hosted a Christmas kids party in 2020 at St Stephens Church. However, Covid interrupted the plans to continue interacting with you in a social way.

Ryan has been busy dealing with many infrastructural issues that affect the constituency. Having rectified



CONNECTING THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP



As a business professional who has responsibility for the management of an international franchise, Ryan understands how difficult navigating through the current economic challenges can be for small community based businesses. In June 2020, Ryan visited small businesses in the constituency to learn first-hand how they have been coping with the economic fallout from COVID-19. This initiative gave Ryan an opportunity to build relationships with these entrepreneurs and to fully understand their plight so that he can better represent their interests as he lobbies the government for assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners.

CONNECTING THROUGH ADVOCACY



Five vending facilities on the cards

GOVERNMENT is seeking to improve the conditions of those engaging in vending activities on the highways of this country, and will be seeking to create vending zones at various points across the island.

According to Minister of Energy, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Kerrie Symmonds, it is being proposed that there will be five facilities constructed, which will help to ensure the safety of those plying their trade and their customers.

The minister indicated that the exact locations are yet to be finalised, but he revealed that Warrens, St. Michael is seriously being considered as one such site, and there are already plans in the Town Planning Office for a site at Top Rock, Christ Church.

Symmonds commented as he responded to a question posed yesterday

Business and Entrepreneurship Minister said.

His comments came as he noted that these persons who sell goods on the highway, do so in the absence of running water and bathroom facilities. Moreover, using the example of coconut vendors, he said they are restricted in terms of the hours they can work, as they must leave the site by a certain time, in order to dispose of the coconut shells at the dump before it closes.

Insisting that it is imperative that the Government facilitate every class and every level of businessperson in Barbados, he suggested that this would include having longer hours of operation at the dump and with the proposed zones, persons would have the ability to ply their trade later into the evening if they so desire.

'Disregard and contempt for small businesses'

DEMOCRATIC Labour Party (DLP) spokesperson for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Ryan Walters is not impressed with the offering for small business in Barbados as outlined on the first day of Estimates yesterday.

During his response to the 2021-2022 Estimates – which tackled Small Business & Entrepreneurship yesterday morning, Walters opined that the presentation from the Minister leading that Ministry, Kerrie Symmonds has confirmed that the government has no intention to go above and beyond to empower ordinary Bajans.

In a statement issued yesterday evening Walters said, "The Estimates has allocated \$10 million. This is less than what was afforded to the small business community in the 2018 budget, pre-pandemic. It is a shame and an insult."



Democratic Labour Party spokesperson for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Ryan Walters.

...to assist small business owners

...for themselves and their families," Walters said.

He suggested that Government needed to use agencies such as Fund Access and the Trust Loan Fund to bail them out with measures such as interest-free loans and grants.

"They could have persons with existing businesses apply for grants or funding through the Trust Loan Fund mechanism and use specific criteria to determine what support they can give. Fund Access can also give customers a little stipend to help them through the time, because they are familiar with their clients."

"By now, they should've started some where small business people should've put out applications telling them what they operate from, how much they need, what they need to sustain themselves."

Last month Government imposed shutdowns of non-essential services further spread of the virus.

While making it clear the Government's response to business owners and their communication with them.

"They will always send them the same message: have to work!"

... But there's hope with the sector.

There is a lot of work to be done. He added:



Ryan Walters (DLP)

Atherley, during the discussion on the budget for his ministry for the 2021/2022 financial year, as the debate on the Estimates of Revenue and

reality is, ma'am, that we have to transform the reality of how our vending community exists and bring them into the 21st century with all the modern

businesses in the country. Walters said that they are asking for handouts from the Government but they are asking for support because with the restrictions the Government had to put in place, they cannot earn an income

Ryan has a passion for business dating back to his teenage years. Today as a member of the Democratic Labour Party, Ryan still carries this passion with him and advocates heavily for support and uplifting of entrepreneurs and small businesses in Barbados. In his elected position of 1st Vice President, Ryan is also the

spokesperson on Entrepreneurship and Small Business on behalf of the party. He has been doing a tremendous job lobbying for support for micro and small businesses and bringing awareness to the government and the public on the importance of the sector to our country.



RYAN IS READY TO SERVE



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