

Peter Murcott Bunting, MP (born Sept. 7, 1960) is the fifth National Security Minister of Jamaica and the Member of Parliament representing the constituency of Central Manchester. Bunting is also the General Secretary of the People's National Party, a position which he has held since January 2008.

He is best known for his exceptional leadership skills, his confident disposition and his ingenuity. His contribution to Jamaica spans both the public and private sector; and his successes have gained him a track record of excellence.

A highly successful investment banker by profession, he is reputed for creative thinking and strategic action. In 1992, he co-founded Jamaica's first private sector investment banking firm, Dehring, Bunting and Golding (now Scotia Investments), an institution which rapidly catapulted itself to being one of the highest regarded banks in Jamaica, gaining a reputation for progressiveness and innovation.

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Early Life and Education

Bunting was born September 7, 1960 in a rural district in Clarendon, Jamaica to farmers, Juan and Pauline Bunting. He attended Campion College (1971-1979), an acclaimed high school in Kingston, Jamaica. After

completing high school, Bunting undertook undergraduate studies in Mechanical Engineering at McGill University in Canada (1983), where he received the James McGill Award and the Quebec Iron and Titanium Scholarship for academic achievement. Two years later, he earned a MBA in Finance from the University of Florida, where he was conferred the esteemed title of a Matherly Scholar.

Early Professional Career

As a young MBA graduate, Bunting gained employment at Citibank (1985-1987), where he worked first as an Accounting Officer of the Corporate Banking Group and then as Manager of Specialized Finance. The business prowess with which he operated attracted the attention of prominent Jamaican businessmen O.K. Melhado and Clifton Cameron, who recruited him in 1988 to establish Manufacturers' Merchant Bank (MMB). Bunting headed the MMB as Chief Executive Officer, and through his strategic direction, along with the support from other creditable bankers, MMB became the largest independent merchant bank in Jamaica. Known today as Pan Caribbean Investment Services, MMB continued to grow exponentially and posted high profits. In 1990, Bunting took a hiatus from banking to undertake a political career.

Political Life

Bunting's undeniable brilliance landed him the post as personal advisor to then Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Michael Manley in 1990. However, he would not become directly involved in representational politics until later in his life. Following from his post as advisor, he was appointed CEO of the National Investment Bank of Jamaica, now known as Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ). Here he combined the skills learnt in banking with the newly acquired public sector knowledge to provide funding for various national projects.

The Establishment of Dehring, Bunting and Golding (DB&G) Ltd.

An avid investment banker by profession and an innovator by nature, Bunting returned to banking. This time he would collaborate with two long-time friends, Christopher Dehring and Mark Golding, to establish Jamaica's first private sector investment banking firm, Dehring, Bunting and Golding (now Scotia Investments) in 1992. DB&G gained monumental success, catapulting itself to being one of the most reputable banks in Jamaica and the Caribbean. The investment house gained a reputation for progressiveness and innovation and gained widespread consumer

confidence. Under Bunting's stewardship, DB&G went on to win awards on the Jamaica Stock Exchange for being the best performing company in 2005 and 2006 then later the Governor General's Award for excellence in 2006.

Achieving sustained success, DB&G attracted the attention of one of Jamaica's most profitable commercial banks, the Bank of Nova Scotia (BNS). The principals of DB&G and BNS later came to an agreement in 2006, which saw BNS acquiring DB&G, renaming it Scotia DBG, and later Scotia Investments.

Representational Politics

Bunting's desire to serve the Jamaican populous in a more meaningful way, led to his return to politics. This time however, saw him representing the People's National Party (PNP) in the 1993 General Elections for the South East Clarendon constituency. Although traditionally a Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) stronghold, Bunting won the seat, ousting JLP candidate and former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honorable Hugh Shearer. He served as Member of Parliament until 1996; after which he reverted to his career in banking to take up the lead role in DB&G.

Return to Politics

After DB&G, Bunting again ventured into politics with the same enthusiasm he had executed during his 1993 entry. With only two months of preparation, he again managed to secure victory for the PNP in the 2007 General Elections, defeating the JLP's Sally Porteous to represent the Central Manchester constituency. The December 2011 General Elections saw Bunting retaining his seat in the Central Manchester constituency against the JLP's Danville Walker.

Launch of Proven Investment Limited

In 2010, Bunting re-entered the financial services sector to launch Proven Investments Limited, an investment company with a portfolio of regional and international securities. Bunting served as Chairman of the Board, which subsequently acquired Guardian Asset Management and was renamed Proven Wealth Limited (PWL). Bunting resigned his position after being sworn in as Jamaica's Minister of National Security in January 2012.

Political Vision and Platform

Highly regarded as an innovative thinker, Bunting is a firm believer in the role of technology and entrepreneurship in the development of Jamaica. His

ultimate aim is to engineer Jamaica's path to being noted for its state of the art technological base, powered by a strong network of educational facilities.

As a result, Bunting has begun putting plans in place to transform his constituency of Central Manchester into a Centre of Excellence for the knowledge-based industries. His intention is to leverage the natural competitive advantage of Central Manchester, being the home to many of Jamaica's most notable secondary institutions and the reputable Northern Caribbean University (NCU), to develop a model constituency for Jamaica. With its high population of tertiary graduates, its comparably low crime rate, and moderate climate, the constituency is well suited for this expansion.

Role as Minister of National Security

Peter Bunting was appointed Minister of National Security on January 6, 2012. Since his assignment, the Minister has embarked on a strategic programme of policy reform at the Ministry, as a response to Jamaica's existing and potential national security challenges.

His vision places people at the epicentre of the national security architecture, realizing that the well-being of the citizenry and effective national security machinery are inextricably linked. As a result, he has promoted the concept of 'citizen security' rather than 'national security' and is championing a transformation of the Jamaica Constabulary Force from a 'police force' to a 'police service'.

The Minister believes that Jamaica's security goals will not be achieved by incrementalism and has therefore established a set of aggressive priorities for the Ministry. Chief among them is the achievement of his 'audacious goal', which seeks to reduce crime to first world levels by 2017. In an attempt to achieve this, he has combined policy reform with tactical methods to formulate a systematic and comprehensive approach to combat Jamaica's most insidious problems of crime and violence.

National Security is familiar territory for Minister Bunting, as prior to assuming duties as Minister, he served in the capacity of Opposition Spokesman on National Security, a position he held from 2008. During his tenure as Opposition Spokesman, he actively participated in the National Security Council, where he was vocal on the many issues compromising the country's national security. He also played an instrumental role in the Bi-partisan Working Group established to develop a framework for the Police

Management Authority (PMA). The PMA is intended to be an important measure geared at improving the institutional arrangements necessary in modernizing the police force. In his four (4) years as Opposition Spokesman, Peter Bunting developed a good rapport with many stakeholders in the national security arena; including persons from academia, civil society, and central government. These relationships have proved beneficial in his current capacity as Minister.

As Opposition Spokesman he was also an active opponent of the death penalty, an issue on which he has presented in Parliament ([click to view presentation](#)). He was also a lead agitator of the no confidence motion brought against then Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, after his integrity was brought into question based on his handling of the Christopher 'Dudus' Coke extradition case.

General Secretary of the People's National Party

Peter Bunting also wears the hat of General Secretary of the People's National Party, a position he has held since 2008. He is regarded as one of the most successful General Secretaries of the Party, having modernized the Secretariat to a great degree, and has also done a tremendous work at regularizing the Party's operations. As Campaign Manager, his handling of the strategic and operational tenets of the organization's election machinery undeniably played a crucial role in the PNP securing a landslide victory in the December 2011 General Elections, winning 42 of the 63 seats, and the overwhelming success at the 2012 Local Government Elections poll - winning 12 of the 13 Parish Councils.

Public Sector Involvement

In addition to his role in representational politics, Bunting has served many public sector bodies in varying capacities. He has served as Chairman for the National Water Commission, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, President and CEO of the National Investment Bank of Jamaica, and Chairman of JAMPRO.

As General Secretary, he also represents the Party as a Commissioner of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (2008 to present).

Family and Personal Life

Peter is the father of two children, Brent and Emma Bunting.

Presentations:

1. **The 2012-2013 Sectoral Presentation by the Minister of National Security, the Honourable Peter Bunting.** Read at: [http://www.bunting.org.jm/sites/default/files/Sectoral%20debate Pres Peter%20Bunting 2012.pdf](http://www.bunting.org.jm/sites/default/files/Sectoral%20debate%20Pres%20Peter%20Bunting%202012.pdf)
2. Presentation in Parliament on No Confidence Motion against Prime Minister Golding pursuant to the handling of the extradition request from the Government of the United States for the arrest of Christopher 'Dudus' Coke. Read at: http://www.bunting.org.jm/sites/default/files/2010_PB_Contribution%20to_NO%20CONFIDENCE%20motion_against_PM.pdf
3. **Contribution from the Opposition Spokesperson on National Security to the 2010-11 Sectoral Debate.** Read at: [http://www.bunting.org.jm/sites/default/files/PB Sect Debate Nat Secur 2010 12 MAY.pdf](http://www.bunting.org.jm/sites/default/files/PB_Sect_Debate_Nat_Secur_2010_12_MAY.pdf)
4. **Statement in Parliament opposing the Death Penalty.** Read at: <http://www.bunting.org.jm/sites/default/files/Death%20Penalty%20statement%20in%20Parliament%20PBunting.pdf>

Peter Bunting Professional Life in Chronological Order

- *CITIBANK 1985-1987. Here he first worked as an Accounting Officer of the Corporate Banking Group and then as Manager of Specialized Finance.*
- *MANUFACTURERS' MERCHANT BANK 1988-1990. Chief Executive Officer.*
- *NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK OF JAMAICA LTD (NIBJ) 1991 - 1993 President & CEO of the public sector institution responsible for the implementation of Jamaica's privatization programme.*
- *DEHRING BUNTING & GOLDING LTD. 1992- 2007 Co-founder and Chairman of Jamaica's first private sector investment banking firm. Chief Executive Officer 1997- 2007*
- *HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (JAMAICA) 1993-*

1997 Member of Parliament for the constituency of South East Clarendon. Ministry of Health 1993 - 1994 Parliamentary Secretary with special responsibility for multilaterally funded projects.

- *NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION 1998- 2001 Chairman with responsibility for the overall operation of the Water Commission. Also responsible to set policies and give guidance for the efficient running of a modern utility.*

- *JAMAICA PROMOTIONS CORPORATION (JAMPRO) 2006-2007 Chairman with responsibility for providing policy advice on investment and trade promotion to the Minister of Development, as well as to develop strategies and lead Board level supervision for Jamaica's principal investment and trade promotion agency.*

- *HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (JAMAICA) 2007-2011 Member of Parliament for the constituency of Central Manchester.*

- *PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY 2008-present- General Secretary o the PNP*

- *THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY-JAMAICA 2012-Present. Minister of National Security and Member of Parliament for Central Manchester*

¹<http://www.eoj.com.jm/content-140-172.html>

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