



# SECTORAL DEBATE PRESENTATION



BUILDING RESILIENCE

*Ensuring*

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**HON. ROBERT D. PICKERSGILL, MP**  
MINISTER OF WATER, LAND, ENVIRONMENT  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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GORDON HOUSE, KINGSTON



**Hon. Robert D. Pickersgill** (right) meets with **Mr. Albert "Al" Gore Jr.**, former Vice President of the United States of America, at the Abu Dhabi Ascent held in Abu Dhabi in March 2014.



**Hon. Robert D. Pickersgill** and Minister of State, **Hon. Ian Hayles** (right), at the monthly meeting with the Ministry's Executive Management Team and the Heads of Agencies. ▼



## **2014 Sectoral Presentation**

by

**Hon. Robert Pickersgill, MP**

Minister of Water, Land, Environment  
and Climate Change

## **Building Resilience – Ensuring Sustainable Development**

“If we really wish to put an end to our ongoing international and social problems we must eventually declare Earth and all of its resources as the common heritage of all the world’s people.” - Jacque Fresco

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present my third Sectoral contribution in this honourable House, since this administration regained its rightful place just over two years ago, at the helm of the Government of this country

Mr. Speaker, I can proudly say that I have served all the leaders of my party including the Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley, and in that regard, apart from my current Leader, I am the longest serving member of the Executive of the People's National Party, which is undoubtedly the greatest political party in this hemisphere.

I say thanks to all my leaders who, through their confidence placed in me, have enabled me to serve my beloved country as a member of Cabinet for over 20 years. I hasten to add, Mr. Speaker, that most of my time as a Member of Parliament was spent on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am mindful of the tremendous responsibility that rests on my shoulders, and of the fact that the well-being of every man, woman and child in this country is affected by the critical portfolio areas with which I am charged.

The extent to which we can, and must implement crucial policies, plans, programmes and projects under these areas will, in no small measure, gauge our ability to realize our Vision 2030 Goal of “Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.”

I stand here this afternoon, with resolve born of the knowledge that the team at my Ministry, and its Agencies, is creative, proactive, hard working and determined, and that our local, regional and international partners with whom we are “Partnering for Sustainable Development” are as desirous, as we are, to see Jamaica achieve its sustainable development goals.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, we agree that teamwork unifies the effort, divides the tasks and multiplies the effect as we work with the common goal of “Building Resilience – Ensuring Sustainable Development”.

Mr. Speaker, I will get to the meat of the matter in a short while. However, bearing in mind the sheer size of the Ministry, the volume of information and the numerous areas for which we must give an account of our stewardship, it was decided that we would again split the presentations between myself and my Minister of State.

As such, my presentation will focus on the Water, Land, and Climate Change portfolios, while Minister Hayles will speak to the Environment, Planning and Development Portfolios of the Ministry.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. Speaker, I begin my presentation with the Climate Change Portfolio. Canadian broadcaster and environmental activist, David Suzuki has said, and I quote. “The damage that climate change is causing, and that will get worse if we fail to act, goes beyond the hundreds of thousands of lives, homes and businesses lost, ecosystems destroyed, species driven to extinction, infrastructure smashed and people inconvenienced” ...end of quote.

I must again commend the Most Hon. Prime Minister for her vision in conceptualizing this Ministry. You see, Mr. Speaker, Climate Change is inexorably linked to and impacts on every other portfolio under my stewardship, and is likely to affect every individual, every community every parish and every sector.

More than any other issue, climate change poses a direct threat to any and all attempts to achieve sustainable development and by extension, our Vision 2030 Goals. So, I have often said and despite the naysayers, will continue to say, until every Jamaican understands, that “with climate change, we must change.”

Mr. Speaker, worldwide, there is scientific proof and growing evidence that the climate of our world is changing.

Recently, news came that a massive glacier in West Antarctica has started to collapse due to global warming, an event that scientists say will contribute to worldwide sea-level rise by about 24 inches or 60 centimetres.

This is unsettling news for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Jamaica. In fact, Mr. Speaker, 2014 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Small Island Developing States under the theme, “The Sustainable Development of SIDS through Genuine and Durable Partnerships”.

A Jamaican delegation of which I will be a member, will be heading to the conference in Samoa at the end of August, where SIDS will mount a strong platform to negotiate for more durable partnerships in areas such as Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Energy and Food Security, among others.

Mr. Speaker, researchers out of the Mora Lab at the University of Hawaii have stated that climate change for Jamaica is imminent, with climate departure expected as early as 2023. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is predicted that after 2023, the average temperature of the coolest year from then on will be warmer than the average temperature of the hottest year between 1960 and 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica has long been vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly storms and hurricanes; and according to our best scientists, climate change will amplify these effects.

We will therefore need to adjust to new ideas of what constitutes “normal” weather, and modify our disaster preparedness and mitigation plans accordingly. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased however, at the progress we have made in our efforts in this critical area during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that the Green Paper on the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan is currently being finalised for submission to Parliament as a White Paper.

As promised, the Climate Change Division in my Ministry has been established, and became fully operational in September last year.

The Division is acting swiftly on its deliverables and has already established a network of Climate Change Focal Points in all Ministries and fourteen (14) Agencies and Departments. The Focal Points will liaise with the Division in formulating and rolling out sector plans and projects in respect to Climate Change.

To date, the Division has held two meetings with the Focal Points to sensitize them about their roles and the general approach to be taken in the implementation of their functions. The most recent meeting took the form of a workshop which was conducted with the support of the USAID.

Mr. Speaker, given the critical importance of the Climate Change portfolio, one very significant aspect is the training of persons who are expected to be the change agents for climate change.



A Climate Change Risk Management Tool was developed by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5C's) and government officers from various ministries were trained at a workshop held in Belize in the use of the Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool (CCORAL) software.

Arrangements are now in place for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5C's) to conduct training for all twenty seven (27) climate change focal points in the use of this software. This will be done over a one week period, beginning next week Monday. The scheduled training workshop will also include a Training of the Trainer's workshop.

Mr. Speaker, during the latter half of the last financial year, the Division was able to expedite arrangements between the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5C's) and the Government of Jamaica for the finalization of a grant agreement valued at J\$27.5 million. The agreement will facilitate:-

- a) The acquisition of two automatic weather stations to enhance the climate data collection capacity of the Meteorological Services Jamaica.
- b) Approval of funding for and commencement of the procurement of two automatic weather stations and computer hardware to enable the establishment of a climate data base at the National Spatial Data Management Division. This component includes provision for the conversion of manually recorded climate data to a digital format.
- c) The development of a climate change vulnerability assessment and an adaptation strategy and action plan for the fisheries sector.



It is expected that procurement, installation, and/or completion of deliverables will be realised by the end of this financial year.

In seeking to heighten awareness about issues surrounding Climate Change, we also spearheaded a presentation to Parliamentarians in this Honourable House. One of the presenters at that session was Professor Michael Taylor of the Climate Studies Group of the Physics Department at the University of the West Indies Mona.

The presentation was titled “The Role of MP’s in Building a Unified Policy Response to Climate Change” and, among other things, aimed to demonstrate to you my colleagues how your constituencies are likely to be affected by climate change, as well as your role in responding to this phenomenon. You should decide whether you grasped the opportunity that was afforded to you. However, I am pleased to note that some of my colleagues in this House have already begun to engage with the Climate Change Division, to look into how relevant projects may be implemented in their constituencies, and I commend them for their foresight and their initiative.

Mr. Speaker, in continuation of our efforts to increase public awareness about Climate Change, we will be facilitating partnerships across Ministries and Departments, civil society and the private sector including the media in order to assist in behaviour change regarding climate resilience.

Last year, I also announced that we had taken the initiative to assist the vulnerable city of Portmore to partner with the city of Hagen in Germany, to formulate and implement climate change projects at the Local Government level.

To date, we have achieved the following under this partnership:

- Implementation of a complete solar energy system for the Portmore HEART College for Construction Services, which was commissioned by myself and the German Ambassador H.E. Josef Beck in March.
- Launch of an internationally recognised Solar Energy Training Programme for technicians or solarteurs, at the Portmore HEART College for Construction Services.
- A Student Exchange Programme between the Portmore Community College and the Theodore Hess Gymnasium in the city of Hagen.
- Commencement of work to establish a Climate Change Park in Portmore, which was this year’s National Labour Day Project.



The park will help to increase climate change awareness by illustrating elements of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies such as renewable energy, water recycling and rainwater harvesting.



Mr. Speaker, we also met our targets under the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project (CCA&DRRP), a joint venture between the Government of Jamaica, the United Nations Environment Programme and the European Union. This project which is now closed, culminated in the launch of an Audio-Visual Toolkit, which provides vital educational information for members of the public and age specific groups, to include children at the primary and secondary levels.

### **Presentation Of Climate Change Tool Kits**

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica is currently a beneficiary of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), which is a regional initiative that is intended to increase resilience to climate change effects at the national and regional levels. Grant financing in excess of US\$4m provided by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) through the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the World Bank will be made available to implement activities under the programme.

My Ministry will have responsibility for implementing several components of the investment programmes including:

- (a) The upgrading of national equipment and systems for improved collection, processing of data and more accurate forecasting of hydro-meteorological events including extreme weather events;
- (b) Increasing public awareness of climate change impacts and promoting behavioural change in particular amongst low-income men and women, small-scale subsistence farmers and fishers, and through curriculum development in the education system and



- (c) Integrating climate change considerations in development planning processes, plans and policies—.

The Division will continue its efforts to facilitate and coordinate the development of sectoral adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plans for at least four priority sectors, namely the agriculture, fisheries, forestry and transportation sectors as well as the mainstreaming of climate change considerations in at least three key policies, namely the transport, water and construction policies.

Work will also continue to develop and register Jamaica's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS) for the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by reducing the use of fossil fuels, and switching to renewable and cleaner energy sources.

We will also be working to place Jamaica in a position to readily access climate change financing. In particular, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry has nominated Jamaica's focal point to the Green Climate Fund which is valued at US\$100 billion per annum.

Mr. Speaker, my Ministry received preliminary approval from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a grant of US\$852,000 and US\$90,000 from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to facilitate the preparation of Jamaica's Third National Communication, and the Biennial Update Report to meet UNFCCC reporting requirements. The final approval is expected before the end of June 2014. We are expecting to commence the implementation of this project in July of this year.

It is also noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, that the GOJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Government in July 2013 to provide technical support to my Ministry, and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, we intend among other things, to develop a Greenhouse Gas Inventory; and develop a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS).

Mr. Speaker, I close this section by saying that my Ministry will continue to lead the charge to ensure that with climate change, Jamaica is indeed changing.



## **LAND PORTFOLIO**

Mr. Speaker, I now turn to the Land portfolio. It was the Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley who said, and I quote: "Land is the only source of the material life of the people. It provides food and shelter. It furnishes work and wealth. It is the basis of all production, of all development, of all security, of all growth. It is, in very truth, the root of our being." – end of quote.

Mr. Speaker, there is no hope of building a strong economy, or improving the quality of life for our citizens without ensuring security of tenure. The ownership of land remains an effective means of gaining economic and social independence as the National Hero said many years ago.

As such, my Ministry is working assiduously to continue the tradition of securing land ownership and building the “ownership society” that this Administration envisions, as we work towards our Vision 2030 goal of “making Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.”

I am pleased to state that during the 2013/2014 financial year, we achieved critical targets.



## Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP)

Mr. Speaker, LAMP continues to serve the members of the public in accordance with its mandate, that is to reduce the number of unregistered parcels of land which now stands at 349,302 and regularize existing titles with current information. As at April, 2014, some 20,315 files have been opened to provide new applications for titles.

- 4,590 new Titles have been produced and
- 2,746 existing Certificates of Title regularized.

## LAMP II Extension

Mr. Speaker, The LAMP 2 project has now moved into its new phase, and was formally launched at an impressive titling ceremony on May 15 by the Most Hon. Prime Minister, who expressed her delight at seeing so many elderly Jamaicans being able to own a piece of the rock.

The LAMP II public-private partnership has been extended for a further period of 10 years and the number of parishes expanded to eight (8), namely Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, Westmoreland, Hanover and Trelawny and St. James.

Mr. Speaker, there were 250 titles ready for delivery to clients at that ceremony, however, only 80 beneficiaries attended the ceremony to collect their titles. The other titles have been distributed to the field offices in St. Elizabeth to allow beneficiaries to collect at their own convenience.



Mr. Speaker, in order to expand the reach of the programme, additional field offices have been opened by LAMP’s private sector partner, Geoland Title Limited, in St Ann’s Bay and Savanna-La-Mar in Westmoreland. This complements the existing offices in Kingston, Santa Cruz, Junction in St. Elizabeth and Golf View in Manchester. Mr. Speaker, LAMP is open for business so you see we are Working. Working. Working!

Using the LAMP II Expansion, we will also be able to incrementally build the cadastral map for Jamaica, using the survey plans which have been tied into the national grid.

Under LAMP II, as at April 30:-

- 2,653 land parcels have been surveyed and
- 3,865 parcels have been placed in the digital cadastral map data base for St. Elizabeth.



Mr. Speaker, for those of us who are not acquainted with the term, a cadastre is a comprehensive register of the real estate or real property's metes-and-bounds of a country. A cadastral map shows the boundaries of land parcels in their correct geographical positions and may be used for a wide range of purposes including:

- Registration of titles to lands
- Property valuation
- Development planning
- Land use depiction, planning and analysis.

Over 8,000 existing parcels of government land at the National Land Agency have been converted to a digital format and a digital cadastral map for St. Elizabeth has been created with just over 11,000 parcels.

This will assist in better planning and impact on the development approval process. Of the over 5,911 new files:-

- 1,407 applications for titles have been made and
- 680 titles have been completed.

The relatively low numbers lodged compared to the number of files opened result from:-

- The inability of owners to get their names on the tax roll;
- Affordability (notwithstanding the reduced fees under LAMP)
- Informal subdivisions and
- Root of Title issues.

These factors have negatively impacted LAMP for years and the Ministry has taken measures to address the issues.

The measures taken include:

- Allowing for amendments to the tax roll with the use of statutory declarations. This will allow persons to pay property taxes for the portion of land that they own or occupy, as per the opinion of the Attorney General. Previously, Mr. Speaker, such persons could not get on the tax roll because they had to pay for the entire parcel of land which included their portion;
- The use of Section 5 Ministerial Waivers to address the issue of informal subdivisions; and



- A proposed amendment to the Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act (SPA) (Root of Title).
- The policy division is in the process of settling drafting instructions in order to amend the Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act (SPA) to address some chronic land tenure issues and to improve LAMP's ability to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act. Mr. Speaker, it is my firm belief that we must rid ourselves of this piece of legislation immediately, since it is a stumbling block to realising an ownership society. The Act came into existence in 1889, and has lost its relevance.

Having operated for over 10 years, LAMP has identified several additional land tenure issues, rooted in our culture, which are adversely affecting its ability to bring land onto the register.

These issues need to be addressed by legislative amendments as ordinary Jamaicans often dispose of and acquire land in an informal manner and are often not able to produce the proof required to facilitate the registration of the land. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that we are an oral society. However, the Statute of Frauds Section 4 states that all land transactions are to be reduced to writing.

The new proposals are geared towards making the law more applicable to our cultural norms and the way of life of the ordinary Jamaican. Mr. Speaker, this will allow for more persons to make successful applications to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act, and allow LAMP to significantly increase the number of certificates of title under the programme.

### **Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) Revolving Fund**

Mr. Speaker, Members will recall that the Minister of Finance, in his Budget presentation, indicated that the Development Bank of Jamaica has agreed to provide a grant to LAMP for Payment Assistance of JMD\$90 million to needy applicants.

This would provide funding to help beneficiaries who have applied to LAMP and have made some payments towards their file but are unable to make the remainder of their payments to complete the process. Since LAMP beneficiaries are required to pay for the acquisition of their titles, the funding from the DBJ will be used to finance the outstanding costs for landowners who have made part payments. This funding will help to facilitate the increased delivery of titles under the programme.

Mr. Speaker, through this grant, all things being equal, we will deliver some 2,000 titles to LAMP beneficiaries between July 2014, and April 2015.

- The first tranche of J\$16 million will be disbursed by the end of this month (June), and is expected to facilitate the delivery of 650 titles between July and August this year. Madam Prime Minister, we will be having a titling ceremony by August this year when we again hope that you will be the guest speaker.

- The second tranche of J\$37 million will be disbursed by the end of August, and is expected to facilitate the delivery of 675 titles between November and December while
- The third tranche, also of \$37 million in December, will facilitate the delivery of yet another 675 titles between March and April 2015.

So Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say to the Most Hon. Prime Minister that we will indeed be keeping her busy in keeping with her request, in attending more titling ceremonies in the very near future.



### **Adjudication Committees**

Mr. Speaker an allocation of J\$20M has been provided to my Ministry to fund the operation of the Adjudication Committees in the various communities within affected parishes to resolve ownership issues which will result in the issuance of Titles for these applicants.

These Committees cover nine parishes, namely:-

- St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, Manchester
- Clarendon, Westmoreland, Hanover
- St. James, Trelawny, and St. Ann

It is projected that four committees will be established in St. Elizabeth by June 30, 2014 and the other committees will be established later on this year in consultation with Members of Parliament.

### **PetroCaribe Grant**

Mr. Speaker, as was previously indicated as an added measure, in assisting with our transformation to the ownership society, a grant of J\$18 million was approved by the board of the PetroCaribe Development Fund to assist beneficiaries in paying fees for titling services. LAMP has to date submitted sixty two (62) files for processing, and is awaiting funding in order to deliver the certificates of title to the beneficiaries at formal ceremonies

Mr. Speaker, we are Working! Working! Working!

## Projections 2014-2015

Mr. Speaker, LAMP's plans for the 2014/15 fiscal year include:--

- Depositing cadastral maps and pre-checked plans representing 5,400 parcels
- Obtaining Ministerial waivers under Section 5 Orders for 320 parcels
- Opening 2,500 new files for new registrations and updating of existing titles
- Submitting 1,600 applications to NLA to update the property tax roll and
- Regularising 200 existing titles



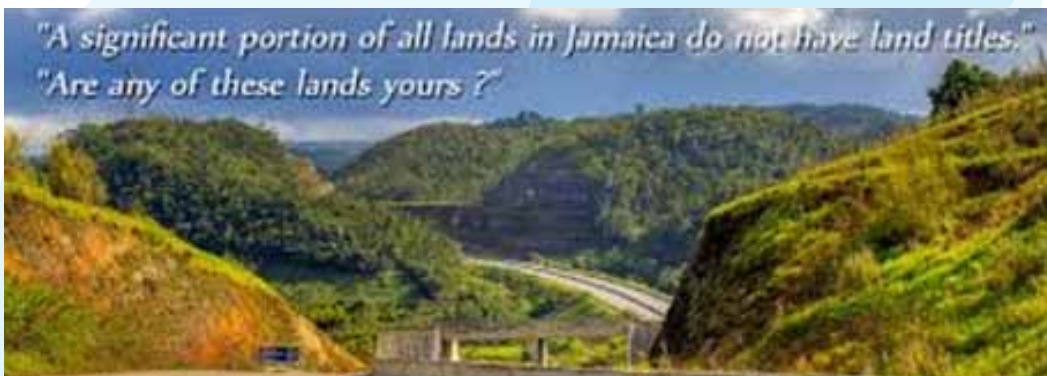
## NATIONAL LAND AGENCY

### Legislative Amendments To The Land Surveyors Act

Mr. Speaker, as promised, we have amended the regulations under the Land Surveyors Act to make it mandatory for the surveys of property boundaries used in the land titling process to be tied to the national grid. This will facilitate more efficient compilation of the national cadastral map and will contribute to improved efficiencies and accuracy in the land titling process.



### Land Settlement Schemes



Mr. Speaker there are 344 Land Settlement Schemes islandwide. Of these, 139 schemes containing 18,412 lots remain to be titled. The process involves the surveying of the parcels, obtaining approvals for subdivisions and then the preparation of Certificates of Title.

In 2013/14, under a partnership between the LAMP, the National Land Agency, and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), we exceeded our target of surveying 1,000 parcels of land in land settlement schemes, in the parishes of St. Mary, St. Ann and Portland.



To date, 670 certificates of title have been issued in the name of the Commissioner of Lands and 140 have been transferred to allottees. Eighty-Six (86) of these titles were delivered to allottees at a titling ceremony held in Port Maria in February 2014. Additionally, 235 lots in the project area with informal occupiers, have been approved for divestment; and 101 of these persons have made part-payments of the purchase price.

The NLA is committed to completing the remaining titles for the project area, in order to get them in the hands of the prospective owners, as soon as possible. In order to expedite the titling process, for land settlement schemes, the NLA has also introduced a Probate Unit to assist the beneficiaries of deceased allottees. As at April 2014, 793 files have been opened and are being processed within the Probate Unit.

### **Land Titling**

Mr. Speaker, during 2013/14, the National Land Agency issued a total of 12,926 certificates of title, an increase of 29% over the previous year. This amount includes 4,550 titles issued to Government agencies. Of the approximately 811,000 parcels of land recorded on the Valuation Roll, 57% have registered titles. Mr. Speaker, to further advance the titling of lands, advice was sought from the Attorney General's Department and regulations will be put in place to allow for the use of statutory declarations and advertisements in order to place persons on the Valuation Roll.



## New Products And Services:

The National Land Agency is dedicated to providing new products and services for its customers in an effort to make doing business in Jamaica easier. During the year, four new products and services were introduced and, Mr. Speaker, I will refer to two of them:

### Property Watch Jamaica

The first, Mr. Speaker, is Property Watch Jamaica, which is a critical development in our effort to reduce and eventually eliminate the incidents of fraudulent threats to property transactions in Jamaica. These threats include but are not limited to, identity fraud committed against vulnerable registered owners and the impersonation of Lawyers, Law Firms and Co-owners.

Property Watch is an online subscription service that sends automatic notifications via e-mail to registered proprietors when a transaction is lodged against a Certificate of Title.



Once the notification has been sent to the subscriber, he/she will be given twenty-four hours to alert the NLA if the transaction is not legitimate.

### The Montego Bay Master Map

Second, Mr. Speaker, as the NLA continues its thrust towards the large scale mapping of urban centres of the island, during the 2013/14 fiscal year, a comprehensive map of Montego Bay and its environs was completed.

The map shows natural and man-made features as well as the parcel data information for that city, including Schools, Government Buildings, churches, businesses and, of course, information pertaining to the tourist industry.

### Title Transfer Challenges

Mr. Speaker, I close the Land portfolio by reiterating that despite all our efforts to issue titles, we still have over 8,000 titles to transfer from the Commissioner of Lands to allottees. These include approximately 1000 titles in the names of allottees who we have not been able to locate or contact. The National Land Agency has placed the names of these allottees on its website and persons are invited to check the listing or contact the Agency for further details.

However, once again I am appealing to my colleague Members of Parliament, the Parish Councils, Justices of the Peace or any other authority, for assistance in contacting these allottees or their beneficiaries where applicable. It is the fervent wish of this Administration to get this most prized asset into the hands of the intended beneficiaries who will be able to use it as a tool towards wealth creation, as well as community and nation building.

## WATER PORTFOLIO



Mr. Speaker, I turn now to the critical Water portfolio. It was the poet W.H. Auden who said and I quote: "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water". End of quote—.

Mr. Speaker, as a resource, water has no parallel in its ability to propel the social and economic growth of a nation and, in essence, is the lifeblood of any nation. It is critical for the maintenance of environmental and human health and for supporting all human activities whether residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural.

As such, the provision of potable water to meet the needs of our population continues to be a focal point for this Administration and for my Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard persons scoff when I say this, but we have enough water resources to meet the needs of every man, woman and child in this country. However, whether or not this will be the case in the future, depends on how we utilise and manage the resources that we have.  
Water Sector Policy—.

To this end Mr. Speaker, we are currently reviewing the 2004 Water Sector Policy, with the aim of providing a guide to the provision of universal access to safe, potable water to all Jamaicans, by 2020.



My Ministry held five public regional consultations between April 10 and May 16 on the Policy and we are consolidating all the comments that came out of the consultations with a view to taking the Policy to Cabinet in July. Parallel to the Policy Review is the development of the Rural Water Development Strategy, which will map, provide data and costs for community solutions, to close the gap in the provision of water supply in rural areas.

## MANAGEMENT OF OUR WATER RESOURCES



Mr. Speaker, the Water Resources Authority (WRA) which is the agency charged with managing and monitoring our water resources, has noted that of the ten (10) hydrological basins throughout the island, only in the Kingston basin does demand exceed availability.

The comparison of water demand and water availability projected to 2025 indicates that in two (2) basins, the Rio Cobre in St. Catherine as well as in Kingston, demand will exceed the available resources.

However, if non-revenue water is reduced and efficiencies improved, the difference between demand and availability can be reduced and the negative balance reversed.

Mr. Speaker, again I state that this position of surplus water resources can be reversed if, despite being armed with this knowledge, we do not take action to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The upgrade and expansion of the national hydrologic monitoring network is being undertaken to provide more climate data and information for effective planning and action at the local and national levels. Already several new rainfall intensity gauges have been installed and stream flow gauges upgraded to provide more reliable and continuous data to monitor and evaluate climate change and its impacts.

To enhance the dissemination of data, the Authority formally launched its online hydrologic database (Web Map) in September 2013.



The Web Map allows anyone, anywhere in the world to obtain hydrologic data without referring to the Authority simply by logging on to the site and following the instructions. This is a first in the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, the target of 85% access to potable water by way of in-house and communal taps by 2020 has been repeated many times in this Honourable House and we are committed to meeting this target primarily through our major utility provider the National Water Commission.

In pursuit of this goal, the NWC has completed a number of major projects island-wide which will ensure a steady supply of potable water and adequate sewerage services to hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans.



## **NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION**

### **Projects/Major Activities During 2013**

Mr. Speaker, I now move to a report of my stewardship over the year. The NWC completed a number of projects during the last financial year:-

#### **Completed Water Projects**

- Marlborough to Berry Hill, in Manchester Southern (MP Michael Peart). The project involved construction of approximately 3.2 kilometres of transmission pipeline, to restore supply volumes to areas south of Mandeville including Knockpatrick in the adjoining Central Manchester constituency (MP Peter Bunting). Capital cost: J\$20M.
- Old Harbour Bay Pipeline in St. Catherine Southern (MP Clifford Warmington). Work commenced in February 2013 for the construction of 2.7 kilometres of water transmission pipeline from the New Harbour Village Housing Development to the Old Harbour Bay Square and also along Terminal Road from its intersection with the Old Harbour Bay main road to the entrance of the Bourkesfield Housing Scheme. Capital cost: J\$80M.
- Christiana-Sedburgh Pipeline in North Eastern Manchester (MP Audley Shaw) which involved the construction of 2.0km of pipeline from the Christiana Town Centre to the Sedburgh Storage Tanks. Capital cost: \$30M.
- Palisadoes Pipeline in East Kingston and Port Royal (MP Phillip Paulwell) – Mr. Speaker, despite much public misunderstanding and uproar, work commenced in June 2013 to replace 6km of pipes between the Harbour Head and the Norman Manley International Airport round-a-bout. This was successfully completed by the NWA, on behalf of the NWC, without any major impact on traffic or the new roadway at a cost of \$230 Million.
- KMA (JICA) Lot 2B Pipeline — Construction of 10km of transmission pipelines from Caymanas Estates to Marley Hill to increase the supply capability along with 3km of distribution reinforcement mains to improve service to communities in Portmore, Greater Portmore and Hellshire. Capital cost: J\$1.4 Billion.



This project has benefitted thousands of Jamaicans in:-

- o St. Catherine East Central (MP Arnaldo Brown)
  - o St. Catherine South Eastern (MP Colin Fagan) and
  - o St. Catherine Southern (MP Fitz Jackson).
- Hounslow to Parottee Water Supply - Phase 1 - in St. Elizabeth South Western (MP Hugh Buchanan). Work commenced in May 2013 to replace and upgrade the old pipes from the Hopewell Well site, to the Hill Top storage tank with approximately 4.0 kilometres of transmission pipelines. Capital cost J\$68.0M. Mr. Speaker, another project completed.

## Sewerage Projects

- The Swallowfield Road Sewerage project commenced in March 2013 and involved the construction of 400 meters of sanitary sewers along North Avenue in South Eastern St. Andrew. This project resulted in an additional 33 households in South Eastern St. Andrew (MP Julian Robinson) being able to connect to the central sewerage system at a cost J\$25 Million. Mr. Speaker, project completed.
- Hope Road (Side Roads) Sanitary Sewers - Work commenced in April 2013 for construction of 1.7km secondary sewers to connect all side roads between Kings House and Matilda's Corner in St. Andrew South Eastern (MP Julian Robinson) and St. Andrew North Eastern, (MP Delroy Chuck) to facilitate the connection of customers to the Soapberry Treatment Plant. Capital cost: J\$90 Million. Mr. Speaker, project completed.



Mr. Speaker, during the consultations on the Water Sector Policy, the question of the cost of sewerage connection was raised. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that only 30 per cent of the Corporate Area is sewered. As a result, the aquifer in the Corporate Area is severely polluted by the numerous soak-away pits in households. Mr. Speaker, sewage goes out of sight but it does not go away, and so this is why it is now haunting us.

As such, we have had to abandon production of water from thirteen (13) of twenty-seven (27) wells in the corporate area and instead bring water into the Corporate Area from St Catherine and St Thomas. And in fact, Mr. Speaker this is the only basin where the demand for water exceeds supply.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore appealing to households to get connected to the sewer lines as they become available, as this measure is necessary to safeguard our aquifers. In the meantime, we are exploring options for financing the cost of connection. Over time the intention is to restore the affected wells to production.

### **Ongoing Projects**

Mr. Speaker I will now detail the various projects that commenced during 2013 and are at this time continuing towards completion:



Work commenced on the second component of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project – Category ‘B’ Works – all sections of which will be completed, on target and within budget, by February 2015. The Category “B” works which will impact some one million Jamaicans comprise:

- a) Replacement of Segment 2 of the Rio Cobre pipeline between Content District and Ferry, to reduce losses by 2.0 million gallons per day, and improve supply to hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans in several St. Catherine constituencies in the Greater Spanish Town and Portmore areas as well as hundreds of thousands more in constituencies in Kingston and St. Andrew including the Most Hon. Prime Minister’s own constituency, and that of the Opposition Leader. Capital cost of this project is: \$2.6 Billion.
- b) As I mentioned earlier Mr. Speaker, the supply and installation of 40,000 domestic and commercial water meters, will enhance accuracy in the measurement of consumer consumption Island-wide and impact every constituency across the country. Capital cost: \$1.8 Billion.
- c) Refurbishment of 3 Major Water Treatment Plants at Bogue, St Ann; Great River, St. James; and Martha Brae, Trelawny to improve the reliability and continued assurance of high quality water supply as well as to restore production output to the original design capacities.



This series of works will benefit more than 500,000 Jamaicans in several constituencies along the north coast including:-

- St. Ann North Western (MP Dayton Campbell)
  - Trelawny Northern (MP Patrick Atkinson)
  - St. James East Central (MP Edmund Bartlett)
  - St. James North Western (MP Horace Chang)
  - St. James Central (MP Lloyd B. Smith)
  - St. James West Central (MP Sharon Ffolkes-Abraham)
  - Hanover Eastern (MP D. K. Duncan)
  - Hanover Western (MP Ian Hayles) and
  - Western Westmoreland (MP Wykeham Mc Neil) Capital cost: \$800 Million.
- d) We are also expanding the Martha Brae Water Treatment Plant by 5 million gallons per day to increase the available supply to numerous areas in the constituencies of St Ann, Trelawny and St James, Hanover and Westmoreland. The Harmony Cove Development will also benefit. Capital cost: \$1.5 Billion.



- e) Upgrading of the Linstead/Ewarton Water Supply in my own constituency of North West St. Catherine, as well as the Norwood Water Supply System in St. James North Western (MP Horace Chang), thereby improving supply to 60,000 consumers in these areas and reducing losses. Capital cost: \$750 Million.



- f) Construction of 6 kilometres transmission mains through the town of Lucea at a capital cost of \$1 Billion. This will increase the supply capability to approximately 100,000 beneficiaries in:
- Hanover Eastern (MP D. K. Duncan);
  - Hanover Western (MP Ian Hayles); as well as parts of
  - Western Westmoreland (MP Wykeham McNeil).

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that this overall Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project - Category 'B' – is progressing well towards final completion. Both the NWC, as well as its customers, are already benefitting from its implementation in a number of areas across the country, such as the reduction in losses and improved water pressure and reliability.

Mr. Speaker, the Most Honourable Prime Minister announced the implementation of the Agualta Vale/Richmond/Highgate/Islington Water Supply Improvement Project at a cost of \$800 million. The project will benefit persons in Central St. Mary (MP Dr. Morais Guy) and South Eastern St. Mary (MP Winston Green). The scope of the project will involve three (3) new wells, and the installation of new transmission pipelines. Madam Prime Minister, this project is underway and should be completed in 18 months. It will enhance both development and employment in that section of the country.

The Cascade/Claremont/Jericho Water Supply in Eastern Hanover, is being implemented by the NWC in partnership with the Rural Water Supply Ltd. The works consist of 18km of transmission and distribution pipelines, the construction and equipping of two pumping stations and two reservoirs to benefit 9,500 citizens in Eastern Hanover (MP D.K. Duncan). Capital cost: \$275M. Mr. Speaker, project underway with completion expected in 15 months.

Mr. Speaker, another major project underway is the construction of Phase 1 of the Port Antonio Water, Sewerage and Drainage project which will result in the upgrading of 10km of water mains and installation of 8km of new sanitary sewers (including house connections) 3km of storm water drainage conduits and associated sea outfalls. This project will benefit 75,000 persons in Eastern Portland (MP Lynvale Bloomfield). Capital cost: \$1.9 Billion. Mr. Speaker, project underway with completion expected by November 2014.

Construction of the Mason River/Kellits /Bullhead/Sandy River water supply in North Clarendon (MP Horace Dalley) involving pumping stations as well as the construction of 27km of transmission and distribution pipelines and storage tanks. This project will benefit some 6,500 residents at a Capital cost \$205m. Mr. Speaker, project underway.



Construction of the Non-Pariel/Orange Hill/ Retirement water supply scheme in Western Westmoreland (MP Wykeham Mc Neil) involving 32km of transmission and distribution pipelines, two (2) pumping stations and two (2) storage reservoirs. Capital cost: \$450M. Mr. Speaker, another project underway.





Scotts Cove to Belmont Pipeline Replacement in Westmoreland Eastern (MP Luther Buchanan). This project is being implemented in coordination with the NWA's road rehabilitation works and involve the construction of 15 kilometres of pipeline to replace the existing lines which will eliminate excessive breaks and leakage, reduce maintenance costs and improve the water supply to 10,000 persons in Belmont, Whitehouse, Scott's Cove and adjoining communities.

Mr. Speaker, we understand the inconvenience to the residents of these communities, and are asking for their patience as we move to complete the works. The Capital cost of this project is \$470 Million. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Construction of the Burnt Savannah/Knoxwood water supply scheme in St. Elizabeth (MP Raymond Pryce and MP Hugh Buchanan) comprising 24km of transmission and distribution pipelines. This project will benefit some 2,500 persons at a capital cost of \$60M. Mr. Speaker, project underway and scheduled for completion this month.

## **26 Pumping Facilities Project.**

Mr. Speaker, the 26 Facilities Project is part of the KMA Water Supply Improvement Programme, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to provide improved water supply to residents, in keeping with the Commission's targets and the nation's Vision 2030 goals. Essentially, this project involves the rehabilitation and improvement of 26 water supply facilities in the Corporate Area, which have, over the years, lost their efficiency or have become inadequate to meet the demands being placed on them by a growing population in the Kingston Metropolitan Area. This project will positively impact on all constituencies in Kingston and St. Andrew, at a cost of US\$18.4million or approximately J\$2.0 billion. Mr. Speaker, another big project underway.

Upgrading and rehabilitation of the Highland Meadows (May Pen) housing development sewerage facilities and connection of same to the Mineral Heights sewage treatment plant. This project benefits approximately 150 residents in Central Clarendon (MP Mike Henry), and involves the installation of 140m of sanitary sewers, together with the restoration of a pumping station complete with electro-mechanical equipment, JPSCo and standby power supply. Capital cost \$15 Million. Mr. Speaker, another beneficial project underway with completion scheduled for the end of the month. Mr. Speaker, project underway.



Upper Montrose/ Montrose/ Lady Musgrave Avenue Sanitary Sewer - Construction of 1200 meters of sanitary sewers along Upper Montrose, Montrose and Lady Musgrave Avenues in South Eastern St. Andrew (MP Julian Robinson). Capital cost: \$80M. Discussions are underway with the NWA with regard to the refurbishing of these roadways. Mr. Speaker, project underway and again Mr. Speaker, we apologise for the inconvenience to the public. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

I would like the members of this House to note that in all of these contracts, thousands of jobs have been created for Jamaicans.

Mr. Speaker, we also have several projects at the procurement phase which are scheduled to begin in this financial year. They include:-

Sector F Sewerage Project - The rehabilitation and upgrade of the sanitary sewerage system in the communities of Majesty Gardens, Seaview Gardens and Riverton Meadows in South & South Western St Andrew, to address unsatisfactory public health conditions and environmental hazards. Capital cost: J\$1.3Million. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Clarks Town W/S Pipeline Replacement - Phase 2: Spicy Hill Reservoir to Georgia (MP Patrick Atkinson). Work is for the installation of six (6) kilometres of pipeline to replace existing old asbestos cement pipes, reduce leakage and improve the supply to Clarks Town, Duncans, Georgia and their environs. Capital cost: \$35 Million. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Eastern Westmoreland Water Supply, Cedar Valley and Bethel Town Pipeline Extensions, which involves the Supply and Construction of 12km of pipelines as well as the rehabilitation of a storage tank. Capital cost: J\$81M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Hounslow to Parottee Water Supply, St. Elizabeth, Phase 2B: Newell Square to Williamsfield Pipeline. Replacement of old transmission and distribution pipeline with 2.7km of pipeline from Newell Square to Williamsfield. Capital cost: \$55.0 M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Halifax Avenue Sanitary Collector Sewers, Barbican, St. Andrew - Construction of approximately 160 meters of sanitary collector sewers to facilitate residential development and an increase in building density. Capital cost: J\$7M.

Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Reconfiguration of the Portmore Sewerage Network - Retirement of five (5) treatment plants and transfer of sewage to Soapberry to reduce public health/environmental hazards, while achieving greater operational efficiencies. This project will benefit approximately 180,00 persons in:-

- East Central St. Catherine (MP Arnoldo Brown)
- South East St. Catherine (MP Colin Fagan) and
- Southern St. Catherine (MP Fitz Jackson)

The capital cost of this project is \$1.8 Billion. Mr. Speaker, project underway. Construction of the Boscobel Sewage Treatment Plant in Western St. Mary (MP Joylan Silvera) and refurbishment of the Elletson Flats sewage treatment plant in Eastern St. Andrew (MP Andre Hylton). A contract is expected to be signed shortly for these works which are part of the IDB supported CReW project Capital cost: \$450M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

North and Bottom (Swaby's) Hope Distribution Pipelines, Manchester - Construction of 0.4km of distribution pipes in Bottom Hope and 0.4km of 50mm pipes in North Hope; Capital cost:\$15M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Fairway/ Seymour Avenue/ Retreat Avenues Collector Sewer – Construction of 1.5 Km of pipeline from the intersection at Lady Musgrave and Argyle Roads to Old Hope Road, along Seymour Avenue from its intersection at Retreat Avenue to the intersection at Hopefield Avenue. This project will benefit over 750 persons in both St. Andrew Eastern (MP Andre Hylton) and South Eastern St. Andrew (MP Julian Robinson) Capital cost: \$50M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to all the projects mentioned already, there are other contracts at the procurement stage that are scheduled to commence in 2014. IDB KMA W/S Supply of Pumping Equipment - Energy efficiency improvement programme involving the procurement of replacement pump sets in seven (7) lots. Capital Cost: \$75M.

Essex Valley Water Supply Phase 1 - Equipping of Long Hill Well Station - Work includes equipping well and relift facilities at Long Hill to improve supply of potable water to Nain and Myersville. Capital cost: \$200 Million. Impacted population: 14,000 persons.

Essex Valley Water Supply Phase 2 - Nain to Junction - Work includes construction of 9 km of pipeline from Nain to Junction and a new re-lift station and terminal reservoir. This project will result in improved water supply to 25,000 persons in Junction and its environs in South Eastern St. Elizabeth (MP Richard Parchment). Capital cost: \$170 Million.

### **Projects At Procurement Phase**

IDB KMA Water Supply - Procurement of 100,000 Solid State Water Meters. Installation of new meters of this type will result in more accurate customer billing and reduced NRW. Capital cost \$1.3 Billion.

IDB- KMA Water Supply - Construction of a groundwater Artificial Recharge Facility in the Innswood area of Central St. Catherine (MP Olivia Grange), and

enabling a sustainable water supply to that constituency, as well as several other St. Catherine and KMA constituencies. The project involves the construction of a facility to settle 5 million gallons per day of raw surface water and inject this into the limestone aquifer to allow for the sustainable abstraction of ground water resources. Capital cost: \$1.2Billion.

### **Operational Challenges and Proactive Response**

Mr. Speaker, the National Water Commission, like any other business faces many challenges including the high cost of energy. However, we are committed to dealing with these challenges in the best way possible.

Mr. Speaker, the agency consumes nearly one half of all the electricity used in the public sector and approximately five (5) per cent of the total energy consumed in the country. This is due in particular, to the need to pump water to elevated areas of the country. Mr. Speaker, I want to drive it home to the members in this Honourable house that every month the NWC pays the JPS approximately \$550 Million for electricity supply.

However, we are employing strategic initiatives to reduce energy usage including:-

- Resorting to the alternative production of energy, where feasible for example at Windsor Heights where there is a solar pumping station;
- The replacement of old inefficient pumps. In fact we have 70 –pumps on order and
- The rehabilitation of tanks with the necessary controls to prevent losses. We currently have 100 tanks at the procurement stage.

### **Tank and Pump Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. Speaker, the Tank and Pump Rehabilitation Project is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 is currently underway which will result in a reduction in energy costs of approximately \$250million annually, as well as improvements in the water supply to over one million Jamaicans at a cost of J\$1.0billion for this financial year.

Already contract documents for the procurement of pumps and the drafting of BQs (Bill of Quantities) are in place for the repair and replacement of tanks.

Mr. Speaker, the Tank and Pump programme is a comprehensive programme involving wells, tanks and pumps. In this regard, 52 wells have been identified under this project for rehabilitation, 11 of which have already been inspected and the rest are scheduled for inspection by the Rural Water Supply Limited.

It is estimated that each well will cost about J\$10 million to rehabilitate. In addition based on the initial evaluations approximately 73 pumping units will be replaced under this phase of the project.

Mr. Speaker, the Tank and Pump Rehabilitation Project will address unreliability issues, and will increase the storage capacity to offset the adverse effects of drought on the affected communities. Indeed Mr. Speaker, Climate Change scientists are warning of more severe drought events in the future, and so we will need to ensure the water security of our communities.





## RURAL WATER SUPPLY LIMITED

### Upgrading And Rehabilitation Of Minor Water Supply Systems

Mr. Speaker, earlier I mentioned that our major water provider, the NWC will be moving to increase coverage to 85 per cent by 2020.

The remaining 15% of the population, will be served using modalities based on the best localised solutions, including rainwater harvesting.

Mr. Speaker, a number of minor water supply systems in our rural communities fall within this bracket. A total of \$72M was spent on the completion of on-going projects as well as the upgrading and rehabilitation of minor water supply systems in the parishes of Westmoreland; St. Catherine; St. James; Portland; St. Elizabeth; St. Mary and St. Thomas.

The projects that have been completed are:-

- The spring upgrade for the Mt. Rosser Water Supply System in my own constituency, North West St. Catherine and I thank my constituents for their patience.-
- The Orange Bay Intake Works in Western Portland (MP Daryl Vaz)
- Mile Gully - Warwick Castle in Western St. Mary (MP Joylan Silvera)  
The Lindo Lane Pipeline Extension in South East St. Elizabeth (MP Richard Parchment) and
- The Amity Water Supply System in Eastern Westmoreland (MP Luther Buchanan)



- The Windsor Heights Water Supply System in Eastern St. Catherine completed (MP Denise Daley)

- The Troja - Lassie Spring Water Supply System in North East St. Catherine (MP Desmond Mair)
- Mr. Speaker, works are substantially completed on the Haining/Belle Castle Water Supply system in Eastern Portland, and people are now receiving water from the system including the Bell Castle all age. The system is to be put into operation this month (MP Dr. Lynvale Bloomfield).
- Investigations and designs have been completed on the Grant Hill Water Supply System and Kelly Spring in West Rural St. Andrew (MP Paul Buchanan)
- Investigations and designs have also been completed for Top Leinster and Devon Pen water supply system in South Eastern St. Mary – (Dr. Winston Green MP)

Projects currently being upgraded include;-

- Phase one of the Top Hill Supply System in my own constituency North –Western St. Catherine
- Pipe material has been procured for the Seaton Water Supply System, in South Eastern St. Mary. Pipe laying works as well as the construction of a Chlorine Contact Tank are scheduled to begin during the first quarter of 2014-2015. (Dr. Winston Green MP)

Works were also undertaken on several other minor water supply systems. They include the:-

- Kerrick Hill Water Supply System Western St. Thomas - work is substantially completed and the system is to be put into operations this month (MP James Robertson). Work is also substantially completed on the Hagley Gap Water Supply System which will also be put into operation this month. Mr. Speaker, you can see that we have heard the cries for water from the Member for Western St. Thomas (MP James Robertson) and his constituents and we are working, working, working to ease their plight.
- Mr. Speaker, the designs have been completed and pipe material has been purchased for the Richmond Hill Water Supply System in Eastern St. Thomas. Work is scheduled to commence during the first quarter of this financial year (MP Dr. Fenton Ferguson)
- Mr. Speaker, J\$59M has been earmarked in the 2014-2015 Financial Year's Budget for the immediate upgrading and rehabilitation of several water supply systems including:-
- The Mahoe Ridge/Garlands/Horse Guard Water Supply System, South St. James (MP Derrick Kellier)
- The Gutters/Retirement Water Supply System, West Central St. James (MP Sharon Ffolkes-Abraham)
- The Seaton Water Supply System in South Eastern St. Mary (MP Dr. Winston Green) (pipes already bought)
- The Georges' Valley Water Supply System in South St. James (MP Derrick Kellier) (ongoing)
- The Northern Clarendon Minor Water Supply System (MP Horace Dalley) (pipes procured)

Work will also be carried out on:-

- The Watermount Dam Expansion and upgrade in West Central St. Catherine (MP Dr. Kenneth Baugh)
- The Windsor Heights Expansion in Eastern St. Catherine (MP Denise Daley)
- The Richmond Hill Water Supply System in Eastern St. Thomas (MP Dr. Fenton Ferguson). Designs were completed in the last financial year, and the pipes procured.
- The Hagley Gap Kerrick Hill Water Supply System in Western St. Thomas (MP James Robertson) should be completed in early July.

### **Rainwater Harvesting And Catchment Tank Rehabilitation Programme Undertaken In The Financial Year 2013-2014**

Mr. Speaker, Climate Change is telling us that rainwater harvesting is not a technique of the past. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there is a seeming reluctance to return to this method, particularly in rural communities as there is the belief that with the pipes come progress. However, we will be facing more severe droughts in the future as climate change impacts increasingly affect us and so there must be a return to rainwater harvesting as one of the methods of ensuring our water security now, and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, since the start of the Rainwater Harvesting and Catchment Tank Rehabilitation Programme in 2012, investigations and designs have been carried out on eighty one (81) of the 282 Local Government inventory existing Catchment tanks islandwide. Sixty (60) have so far been rehabilitated.



For the 2013-2014 financial year, a total of \$50.7M has been expended for the rehabilitation of an additional thirty nine (39) catchment tanks as follows:-

- 12 in St. Ann
- 2 in Clarendon
- 7 in Manchester
- 3 in Westmoreland
- 2 in St. Catherine
- 2 in St. James
- 7 in Trelawny
- 4 in St. Elizabeth

Communities that have benefitted from the complete rehabilitation of these tanks include:-

- Epworth-Friendship in South East St. Ann (MP Lisa Hanna)
- York Castle-Farm in North West St. Ann (MP Dr. Dayton Campbell)
- Inverness-Aboukir and Fullerton Park in South West St. Ann (MP Keith Walford)
- Good Hope, Evans Corner and Quick Step, in North West St. Elizabeth (MP J.C. Hutchinson)
- Bruntie in Eastern Westmoreland (MP Luther Buchanan)
- Birds and Porters Mountain in Central Westmoreland (MP Roger Clarke)
- Good Hall – Content in East Central St. James (MP Ed. Bartlett)
- Cedar Valley and Mt. Moreland in North Central St. Catherine (MP Natalie Neita-Headley)

Mr. Speaker, materials have been purchased for the rehabilitation of an additional ten (10) catchment tanks in communities located in St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and St. Ann. Works have already commenced during the first quarter of this financial year.

For this Financial Year, an amount of \$45.188M has been budgeted to carry out rehabilitation and repairs to catchment tanks as follows:-

- 2 in Clarendon
- 10 in the hilly area of Eastern and Western Westmoreland
- 6 in Manchester
- 6 in St. Ann
- 6 in St. Elizabeth

A total of thirty (30) tanks are slated to be rehabilitated during this Financial Year. Mr. Speaker, one of the major aspects of the project to be executed this year is the replacement of tank covers. Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) has designed a ferro cement light weight roofing to be utilized to replace several uncovered tanks located islandwide.

The exercise will begin at York Castle in North Western St. Ann (MP Dayton Campbell) and Port Sea in South Eastern St. Elizabeth, (MP Richard Parchment) during the first quarter of this Financial Year.

### **Rainwater Harvesting Solutions For Schools In Areas With No Potable Water Supply Systems**





A Rainwater Harvesting system is being proposed as an immediate water supply solution for schools impacted by a lack of, or inadequate water supply. The Aabuthnott Gallimore High School, located in South Western St. Ann, (MP Keith Walford) has so far benefitted from the upgrading of their system, during the (2013-2014) Financial Year.

A Rainwater Harvesting Project was also undertaken, in conjunction with the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, in the Gublatoe area of North Central, St. Catherine (MP Natalie Neita Headley). This involved the installation of roof guttering and black tanks. Over seven hundred (700) households benefitted from this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the programme will continue into this Financial Year and the Ministry of Education is being asked to partner with us in this endeavour.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as I close my presentation, I would like to express my gratitude to so many who have made possible, the achievements I have outlined and who will continue to play an integral part to my own future accomplishments and that of the Ministry I head. As the saying goes, “an attitude of gratitude is like a beatitude”, and so I thank first and foremost, my family for their unwavering support throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker my profound thanks also to my leader, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, for giving me the opportunity to serve Jamaica as Minister in what is undeniably a Ministry with critical portfolio responsibilities. I want to give her the assurance that I will continue to do my best to live up to the expectations of this Administration as well as the people of Jamaica.

My thanks to my Minister of State, Hon. Ian Hayles, who I consider to be one of the best and brightest in this Administration, and for whose support I am humbly grateful.

My gratitude to the Executive Management Team at the Ministry, headed by Permanent Secretary, Dr. Alwin Hales; Director General Mrs. Sharon Crooks; and Chief Technical Director Lt. Col. Oral Khan, as well as the Heads of Agencies, Departments and Divisions within my Ministry.

Their professionalism and dedication ensure that our policies, plans and projects are implemented in a timely and efficient manner and that our goals are met. I am also deeply grateful to the Board Chairpersons and Board Members for which I have oversight, and humbly thank them for their commitment to serve.

My profound thanks to our local, regional and international partners for their genuine and enduring collaboration and support over the years. They include:

- The European Union
- The World Bank
- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- The Government of the People's Republic of China
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United National Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

*Building Resilience – Ensuring Sustainable Development*

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- The Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- The Korea International Corporation Agency (KOICA)
- The Korea Cadastral Survey Corporation (KCSC)
- The city of Hagen in Germany
- The Community based organizations, and Non-governmental Organizations, as well as the many stakeholders who attended our consultations on the Climate Change Policy and the Water Sector Policy

Mr. Speaker, my thanks to the Caretakers, Councillors and my constituents in North West St. Catherine which is arguably one of the most beautiful constituencies in Jamaica. To them I say, I have received your support since 1989, and indeed, I am currently serving my sixth consecutive term as your Member of Parliament in a constituency that has never lost a Parish Council Division. Without your support, I would not have had the opportunity to serve my country in the manner I have been able to. THANK YOU!

I want to acknowledge you as well Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues here in this Honourable House. Despite being on opposite sides of the floor, and our occasional differences in opinion, respect is due.

Finally, I give thanks to the Almighty for His continued spiritual guidance and his mercies, which have helped me to continue to offer service to my brothers and sisters and to Jamaica, land we love.



**Hon. Robert D. Pickersgill** and students of the St. Hugh's Preparatory School.

Hon. Robert D. Pickersgill poses with students of the Westwood High School, winners of the Ministry's 2014 World Water Day Music Competition.





**Ministry of Water, Land, Environment  
and Climate Change**



**"Partnering for Sustainable Development"**