

2015 SECTORAL PRESENTATION

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MINISTER OF WATER, LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker I begin my presentation by thanking you for your patience and understanding in providing the requisite leadership for our deliberations, over the years. In fact, based on my research, you are the tenth Speaker to serve this Honourable House since Independence and your service spans some thirteen years thus far....from your first appointment as the Deputy Speaker from 1997 to 2002; then as Speaker from 2002 to 2007, and again when you resumed as Speaker of the House from 2012 to the present. You are perhaps the only Deputy Speaker who has graduated to become the Speaker. I say to all my colleagues that ‘respect is due’.

Mr Speaker, in my party I am known as a Six Star General, serving under the Commander in Chief, the Eight-Star General, the Most Hon Portia Simpson Miller. I hasten to say that in my six consecutive terms as the Member of Parliament for the great constituency of North West St. Catherine, except for four short years, I have spent more time on this side of the house, as a Minister, than on that side.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I have the distinction of leading a Constituency that has never lost an election, whether Parliamentary or Local, under my leadership.

In addition, since 1989, I have enjoyed the confidence of no less than three Prime Ministers, who have entrusted me with ministerial responsibilities for several critical portfolios.

In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to, first and foremost, my family for their unwavering support throughout the years. My profound thanks also to my leader, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, for affording me the opportunity to serve Jamaica in a Ministry with critical portfolio responsibilities. Indeed Mr. Speaker, we are **“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”**.

My thanks to my Minister of State, Hon Ian Hayles, for whose support I continue to be grateful. My gratitude to the Executive Management Team at the Ministry, headed by Dr. Alwin Hales who has the distinction of being currently, the longest serving Permanent Secretary with 19 years under his belt, ten of which have been spent with me.

My gratitude also to Director General Dr. Sharon Crooks; Chief Technical Director Lt. Col. (Ret’d) Oral Khan the Heads of Agencies, Departments and Divisions; my office staff, Suzanne, Bansie, Rodeen, Winsome, Heather, Maxine, Annie and Shelly; as well as my personal staff Kerise, Audrey and Monica, who has been with me for over 30 years, Andrew, and my security officer, Sgt. Wykeham Christie, who has worked with me for some 21 years, and in whom I am well pleased.

I am also deeply grateful to the Board Chairpersons and Board Members for which I have oversight, and sincerely thank them for their commitment to serve.

Mr. Speaker, to the Councillors and my constituents in North West St. Catherine, my profound thanks.

I have received their unwavering support since 1989, and I will continue to serve for as long as they afford me the opportunity.

I also want to acknowledge my colleagues on both sides of the floor in this Honourable House. Despite our occasional differences in opinion, respect is due.

The work we do is made possible in large measure by our local, regional and international partners and I thank them for their genuine and enduring collaboration and support over the years.

Finally, I give thanks to the Almighty for His continued spiritual guidance and His mercies, as we work to make **Jamaica, “the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”**.

Mr. Speaker, I am responsible for 13 agencies, and 29 subjects under my portfolio areas, of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, which neatly and seamlessly fit together as part of the vision of the Prime Minister, that this Ministry would play a vital role in **“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”** which is the theme of my presentation this afternoon.

Given the limited time at my disposal, and the number of portfolios in my Ministry, from time to time, I will refer Members to the encyclopaedia soon to be in their possession.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Speaker, Climate Change is defined as a long term change in weather patterns. By now we should be convinced about the all embracing nature of climate change. Indeed, it touches and impacts every ministry, every sector and every individual.

Let me echo the words of United States President Barack Obama who stated at Georgetown University that **“Ninety-seven percent of scientists, including, by the way, some who originally disputed the data, have now put that to rest. They have acknowledged the planet is warming and human activity is contributing to it.”**

I am pleased to say that further to my announcement last year, of the formation of a network of **Climate Change Focal Points** across Ministries, government Departments and Agencies, 27 focal points have been identified and have received training to build

their capacity to integrate climate change into the development planning, and policy making processes.

We will be moving next to systematically establish climate change networks at the local level in each parish to assist in development planning and policy making in the Priority sectors that have been identified in the policy framework. A number of development partners have confirmed their support for the preparation of detailed Action Plans to climate proof each sector. We are now embarking on sector strategy plans for eleven critical sectors.

In this regard, with the support of the USAID, work is underway in the Forestry and the Agriculture sectors, with work on the Sector Plan for Fisheries set to commence later this year. Funding to the tune of J\$2 billion from the Climate Investment Fund through the IDB under the **Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience**, has also been secured to support, among other things, the mainstreaming of climate change across government. The Programme will strengthen institutional capacity as well as finance climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector and in the wider community.

Mr Speaker, we have completed the preparation of the **"Climate Change Policy Framework"** and will shortly be laying it in this honourable house. The Policy Framework will guide the country's approach towards building resilience to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. With this Framework document and the institutional arrangements we have in place, our readiness to access climate change financing has been strengthened. Indeed, the **Green Climate Fund** has affirmed my ministry as the National Designated Authority for Jamaica.

The Government sought and obtained Financing of J\$1 billion from the international body known as the Adaptation Fund, for a **Project to Enhance the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas**. This project will, among other things, fund the preparation of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Negril and also the preparation of standards and guidelines relating to coastal developments.

The major component of the project is the construction of two breakwater structures in the Long Bay area of Negril. These are aimed at protecting the beach from further destructive erosion.

The aim is to halt the loss of approximately one meter of shoreline per year. We have held extensive consultations, entertained objections from some stakeholders, and after consideration of all the evidence, I am pleased to advise Members that Cabinet has approved the implementation of this important project even as we continue to engage the Negril Community.

Mr Speaker, it has universally been established that the challenges facing us from Climate Change are due to Greenhouse Gas Emissions, particularly Carbon Dioxide, from industrialized countries. Scientists have said that we are at the “tipping point” which means that unless the world takes drastic and meaningful steps to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the global threats from Climate Change impacts could prove to be catastrophic.

As such, we have been among the voices at the UN demanding that industrialised countries make realistic pledges to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. Jamaica is a small island developing state, and as such, its emissions are negligible. We are nonetheless responding to the UN's request of all nations to make Green House Gas emission reduction pledges.

We will finalize our own “Intended Nationally Determined Contribution” in time for the UN Climate Change Summit in France in December of this year. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we are **“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”**

It goes without saying that we are eagerly anticipating this Conference of the Parties, where we hope to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change, from all the nations of the world.

Our Prime Minister has promised me faithfully that she will be there and I will be there by her side.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr Speaker, under the country's principal environmental legislative framework, we will be promulgating regulations to govern Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and manage resource protected areas during this financial year.

In addition, we will be going to Cabinet, to seek approval to increase the fines under the principal environment legislation to assist in reinforcing the "polluter pays principle", as well as to aid in changing the behaviour of our citizens.

The Natural Resources Conservation Authority has licensed thirty eight (38) major and significant sources of air emission and is currently reviewing licence applications for the newly owned sugar manufacturing facilities. The government's air quality monitoring network is being expanded this year to include Mandeville, Spanish Town and Portmore, building on the existing network that monitors emissions over Kingston, Montego Bay and May Pen.

Our air quality comes under stress daily because of the increased number of vehicles on our roads and the vast number of fires being lit by persons all across the country.

I am happy to report that in partnership with the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, and the University of Technology, we will complete the preparation of **Vehicle Emission Standards** this year, and establish a baseline of vehicle fuel economy data which will enable us to track improvements in this area.

In addition to monitoring air quality we took further steps to protect our most ecologically sensitive areas.

The Protected Areas System Master Plan was prepared and is now in the final stage of approval. In addition, Zoning Plans for the Negril, Montego Bay and Ocho Rios Marine Parks, as well as the Palisadoes-Port Royal and the Coral Spring-Mountain Spring Protected Areas have been prepared.

The Zoning Plan and a carrying capacity study for the Black River will be prepared this year. We will be moving next to prepare Management Plans for these areas.

For the sustainability of our management schemes, we have also established a **National Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund**, which will become operational in this financial year. This Fund will manage resources dedicated to the maintenance of Jamaica's protected areas.

The environment has to be protected from the harmful effects of chemicals and hazardous wastes and so in March we launched the **National Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Project** which is a collaborative effort amongst several ministries, departments and agencies aimed at building Jamaica's capacity to manage chemicals and hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

Collection points for electronic waste such as unserviceable computers and phones have been established for the public to deposit these waste items.

In terms of the Montreal Protocol governing Hydrochlorofluorocarbons, we are meeting our targets, and are working to maintain the 10% reduction levels for the current period. Mr Speaker we are "**Enabling Jamaica's Sustainable Future**".

Again, Mr. Speaker, details of these projects and more are contained in the encyclopaedia that I am making available to my colleagues in this Honourable House.

FORESTRY

Mr Speaker, our Forest Reserves are among our Protected Areas. **It is well known that trees and forests are the lungs of the planet and that they contribute in no small measure to the quality of our environment.** Management Plans were developed for an additional two Forest Reserves namely the Stephney-John's Vale Forest Reserve in St. Ann, and the Windsor Castle Forest Estate in St. Thomas.

A new **Forest Policy** for Jamaica was tabled in Parliament as a Green Paper in March. The Green Paper addresses, among other things, the preparation of Forest Management Plans and point to their critical importance for the sustainable management of these precious ecosystems.

The results of the latest Land Use/Forest Cover Assessment completed by the Forestry Department with funding under the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project, has revealed that since the last survey in 1998, there has been an overall increase in forest cover equivalent to 0.41 % or 1,394 hectares annually.

This increase was mainly due to conversion of non-forested land into secondary forests.

The findings also reveal that 40 percent or 441,000 hectares of the island is now classified as forest. This is good news Mr. Speaker, and it is a trend we will be endeavouring to continue. The bad news however is that there have been losses in the quality of forests.

In particular, the closed broadleaf and disturbed broadleaf forests, as well as the open dry forests and swamp forests, which have been mainly replaced by cultivation, buildings and infrastructural developments.

We cannot continue to denude our natural closed broadleaf forests because once gone, they are gone forever and so too the biodiversity that they support. Mr Speaker I have said at every tree planting and indeed every Forestry Department event that I attend, that..."A forest is irreplaceable". Indeed, as the old Chinese proverb says..."the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now". It is for this reason that as Minister of the Environment, I pledge to protect that special Closed Broadleaf forest known as the Cockpit Country.

We expect that initiatives such as the **Sawmill Licensing Programme** which was launched in September last year, will build on the gains we have made in terms of the management and sustainable use of our forest reserves.

Since the launch of the programme, fifty-eight (58) licence applications have been received and thirty (30) licences issued.

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, it is far cheaper for operators to obtain a licence than to pay the penalty for operating without one.

Indeed, let me remind the House that the application fee is \$15,000. However, the penalty, per offence, for operating without a licence under the Forest Regulations is a maximum fine of \$50,000, and in default of payment, imprisonment or one year at hard labour.

PLANNING

Mr Speaker, the manner in which we utilize land for development purposes has a profound impact on our environment. **Development Orders** are important lawful instruments that establish the parameters for the rational, progressive and sustainable development of land. In my presentation last year, I announced four provisional Development Orders for the parishes of Portland, Trelawny and Manchester, as well as the Negril-Green Island Local Planning Area.

Mr. Speaker, I can proudly announce that I have confirmed the four Development Orders. Let me add however, that I have made an important change to the Negril Development Order which will now permit a maximum of four stories for buildings, not exceeding a height of fifty metres.

However, the setback at the high water mark remains at 46 metres (150 feet), except under exceptional circumstances.

Mr Speaker, other Development Orders are on stream to be published during this financial year, and we are on target to have the entire island regulated by Development Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act by the end of the 2016—2017 financial year. I wish to say special thanks to the Tourism Enhancement Fund for the support provided.

There have been several complaints from stakeholders regarding the **Development Approvals Process** (DAP). Under my Chairmanship, I brought together high level representatives from the public and private sectors to review the current Development Approvals Process, and make recommendations on how to simplify and improve its efficiency.

Subsequent to a joint Submission by my Ministry and the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, these recommendations for improvement of the Development Approval Process were approved by Cabinet on December 2, 2014. The Members would have heard about the success of this effort from my colleague Minister.

A draft Implementation Plan including timelines was completed and is being finalized for the Cabinet's approval. I am pleased to state that 700 subdivisions were approved by me last year. This Mr Speaker, is an indicator that we are indeed facilitating the growth agenda, and we are **"Enabling Jamaica's Sustainable Future"**

LAND

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, land is a key natural resource in any country, and as such, my Ministry has continued on the course to create a broad-based **"ownership society"** where persons, no matter their socio-economic status, can obtain a title to their own piece of the rock.

After all, as National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley 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".

It is imperative that the Land Divestment process is transparent, fair and equitable, and is able to stand up to scrutiny.

After rigorous stakeholder consultations, spanning a number of years, I am pleased to report to this Honourable House that a **Land Divestment Policy Framework and**

Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government Lands, has finally been produced. The Policy Manual provides a guide to all public sector entities that are involved in the divestment of land.

Mr Speaker, during this fiscal year we will be developing an electronic inventory of all Government lands. We will continue to build this inventory through the scanning, indexing and updating of files into the Estate Management System.

This year, the National Land Agency intends to prepare 300 (duplicate) Certificates of Title for allottees in Land Settlement Schemes.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am once again reminding my colleague Members, that the Commissioner of Lands has thousands of titles for Land Settlement Schemes, where the allottees cannot be found or they have died, and their beneficiaries have not come forward.

I have already provided the names of beneficiaries to Members. For the avoidance of doubt, I have here, a few of the titles, but we have thousands more in the vault). Mr Speaker, we need to put them in the hands of the allottees. and so I am again appealing to Members, including your good self' sir, to assist us in locating these persons.

Mr Speaker, as at March 31, 2015, 850-titles were processed by LAMP, by way of applications to register land, and 364 existing Certificates of Title were updated with the information of the current land owners. This year, we are aiming to issue 1000 new titles.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are applicants who owe a nominal amount on their applications. Happily I can say that LAMP is now in a position to assist these persons in completing their payments so that they may obtain their titles.

Funding has been provided, and is now available to LAMP clients in St Catherine, St Elizabeth, Manchester and Clarendon.

I urge persons in those parishes to visit any of the LAMP locations in Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. Ann, and Kingston; or to contact the LAMP office at 16a Half Way Tree Road, or **call 633-7300**. for more information.

I am issuing a new appeal to Members, to assist us in spreading the word to these persons. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I have issued letters to Members with the names of applicants and I have mine right here..

Mr. Speaker, it is a common practice for landowners, particularly the less fortunate, who cannot afford the unavoidable, professional fees for obtaining a title, to point a finger to determine boundaries.

As such, they are not able to produce any documents showing their ownership, in spite of living on, and being in possession of family land for many years.

In an attempt to rectify this, we have established **Adjudication Committees** in Narine Lands, St. Catherine; Rose Town in Kingston and we have honoured our promise to establish four in St Elizabeth.

By the end of June, we will have established six (6) more in Clarendon, four in Manchester and two more in St. Catherine. The Committees have adjudicated 60 matters so far.

The Adjudication Committees will work at the community level, deliberate on the rights and interests of applicants, and provide a written record of their decisions which can be used by landowners to support an application to register land. In this way, the Root of Title problems will be addressed, and the length of time reduced, Mr. Speaker, from 30 years to 12 years.

In addition, Mr Speaker, we are now awaiting an Amendment Bill from the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, which will make the law more culturally relevant and less anti-poor, taking into account the cultural norms relating to how landowners have traditionally acquired and disposed of land.

It will improve the ability of LAMP to bring these lands under the operation of the Registration of Titles Act.

Another land issue concerns persons who sold their land to Bauxite companies many years ago and have been resettled, but have still not been able to obtain a Title for the land on which they live.

Obtaining their Land Title is often tied to the land owner first delivering to the Bauxite Company, a registered Title for the land that was sold.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding entered into with Noranda Bauxite Company Limited in 2011, LAMP is now seeking to produce titles for 100 parcels of land in the Parish of St. Ann, in the first instance.

In addition, negotiations are underway for a similar MOU to be entered into with General Alumina Jamaica, formerly Jamalco, to update and clarify just over 3000 parcels of land in Manchester and Clarendon.

We will continue to engage all Bauxite Companies until this vexed issue is resolved. We have begun training General Alumina Jamaica staff in processing the applications for titles. I know that many of our Members including You, Mr. Speaker, are very interested in this matter since I have received several complaints.

At the other end of the spectrum Mr. Speaker, through the Real Estate Board and Commission of Strata Corporations, we have taken further steps to protect the integrity of the Real Estate Market, and to make it more friendly for purchasers and other investors.

To this end, the Board has protected approximately J\$20 billion of purchasers' deposits over the last financial year. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you will agree that this is a significant achievement.

Prior to the formation of the Real Estate Board in 1988, these purchasers, particularly those in the diaspora, would have lost their deposits to unscrupulous developers.

The Timeshare Vacations Act was passed this last year. We have since been receiving significant interest in our timeshare product from large overseas organizations.

Mr Speaker, I again refer my colleagues to the encyclopaedia for a look at the Legislative and Policy Framework which will enable us to accomplish our goals.

However, I should mention that we are on target to complete the first draft of the revised **National Land Policy** for wider stakeholder consultation during the last quarter of 2015/16.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of preparing a National Spatial Plan to provide the strategic spatial framework to guide national development and investment decision making. We are "**Enabling Jamaica's Sustainable Future**"

WATER

Mr Speaker the provision of potable water is arguably the most critical factor in "**Enabling Jamaica's Sustainable Future**". However, climate change scenarios indicate a decrease in rainfall of 0.52% by 2030 and 18.4% by 2080

As they are saying in the United States Mr. Speaker, where the state of California is experiencing drought conditions for the past four to five years, "Brown is the new green". Indeed, we saw some of those impacts first hand last year, as the amount of rainfall recorded in Jamaica for 2014 was 85% of its normal amounts and this resulted in varying levels of drought across the Island.

The June/July period saw all parishes reporting drought. However, the rainfall projection for the period May to September this year is that most areas are likely to experience near-normal to above-normal rainfall. We have nevertheless made provisions to assist drought affected areas with the trucking of water through the Parish Councils.

We have to protect our water sources from current and future impacts of drought and other climate related events and so the Water Resources Authority, has prepared an aquifer vulnerability map for the island.

The vulnerability map indicates the potential risk to contamination at various locations across the island. This information is used to guide the development approval process and the determination of mitigating conditions for the protection of water resources.

In addition, the WRA with funding from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has completed an evaluation of the water resources of the Upper Rio Cobre Sub-Basin, to determine the man-made impacts on the water quality. The analysis of the data is ongoing and a final report will be issued this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to state that the implementation of the Yallahs River/ Hope River Integrated Watershed Management Project has begun.

Funding support for this project is provided by the Global Environment Facility through the IDB, to the tune of J\$407M. Under this project, over the next five years, key watershed problems will be addressed for the Yallahs River and Hope River Watershed Management Units which are among the most degraded in the country.

During the past financial year, we accomplished the upgrading and rehabilitation of minor water supply systems in St Mary, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. James, Portland, and Clarendon. Comprehensive Rural Water Upgrading and Repairs were carried out at a cost of J\$53 Million to serve populations of approximately 10,500 residents.

Mr Speaker, J\$47M has been earmarked in the budget for this financial year to upgrade several small water supply systems. Again, details of these projects are to be found in the encyclopaedia.

Over the last financial year, some J\$41 million was expended on the rehabilitation of Catchment tanks and Rainwater Harvesting in the parishes of Manchester, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, Clarendon, and Westmoreland.

For this Financial year, an amount of J\$43m has been budgeted to carry out rehabilitation and repairs to 6 catchment tanks in Clarendon; 4 in Eastern Westmoreland; 7 in Manchester; 7 in St. Ann; 5 in St. Elizabeth; 2 in St. Thomas; and 2 in St. Mary.

Rain Water Harvesting Projects will be undertaken at the Anchovy High School's new campus, in Montpelier, South St. James and the Ferncourt High School in South East St. Ann.

My Ministry will be promoting individual household rain water harvesting solutions in areas devoid of adequate sources and piped water. Pilot projects, will begin in Manchester and St. Ann.

At present, Mr Speaker, tenders for the procurement of 71 pump sets have been issued for pump replacement under the **Pump and Tank Operating Efficiency Programme** at a cost of J\$350 Million.

To date 41 of the pumps have been ordered at a cost of J\$276M; 19 have arrived and installations have started and the remainder is slated to be delivered by May. Approvals and orders for the other 30 units will be finalized by next month.

Based on energy conservation calculations, when these pumps are installed the NWC should realize savings of approximately J\$280M annually.

Tenders have been issued for 68 steel and concrete tanks for both rehabilitation and replacement activities, at a cost of \$550 million.

Mr Speaker, we completed the Burnt Savannah-Knoxwood Water Supply System, in South West and North East St. Elizabeth at a cost of \$60 million.

Works are ongoing on several other projects. They include:-

- The Cascade/Claremont/Jericho Water Supply System in Eastern Hanover at a contracted cost of \$300million.

- The Nonpariel Water Supply System in Westmoreland at a cost of \$450 million.
- The Mason River/Kellits/Sandy River Water Supply System in, Northern Clarendon at a cost of \$205 million
- The Eastern Westmoreland Distribution Pipeline Improvement to include Cedar Valley and Bethel Town at a cost of \$81 million
- The Agualta Vale/High Gate /Richmond/ Islington Water Supply System, in South East and Central St. Mary at a projected cost of \$750 million
- The \$60 million Western Hanover Distribution Improvement is scheduled for completion this month and
- Work is slated to begin shortly on the \$40 million Goldmine Water Supply Improvement in West Central St. Catherine.

During the last fiscal year, the National Water Commission completed 25 water and sewerage projects. Billions were expended by the agency on the continued implementation of water supply improvement projects islandwide.

Mr Speaker time does not permit me to go into the details of all the projects, but among the ongoing water projects by the NWC are:-

- The rehabilitation of 26 water supply facilities which is now nearing completion in the Kingston Metropolitan Area, at a cost of \$1.7 Billion and with approximately 750,000 intended beneficiaries.
- Phase 1 of the Port Antonio Water, Sewerage and Drainage project substantially completed at a cost of \$1.9 Billion, with 75,000 persons to benefit. (East Portland Constituency)
- The Artificial Aquifer Recharge Project which is aimed at securing the sustainable abstraction of water from the South St Catherine Limestone Aquifer at a cost of \$1 Billion. Mr Speaker this is a pioneering project as it has never before been

carried out in Jamaica or the Caribbean. This project will safeguard against over-abstraction from the aquifer.

Some of the big projects completed during the past financial year Mr. Speaker, included:

- The replacement of Segment 2 of the Rio Cobre pipeline between Content District and Ferry in St. Catherine at a cost of \$3 Billion to benefit the majority of constituencies in the Kingston Metropolitan Area, and many constituencies in St. Catherine.

Project successfully completed.

- The refurbishing of the Bogue Water Treatment Plant in St. Ann at a cost of \$465 Million to benefit North East St. Ann, Western and Central St. Mary constituencies.

Project successfully completed.

- Refurbishing of the Great River Water Supply Treatment Plant for Hanover and St. James, and the Martha Brae Water Treatment Plant in Trelawny at a cost of \$320 Million to benefit coastal constituencies along the north western coast from North West St. Ann to Western Westmoreland;

Another project successfully completed.

- The upgrading of the Linstead/ Ewarton/Mt. Rosser Water Supply and the Norwood Water Supply Systems in the constituencies of North Western St. Catherine and North West St. James.

Project successfully completed.

- The Hounslow Water Supply and Upgrading at a cost of more than \$40 Million in South West St. Elizabeth

Project successfully completed

- Phase 2 of the Clarks Town Water Supply Project at a cost of \$35 Million. (North Trelawny .

Yet another project successfully completed.

- The Lucea 6 km transmission pipeline in Eastern Hanover, Western Hanover and Western Westmoreland at a cost of \$1 billion.

Project successfully completed

- The construction of a brand new 5 million gallon per day module at the Martha Brae Treatment Plant at a cost of \$1.6 billion, to benefit all coastal constituencies from North West St. Ann to Western Westmoreland

Project completed

- Scotts Cove to Belmont in Eastern Westmoreland at a cost of \$500million.

Project completed

Mr Speaker, the total 2014-2015 expenditure for these projects, fully utilized the J\$6.2 billion fiscal space allowed to the NWC. Again I refer Members to the encyclopaedia in their possession.

Mr Speaker for the upcoming fiscal year, we intend to continue work on:-

- The Essex Valley Water Supply (Nain to Junction) pipeline at a cost of \$58.8 million, to benefit 14,000 persons in South East St. Elizabeth.
- Baron Hill to Samuel Prospect Water Supply in Northern Trelawny at a cost of \$65 million.
- Work will also continue islandwide under the Tank and Pump Operational Efficiency Improvement at a cost of \$250 million

- During this quarter, Mr. Speaker, the NWC expects to embark on a major Non Revenue Water reduction programme to significantly reduce losses in Kingston and St. Andrew, at a cost of more than \$4 billion.

Mr Speaker, the NWC either continued or completed work on significant sewerage projects aimed at improving public health, the natural environment and enabling economic development.

They include:-

- The completion of the Darling Street Sewage Pumping Station at a cost of \$634 million
- Highland Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation at a cost of \$10.2 million
- The Sewerage Component of the 1st phase of the Port Antonio Water, Sewerage and Drainage Project which has a total cost of \$1.9 billion in Eastern Portland
- The KSA Sewerage Expansion to include:
 - Mona Road (side roads)
 - Hope Road (side roads)
 - Upper Montrose and Lady Musgrave Roads
 - Halifax Avenue

These projects were carried out at a combined cost of approximately \$200million to benefit the constituencies of South East St. Andrew; Eastern St. Andrew, and North Eastern St. Andrew

- The rehabilitation of the Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant (Phases 1, 2 and 3) completed at a cost of J\$1.4 billion in East Rural St. Andrew
- The Yallahs Sewerage Project completed at a cost of \$35 million in Western St. Thomas

- The Portmore Sewerage Reconfiguration Project continues at a cost of \$2.65 billion in the South Eastern and East Central St. Catherine
- Work is underway on the rehabilitation and upgrading of the sanitary sewerage system in the communities of Majestic Gardens, Seaview Gardens and Riverton Meadows in South and South Western St Andrew, to address unsatisfactory public health conditions and environmental hazards at a capital cost of \$1.35 Billion.

For this fiscal year Mr. Speaker, work will commence on the upgrading of a number of Sewage Treatment Plants at Boscobel, Elleston Flats; Hughenden, Acadia and Bay Farm Villa at a cost of \$1.2 billion under the CReW Project.

I have also given a commitment to deal once and for all, with the sewage problems being experienced in Tawes Pen in Central St. Catherine.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, the Central Wastewater Treatment Company Ltd, is working along with the Ministry to identify investors to double the capacity of the Soapberry Treatment plant.

Since the determination of a sewerage treatment rate for the Central Waste Water Treatment Company (CWTC) by the Office of Utilities Regulation, investor interest in the Plant, has increased.

Mr. Speaker, I myself consider it to be a worthwhile investment on the part of the National Housing Trust and the Urban Development Corporation.

CLOSING

In closing, Mr Speaker, we are building a climate resilient country and increasing awareness about the impacts of climate change. **Climate Change, Mr Speaker is all inclusive and “With Climate Change, we Must Change”.**

We are expanding our forest cover, repairing our watersheds and are putting in systems for the sustainability of our protected areas, thereby **“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”.**

We have produced Development Orders for several parishes and are on target to ensure that the entire island is subject to those Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act..

We are expanding the ownership society with the processing of thousands of titles, and are simplifying the processes and strengthening the requisite legislation so that more ordinary Jamaicans can own their little piece of the rock.. Social equality Mr. Speaker.

We are modernizing the Development Approval Process to deal more efficiently and timely, with the anticipated increase in applications, as the country continues on its growth path, thus **“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”**.

We are protecting purchasers and their deposits in the Real Estate Industry, especially those in the diaspora, to the tune of over J\$20 billion last year alone. Again you will agree, Mr. Speaker that this is a significant achievement

In the past year we have spent just over J\$6 billion on water projects which impact at least one million users island wide.

We have spent \$2.8 billion in the Kingston Metropolitan Area; approximately J\$2 billion in Western Jamaica, and more than J\$1 billion in upgrading the water supply in our rural communities.

We continue to produce the best water in this hemisphere a fact that has been validated by the NWC winning the best tasting water competition out of several countries in the Caribbean, for three consecutive years, from 2012 to 2014, Here’s to the NWC. **NWC’s tap water is the top water.**

Indeed, I venture to say that this comprehensive record of our activities, is a pioneering document in the history of Sectoral Debates in this Parliament.

I am sure that you agree, Mr Speaker, that unquestionably, my Ministry, the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, and our agencies are indeed **“Enabling Jamaica’s Sustainable Future”**.

When a man has done his best, Mr. Speaker, angels in heaven can do no more.

I thank you.