



Road Repairs Commence under REACH Programme

ROAD REPAIRS have commenced under the Relief Emergency Assistance and Community Help (REACH) Programme, which supports post-Hurricane Beryl recovery efforts.

REACH was initiated by the Government to repair widespread road damage caused during the hurricane's passage, just south of Jamaica, on July 3.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, who provided an update to the House of Representatives, indicated that work commenced following the completion of the procurement process and delays due

to weeks of heavy rains.

"Currently, patching efforts are underway across various constituencies and these activities will be significantly escalated... to address the backlog of [pending] repairs," he stated.

Dr. Holness reiterated that there will be phased implementation of the programme, with each constituency being allocated \$20 million for the necessary road works, including pothole patching, small-scale rehabilitation and minor drain improvements.

He advised that the National Works Agency (NWA) is actively overseeing the implementation to ensure efficiency and accountability.

The Prime Minister said the NWA will also engage in rehabilitating main thoroughfares at a cost of over \$600 million to complement works on community roads, while urging patience by the commuting public as the activities are executed.

"This \$3 billion programme is necessary and essential to provide greater well-being for our commuting public. While we welcome this progress, we must also acknowledge that there will be some unavoidable disruptions to traffic flows as the work intensifies. I therefore appeal to the commuting public for their patience and understanding as these

inconveniences will result in much improved road conditions," Dr. Holness stated.

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Major Road Projects slated for St. Ann

PRIME MINISTER, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, has announced plans for two major road projects to address traffic congestion in St. Ann.

"The first is the improvement of the North Coast Highway, which will be expanded to a four-lane road with underpasses and side roads," he informed.

Dr. Holness pointed out that the highway's expansion will not only address the pile-up of traffic that has plagued the area for some time, but will also enhance overall vehicular flow, driving economic growth and development.

The Prime Minister, who noted that the road is the main thoroughfare for persons travelling between Kingston and Montego Bay, pointed out that "people who live in this area, who would normally use streets and walk and ride, they also must use that road."

"What is needed here is a boulevard that goes through, with your side streets for your local traffic, that's managed in terms of speed, so that people can traverse as much as possible with stoplights [among other features]. So that is being planned," he added.

The other project is the extension of the North-South Highway to take motorists directly into Trelawny. The highway extends from Caymanas in St. Catherine to Ocho Rios in St. Ann.

Dr. Holness said the Government has opened negotiations, noting that

The highway's expansion will... address the pile-up of traffic that has plagued the area for some time...

both projects are "fairly advanced in development."

He pointed out that the road projects will open economic opportunities and the Government will be guided by a development plan to counter the redistribution of commercial activities.

"Persons are going to move out of Ocho Rios, move out of St. Ann's Bay and seek to relocate where commerce and industry and businesses, like manufacturing, are easily accessible," he contended.

"What you are going to find is that Ocho Rios, which we will promote, will become more of a touristic town... where the whole charm of the town can be properly enhanced and developed and harnessed for its economic value," the Prime Minister stated.

Dr. Holness added that the parish capital, St. Ann's Bay, can also be properly developed for its historical value to add depth to the tourism product.

Montego Bay Perimeter Road Project on Track



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, observes activities being carried out by a workman on the Montego Bay Perimeter Road Project during a recent tour.

PRIME MINISTER, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, says the Montego Bay Perimeter Road, being constructed in St. James, is on track to be ready in 2025.

I am very impressed with what I have seen. The infrastructure work is impressive... already 50 per cent completed for such a massive project, which will include a four-lane bridge," he indicated following a recent tour of the development.

Dr. Holness, who said he was pleased with the progress of the project's execution, pointed out that, "the Montego Bay Perimeter Road is not only a bypass for Montego Bay, but also involves improvements to various roads within Montego Bay [proper] and the Long Hill bypass."

The Prime Minister pointed out that the new road, which is part of the Jamaica 60 legacy projects, is intended to enhance efficiency and productivity by alleviating traffic congestion and frustration, ultimately driving economic growth.

He maintained that not only will the road improve the quality of life for residents, but will also benefit various sectors, including business process outsourcing (BPO) and tourism, by reducing travel time and enhancing accessibility for workers and visitors alike.

Dr. Holness commended the contractors, China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), adding that he is pleased to see the integration of the local labour force in the project.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (third right), examines the Montego Bay Perimeter Road Project plan during a recent tour. He is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (second right); Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with Responsibility for Works, Hon. Robert Morgan (right), Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister (West), Hon. Homer Davis (centre), and other project stakeholders.



A section of the North-South Highway, which spans St. Catherine and St. Ann