



# SECTORAL DEBATE

## 2014-2015



*Presented by*

**Hon. Ian Hayles, MP**

Minister of State, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change

**Managing Our Resources,  
Securing Our Future**

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## SALUTATIONS

**M**r. Speaker, for the third time I rise to present my contribution as the representative of the people of Western Hanover, and for the second time as Minister of State in the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change.

Mr. Speaker, each time I stand before this Honourable House, I am humbled by the awesome responsibility that has been entrusted in me, first by the people of Western Hanover, but also by the Most Honourable Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller.

Today, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Prime Minister, for affording me the opportunity to be a part of an administration committed to the long term growth and development of Jamaica; and to the people of Western Hanover, who have allowed me the opportunity to represent them in this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, I am but one man, but I stand here only because I enjoy the support and confidence of a number of wonderful people.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognise the Honourable Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Robert Pickersgill. I am proud to work with my Senior Minister, a true Jamaican patriot, from whom I learn new things every day. Mr. Speaker, I realise how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to work directly with someone with his years of experience in government, in politics, and in public service, and I thank him for his steadfast support, encouragement and tutelage.

I would also like to thank my family: first my loving wife, Ann, and my beautiful children, for all the sacrifice they endure daily in support of me. I'd also like to thank my other family; the people who work tirelessly to keep things in order: Sherell Atkinson, Damion Ricketts, Everton Goulbourne, Marvel Sewell, Sheridan Samuels, Shelliann Forbes and my entire support staff. There are many names I haven't called, and, if I have omitted anyone, please forgive me. I acknowledge and appreciate all your support.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognise the many people who work within the public service, diligently doing their part for Jamaica. Specifically, I'd like to recognise my Councillors: Councillor Neville Clare, Councillor Anthony Walker, Councillor Shernet Haughton, and Councillor Lester Crooks, who is currently recuperating from a stroke. My prayers go to him and his family.

I would also like to recognise and thank wholeheartedly the entire team of the Ministry: Permanent Secretary, Dr. Alwin Hales, Director General, Mrs. Sharon Crooks, Chief Technical Director, Lt. Col. Oral Khan and the dedicated staff of the Ministry, and all its Agencies and Departments, some of whom are here today.

## INTRODUCTION

**M**r. Speaker, the portfolio of the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change is massive, and while in his presentation, the Honourable Minister spoke extensively of the achievements and projects of the Ministry, we still have much to account for. Today I will cover those areas that the Honourable Minister did not cover, notably the Environment, Planning and Development portfolios. I will also give an update on upcoming and ongoing projects of the National Water Commission.

Before I address the matters of my Ministerial portfolio, Mr. Speaker, I ask the indulgence of my colleagues in allowing me to deliver a brief account of my stewardship as Member of Parliament for the mighty, mighty constituency of Western Hanover.



## WESTERN HANOVER CONSTITUENCY

**M**r. Speaker, as a leader, I recognize the importance of empowering our youth. There is no nation that can prosper without making a sizeable and continuing investment in youth training, education, and development, with those investments beginning at the community level. In Western Hanover, as part of our efforts to engage our youth, this year we established a world class sporting facility in Logwood and a community centre in Cauldwell. I must thank the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Roger Clarke and the Sugar Transformation Unit for their support in making these facilities a reality.

As Member of Parliament, I will ensure that we continue to invest in our youth, and so, later this year we will be opening the Western Hanover Youth Information Centre, a \$41 million dollar investment. Two weeks from now, we will be breaking ground for the construction of the centre, which, Mr. Speaker would not have been possible without the support of Minister of Youth and Culture, Hon. Lisa Hanna. I thank the Minister for her input.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to complete the Lucea pipeline, a \$1.2 billion project. This will bring access to a more reliable water supply system for the people of Western Hanover and Negril. I am particularly proud of this development, because it is the realization of a commitment made by my Senior Minister to various stakeholders: residents, tourism interests, and farmers. He promised, Mr. Speaker, and, with the support of the various hard working staff of the ministry and its agencies, he delivered.

Mr. Speaker, believe it or not, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are people in Western Hanover who do not have electricity in their homes. We are about to correct that situation. For the first time, residents of Spring Mountain, Rock Hole, Prosper, Winchester and other communities will receive access to electricity. Through the Rural Electrification Programme, and with the support of our hard working Energy Minister, my friend Hon. Phillip Paulwell, we will extend this essential utility to thousands of residents. Soon, our people will be able to enjoy some of the things many of us take for granted: to get a cool drink of ice water, check their email, or watch a football match on Television.

In the past year, we were able to deliver over 10 houses to our neediest residents, giving these Jamaicans a fair shot at life in their own country. As I stand here Mr. Speaker, the completion of building works on the Green Island Post Office is proceeding apace. Through JEEP, we were able to fund this project, and I must thank all the Ministers in the Transport and Works Ministry for their support on these and other projects. Through their stewardship we had some \$10 million of roadwork and patching done, notably on Richmond Road, but also on roads throughout the constituency.

Ministers, the people of Western Hanover are thankful for the work you've done. But, I would not be representing my people fully if I didn't use this opportunity to humbly request some attention on other roads within the network. Specifically, we need some work done

on the St. Simon Road, Kew to Askenish, Riley to Askenish, and Dias to Davis Cove Roads. There are many more, but it would mean a lot to the residents and business owners if those could be addressed as a matter of priority.

Mr. Speaker, in Western Hanover we will continue to use our Constituency Development Fund allocation to aid and assist our citizens and to address their most urgent and pressing welfare needs, namely in education, healthcare and employment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that Hanover has a tax compliance rate of nearly 80 per cent. All our people ask is for a small portion of what we send to central government to make small but meaningful improvements to our infrastructure.



## THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Speaker, as we have heard from the presentations of my colleagues over the past few weeks, this administration is firmly committed to Jamaica's long-term economic growth and development, and to getting our economy globally competitive.

We realise, however, that no country can have sustained economic growth, development or social well-being without due and careful consideration of the environment. Mr. Speaker, a growing population means that our finite national resources are under pressure and are likely to be pressured even further by climate change. Prudent management of the environment is therefore critical to all national priorities: food and nutrition security, health, wealth creation, energy, tourism, commerce, community development and more.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, care protection and management of the environment cannot be the sole responsibility of government. When it comes to the environment, all Jamaicans: the private sector, academia, NGOs, community based organisations, international agencies, and everyday citizens have a role to play.



Mr. Speaker, this government recognises the importance of partnerships, and whenever given the opportunity, we try partner with others to pool resources, to access expertise, and much more. At the moment, the government is actively addressing a number of environmental issues, chief among them:

- Preserving and conserving the rich biodiversity of the Cockpit Country;
- Preserving our beach resources in Negril and other coastal areas;
- Maintaining the existing eight per cent of primary forest while increasing the island's overall forest cover; and
- Promoting orderly and sustainable development through the Development Approval Process and the promulgation of Development Orders.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to highlight some key achievements, and outline plans and programmes in five principal areas:

1. The Management of the island's Protected Areas
2. Watershed Management
3. Air Quality
4. The Development Approval Process, including Development Orders; and
5. Monitoring and Enforcement



## PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT

**M**r. Speaker, Jamaica's protected areas include our forest reserves, fish sanctuaries, heritage and cultural sites, as well as designated marine and coastal areas.

As Government, we rely heavily on partnerships with the private sector, NGOs and Community Based Organizations to safeguard our resources. These partnerships, with agencies such as NEPA and the Forestry Department, have proven invaluable in managing our protected areas.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that some activities do occur in the island's protected areas. Our protected areas support the livelihoods of small farmers, eco-tourism interests, light industries, as well as facilitate scientific research. With this in mind, we have finalized the Protected Areas System Master Plan, which will be forwarded to Cabinet for approval in this financial year.

Mr. Speaker, this four-year Plan will ensure the effective management of our protected areas, in order to sustain the ecosystems services they provide namely:

- Clean air and water purification
- Habitats for endemic species
- Preventing soil erosion as well as protecting against floods and hurricanes, and
- Preserving the country's natural and cultural heritage.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this year we will establish a National Protected Areas Trust Fund. This Fund will be financed from, among other sources, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, and will support Jamaica's thrust to conserve 25 per cent of our marine areas by the year 2020. The fund will allow us to safeguard our marine and coastal resources so they can better support the livelihoods of our fisherfolk, the tourism and industrial sectors, and protect key infrastructure such as our road network and power generating plants, which are located along our coasts.

Mr. Speaker, we are also working on the promulgating the Managed Resource Protected Areas Regulations under the NRCA Act. These regulations govern different types of activities within protected areas such as residential and commercial development, and conservation areas to name a few.

### Negril

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of protected areas management, I'd like to speak a little about one of our key coastal tourism communities and the recent interventions made by my Ministry and its agencies.

Negril is considered an ecologically sensitive area and it requires special attention for several reasons. The area comprises diverse but fragile ecosystems, including the Great Morass, coral reefs, seagrass beds and species such as the endemic Royal Palm and the threatened West Indian Whistling Duck.

The area is also important to the local economy, and contributes significantly to the nation's GDP. It is an important tourism destination that is marketed around the world for its culture, ecology and over 7.2 km of white sand beaches.

Mr. Speaker, the Government – through NEPA – has been monitoring the beaches in Negril for approximately 12 years. Research reveals that the net rate of beach erosion in Negril Bay is approximately one meter per year, and scientists estimate that we have lost some 30 meters of beach since the 1980s. Over the past 10 to 15 years, the erosion has been exacerbated by the proliferation of informal settlements; more intense and frequent hurricanes; discharge of wastewater and pesticide runoff; fires in the Morass; unsustainable land management and dying seagrass beds.

It goes without saying that any further degradation of this area will affect the dynamic ecological balance.



Mr. Speaker, the Government is pursuing a holistic approach to the management of environmental and planning issues in Negril. Last year, we completed a provisional Negril-Green Island Area Development Order to address illegal encroachment within the Great Morass and started a planning and environment study to determine the extent of the levels of intrusion into the Morass.

Last month the Hon. Minister presented a Cabinet Note outlining the short to medium term strategies to tackle informal settlements and illegal land use and development in the Negril area. Some of these strategies include:

1. Serving more stop and enforcement notices to spur land owners to act in preventing illegal occupation, planning and environmental breaches. Where these notices are ignored and the breaches continue, we will use court injunctions to force cessations and/or corrective measures by the owners/occupiers.
2. Identifying, allocating and zoning of government-owned lands for commercial and municipal uses and the town's expansion; and
3. Relocating informal commercial and residential settlers to designated areas. Once they have been relocated, we will implement a plan for post relocation enforcement and monitoring to prevent resettlement.

Although those strategies are expected to make a real difference over time, Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that one immediate way to stem the rapid rate of sand loss would be to install breakwater structures as part of a reef extension initiative.

Mr. Speaker, research has shown that breakwater structures will help to reduce the energy of waves coming on shore, and will therefore allow for natural growth in beach width over time. The Centre of Applied Coastal Research Ocean Engineering Laboratory at the University of Delaware in the United States, for instance, has advised that based on the technical designs, the proposed submerged breakwaters will be able to withstand major storm events with a return period of one in 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, we are actively investigating this solution. The government, with support from the Adaptation Fund for Climate Change, was able to secure a grant of US\$5.4 million to design, test, construct and monitor two breakwater structures of approximately 990 metres long in Negril. The structures will be 1.5 km offshore, with the top of the structures being at mean sea level. We have recently completed an Environmental Impact Assessment study for the breakwater structures, and we will begin public consultations on the matter shortly. We anticipate the structures will be completed by 2015.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the government is working in partnership with the ODPEM and in collaboration with NEPA, in preparing guidelines and technical standards for beach restoration and shoreline protection as well as Adaptation Plans for the most vulnerable areas along the Negril coastline.

## Beach Access

Mr. Speaker, we are not concentrating our efforts exclusively in Negril, as the integrity of all our beaches is critical to our environmental sustainability and to our adaptation to the effects of climate change.

There are currently 86 public beaches, of which the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) has management responsibility for 33. The NRCA is currently developing a Beach Management Programme for the beaches under its purview. This Programme will address the provision of essential services and amenities on NRCA beaches for public use, particularly for 26 beaches identified as suitable for recreational purposes by the general public.

In relation to beaches not owned and managed by the NRCA, Mr. Speaker, the Beach Control Act, the main legislation governing the management and use of beaches does not inherently or explicitly provide for the public to have general rights, to access and use of the foreshore and floor of the sea. By foreshore, Mr. Speaker, I mean the area of the beach, covered and uncovered by the sea or in layman's terms, the wet part of the sand.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Parliament of a constituency with extensive beach and coastal areas, I know first-hand how important it is to get our beach and coastal policies and regulations right. I am also aware of how important our beaches are to our coastal communities' social and economic viability, and I know that there has been a long running grassroots campaign to have the government address this issue.

I am therefore pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that we have heard the people's cry. In response, my Ministry is currently developing a comprehensive Beach Access and Management Policy.

The main goals of the policy are to provide physical access to the beach, foreshore and the sea on a managed basis to the general public; and to increase opportunities for recreational use of the beach and coastal areas in an environmentally sound manner. It also aims to protect the traditional rights of fishermen to access the foreshore and the sea as well as their rights to safe harbour and the beaching of vessels.

This Policy will be forwarded to Cabinet for approval as a Green Paper in this financial year, and thereafter will be subject to public consultation. Mr. Speaker, here we have a prime opportunity for our citizens, residents and stakeholders to partner with the government in envisioning how we want to use and protect this valuable national resource for the benefit of all.

I invite all those members of the public who voiced their opinions on social media, in writing and on radio to participate when the time comes, so that we can consider all perspectives as we chart the way forward.

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

**M**r. Speaker, the island's watersheds are important as they capture and retain water. Our forest cover is an essential part of this process.

Mr. Speaker you will recall that last year, Minister Pickersgill announced the Watershed Area Management Mechanism (Watershed Model), which is a community driven mechanism to allow for the sustainable use of the watershed. He noted that the Watershed Model would be implemented in 5 new Watershed Management Units.

I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, we have exceeded that target and have implemented the Watershed Model in 11 of the 26 Watershed Management Units, namely:

- The Swift River, Oracabessa/Pagdee, and White River/Rio Bueno in the North Eastern Region
- Negril, Martha Brae, Great River and Lucea River in the Western Region
- St. Elizabeth, Clarendon, and Gut Alligator Hole, Manchester in the Southern Region, as well as
- St. Catherine and St. Thomas in the South Eastern Region.

### Forestry

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that "the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now", and never a truer word has been spoken. Trees are essential to every aspect of life as we know it, but while all of us reap the benefits of trees, few of us take the time and effort to plant.

Mr. Speaker, in order to revitalize our watersheds and to increase public awareness and involvement in reforestation efforts, the Forestry Department, which last year celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has been working assiduously, often times in quite challenging circumstances, to ensure the preservation of our forests.

In the 2013/2014 financial year the Forestry Department distributed a total of 137,345 seedlings through three programmes. Under the Private Forestry Programme, we distributed some 92,000 seedlings, and during the last National Tree Planting Day on October 3 last year, a total of 40,000 seedlings were distributed.

Also important Mr. Speaker, is the Adopt-a-Hillside Programme, which is geared towards engaging private sector, community based and non-government entities in reforestation efforts. During the last financial year, the Jamaica Money Market Brokers (JMMB), LIME Foundation and RBC Jamaica each planted one hectare or 1,875 seedlings in total. I would like to commend these companies and their staff for their efforts in this regard.



Mr. Speaker, reforestation and tree-planting are matters that should be a part of our everyday lives. Many of us love to pick and eat fruits, but have never planted a tree in our lives. This year, I call on Jamaica to plant trees: and I believe we can plant half a million seedlings this year. We can do it, we must do it, and I call on private sector, schools, and community organisations to take on this challenge.

The experts at the Forestry Departments are happy to guide anyone interested in tree-planting, and they will even supply the seedlings. If we are to get Jamaica back to being the “Land of Wood and Water”, we each must do our part, and so I am appealing: Come Jamaica, let’s go plant some trees!

## AIR QUALITY PROGRAMME

Mr. Speaker, in the past year, the government fulfilled its commitment to expanding the air quality monitoring network, with NEPA establishing monitoring stations in Catherine Hall, Montego Bay and on Main Street, May Pen during the last financial year. The expansion cost \$8 million, and brings the current government air monitoring network to eight sites. NEPA has also licensed 35 private industry emitters who also operate air monitors. These 35 complement the eight government stations and bolster the islandwide air monitoring network.

Mr. Speaker, for the 2014/2015 financial year, we will further expand the air quality monitoring programme to Manchester and St. Catherine.

The Ministry is currently in discussion with our international partners to develop our ability to monitor greenhouse gases, specifically in procuring a mobile air quality laboratory. This will increase the country's emergency response to air pollution incidents and allow for the prompt dissemination of information to our emergency response partners to save lives during major hazard events.

But beyond emergency and major hazard events, Mr. Speaker, I am putting the country on notice that this year we will begin tackling an even more pervasive air quality issue: motor vehicle emissions.

Mr. Speaker, NEPA will be finalizing the draft motor vehicle emission standards and we expect these to be adopted into a regulatory framework this year. The implementation of this regulatory framework will allow the country to realize the testing of motor vehicle emissions and regulate fleet emissions.

The Ministry will also be partnering with UNEP, and the University of Technology (UTECH), in implementing a Global Fuel Efficiency Initiative in this financial year, which will look at issues related to clean fuels and vehicle efficiency. This will support the motor vehicle emission standards that will be adopted this financial year.



## PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**M**r. Speaker, Town and Country Planning and Spatial Planning, are particularly important, especially in light of the rapid urbanization of our towns and cities.

### Development Orders

Development Orders facilitate the rational and progressive development of lands, and continue to be a priority as the country faces increased development pressure for limited land resources.

Mr. Speaker, during the last Financial Year four Provisional Development Orders were promulgated for the Negril and Green Island Area along with the parishes of Portland, Trelawny and Manchester. Also, draft Development Orders for Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine (excluding Portmore), Clarendon and St. Thomas have been completed and are being reviewed by the Town and Country Planning Authority. In relation to the Kingston and St. Andrew Development Order, Mr. Speaker, a Height and Residential Density Paper is being incorporated into the Development Order.

Mr. Speaker, the Tourism Enhancement Fund and the National Housing Trust have indicated that they are willing to give funding support for the drafting and the promulgation of Development Orders. With this support, we will be able to complete and promulgate the remaining five Development Orders for Westmoreland, St. Mary, St. Elizabeth, St. James and St. Ann by 2016.

In light of these activities, Mr. Speaker, we expect that for the first time, the entire island will be under the control of the Town and Country Planning Act by 2017.



## MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

**M**r. Speaker, I have more good news. I am pleased to report to this Honourable House that the Ministry's agencies have continued to increase their enforcement efforts to achieve compliance with environment and planning laws.

NEPA reported a 41 per cent increase in the total number of enforcement actions, from 633 in 2012/2013 to 893 in the 2013/2014 financial year. The enforcement actions included Cessation Orders; Enforcement Notices; Stop Notices; and Notice of Intention to Suspend. The number of matters brought before the courts for environmental and planning breaches also increased, with the number of summons served up from 13 in 2012/2013 to 49 in the last financial year. Mr. Speaker, over the past year the scaled-up enforcement activities have resulted in a number of convictions and settlements.

NEPA has begun using court injunctions to enforce compliance with the Town and Country Planning Act and the Beach Control Act. This initiative has been very successful. The intention is that injunctions against offenders will become a regular part of the enforcement procedure.

Mr. Speaker, the Forestry Department also achieved considerable success through its targeted enforcement initiatives during the last financial year.

Several matters have been brought by the Agency before the island's Resident Magistrates Courts, and increasingly higher fines are being imposed by the judiciary for offences committed against the Forest Act of 1996 and the Forest Regulations 2001.

There was a reduction in the number of offences detected in the areas managed by the Forestry Department over the same period in the last financial year. This was due mainly to increased monitoring by the Department's enforcement personnel as well as community meetings to increase public awareness about the fines and penalties as well as activities that constitute offences.

Through its enforcement efforts, the Forestry Department, in fourteen separate incidents, seized timber and non-timber forest products that were not legally acquired from the forest reserves and forest estates under management. I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to make an appeal to all Jamaicans: please stop raiding our forests. We must preserve what we have now, and if you breach the regulations and chop down our forests, we are coming after you with the full force of the law.

## WATER

**M**r. Speaker, my Senior Minister spoke extensively on the water portfolio, but I would like to add to his presentation with some more information about the plans for managing our water resources and extending access to potable water, particularly under drought conditions.

### **Drought Response**

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the thrust to build resilience against climate variability and particularly below average rainfall seasons into drought, the Meteorological Service is now expanding the Climate Predictability Tool (CPT) rainfall outlook to six months.

The Met Service has also developed the Seasonal Drought Forecast which will allow for improved planning, preparation and implementation of proactive actions to deal with a deficiency in water availability. As a result, the Water Sector will now be vested with the cutting edge scientific information for at least three months in advance, to plan and implement measures for the onset of drought conditions.

Another tool in reducing the impact of below average rainfall on agriculture is the Farmers' Bulletin which disseminates information on all climate services such as drought analysis, rainfall predictions and drought forecasting. Farmers are now empowered to better plan their agricultural activities such as planting, pest control and reaping.

Mr. Speaker, in response to vulnerability concerns, the Ministry has been working with its local and international partners to build capacity and information sharing. For instance, the Ministry is currently working with ODPEM to develop and design a Disaster Risk Information Platform for the parish of St. Catherine.

Mr. Speaker, during January to March this year, the Ministry in collaboration with ODPEM, held a series of capacity building workshops for volunteers in the National Emergency GIS Response Team. These persons were trained to conduct field spatial data collection, spatial analysis and post disaster initial damage assessment. The first batch of trained persons will graduate two days from now, and a second batch later on in this financial year.

### **Reducing Below Average Rainfall Impacts**

Mr. Speaker, the protracted dry season this year highlights the need for all households in Jamaica to increase storage capacity in order to augment the NWC's water supplies. In this regard, the Ministry has prepared a draft National Rainwater Harvesting Policy guideline for all new and existing residential and commercial developments. Under these guidelines, rainwater harvesting will be a requirement and condition of approval for every single new residential and commercial development in Jamaica. This is an idea whose time has long come, and we will be moving to implement in the shortest time possible.

## Rapid Response

Mr. Speaker, the drought response will be underpinned by the Rapid Response Programme. There are currently 20 trucks in operation islandwide, transporting water on behalf of the NWC, Parish Councils, schools, health centres, hospitals and other institutions. Rapid Response also supplies private and commercial customers, which is the main source of its earned revenue.

Mr. Speaker, the last rate increase for the trucking of water was in June last year, and the current rates are \$3.00 per gallon for NWC and other Government Agencies and \$3.50 per gallon for Private and other customers. This compares favourably with the \$6.00 per gallon being charged by private truckers whose sources may be questionable.

Under this rate regime, the Rapid Response Programme earned \$89 million in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, a nearly 82 per cent increase over the \$49 million earned the previous year. At present, the programme employs 38 persons islandwide, and with the scheduled repairs of units this year, more persons are expected to be employed.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister tells me all the time that I treat Rapid Response as my baby. In a way it is. Despite all the challenges, I still maintain that the programme has the potential to be self-sustaining, and today, it is on track to sustainability. I say this, given the raft of proposed incentives such as the M.O.U. with NWC, the lease of units to Members of Parliament, and the transfer of the Rapid Response Unit to be managed by Rural Water Supply Ltd.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to see my baby grow up and become independent. Rapid Response will become self-sustaining and indeed profitable, and that is a commitment I am prepared to make.

## NWC Projects

Mr. Speaker, as stated by the Honourable Minister and pointed out on several other occasions, the National Water Commission is operating within very serious fiscal constraints imposed on both the capital and operating budgets for 2014/2015. These constraints will undoubtedly pose a challenge to the NWC in maintaining its costly ongoing operations, but also in sourcing funding and in implementing new projects.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, I am pleased to elaborate on the new projects the NWC will be implementing on a phased basis over the 2014-2015 and the 2015-2016 fiscal years. These, Mr. Speaker, are in addition to the numerous large projects which the Hon. Minister announced in his presentation on June 3.

- **In North West St. Ann, the constituency of MP Dr. Dayton Campbell:**
  - Construction of the Bridge Water #2 - Tank replacement Project and the Valley Minor (30,000 gallon) tank replacement project is expected to be completed during 2015. Combined, the projects are expected to benefit over 300 persons and will each cost \$20 million.

- Mr. Speaker, the Member from North West St Ann has made continuous representation to the Ministry and the NWC about water for the residents of Bamboo in his constituency. I am happy to let the MP know that he has been heard. In response to his many many calls for help, we will be spending approximately \$10M to equip the Green Park Well and to construct the pumping station. This project will take place in two phases, with phase 1 scheduled to begin the first quarter of 2015/2016. Approximately 800 citizens will benefit.
- **In South West St. Ann, the constituency of MP, Keith Walford:**
  - The Cave Valley Pipeline Extension Project is coming. This project is estimated to benefit some 20,000 persons. Mr. Speaker, I have visited this constituency, and am confident that work will begin soon. Designs are now being completed, and we expect that once started, this project will take some 18 months to be completed.
  - Also in South West St. Ann, we will be upgrading the Raw Water Intake and Treatment Plant which will take 8 months for construction.
- **In South East St. Ann, the constituency of MP, Hon. Lisa Hanna, we will be working on five projects. These are:**
  - The Moneague-Walkerswood Water Supply Interconnection Project, which involves the construction of approximately 4.5km of 150 mm pipeline between the two communities at a cost of \$90 million. This project will benefit 8,000 persons and is expected to start before the end of 2014.
  - The Grierfield-Gibraltar Pipeline Project which involves the construction of approximately 2km distribution pipelines at an estimated cost of \$7M. We expect that some 600 persons will benefit from this project, which is scheduled to start in the next two months.
  - Construction of the 100,000 Imperial Gallon Tank in Phoenix Park, estimated to benefit 3,000 persons at a cost of \$60M. The NWC has already initiated orders under its Tank and Pump Programme with actual construction to be completed over a 4 month period during 2015.
  - The Davis Town Tank Rehabilitation, which is estimated to benefit 1,000 residents at a cost of \$5M. Actual construction is expected to be completed over a 3 month period starting in the next 3-6 months
  - Harrison Town Tank Rehabilitation, which is estimated to benefit 800 persons at a cost of \$4M with actual construction to be completed over a 3 month period starting in this calendar year.
  - Construction on approximately 600m of pipeline in Parry Town and inter-connecting with the Shaw Park Water Supply. The project will benefit 1,200 residents at a cost of \$2M.
- **In Western St. Mary, the constituency of MP Joylan Silvera:**
  - The Boscobel Tank and Pump Replacement project will cost \$28M and benefit 3,000 persons. Actual construction is expected to be completed over a 3 month period for completion during 2015.

- Pump Replacement activities at Frontier, Gibraltar, Trinity, White River, Hamilton Mountain, and Gayle Springs at a cost of \$55M to benefit thousands in each instance. Actual construction is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2015.
  - In addition, we are replacing a major pump Canoe Hall, which supplies Mason Hall. This will improve the water supply to residents.
  - Construction of approximately 3km pipeline to replace the existing leaking pipes in the Arcadia Housing Scheme. The project will benefit 4,000 persons at a cost of \$8M and should commence at the end of this calendar year.
- **In East Rural St. Andrew the constituency of Hon. Damion Crawford:**
- Interconnection to the Yallahs Pipeline and construction of a Treatment Facility at St. Benedict at an estimated cost of \$40M to serve some 3,000 persons. This project is expected to be constructed over 7-months.
  - Constitution Hill - supply of Equipment and Pump Replacement Project at an estimated cost of \$5M. An order has already been made with actual construction scheduled for the first quarter of 2015.



- **In West Central St. Catherine, the constituency of Dr. Kenneth Baugh:**
  - Pump Replacements will also be done at Frazers Content #1 and #2 in St. Catherine, at a combined cost of \$10M to serve more than 8,000 persons. Work will be carried out in early 2015.
  - Upgrading of the Goldmine Spring source and Treatment plant, replacement/installation of pumps and storage tank rehabilitation will better serve 6,000 persons at a cost of over \$48M. This project has been tendered, is being evaluated and is set to commence this year for completion early next year.
- **In North Central St. Catherine, the constituency of Hon. Natalie Neita-Headley:**
  - Refurbishing and installation of tanks on the Richard Hall/ Mount Dawson Water Supply at a cost of \$15M to serve thousands of residents. The pump is already on order and works are scheduled to commence by the end of this calendar year for completion during the latter half of 2015.
  - The Sligoville Pump Replacement is estimated to cost \$10M to better serve 10,000 persons. The pump is already on order and works are scheduled to commence in the 2015 first quarter.



- **In Central St. Catherine the constituency of MP, Olivia Grange:**
  - The Lime Tree Pump Replacement Project is expected to benefit 2,000 persons at a cost of \$5M. The pump is already on order and installation is scheduled for early 2015.
  - Initial work for the finalization of designs, costing and financing source are under way with a Request for Proposal to be issued in the next 3-6 months for the Upgrading of the Eltham Park Wastewater Treatment Plant to accept pumping from the proposed Tawes Pen Wastewater Pumping Station. This project will require 24 months for construction.
  
- **In South West Clarendon, the constituency of MP, Hon. Noel Arcsott:**
  - Rhymesbury Well Pump Replacement and Toll Gate Pump Replacement at a combined cost of \$10M to benefit more than 5,000 Jamaicans. Pump orders have already been made with actual construction scheduled for the first quarter of 2015.
  - Toll Gate Tank Rehabilitation at a cost of \$6M to benefit 1,500 citizens. The pump is already ordered and works are scheduled to commence before the end of this year for completion early in 2015.
  - The replacement of the existing Ebony Park storage tank with new storage tank at a cost of \$30M to serve 4,000 persons. The pump for this project was ordered and works are scheduled to commence within the next 6 - 8 months for completion during 2015.
  
- **In North Central Clarendon, the constituency of MP, Pearnel Charles:**
  - Pump Replacements at Rock River and Curatoe Hill at a combined cost of \$10M to better serve over 4,000 Jamaicans. Works are scheduled to commence and be completed during early 2015.
  - Replacement of 17 Km leaking pipe from Sour Sop Turn, along the Chapleton main road to Trout Hall will cost just over \$130M and benefit more than 4,000 citizens. This project is to be completed over a 7-month period in collaboration with the NWA's road rehabilitation programme. Works will commence during this calendar
  
- **In North West Manchester, the constituency of MP, Mikael Phillips:**
  - We will be undertaking a series of pump replacements in Broadleaf, Comfort, Porus #1 and Porus #2 at a combined cost of \$20M. Installations are scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2015.
  - In addition, the Member from North West Manchester will be pleased to know that water is coming to Mile Gully. In this financial year, we intend to spend millions on Phase 1 of this project, which will encompass the development, construction and installation of a well and pumping station in Mile Gully to benefit 25,000 persons.

- **In North East St. Elizabeth, the constituency of MP, Raymond Pryce:**
  - The Old Pepper and Rosses Valley Tank Rehabilitation Projects will serve a combined total of more than 7,000 residents at a combined cost of \$9M. Works are scheduled to commence before the end of the year with completion early in 2015.
  - A series of pump replacements at Union #1, Union #2, Bogue, South Hampton, Siloah at a combined cost of \$25M to better serve over 14,000 residents. Works are scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2015.
  - The Completion of the Santa Cruz Water Supply Rehabilitation & Upgrade Project (Phase 1B) at a cost of \$40M to better serve approximately 20,000 residents. This project is expected to be mobilized before the end of the year and be completed during 2015.



- **In North West St. Elizabeth, the constituency of MP, J.C. Hutchinson:**
  - The Installation of Relift Stations, transmission and distribution pipelines and storage reservoir at Carris Brook is estimated to cost \$120M and will benefit some 15,000 persons. The engineering designs are to be revised by Rural Water Supply Ltd for implementation during the 2015/2016 financial year.
  - Development of the White Hall well and construction of a well pumping station, installation of transmission and distribution pipelines, construction of a relift station and storage reservoir at a cost of \$145M to better serve over 30,000 residents.

Designs for this project are to be revised by Rural Water Supply Ltd for implementation over a 24 month period beginning in 2015/2016.

- **In Central Westmoreland, the constituency of MP, Hon. Roger Clarke:**
  - Replacement of the Venture River and the Roaring River Tanks to better serve 2,500 residents at a cost of \$5M. Works are scheduled to commence and be completed during 2015.
  - Laying of 1km of 400mm pipes from Dunbars Crossing to Big Bridge at a cost of \$30M to benefit thousands of residents. This project is in the procurement stages and is to be tendered within the next few months.
- **In Southern St. James, the constituency of MP, Hon. Derrick Kellier:**
  - Construction of 2 pump-stations, pipeline and tank in Comfort Hall at a cost of \$15M to the benefit of 2,000. This has been completed and is now in operation.
  - A series of tank replacements at Mafoota, Niagara, Tangle River, and Vaughnsfield at a combined cost of \$20M to better serve over 12,000 residents. Works are scheduled to commence by the first quarter of 2015 with completion 4 months after commencement.
- **In East Central St. James, the constituency of MP, Hon. Ed Bartlett:**
  - A series of pump replacements at Canaan, Porto Bello, and Appleton Spring will be carried out at a combined cost of \$22M.

The Porto Bello Project is already completed and serving more than 2,000 persons while the pumps for the Canaan and Appleton Spring projects are on order with expectation for completion during the first half of 2015.



- The Rhyne Park Upgrading project involves replacement of existing pumping equipment with six new units to adequately meet demand in Rhyne Park and surroundings areas at a cost of \$50M. The project should benefit more than 20,000 residents. Installation works are scheduled for the first quarter of 2015.
- **In Central St. James, the constituency of MP, Lloyd B. Smith:**
  - Upgrading of the Salt Spring #1 and #2 Pump Stations at a cost of \$12M to better serve some 7,000 persons. Works are scheduled to commence during the first quarter of 2015 and be completed around mid-2015.
- **In South Trelawny, the constituency of MP, Marisa Dalrymple Philibert:**
  - Barnstaple, Ulster Spring and Troy Pump Replacement Projects at a combined cost of \$15M to benefit more than 20,000 residents. Works are scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, these numerous water supply and wastewater projects being implemented by the NWC are a clear and tangible demonstration of the commitment of this government to improving the lives of ordinary Jamaicans, even in the midst of the most difficult financial challenges. With the tight financial space in which the NWC will be operating in this financial year and going forward, the NWC has decided to make a strategic shift in operational procedures to allow much of this work to be done internally by NWC employees.

I therefore appeal to all members of this Honourable House to not only support the NWC in its scheduled implementation of these projects, but also to be understanding and supportive of the enterprise in addressing its mandate – from operations to collections and delinquency management, from maintenance to infrastructure protection to community interactions.

## CONCLUSION

**M**r. Speaker, I trust my presentation has highlighted the importance of managing, protecting and preserving our environmental and natural resources.

In this regard, I commend civil society for the work it has been doing and continues to do advance the country's environmental agenda and in highlighting national environmental issues of importance to all Jamaicans.

I could not close, however, without expressing the Government's appreciation for the technical and financial support that has been provided by our donor partners. This support, Mr. Speaker, has assisted in building the capacity of the public sector, and in many cases the non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in effectively responding to national, regional and international environmental issues.

My colleagues, it cannot be business as usual in addressing the issues and challenges associated with the management of our environment, while at the same time, we strive to achieve our economic and social development goals.

Therefore I call upon all Jamaicans; please partner with us in a constructive manner to advance the country's environment and development agendas to ensure the quality of your own life, as well as that of your children.

Mr. Speaker, I end with a plea to my fellow countrymen and women: Jamaica – this island in all its beauty – is all we have. It cannot “mash up and buy back”. Unlike a cell phone or a car, none of us can lay individual claim to the beach or to the air, or to the forests. Jamaica is all we have, and Jamaica belongs to all of us, even the unborn.

This responsibility to protect and preserve what is ours, we ignore at our own peril.

I thank you.

# APPENDIX

LISTING OF SYSTEMS UNDER THE PUMP AND TANK PROJECT TO BE UPGRADED IN FY 2014-15						
Parish	System	Tank	Constituency	Tank Cost Per Parish	Total Pumps Per Parish	Cost of pumping equipment Per Parish \$
Clarendon	Curtis Hill		Clarendon North Central			
	Twin Palm		Clarendon Central			
	Rock River		Clarendon North Central	\$ 25,263,076.92	5	\$ 34,000,000.00
	Toll Gate	50,000gal WS	Clarendon South Western			
	Toll Gate	50,000gal WS	Clarendon South Western			
	York Town	50,000gal WS	Clarendon South Eastern			
Hanover	Bechtels Hill	10,000gal WS	Hanover Western			
	Manquah		Hanover Eastern	\$ 22,923,076.92	3	\$ 5,020,000.00
	Orchard	50,000gal WS	Hanover Eastern			
	Esher	20,000gal WS	Hanover Western			
KSA East	Consolidation HI	20,000gal WS	St Andrew East Rural	\$ 19,933,076.92	1	\$ 4,200,000.00
KSA Urban	Jacks Spring		St Andrew West Rural		1	\$ 5,781,751.50
	Long Mountain		St Andrew West Rural			
KSA West	Jacks Hole	10,000gal WS	St Andrew West Rural	\$ 51,714,076.92	2	\$ 5,600,000.00
	King Weston	100,000gal DSx2	St Andrew West Rural			
Manchester	Cwick Park	50,000gal WS	Manchester North West			
	Broadleaf		Manchester Southern			
	Comfort	30,000gal WS/100,000gal RC	Manchester Southern			
	Forus #1		Manchester Southern			
	Forus #2		Manchester Southern	\$ 34,623,076.92	4	\$ 55,230,000.00
	Queen Town		Manchester Southern			
	Victoria Town		Manchester Southern			
Portland	Kildare		Portland West			
	Fairy Hill	50,000gal WS/50,000gal BS	Portland East	\$ 25,263,076.92	3	\$ 7,210,000.00
	Richmond Hill		Portland East			

LISTING OF SYSTEMS UNDER THE PUMP AND TANK PROJECT TO BE UPGRADED IN FY 2014-15						
Parish	System	Tank	Constituency	Tank Cost Per Parish	Total Pumps Per Parish	Cost of pumping equipment Per Parish \$
ST ANN	Egypt		North West St Ann			
	Minant		North West St Ann			
	Minant		North West St Ann			
	Valley Minor	30,000gal WS	North West St Ann			
	Clarendon		South East St Ann			
	Liberty	60,000gal WS	North West St Ann			
	New Ground	10,000gal BS	North East St Ann		\$ 36,963,076.92	\$ 46,536,000.00
	Mcneague Road Side		South East St Ann			
	Cherles Town		North East St Ann			
	Bridgewater #1	100,000gal BS	South East St Ann			
	Bridgewater #2		South East St Ann			
	Harrison Mountain		North East St Ann			
	Walkerswood		South East St Ann			
	Ferry Town	30,000gal C	South East St Ann			
Tatch Hill		South West St Ann				
St Catherine	Godwine #1		West Central St Catherine			
	Godwine #2	100,000gal BS	West Central St Catherine			
	Graham West #1		South West St Catherine			
	Lindas Vale		North West St Catherine			
	Guffe Road #4	12,000gal WS	East Central St Catherine			
	Sus River #1	12,000gal WS	East Central St Catherine			
	Sus River #2		East Central St Catherine			
	Sus River #3		East Central St Catherine			
	Sus River #4		East Central St Catherine			
	Bowers Pen		South East St Catherine			
	Hill Way Tree	1,000,000gal C	South East St Catherine			
	Parsons #1		South East St Catherine			
	Dunhill		North West St Catherine			
	Line Tree		Central St Catherine			
	Muzahel	500,000gal C	North West St Catherine		\$ 260,000,000.00	\$ 63,868,000.00
	Bybrook #1		North West St Catherine			

LISTING OF SYSTEMS UNDER THE PUMP AND TANK PROJECT TO BE UPGRADED IN FY 2014-15						
Parish	System	Tank	Constituency	Tank Cost Per Parish	Total Pumps Per Parish	Cost of pumping equipment Per Parish J\$
St Elizabeth	Content Well		North East St Elizabeth	\$ 49,413,076.92	5	\$ 38,550,000.00
	Dalimber	20,000gal WS	South West St Elizabeth			
	Hounslow	30,000gal WS	South West St Elizabeth			
	Old Pepper		North East St Elizabeth			
	South Hampton		North East St Elizabeth			
St James	Carran	50,000gal BS	East Central St James	\$ 14,207,576.92	14	\$ 48,720,000.00
	Westgate	100,000gal BS	North West St James			
	Granville	750,000gal BS	West Central St James			
	May Hall	50,000gal BS	West Central St James			
	Melcomb	100,000gal BS	South St James			
	Rohampton	20,000gal WS	South St James			
	Salt Spring #1	10,000gal C	West Central St James			
	Salt Spring #2	50,000gal C	West Central St James			
	Salt Spring #3	100,000gal C	West Central St James			
	London Heights	100,000gal BS&Z	North West St James			
	Pilkur	100,000gal BS	West Central St James			
	Porto Bello	100,000gal BS	East Central St James			
	Tangis River	50,000gal BS	South St James			
	Vaughnfield	50,000gal BS	South St James			
	Worcester	50,000gal BS	West Central St James			
	Ironshore		North West St James			
	Bogue Hill #1		North West St James			
	Bogue Hill #2		North West St James			
	Conar Gardens		North West St James			
	Farfield		West Central St James			
Belmont Spring Gona		West Central St James				
Tower Hill Spring Gona		West Central St James				
Roading Spring A		West Central St James				
Trelawny	Chester		North Trelawny		4	\$ 25,200,000.00
	Wakerfield #1		North Trelawny			
	Wakerfield #1		North Trelawny			
	Wakerfield #1		North Trelawny			

LISTING OF SYSTEMS UNDER THE PUMP AND TANK PROJECT TO BE UPGRADED IN FY 2014-15						
Parish	System	Tank	Constituency	Tank Cost Per Parish	Total Pumps Per Parish	Cost of pumping equipment Per Parish \$
St Mary	Boscobel	50,000gal BS	West Central St Mary			
	Gibraltar	50,000gal C	South East St Mary			
	Trinity		Central St Mary			
	Charles Town		Western St Mary			
	White River (F type)		Western St Mary			
	White River (T type)		Western St Mary	\$ 25,263,076.92	9	\$ 19,800,000.00
	Hamilton Mountain		Western St Mary			
	Goats Springs		Western St Mary			
	Labyrinth		Western St Mary			
St Thomas		30,000gal WS				
		30,000gal WS				
		30,000gal WS				
		15,000gal WS				
		15,000gal WS				
	Alton Heights		West St Thomas			
	Apple Farm		East St Thomas			
	Pail Minant		East St Thomas			
	Needham Pen		West St Thomas			
	New Peta		East St Thomas			
	Prospect		West St Thomas	\$ 35,303,076.92	14	\$ 60,328,000.00
	Prospect	100,000gal BS	West St Thomas			
	Goodyear #1		East St Thomas			
	Goodyear #2		East St Thomas			
Morant Bay		East St Thomas				
Sanford		West St Thomas				
Springfield		West St Thomas				
Saba		West St Thomas				
Westmoreland	Dartnott		Eastern Westmoreland			
	Roaring River	50,000gal BS	Central Westmoreland	\$ 5,850,000.00	3	\$ 4,460,000.00
	Dartnott		Eastern Westmoreland			
				\$ 576,799,546.15		\$ 416,211,761.50

