



ONE JAMAICA, ONE FAMILY
SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

SECTORAL DEBATE PRESENTATION
2007/2008

PRESENTED BY THE HON. DR. FENTON FERGUSON,
MINISTER OF STATE (WATER)

IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING, TRANSPORT, WATER &
WORKS

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GORDON HOUSE



INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today in this Honourable House and to make the Government's presentation on Water.

Mr. Speaker in making this presentation I am acutely aware that I am here at the privilege of God the giver of life.

I am here due to the confidence that my constituents of St. Thomas Eastern have reposed in me as their Member of Parliament for the past fourteen years, and who have said to me that at the appropriate time they will once again ask me to be their representative to this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, I am giving this presentation as the Minister of State with responsibility for Water because the Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller has entrusted me with this awesome task of leading the Team that must identify, harness, develop, treat, and distribute, potable water to house-hold and industry; as well as creating and maintaining the systems for the collection, treatment and safe disposal of sewage.

This Team Mr. Speaker is comprised of all those hard-working men and women from the Water Sector in the Ministry of Housing, Transport, Water and Works including the Water Resources Authority, the National Water Commission, The Rural Water Supply Limited and the Rapid Response Unit.

In addition there are companion agencies such as the Parish Councils, JSIF, as well as private companies involved in the provision of water and waste water services.

Mr. Speaker, when the MHPM, spoke about Water on May 1, she indicated, that details would be provided by the minister, and again when my senior minister spoke on May 30 2007, he reiterated that position.

Well Mr. Speaker here I am, and in the words of the Hon. Robert Nesta Marley, there are "... so much things to say right now...", so for the next 75 or so minutes I will be speaking to the following:

A.CONSTITUENCY MATTERS

B.THE WATER SECTOR POLICY

C.THE WATER RETREAT

D.THE WATER SECTOR:

- The Water Resources Authority
- National Water Commission
- Rural Water Supply Ltd.

JAMAICA WATER SECTOR POLICY:

Mr. Speaker, Water Resource Management has shaped the history of human civilizations to a major and permanent degree. Management of water resources is also one of the greatest challenges facing the present generation.

As we speak, approximately 2 Billion people are without access to clean drinking water and sanitation, and only 5

per cent of the world's wastewater is treated prior to disposal.

As a result, one person in two in the developing countries suffers from a water-related disease, and about 5 Million people die each year after drinking contaminated water.

To compound the situation, the world has seen depletion in its water resources thus giving rise to serious challenges and our ability to alleviate poverty.

Mr. Speaker, International conflicts are expected to arise from the growing scarcity of this crucial resource in many parts of the world. Referring to Ethiopians' plans for dam projects on the Blue Nile, President Anwar Sadat, the

former Egyptian president once threatened “Anyone who plays with the waters of the Nile is declaring war on us.”

The United Nations in its recognition of these challenges has affirmed through its Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights that Water is fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a healthy lifestyle.

Water is a prerequisite to the realization of all other human rights. It is against this background that the UN Summit of 2000, which set the Millennium Development Goals for 2015, was held.

Today, it remains the most influential major target-setting event of recent years, wherein the United Nation evaluates

the progress of countries based on the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source.

Mr. Speaker, the Millennium Development Goal #7 ensures environmental sustainability, and therefore has special significance to the Ministry of Housing, Transport, Water and Works. The Government recognizes that its social policies are unachievable without universal access to sustainable safe drinking water. The health of the nation, human dignity and rural development are at risk without access to water. Our economic growth, in all sectors will be stymied if we are not able to ensure access to water.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons and more that effective water governance will be more closely linked to its integrated water resources management, while we operate under the Jamaica Water Sector Policy Strategies and Action Plans of June 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the Jamaica Water Sector Policy Strategies and Action Plans was established to provide effective water governance through an enabling environment and institutional structures that allow stakeholders to work together for effective water management. The policy was developed following a comprehensive desk study of the Water Sector, undertaken by a NIBJ team under the World Bank – funded Public Sector Modernization Project. The Policy was developed to complement and be consistent with the National Industrial Policy, the National Land

Policy, the Green Paper on Parks and Protected Areas, the National Environmental Protection Plan and the National Policy on Science and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, given the need for an integrated approach; consultations were held throughout the sector including the business community, non-governmental organizations, parish councils and other interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, the policy clearly sets out the role of the major players of the Water Sector, and the strategies and actions indicate how the policy objectives will be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, the goal put forward in our Water Policy is that all households will have access to water by 2010.

In order to achieve this goal the National Water Commission has been given the responsibility for urban water supply throughout the island, the Rural Water Supply Limited is responsible for the provision of rural water supply throughout the island, and the Water Resource Authority is responsible for the management and regulation of the water resources of Jamaica.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Jamaica recognizes the need for private sector involvement in the sector, if we are to achieve universal access to potable water.

The Ministry intends to achieve this through the provision of a new Act, the Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act, which will allow for the licensing of service providers in the water and sewage sector. The Chief Parliamentary

Counsel is making final changes to the Bill, which we expect to be passed shortly.

WATER SECTOR RETREAT:

Mr. Speaker, it would not be fitting if I did not mention how proud we at the Ministry are of having a Water Sector Policy.

You know Mr. Speaker, there are not many countries in this world that have a Water Sector Policy in place, and so Jamaica must be congratulated on achieving this. Nevertheless, the Ministry felt that it was time to review the document given that the deadline for universal access was only three (3) years away and the acceleration of

private sector involvement was necessary given the Ministry's commitment.

The Ministry therefore held a two-day Retreat in January 2007, to ascertain where the sector was with respect to the achievement of the goal of universal access as well as to review the country's commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goal #7.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that there was a wide cross section of interests represented at the Retreat, and that the contributions to the debate were quite robust. Issues such as the Water and Sewerage Service Act, the inadequacy of integrated planning, and the lack of incentives to attract private investment were considered.

Mr. Speaker, although the Ministry considered the Retreat a success, the bulk of the work still needs to be done. To guide the process, the Ministry has put together an Action Plan, and has also formed various working groups to develop specific recommendation in the following areas:-

1. National Water Supply (NWC & Private Sector)
2. Rural Water Supply
3. Wastewater and Sanitation
4. Institutional Issues
5. Financing

These recommendations will augment the plan of action to provide the way forward in the short medium and long term development of the water sector.

WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY:

The Water Resources Authority (WRA) is the agency charged with the responsibility for the regulation and management of water resources in Jamaica. The WRA by the mandate granted by Section 4 of the Water Resources Act 1995 has the “duty to regulate, allocate conserve and otherwise manage the water resources of Jamaica”.

Reviewing our performance-2006/2007

In 2006/2007 the WRA carried out its functions presented in its Corporate and Operational Plan with funding from

GOJ and several international agencies such as the IDB, the OAS and UNESCO.

The major achievements include:

- 93% completion of the hydrologic monitoring programme
- The completion of phase 1 of the Upgrade, Rehabilitation and Expansion of the National Hydrologic Network of stream flow and groundwater gauges
- 70% completion and posting to the WRA web site of the web-base Water Resources Management Information System to enable more effective and efficient dissemination of data and information

- Provided technical support to both public and private sector agencies/companies with responses to over 230 requests.
- Reviewed and commented on over 300 development proposals submitted by NEPA and the Parish Councils.
- Completed the UNDP funded flood plain map of the Rio Minho River
- Completed 70% of the Nightingale Grove flood assessment to determine the actions for prevention of future flooding of the housing scheme
- Reviewed the second draft of the Water Resources Master Plan and upgraded 60% of the report with new data. The master plan will provide new inventories of demands and resources as well as a new allocation and water management framework.

- Processed and approved 27 applications for permits to drill and licences to abstract and use water with an additional 22 unlicensed abstractors submitting applications for regularization.
- Increasing the capacity of the organization through the training of staff in subject specific areas such as climate change, desalination, strategic environmental assessment, bio-monitoring of rivers, GIS and river basin management.
- Increasing public awareness and education of water resources through the participation of staff in local and international meetings/conferences and the commemoration of special water days such as World Water Day, Inter-American Water Day and the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City.

- Collaboration with UNESCO and Project WET International for the establishment of Project WET Jamaica to enable the dissemination of educational materials to students and teachers with the involvement of local NGOs.
- Completion of the amendments to the Water Resources Act 1995 to enable a more coordinated approach to the regulation of floodwater control.

The WRA continued its initiative in assisting the ODPEM and St. Ann Parish Council with the monitoring of the Moneague and Clapham flood areas in the Parish of St. Ann. The WRA made several public presentations on the reasons for the flooding, the expected duration of the

flooding and made recommendations to reduce the impact of future flooding on property and lives.

The WRA provide technical support to NEPA in the development approval process to ensure that issues of risk management, sewage and water supply are duly considered.

Mr. Speaker, the WRA celebrated its 10th anniversary as a statutory agency in November 2006 with a successful week of displays and broadcasts of the work of the organization. The targeted audiences were schools and ordinary users of water. The participation of the sister agencies within the water sector increased the effectiveness of the message “Integrated Water Resources Management-Driving National Development”.

Awards were presented to several public and private sector agencies and companies who have contributed to the successes within the water sector.

Plans for 2007/2008

In the 2007/2008 financial year the WRA will continue its mission of facilitating water access with major programmes such as:

Further upgrade of the National Hydrometric Network of gauges to improve reliability and accuracy of data needed to ensure sustainable development in the water sector. This upgrade will include the construction of new gauges to increase coverage of the major rivers; the replacement of manual gauges with electronic gauges that will significantly improve accuracy of information and the

opening of blocked monitor wells. For this project, the Government has provided J\$17.636 million and coupled with the allocation in the 2006/2007 FY the WRA has a total of J\$30.5 million for upgrading and modernizing the data collection systems. This is the first time that the WRA has been funded to this extent to ensure that its core function can be adequately and effectively implemented.

Mr. Speaker, the south coast of Jamaica is opening up to tourism and a reliable and good quality water supply is a critical need for the success of the industry. The WRA has also put forward a proposal to “**Assess the Water Resources of the Cabarita Hydrologic Basin**”. This project will be completed over two years and the initial allocation of J\$4.224 million has been made in this FY.

The Water Resources Master Plan will be completed by June 30, 2007 and presented to Cabinet for approval. This Master Plan, funded by the IDB, will provide the inventories to guide the allocation of water, to increase the access to safe water for all our citizens as set out in the National Water Policy and the framework for the integrated management of the island's water resources. No other Caribbean Country has a Water Resources Master Plan and within this hemisphere only Brazil has recently developed a similar Water Resources Master Plan. The WRA leads the region and has again shown that it is the premier hydrologic agency in the Caribbean.

The WRA during the last FY was provided with funding for the creation of a web-enabled database. The consultant was engaged and the presentation of the database was

made to stakeholders on March 22, 2007 as an event in the World Water Day celebrations. The population of the database is the next phase of the project and will be executed within this FY. This web-enabled database will allow for the easier access to hydrologic data and will reduce the time spent by staff responding to requests for information.

Mr. Speaker, the bauxite/alumina industry has been a major contributor to the economy of the island. However they do have an adverse impact on the environment and especially water resources. While the island now enjoys a surplus of water resources this could be severely impacted if contamination is not prevented. The WRA will in this FY prepare and present a full report on the "Impact of the bauxite/alumina operations on water quality". This report

will highlight the changes made for improvement and the partnerships that have been created within the industry to enable the success that has been achieved.

The public's understanding of the role they play in the protection and sustainability of the islands water resources is most critical to successful implementation of integrated water resources management. In June, the WRA will with the collaboration of UNESCO and Project WET International, establish the Project 'WET Jamaica' which will increase the dissemination of information to the public and particularly in the educational system.

The WRA will in this FY continue to give technical assistance to the National Water Commission, Rural Water, National Irrigation Commission and the Office of

Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management in ensuring adequate water supplies to all sectors while reducing the risk to floods and droughts.

A Floodwater Control Unit will be established within the WRA and the development of a Floodwater Master Plan for Jamaica pending the passage of the amended WRA Act, will also be undertaken.

Let me state that the WRA, though a small unit in the Ministry, makes a significant contribution to the work of the Ministry and to the country. They have been given the mandate for the management of the island's water resources and they have been most vigorous in their stewardship. I congratulate them for their contribution to national development.

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION:

Mr. Speaker, the National Water Commission (NWC) is the principal provider of potable water supply services as well as wastewater services across Jamaica. The Commission continues to work at achieving the most rapid expansion and improvement of water and sewerage services possible in a sustained manner island wide; this with a view of having maximum impact on growth and development and to directly benefit the people of Jamaica.

The National Water Commission therefore works closely with the other agencies and entities in the Jamaica water sector.

At present, 74% of all Jamaican households are supplied directly with piped potable water via house-to-house connections. A further 11% of households is supplied with potable water delivered at standpipes and by other means, taking the percentage of households with easy access to piped potable water to 85%.

This 85% level of household coverage is the highest level in our history and is among the highest in the world for the provision of centralized or municipal water supply services. In addition, the quality of the water supplied in Jamaica continues to be rated unquestionably among the very best in the world.

This achievement has been made despite the fact that the provision of water supply is an expensive undertaking

characterized by the need for large capital outlay and a lengthy time period in which investments can be recovered. This consequently presents an immense challenge on the rate at which related infrastructure projects can be implemented.

Despite this challenging reality, we have been able to deliver a satisfactory level of service to the people of Jamaica. In 1992 about 60% of the population was being served with piped potable water services and a further 15% of the population had access to water by other means such as trucked water, rain water catchment and other water sources.

Notwithstanding these excellent and record-breaking achievements in the water sector, the Government of

Jamaica recognizes the need to take the achievement grid to an even higher level.

With the major projects that have been identified and funding arranged - and in some instances, work already started - the National Water Commission will move the level of house-to-house supply from the present 74% to 78% within the next 2-3 years. These projects include:

- **The Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Supply Rehabilitation Project** that will directly benefit more than 1,000,000 Jamaicans in more than one dozen constituencies spanning large sections of St. Catherine and the Corporate Area; this Project will cost US\$80M.

- **The North Western Parishes Water Supply Service Improvement Project** (including the Martha Brae – Harmony Hall Pipeline, North Trelawny) has been successfully completed on schedule and on budget at a cost of US\$40M. This project has improved the water supply service to more than 100,000 persons in the parishes of Trelawny, St. James, Hanover and sections of Westmoreland. 20,000 persons can now benefit directly from the new pipeline from Martha Brae to Braco that has been laid and a further 10,000 persons can be connected over the next 10 years. This is in addition to the 1,000 hotel rooms that are also to benefit.

- **Harmony Hall/Braco - Runaway Bay Water Supply Project** to construct a new transmission and

distribution network stretching from Trelawny into St. Ann at a cost of US \$16.8M. This has recently received the approval of Parliament and will soon commence.

- **The Port Antonio Water Sewerage and Drainage Project** in Eastern Portland will be erected at a cost of US\$40M. Designs and other preparatory works for this Project are now complete leaving the Project to move towards major construction.
- **The Kingston Water and Sanitation Project** is aimed at improving the major water supply facilities in Kingston and St. Andrew at a cost of US \$50M. Under this Project, major rehabilitation and improvement work is to be undertaken on the major water treatment facilities in the Corporate Area including the Seaview

Water Treatment Plant in Stony Hill, the Constant Spring Water Treatment Plant, the Mona Water Treatment Plant and the Hope Filter Plant.

- **Soapberry Sewerage Phase 1 Project** now underway near Ferry is being undertaken at a cost of US\$55M in collaboration with the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), the National Housing Trust (NHT) and private developers Ashtrom Ltd. This will provide 18 million gallons of sewage treatment capacity per day to assist in the protection of the Kingston Harbour as well as the public health of the Corporate Area. This is the largest wastewater project ever undertaken by any Caribbean Government.

➤ **The EU-funded Rural Water Projects** in four different locations islandwide:

- Milk River in South West Clarendon which has now been completed at a cost of \$85M and benefiting some 6,000 persons in Milk River, Rest, Cherry Hill, Ramble Pen, Pridees and adjoining areas;
- Christiana/Spalding which will serve North East Manchester and North West Clarendon has now been completed at a cost of \$165M and benefiting 10,000 persons in the communities of Christiana, Chudleigh, Sedburg, Kyle, Waterloo, Chantily, Norway, Litchfield, Halifax, Spalding, Moravia, Nine Miles, Cow Pen, Burton Town and other communities, near the Manchester/Clarendon/St. Ann Border;

- Hope Bay/St. Margaret's Bay in West Portland now being done at a cost of more than \$100M to benefit more than 6,100 persons in Hope Bay, St. Margaret's Bay, Union, Passley Gardens, Burlington and Cooling Springs;
 - Shettlewood project in East Hanover near the St. James/Westmoreland border is now underway at a cost of approximately \$149M to benefit 11,000 persons in Friendship, Lethe, Content, Belvedere, Haughton Grove, Knockalva, Ramble, Haddo, Chichester, and Cornwall Mountain.
- The set of projects being undertaken in partnership with Red Stripe such as:
- Kellits Water Supply Project in North Clarendon (Already completed)

- Venture River Water Supply Project in Central Westmoreland (Substantially completed and serving the intended beneficiaries)
- Sherwood Water Supply Project in North Trelawny (Nearing completion)
- Brighton - Little Bay Water Supply Project in Western Westmoreland (nearing completion but already serving some areas)
- Lacovia - Slipe Water Supply Project in South West St. Elizabeth (Already completed and serving the areas)
- Woodlands/Blackgate Water Supply Project in East Hanover (To be completed within two weeks)

- A collection of small projects in Eastern St. Thomas example Dumfries, Grossette, Quaw Hill. Wheelerfied.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank Red Stripe Dago for the \$100M given to the NWC for the post 'Ivan' Reconstruction. This, Mr. Speaker, represents a true demonstration of an excellent corporate citizen.

In addition, new pumps and electrical equipment are being procured under a US \$10M agreement with India under which 139 pumps and related electrical equipment are now being arranged for shipment for use at 99 different locations islandwide as well as with 23 sets of standby generators.

I am reliably informed, Mr. Speaker, that a part of the shipment is already in the island, and ready to be cleared.

Similarly, additional pipes and fittings have already been brought into the island under a US \$12M agreement with China and are being utilised for these and other projects across the island. These procurements, and others being done on an ongoing basis, are aimed at not only expanding service but also at improving the reliability and quality of service in many communities islandwide.

Other projects have also been identified and financing arrangements are being investigated which will further increase the service level to 85% of the country's households and address those remaining areas of concern.

Serious consideration is being given to Mason Hall in Western St. Mary, Green Park in North East St. Ann, Bartons in South West St. Catherine and Essex Valley in South East St. Elizabeth.

Together, these and numerous other ongoing and planned projects such as Santa Cruz Water Supply in North East St. Elizabeth and Mammee Bay Water Supply in North East St. Ann are being done to improve water supply service to the people of Jamaica and maintain the record of an ever-improving quality of service.

STATEMENT ON UFW

The issue of Unaccounted For Water (UFW) is very widely misunderstood. In fact, Non-Revenue-Water (NRW) or Unbilled Water (UBW) are now recognised in the water

sector as more precise terms because it is an estimate of the amount of water that is treated/produced by the water provider, but for which no bills are generated or no revenue received. It is not the same as leakage or wastage. This estimate includes water used at fire hydrants as well as water lost due to theft and illegal connections, water used at unmetered connections, non-functioning metered connections, overflowing tanks, as well as leaks.

Leaks are mainly caused by deterioration of pipes due to age, pressure from heavy traffic, earth movements and tremors, direct damage from persons hitting the pipes, and sudden fluctuations in the pressure within the pipes.

Dozens of leaks are repaired daily with 90-95% of all reported leaks repaired within 5 days of being reported in keeping with established NWC policy. Notwithstanding this, NWC is working not only at improving this to 100% but also at effecting major replacement of old and failing pipeline infrastructure.

During the last two years, the National Water Commission has expended approximately US\$10M to dramatically arrest Non Revenue Water under the North Western Water Supply Improvement Project. Under this project District Metering Zones (DMZ's) were established; 30,000 new customer meters were installed; repairs effected to both visible and underground leaks with the help of sophisticated leak detection equipment; more than 90 new Pressure Reducing Valves installed along the pipe

network; as well as Altitude Valves installed at water supply reservoirs.

While the project was successful in significantly reducing the Non Revenue Water figures, the project also demonstrated very clearly that:

1. Illegal and unpaid use of water, including water used at hydrants, was by far the most significant contributor to Non Revenue Water;
2. Leaks and overflows were a less significant contributor to Non Revenue Water.

Further and more significant reduction of Non Revenue Water is therefore heavily dependent on the ability to reduce illegal usage.

While leaks are being tackled, a significant improvement requires costly mains replacement (which is nonetheless being done as a component on every major project being done by NWC).

Mr. Speaker, the control of illegal use requires a multi-faceted approach that includes public education, outreach, public persuasion, disconnection, prosecution and an acceptance by the Jamaican public that the provision of potable water services is not free but comes to them at tremendous cost. In this process, collective political will is essential.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY LIMITED:

Mr. Speaker, we through the GOJ/IDB Rural Water Programme have completed the Cotterwood Water Supply project in South West St. Elizabeth; and we are completing another IDB GOJ funded project at White Horses/Botany Bay/Pamphret in Western St. Thomas. The other two projects which will be funded from this facility are, the Mile Gully/Warwick Castle Water Project in West St. Mary, and the Gravel Hill Water Supply Project in South West Clarendon. These four projects, Mr. Speaker, taken together total US\$10.5 million.

This, Mr. Speaker means a positive change to the lives of the thousand of Jamaicans in those communities.

So, Mr. Speaker I want to reiterate that we are serious about rural development. We are serious about national development. We are serious about granting access to

potable water to every community in Jamaica, using the most viable modalities.

We are serious Mr. Speaker, about reducing the burden of our women and children, many of whom live in rural areas and are amongst the most vulnerable sub-groupings and who spend an inordinate amount of time and energy fetching water. We are changing that, not with any empty chat and cheap talk, but through the spending of J\$4.14 Billion to bring water and improved sewage services for over 985,000 Jamaicans; and so better their lives and the lives of their children.

Mr. Speaker, when the Most Hon Prime Minister spoke, she accounted for a number of projects that were completed in 2006/2007 but it is my view Mr. Speaker that

mention of these projects are worthy of repetition; these projects are:

- Lambs River/Struie, Haddo, Whithorn, Barneyside and Berkshire/Dundee in Eastern Westmoreland
- White River, Manchioneal and Ranch in Eastern Portland
- Redwood and Berwick Crawle in North East St. Catherine

Mr. Speaker, for the 2007/2008 here is a change, For the 2007/2008 Fiscal Year, the Government through the Rural Water Supply Limited and with a budget of J\$392million will be undertaking the implementation of some thirty-two (32) Water Supply Systems. Works have already begun on some of these, Mr. Speaker and before the end of

August this year, some of them will see partial to full completion:

- **In the parish of Trelawny North**, the Daniel Town Water Supply will ensure positive change ;
- **In Western Westmoreland**, the Kings Valley Crowder/Belleisle Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **In North East St. Ann**, the Harrison Town Water Supply will ensure positive change
- **In Eastern Portland**, the Windsor/RiverView/Moore Town and Islington Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **In Eastern St. Thomas**, the Beacon Hill, Wilmington, Hill 60 (Cheswick Water Supply) will bring about positive change

- **In East Central St. Catherine**, the Lucky Valley, Waugh Hill, Giblatore/Springvale Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **In North West St. Catherine**, the Ewarton John Groin, Tydixon Water Supply will bring about positive change,
- **In North West Clarendon**, the John Austin to Pennants/Minto to Low Woods Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **West Portland**, the Buff Bay, Fruitful Vale Water Supply will bring about positive change;
- **In East Rural St. Andrew**, the Dublin Castle Water Supply will bring about positive change;
- **In West Rural St. Andrew** , the Happy Grove, Mount Zion Water Supply will bring about positive change

- **In South East St. Mary**, the Enfield/Content, Broadgate Water Supply will bring about positive change;
- **In West Central St. Catherine**, the Colbeck/Planters Water Supply System and the upgrading of other water supplies will bring about positive change
- **In North Clarendon** the James Hill Water Supply will bring about positive change;
- **In North West St. Elizabeth**, the Whitehall Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **In North East St. Elizabeth**, the Siloah/Windsor Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **In Western Hanover**, the Grange/Burnt Savannah Water Supply will bring about positive change;

- **In Central Manchester**, the Coffee Grove Water Supply will bring about positive change
- **In South West St. Ann** the Cascade Water Supply will ensure positive change

Mr. Speaker, the change we speak of is not only to promote decent living, but foster and maintain the momentum of the economic growth and development of our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, Under the IDB/Rural Water Supply Programme, we have seen a new thrust for community managed water supply projects, these remain models. Our high challenge, therefore, is ensuring that these community projects are sustainable and that adequate institutional arrangements are put in place to support

community management in the long term. Our ministry through the Rural Water Supply Limited, will legislate the policies and support the institutions that are needed to complement the capacities of communities.

CONCLUSION:

So Mr. Speaker, our mission is clear, our resolve is absolute and our zeal is overwhelming – the Jamaican populace shall benefit from our efforts at providing potable water to as many persons as possible, in as short a time as resources will possibly allow.

As Minister responsible for the water portfolio, I am giving my commitment to the Jamaican family who have to battle adverse circumstances to access water; to the little children who have to traverse miles to get water; to the

women who have to walk on little more than animal tracks to get to a stream to wash their family's clothes – I am making this pledge that help is on its way.

From St. Thomas to Portland – you shall have water;

From Manchester to Clarendon – you shall have water

From Westmoreland to St. James - you shall have water

From St. Catherine to St. Ann – you shall have water

From Trelawny to Hanover – you shall have water

From St. Mary to St. Elizabeth – you shall have water

From Kingston to St. Andrew – you shall have water.

The songwriter says: “If I can help somebody as I pass along...then my living shall not be in vain.” If I can provide one more member of society with this invaluable commodity called water, then Mr. Speaker, my living shall

not be in vain. After all, we are one Jamaica, one family, shaping the future together.