

INTRODUCTION

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

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

I stand here this afternoon, with resolve born of the knowledge that the team at my ministry, and its agencies, are creative, proactive, hardworking and determined, and that our local, regional and international partners with whom we are “**Partnering for Sustainable Development**” are as desirous as

we are, to see Jamaica achieve its sustainable development goals.

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

Allow me to remind you that we are currently celebrating National Environment Awareness Week which runs from June 2 to June 8. Thursday June 5 is being observed as World Environment Day, and Sunday June 8, is World Oceans Day.

We are also observing Disaster Preparedness Month and, as we are all aware, the hurricane season runs from June 1, to November 30.

The prediction is for between eight and thirteen named storms, of which between three and six will become hurricanes, and two are likely to become major hurricanes. I therefore urge all Jamaicans to advance their preparedness plans in anticipation of the season.

Mr Speaker, bearing in mind the sheer size of the ministry, the volume of information and the numerous areas for which we must give an account of our stewardship, my State Minister and I, decided that we would again split the presentations between us. Indeed, we have 14 agencies and departments, which oversee 29 different subject areas.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Climate Change is inexorably linked to, and impacts on every other portfolio. It is likely to affect every individual, every community, every parish, and every sector.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jamaica has long been vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly storms and hurricanes; and according to our best scientists, climate change will amplify these effects. What do I mean by this Mr. Speaker?

The period of time between Hurricane Charlie in 1951, and the next storm event, which was the island's close brush with Hurricane Allen in 1980, was Twenty-nine (29) years. The period between Hurricane Allen, and that untamed monster Hurricane Gilbert in 1988 was eight years. Another 16 years passed and we were hit by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Three years passed and Dean brushed us in 2007, then Sandy in 2012. I hope you see the pattern emerging.

Without a doubt, the incidents of direct hits and close brushes with hurricanes are occurring more frequently. In fact, Mr Speaker, on average, between 2001 and 2012, Jamaica experienced 11 storm events, whether directly or indirectly.

We must therefore to adjust to new ideas of what constitutes “normal” weather, and modify our disaster preparedness and mitigation plans accordingly.

I am pleased however, at the progress we have made in our efforts in this critical area during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

First, let me state that the Green Paper on the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan is currently being finalized for submission to Parliament as a White Paper.

As promised the Climate Change Division has been established, and became fully operational as at September last year.

The Division is acting swiftly on its deliverables and has already established a network of Climate Change Focal Points in all ministries as well as fourteen (14) Agencies and Departments.

The Focal Points will liaise with the Division in formulating and rolling out sector plans and projects in respect of Climate Change.

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

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

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

Arrangements are now in place for the 5C's to conduct training for all twenty seven (27) climate change focal points in the use of this software.

This will be done over a one week period, beginning next Monday. The scheduled training workshop will also include a Training of the Trainer's workshop.

During the latter half of the last financial year, the Division was able to expedite arrangements between the 5C's and the Government of Jamaica, for the finalization of a grant agreement valued at J\$27.5 million. The agreement will facilitate:-

a) The acquisition of two automatic weather stations to enhance the climate data collection capacity of the Meteorological Services Jamaica. This will facilitate the establishment of a digitized climate database.

b) The Development of a climate change vulnerability assessment, as well as an adaptation strategy and action plan for the fisheries sector.

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

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

The presentation was entitled “**The Role of MP’s in Building a Unified Policy Response to Climate Change**” and among other targets, aimed to demonstrate to you my colleagues how your constituencies are likely to be affected by climate change, as well as your role in responding to this phenomenon.

Unfortunately, many of you missed the opportunity!!!

However, I am pleased to note that some of you have already begun to engage with the Climate Change Division, to look into how relevant projects may be implemented in your constituencies, and I commend those of you who have, for your foresight and your initiative.

In continuation of our efforts to increase public awareness about Climate Change, we will be facilitating partnerships across Ministries and departments including the Social Development Commission and the Parish Councils.

We will also be engaging civil society and the private sector including the media in order to facilitate behavioural change regarding climate resilience, hence the reason for appointing Focal Points.

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

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

- **Implementation of a complete solar energy system for the Portmore HEART College for Construction Services**, commissioned by myself and the German Ambassador H.E. Josef Beck in March.
- **Launch of an internationally recognized Solar Energy Training Programme** for technicians or solarteurs, at the Portmore HEART College for Construction Services.
- **A Student Exchange Programme** between the Portmore Community College and the Theodore Hess Gymnasium in the city of Hagen.
- **Commencement of work to establish a Climate Change Park in Portmore**, which was this year's National Labour Day Project. The park will help to increase climate change awareness by illustrating elements of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies such as renewable energy, water recycling and rainwater harvesting.

Mr. Speaker we also met our targets under the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project (CCA&DRRP), a joint venture between the Government of Jamaica, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Union.

This project which was successfully completed, culminated in the launch of an Audio-Visual Toolkit, which provides vital educational information for members of the public and age specific groups, to include children at the primary and secondary levels. Our aim is to ensure that each school is equipped with at least one of these toolkits. **(hold up toolkit)**

Mr Speaker, Jamaica is currently a beneficiary of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), which is a regional initiative that is intended to increase resilience to climate change effects at the national and regional levels.

Grant financing in excess of US\$4.0m or approximately J\$400 million, provided by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) through the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the World Bank will be made available to implement activities under the programme.

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

(a) **The upgrading of national equipment and systems** for improved collection, processing of data and more accurate forecasting of hydro-meteorological events including extreme weather events;

(b) **Increasing public awareness of climate change impacts** and promoting behavioural change, in particular, amongst low-income men and women, small-scale subsistence farmers and fishers, and through curriculum development in the education system...and

(c) **Integrating climate change considerations** in development planning processes, plans and policies

The Division will continue its efforts to facilitate and coordinate the development of sectoral adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plans for at least four priority sectors, namely the :-

- **Agriculture**
- **Fisheries**
- **Forestry and**
- **Transportation sectors**

It will also mainstream climate change considerations in at least three key policies, namely the transport, water and construction policies

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

We will also be working to place Jamaica in a position to readily access climate change financing. In particular, the ministry has nominated Jamaica's focal point to the Green Climate Fund.

The Fund is projected to receive US\$100million per annum by 2020, for the financing of adaptation and mitigation projects.

My Ministry received preliminary approval from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a grant of US\$852,000 and US\$90,000 from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to facilitate the preparation of Jamaica's Third National Communication, and the Biennial Update Report to meet UNFCCC reporting requirements. The final approval is expected before the end of June 2014.

We are expecting to commence the implementation of this project in July of this year.

It is also noteworthy that the government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Government in July 2013, to provide technical support to my Ministry, and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Under this MOU, we intend, among other things, to develop a Greenhouse Gas Inventory; and develop a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) starting this year.

Mr Speaker, I close this section by saying that my ministry will continue to lead the charge to ensure that with climate change, Jamaica must, and will be changing.

LAND

I now turn to the Land portfolio. It was the Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley who said, and I quote... ***“Land is the only source of the material life of the people. It provides food and shelter. It furnishes work and wealth. It is the basis of all production, of all development, of all security, of all growth. It is, in very truth, the root of our being”***. – end of quote. Mr Speaker...fundamental and prophetic! No wonder our National Anthem begins with the words “Eternal Father, bless our Land”.

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

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

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

LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (LAMP)

LAMP continues to serve the members of the public in accordance with its mandate to reduce the number of unregistered parcels which now stands at 349,302 and regularize existing titles with current information.

As at April, 2014 some 20,315 files have been opened to provide new applications for title.

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

LAMP II Extension

Regarding the LAMP 2 Extension, the project has now moved into its new phase, and was formally launched at an impressive Titling Ceremony on May 15 by the Most Hon. Prime Minister, who expressed her delight at seeing so many **elderly Jamaicans, especially women, being able to own a little piece of the rock.**

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

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

In order to expand the reach of the programme, additional field offices have been opened by LAMP's private sector partner, Geoland Title Limited, in St Ann's Bay and Savanna-La-Mar in Westmoreland.

This complements the existing offices in Kingston; Santa Cruz and Junction in St. Elizabeth; as well as Golf View in Manchester. LAMP is open for business so you see we are Working, Working, Working!

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

Under LAMP II, as at April 30th :-

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

Mr Speaker, for those of us who are not acquainted with the term, a cadastre is a comprehensive register of the real estate or real property's metes-and-bounds of a country.

A cadastral map shows the boundaries of land parcels in their correct geographical positions and may be used for a wide range of purposes including:

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

Over 8000 existing parcels of government land at the National Land Agency have been converted to a digital format, and a digital cadastral map for St. Elizabeth has been created with just over 11,000 parcels, which will assist in better planning and impact on the development approval process.

Of the over 5911 new files:-

- 1407 applications for Titles have been made and
- 680 Titles have been completed.

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

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

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

The measures taken include:

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

- **The use of Section 5 Ministerial Waivers to address the issue of informal subdivisions; and**
- **A proposed amendment to the Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act (SPA) (Root of Title).**

The policy division is in the process of settling drafting instructions in order to amend the Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act, to address some chronic land tenure issues and to improve LAMP's ability to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is my firm belief that we must rid ourselves of the Registration of Titles Act immediately, since it is anti-poor, and is a stumbling block to realizing our goal of an ownership society. In addition, the Act is antiquated, having come into existence in 1889, way back in the 19th century, and has lost its relevance.

During its over 10-year operation, LAMP has identified several additional land tenure issues, rooted in our culture, which are adversely affecting its ability to bring land onto the register.

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

The new proposals are geared towards making the law more applicable to our cultural norms and the way of life of the ordinary Jamaican.

This will allow for more persons to make successful applications to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act, and will allow LAMP to significantly increase the number of certificates of title under the programme.

DBJ Revolving Fund

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

This would help beneficiaries who have applied to LAMP and have made some payments towards their application, but are unable to make the remainder of their payments to complete the process. This funding will help to facilitate the increased delivery of titles under the program.

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

- Mr Speaker, I am happy to say that the first tranche of J\$16million will be disbursed by the end of this month (June), and is expected to facilitate the delivery of 650 titles between July and August this year.

Madam Prime Minister, we will be having a titling ceremony by August this year when we again hope that you will be the guest speaker.

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

So I am pleased to say to the Most Hon. Prime Minister that we will indeed be keeping her busy in keeping with her request, in attending more titling ceremonies in the very near future. Mr. Speaker, we are well on our way to the “Ownership Society”.

ADJUDICATION COMMITTEES

An allocation of JMD\$20M has been provided to my ministry to fund the operation of the Adjudication Committees in the various communities within affected parishes, to resolve ownership issues which will result in the issuance of Titles for these applicants.

These Committees cover nine parishes, namely:-

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

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

PETRO CARIBE GRANT

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

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

PROJECTIONS 2014-2015

LAMP's plans for the 2014/15 fiscal year include:--

- **Depositing cadastral maps and pre-checked plans representing 5,400 parcels**
- **Obtaining Ministerial waivers under Section 5 Orders for 320 parcels**
- **Opening 2,500 new files for new registrations and updating of existing Titles**

- **Submitting 1,600 applications to NLA to update the property tax roll and**
- **Regularizing 200 existing titles**

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAND SURVEYORS ACT

Mr Speaker, as promised, we have amended the Regulations under the Land Surveyors Act to make it mandatory for the surveys of property boundaries used in the land titling process to be tied to the national grid.

This will facilitate more efficient compilation of the national cadastral map and will contribute to improved efficiencies and accuracy in the land titling process.

LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES

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

In 2013/14, under a partnership between the LAMP, the National Land Agency, and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), we exceeded our target of surveying 1000 parcels in land settlement schemes, in the parishes of St. Mary, St. Ann and Portland.

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

The National Land Agency (NLA) is committed to completing the remaining titles for the project area, in order to get them in the hands of the prospective owners, as soon as possible.

In order to expedite the titling process, for land settlement schemes, the NLA has also introduced a Probate Unit to assist the beneficiaries of deceased allottees.

As at April this year, 793 files have been opened and are being processed within the Probate Unit.

LAND TITLING

Mr. Speaker, during 2013-14, the National Land Agency issued a total of 12,926 Certificates of Title, an increase of 29% over the previous year. This amount includes 4550 titles issued to Government agencies.

Of the approximately 811,000 parcels of land recorded on the Valuation Roll, 57% have registered titles.

To further advance the titling of lands, advice was sought from the Attorney General's Department. **As a result, Regulations will be put in place to allow for the use of statutory declarations and advertisements in order to place persons on the Valuation Roll. This will expedite the process of persons obtaining Certificates of Title.**

NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:

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

Property Watch Jamaica

The First is Property Watch Jamaica, which is a critical development in our effort to reduce and eventually eliminate the incidents of fraudulent threats to property transactions in Jamaica.

These threats include, but are not limited to, identity fraud committed against vulnerable registered owners and the impersonation of Lawyers, Law Firms and Co-owners.

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

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

The Montego Bay Master Map

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

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

TITLE TRANSFER CHALLENGES

Mr. Speaker, I close this section by reiterating that despite all our efforts to issue Titles, we still have over 8,000 titles to transfer from the Commissioner of Lands to allottees. These include approximately 1000 titles in the names of allottees that we have not been able to locate or contact.

The National Land Agency has placed the names of these allottees on their website and persons are invited to check the listing or contact the Agency for further details.

However, once again I am appealing to my colleague Members of Parliament, the Parish Councils, the SDC, Justices of the Peace or any other authority, for assistance in contacting these allottees or their beneficiaries where applicable.

It is the fervent wish of this Administration to get this most prized asset into the hands of the intended beneficiaries who will be able to use it as a tool towards wealth creation, as well as community and nation building, aimed at creating the “Ownership Society”.

WATER

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

As a resource, water has no parallel in its ability to propel the social and economic growth of a nation and in essence, is the lifeblood of any nation. It is indeed equivalent to what our Founding Father said about land. Water is critical for the maintenance of environmental and human health and for supporting all human activities whether residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural.

As such, the provision of potable water to meet the needs of our population continues to be a major goal for this administration and for my Ministry. After all...WATER IS LIFE!

I have heard persons scoff when I say this, but we have enough water resources to meet the needs of every man, woman and child in this country.

However, whether or not this will be the case in the future, depends on how we utilize and manage the resources that we have.

Water Sector Policy

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

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

Management of our Water Resources (WRA)

Mr. Speaker, the Water Resources Authority which is the agency charged with managing and monitoring our water resources, has noted that of the ten (10) hydrological basins throughout the island, only in the Kingston basin does demand exceed availability. **I deliberately did not say supply, because some of what exists, is polluted.**

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

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

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

The upgrade and expansion of the national hydrologic monitoring network is being undertaken to provide more climate data and information for effective planning and action at the local and national levels.

Already several new rainfall intensity gauges have been installed and stream flow gauges upgraded to provide more reliable and continuous data to monitor and evaluate climate change and its impacts on our water resources.

To enhance the dissemination of data, the Authority formally launched its online hydrologic database (Web Map) in September 2013. The Web Map allows anyone, anywhere in the world to obtain hydrologic data without referring to the Authority simply by logging on to the site and following the instructions. **This is a first in the Caribbean.**

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION

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

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

PROJECTS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING 2013

Mr Speaker, I now move to a report of my stewardship in this sector, over the year. **I will mention the projects, but in the interest of time, I invite the members to peruse the document in their possession for a substantive report on the various projects undertaken.**

The NWC completed a number of projects during the last financial year.

COMPLETED WATER PROJECTS

- Marlborough to Berry Hill, in Southern Manchester (**MP Michael Peart**) and (**MP Peter Bunting**) **Capital cost: J\$20M. Mr. Speaker, project completed.**
- Old Harbour Bay Pipeline in Southern St. Catherine (**MP Clifford Warmington**). **Capital cost: J\$80M. Mr. Speaker, another project completed.**
- Christiana-Sedburgh Pipeline in North Eastern Manchester (**MP Audley Shaw**). **Capital cost: \$30M. Mr. Speaker, project completed.**
- Palisadoes Pipeline in East Kingston and Port Royal (**MP Phillip Paulwell**) – Despite public outcry, the project was successfully completed without any major impact on traffic or the new roadway. **Capital cost \$230 Million.**

- KMA (JICA) Lot 2B Pipeline to benefit thousands of Jamaicans in:-
 - East Central St. Catherine (**MP Arnoldo Brown**)
 - South Eastern St. Catherine (**MP Colin Fagan**) and
 - Southern St. Catherine (**MP Fitz Jackson**).

Capital cost: J\$1.4 Billion. Mr. Speaker, project completed.

- Hounslow to Parottee Water Supply - Phase 1 in St. Elizabeth South Western (**MP Hugh Buchanan**). **Capital cost J\$68.0M. Mr. Speaker, another project completed.**

SEWERAGE PROJECTS

- The Swallowfield Road Sewerage project in which an additional 33 households in South Eastern St. Andrew (**MP Julian Robinson**) were connected to the central sewerage system. **Capital cost J\$25 Million. Mr. Speaker, project completed.**

- Hope Road (Side Roads) Sanitary Sewers which connected all side roads between Kings House and Matilda's Corner in South Eastern St. Andrew (**MP Julian Robinson**) and North East St. Andrew (**MP Delroy Chuck**) to the Soapberry Treatment Plant. **Capital cost: J\$90 Million. Mr. Speaker, project completed.**

Mr Speaker, during the consultations on the Water Sector Policy, the question of the cost of sewage connections was raised. I want to point out that only 30 per cent of the Corporate Area is sewered. As a result, the aquifer in the Corporate Area is severely polluted by the numerous soak-away pits in Corporate Area households. Mr Speaker, sewage goes out of sight but it does not go away. Suffice it to say, we are living on borrowed time as it is now haunting us.

As such, we have had to abandon production of water from thirteen (13) of the twenty-seven (27) wells in the Corporate Area, and instead bring water into Kingston and St Andrew from St Catherine and St Thomas.

I reiterate, this is the only hydrological basin where the demand for water exceeds availability.

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

ONGOING PROJECTS

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

- **The Second component of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project - Category 'B' Works.** Sections of this project are on target for completion by February 2015 and will impact some one million Jamaicans.

Elements include:-

- Segment 2 of the Rio Cobre pipeline replacement between Content District and Ferry. Among the many constituencies that will benefit are the constituencies of the Most Hon. Prime Minister and that of the Leader of the Opposition. The others know who they are. **Capital cost \$2.6 Billion.**
- Supply and installation of 40,000 domestic and commercial water meters to enhance accuracy in the measurement of consumer consumption. Constituencies island-wide will be impacted. **Capital cost: \$1.8 Billion.**
- Refurbishment of Major Water Treatment Plants at:-
 - Bogue, St Ann
 - Great River, St. James;
 - and Martha Brae, Trelawny.

More than 500,000 Jamaicans along the north coast corridor will benefit including:-

- North West St. Ann (**MP Dayton Campbell**)
- Northern Trelawny (**MP Patrick Atkinson**)

- East Central St. James (**MP Edmund Bartlett**)
- North West St. James (**MP Horace Chang**)
- Central St. James (**MP Lloyd B. Smith**)
- West Central St. James (**MP Sharon Ffolkes-Abraham**)
- Eastern Hanover (**MP D. K. Duncan**)
- Western Hanover (**MP Ian Hayles**) and
- Western Westmoreland (**MP Wykeham McNeil**)

Capital cost: \$800 Million.

- Martha Brae Water Treatment Plant expansion to benefit:-
 - St Ann
 - Trelawny
 - St James
 - Hanover and
 - Westmoreland.

Again, constituencies along the North Coast corridor will benefit, as well as the Harmony Cove Development. **Capital cost: \$1.5Billion.**

- Linstead/Ewarton Water Supply Upgrading in my own constituency of North West St. Catherine, as well as the Norwood Water Supply System in North West St. James (**MP Horace Chang**). Supply will be improved to 60,000 consumers in these areas and losses reduced. **Capital cost: \$750 Million.**
- Construction of 6 kilometres of transmission mains through the town of Lucea to increase the supply capability to approximately 100,000 beneficiaries in:
 - Eastern Hanover (**MP D. K. Duncan**);
 - Western Hanover (**MP Ian Hayles**); as well as parts of
 - Western Westmoreland (**MP Wykeham McNeil**)

Capital Cost: \$1.0billion

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

Other projects underway include:-

- The Agualta Vale/Richmond/Highgate/Islington Water Supply Improvement Project to benefit persons in Central St. Mary (**MP Dr. Morais Guy**) and South Eastern St. Mary (**MP Winston Green**). Madam Prime Minister, you announced this project, and I know that several housing schemes are on hold, pending its completion. I want to assure you that it should be completed in 18 months and will boost development and employment in that section of the country. **Capital Cost \$800 million**
- The Cascade/Claremont/Jericho Water Supply in Eastern Hanover being implemented by the NWC in partnership with the Rural Water Supply Ltd. 9,500 citizens in Eastern Hanover will benefit. (**MP D.K. Duncan**). **Capital cost: \$275M. Completion expected in 15 months.**

- Phase 1 of the Port Antonio Water, Sewerage and Drainage project, to benefit 75,000 persons in Eastern Portland (**MP Lynvale Bloomfield**). **Capital cost: \$1.9 Billion. Mr. Speaker, project underway with completion expected by November 2014.**
- The Mason River / Kellits / Bullhead / Sandy River water supply in North Clarendon (**MP Horace Dalley**) will benefit 6,500 residents. **Capital cost \$205m. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**
- The Non-Pariel/ Orange Hill/ Retirement water supply scheme in Western Westmoreland (**MP Wykeham McNeil**). **Capital cost: \$450M. Mr. Speaker, another project underway.**
- Scotts Cove to Belmont Pipeline Replacement in Eastern Westmoreland (**MP Luther Buchanan**). In coordination with the NWA's road rehabilitation works, a total of 15 kilometres of pipeline will be constructed to replace the existing lines. 10,000 persons in Belmont, Whitehouse, Scott's Cove and adjoining communities will benefit.

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

- The Burnt Savannah/ Knoxwood water supply scheme in St Elizabeth (**MP's Raymond Pryce and Hugh Buchanan**) 2,500 persons will benefit. **Capital cost: \$60M. Mr. Speaker, project underway and scheduled for completion this month.**

- **26 Pumping Facilities Project.** Under this IDB-Funded KMA Water Supply Improvement Programme, 26 water supply facilities in the Corporate Area, that are inefficient and are unable to meet growing demand will be rehabilitated and improved. All constituencies in Kingston and St. Andrew will benefit.

Capital Cost: US\$18.4million or approximately J\$2.0 billion. Mr. Speaker, another big project underway.

- Upgrading and rehabilitation of the Highland Meadows (May Pen) housing development sewerage facilities, with connections to the Mineral Heights sewage treatment plant to benefit 150 residents in Central Clarendon (**MP Mike Henry**). **Capital cost \$15 Million. Mr. Speaker, project underway with completion scheduled for the end of the month**
- Upper Montrose/ Montrose/ Lady Musgrave Avenue Sanitary Sewer - Construction of 1200 meters of sanitary sewers in South Eastern St. Andrew (**MP Julian Robinson**). **Capital cost: \$80M.** Discussions are being held with the NWA regarding road refurbishment. Project underway and again, Mr. Speaker, we apologise for the inconvenience to the public.

I would like the members of this House to note that the NWC has spent approximately J\$10billion on projects each year for the fiscal years 2012-2013, and 2013-2014. In all of these contracts, thousands of jobs have been created for Jamaicans.

Indeed, every time I open my mouth, several Members of Parliament and their constituents are benefitting. Mr Speaker, we are Working! Working! Working!

PROJECTS AT THE PROCUREMENT PHASE

The projects at the procurement phase which are scheduled to begin in this financial year are:-

- **Sector F Sewerage Project – involving the rehabilitation and upgrade of the sewerage system in Majesty Gardens, Seaview Gardens and Riverton Meadows in South & South Western St Andrew (MPs Dr. Omar Davies, Most Hon. Prime Minister) Capital cost: J\$1.3Million. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**
- **Clarks Town Water Supply Pipeline Replacement - Phase 2: Spicy Hill Reservoir to Georgia (MP Patrick Atkinson). This will improve the supply to Clarks Town, Duncans, Georgia and their environs. Capital cost: \$35 Million. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**

- Eastern Westmoreland Water Supply (**MP Luther Buchanan**), Cedar Valley and Bethel Town Pipeline Extensions. **Capital cost: J\$81M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**
- Hounslow to Parottee Water Supply, Phase 2B St. Elizabeth (**MP Hugh Buchanan**), Replacement of old transmission and distribution pipeline from Newell Square to Williamsfield. **Capital cost: \$55.0 M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**
- Halifax Avenue Sanitary Collector Sewers, Barbican, St. Andrew. **Capital cost: J\$7M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**
- Reconfiguration of the Portmore Sewerage Network - Five (5) treatment plants will be retired and sewage transferred to Soapberry. 180,000 persons will benefit in:-
 - East Central St. Catherine (**MP Arnoldo Brown**)
 - South East St. Catherine (**MP Colin Fagan**) and
 - Southern St. Catherine (**MP Fitz Jackson**)

Capital Cost \$1.8 Billion. Mr Speaker, project underway

- Construction of the Boscobel Sewage Treatment Plant in Western St. Mary (**MP Joylan Silvera**) and Refurbishment of the Elletson Flats sewage treatment plant in Eastern St. Andrew (**MP Andre Hylton**). We expect to sign a contract shortly for these works which are part of the IDB supported CReW project **Capital cost: \$450M. Mr. Speaker, construction soon to be underway.**
- North and Bottom (Swaby's) Hope Distribution Pipelines, Manchester. **Capital Cost: \$15M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**
- Fairway/ Seymour Avenue/ Retreat Avenues Collector Sewer. 750 persons to benefit in Eastern St. Andrew (**MP Andre Hylton**) and South Eastern St. Andrew (**MP Julian Robinson**) **Capital cost: \$50M. Mr. Speaker, project underway.**

Mr. Speaker, in addition to all the projects mentioned already, there are other contracts at the procurement stage that are scheduled to commence in 2014.

- IDB KMA W/S Supply of Pumping Equipment - Energy efficiency improvement programme involving the procurement of replacement pump sets in seven (7) lots. **Capital Cost: \$75M.**
- Essex Valley Water Supply Phase 1 - Equipping of Long Hill Well Station and relift facilities to improve water supply to Nain and Myersville. **Capital cost: \$200 Million. Impacted population: 14,000 persons.**
- Essex Valley Water Supply Phase 2 - Construction of 9 km of pipeline from Nain to Junction, new re-lift station and terminal reservoir. 25,000 persons to benefit in Junction and its environs in South Eastern St. Elizabeth (**MP Richard Parchment**). **Capital cost: \$170 Million.**
- IDB KMA Water Supply - Procurement of 100,000 Solid State Water Meters. Installation of new meters of this type will result in more accurate customer billing and reduced Non Revenue Water (NRW). **Capital cost \$1.3 Billion.**

- IDB- KMA Water Supply - Construction of a groundwater Artificial Recharge Facility in the Innswood area of Central St. Catherine (**MP Olivia Grange**), enabling a sustainable water supply to that constituency, as well as several other St. Catherine and KMA constituencies. The project involves the construction of a facility to settle 5 million gallons per day of raw surface water and inject this into the limestone aquifer to allow for the sustainable abstraction of ground water resources. **Capital cost: \$1.2Billion.**

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND PROACTIVE RESPONSE

Mr Speaker, the National Water Commission, like any other business, faces many challenges including the high cost of energy.

The agency consumes nearly one half of all the electricity used in the public sector and approximately five (5) per cent of the total energy consumed in the country. This is due, in particular, to the need to pump water to elevated areas of the country.

I want to drive it home to the members of this Honourable house that every month, the NWC pays the JPS approximately \$550 Million for electricity supply.

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

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

This takes me into the Tank and Pump Rehabilitation Project.

TANK AND PUMP REHABILITATION

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

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

The Tank and Pump programme is a comprehensive programme involving wells, tanks and pumps. In Phase 1 of the programme, a thorough evaluation was done by the Rural Water Supply Limited and the NWC on the over 158 facilities including pumping stations islandwide. This evaluation was submitted to the NWC and used as a basis for prioritizing the work to be carried out.

This phase is now complete and we have moved to Phase 2 which involves the purchasing of pumps and the actual repair and rehabilitation work to the tanks.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, tenders have gone out for this phase of the programme, and based on the initial evaluations, approximately 73 pumping units will be replaced under this phase.

52 wells have also been identified for rehabilitation under Phase two (2), 11 of which have already been inspected, with the rest scheduled for inspection by the RWSL. It is estimated that each well will cost about J\$10million to rehabilitate.

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

RURAL WATER SUPPLY LIMITED (RWSL)

Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Minor Water Supply Systems

Mr Speaker, while our major water provider, the NWC will be moving to increase coverage to 85 percent by 2020, the remaining 15% of the population, will be served using modalities based on the best localized solutions, including rainwater harvesting.

A number of minor water supply systems in our rural communities fall within this bracket.

A total of \$72M was spent on the completion of on-going projects as well as the upgrading and rehabilitation of minor water supply systems in the parishes of Westmoreland; St. Catherine; St. James; Portland; St. Elizabeth; St. Mary and St. Thomas.

The projects that have been completed are:-

- The spring upgrade for the Mt. Rosser Water Supply System in my own constituency, North West St. Catherine and I thank my constituents for their patience.

- The Orange Bay Intake Works in Western Portland (**M.P. Daryl Vaz**)
- Mile Gully - Warwick Castle in Western St. Mary (**M.P. Joylan Silvera**)
- The Lindo Lane Pipeline Extension in South East St. Elizabeth (**M.P. Richard Parchment**)
- The Amity Water Supply System in Eastern Westmoreland (**M.P. Luther Buchanan**)
- The Windsor Heights Water Supply System in Eastern St. Catherine completed (**M.P. Denise Daley**) and
- The Troja- Lassie Spring Water Supply System in North East St. Catherine (**M.P. Desmond Mair**)
- Works are substantially completed on the Haining/Belle Castle Water Supply system in Eastern Portland, and people are now receiving water from the system including the Bell Castle all age. The system is to be put into operation this month (**M.P. Dr. Lynvale Bloomfield**).

- Investigations and designs have been completed on the Grant Hill Water Supply System and Kelly Spring in West Rural St. Andrew **(M.P. Paul Buchanan)**
- Investigations and designs have also been completed for Top Leinster and Devon Pen water supply system in South Eastern St. Mary –**(Dr. Winston Green M.P.)**

Projects currently being upgraded include;-

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

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

- Kerrick Hill Water Supply System Western St. Thomas - work is substantially completed and the system is to be put into operation this month (**M.P. James Robertson**). Work is also substantially completed on the Hagley Gap Water Supply System which will also be put into operation this month. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the cries for water from the Member for Western St. Thomas (**James Robertson**) and his constituents and we are working, working, working to ease their plight.
- The designs have been completed and pipe material has been purchased for the Richmond Hill Water Supply System in Eastern St. Thomas. Work is scheduled to commence during the first quarter of this financial year (**M.P. Dr. Fenton Ferguson**)

J\$59M has been earmarked in the this year's budget for the immediate upgrading and rehabilitation of several water supply systems including:-

- The Mahoe Ridge/Garlands/Horse Guard Water Supply System, South St. James (**M.P. Derrick Kellier**)
- The Gutters/Retirement Water Supply System, West Central St. James (**M.P. Sharon Ffolkes-Abraham**)
- The Seaton Water Supply System in South Eastern St. Mary (**M.P. Dr. Winston Green**) (pipes already bought)
- The Georges' Valley Water Supply System in South St. James (**M.P. Derrick Kellier**) (ongoing)
- The Northern Clarendon Minor Water Supply System (**M.P. Horace Dalley**) (pipes procured)

Work will also be carried out on:-

- The Watermount Dam Expansion and upgrade in West Central St. Catherine (**M.P. Dr. Kenneth Baugh**)
- The Windsor Heights Expansion in Eastern St. Catherine (**M.P. Denise Daley**)

- The Richmond Hill Water Supply System in Eastern St. Thomas (M.P. **Dr. Fenton Ferguson**). Designs were completed in the last financial year, and the pipes procured.
- The Hagley Gap Kerrick Hill Water Supply System in Western St. Thomas (**M.P. James Robertson**) should be completed in early July.

RAINWATER HARVESTING AND CATCHMENT TANK REHABILITATION PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013-2014

Mr. Speaker, Climate Change is telling us that rainwater harvesting is **NOT** a technique of the past. However, there is a seeming reluctance to return to this method, particularly in rural communities as there is a widely held belief that with the pipes come progress.

Needless to say, we will be facing more severe droughts in the future as climate change impacts increasingly affect us and so there must be a return to rainwater harvesting as one of the methods of ensuring our water security now, and in the future.

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

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

- 12 in St. Ann
- 2 in Clarendon
- 7 in Manchester
- 3 in Westmoreland
- 2 in St. Catherine

- 2 in St. James
- 7 in Trelawny
- 4 in St. Elizabeth

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

- Epworth-Friendship in South East St. Ann (**M.P. Lisa Hanna**)
- York Castle-Farm in North West St. Ann (**M.P. Dr. Dayton Campbell**)
- Inverness-Aboukir and Fullerton Park in South West St. Ann (**M.P. Keith Walford**)
- Good Hope, Evans Corner and Quick Step, in North West St. Elizabeth (**M.P. J.C. Hutchinson**)
- Bruntie in Eastern Westmoreland (**M.P. Luther Buchanan**)
- Birds and Porters Mountain in Central Westmoreland (**M.P. Roger Clarke**)

- Good Hall – Content in East Central St. James (**M.P. Ed. Bartlett**)
- Cedar Valley and Mt. Moreland in North Central St. Catherine (**M.P. Natalie Neita-Headley**)

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

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

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

A total of thirty (30) tanks are slated to be rehabilitated during this Financial Year.

Mr Speaker, one of the major aspects of the project to be executed this year is the replacement of tank covers.

Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) has designed a ferro cement light weight roofing to be utilized to replace several uncovered tanks located islandwide.

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

RAINWATER HARVESTING SOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOLS IN AREAS WITH NO POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

Rainwater Harvesting is also being proposed as an immediate water supply solution for schools impacted by a lack of, or inadequate water supply.

The Aabuthnott Galimure High School, located in South Western St. Ann, (**MP Keith Walford**) has so far benefitted from the upgrading of their system, which I commissioned in March this calendar year.

A Rainwater Harvesting Project was also undertaken, in conjunction with my ministry in the Gibraltore area of North Central, St. Catherine (**MP Natalie Neita Headley**), and this month, we will be commissioning this project.

This involved the installation of roof guttering and black tanks. Over seven hundred (700) households have benefitted from this initiative.

The Rainwater Harvesting programme will continue into this Financial Year and the Ministry of Education is being asked to partner with us in this endeavour.