



TO: NEWS EDITORS

‘CONSERVE TO EASE WATER SITUATION AND SAVE MONEY’ - NWC

The National Water Commission (NWC) continues to urge customers in the Corporate Area in particular and the entire island in general to preserve and conserve the limited supplies during this extended dry period. Water supply systems around the world are unavoidably vulnerable to drought conditions especially in view of global warming, El Nino and other global weather phenomena.

“While the various authorities need to put in place adequate infrastructure and other measures to combat the effects of drought, conservation is something everyone can do to help, especially since water is a finite resource and will not always be available in the amounts needed,” said Michael Dunn, VP- Eastern Division. Conservation, if carefully practised, can save up to 30% of the water used in a household without inconveniencing anyone. Water conservation involves the following 4 R’s:-

1. **Reduce** the use of water as much as possible;
2. **Repair** all leaks;
3. **Re-use** water whenever possible;
4. **Re-place** water wasting devices with water-saving devices.

These conservation measures will not only ensure that customers have some of the precious commodity in reserve, but will definitely result in considerable monetary saving.

Dry, hot conditions with little or no rains even in the usually wet months of June and October have combined to cause many NWC water supply systems to dwindle or even

(more)

dry-up. Currently, storage levels in the two larger water storage facilities in the Corporate Area stand at 40% for the Mona Reservoir and 30% for the Hermitage Dam.

According to Mark Barnett, Area manager, KSA and St. Thomas, “The situation is made even worse because piped water demand has gone up as much as 50% for all purposes including irrigation, fire fighting, gardening and other purposes for which the treated potable water supply systems were not designed, placing an undue burden on the existing NWC piped supply of water. This combination of declining yields and increasing demands severely handicaps the operations of the NWC at a time when many persons turn to the Commission for water for their various needs.”

As this drought drags on, the National Water Commission remains fully committed and is making every effort to maintain or regulate piped supply in the best way possible, and to truck water to the worst affected areas that cannot be supplied with piped water. The NWC continues to urge its customers to exercise patience and understanding in light of the severe challenges posed by the worsening drought conditions. CONSERVE AND SAVE TODAY!!.

For further information on specific ways to conserve and recycle water, please visit our website at www.nwcjamaica.com.

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Contact: Corporate Public Relations Department
929-1128

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