



TO: NEWS EDITORS

Thursday, January 22, 2009

**NWC COMMISSIONS THE
SPANISH TOWN TREATMENT PLANT INTO SERVICE**
KMA Water Supply Project

The National Water Commission (NWC) along with portfolio Minister of Water and Housing Dr. Horace Chang and Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, Mr. Masahiro Obata, yesterday (January 21) officially commissioned into operations Phase 1 of the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) Water Supply Project, which is now benefiting communities of the Greater Spanish Town and Southeast St. Catherine area as well as parts of Kingston.

The KMA Water Supply Project is one of the largest and most significant works undertaken by the National Water Commission and is jointly funded by the Government of Jamaica with assistance from the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The overall cost of the project (Phases I & II) is US\$85M. The Contract for Phase II was signed late last year and work will commence soon. Jamaica's contribution to this project was US\$24.8M or J\$1.650B.

In addressing the large gathering, Minister Chang pointed out that the KMA Project is the response to the NWC's need to improve the reliability and availability of water on a 24-hour basis to areas in greater Spanish Town and South East St. Catherine. This, due to the rapid population growth in St. Catherine. Communities to benefit are, St. Jago Heights, Angels Estate, Central Village, Windsor Heights, Willowdene, Hopedale, Green

Acres, Spanish Town, Portmore, Hellshire and sections of Bernard Lodge and downtown Kingston.

According to Ambassador Obata, who brought remarks and spoke glowingly of the contribution of the Government of Japan, “Since 1981, we have provided over \$534 million \$USD in soft loans for over 9 flagship projects all across Jamaica that aimed to develop Jamaica’s Tourism industry, spur regional economic activity and improve the welfare of Jamaican citizens.

Our aim is not only to provide infrastructure, Japanese motor vehicles and technology, but also to address critical water issues and therefore JBIC’s investment is aimed at developing communities like yours to gain access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities.”

Hon. Olivia “Babsy” Grange, MP and Minister of Information who also attended the function and in whose constituency a number of the beneficiary areas fall, expressed her gratitude to the National Water Commission and Contractors, Sogea-Satom for the role they played in providing improved water supply to these communities and pledged her support to ensuring that the NWC collects their revenue from those customers who use the commodity.

Sogea-Satom, Contractors on the Project, in conjunction with Tankweld Special Projects and Bacchus Engineering were commended for the excellent work conducted on the project to have it delivered on time and within budget and without any downtime due interference or intimidation.

According to Minister Horace Chang, in his main address, “The completion of Phase I of this KMA Water Supply Project and the signing of the contract for Lot 2-A, reflects this government’s commitment to improve the level of infrastructure for this area and Jamaica as a whole. It also shows our commitment for the provision of adequate water supply for

the population, which ultimately will result in improved quality of life for all so that we will be able to seize development opportunities as they arise”.

The KMA Project is considered to be the most cost effective of the Water Commission's projects and is expected to provide:

- Increased water quality assurance to customers
- Reduced incidences of breakdown of pumps resulting in disruption of service to you, our customers
- Increased efficiency in the production and distribution of potable water as there will be standby storage

Also, on hand to witness the Commissioning were the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water and Housing, Mrs. Genefa Hibbert; Dr. Andrew Wheatley, Mayor of Spanish Town; Chairman of the NWC, Mr. Russell Hadeed and President Mr. E.G. Hunter, representatives of the Water Resources Authority as well as Councillors of the beneficiary communities among other private and business stakeholders.

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