



**For Immediate Release**

**Friday, May 09, 2008**

## **WATER MINISTER COMMENDS NWC FOR ‘TREMENDOUS WORK’ BEING DONE ON KMA PROJECT**

Minister of Water and Housing, Dr. Horace Chang, on Thursday, May 8, 2008 commended the National Water Commission (NWC) for the tremendous capital investment and upgrading work it is undertaking even in the face of major financial constraints as he toured the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) Water Supply Project in St. Catherine.

The Water Minister was doing a first-hand familiarization tour of the US\$85M water supply project ó the largest project of its kind in Jamaica and the region - along with Central St. Catherine MP and Minister of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports, Olivia Grange in whose constituency much of the project is taking place. Minister Chang spoke to the many benefits of the KMA Water Supply Project that is being implemented to better serve over 400,000 persons up to 2026 in Greater Spanish Town, Portmore and other communities in South East St. Catherine as well as large sections of lower Kingston and St. Catherine.

Dr. Chang also said that the provision of better water supply services would greatly improve the quality of life and standard of living of persons within the project area. He asked affected residents to be patient and understanding while the project is being implemented.

Minister Grange fully supported Dr. Chang in his praises for the project and also said that the work being provided by the project has also reduced tensions between the youth in many of the communities in and around Spanish Town. While being thankful for the project, she asked Dr.

Chang to seriously consider expanding the project to even deal with some other issues not now being done under the KMA project.

The KMA Water Supply Project includes the rehabilitation of existing water supply facilities; development of new water supply sources and facilities; the protection and sustaining of groundwater resources throughout the area; and a number of institutional strengthening activities throughout the NWC and especially within the project area.

The familiarization tour visited the Spanish Town Water Treatment Plant which is being upgraded and expanded to enable the treatment of 4 million gallons of water per day under a variety of conditions (up from the approximately 2.5 million gallons per day that is now treated when the Rio Cobre source is not turbid); the Yangswell Deepwell and Pumping Station where major rehabilitation is now being completed; the Little Greendale Deepwell and Pumping Station where rehabilitation is already completed; as well as sections of Willowdene and Spanish Town town centre where 19km of leaky, old pipelines have been replaced.

While the project is still ongoing, Project Manager Garth Jackson, said that much of the work to be done under the first contract have already been completed and some areas are already benefiting from the project. Other work under other contracts will be started by later this year and will continue until 2010 when the entire project will be completed.

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