

September 24, 2004

## SPECIAL HURRICANE IVAN RECOVERY UPDATE

### RED STRIPE CONTRIBUTES TO GETTING WATER SUPPLY RESTORED

Minister of Water and Housing, Donald Buchanan, yesterday accepted a commitment of \$100 million from Red Stripe and the Diageo Foundation towards the restoration and improvement of potable water supply to communities and persons most severely affected by the ravages of Hurricane Ivan.

In accepting the contribution Minister Buchanan said the National Water Commission is fully committed to using the funds provided to continue to restore and improve piped water supply to all areas in record time. The Minister noted that 80% of the water production capacity was already back in operation but much more needed to be done in the:

- Reconstruction of raw water intake areas and conveyance systems
- Desilting and cleaning of intake areas
- Drilling and equipping of replacement wells
- Repairs and installation of water treatment and purification systems
- Repairs/rehabilitation of civil infrastructure at plants
- Reconstruction of broken and dislocated pumping and distribution pipelines
- Reinforcement of pipe supports and thrust blocks, including earthworks where necessary
- Repairs to reservoir and tanks
- Rehabilitation or replacement of electro-mechanical equipment at treatment and distribution facilities, including pumps, motors and switchgears
- Installation of standby generators at facilities for which normal power supply may not be restored soon to avert the negative health impacts resulting from lack of community water supply

In expressing thanks, the Minister also conveyed the personal appreciation of NWC Chairman Richard Byles and President E. G. Hunter for the much needed assistance

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CONTACT: Charles Buchanan  
Corporate Public Relations Manager  
Tel#929-1128.