



NEWS

Attention: The News Editor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NWC UNCOVERS THEFT IN CORNWALL COURTS

Ninety six illegal connections and 9 by-pass connections were discovered by the NWC during a recent revenue recovery operation in Cornwall Court, St. James. This latest operation, which is being hailed a success, is in keeping with the company's ongoing drive to clamp down on theft and delinquency island-wide.

The operation revealed that of the 96 illegal connections 45 were on premises of unregistered users and 51 were accounts that the NWC had previously disconnected for delinquency; but, which had been illegally reconnected. Over 1 million in back charges have been applied to these accounts while others were given a strict warning and threatened with prosecution if they are caught with illegal connections in the future.

Each year the NWC loses millions due to water theft, despite public education and various soft approaches to encourage compliance and good stewardship. These unscrupulous persons rob the company of the revenue on which it depends to conduct network and system improvements. Persons who insist on tampering with the NWC's network also cause leaks and sometimes reduce or cut off the flow of water to paying customers.

Horace Binns, Acting Revenue Recovery Manager advised that the revenue recovery team is committed to finding these culprits who continue to trespass on the works of the company. He issued a strong warning, noting that the NWC will not tolerate these unlawful acts and will intensify efforts to catch persons who insist on stealing water. "We will find them and in addition to the application of back charges we will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law." Water treatment and distribution is a costly venture and persons must pay for the water they use, added Binns.

***Contact: Community Relations Department – Western Division
952- 1640-1/979-5800***

Similar operations will be carried out in other communities in St. James and across western parishes in the coming months. The NWC continues to encourage persons with illegal connections to heed the warnings and take the necessary steps to become regularised.

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***Contact: Community Relations Department – Western Division
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