



Attention: The News Editor

July 8, 2022

**Government Committed to Improving Potable Water Connectivity - Sen. The Hon. Matthew Samuda**

The Government of Jamaica is committed to ensuring that all Jamaicans benefit from connectivity to potable water.

That declaration has come from Senator The Honourable Matthew Samuda, the Minister Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

He was addressing the Official Commissioning Ceremony for the **Luana Well Station to Middle Quarters Square Mains Replacement Project in St Elizabeth** on July 7, 2022.

Some 1, 200 residents in several communities including New Holland, Baptist, Clinic Road, Luana, Point and Middle Quarters will benefit from the Project. Applications are also now being processed for water connections to the newly commissioned pipeline in the areas of Rockland, Lancewood and Diligent.

The Minister noted that since “water is the driving force for human dignity” as well as “the driving force for all development and economic activity” the Government led by Prime Minister The Most Honourable Andrew Holness is ensuring that Jamaicans at all levels benefit from connectivity. “The Prime Minister said all must be done to connect the pipes” declared the Minister.

Minister Samuda also used the opportunity to strongly reiterate the Government’s commitment to ensuring that trucked water is available to St. Elizabeth and other parishes that have been adversely impacted by a decline in rainfall. He highlighted that “St. Elizabeth has had the largest decline in rainfall over the last sixty days” and as a result will get “some reprieve” or benefit under the special trucking facility.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr The Honourable Nigel Clarke recently announced that \$150 million has been allocated by the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Local Government to facilitate trucking to deal with the prevailing weather concerns.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for St. Elizabeth South Western, The Honourable Floyd Green commended the NWC for the Project. He recalled the days of frequent calls from residents about several breakages that resulted in a lack of the supply. He said however that since the completion of the project, those calls are no longer being received and the residents are grateful and appreciative for the convenience of having the commodity in their homes.

For their part, both the NWC's Vice President for Operations Mr Kevin Kerr and the company's Regional Manager for Manchester and St. Elizabeth Mr Jermain Jackson encouraged the residents to pay their bills on time and in full.

They highlighted that it is important for customers to honour their payment obligations so that they can continue to benefit from sustained quality service.

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