



To: News Editors

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Massive water treatment plant to improve supply for 150,000 NWC customers

Approximately 150,000 National Water Commission customers in Kingston and St Andrew (KSA) and St Catherine will benefit from the construction of a 15 million imperial gallons per day (MiGD) Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Content, St Catherine, which is valued at US\$77 million.

The disclosure was made on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, during the contract signing for the Rio Cobre Public-Private Partnership Agreement at Jamaica House in St Andrew.



Several key stakeholders gathered at Jamaica House in St Andrew on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, to sign the Rio Cobre Public-Private Partnership Agreement. Pictured here are (from left, seated) NWC President Mark Barnett; Senator Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; Prime Minister Andrew Holness; NWC Chairman Michael Shaw; Timothee Delebarre; Jamaica Country Manager of Vinci Construction; and Jeffery Hall, CEO and Director of Jamaica Producers Group Limited. Witnessing the signing are (from left) Anthony Shaw, Managing Director of the Development Bank of Jamaica; Christopher Zacca, President and CEO of Sagikor Group Jamaica Limited; Dr Horace Chang, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security; Senator Aubyn Hill, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce; Audrey V. Sewell, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation; Nicholas Scott, Managing Director of Eppley Limited; and Yanick Garillon, Director of Asia & Building Division and Water Works at Vinci Construction.

During his address, Prime Minister Andrew Holness explained that investment in this project was critical based on the expected benefits.

“The project is expected to positively impact approximately 150,000 customers in the KSA region, Portmore and Spanish Town. It will reduce the need for future trucking of water and

reduce - if not eliminate - the need for water restrictions to affected areas during periods of drought,” he said.

“So, what this project really is, is the building of resilience in the water supply system for the KSA, Portmore and Spanish Town. That means that even if there is a shock, an environmental or weather shock, that we should be able to maintain the required level of supply to this critical productive area of Jamaica. This is a win-win for the NWC, the people of Jamaica and the private sector.”

For this project, the NWC has entered into a Public-Private Partnership arrangement with Rio Cobre Water Limited (a company duly incorporated under the laws of Jamaica) to design, build, finance, operate, maintain and transfer of a 15 MiGD capacity Water Treatment Plant in Content, St Catherine. The construction period is estimated at two years, followed by a 23-year period of operations by the private partners, after which ownership of the Water Treatment Plant will be transferred to the NWC.

In addition to providing more consistent water supply to its existing customers, it is expected that NWC will be able to increase its customer base.

The partnership involves the NWC, Rio Cobre Water Limited (which is a Consortium of Companies – Vinci Construction, Jamaica Producers Group and Eppley Ltd), and financier Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited.

Describing the project as a “good deal”, NWC Chairman Michael Shaw said that this partnership is significant based on the entities that the Commission was able to bring to the table.

“I’m very, very thankful for the stakeholders today, who have shown that level of confidence in our government to be able to pull this together,” Shaw said.

Speaking on behalf of the Rio Cobre Water Limited, Timothee Delebarre, who is the Jamaica Country Manager of Vinci Construction, noted that discussions about the project began about 14 years ago.

“They say the race is not for the swift. It’s been a long journey to arrive at the signing ceremony,” he said.

Adding to the conversation, Christopher Zacca, President and CEO of Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited, said that the partnership is quite remarkable.

“This is a complex project, and these are complex times in financial markets. To deliver this product, it will take all of our stakeholders continuing to work together seriously and hand in hand,” he said.



Prime Minister Andrew Holness speaks during the contract signing for the Rio Cobre Public-Private Partnership Agreement at Jamaica House in St Andrew on Wednesday, November 23, 2022.



Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Senator Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, in dialogue during the contract signing for the Rio Cobre Public-Private Partnership Agreement at Jamaica House in St Andrew on Wednesday, November 23, 2022.

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