

To: All News Editors

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PM Holness anticipates Port Royal's growth following pipeline installation

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness is anticipating significant growth and development in Port Royal with the installation of new pipelines in the Kingston community.



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness (fourth right) smiles as he turns on the water at the Port Royal Relift Station in Kingston on Tuesday, January 7. Also pictured here are (from left) Nir Van-Raalte, General Manager at Ashtrom, the contractor for the Port Royal Pipeline Replacement Project; Lorraine Dobson, Councillor for the Port Royal Division; Kevin Kerr, Acting NWC President; Michael Shaw, NWC Chairman; Arlene Williams, Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; Matthew Samuda, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; and Phillip Paulwell, Member of Parliament for East Kingston and Port Royal.

During the commissioning ceremony for the Port Royal Pipeline Replacement Project in the Port Royal town centre in Kingston on Tuesday, January 7, Holness stressed that the new pipelines installed by the National Water Commission (NWC) and the accompanying upgraded pumping station will significantly improve the lives of the residents.

“This is a major achievement that the government is marking by this ceremony. And I'm certain that the people of Port Royal are very happy to have this improved facility. Indeed, this is as an improvement in the quality of life that they experience,” he said.

Prime Minister Holness also noted that the J\$533 million investment will boost Port Royal as a “new destination, not just for tourists to come, but to enhance what is already the case,” he said. “Port Royal is the destination for people in Kingston and St Andrew. On the weekends, the place is packed. It is an entertainment and festival destination, but to be able to have that to the extent where it adds significantly to our GDP [gross domestic product], we have to make a significant investment.”

The Port Royal Pipeline Replacement Project is a vital infrastructure initiative designed to provide reliable and continuous potable water supply to the Port Royal community, the Palisadoes Strip and the Port Royal Shipping Port. This substantial upgrade is expected to benefit residents, local businesses and cruise ship visitors.

For the project, which was completed in August 2024, the NWC replaced 8.6 kilometres of ageing and fragile cast iron pipelines with new, durable 12-inch High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes. The works also included the installation of new duty and standby pumps at Morgan’s Harbour Relift Station, the refurbishment of a 60,000-gallon reservoir and upgrades to key components of the distribution network.

Like Holness, Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, said that the project “marks a significant milestone in our ongoing journey to improve the lives of our citizens, fortify our infrastructure and secure a sustainable future for our communities.”

Having been part of the early discussions about the project, Phillip Paulwell, Member of Parliament for East Kingston and Port Royal, said he was pleased to see it come to fruition.

“On behalf of the residents of Port Royal, I say thanks for this wonderful project that will ensure that we have high, good quality water and then the sewage [infrastructure] to follow,” he said.

The Port Royal Pipeline Replacement Project is a crucial part of the NWC’s strategic plan to enhance water infrastructure across Jamaica and ensure sustainable and reliable water supply for communities across the island. Through this project, there has been a reduction in the levels of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) in the area, as well as improved reliability in the potable water supply system.

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