



To: The News Editor

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NWC Warns Against Damming and Diversion of Rivers

The National Water Commission (NWC) wishes to advise the public that over the last several months, reports have come to its attention that a burgeoning entertainment business is being undertaken in some of its major water sources. Unscrupulous individuals have been damming rivers and diverting water to facilitate recreational activities such as water/pool parties without having regard for the likely impacts these illegal acts may cause.

Not only will there be implications for the levels and volume of water available to supply to customers, but quality of water may be compromised.

From investigations carried out, these activities have been taking place in the river sources that supply the Hope Filter Plant and the Hermitage Dam in St. Andrew and the Bogue Treatment Plant in St. Ann.

On a tour of the Hope River recently, the NWC noticed that sand bags were used as damming materials to create pools in the river and vegetation removed to facilitate the recreational use of the area. The removal of the vegetation to include the illegal cutting of trees along river banks and in watersheds leaves these areas vulnerable to erosion and will lead to an increase in run off leading to increased turbidity which reduces available sustained supply and possibly blockage of the channel.

The National Works Agency is working in collaboration with the Forestry Department and National Water Commission to curtail these illegal activities.

The NWC urges the public to report any information on these illegal activities to the Police, the National Works Agency and the National Water Commission.

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