



To: All News Editors

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MINISTER CHANG TOURS THREE MAJOR NWC PROJECTS

Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, on Wednesday April 27, 2016 toured sites relating to three major National Water Commission projects to get first-hand view of the operations and to show his interest in certain critical projects for his administration.

The projects toured were the NWC's \$1 Billion Artificial Groundwater Recharge System in Innswood, the site for a new 15 million gallons per day (mgd) Content Water Treatment Plant and the Soapberry Sewage Treatment Plant which is to have its capacity doubled. All the projects are physically situated in St. Catherine but also have significant implications for water and wastewater services both for St. Catherine and for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA).

The Artificial Recharge project, funded by an IDB loan to the NWC, involves collaboration between a number of government agencies in Jamaica's most significant and creative water sustainability and climate change responses. It includes the establishment of facilities to increase the groundwater potential in the limestone aquifer, by treating and discharging surplus surface water into sinkholes and wells, in order to sustain the abstraction of wells located in the areas west of Spanish Town. That project is now substantially completed and will be officially commissioned soon.

The project for the construction of a new water treatment plant at Content would also strengthen the Commission's water supply capacity even in the face of droughts and climate change. On the tour today, Dr. Chang indicated that this project was also high on his list of priorities.

The Minister concluded his tour by visiting the Soapberry Sewage Treatment Plant which the NWC has proposed to expand to twice its present treatment capacity by 2020 to protect the underground water supplies, protect the environment and improve property values and development opportunities.

Accompanying the Minister on the tour were a number of representatives from the NWC and its contractors as well as the Water Resources Authority (WRA), the National Irrigation Commission (NIC) and Rural Water Supply Limited.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (left), listens attentively as Mr. Peter Clarke, Project Engineer at the Rural Water Supply Limited, highlight some critical elements of the Artificial Groundwater Recharge System while on tour of the project site, yesterday.



Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (right), Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, along with Dr. Mark Richards(left), CEO of the National Irrigation Commission (NIC) and NWC President, Mr. Mark Barnett share a light moment as they interact with journalists while on tour of Artificial Groundwater Recharge Project in Innswood, St. Catherine.