



NEWS

To: **The News Editor**

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NWC BREAKS GROUND FOR HOUNSLOW WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The National Water Commission (NWC) on Thursday, July 15, 2016 officially broke ground for Phase 2A of the larger Hounslow Water Supply Improvement Project at the Hounslow Well Site in St. Elizabeth. As indicated in the Welcome Remarks by NWC Commissioner and Councillor for the Pedro Plains Division, Jeremy Palmer, the project is one of 13 that the National Water Commission is implementing in the parish of St. Elizabeth, and will be done at a cost of more than \$60M. The scope of works will include the replacement of approximately 12km of pipeline from the Hounslow Well to Newell Square, with approximately 1,100 residents of the breadbasket parish set to benefit from a more reliable water supply and improvements in the NWC's operational efficiency.

In citing the expected benefits of the 9 months project, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, urged the residents to 'take care of this system when it is completed and help us to serve you better by paying your water bill in full and on time.' He reiterated that Non-Revenue Water (NRW) has been a major concern for the NWC and noted that of the 12 million gallons of potable water produced daily for the residents of St. Elizabeth, 10 million gallons or 81% does not provide the NWC with any revenue.

The unacceptably high levels of NRW being experienced along the existing lead-jointed, cast iron transmission pipeline which runs from Hounslow Well to the Newell Square will be reduced with the construction and installation of new pipelines by contractor Surrey Paving and Aggregates, the Minister pointed out. The areas to benefit include Newell, Bigwoods, Bethany, Hounslow, Watchwell, Williamsfield, Hopewell, Little Park, Short Hill, Pedro Plains, Barbary Hall, Great Bay, Calabash Bay and their environs in South West St. Elizabeth.

Dr. Chang underscored the need for significantly improving the irrigation and potable water supply infrastructure throughout the parish and praised the management and staff of the NWC for the tremendous work done every day to keep old and inadequate systems in operation.

Also participating in the official groundbreaking ceremony were MP for South Western St. Elizabeth, Hon. Floyd Green, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information; Mayor of Black River, Councillor Everton Fisher; Councillor Derrick Sangster; NWC President Mark Barnett; and Michael Archer of contractor Surrey Paving & Aggregates Limited.

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