



To: All News Editors

July 22, 2019

## **KINGSTON AND ST ANDREW WATER SYSTEMS STILL BEING IMPACTED BY DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

The National Water Commission is advising that its water supply systems in Kingston and St Andrew (KSA) are still being impacted by the on-going drought conditions that is affecting several parishes across the island.

The NWC is noting that despite intermittent showers in a few areas, the water inflows at two of the entity’s largest facilities (Mona and Constant Spring) and several rural systems are still declining. While this is in keeping with the Meteorological Office’s forecast for the dry spell to extend into August- September 2019, it poses significant challenges to the NWC’s bid to provide water supply to the various communities across the KSA.

The Public is therefore being urged to brace for possible disruptions in their water supply, including lower water pressures, adjustments in the current water supply regulations and no water conditions in the areas that are worst impacted.

Currently, the NWC is working to streamline its water supply and trucking schedules to better respond to the various areas that are being affected and wishes to assure its customers that every effort is being made to provide water supply to them in a bid to guarantee their daily livelihood.

NAME OF FACILITY	Water Supply Level		
	July 8 <sup>th</sup> 2019	July 15 <sup>th</sup> 2019	July 20, 2019
Mona Reservoir	35.2%	34.9%	33.6%
Hermitage Dam	80.32%	79.74%	76.1%

Based on reports up to **July 15<sup>th</sup> 2019** a large majority of the plants situated in East Rural section of St Andrew have experienced significant decline in the volume of inflows. These include two plants; (Violet Bank and Mountain House) which have totally dried up and five other plants that are operating at approximately 10% of their normal capacity.

Name of System	Current Operating Level	Areas impacted
<b>Craig Hill</b>	25%	Dublin Castle, Craig Hill
<b>Friendship Brook</b>	33%	Sections of Butcher's Pass, Cane
<b>Griffin</b>	25%	Red Light, Irish Town, Industry, Village, Cottage Hill, Wiltshire, Cornfield, Hart Hill, Gayle Mountain, Bermuda Mountain, Jackfruit Tree, Rodney Pen, Cameron Hill, Enfield, Ellisie Way
<b>Harbour River</b>	10%	Sections of Bloxburgh
<b>John Spring</b>	10%	Somerset, John Spring, Somerset Tank
<b>Lime Tree</b>	10%	Lime Tree, Pear Tree, Tower Hill
<b>Middleton</b>	25%	Middleton
<b>Mountain House</b>	0%	Mountain House, Sommerset
<b>Orchard Spring</b>	10%	Lower Mount Charles, Green Valley Housing Scheme
<b>Rose Hill</b>	25%	Free Town, Peter's Rock, Cotton Road, Top Maryland, Woodford, Jack Allen
<b>Sugar Loaf</b>	10%	Sugar Loaf, Penfield, Mount Industry
<b>Suzie Spring</b>	25%	Belcour, Maryland, Mine Peace
<b>Violet Bank</b>	0%	Violet Bank

Systems in the West Rural are also reflecting a general shortfall in water inflows. This has forced the NWC team to periodically shut down operations at some plants (Isaac Hole, Barnettwood and Rock Hall) in order to re build the storage levels to facilitate water supply to the areas served by the plants.

Name of System	Current Operating Level	Areas impacted
<b>Bucky Plain</b>	35%	Unity, Fern Hill, Pigeon Valley, Grant Hill, Goulbourne
<b>King Weston</b>	40%	Section of Bucky Plain, Belmont, Grant Hill, Florence Hill, Lawrence Tavern, Mount Ogle, Matthew Road, Toms River, Cokely, Johnny Ridge.
<b>Mahoney</b>	60%	Mahoney, Rose Hall, Lawrence Tavern, Cassava River, Moount Olive, Asset Hill
<b>Isaac Hole</b>	15%	Claypole Road, Lawrence Tavern, Burnt Shop, Unity, Top and Bottom Track
<b>Barnettwood</b>	60%	Coopers Hill, Castle James, Padmore, Swain Spring, Maverly Mountain, Burnt Side, Burnt Side Valley, Top section of Sterling Castle
<b>Second Breakfast</b>	80%	Mount Friendship, Lime Edge, Belmore Road, Brandon Hill, Mount Pleasant, Mountain Spring, Lawrence Tavern, King Weston, Florence Hill, Mount Ogle, Belmont, Toms River, Mount Zion, Blakes Bridge, Mount Prospect, Mount Horeb
<b>McGowan Spring</b>	30%	Paradise Road, Settlement Road, Salisbury Plain
<b>Belmore</b>	70%	Belmore Spring
<b>Balboa</b>		Red Ground, Belboa, Cavalier

The Company notes that tremendous work has been put in place to ensure the sustained operations at several of these plants that could be classified as seasonal systems but, which in many cases are the most viable sources of water for many rural communities. Over the past months, the NWC has ramped up the expansion, rehabilitation and general maintenance of a number of plants to ensure that maximum inflows can be harnessed- thus ensuring continued operations. With many systems experiencing low inflows for over two (2) months, and the likelihood for extended drought conditions, it is hoped that these measures will help to alleviate some of the challenges faced by customers across the island.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the NWC team to keep the plants running, the shortfall in water supply is being felt in several communities. The NWC is reminding customers that water is being supplied on a scheduled basis and that they are to take steps to store water for use during the period of disruptions. In addition, trucked water schedules are being implemented where feasible to augment the water supplied through the pipes.

The NWC is also stressing that it is very important for customers to implement conservation methods to safeguard the limited supply and urges customers to practice the 3 R's Reduce, Re-use and Replace.

- **Reduce-** monitor daily uses including shower times, and general water use
- **Re- use-** identify areas that water from laundry and other household activities can be recycled –eg. watering plants
- **Replace-** This involves active leak detection and replacement of faulty pipes and fittings

In addition, the NWC has also been targeting improved timelines for leak repairs and is inviting customers to continue to report leaks as soon as they are noticed. Recently the company launched a new leak report page on its website which allows customers to upload leak reports, from any PC or mobile device. This report is logged directly to the Dispatch Unit to facilitate a speedier response and the automatic reference number that is generated enables the customer to track their report until completion.

-END-

**CONTACTS:**

**Corporate Public Relations Department  
876-929-1128, 876-929-5430-5  
Community Relations Department (Eastern)  
876-929-3540-5  
Toll Free 1-888-225-5692**