



Water
Resources
Authority



National Environment
and Planning Agency



The Honourable
**Matthew
Samuda**
MP

SECTORAL PRESENTATION

— 2025 —

CHOOSE JAMAICA: SECURING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



MAY 27, 2025



GORDON HOUSE

**CHOOSE
JAMAICA**

Salutations

Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to make my maiden contribution to the Sectoral Debate. I remain humbled at the opportunity to represent the wonderful people of St Ann North East in this chamber. I thank my Councilors, Constituency Executive, Workers, and most importantly, my more than 45,000 constituents for the journey thus far, and look forward to the coming chapters in the development journey of NESA.

Today, I have the responsibility of outlining Jamaica's sustainability agenda and the supporting programs for the current fiscal year, while sharing our broader national ambitions and sustainability targets.

The work to make Jamaica grow sustainably, has been entrusted to the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation. I am proud to work day in and day out, with the Most Honourable Prime Minister Andrew Holness to work on this critical body of work. I thank Mrs. Arlene Williams, Permanent Secretary, her able CTDS, and technical staff for their yeoman efforts. I also extend my appreciation to the Boards of Directors, Senior Management and staff of the Agencies, assigned to me. Additionally, I thank my direct team, who sacrifice so much to provide significant support to me personally, including my Advisors, Executive Staff, & CPO's.

We are nothing without Family, I pause to thank them for their love and support especially my wife and son. I thank God for his mercies, his grace.

Sustainability Framework & National Doctrine

"Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business."

We have collectively agreed to this lofty goal in bi-partisan fashion as our "Vision 2030". As a Nation, we have agreed to work toward achieving the United Nations "Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)". Madam Speaker, there has been much made, in the public domain related to the amalgamation of subject areas, and agencies under the MEGJC, but this joined up approach to Government, is anchored in the Prime Minister's stated philosophical outlook that "Sustainable Economic Growth, cannot be achieved through Environmental Degradation," and further, "that Prosperity cannot be steeped in Pollution".

The Parliament should recall, the appointment of Jamaica's first Special Envoy For Sustainability (to include Environment, Climate Change, and the Oceans) (and I note the support from the Member from East Kingston), Ambassador Professor Dale Webber.

This appointment, reflects a commitment of the Andrew



Holness led administration to seamlessly integrate policy making with Academia. This should leave no doubt that this Administration will make science based decisions related to its management of the Environment, Climate Change & Oceans.

Environmental Management

Madam Speaker, this administration has prioritized the modernization of the Regulatory & Legislative framework that governs our Environmental Management.

The Policies that have completed to date include:

- National Biosafety Policy
- Emissions Policy Framework
- Climate Change Policy Framework (updated to align to the Paris Agreement)
- Watersheds Policy
- Forest Policy
- Policy for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
- Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Policy for Jamaica

Madam Speaker, we have also completed and tabled in this Honourable House, the "Green Investment Strategy for Jamaica".

In the present fiscal year, the following Policies will be finalized:

- Overarching Protected Areas Policy
- Cays Management Policy (Green Paper)
- National Swamp and Freshwater Policy
- Beach Access and Management Policy**

Madam Speaker, colleagues should recall that just recently we completed the following legislative work and passed:

- Amendment of the NRCA Act and Wild Life Protection Act to allow for increased fines and related custodial sentences
- Protected Areas Regulations under the NRCA Act

Added to this, we have Legislation nearing completion

- Repeal & Replacement of the Forest Act
- Amendment of the Wild Life Protection Act (overall amendment; support ratification of the SPAW Protocol)
- Heavy focus will be placed on the Subsidiary legislation under the NRCA Act -
 - Amendment of the Wastewater and Sludge Regulations will be completed by the end April/beginning of May 2025
 - Amendment of the Air Quality Regulations (awaiting revised drafting instructions from NEPA based on the Ministry's comments to an earlier draft), and
 - Regulations governing the transboundary movement of Hazardous waste, and their disposal
 - Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

Madam Speaker, the list is impressive but not exhaustive. Madam Speaker, the list is impressive but not exhaustive. It is important that we explain how these legislative and policy reforms will actually bring about a cleaner, greener and more resilient environment. Madam Speaker, this Administration has developed a Twenty Point, Road Map to reach this destination. We have dubbed it "Ja-Sustain" #JaSustain.

This plan is rooted in our deep commitment to improve levels of Environmental Protection, increasing the capacity for monitoring and enforcing our laws, and significantly increasing our restoration efforts where degradation has taken place.

The Ja-Sustain Plan

This road map will focus on the following areas:

1. Improved Air Quality

Madam Speaker, to achieve the goals and targets of the Emissions Policy, the Government will focus on the following:

- Cleaner Air through reduced Emissions from continued Energy transition to renewable sources, in line with our NDC commitments.
- Implement "tailpipe testing" for all vehicles at point of Licensing
- Implementation of "State call measures" at the Nations Ports
- Continued Greening & Electrification of the National Fleet

2. Water Quality

- Madam Speaker, Jamaica has already promulgated new sewage, sludge, watersheds regulations and policies.
- This year the Government will expand monitoring and testing capacity by engaging and training Community based organizations to help with sample collection.

3. Land Use

Increased protection, restoration efforts

- Madam Speaker, since 2015, Jamaica has led global lobby efforts, as a part of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature to get global buy in on the target to protect 30% of land and national EEZs by 2030. The 30x30 target was adopted as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at COP15.
- Jamaica, by passing 14 new forestry orders, its declaration of the Cockpit Country Protected Area (CCPA) and the Black River Protected area, has so far achieved 25%. Jamaica is expected to achieve 30% protection of its terrestrial mass this year, a full 5 years ahead of target. This will be achieved with the expanded protection of mangrove forests in Southern Clarendon and with declaration of the Long Mountain Reserve.

- Declaration of New Protected Areas:

- Madam Speaker, the Government through NEPA will this year complete the declaration of the Canoe Valley (bordering Clarendon and Manchester); Montpelier, St. James; Long Mountain, St. Andrew; Bengal, St. Ann; and The Negril Protected Area (The designation of the Negril Environmental Protection Area will be changed to improve the protection of Industry Cove, Hanover) regions as Protected Areas (PA) under the NRCA Act. The PA designation will ensure that Jamaica's natural resources and biodiversity are preserved for future generation.
- Madam Speaker, this year, the Forestry Department is going to do something that we believe will be quite novel. We will declare the Constant Spring Golf Club, a Forest Management Area. This will preserve for generations, this important green space.
- Madam Speaker, our efforts at Forest restoration have been bolstered with the procurement of a Tree Relocator which is now in country. This is critical as we seek to balance our development agenda with maintaining forest cover.
- Madam Speaker, colleagues will recall that we launch a 3 Million trees, National Tree Planting Initiative in 2019. I am happy to report that the Forestry department has now achieved this target. These trees have had a survivability rate in excess of 80%. Madam Speaker it is time for a new target. I have directed the Forestry department to now plant a further 3 Million Trees within the next 5 years!

- Madam Speaker, the Forestry Department has also now completed a new Land Use/Land Cover Change Assessment for the entire island. This will not only provide an inventory of forests allowing for reporting according to international obligations (NDC's) but is also an essential tool for planning and development control to be used by all Agencies of government. Madam Speaker we are serious about our Forests, and that is why we are heartened that during our time at the wicket, we have increased Jamaica's Forest cover as evidenced by our REDD+ studies. (insert graphic here)
- NEPA has completed the preparation of a National Ecosystems Restoration Plan (NERP) in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development aimed at restoring degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Consistent with the objectives of the NERP, in 2024, NEPA rehabilitated seven acres of land in the Mammee River sub-catchment area. This initiative promotes enhanced livelihoods, agroforestry, enhances soil stability, and improves climate resilience.

4. Reduction of Pollution/ Improved waste management:

This critical pillar is absolutely necessary for Jamaica to Sustain. I want to pause to acknowledge the efforts of the Honourable Desmond McKenzie, and his senior team, for the overhaul of the NSWMA. We are a cleaner nation today, than in 2015 because of your efforts. The next phase of efforts will include:

- Increased waste collection through expansion of NSWMA Fleet
- New standards and protocols for toxic waste management
- Further removal of un recyclable plastics with an expanded Plastics Ban
- Increased Recycling Efforts
 - I think it important to note that in 2015 Jamaica recycled less than 5% of the plastic bottles produced monthly. Today through the efforts of Recycling Partners of Jamaica, Jamaica now recycles more than 42% of the bottles produced monthly. Leading the region.
 - This effort will be bolstered as the Government expands its pilot for plastics separation in Government facilities, and is prepared to support the efforts of Recycling Partners with budgetary support in the next budget cycle.

5. Assertion of Jamaica's Thought leadership on Global Sustainability Issues

Madam Speaker, Jamaica has led the global lobby efforts to strengthen action on Ocean, Environmental & Climate Change Issues over the last 9 years. We will strengthen our position by:

- Ratifying and accession of International agreements,
- Engagement of Scientists at the board level of Environmental Agencies
- The establishment of National Sustainability Advisory Council, which will bring together Academia, Civil Society, and Civil Servants.

- Jamaica will also offer itself as host of International forums including but not limited to:
- Our Oceans Conference 2027
- UN Oceans Conference 2029

6. Restoration of Critical Natural Assets

Madam Speaker, this year, the Government will further advance critical planning with a view to commencing the following activities before the end of the fiscal year:

- Complete the work to re wet the Negril wetlands
- Coastal revetment and engineering works for Hellshire, Rocky Point and Negril
- Complete the restoration Mason River Environmental Management Unit
- South Clarendon Mangrove Replanting in partnership with UWI SODECO, CCam, Forestry Department

7. Expansion, Restoration and Relocation of existing sewage plants

Madam Speaker, sewage and waster water management are amongst the greatest environmental issues we face. The Government recognized the following areas and sewage plants as major environmental risks:

- Soapberry treatment plant (to be expanded & upgraded)
- Sewar lines & Lift Stations in Downtown Kingston (to be replaced)
- Negril plant (to be relocated)
- Harbour View (to be relocated)
- Bogue St James (to be relocated)
- Long Mountain Sewage Lines (to re-route sewar lines)
- Portmore Sewage Ponds (to complete restoration and improve maintenance)

The Government will make necessary investments to remove these areas from the high risk list

8. Climate & Resilience Finance

- Madam Speaker, recognizing the urgent need to mobilize and effectively manage financial resources for adaptation, Jamaica has embarked on an ambitious journey to develop a comprehensive country platform for climate finance. This platform serves as a coordinated approach to attract, manage, and deploy climate finance from various sources, including multilateral funds, bilateral donors, private sector investments, and innovative financial instruments.

- Madam Speaker, The Government of Jamaica, through the Development Bank of Jamaica, is advancing the establishment of the Jamaica Blue Green Facility, a national mechanism designed to mobilize climate finance at scale. The Facility is currently under development with support, mainly from key international partners such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO). This is ably supported with the collaboration of national partners, to provide concessional loans, grants, and technical assistance to accelerate investments in clean energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, and sustainable agriculture, among other climate vulnerable sectors. The BGF represents a transformative step in Jamaica's sustainable development agenda as it will provide critical financial resources needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while also promoting inclusive economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection.

- Madam Speaker, at the heart of Jamaica's climate finance strategy is this Blue-Green Facility, a pioneering initiative designed to streamline and scale up funding for adaptation and resilience projects. This facility represents a holistic approach to climate finance, integrating blue (marine and coastal) and green (terrestrial) ecosystems into a unified funding mechanism.

- Madam Speaker, objectives of the Facility broadly include, mobilizing diverse funding sources, supporting innovative projects, ensuring inclusive and equitable distribution of funds and building local capacity of local institutions. In addition to the Blue-Green Facility, Jamaica has developed robust upstream systems to enhance the effectiveness of climate finance. These systems focus on improving the policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks necessary to attract and manage climate investments.

9. Climate Action through the UNFCCC framework

Madam Speaker, Jamaica will continue to honour its obligations under the Paris Agreement. This year the Government will complete:

- Its updated Nationally Determined Contributions
- Its Long Term Strategy for Emissions reduction
- The National Adaptation

We will also commence work Madam Speaker on Climate Change Legislation.

10. Climate Adaptation

- Madam Speaker, As we can all appreciate, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are on the frontline of climate change. Our islands are disproportionately impacted by rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods. The impacts of these changes are not merely environmental but profoundly socio-economic, threatening our communities, economies, and way of life.

- The excessive heat events that currently persists throughout the Caribbean and Jamaica in particular, and which will seem to stay with us for some time, is testament to the unprecedented challenges faced by the region. Temperature records, Madam Speaker, may very well be broken this year given the current pace. Adaptation is not a choice for SIDS; it is a necessity. We must adapt to survive. Adaptation involves adjusting our natural and human systems to moderate the damage caused by climate change, harness opportunities that may arise, and cope with the consequences. Effective adaptation strategies help reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and ensure sustainable development. This is particularly vital for our coastal communities, agriculture, water resources, health systems, and infrastructure, all of which are critically sensitive to climate variability.

11. Harnessing our Blue Economic Potential

Madam Speaker, the government will engage our multilateral partners to develop a comprehensive plan of action to develop a cohesive succinct strategy for improving economic output in all subsectors within Jamaica's Blue Economy.

12. Energy reimagined

Madam Speaker, Minister Vaz spoke to this at length last week so I will not go into detail again today. Just to reiterate Jamaica's commitment to a green and just transition to renewable energy.

13. Increased River & Watershed protection:

Madam Speaker, the country has rightfully expressed increasing concern over the pollution incidents, illegal extraction, and degradation of the Nations rivers and watersheds. I will highlight two major steps being taken to bolster protection of these natural assets.

- As announced by the Most Honourable Prime Minister we will establish a River Control Authority to bring greater oversight and cohesion to management in this area. This will be launched in 2026.

- Madam Speaker, the Rio Cobre Early Warning System was launched in April 2024, NEPA was tasked to develop and implement a plan to prohibit the direct discharge of trade effluent into the Rio Cobre. In this regard, the Agency undertook a programme of regulatory enforcement and sensitization training to protect the ecology of the Rio Cobre watershed.

The Agency completed the following activities in the FY2024/25:

- Watershed assessed to identify point and non-point pollution sources.
- Review of discharge licenses with a view to identify and treat with breeches.
- High-risk facilities located within the environs of the river were engaged to identify and implement alternative effluent disposal methodologies.
- Twenty-eight local community members trained as environmental/river wardens.

Madam Speaker, NEPA has already advised all holders of discharge licenses that consistent with my directives discharge into the Rio Cobre must cease. They are working with stakeholders to achieve this.

14. Public Education/Intervention

Madam Speaker, the government will intensify public education efforts to spur positive attitudes and behaviours toward the environment. We will embark on a campaign to reduce litter, engage citizens to report environmental abuses, and change particular consumption habits. We will invest \$150million annually in this effort.

This however cannot be accomplished without the support of Civil Society. The most impactful anti-litter campaign was conducted by the Jamaica Environment Trust with "Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica". It is time to re-energize this effort with a proven winner. We will speak more to this in short order.

15. Improvement of Diagnostics Capacity

- MET services, WRA hydrological monitoring stations, MOH live health monitoring to create a water health dashboard.

- Super computer
- Water quality lab

16. Improved Marine Protection & Restoration:

Jamaica currently protects 14% of its EEZ, Jamaica is firm in its commitment to achieve 30% protection by 2030. The technical work to achieve this, will progress in earnest. In the next term of Government our focus will be:

- Increased financial support for existing fish sanctuaries
- Coral reef restoration and re planting, working with UWI Marine Biology lab, the Alligator Head Foundation, and the Nature Conservancy.
- Declaration of Jamaica's entire EEZ as a Shark Sanctuary*

17. Compliance with and Ratification of International Agreements:

Madam Speaker, the regulatory & legislative reforms will achieve Jamaica's compliance and alignment with International treaties including:

- SPAW Protocol
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ). Signed last year, is expected to be ratified this year at the UN Oceans Conference in France.
- Escazu Agreement
- The Government has decided that to allow for fast tracking of the ratification process, we will proceed with an amendment to the Access to Information Act, specific to the Government's Environmental Agencies.

18. Improved & Increased Enforcement Capacity.

• Madam Speaker, it is impatient of debate that the agencies tasked with Environmental Management are understaffed and unable to provide the Nation surveillance required. At a recent meeting with members of Civil Society and the NGO community we committed to the creation of a working group to look at this issue, with the agencies themselves, and the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

• Jamaica has had an environmental warden program in the past, and we intend to reinstitute one this year. This working group will be tasked with review of the reasons that triggered past failure of the program to avoid the same issues in this dispensation.

• We have further committed to empanel a committee with members of Civil society to review and present to the Cabinet recommendations for the strengthening of the NRCA and WLPA legislation to give NEPA, the Forestry Department, MGD, and WRA the necessary tools to protect our environment.

19. Improvements in Town Planning:

• Madam Speaker, sound environmental management requires good planning, and in that vein, I'm proud to advise that 100% of the island is now covered by at least a provisional development order.

• Smart Masterplans for the urban areas of Negril, Half-Way-Tree and Constant Spring have been drafted and are going through the review and consultative stage. These Smart Masterplans are expected to be finalized for approval in the 2025/26 FY. Indeed, the draft Smart Masterplan for Cross Roads is nearing completion. It should be noted that work has begun on the draft Smart Mandeville Masterplan.

• Madam Speaker, many of the local planning areas have been plagued with urban issues including traffic congestion, insufficient parking, uncoordinated

developments, insufficient infrastructure development, loss of open space, crime, illegal vending and improper solid waste disposal, inter alia. The completion of these Smart Master Plans will manifest in the following:

1. Contribution to economic development through the encouragement of opportunities for investment and the generation of employment.
2. Compatibility with surrounding land uses through integration of sustainable physical planning and environmental management.
3. Promotion of cultural, natural and human resources development that support a locally and internationally competitive tourism package.
4. Climate resilience and incorporation of green technologies.
5. Adequate and timely provision of shelter and infrastructure that caters to the needs of its resident and transient population.
6. Recognition of the value of its natural and built resources and efforts to ensure their preservation, conservation and sustainable use.

20. Beach Access

Madam Speaker, in this season of new found causes and commitments, and wild promises. This issue is again front and center. The Government through the NRCA, with broad based consultation including the Private Sector, Civil Society and Public commentary has completed the Beach Access Policy. It is before the Cabinet for final review. In that review process we continue to monitor matters before the Courts. This Policy will balance the rights and expectations of citizens with that of local and foreign investors, while adhering to the Laws of Jamaica.

Madam Speaker, Beach Access doesn't require policy solely. It requires investment, and coordinated developments. It is for this reason the Government through the efforts of the Tourism Enhancement Fund, the UDC, and the Fisheries Division continue their efforts to expand and improve Beach Access. Madam Speaker it is for this reason that the UDC is proud of Harmony Beach Park in Montego Bay. It is for this reason we are proud to announce the development of the Negril Public Beach Park which will provide access to citizens, an improved Craft Market, and an entertainment zone.





Madam Speaker it is for that reason we are happy to announce that in this Fiscal Year, the Tourism Enhancement Fund will commence the development of 3 upgraded Beach Parks, namely:

Priory Bathing Beach (Fantasy Beach)

Success Beach in St James

Pagge Beach in St Mary

I will not encroach into Minister Bartlett's presentation. However Madam Speaker let there be no doubt that this Administration, is building quality Beach Parks for Jamaicans to access freely.

However Madam Speaker, there is an additional point to be made, this Government has through its regulatory process sought to preserve access points to Beaches, long accessed by citizens. I highlight below a pathway which was required for a recent hotel development in Trelawny to facilitate citizen access to the beach without infringing on Private property rights. This is how we are proceeding Madam Speaker.

Weather

Madam Speaker, changing weather patterns caused by Climate Change, require Jamaica to increase its capacity to forecast weather systems, and track our actual, experience.

I am happy to report that final work to bring Jamaica's Radar System online for the Meteorological Service of Jamaica (MET Service) is ongoing and expected to be completed this very week, ensuring that the MET service has the necessary tools for the upcoming Hurricane season, and is not left solely dependent on external sources. In this fiscal year the Government will increase the efforts to modernize the MET Service, digitizing its operations to be able to provide real time measurements and reports.

Madam Speaker, it is well known that Jamaica has a bimodal weather pattern and cyclically we are experiencing dryer conditions currently. The Meteorological service advised in late January that Jamaica had entered into its seasonal drought.

Madam Speaker, for some perspective, in January 2025, a noticeable dryness was observed in all parishes when compared to the 30-year Normal. It was also noticed that seven (7) parishes were recorded as experiencing drought conditions for the 2-month period December/January. This affected mainly our parishes at the Western and eastern tips of the island.

February 2025 displayed a rainfall pattern very similar to the 30-year Normal for that month, with a few areas showing increased dryness and drought conditions (January/February) were determined for nine parishes.

Madam Speaker, in March of this year, rainfall across the island was generally higher than the climatological average; however, a few sections of the island were noticeably dry but no parish experienced a meteorological drought as at the end of the February/March period. It is important to note Madam Speaker that significant wetness was experienced in the parish of Hanover.

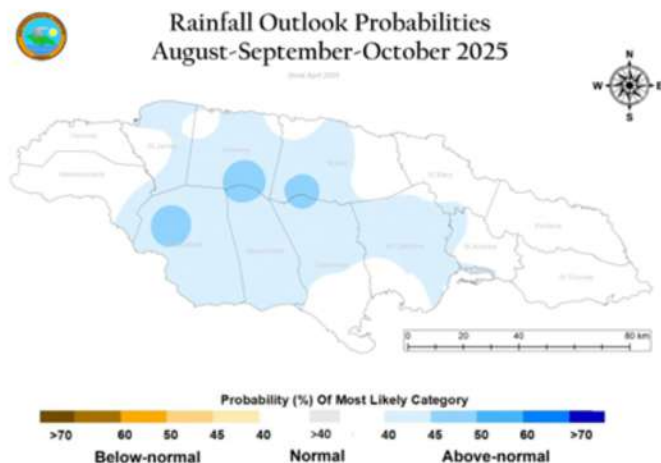
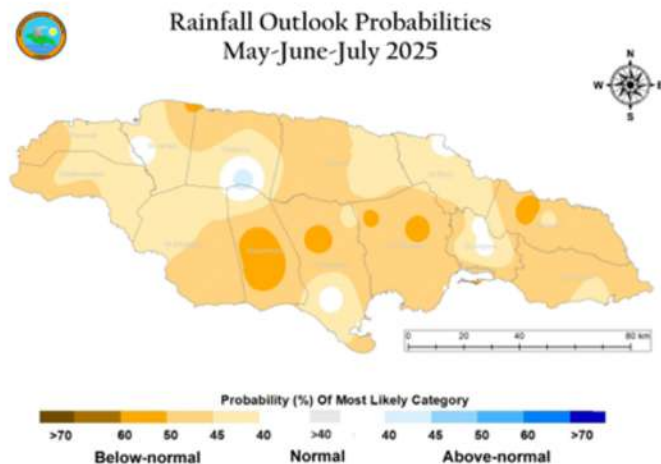
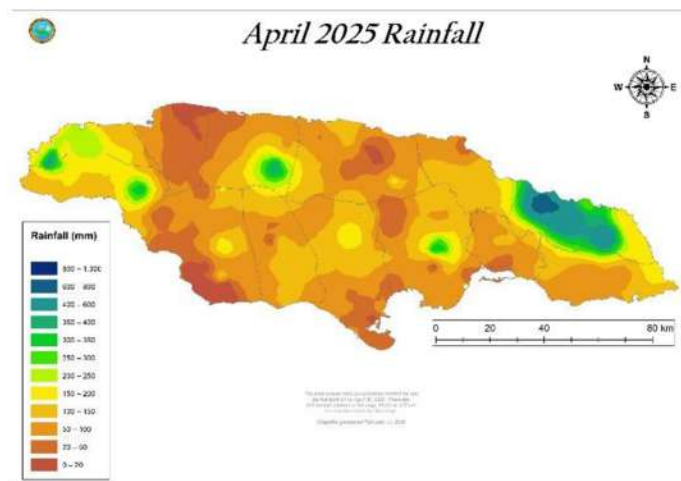
In April 2025 Madam Speaker, there was noticeably more rainfall in the northeastern and western parts of the island, while drier for some central parishes, when compared to the 30-year Normal. Again, fortunately, no parish experienced a meteorological drought at the end of the March/April period. Significant wetness was experienced in Hanover, Westmoreland, Trelawny and Portland.

Moving forward to the short and medium term forecasts, the MET Service is predicting dry conditions are to be expected mainly across eastern and central parishes through to July, as rainfall probabilities fall below normal. From August to October, Madam Speaker, above normal rainfall is more likely, especially in central and some of our western parishes and no impactful drought conditions are

likely.

As you may be able to tell Madam Speaker, our weather patterns and fluctuating more drastically between periods of drought and heavy rainfall than we have seen in recent times and we believe climate change is at the heart of this fluctuation.

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Water

Introduction – Situational Analysis

The vision of Andrew Michael Holness, is simply is to ensure, all Jamaicans have access to potable water and sanitation by 2030. This Government, through the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation has managed the Water Sector with that goal in mind.

Approximately 90% of Jamaicans are served by the National Water Commission, Municipal Systems or Private Suppliers, with the NWC serving approximately 79%, which is an increase from 75%, 5 years ago.

Madam Speaker, this Administration's vision for Jamaica's water sector, focusses on sustainability, resilience, and equitable access.

Here are the Eight key pillars that define this vision:

1. Universal Access to Clean Water.
2. Sustainable Water Management.
3. Energy Use in the Water Sector.
4. Wastewater Recycling and Treatment.
5. Public-Private Partnerships.
6. Education and Awareness.
7. Equitable Resource Distribution.
8. Resilience to Climate Change.

Madam Speaker, this administration, your Government, has invested unprecedented sums though the capital budget of the National Water Commission, and the Consolidated Fund in bringing this vision to life. Significant bureaucratic bandwidth and regulatory focus has been directed toward these pillars. We have made major gains. One hundred and fifty thousand Jamaicans (150,000), have improved water supply through our investments over the last 5 years.

However Madam Speaker, we are targeting universal access, which requires major infrastructure upgrades, and faster deployment of project investment. It is for this reason, that this administration, will invest in your water supply at a rate not seen since the 1980's, and not seen previously to that, since the 1940's.

Madam Speaker, this investment is structured as follows:

- The NWC is this fiscal year, is investing \$10.1 Billion JMD from support from the Consolidated Fund.
- The NWC will, from revenue, also conclude \$1.18 Billion JMD of works already underway.
- The Rural Water Supply Limited is currently investing \$597Million JMD
- The National Works Agency is guiding the investment of \$5Billion JMD through the SPARK Program

• The National Works Agency is guiding the investment of \$5Billion JMD through the SPARK Program

• JSIF, Madam Speaker will also invest \$1.18Billion JMD into 3 water projects in St James (already underway).

• The National Irrigation Commission will invest a further \$4Billion JMD this year (as highlighted by colleague Minister Floyd Green) for our farmers.

Madam Speaker, this Administration is actively investing over \$22Billion JMD into Jamaica's water sector, while unlocking Private investment in excess of \$14.2Billion JMD through PPP's.

Madam Speaker, many of these projects will require more than a single budget year for completion of the construction phases. However the fiscal space to invest at this staggering rate didn't come about by accident, it is through this administration's careful management of the economy. The bureaucratic focus on guiding these investments through the Investment Appraisal Process didn't happen by accident, and these budgetary allocations certainly did not happen by accident.

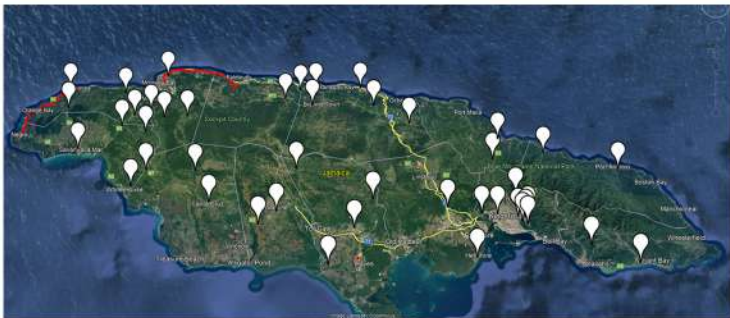
Madam Speaker, I have outlined the vision and strategic framework. I have outlined the budget allocations being made to achieve this vision. Madam Speaker, I will now provide greater details of the activities supporting each pillar.

1. Universal Access to Clean Water:

Madam Speaker, this administration will ensure that all Jamaicans, regardless of their location or socio-economic status, have reliable access to safe and potable water. There is infrastructure work underway in every Parish of this Country. Below is the map of work completed in the last fiscal year.



The next map shows the planned investments for this current fiscal year, which have already started the procurement process or actually broken ground:



Madam Speaker, the distribution of capital projects is island wide, and many of these project are spread across multiple fiscal years because of scale. A lot is often made of announcements, however, we have been diligently working on ensuring the delivery of capital works. Last year, several projects were announced, and I believe it is important that the country is updated on their status. The following projects were completed during the course of the last fiscal year:

NWC:

WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS COMPLETED - 2024/2025				
Constituency	Project	Communities Benefitted	Number of Beneficiaries	Project Cost (Millions)
St. Catherine North West	Orangefield	1. Orangefield Primary to Orangefield Square 2. Blackwood Lane, Orangefield	880	10.80
St. Catherine North East	Bermaddy	Bermaddy district; Bermaddy Primary School	208	14.40
St. Catherine South West	Kimble Pen (Mello Heights)	Kimble Pen - Old Harbour	104	5.20
St. Catherine South West	Family Avenue	Family Avenue - Bodles	52	6.45
Clarendon South West	Springfield Meadows	Springfield, Race Course	384	0.16
St. Elizabeth North Eastern	Runnit	Runnit, Old pepper	260	7.40
St. Elizabeth North Eastern	Number Road	Old well Road, Goshen	40	0.70
St. Elizabeth North Eastern	Content Road	Content Road, Rocky Hill	48	1.80
St. Elizabeth North Eastern	Ginger Piece	Ginger Piece	140	3.50
St James Southern	Elderslie	Jointwood	140	2.00
St James Southern	Cambridge	Speculation, Black River	196	3.30
Saint Elizabeth South Western	Slipe	Slipe, Frenchman	132	6.50
St. Elizabeth South Eastern	Kingdom Hall	Kingdom Hall	320	6.50
Saint Elizabeth South Western	Greater Black River Water Supply – Middle Quarters (Charley Gallant Corner) to New Holland	Middle Quarters, YS, New Holland	212	23.70
Trelawny Northern	Braco	Braco	400	90.00
St Mary Western,	Mason Hall	Salmon Hill, Kid Land, Marson Town, Bandro Hill and Mason Hall	2,000	173.00
Saint Ann North Western- Saint Ann South Western	Brown's Town to Retreat		1,500	29.00
St Andrew East Rural	Constitution Hill	Constitution Hill - particularly Housing Drive	1,600	46.00
St. Elizabeth North Eastern	Whitehall to New Market		2,000	342.00
Kingston East & Port Royal	Port Royal WS Transmission Mains Replacement and M & E Upgrade	Port Royal, Cruise Ship Pier	2,000	3.00
St Andrew North Eastern	Jacks Hill Water Supply (Harriman, Mountain Spring & Seaview Transmission Mains)	Jacks Hill, Harriman Close, tavistock	5,000	315.00

St Catherine Central	Eltham Park WwTP Rehabilitation	Eltham and Sections of Spanish Town	5,000	40.00
St Catherine South Central	Horizon Park WwTP Rehabilitation & Upgrade	Horizon Park	4,000	15.00
St Andrew North Eastern	Mona Heights Sewerage (sewerage of roads in Mona Heights) Side Roads, etc...Geranium, Gerbera, Bergonia, Lilly Way, Anthurium, Butter Cup, Petunia, Camelia Way	Mona Heights areas	100	160.00
St Ann North Western	Minard Replacement Well, St Ann	Browns Town, Egypt, Benin	20,000	30.00
St Ann North Eastern	Lancewood-Exchange	Lancewood in Exchange	400	15.00
Saint Ann North Western-Saint Ann South Western	Retreat to Brown's Town	Enfield, Lyndale, Retreat and Brown's Town	1,500	60.70
St Catherine Southern	Fort Hill in Hellshire		428	8.30
St James West Central	Fairfield		2,000	70.00
St Elizabeth South West	Lancewood-part of the Middle Quarters project		3,200	5.40
St Elizabeth South West	Charley Gallant Corner to New Holland		250	24.00
St Elizabeth South West	Fort Charles - Phase 4	Fort Charles, Hopewell, Sections of Treasure Beach	3,000	180.00

RWSL:

Project Name	Project Cost (\$J)	Estimated Population Benefitting
Maybole Water Supply	\$ 55,000,000.00	400
John Reid Catchment Tank (Rehabilitation of 100,000gal steel tank)	\$ 21,300,000.00	2000
Mile Gully Solar Installation	\$ 14,500,000.00	600
Buff Bay High School Rainwater Harvesting Installation	\$ 12,000,000.00	687
Mt. Pleasant Primary School Rainwater Harvesting Installation	\$ 3,500,000.00	123
Rock Hall Basic School Rainwater Harvesting Installation	\$ 1,400,000.00	14
Mary Mount High School Rainwater Harvesting Installation	\$ 9,000,000.00	961
Lapland Water Supply	\$ 23,000,000.00	1000
Orange Bay Primary Rainwater Harvesting Installation	\$ 8,000,000.00	129
Mother Fleure Water Supply, Phase 1	\$ 20,000,000.00	1261
Total	\$ 167,700,000.00	7175

The following projects are currently in the construction phase:

NWC

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2025

PROJECTS		2024/2025
POTABLE WATER		
STATUS	NWC's Islandwide Water Supply Programme	2024/2025
Announced and work Underway	Jordon Run Well No. 3 - Agualta Vale W/S: Richmond / Highgate & Islington	160,000,000.00
Announced and work Underway	Rock River W/S: Rehabilitation of Existing Source and Transmission Pipeline	75,000,000.00
Announced and work Underway	Storage Tanks Improvement: Supply & Installation of 5 No. Glass Fused Bolted Steel Tanks - Hope, Mount Airy, Lewisville, Happy Grove & Whitehall	194,000,000.00
Announced and work Underway	Morant Bay W/S: Springfield to Seafort & Morant Bay Upgrading Works	250,000,000.00
Announced and work Underway	Rosemount/Camelot/ Discovery WS Upgrade - Supply & Installation of Pipelines, Storage Tanks and M & E Equipment.	120,000,000.00
Sub-Total		799,000,000.00
Greater Mandeville Water Supply Improvement Programme		
Announced and work Underway	Greater Mandeville Water Supply Upgrade: Source Development, Supply & Installation of Pipelines, Storage Tanks and M & E Equipment.	770,000,000.00
Sub-Total		770,000,000.00
Major Potable Water Transmission Main Improvement Programme		
Announced and work Underway	TRANSMISSION MAINS Upgrading: Roaring River to Runaway Bay - Phase 1	100,000,000.00
Sub-Total		100,000,000.00
Kingston & St. Andrew Sewer Expansion Programme		
Announced and work Underway	Land Development Sewers - Material Supply	50,000,000.00
Sub-Total		50,000,000.00



RWSL:

Project Name	Project Cost (\$J)	Estimated Population Benefitting
Rocky Point Unplanned Settlement Water Supply	\$ 19,000,000.00	400
Mother Fleure Water Supply	\$ 20,000,000.00	1261
Spring Gardens Water Supply, Ph-2	\$ 21,000,000.00	1200
Hampshire, Riversdale Water Supply	\$ 315,000,000.00	3500
Top Road Water Supply	\$ 30,000,000.00	800
Cascade Water Supply	\$ 35,000,000.00	550
Watermount Water Supply, Ph-2	\$ 37,000,000.00	7000
Free Hill Water Supply	\$ 118,000,000.00	1500
New Eden Water Supply	\$ 50,000,000.00	485
Bunkers Hill Water Supply	\$ 79,000,000.00	1000
Brandon Hill Water Supply, Ph-2	\$ 55,000,000.00	1500
Mason Hall Water Supply	\$ 173,250,000.00	1100
Thicketts Water Supply	\$ 175,500,000.00	900
New Garden Primary School	\$ 8,800,000.00	100
Petersville Primary	\$ 11,200,000.00	132
Aberdeen High	\$ 9,271,000.00	350
Mason Hall Primary	\$ 8,000,000.00	
Richmond Primary	\$ 8,300,000.00	200
Maldon Primary		
McNie Primary	\$ 11,550,001.00	351
Cascade Primary	\$ 11,350,000.00	180
Rural Hill Primary		130
	\$ 1,196,221,001.00	22639

The following projects have completed the procurement phase and are under contract and will enter the construction phase in a matter of weeks:

NWC:

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2025–2026

PROJECTS		2025/2026
POTABLE WATER		
STATUS	NWC's Islandwide Water Supply Programme	2025/2026
Announced and in Procurement	Black River W/S: Town Centre to Arlington/Parottee Pipeline	238,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Dornoch W/S - Baron Hill Reservoir Replacement (200K Gal)	20,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Dornoch WTP to Baron Hill Reservoir Transmission Main Replacement	205,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Hermitage Dam Rehabilitation Works - Phase 1: Consultancy Services	151,027,200.00
Announced and in Procurement	Jericho Well No. 1: Ewarton to York Street Pipeline	98,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	South Manchester WS - Grove Town to Cross Keys Mains Replacement /Upgrading (Material & Works)	210,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Wakefield/Bunkers Hill Mains Upgrading Phase II - Extension Friendship to Unity Primary School	20,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Christiana Spalding W/S: Two Meetings WTP M&E Rehabilitation	53,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Christiana Spalding WS, Moravia WTP Access Bridge Re-Construction	70,000,000.00

Announced and in Procurement	Constant Spring WTP / Ram's Horn Tunnel Raw Water In-take and Roadway Rehabilitation - St Andrew	50,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Juno Crescent Well Development: M & E Equipment & Transmission Mains	220,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Mount Royal (Portmore) Booster Station Relocation & Upgrade	21,000,000.00
Announced and Completed	Rhyne Park Water Supply Upgrading; Rhyne Park/Edmund Ridge M&E, Pipeline Supply Construction	145,000,000.00
Announced and work Underway	Rosemount/Camelot/ Discovery WS Upgrade - Supply & Installation of Pipelines, Storage Tanks and M & E Equipment.	120,000,000.00

Announced and in Procurement	Santa Cruz WS - Santa Cruz By-Pass Road Mains Repl.	50,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Whitehall to Newmarket W/S: Well & Relift Stations, Tanks and Pipelines	158,000,000.00
	Major Potable Water Transmission Main Improvement Programme	
Announced and in Procurement	KSA TRANSMISSION MAINS Upgrading: Ferry to Rock Pond, St Andrew	404,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Ferry to Rock Pond W/S - Supply & Installation of M&E Pumping Facilities	200,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	KSA TRANSMISSION MAINS Upgrading: Montgomery Corner to National Heroes Circle	50,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	TRANSMISSION MAINS Upgrading: Hellshire Main Road	50,000,000.00
	Sub-Total	704,000,000.00
	SEWERAGE	
	Rehabilitation & Upgrading of Wastewater Treatment Plants	
Announced and in Procurement	Greater Portmore WwTP Rehabilitation - Phase 2	480,000,000.00
	Sub-Total	480,000,000.00
	Kingston & St. Andrew Sewer Expansion Programme	
Announced and in Procurement	University Crescent Sewer	50,000,000.00
Announced and in Procurement	Munroe to Wellington to Hope Road Sewer	1,000,000,000.00
	Municipal Blvd (Portmore) Sewerage	
Announced and in Procurement	Port Royal Sewerage	200,000,000.00
	Sub-Total	1,250,000,000.00

RWSL:

Project	Estimated Cost
Orange Bay/Crystal Spring, Portland	\$ 115,821,428.21
Maroon Town, St. James	\$ 117,213,303.78
Hampshire/Riversdale, St. Catherine	\$ 95,554,506.28
Orange Bay/Crystal Spring, Portland Hampshire/Riversdale, St. Catherine Mason Hall, St. Mary Bamboo, Hanover Various NWC Projects	\$ 381,811,166.37
Thicketts, Ann	\$ 62,215,791.75
Hampshire/Riversdale, St. Catherine	\$ 32,283,553.03
Spring Gardens, St. James	\$ 9,676,105.53
Stepney, St. Ann	\$ 140,000,000.00
	\$ 954,575,854.95

Madam Speaker, this program of work is supported by the major road works being undertaken by the National Works Agency. The Hellshire Main road, which is slated to be widened this year includes, \$450Million of pipe laying.

Madam Speaker, these projects will see a further improvement in water resilience, and service delivery for more than Fifty Thousand (50,000) Jamaicans.

Western Parishes Water Supply and Resilience Improvement Programme

Madam Speaker, the totality of this project will cost \$350million USD. However, the terrible drought which affected Western Jamaica disproportionately in February to May 2024, prompted the bringing forward of phase 1 of the project, which included major capital works to replace transmission main in the parishes of Trelawny, St James, Hanover, and Westmoreland. This phase will cost \$169.3M USD or \$27Billion JMD.

Madam Speaker, this phase of the project involves the upgrading of 28 KM of the transmission main from St James to Trelawny and 37.5 km from Lucea to Negril. This project will benefit over 250,000 Business and Residential customers while facilitating major developments in the Tourism and Residential and Commercial Development Sectors. It is for this reason, Madam Speaker, that the Cabinet has approved the designation of the Western Parishes Water Supply & Resilience Programme as a National Development Project. The construction phase of this project will commence within 3 weeks Madam Speaker, and will last approximately 3 years.

This will reduce water insecurity, significantly reduce Non revenue water, and facilitate continued infrastructure developments in Western Jamaica.

CDB Funded Rural Water Projects

Madam Speaker, as I traverse the length and breadth of Jamaica, and often visit deep rural communities, who face great challenges as it relates to water access, it has weighed on me. The inaccessibility of water affects their cost of living greatly.

This has prompted great focus of this administration in developing and deploying capital investment for these communities as maps would've shown. The Rural Water Supply Improvement Project is being undertaken by the Rural Water Supply Limited and will significantly improve the access and transforming the lives of more than Thirty-Eight Thousand (38,000) Jamaicans across six (6) rural areas, namely:

Targeted Water Supply Scheme	Existing Population to Benefit from Improvements in Water Supply
Agualta Vale/Jordan Run, Southeast St. Mary	12357
Mason Hall, Western St. Mary	3173
Albert Town/Ulster Spring, Southern Trelawny	4010
Union/Balaclava, Northeast St. Elizabeth	4689
Port Morant, Airy Castle, Eastern St. Thomas	5877
Green Park/Bamboo, Northwest St. Ann	8181
Total (No. People)	38287



Increased Service Reliability Through Improvements in Storage Capacity and Upgrading Infrastructure Key Catchment Areas

Madam Speaker, Rural Water Supply Limited recently received approval from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to proceed with procuring consultants for detailed engineering designs and bidding documents. This milestone allows the project to advance as planned while the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MoFPS) and the CDB finalize the financing arrangements. Currently, RWSL and CDB are finalizing the necessary documentation for procuring design services, with the advertisement expected to be published by early June 2025.

Though this project has taken way too long to come to fruition, I can report that preparations for land acquisition are also progressing. In the upcoming month, the NLA will be conducting valuations for the thirteen parcels of land earmarked for water infrastructure in the selected areas.

Greater Mandeville Water Supply Improvement Project

Madam Speaker, this project is being undertaken at a cost of US\$2.7B and is midway in its five year scope. It involves the construction of transmission mains, establishment of pump stations, establishment and/or refurbishing of wells, and the metering of production facilities. The objectives of the project include reducing NRW to below 50%, increasing service reliability and quality of service given to customers and facilitating planned Residential and Commercial Developments in the Service Area.

The National Non-Revenue Water Project

Madam Speaker, losses from NRW continue to be a major challenge to the NWC. As such the entity continues to design and implement programmes and projects aimed at reducing Non-Revenue Water to internationally accepted levels. The NWC will embark on an Island-wide NRW Reduction Programme.

Valued at over US\$340M, the Island-wide NRW Programme which will be done in phases over eleven years, is designed to reduce NRW losses from 72% to 30%. This project is already in procurement through International competitive bidding.

The Benefits to be derived from this programme include:

- A sustainable and efficient water supply system so that all Jamaicans served by the NWC can have a better quality of life.
- Increased water availability for 24/7 service.
- Lower energy and operational costs, resulting in financial sustainability.
- Enhanced resilience against dry periods and climate variability.
- Improved cash flow for infrastructure reinvestment.

Madam Speaker, the NWC's total water production is approximately 336 Mm³/year. By reducing NRW from its current level to 30%, the required water production will drop to 147 Mm³/year, resulting in a savings of 189 Mm³/year. A significant reduction in NRW means that less water needs to be pumped and treated, leading to substantial energy savings. The estimated reduction in electricity costs due to lower production requirements is J\$2.81B per annum. The overall, the potential J\$ savings and cash flow impact from the NRW reduction programme is estimated at J\$10.7B per year, comprising:

- J\$7.7 B in additional revenue from improved billing and collection.
- J\$2.8B in electricity cost savings.
- J\$167 million in chemical cost savings.

Madam Speaker, the benefits of this investment in Kingston & St Andrew and in Portmore are already paying dividends. Expanding nationally is crucial to the sustainability of the NWC.

Irrigation Projects

Madam Speaker, access to water has been a perennial challenge for our farmers for decades. This is a challenge that my administration taken on frontally, and as such we have presided over the most significant expansion of irrigation access in the history of Jamaica. I thank my colleague for his detailed presentation on the subject and reaffirm this Administrations commitment to providing irrigation for our farmers.

Projects in development phase

Madam Speaker, the planning and design phase for these large scale projects cannot be completed in any single year. Significant bureaucratic capacity is being directed to the project development phases for:

- Re development of our major Dams and Reservoirs
- The development of pumped hydro storage in Central Jamaica
- The Replacement of the Yallahs Pipeline
- The upgrade of 5 Major Water Treatment plants
- The Energy Transformation of the sector
- The Development of 100 Community Storage tanks adding 25Million Gallons of storage in Rural Communities.

After more than 40 years of disinvestment in Jamaica's water sector, we have enlisted the help of the World Bank to ensure we are able to move faster with these large scale projects to modernize Jamaica's water sector, and

they have already conducted an incredibly detailed assessment of our sector and are guiding the planning process.

2. Public-Private Partnerships:

Madam Speaker, my Government has actively encouraged collaboration between government, private enterprises, and communities to improve water infrastructure, maintenance, and innovation in water management technologies. To ensure that we are able to execute PPP's in the water sector, we have embarked on a strategic partnership with the IFC to achieve this.

Rio Cobre Water Treatment Plant

This major project has been discussed for a number of years, it has finally entered the construction phase. We are happy to report that this Nationally important project has entered the construct. This project will ensure the supply gap is indeed closed for the parishes of Kingston & St Andrew, Portmore and St Catherine with the provision of 15Million Gallons Daily.

We are targeting completion for the project for the end of the 2026. As we have said in previous presentations in the worst drought Jamaica ever experienced in 2022, KSA & Portmore were short 12 Million gallons daily. That should give an idea of the importance of this \$92Million USD PPP.

Madam Speaker, I also pause to acknowledge the role of the IFC Invest, and PROPARCO who have supported local investors in making this project a reality.

3. Sustainable Water Management:

Madam Speaker, implementing effective strategies for managing water resources, including rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment, and efficient irrigation, to adapt to climate change and ensure long-term water availability. Madam Speaker, as a pillar of our water vision, colleagues should recall that last year we completed work on

- Rainwater harvesting guidelines
- Water Resources Master Plan
- Declaration of 15 new Ecologically Sensitive areas.

The work of the Water Resources Authority is incredibly important in this regard. They are the guardians of Jamaica's water supply. Over the last fiscal year the WRA concluded critical works including:

- Saline Intrusion Assessment of the Rio Cobre/ Rio Minho Limestone Aquifers
- Rio Cobre Moratorium Assessment
- The monitoring Essex Valley Agricultural Development Project (EVADP)

Madam Speaker, the WRA will continue to digitize its operations to also be able to provide real time data when monitoring Jamaica's fresh water. A major priority for the upcoming fiscal year will be the Yallahs Alluvium Aquifer Modelling, which has shown signs of over extraction which must be studied.

4. Energy Use in the Water Sector

Madam Speaker, the water sector is Jamaica's largest user of energy. I have stated in this Honorable House previously that the NWC has experienced bills in excess of a Billion JMD in a single month. That is simply not sustainable. The resilience of Jamaica's water supply due to energy supply was also brought sharply into focus after the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

Madam Speaker, the Government is actively pursuing a suite of projects to bring costs faced by the sector down, while building resilience through initiatives of the NWC, NIC and Rural Water Supply Ltd. They include:

- A 45 MW Floating Photovoltaic System on Mona Reservoir. This \$62Million USD PPP has received its Power generation license and is finalizing its wheeling arrangement and rates with JPS. This project will also enter the construction phase in 2025, and is expected to be complete in 18 months.
- Madam Speaker, the NWC has a suite of 11 projects which are projected when complete to save the NWC \$593Million JMD annually. The table below shows these projects and their respective status:

Project	Description	Status	Cost JMD	Estimated Annual Savings JMD	Estimated Annual Energy Production KWH	Scheduled Completion Date
Forest Hill	The construction of a 350 kW grid tie solar PV facility at Forest Hill Relief Station	Substantially Completed	81,000,000	14,160,000.00	504,000.00	Completed
Leaders Ave	The construction of a 350 kW solar PV facility at Leaders Avenue	Preconstruction Phase	81,000,000	14,160,000.00	504,000.00	31-Oct-25
Frazers Contant	The construction of a 100 kW Battery solar PV facility at Frazers Contant	Not yet Started	20,600,000	6,570,000.00	146,000	30-Oct-25
Mona floating Solar	The Leasing of 12000 Kw Solar PV facility, this power will be wheeled to other facilities	Not yet Started	Monthly lease to be finalized	To be determined	24,381,220	TBA
Wigton Lease Arrangement	The Leasing of 5000 Kw Solar PV Equipment to include solar panels, inverters and other accessories. These equipment will be installed at 11 NWC sites and the power consumed at these sites.	Contractual Phase	Monthly lease to be finalized	233,563,709.20	8,358,100.00	
JPS Meter Mapping	Georeferencing all NWC power use sites.	82% Complete				31-Jul-25
Operation Kill-a-Watt Phase 1	Fostering a culture of energy efficiency within the NWC, through energy, conservation tips, jingle, and most efficient office competitions.	Planning/A approval	5,000,000	To be determined	N/A	30-Sep-25
Operation Kill-a-Watt Phase 2	Enhancing the efficiency of our energy-consuming equipment and systems through installation equipment such as float valves, VFD, Capacitor banks etc.	Planning/A approval	60,000,000	To be determined	N/A	Sep-26
Operation Kill-a-Watt Phase 3	Solarization of six (6) commercial and admin offices	Planning/A approval	73,963,000	13,900,000.00	261,000.00	Dec 31 2026
	The objective is to 1. conduct comprehensive energy audits of 20 prioritized NWC Potable and Wastewater facilities. 2. Carry out capacity Building Training Plan and Capacity Building Workshops					

NDC Partnership Audit	3. Carry out Project Management, Coordination and Administration Training for Energy Staff	5%	64,000,000.00		N/A	March 31 2026
Greater Mandeville LNG Project	The installation of 2700 Kw Packaged LNG power plants at Gutters and Spur Trac.	Planning/F easibility Phase	1,000,000.00 0.00	310,810,000.00	To be determined	TBA

- The procurement of 42 New Pumps, which will increase reliability and reduce energy usage. These are being procured at a cost of \$900 million JMD with delivery of pumps expected before December 2025.
- The NWC will this year procure 12 major generators that will support pumps and treatment plants which support major health facilities nationally. This will be done at a cost, Madam Speaker, of \$500Million JMD.
- The RWSL, has prioritized installing Rural water solar supply systems, and have completed the installation of three solar systems this financial year - Mile gully in Western St Mary, Lapland in Southern St James and Mother Fleure in North East Manchester. Madam Speaker, three other systems will be completed in the first quarter of 25/26 - Free Hill in Northwest St Ann, Bunkers Hill in Northern Clarendon and New Eden in West Portland.
- The NIC has included solar energy components for all three Major Irrigation systems under development (Essex Valley, Southern Plains Irrigation Scheme, and Pedro Plains) to build resilience and to manage costs.

Madam Speaker, an issue which MP's and indeed the public often complain to me about is the issue of single phase power, which often times disrupts supply for potable water. Minister Vaz, and I will convene high level meetings with the JPS and the NWC, while engaging the OUR in relation to service standards to bring this vexed issue to an end. Though the discussions and planning process is in its infancy, we expect to see improvements this year, significantly improving service delivery.

Madam Speaker, water is indeed life, but the water sector needs resilient, sustainable energy to live.

5. Wastewater Recycling and Treatment:

Madam Speaker, expanding the capacity to treat and recycle wastewater, ensuring water is used efficiently and minimizing environmental impact is a critical pillar of both environmental and public health and economic growth. It is an area which has not seen the required investment to keep pace with population growth or retire assets at the end of their useful life. This administration is cognizant of that and is moving to address it.

Expansion of the Soapberry Wastewater Treatment Facility

Madam Speaker, environmentalists often refer to the "post Soapberry era" in relation to the Kingston Harbor. It is however time for a new era in waste water management for corporate area. The current plant is at capacity and is only a secondary treatment facility. This Administration has prioritized the upgrade of this facility.

This project is valued at US\$114.9M and involves the expansion of the facility from its current treatment capacity of 75,000 m3/day to 150,000 m3/day. This project is slated to facilitate the expansion of the KSA Sewer Network, thus creating opportunities for increased Residential and Commercial Development; increase compliance with the NEPA Standards and facilitate agricultural use of the facility's output to offset the current usage of potable water from the Rio Cobre.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to report, that KPMG has completed the work of designing the appropriate transaction to facilitate this expansion through divestment. This will allow the Government to go to market with this transaction this year.

Madam Speaker, the expansion of the sewer network in Kingston and St Andrew is critical to the future development within the parish, both to facilitate greater densities, and safeguard ground water. This year the NWC will be investing \$1.4 Billion JMD into the laying of Sewer lines along Wellington Drive, Monroe Road, Retreat Avenue, Seymour Avenue, and Old Hope Road.

Madam Speaker there are two areas of deep concern which must be addressed forthwith.

- The first is the situation in Downtown Kingston, with collapsing sewer mains. The situation is untenable, and cannot continue. An overhaul of the entire potable water, sewage and drainage networks is required for most of Central & West Kingston. I have been directed to ensure that project design for this massive infrastructure need is completed this year. However, and though there is currently in excess of \$200Mil JMD of works underway on Spanish town road to relieve issues there, I have directed that a further \$450Million be immediately deployed to the worst affected areas within the market district to provide immediate relief. The NWC has also commenced procurement of an additional "Hi vac truck" to be stationed in Downtown to ensure, blockages are dealt with immediately. Madam Speaker, the infrastructure is old, the investment has been inadequate, we however must ask our citizens not to compound the situation with illegal dumping into sewer mains.

- The second relates to the Greater Portmore Treatment Plant and sewage lines in Edge water, and Portsmouth communities. Madam Speaker, the NWC upgraded the Eastern section of the Greater Portmore Treatment Plan at a cost of \$900Million JMD. A similar upgrade is required for the Western section of the plant, and that will be undertaken next year. However the NWC will take 3 immediate steps to significantly alleviate the issues for residents and students in the area, including:

- Procurement of 2 new pumps to cut overflows. These have already been purchased and are being installed now.
- Significant increase in the maintenance activity.
- Installation of perimeter fencing and security posts to stop the illegal access of cesspool trucks who have been

illegally discharging at the facility.

Residents of Edgewater and Portsmouth can be assured that the NWC will also be relaying new sewers in their communities to cut leakage which has made living conditions uncomfortable.

6. Education and Awareness:

Madam Speaker, we have no pillar, for managing lies, about water quality. This Administration fully expects, that after a particular event, this Leader of the Opposition will return to facts, decency, and honesty regarding same.

Madam Speaker, promoting water conservation practices and educating citizens on the importance of protecting water resources for future generations is an absolute critical pillar for sustainability. Madam Speaker, the MEGJC and the JIS, have been tasked to develop and lead a major public education campaign to ensure the population is clear on the need for conservation and protection of water sources.

7. Equitable Resource Distribution:

Ensuring that water distribution is fair and equitable, especially in underserved rural or informal communities, to reduce disparities in access. Madam Speaker, when one reflects on the maps show earlier, there can be no question as to whether there is equity in resource distribution

National Drought Mitigation Program (Black Tank Program)

Madam speaker we have gone further, understanding that many families are outside of the Utility Footprint, and also those within an area, which is unreliably served despite being within the utility footprint. Colleagues will recall my announcement of 50,000 tanks to be distributed. I am happy to report to this house that the first 10,000 of these tanks are currently being distributed. The Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, is already proceeding to procure the next 10,000 in line with this initiative.

NWC Amnesty

Madam Speaker, in November 2024, the Prime Minister announced that the NWC would provide an amnesty to customers cut off from the Utility for more than six months. This amnesty has benefitted Pensioners, Path recipients, and members of the Disabled community up to a 100% reprieve, and up to 50% for other categories of customers.

Madam Speaker, as at Friday, May 16th, 2025, over 34,000 customers have engaged the process, and are seeking to benefit from the amnesty. Madam Speaker, total reconnections so far is 7,901. This has yielded over \$547 Million JMD in revenue collected for the Commission that would've been uncollectible otherwise.

However Madam Speaker, we have written off over \$1.4

Billion JMD of debt from those who most needed it, restoring the supply of water and returning dignity to households.

8. Resilience to Climate Change:

Madam Speaker, strengthening infrastructure and policies to cope with the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and storms, which can affect water availability and quality, is critical. The Government is actively pursuing a strong Adaptation program, which includes a significant investment as has been outlined previously.

Madam Speaker, Jamaicans listening can see through our strategic framework and suite of infrastructure projects, that my administration is well advanced in achieving water security for all Jamaicans.

Conclusion

Madam Speaker I thank colleagues for their time and attention, I hope citizens are indeed clearer on how we plan to develop sustainably, and what that means for Environmental Protection, Climate Resilience, and Water Supply.

Thank you.

