

Water Crisis in South East St. Mary: Urgent Action Needed as Communities Face Severe Shortages

St. Mary, Jamaica – 10 December 2024 – Residents across South East St. Mary, particularly in Belfield, Richmond, and Annotto Bay, are grappling with a severe water shortage that has persisted for over two months. Mechanical and electrical failures in the region's water supply systems have left communities with inconsistent and inadequate access to clean water, creating a crisis that demands immediate attention.

According to the National Water Commission (NWC), mechanical issues at the Highgate pump have taken the facility offline for repairs, cutting off a critical supply line to key areas, including Belfield and Richmond. Compounding the problem, an electrical failure at another pump in Annotto Bay has left large sections of the constituency without reliable water access. Despite weeks of disruptions, residents have yet to receive a clear timeline for resolution.

Christopher Brown, the People's National Party (PNP) MP candidate for South East St. Mary, has sounded the alarm over the ongoing crisis, calling for urgent intervention.

"Richmond, Belfield, Annotto Bay, and surrounding areas are in desperate need of immediate assistance," said Mr. Brown. "This is not just an inconvenience; it's a full-blown crisis that is severely impacting daily life and public health. The affected residents have been patient, but the situation has now become untenable. The authorities must act without delay to restore a consistent and reliable water supply to these communities."

The prolonged lack of water has left households and businesses in distress, disrupting daily routines, endangering hygiene, and posing significant health risks. With no clear resolution in sight, residents are demanding swift action from the NWC and relevant government agencies to expedite repairs and provide relief.

Mr. Brown further emphasised that while immediate repairs are essential, a sustainable, long-term solution must also be prioritised to prevent recurring disruptions in the future.

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