

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Hon. Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, J.P., M.P.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 14, 2014

Mr. Speaker,

I rise this morning to advise this Honourable House that, resulting from the very heavy rains that pounded the island overnight, there has been a major wall collapse at Palmetto Road.

The affected area is east of the section of the road that has been the subject of attention for the past year. Today's collapse caused debris to rain on the house below.

The Ministry engineers are on site, evaluating the damage and the structure of the wall and the underlying foundation. Equipment has been brought on site to clear the road to allow the Perimeter Lane residents free access and egress. The cleanup to the affected houses will commence as soon as the engineers can confirm that there is no further danger of collapse.

Palmetto road has been closed from Roberts Avenue through to St. Monica's Road.

Electric poles were felled in the incident, and from very early this morning, BELCO, Ministry of Public Works and the police department mobilized very early into the incident, and appear to have the situation under control. By-standers are asked to

cooperate with the authorities by not crowding the area to ensure maximum safety.

The Government will be working with the affected area residents, who have undoubtedly been traumatized by this early morning experience.

The department has also been advised of other rock-face collapses and area flooding, and all reported complaints are being evaluated.

I will continue to update this Honourable House on the developments and resolution to these challenges.