



## Ministerial Statement

**Senator Lynne A. Woolridge, J.P.**  
**THE JUNIOR MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Presented: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

### **Wall and Flooding issues that took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Madam President,** I wish to provide the Senate with a brief summary of the issues that took place due to the inclement weather in the early morning of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Between 5:00 and 5:30am on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 there was a collapse of a wall on Palmetto Road following a substantial quantity of rainfall. The failure of the wall, which formed part of a large drainage pit, caused a large torrent of water and masonry to cascade down towards Perimeter Lane. The drainage pit is located in Palmetto Road just to the west of the junction with Bishop Spencer Road. The collapse of the wall and the resultant wash out of storm water caused:

- damage to the utility services in the area with several utility poles being dislodged,
- washout to a bank supporting Palmetto Road,
- damage to the property at 6 Perimeter Lane belonging to Mr. John Roach. This property was also flooded as a result of damage to a water pipe.

- closure of Palmetto Road between Roberts Avenue and Dutton Avenue

The Utility companies responded rapidly to the situation. Belco had to replace several poles and cables. By early evening on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 power had been restored to the customers in the area.

The Ministry of Public Works had a workforce and equipment on site cleaning up the area, removing broken sections of wall and tidying up other bits of debris.

The Ministry of Public Works has inspected the site and is confident on the stability of the embankment supporting Palmetto Road. Palmetto Road was reopened to one lane on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Due to the flooding that took place on their property, the Ministry of Public Works has made arrangements for Mr. and Mrs. Roach to be given alternative accommodation. They will be moved back as soon as their property is habitable again.

The costs of the wall repair to Palmetto Road and liability, and the timelines for the repair have yet to be determined. However this issue will not affect the work on the collapsed wall that occurred on the property belonging to 12 Perimeter Lane. The repair of the wall at 12 Perimeter Lane will go out to tender before the end of February 2014.

**Madam President,** I wish to take a moment to recognize the response of the emergency services, the police, fire service, and the utility companies, who

attended the situation on Palmetto Road very quickly as well as the workforce from the Ministry of Public Works.

**Madam President,** other issues that were reported to the Ministry of Public Works include:

- Rock collapse on the boundary of the property to 19 Marsh Folly Road which also affects the access to some properties on Gospel Lane. The Ministry of Public Works also removed a tree that was liable to fall on this property.
- Rock collapse behind block 18 on Cedar Park Road which also caused flooding to a property.
- Collapse of a retaining wall at the old Prison site at St George.
- Collapse of a retaining wall on Camp Hill Road
- Collapse of a retaining wall on Hill View Estate
- Collapse of an earth embankment at Riviera Estate
- Flooding of the apartment at 10 Middle Town Lane
- Flooding to a property at 36 Roberts Avenue.
- Flooding to a property on Crisson Avenue.
- Flooding to a property on Melville Road

**Madam President,** we can be extremely thankful that despite the inclement conditions, there were no fatalities or reports of injuries.

Thank you **Madam President**