



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Public Works

Ministerial Statement

Current Public Potable Water Supply Status in Bermuda

Delivered By

The Hon. Patricia J. Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP

Minister of Public Works

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Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide the House with information on the current public potable water supply status in Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, the Bermuda Weather Service is indicating that the current rainfall in Bermuda is somewhat normal. The total rainfall for the year to date, in terms of inches, is 25.55 inches whereas the normal average is approximately 26 inches.

It seems, **Mr. Speaker**, that consistent rain during the first half of the year has mitigated what is an usually high demand early in the spring season. During the months of April 2014 and May 2014, the Ministry of Public Works sold an approximate total of 24.7 million imperial gallons of water -

with 2.7 million of this total sold to the water truckers. Currently All reservoirs are averaging approximately Eighty Percent (80%) of Capacity across all systems.

Mr. Speaker, you may be aware that the Ministry of Public Works currently has the ability to supply potable water at Six (6) water treatment facilities and four (4) water trucker's outlets across the island and we are currently managing the demand on the system. There are three discrete supply areas which comprise of the Eastern, Central and Western supply Zones.

Mr. Speaker, the **Eastern Zone** services St. George's Parish and has one treatment facility, which supplies water through a pipeline to individual properties as well as to a Mobile Water Truckers outlet. Due to the current demand on the system, **Mr. Speaker**, we have opened the Mobile Water Truckers outlet from Monday to Friday for 8 hours daily.

There are several sources of water available in the **Central Zone** including three treatment facilities owned by the Ministry. **Mr. Speaker**, these are; the Tynes Bay Seawater Reverse Osmosis Plant, the Prospect Water treatment Plant and the Devon Springs Water treatment Plant.

Mr. Speaker, these facilities service Pembroke, Devonshire, Smith's and Hamilton Parishes as well as provide water to the North Shore and the Frog Lane Trucker's Outlets, respectively. The Truckers outlets in the Central Zone have generally been available Twenty Four (24) hours a day every day for this calendar year to date. The Ministry also has a connection

to **Bermuda Waterworks Ltd**, which can provide a supplementary source of water if available and required.

Mr. Speaker, the **Western Zone** is serviced by a single water treatment facility - which provides water to the western portion of Southampton and Sandy's Parish. The Ministry has realized challenges during earlier periods of the year in this Zone due to the high demand in this discrete area. Currently, the Western Zone is operating under normal conditions. The Ministry will continue to manage the distribution system in order maintain adequate water levels in the reservoirs for distribution into the piped system and truckers outlets each day.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry monitors the water production, supply and usage in its systems daily. The goal, of course, is to ensure that all residents have access to potable water.

Mr. Speaker, while managing the water situation as best it can, the Ministry is currently working on ways to mitigate the effects of future water shortages if and when they occur.

These approaches are as follows: In the Eastern Zone, the Ministry's Containerized Seawater RO plant located at Ships Wharf is operational and available to provide supplementary water supply to the BLOC potable water system and by extension to the BLOC existing water truckers' outlet if Necessary.

Mr. Speaker, In the Western Zone, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bermuda Government and Bermuda Waterworks Ltd, the was approved by Cabinet, has already increased water supply to the western end of the Island. This MOU has a direct impact to the western parishes and Governments Western Distribution system.

Mr. Speaker, the current phase of this MOU sees the Governments Western distribution system having the ability to be supplemented with potable water by Bermuda Waterworks. This supplementary supply will allow the Government to better meet future demands required by its clients in the western end of the island, which will include the water truckers.

Mr. Speaker, In addition to the Bermuda Government and Bermuda Waterworks initiative, there is a resource sharing arrangement between the West End Development Corporation and the Bermuda Government. The two entities can provide potable water to each other's distribution system if either has excess supply.

In any water supply system there will always, at some point, be challenges to ensuring that all points of access to water remain open. Mr. Speaker, one of the major challenges that the Ministry faces is that some major equipment and parts used to maintain the water system are very specialized. This means that they are specialty orders and cannot be bought off the shelf.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry is doing all it can to maintain and to increase supply where possible. It is not practical or sustainable, however, to have

vast amounts of production or storage capacity to meet extreme instantaneous or unusually high demands. **Mr. Speaker**, the funding needed to build and maintain the system that can handle all situations would be prohibitive.

Mr. Speaker, the first and best solution still remains the same as used by Bermuda residents for generations - and that is to simply control our water usage. Therefore, the Ministry recommends that all residents manage their water consumption as much as possible to ensure the effects of any water possible shortage are not exacerbated. This will ensure our water infrastructure is not unnecessarily strained. Managing water consumption can be achieved by, for example, taking shorter showers, doing less loads of laundry, and not running the water continuously while washing dishes.

Mr. Speaker, residents must be encouraged to monitor their **water tank levels** and to **not let them run empty before** placing an order from a water trucker ... as there is no guarantee of quick deliveries due the possibility of an instantaneous spike in demand on the trucking services.

Mr. Speaker, it is advised that residents should endeavor to give trucking companies trucker at least **seven (7) days notice** to avoid being caught without water. This action will lessen the effects of a sharp spike in demand and reduce the backlog in orders.

Mr. Speaker, If residents and businesses don't manage their own water supplies, the Ministry will continue to be challenged in times of an extreme dry spell.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.