

Floodgates for Bog Walk Gorge

Minister Robert Montague, has said that three new floodgates are to be constructed in the Bog Walk Gorge, St. Catherine, to assist in curtailing the loss of lives during heavy rains.

The Minister, who was speaking at a press conference in observance of May as Hurricane Preparedness Month, at the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Kingston, on Wednesday (April 28), said that the floodgates will be constructed at a cost of \$100 million and form part of a two-phase mitigation strategy. The floodgates will be constructed at Dam Head, Kent Village and Bog Walk, and will be undertaken by the Department of Local Government partnering with the St. Catherine Parish Council, ODPEM and the National Works Agency (NWA).

"We are hoping in phase two of the project to put in video boards, so that persons can flash warning signs to motorists. We also will be hoping to use those video boards to flash the identification of missing children," he added. The Director General said that the floodgates should be ready before the start of the hurricane season, in June or shortly after.

The 2010 North Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, is expected to be an active one with predictions for eight hurricanes with four of them to be intense.