



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention: All News Editors

Successful Post-Melissa Environmental Health Assessment Conducted in Westmoreland

Montego Bay, Jamaica – Friday, December 05, 2025 — The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), through the Westmoreland Environmental Health Team, has successfully completed its Post-Melissa Environmental Health Assessment Blitz, which took place on November 18-20, 2025. The large-scale initiative, designed to rapidly evaluate environmental health conditions across the parish following the recent disaster, has been hailed as a resounding success.

The assessment focused on critical environmental health indicators, including community sanitation, safety of water supply sources, vector control status, solid waste disposal, and food safety risks. Teams covered multiple communities across the parish, generating timely data to guide ongoing public health interventions.

This strengthened response was made possible through strong inter-regional collaboration, with approximately thirty-seven (37) Public Health Inspectors volunteering from the Southeast Regional Health Authority (SERHA) and the Northeast Regional Health Authority (NERHA) to support the Westmoreland Health Department local team. Their combined effort significantly increased the parish's capacity to complete the assessment in a single coordinated blitz.

Parish Manager for Westmoreland Public Health Services, Mrs. Novlin Leslie Little, commended the teams for their dedication:

“The success of this assessment demonstrates the power of positive partnership and the unwavering commitment of our public health teams. Our inspectors worked tirelessly in communities still recovering from Hurricane Melissa, ensuring that we gathered the information

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needed to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents. We are deeply grateful to our colleagues from SERHA and NERHA for standing with Westmoreland during this critical time.”

Mrs. Leslie Little also indicated that this initiative would not have been successful without the steadfast support of the Negril Chamber of Commerce and the Jamaica Hotel Tourist Association, Negril Chapter, who provided accommodation for the Inspectors.

The data gathered is now being analyzed and will directly inform targeted public health actions, including water quality monitoring, vector control operations, and environmental sanitation issues.

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