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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

138H MAXFIELD AVENUE
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November 27, 2012

STATEMENT FROM DR. the HON. OMAR DAVIES re: HIGHWAY 200 NORTH-SOUTH LINK

Reference is made to an article entitled 'Court Battle looms over HIGHWAY 2000 North South Link' which appeared on Go-Jamaica on November 25, 2012. In that article it is suggested that 'public consultation guidelines' in relation to the implementation of the Project are being breached. This assertion is simply not true. I wish to state categorically that no work on any section of the Highway will be done prior to the required public consultations being held and the relevant NEPA permit obtained. Let me use this medium to give an update on the status of the applications for the relevant environmental permits as well as the public consultations for the construction of the corridor.

1. Section 2 (Linstead to Moneague). This section which was being constructed by Bouygues Travaux Publics is incomplete; work was suspended as a result of geotechnical issues. Public consultations were held in 2007 and the Environmental Permit was issued on December 4, 2007.
2. Section 1 (Caymanas to Linstead). The application for the Environmental Permit was submitted to NEPA on April 27, 2012. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has been prepared and public meetings were held on October 10 and 11 respectively. The public was further provided with a further period of 30 days within which to comment. This period expired on November 12 and comments received from the public and other stakeholders are included as part of the final report which has already been submitted to NEPA for their consideration.
3. Section 3 (Moneague to Ocho Rios) For this section, the application for the Environmental Permit was submitted to NEPA on June 13, 2012. The EIA Report has been prepared and public meetings have been scheduled for December 11 and 12 respectively. This will be followed by a further 30 day period to allow the public to make any further comments. As in the case of the other two sections, any comments from the public/stakeholders as well as mitigation measures where required will be subsequently submitted to NEPA for its consideration.

As it relates to the groundbreaking ceremony for the North-South Link, scheduled for December 5, 2012, this is only in respect of recommencement work on Section 2 (Mount

Rosser Bypass).

Additionally, work on Sections 1 and 3 will not commence until an EIA Permit has been issued for each Section. As per advisories issued during our consultations with the public, I am once again re-iterating that work is not planned to start on any of these sections before October, 2013.

I wish to assure all stakeholders associated with the Project that this Ministry and its Agencies are very aware of its importance to national development and that it will be done in a manner commensurate with all the regulatory requirements necessary for its implementation.

Information concerning the EIA studies is available on NEPA's website at www.nepa.gov.jm.

Omar Davies
Minister of Transport, Works & Housing