

CEPEP, URP TO JOIN SPEYSIDE CLEAN-UP

The Tobago House of Assembly has removed close to 12,000 cubic yards of sargassum from beaches in Speyside, but the seaweed continues to trickle into the area.

Chief Secretary Orville London is satisfied with the work that has been done to clean-up Speyside so far. He said the Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) and Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) will assist with the clean-up efforts.

“Based on the information I have,” London said, “a total of 1,983 truckloads or approximately 12,000 cubic yards of seaweed was removed from Speyside.

“Of course this doesn’t count the seaweed that was removed from

the Magdalena and other areas.”

The Assembly, London said, will collaborate with agencies outside of Trinidad and Tobago to find a suitable solution for the seaweed influx.

“It is not a Tobago problem, not a T&T problem, not a regional problem only, and therefore there are a number of entities (that are also affected) and I think the idea of having this treated as a regional issue has gained currency throughout many of the countries that are treating with it.

“I will say, however that we can consider ourselves fortunate to a certain extent because many of our beaches have been relatively unaffected.”

Some of the areas hit hardest by the water shortage include Plymouth, Turtle Beach, Mt Grace and Charlotteville.



NIB VISIT: Niala Persad-Poliah, left, Executive Director at the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago is in discussion with Chief Secretary Orville London during Tuesday’s (August 25, 2015) meeting at the Office of the Chief Secretary, Administrative Complex in Calder Hall.

FORT KING GEORGE CLOSED FROM AUG 29

Fort King George will be closed to the public from Saturday (August 29, 2015) to facilitate preparations for Monday’s (August 31) Independence Day fireworks display.

The Division of Tourism and Transportation has issued a public notice stating that the Fort will be reopened on Tuesday (September 1). The annual fireworks ceremony is will take place at 8 p.m. at the Fort. Vehicular traffic is prohibited at

the Fort but the public can view the fireworks from within Scarborough. From 8 a.m. on Monday, the 2015 Tobago Independence Parade will begin at the Bacolet field adjacent to the Dwight Yorke Stadium. It ends at Gardenside Car Park in Scarborough. The public can also tune in to Chief Secretary Orville London’s Independence Day Address, which will be broadcast from 6.45 a.m. on Tobago Channel 5 and from 7.15 a.m. on 95.5FM.

WELLS ACTIVATED TO EASE TOBAGO’S WATER WOES

Tobago’s water shortage is being addressed by the activation of two wells on the island.

Chief Secretary Orville London, who has criticised the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) for its lack of preparedness and infrastructure on the island to deal

with the current situation, said he met with WASA officials on Tuesday (August 25) for an update.

“To bring more water into the system, they have actually activated two wells, the recently dug well at Claude Noel Highway and one at Arnos Vale,” London explained. “The water from these wells,

according to my information is now in the system.”

The Chief Secretary said Tobago will only have greater predictability of its water supply once the Hillsborough Dam is desilted. The Dam’s water level is still very low.

“Until the weather changes I do not see any hope of the situation

improving significantly,” he said. “I did get a commitment with respect to the Hillsborough Dam, my information is that another tender has been out. I hope that when this Tender is approved the funding is made available so the desilting of the Dam can take place within the next fiscal or calendar year.”