

MEDIA RELEASE

June 15, 2024

Alleged Arson Attack at HDC's Water Tank Farm Facilities, Olera Heights, San Fernando

On Saturday, June 15, 2024, an alleged arson attack occurred at the Olera Heights Housing Community in San Fernando.

The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) understands that tyres were placed close to the community's tank farms and set on fire. As a result, two 3500-gallon water tanks were destroyed, and the transmission and feeder lines that supply water from the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) to the tanks and apartments within the Development were slightly damaged. The fire was contained within the area of the tank farms. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Representatives from the San Fernando City Corporation assisted the HDC in isolating and removing the damaged tanks which are expected to be replaced by Sunday, June 16, 2024. The transmission and feeder lines are currently being repaired by HDC's staff.

Minister of Housing and Urban Development Camille Robison-Regis condemned the alleged attacks. She said an investigation is imminent and those found guilty will be prosecuted for destroying Government property and charged with other criminal offence(s) governing similar attacks. Chairman of the HDC Noel Garcia described the incident as unfortunate but was thankful that residents in the community were not harmed. Managing Director Jayselle McFarlane warned that burning the tanks can negatively impact the limited water supply currently being distributed to the community, adding that these attacks can exacerbate the water issues for all residents within the Development.

The HDC wishes to reiterate that its tank farms are fully operational and delivered a pipe-borne water supply to residents on Monday, June 10, 2024. It must be noted that the HDC established measures to regulate the water supply at Olera Heights. However, the Development is currently on a water schedule. In a press release dated Monday, May 13, 2024, WASA stated, "The harsh, five-month dry season has shrunk Trinidad and Tobago's Water supply by 35 million gallons a day." Emergency measures were put in place to mitigate these challenges including a redistribution of its supply and the revision of national water supply schedules. As such, many HDC communities will be affected by the revised water schedules.

Residents are urged to visit the WASA's website and social media pages for updates on their community's water supply schedules.

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