



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

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***** POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE 18 GRADUALLY BECOMING BETTER ORGANIZED... TROPICAL STORM WARNING STILL IN EFFECT... *****

A **TROPICAL STORM WARNING** remains in effect for Jamaica as the developing Area of Low Pressure over the west-central Caribbean Sea become better organised as it moves closer to the island, and has the potential to develop into a tropical cyclone later today. This means that tropical storm conditions pose a possible threat to Jamaica within 36 hours.

At 5:00 a.m. **Potential Tropical Cyclone Number 18** was centred near latitude 14.2 degrees North, longitude 76.9 degrees West. This is about 420 kilometres (260 miles) south of Kingston, Jamaica or 471 kilometres (293 miles) southeast of Negril Point, Jamaica.

The Disturbance is moving toward the north near 11 km/h (7 mph) and a more north-westward motion is expected today and forecast to continue for the next few days.

Maximum sustained winds are near 55 km/h (35 mph) with higher gusts. The deep convection is becoming better organized and **Potential Tropical Cyclone Number 18** is expected to become a tropical storm today, and could be near hurricane intensity as it passes near the Cayman Islands in the northwestern Caribbean.

On the forecast track, the Disturbance is expected to continue moving towards Jamaica today and, **be near Jamaica by late this evening or early on Tuesday**, and near or over the Cayman Islands late Tuesday into Wednesday. While the system is in the vicinity of Jamaica, it is expected to produce **locally heavy rainfall and strong, gusty winds**, primarily over eastern and southern parishes. Landslides should also be anticipated in vulnerable sections of the island.

For the marine areas, the forecast is for widespread showers and thunderstorms, which may be heavy at times, **with strong gusty winds up to tropical storm force** to affect all marine zones today, especially inshore and offshore the south coast.

All small craft operators including fishers from the cays and banks should by now be in port and are urged to complete their necessary safety precautions without delay.

The Meteorological Service continues to monitor the progress of Potential Tropical Cyclone Number 18, and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further Releases.

The next Bulletin on this system will be issued at 8:00 a.m. today.

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