



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

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BULLETIN No: 5

***** POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE EIGHTEEN EXPECTED TO BECOME A DEPRESSION SOON.... TROPICAL STORM WARNING STILL IN EFFECT*****

A TROPICAL STORM WARNING remains in effect for Jamaica as the Area of Low Pressure over the west-central Caribbean Sea continues to become better organized while moving closer to the island and is forecast to strengthen to a **tropical depression later today**. This means that tropical storm conditions are expected to affect Jamaica within 24 hours.

At 7:00 a.m. Potential Tropical Cyclone Number 18 was centred near latitude 14.8 degrees North, longitude 76.8 degrees West. This is about 355 kilometres (220 miles) south of Kingston or 410 kilometres (255 miles) southeast of Negril Point, Jamaica.

The disturbance continues to move northward near 11 km/h (7 mph). A turn to the northwest is expected later today thereafter it is expected to continue in this direction over the next few days. Maximum sustained winds are near 55 km/h (35 mph/h) with higher gusts. This system is expected to become a tropical depression or tropical storm today with additional strengthening forecast thereafter.

On the forecast track, the disturbance is expected to continue moving towards Jamaica today into tonight and, be near Jamaica by late Monday evening, or early Tuesday morning and near or over the Cayman Islands Tuesday into Wednesday.

While the potential tropical cyclone is in the vicinity of Jamaica, it is expected to produce locally heavy rainfall and strong, gusty winds, primarily over eastern and southern parishes today and Tuesday. Landslides should also be anticipated in vulnerable sections of the island.

For the marine areas the forecast is for mostly cloudy conditions with widespread showers and thunderstorms, which may be heavy at times, with strong gusty winds up to Tropical Storm force to affect all marine zones during on Monday, and especially inshore and offshore the south coast

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

The Meteorological Service continues to monitor the progress of this 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 11:00 a.m. today.

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