



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

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*** AREA OF LOW PRESSURE BECOMES A TROPICAL DEPRESSION... 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 has become better organised and is now a Tropical Depression, and has the potential to further develop into a tropical storm later today. This means that tropical storm conditions are expected to affect Jamaica within 24 hours.

At 10:00 a.m. **Tropical Depression Number 18** was centred near latitude 15.2 degrees North, longitude 76.9 degrees West. This is about 310 kilometres (195 miles) south of Kingston, Jamaica or 370 kilometres (230 miles) southeast of Negril Point, Jamaica.

The Depression is moving toward the north near 15 km/h (9 mph) and a north-westward motion is expected to begin later today and forecast to continue for the next few days. Maximum sustained winds are near 55 km/h (35 mph) with higher gusts. Steady strengthening is forecast, and the depression is expected to become a tropical storm later today and a hurricane by Wednesday near Cuba.

On the forecast track, the Depression is expected to continue moving towards Jamaica today and, **be near Jamaica by late this evening or early on Tuesday**, near or over the Cayman Islands on Tuesday, and approach Cuba on Wednesday. While the system is in the vicinity of Jamaica, it is expected to produce **locally heavy rainfall and strong, gusty winds**, primarily over southern and north-eastern 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 and Tuesday, 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 Tropical Depression Number 18, and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further Releases.

The next Bulletin on this system will be issued at 2:00 p.m. today

END