



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

Telephone: 876-924-8055/924-8404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, November 4, 2024 – 8:00 p.m.

BULLETIN No: 9

***** TROPICAL STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT AS TROPICAL STORM RAFAEL MOVES CLOSER TO THE ISLAND... *****

A **TROPICAL STORM WARNING** remains in effect for Jamaica as **Tropical Storm Rafael** continues to make its way towards Jamaica with heavy showers and strong gusty winds. This means that tropical storm conditions are expected to affect Jamaica within the next 6 to 12 hours.

At 7:00 p.m. the centre of **Tropical Storm Rafael** was located near latitude 15.8 degrees North, longitude 76.9 degrees West. This is about 245 kilometres (150 miles) south of Kingston, or 270 kilometres (165 miles) southeast of Negril Point, Jamaica.

Tropical Storm Rafael is now moving toward the north-northwest near 15 km/h (9 mph) and a north-westward motion is expected to begin later tonight and forecast to continue for the next few days. Maximum sustained winds are to near 75 km/h (45 mph) with higher gusts. Steady to rapid strengthening is now forecast and the system is expected to become a hurricane on Tuesday. Tropical-storm-force winds are now extending outward up to 165 km (105 miles) from the centre.

On the forecast track, Rafael is expected to continue moving towards Jamaica this evening and, be near Jamaica by late tonight or early on Tuesday, near or over the Cayman Islands on Tuesday night, and approach Cuba on Wednesday.

Moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms are currently affecting sections of most parishes and observations indicate that periods of strong gusty winds are also affecting sections of southern parishes.

Rainfall is expected to become widespread across the island as the system approaches Jamaica from the south. Flooding and landslides are possible in vulnerable sections of the island and the system has the potential to also produce 75-150 millimetres (3-6 inches) of rainfall. Residents should be on the alert for possible flash flooding in flood-prone areas.

Strong, gusty winds could reach near tropical storm force, starting over southern and north-eastern parishes later tonight.

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 this evening and into Tuesday, especially inshore and offshore the south coast.

All small craft operators including fishers from the cays and banks should by now have completed all the necessary safety precautions and are advised to remain in safe harbour until all warning messages have been lifted and wind and sea conditions have returned to normal.

The Meteorological Service continues to monitor the progress of **Tropical Storm Rafael**, and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further Releases.

The next Bulletin on this system will be issued at 11:00 p.m. today.

END