

**POST HURRICANE PAULETTE PRESS BRIEFING**

**The Hon. Renee Ming, JP, MP**

*Minister of National Security*

**September 15, 2020**

Good afternoon Bermuda,

I am pleased to share that we are making remarkable progress with our post hurricane restoration efforts. I wish to echo the Premier's comments about the phenomenal work being done by the BELCO crews to restore power to residents. At one point, Hurricane Paulette left over 25,000 customers without power on Monday.

However overnight several thousand households and businesses regained electricity and that is a testament to the hard work being done by the dedicated men and women at BELCO. As of their last report BELCO reported that there were around just over 3,900 customers without power. And we're hopeful that number will become even less by the end of today. As it relates to the resumption of services such as public transport, schools and government offices, here's what I can share.

The Royal Bermuda Regiment, Parks and Public Work crews have made great progress today clearing debris from the main roads, and traffic is flowing fairly unhindered.

Government Offices will open tomorrow morning.

As it relates to public schools, I can advise that all public schools will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> for students only.

Again – for students only – all public schools will remain closed tomorrow.

However, tomorrow all school staff are expected to report to school.

The bus service will resume normal operations tomorrow morning.

And the school bus service will start on Thursday as public schools re-open.

All ferry service will resume tomorrow.

The L.F. Wade International Airport is open and receiving flights.

Regarding the COVID-19 testing, I can advise that Perot Testing facility opened at 10 am this morning to recommence testing for travellers.

Travellers have been sent communication to advise them of their new testing times today and for the remainder of the week.

If travellers are unable to receive emails at this time, they can contact the call centre at 444-2498 and someone will provide them with their revised scheduled time for testing.

Reviews are still being conducted to determine if the population testing sites will recommence on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Notifications will be sent out accordingly.

Trash collection will resume its normal schedule tomorrow.

Regarding Advanced Polling, this will take place tomorrow, Thursday and Friday. The polling stations are:

- Midland Heights Seventh day Adventist Church
- Horticultural Hall, Botanical Gardens
- National Sports Centre Pavilion
- St. Mary's Church, Warwick

And lastly, it is expected that the RBR will end its embodiment this evening. So by all accounts, thanks to the assistance of all our partner agencies, Bermuda is back up and running in record time following Hurricane Paulette. As the Minister of National Security, I wish to publicly thank all of these hard working individuals who in some cases were away from their family during the hurricane, to ensure that Bermuda was kept safe.

Finally, just switching gears a bit, I know that there has been considerable chatter in the community regarding Tropical Storm Teddy, which is currently approximately 1500 nautical miles southeast of Bermuda.

Much uncertainty remains, and it is too early to make any predictions about the long-term track of TS Teddy. Bermuda Weather Service will be continuously monitoring this storm for future developments and we will update the public as always. With that, I am happy to take any questions.

Thank you.