

Press Release

UPDATE ON WAKASHIO VESSEL AS AT 5PM ON
FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2020

1. The planned sinking of the stem (forward) section of the casualty has already started as at August 21, 2020. This operation should normally take 24 hours before its complete immersion into the waters.
2. Pumping operations regarding the remaining diesel oil in the engine room of the aft (back) section is underway and is expected to be completed by tomorrow.
3. The Special Casualty Representative has been instructed to complete the dismantling of the aft section which has a mass of around 8,000 tons, by November 01, 2020, prior to the forthcoming cyclonic season.
4. The National Crisis Committee has noted with concern that there has been a slowdown in the removal and disposal of contaminated waste in the affected areas due to the change of

service provider by P&I Club. The Solid Waste Management Division has been instructed to monitor and coordinate more closely these activities which should resume with immediate effect and completed by Saturday August 22, 2020. The setup at La Chaumiere Interim Storage Hazardous Waste Facility should be fully utilized.

5. A landline service (**5471 0384 / 85**) has been setup by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change to receive complaints and suggestions from members of the public.

6. The team of experts has been reinforced with the arrival of five (5) experts from Japan specializing in reef and mangrove ecosystem. The additional experts will pool up with those already working and reinforce local institutions for capacity building such as the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the National Environmental Laboratory. Eight (8) local experts from the University of Mauritius have also joined in.

7. The National Coast Guard is continuously monitoring the deployed booms especially around sensitive sites and repairs / replacement of damaged booms are being attended to. The NCG is deploying assets to maintain their effectiveness.

8. Four (4) boats / barges have been mobilized for shoreside skimming near the mangroves which is being prioritized. Free floating oil in the area is being contained with absorbent and floating booms and skimmed from the lagoon.

9. The tests conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change have not revealed any presence of volatile organic compound in the air around residential areas and schools in the affected regions except from mild odour.

10. Daily water tests result from samples taken at 27 stations along the shoreline from La Cambuse to Trou D'eau Douce have shown a decline in the level of oil.

11. A hydrographic survey is being carried out by the Hydrography Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning in a radius of 1 km around the casualty site.

National Crisis Committee

Friday August 21, 2020