

# St Lucia govt denies claims of hefty increase in water rates

CASTRIES



Prime Minister of St Lucia Phillip J Pierre CMC PHOTOS

The St Lucia government yesterday described as “inaccurate and misleading” social media reports that there has been a 32 per cent increase in water rates.

In a statement, the Phillip J Pierre government said that the social media posts and political commentary “do not reflect the established legal and regulatory framework governing water services” in St Lucia.

It said that the tariff review remains “a regulated, transparent, multi-step” process led by the independent regulator, the National Utilities Regulatory Commission (NURC) with consumer interests central to any eventual decision.

The government said that the Water and Sewerage Company Inc (WASCO) is the licensed supplier of potable water and wastewater services in the country and that under the Water and Sewerage Act, and the NURC legislation “WASCO cannot unilaterally increase water tariffs; any rate change must be reviewed, proposed, and formally approved by the NURC, an independent

economic regulator”.

It said that last year, NURC began a formal tariff review process for WASCO’s proposed rate adjustments covering the 2024–2027 period.

“The regulator has commenced the first stages of reviewing WAS- CO’s application, which includes an assessment of the utility’s business plan, investment requirements, and cost of service, followed by public and stakeholder consultations, and eventually a draft determination. The specific proposed tariff figures have not yet been approved or implemented.”

The statement said that NURC has emphasised transparency and public engagement in the tariff review process and has scheduled consultations so that consumers, civil society, and other stakeholders can review proposals, provide feedback, and express concerns before any final tariff decision is made.