



GREETINGS BY

ANDREW NEITA

GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE AND CIVIL WORKS JSIF

Signing Ceremony

Dutch Hill New Testament COG Basic School

In Albert Town

Trelawny

July 17, 2014

2p.m.

Salutations

- **Mrs. Marissa Dalrymple-Philibert Member of Parliament
Southern Trelawny**
- **Mr. Lloyd Gillings the Albert Town division Councillor**
- **Dr. Pauline Foster- Grant Councillor – Ulster Spring Division
Representing the Mayor**
- **Mrs. Tracy-Ann Young *PTA Secretary***
- **Miss Paula Barrett Parish Manager, *S.D.C, Trelawny***
- **Parents and teachers**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

Albert Town and its surrounding communities are rich in history. In the last century, the area was home to such properties as the Durham estate which produced coffee and Freemans Hall with factory. There was also Belisle, which was famous for its rum.

Notably, these areas were at one time technically ahead of many others, using cables to transport cane from the Congo Hill property to the factory at Freeman's Hall.

Today the community is much changed as residents find themselves in a changing economy. It is significant therefore that we have come together on a project which promises new hope for the future.

Under the Community Investment Project (CIP) - a project implemented by JSIF and funded by the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Jamaica, the upgrade of the Dutch Hill New Testament COG Basic School has been approved for implementation.

The project will address problems which are well known to parents and staff and which surround the inadequate and unsuitable learning environment within the school.

Challenges which were brought our attention by the PTA The teaching/learning process at Dutch Hill Basic School include the limited learning space that the building offers. Three classes operate out of a 20 x 20 structure, which has only blackboards as partitions.

There is also no playground, the kitchen and bathroom facilities are in need of upgrading, the walls are in need of painting, and potentially hazardous rocks in the schoolyard need to be removed.

The inadequacies of the physical infrastructure have prevented the smooth transfer of information to the children, and even more far reaching is the fact that the school can lose their license from the Early Childhood Institution.

The children, being very young, easily distracted. This underscores the need for separate learning spaces. The school has one large area

divided into three classrooms to house the 48 students. The limited space also limits the ability to exhibit vital learning material.

Forty eight (48) students and 4 staff - including three teachers and a cook- are being affected by the prevailing situation.

The project which we will agree to pursue today involves the rehabilitation and expansion of Dutch Hill Basic to better accommodate the existing student population.

This includes:

- Construction of additional classroom 6.0 m x 4.50m
- Placing partitions into existing building
- Construction of Kitchen
- Construction of Sick bay
- Construction of Sanitation block to include 3 toilets for Girls and 2 for boys along with urinal
- Construction and equipping of play area to include seated swing, Jungle gym, slide and see-saw
- Painting of school
- Installation of water tanks for additional storage

-Provision of classroom equipment

The total projected cost is J\$ 21.48 million of which the amount requested from JSIF is J\$19.32 million. The notable community contribution is J\$2.16 million in land, services and kind.

Works are expected to be completed in four months.

Such efforts as we will embark on today will ensure that Albert Town and its feeder communities becomes famous for much more than its yam festival as we equip our children to learn and earn, and later to make their mark on society.

Members of the Parent Teachers Association will receive maintenance training that will improve their ability to maintain the facility. At the end of the training they will formulate a maintenance plan inclusive of a budget and it will guide their activities.

In a separate project JSIF will be offering Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and maintenance training to the school body. This is in a bid to facilitate maintenance and proper usage of the facility.

I thank you for your participation. We look forward to the future when what we hope to deliver has been executed. We also hope that all concerned will be satisfied with the outcome.

I Thank You