



REMARKS

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR

McGregor Gardens Community Center Opening

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Since July 2014 when we launched this project right here at the McGregor Gardens center, it has been a defining moment in the way a community or communities interface with a public utility like the Jamaica Public Service. Since then, 7 communities have seen:

- The training and interaction with facilitators; to assist them with knowledge and education about energy usage
- Improved infrastructure in the case of McGregor Gardens streetlights and pole line work
- Improved metering options
- A cadre of stakeholders genuinely interested in working with you to improve your lives and more specifically your ability to get light legally.
- The training and management of community facilitators and the identification and procurement of house wiring by contractors, in partnership with the joint JPS/JSIF team

I want to pause for a moment and ask you to acknowledge the JPS for standing up and providing the resources through the STEP UP project to make this a reality. We have also seen the establishment of the JPS/ JSIF partnership, which I am here to speak more about. The essence of this collaboration is to highlight the partnership between the Government of Jamaica and the JPS in solving the problems that will make underserved communities have greater access to electricity. The JSIF through the Inner City Development Project will be executing the Government's role in this partnership by entering an additional 18 communities targeted for inner-city renewal and providing amongst a range of menu items, regularized access to electricity and water. Nevertheless, providing this access and executing in these 18 communities will depend on the success of the STEP UP Pilot Project.

The STEP UP Project and the JPS/JSIF Partnership is the Pilot that will provide the blueprint for the scale up and expansion of this programme into other communities island wide. I therefore encourage the community to continue to support the project and the efforts being made here. I look forward to seeing the Transformation in this community, as the same promise we experienced in this community, close to one year ago is now on the cusp of bearing fruit.