

**Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**

**Rural Development Programme Launch**

**Chambers' Pen Community Football Field**

**Lucea, Hanover**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 11:00 am**

**Greetings by**

**Omar Sweeney, Managing Director - JSIF**

**Salutations**

- **Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Oliver Fagan**
- **Honourable Desmond McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development**
- **Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Education and Youth**
- **Miss Tamika Davis, Member of Parliament, Western Hanover**
- **Your Worship, Councillor Sheridan Samuels, Mayor of Lucea**
- **Mrs. Marsha Henry Martin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**
- **Ms. Dacia Cunningham, Secretary, Chambers Pen Community Development Community**
- **Member of the Chambers' Pen Community including; Farmers, Teachers and Students**

- **The Media including the JIS**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

## **Good Morning**

It is my pleasure to bring you greetings on behalf of the **Jamaica Social Investment Fund** today! In keeping with our mantra, JSIF is proud to continue its thrust in **Investing For Community Development** so that; citizens can enjoy better socio-economic opportunities across several vulnerable communities. We are indeed, committed to supporting this **electrification infrastructure initiative** which is spearheaded by the **Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development** and its partners; **the Ministry of Education and Youth, Social Development Commission, Rural Water Supply** and the **National Water Commission**.

The **Chambers' Pen Rural Electrification Project** will be implemented by the **Jamaica Social Investment Fund, JSIF** through funding support of approximately **Twenty-Seven Million Jamaican Dollars (J\$27 M)**, allotted by the **Government Of Jamaica** for the **Ministry of Local Government and Rural**

**Development.** Under this **partnership agreement, to be signed today, with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development,** JSIF will provide **technical support, operational, project management and procurement** of expertise to **design and construct** this community electrification project in Chambers' Pen.

This project seeks **to provide vulnerable households with increased access to electricity.** In light of this initiative; persons will be **able to regularize their electricity by** forging a **formal agreement** with the **Jamaica Public Service, JPS** which will enable them to be registered on the **JPS grid** instead of stealing electricity. Most importantly, persons will now be exposed to a safer environment in their homes OR spaces, through the access of legal electricity.

The deliverables of this project will include; **house wiring through the provision of basic electricity installation and pole line extensions to over three hundred (300) homes over a four-month period.**

Of course, this installation process will be conducted by electricians who are **all certified** under the **Government of Jamaica electrification programme.**

Under the **National Electrification Project**, the JSIF had previously implemented several successful initiatives. Consequently, approximately **two thousand, five hundred (2,500)** households, from various parishes **will be beneficiaries of this house wiring and pole lines extension initiative by the end of the period.**

In closing, I urge all our supporting Partners to continue to work together to improve the quality of life of households across communities. Meanwhile, I also ask those community members who are vulnerable to get on board and regularize your electricity supplies.

**Thank you!**