



Speaking Notes

For

Mr. Omar Sweeney

Managing Director, Jamaica Social
Investment Fund

At

6th Anniversary Youth Curfew Monitors Awards
Ceremony.

October 26, 2023

Salutation

Master of Ceremonies, Keisha-Ann Sleight Wallace

Acting Commissioner of Police, Head of the Community Safety and Security Branch, Ms. Charmaine Shand.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Territorial Officer, Kingston Western Division, Noel Daley

Senior Manager Social Development, Mona Sue Ho

Members of Team JSIF.

Representatives for the Denham Town community

Curfew monitors

Members of the Media.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning,

It is my pleasure to be here with you today bringing you greetings on behalf of Board and Management of the Jamaica Social

Investment Fund, I am particularly please to be recognizing persons who have volunteered their time and service to their community.

The Curfew monitor programme is one of the many partnerships that we have with the Jamaica Constabulary Force and we are proud to be able to offer well needed support to the programme. The programme started in Denham Town, 6 years ago and has grown immensely with more volunteers coming on board to offer their time and efforts to making their community safe.

The efforts of you, the community members in ensuring that young persons are not left unattended on the streets of your community is not an easy tasked and we at JSIF acknowledge this..... that is why we are here today.

We are bombarded daily with images and news stories of crime and violence within communities, Jamaica's homicide rate remains one of the highest among the region and this is manifested by high levels of gang violence, domestic violence and increased possession and use of guns.

In response to these diverse security challenges, the Government of Jamaica has prioritized Citizen Security Programming as the foremost intervention undertaken to improving citizen security. Citizen security is not a single ministry or agency issue but it is cross cutting, with no single agency having sole responsibility.

Therefore, to successfully create a dent to the problem of crime and violence a coordinated response is required, this extends way beyond traditional national security and law enforcement.

Programmes like this one is rooted in partnership and forms part of the overall Government of Jamaica plan to promote safety and security in communities across the island.

The Government of Jamaica's Integrated Community Development Project, phase 2, ICDP II has invested almost 8 million Jamaican dollars into this project, which has provided training and capacity building within communities. Through the programme, 8 capacity building workshops have been completed by Curfew

Monitors in Childcare and Protection, Dispute Resolution, Effective Parenting and Leadership.

Additionally, 7 curfew monitors have benefited from enterprise grants and 8 children of volunteers have received electronic devices to aid with their education.

Today 24 of YOU, are a part of this initiative which is built on the premise that community safety and security in communities must include local citizens as significant stakeholders. You are the ones that know the community and the youngsters that are within it, so your efforts in partnering with police to take a step towards achieving public order and safety is commendable.

You as curfew monitors are change makers as you carry out the task to willingly intervene to prevent truancy and street corner hanging for children and teenagers. Your task of implementing the curfew monitor model ensures that youth under the age of 17 are not on the street at specified times, unless they are in the company of their parents or caregivers. Your team of 24 community

volunteers is the backbone of this programme and in your efforts you signal to Jamaica that volunteerism is alive and well.

Today we thank you for the work you are carrying out in your community, your efforts have not gone un-noticed and we implore you to continue to be good stewards of change.

Thank You.