



Speaking Notes

For

Mr. Omar Sweeney

Managing Director, Jamaica Social
Investment Fund

At

Handing Over of the Port Maria Fire
Station

On January 13, 2023

Salutation

Master of Ceremonies, Mr...

The Most Honourable, Prime Minister, Andrew Holness,

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie,

Member of Parliament for Central St. Mary, Dr. Morais Guy,

His Worship the Mayor of Port Maria, Councillor Richard Creary,

Commissioner of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, Mr. Stewart Beckford,

Members of the project team from JSIF,

other distinguished guests,

Members of the Media

Good morning.

I am delighted that the Jamaica Social Investment Fund has once again been called upon to support the enhanced disaster risk management, mitigation and response capacity of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, which is exemplified here today in the implementation and completion of this fire station that will serve the approximately 95,000 residents of St. Mary.

In fulfilling our mandate, the JSIF mobilizes resources on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and in collaboration with other partners, implement projects that focus on national priority infrastructure such as fire stations. I must applaud the unwavering efforts of the Government of Jamaica and the support of the World Bank which made it possible through a loan facility, for the funds to be accessed to finance the Jamaica Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project, (JDVRP), which aims to bolster Jamaica's capacity to plan for, reduce and manage hazard risk and the effects of climate change. In accordance with the Government of Jamaica's efforts to build out the infrastructure of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, the Port Maria Fire Station is one of three such facilities that were earmarked for upgrade and have now all been completed and handed over through funding from the JDVRP.

At a Contract value of J\$257,712,910.34, the scope of works undertaken for this project involved the construction of a four - building compound, to include an Administrative Block, Apparatus Bays and two Residential Blocks that were designed to accommodate a complement of 80 firefighting personnel and administrative staff. This compound occupies 9,788.99 square meters of land, with the total floor area of the buildings covering 1,162.70 square meters and consist of office areas, common spaces, conference room, and dormitories. In accordance with the JSIF's Environmental Management System policy on the implementation of Sanitation projects, an onsite Tertiary level sewage treatment system was installed at the facility. It is

anticipated that with the construction of this new fire station, the people of Port Maria and adjoining communities will be able to live with more ease and comfort, knowing that they have a fire station within easy reach, that is equipped with well-trained fire fighters who are equipped and ready to assist. This fire department has been upgraded to not only respond to disasters, but also to prevent and mitigate hazardous events.

We at the JSIF are proud to have been called upon to support the work of an Organization, such as the Jamaica Fire Brigade, as it endeavors to minimize the loss of lives, injury to persons and damage to property from fires, natural disasters, accidents and other emergencies in Central St. Mary and neighbouring communities. I am pleased to be standing today in this newly constructed facility, that will enable the Port Maria Fire department to fulfill its mandate and renew the hope of the residents of St. Mary, in a Fire Brigade that is swifter to respond and more equipped to provide world class service.

Thank You.