



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

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GREETINGS BY
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JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND
AT
THE HANDING OVER CEREMONY
FOR
FRUITFUL VALE HEALTH CENTRE
Thursday June 17, 2010

Salutations:

- Mr. Daryl Vaz, Member of Parliament
- Ms. Suzette Morris, Regional Director, North East Regional Health Authority
- Other Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
- Staff members of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Residents of Fruitful Vale and surrounding communities
- The Media

Good Morning:

It is a distinct pleasure to share with you, residents of the Fruitful Vale community in this milestone event – the official handing over of the Fruitful Vale Health Centre. I am honoured to be here today not only in my capacity as Managing Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund but as a fellow Portlander who has been committed to the development of Portland.

We are all aware of the challenges faced on a daily basis in prioritizing our choices in relation to the finances at hand. At times, sacrifices are made to ensure that our children are able to attend school, in ensuring that our children are able to have a wholesome meal as opposed to ensuring that there is access to quality health care.

It is in recognition of this very dire situation that the Government of Jamaica and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund has been driven to make health care accessible to all and in some instances at a reduced cost. This is the reason for the establishment of the Fund as part of Government's National Poverty Alleviation Programme – to assist the underserved. Since 1996, the Fund has approved for repairs and construction Forty-one Health Centres at a cost of J\$260 Million benefiting some Ninety-eight Thousand persons. Our reach is not exclusive to Health Centres but it includes schools, roads, multi-purpose centres, homes for both children and the elderly.

The Fund's intervention has led to the repairs of the Fruitful Vale Health Centre, completed in partnership with the Southern Regional Health Authority at a cost of approximately Five Million Jamaican Dollars. These monies were obtained as a soft loan from the World Bank under the Emergency Recovery Project. This is our fifth Health Centre in this parish, benefiting nearly Eight Thousand persons with a cost of over Twenty Million Dollars.

The Fund continues to believe in, and advocate for strong partnerships with other stakeholders including the private and the public sectors. This is in order to streamline and enhance our ability to offer services to as many Jamaicans as possible.

Indeed, as Vision 2030, our ***National Development Plan*** states – to make "**Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.**"

A "WE BELONG, WE CARE, and WE SERVE" principle must continue to guide how we provide health care service today and tomorrow, especially to the thousands of needy and vulnerable communities in Jamaica. The Jamaica Social Investment Fund holds firm to its commitment to provide quality infrastructure in all areas of endeavour.

Today and for successive tomorrows, your community and the parish of Portland will benefit from improved health care services. For successive tomorrows, the JSIF is making a further commitment to aid in the

development of the agricultural and tourism sector in Portland through the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI). This programme is geared towards improving access for micro and small-scale rural agricultural producers and tourism product service providers to markets islandwide. This improved access can only enhance your ability to access critically needed services and we are starting right here with the Fruitful Vale Health Centre.

The Fund continues to improve on the capacity of its programmes available to all and I invite my fellow Portlanders to utilize all available avenues in capitalizing on these opportunities for the greater benefit of your community, our parish and our country.

Thank You.