



GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

AT

HOMESTEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE & FOOTBALL FIELD

UPGRADE

ST CATHERINE

ON

JUNE 15, 2011

Salutations

1. The Hon. Dwight Nelson CD, Minister of National Security
2. Hon. Olivia Babsy Grange – Member of Parliament St. Catherine
Central
3. Ambassador Marco Mazzocchi Alemanni Head of the European
Union Delegation
4. Owen Palmer, Councillor, Homestead Division
5. Miss. Patricia Balls Special Projects Coordinator for Citizen Security
and Justice Programme (CSJP) representing Mr.Simeon
Robinson Programme Manager
6. Residents of the surrounding communities
7. Members of the Security Forces
8. The Media
9. Ladies and Gentlemen

"Community development is a skilled process and part of its approach is the belief that communities cannot be helped unless they themselves agree to this process. Community development has to look both ways: not only at how the community is working at the grass roots, but also at how responsive key institutions are to the needs of local communities."

So states the United Kingdom's Community Development Foundation in its vision statement.

We at the **Jamaica Social Investment Fund** fully endorse this statement.

We see the completion and use of these new facilities in Homestead as responding to the needs of the community in a manner that is demand driven and integrally connected to the key needs of local youth.

It must also be acknowledged that Homestead Citizens for Action and the Daybreak Foundation in collaboration with the Community Security Initiative sought the assistance of the (JSIF) to undertake this project.

In response, the rehabilitation and new sporting areas have been done by the Government of Jamaica, with funding from the European Union under the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRPII) in the amount of approximately J\$44 million.

Today, we say that this center can be the catalyst for change.

Within its walls, other programmes not limited to sports such computer literacy and remedial classes will equip the uneducated youth with the necessary tools to acquire employment and improve their standard of living.

The sporting component of the project will maximize other investments made by projects such as the Community Security Initiative (CSI) in an effort to contribute to the development of sports.

We also believe that, in the long run this contribution to the development of sports will enhance the community's capacity for greater resilience against drug abuse, as well as, crime and violence by empowering, and improving the self-esteem of the residents.

The centre and sports grounds will be a secure space to have structured activities intended for the personal development of the many youth who lack a suitable training space.

The community further played its part in supplying discounted labour, security, electricity and other contributions. Approximately JMD 11 M of the JMD 44 M spent to rehabilitate the centre came in the form of community contribution.

The scope of the final works undertaken on the centre included:

- construction of a computer laboratory
- The construction of a office area

- The rehabilitation of the perimeter fence at the entrance of the centre
- The rehabilitation of the multi-purpose court
- The rehabilitation of the football field
- Fencing of the football field
- The installation of irrigation to the field
- Installation of stand benches for field and court
- The provision of lighting to the field and the multi-purpose court.

The Homestead project is one of 21 community-based infrastructure sub-projects in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon and St. James under the PRP2.

Already you have given the commitment to play your part in maintaining these facilities and so we wish today to remind you of this as well.

The community center and sporting areas, with your participation and care, will remain a valuable asset.

We express for all our best wishes and state our hope that activities pursued here will enrich your lives for many years to come.

Thank you