



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

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State of the Art Early Childhood Facility in St. Mary

Islington Early Childhood Institution was officially handed over yesterday by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund. This school has been seven years in the making but now boasts the first interactive Smart board of its kind in any such institution.

This is not the only first for the school as it was recognized as the first early childhood institution in Jamaica in 1942. This after the school was started by pioneers Rev. Henry Ward and Aldine Clarke in 1938. In recalling the history and journey of the school past principal of 44years May Neil expressed her joy about the progress of the school.

The construction of the school falls under JSIF's Basic needs Trust Fund Fifth Programme (BNTF5), and is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).Of the total project cost of \$68,937,371 million, a commendable \$2.3 million was raised by residents of the community.

In her address on behalf of former Prime Minister the Hon. PJ Patterson, Maxine Henry Wilson hailed Islington as the “new standard” for early childhood education in Jamaica.

The students from the school in giving thanks echoed “no longer will we get wet”. In fact, they have lots to be thankful including three spacious classrooms, sick bay, kitchen, spacious lunch area, and enclosed courtyard and play area. Community leaders, parents and teachers were all in attendance for this historic occasion.

The school was handed over in the presence of Central St. Mary MP Morais Guy, MP for South Eastern St. Andrew and former Minister of Education Maxine Henry-Wilson, Mrs. Rhonda Lumsden-Lue, General Manager for Human Resource and Administration at JSIF.

Additional information on the JSIF and its projects can be found on the JSIF’s website at www.jsif.org

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