

# JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

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## **ISLINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION**

**CONTRACT SIGNING MARCH 11, 2010**

The \$64M dollar contract to complete the construction of the Islington Early Childhood Institution was officially signed yesterday between the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and the Islington Early Childhood Parent Teachers' Association.

The project will include the construction of 4 new classrooms, kitchen, sick bay, principal's office, teacher's rest area, store room, sanitary facilities and a multi purpose room which can be used for general assembly.

JSIF's General Manager- Technical Services, Omar Sweeney, who spoke on behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), said that "our children are Jamaica's most precious resource, and JSIF is committed to the development of early childhood education and is honouring their responsibility by meeting the challenge of providing world class basic and primary school facilities for underserved communities across Jamaica." He also made mention of the challenges experienced since 2006, which delayed the process and lauded the community for its patience, understanding and perseverance exercised

during this period and pledged that this school will be completed within 6 months.

“The Islington Early Childhood Institution was the first basic school to be recognized by the Government of Jamaica in 1942”, says Dr. Morais Guy, Member of Parliament- St. Mary Central. He also reminded the community of the Institution’s establishment in 1838, by Henry Ward and Aldin Clarke of the United Church in the community.

He went on to say that this Institution was selected as the National Labour Day Project in 2003 from over 600 community improvement projects and that the then Prime Minister The Hon P.J. Patterson, unveiled plans to construct a “model” basic school in Islington and his reason for doing so was its “track record” of community involvement.

The Rev. Dr. Millard Davis, Guest Speaker at the event, encouraged the communities to be vigilant, “keep a watchful eye on your community, participate in the activities taking place in your area, and become strong leaders”. He ended by congratulating JSIF and the Principal Andreth Gardner, who he says have been doing an extraordinary work in the parish and in particular the Islington Early Childhood Institution.

Additional information on the JSIF and its projects can be found on the JSIF’s website at [www.jsif.org](http://www.jsif.org)