



ADDRESS BY

**MS. CELIA DILLON,
PROJECT MANAGER
EUROPEAN UNION BANANA SUPPORT
PROGRAMME (EUBSP),**

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

AT

**MARYLAND ROAD CONTRACT SIGNING
CEREMONY**

ON

THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2010

Salutations:

- Mr. Winston Hunter – Chairman & President of the Maryland Citizen's Association
- Rev. Mrs. Davis – Pastor, Maryland Church of God of Prophecy
- Mr. Gregory Mair – Member of Parliament
- Mr. Winston Chambers - Councillor
- Other distinguished ladies and gentlemen
- Residents of the Maryland community
- The Media

Good Afternoon:

I am delighted to be here today at the community agreement signing for the Maryland Road, a hugely significant project for not only the community of Maryland, but the nation's road network.

New roads are not just about getting from A to B in the shortest and safest way, important as these benefits are; they are about much much more than that. For with the delivery of each new or rehabilitated road, a community or region becomes a better place to live, a better place to work and a better place to visit.

Balanced development is an economic and national imperative. If Jamaica is to continue to have a prosperous future and, critically, one in which the quality of life is enhanced, we must laud programmes like the European Union Banana Support Programme under which the Maryland Road project was devised. Through this project, displaced farmers in traditional banana growing areas have been targeted resulting in the repair of critical social infrastructure like this road today. It is in this national context that the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, a government agency which falls under the Office of the Prime Minister, will continue to develop policies and partner with other entities for the benefit of the underserved right across the island of Jamaica.

As a company, we have identified, in consultation with the residents here in Maryland, exactly what resources are required and today demonstrates the type of delivery we are committed to for this community.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's signing ceremony reflects a community/public partnership which is the hallmark of JSIF's interventions. This project is a major landmark in the upgrading of the Guys Hill, Linstead, Riversdale and Pear Tree Grove routes. Upon completion, it will deliver major benefits to the people and businesses of this community and surrounding areas. Starting today, you will effectively see the decisions that you made in conjunction with the Jamaica Social Investment Fund coming to life.

In keeping with this thrust, I would also like to mention our ISO 14001: 2004 (fourteen thousand one: two thousand four) certification. ISO 14001 is the international standard which provides a framework for creating effective Environmental Management Systems (EMS). Through the EMS, the JSIF seeks to strengthen overall environmental management procedures, achieve improved environmental performance and demonstrate a commitment to continuous management and process improvement. Hence, during the road works that will be carried out by contractor Contraxx Enterprise Ltd., you can be assured that we will ensure that we take the environment into consideration.

Worldwide, the cost of road projects is often the subject of regular commentary. Today, let me make it clear that the cost to upgrade the Maryland Road over a four months period is \$36.3 million. Of this sum, \$34.4 million is being provided by the JSIF through a grant obtained from the European Union and another \$1.8 million provided via community contribution from the Maryland Citizens Association. Hence, upon completion of this project the only commentary that we at the JSIF would like to hear is that the project was completed under budget and ahead or on schedule.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all involved in this project to date and to wish you all the success in the other upcoming projects.

Thank you.