



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24th 2011

Maxfield Avenue, Burke Road residents partner to build local school

Burke Road, an area located off Maxfield Avenue in Kingston is part of the most depressed areas of South West St Andrew. In the area which has living conditions typical of the inner city, on Wednesday June 22, members took one step forward into a better future when they came together for the official handing over of the new Burke Road Basic School constructed by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

Direct beneficiaries of the state of the art school are 52 students the wider community of Maxfield Avenue and South West St. Andrew. The sponsor body for the project comprised the Burke Road Basic School Board and Church.

Richard Troupe, vice chairman of the Burke Road School Board, speaking at handing over commended community members from Burke Road and surrounding communities, who during the period of construction set aside conflicts and other concerns to complete the building.

Construction was done under the Caribbean Development Bank through the Community Investment Programme (CDB-CIP) at a cost of \$16,712,486 from the

Government of Jamaica and community input of \$1,865,000 in labour and other contributions.

Three standard sized classrooms, bathroom facilities for teachers and students, a kitchen with storage area, and an administrative area plus drinking fountain were put in place at the institution.

Additionally, the development includes a sick bay, a new play area, water storage tanks, the necessary sewer and drainage systems, perimeter fencing; and the kitchen was equipped with a stove, fridge, sink and counters. Classrooms were furnished with desks and chairs for students and teachers, as well as teachers' cupboard, white boards and pin boards.

The new play area consists of a jungle gym, 4-seater swing, see-saw, sand pit and a slide.

Shirley McLean Brown, general manager, finance at JSIF, noted at the event, "The Jamaica Social Investment Fund is happy that after six years it could have helped the Burke Road Basic School Board achieve its vision of having an appropriate early childhood institution.

"Experts tell us that 90 per cent of all brain development occurs by the age of five. If we don't begin thinking about education in the early years, our children are at risk of falling behind by the time they start primary school" she stated, quoting e writer - Robert. L. Ehrlich.

"We at JSIF embrace this thinking and so have invested heavily in improving early childhood institutions," she added, noting that thus far, JSIF has invested over J\$2 billion into approximately 400 schools across Jamaica."

McLean-Brown noted that the construction and rehabilitation of schools is the largest area of investment in JSIF's portfolio to date.

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