



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND
ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED

GREETINGS BY
PATRICIA SUTHERLAND
ACTING BOARD CHAIRMAN
JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND
AT
THE HANDING OVER CEREMONY
OF SHELTER SUPPLIES TO ODPEM
ON
July 7, 2010

Salutations: Mrs. Scarlett Gillings

Managing Director – Jamaica Social Investment Fund

Mr. Ronald Jackson – Director General – Office of Disaster Preparedness and
Emergency Management - ODPEM

Other Distinguished Guests

The Media

First, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to share in this occasion.

It is with a deep sense of pride that I am here to address you, as a person who has, through my professional life, always made a commitment to the same values and goals shared by the ODPEM; service to my fellow citizens.

I must also take the opportunity to congratulate the Office of Disaster Preparedness for the sterling service that you provide to this country and your indomitable spirit of altruism, which has made you a champion of disaster management in Jamaica, and indeed the wider Caribbean.

Ladies and gentlemen, we must never underestimate or devalue the contribution of organizations like the ODPEM in the development history of this country. Your work across the island; especially in times of disaster, has made a significant positive impact on the economic and social growth in this country and has assisted many individuals and families by encouraging and supporting disaster preparedness and mitigation measures in all parishes

The handing over of shelter supplies, including utensils, communications equipment, cots, chainsaws, lighting equipment, first aid supplies, and protective equipment, is a major mission for JSIF, as these supplies, will help to provide increased service to the most vulnerable of this country and enhance the abilities of the ODPEM to deliver its invaluable service.

This endeavour, I am sure, will act as a beacon to the country of how team work and service can reduce the debilitating impact of disasters and how as a people we can “Be our brother’s keeper”.

As the Acting Board Chairman of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, a similar challenge and mandate has been handed to me. As an organization charged with creating developing opportunities in underserved communities; we too are required to provide efficient and effective services that alleviate the plight of the country’s most vulnerable population.

We are only at the beginning of the 2010 hurricane season that has been predicted to be very active and, based on the devastating impact that has been left by the increased number of natural disasters in the region in recent years, I am sure that the equipment being handed over today will go a far way in aiding individuals in the most disaster affected areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is indeed a bold step. It shows that we at the JSIF, recognise the need to be proactive when it comes to disaster preparedness. Furthermore, it highlights the fact that disaster mitigation cannot be confined to long-term risk reduction activities. We also need to have a pool of resources readily available to deal with the adverse and crippling effects of natural hazards.

Therefore, let me commend you on your unending commitment to our nation, and it is my greatest pleasure to hand over to you at this time shelter supplies valued at over \$3M.

Thank you all.