



ADDRESS BY

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

OF

THE JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

SPONSOR SIGNING

FOR THE WATER WHEEL TO PLEASANT HILL ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT

AT THE

WATER WHEEL CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WESTMORELAND

ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 13 , 2011

Salutations:

- Member of Parliament for Westmoreland
Eastern the .Hon. Luther Buchanan
- Councilor Mr. V. Gifford
- Mr. Lyndell Gooden, environmental
Coordinator
- Pastor Errol A. Lawson
- Chairman and President of the Water
Wheel Citizens Association Mrs. Chair Aysia
Lynch-Rodriques
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you.

On behalf of the Board, Management and staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, I bring you greetings.

The community of Water Wheel, located here in the rural community of Cave, South Eastern Westmoreland features roads which are in an advanced state of disrepair. This has led to the displacement of its citizens, particularly farmers in residence.

Farming and fishing are the main economic activities in this district.

Youth in Water Wheel have indicated that there is very little employment opportunity outside of these avenues.

There are no social services available in this community and all who need to access those outside the community are heavily reliant on the rehabilitation of the roadway.

Indeed, the condition of the road has limited movement, and in some areas it is totally impassible to vehicular traffic. Members of the community, currently, have to carry water on their heads and also carry sick persons on stretchers.

According to the citizens, the road situation also inhibits the implementation of their community development plans.

The mainstay of the area is agriculture. However residents have difficulty taking produce to the market.

The closest market is in Whitehouse which is approximately 10 km away, and the main market is in Savanna-la-mar which is 20 km away.

Donkeys are still used to carry goods from the farms to the main road and persons who would purchase the produce are usually unwilling to come down to the farms for the goods.

It is within this context of urgent need that funding has been identified under the Community Investment Project (CIP) of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund which aims at improving basic rural infrastructure.

The CIP is implemented through a USD 12.085 million loan to the Government of Jamaica from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The scope of JSIF`s intervention in this community will include : scarifying, shaping, marling and application of double surface dressing wearing surface to 1.8 km of roadway. This will include the patching of 1,250 sq. m. of roadway, the clearing of 180 cu. m of land slippage and the construction of 452 m of kerb and channel and additional drains.

Additionally, a maintenance committee will be formed and will receive training in Infrastructure maintenance along with disaster risk mitigation.

Total project cost for Water Wheel is Jamaican \$**24.07** million, with \$22.39 million requested from JSIF and \$1.7 million contributed by the community in kind.

Construction is scheduled to last for three months.

The direct beneficiaries are the residents of the community, particularly the farmers. The indirect beneficiaries are the visitors to the community whether to trade goods and services or to visit family members.

The Parish Council will be responsible for major maintenance of the road but the Water Wheel

Development Committee will also have a key role in liaising with the Parish Council.

The community of Water Wheel is highly organized with a community development plan for which they have lobbied various government and non-government entities for assistance in improvement projects. They have also conducted patching exercises. These are positive signs of a proactive citizenry.

You have our best wishes as the project agreement is signed today. We look forward to the completion of this much needed roadway in the first quarter of 2012.