



**GREETINGS BY**

**LOY MALCOLM**

**GENERAL MANAGER PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF THE JAMAICA SOCIAL**

**INVESTMENT FUND**

Sponsor Signing ceremony

Aberdeen Primary and Junior High School Rehabilitation

In Aberdeen, St. Elizabeth

July 3, 2014.

## Salutations

- Hon. Raymond Pryce, St. Elizabeth North Eastern  
Raymond Pryce)
- (Miss. R. Hanson) Ministry of Education (Miss. R. Hanson)  
Thornton Primary (Mrs. M. Blair)
- Milbert G. Miller Principal
- Ms. Deanna Griffiths (PTA President)
- Fernon Thompson NYS Regional Field OFFICER
- Graduates
- Parents and Teachers
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund on this very special day.

Today is indeed a momentous occasion for the residents of Aberdeen and the surrounding areas from which students and adults come to use the facilities of the school.

Going forward, you will mark this day as the moment in which you - students, teachers and community stakeholders - proved to others that it is indeed good to dream and good to follow that vision with persistent effort.

Principal Miller, we share your joy as we note that when completed the enhanced facilities will open wide the doors of opportunity for both current students and adults who wish to be certified in a range of academic, skilled and technical areas.

JSIF, which is an agency of the Government of Jamaica aims to serve the development needs of underserved communities across the island. Our strategic priorities directly align to the Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan.

This intervention by JSIF is directly linked to the goal of achieving World Class Education and Training, of which the construction and rehabilitation of schools and skills training facilities is a major component.

With a population of 253 Students and Staff Members, as well as 20 community persons who study at the school the current facilities were deemed substandard and not conducive to learning.

These included severely leaking roofs which impacted Community Based Skills Training & CXC classes, improper bathroom facilities and a deteriorated playing field which diminished the schools 'recreational programme.

The refurbishing for Aberdeen Primary and Junior High was approved under the Community Investment Project (CIP) funded by the Caribbean Development Bank, a project implemented by JSIF..

At a total cost of \$19.91 million the works to be completed at the school include:

- Replacement of the roof
- Rehabilitation of the playfield
- Rehabilitation and re-roofing on the Sanitation Block
- Painting of the School
- And installation of electrical works for computers

As JSIF continues to support the idea of community building we believe it prudent that communities get involved in their own development. It is against this background that we introduce the practice of Community Contribution.

Through this, communities are expected to contribute to their project through sweat equity. This approach has been proven to increase the level of buy-in by communities and ultimately the care and maintenance of the infrastructure which is extremely critical.

We are sure that the rehabilitation of the school will be of great benefit as adequate facilities will be available to support the community's ongoing literacy programme, skills training programme and the computer literacy programme for residents.

With the schools' impending transition to a High School in September 2014 and the introduction of technical areas of training we believe the improved facilities will allow for more residents to benefit.

As JSIF and Aberdeen partner for the implementation of this project we are sure that all parties will fulfill the

stated expectations in ensuring that it is successfully completed.

You have our best wishes as you undertake yet another milestone towards the development of your community.

I thank you.