



**GREETINGS BY**

**MR. OMAR SWEENEY**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF**

**AT THE**

**Award Ceremony**

**for**

**Denham Town Enterprise Development grants- Cycle 2**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022**

## Salutations:

- **Mr. Gerrard McDaniel** - Master of Ceremonies,
- **Hon. Desmond McKenzie**, Member of Parliament, Western Kingston,
- **Mr. Jermaine Hyde**, Councillor, Denham Town Division,
- **Major Sheldon Bryan**, First Battalion, The Jamaica Regiment Joint Force Command, Jamaica Defense Force,
- **Senior Superintendent of Police, Michael Phipps**, Kingston Western Division, Jamaica Constabulary Force,
- **Assistant Superintendent of Police, Noel Daley**, Territorial Officer, Jamaica Constabulary Force
- Other members of the Jamaica Defense Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force,
- Ms. Mona Sue-Ho, Senior Manager for Social Development at the Jamaica Social Investment Fund,
- **Ms. Donna Vassel**, Resident of Denham Town
- Representatives from Restorative Justice,
- Representatives from the Social Development Commission,
- **Mr. Robert Carr**, Supervisor for the Denham Town Data Collectors,

- **Mr. Ardain Morris**, Grant Beneficiary and Owner, Praise J's Chef Bro,
- **Members of my JSIF team**,
- Members of the Denham Town Community Development Committee,
- Specially Invited Guests,
- and most especially, entrepreneurs who will benefit from the second cycle of the Government of Jamaica-ICDP-II Enterprise Development Grants.

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

In fulfilling its mandate, the JSIF seeks to facilitate the efficient implementation of community-based programmes, which empower those who are most in need.

As one of the government entities responsible for executing the government of Jamaica's development mission within underserved areas throughout the island, the JSIF has given credence to the theory that adequate social benefits and services that focus on developing people's

capabilities is the most effective way to achieve a high social and economic return.

On that account, the JSIF through the Government of Jamaica funded, Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP-II) will invest a total of JM\$2,925,000.00 to build the capacity of 28 small business owners in Denham Town; to create sustainable employment and income generation within the community.

These Enterprise Development Grants include the provision of equipment, machinery, tools+- and supplies, that will bolster the capacity of these entrepreneurs and facilitate their continued participation in the society and the labour market. Business Development Support, to include Business Development training in Costing, Customer Service, Marketing and Sales, Financial Literacy and Budgeting, Management of business records, and Legal requirements of microenterprises will also be provided.

To ensure that these beneficiaries have the best support that they need for their respective enterprises to prosper, this project is being implemented in partnership with the Denham Town Community Development Committee, Ministry of National Security - Jamaica Defense Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force, JPS Foundation, Bureau of Standard Jamaica, National Housing Trust, and the Companies Office of Jamaica.

These grants are important to us at the JSIF, because they have a larger impact that extends beyond these entrepreneurs. They will also benefit their families and by extension this community-- who can enjoy better lives and more secure futures. That is the true value in giving these small businesses this boost.

As you know, cash flow is one of the biggest challenges facing entrepreneurs, and even more so during this COVID-19 crisis. This second cycle of the ICDP-II Enterprise Development grant project is targeted at entrepreneurs who need a helping hand to take their businesses to the

next level. This grant will provide small enterprises in Denham Town with resources to tackle some of the challenges being faced as well as provide an opportunity to not only expand their enterprise but to also generate a profit and add value to this community.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities. Making the decision to set out on your own and to operate a business, especially in these extremely challenging times is an incredibly brave decision to make. I encourage you to continue to work hard and work smart. I am very confident that you will do great things, as the seed that has been planted today will bear great fruits in years to come. I wish you all the very best in your business ventures.

Please continue to dream big, stay safe and enjoy the rest of your day.