



**GREETINGS BY**

**MR. OMAR SWEENEY**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF**

**AT THE**

**Denham Town ZOSO Day of Excellence**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022**

**Salutations:**

- **Mr. Dellon Gayle** - Master of Ceremonies,
- **Hon. Desmond McKenzie** - Minister of Local Government and Rural Development and Member of Parliament for Kingston Western,
- Ms. Charmine Shand – Assistant Commissioner of Police (Actg.)
- Mr. Michael Phipps – Snr. Superintendent of Police, Kingston Western Division
- Mr. Noel Daley – Assistant Superintendent of Police, Kingston Western Division
- **Ms. Mona Sue Ho** - Senior Manager, Social Development, Jamaica Social Investment Fund,
- Members of my very hard-working JSIF team,
- Specially invited guests,
- Friends in the media,

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

It is a pleasure to be in Denham Town once again, to demonstrate the JSIF's ongoing commitment to transforming vulnerable communities across Jamaica. Since its inception in 1996, the JSIF has endeavored to

transform vulnerable communities into spaces where residents can enjoy a better quality of life.

It has been 5 years since Denham Town was declared a ZOSO in October 2017, In support of the Government of Jamaica's efforts to restore public order, sustain peace, and ultimately transform communities, the JSIF has been partnering with the residents and other stakeholders of this community, since 2020, through financing from the Government of Jamaica Integrated Community Development Project 11 (ICDP-11), to deliver services to improve their living conditions and their perception of safety.

While the security measures have attracted the most attention, the JSIF has been undertaking numerous social intervention initiatives to support the critical development pillars of the Zones of Special Operations, to foster the process of engagement and ensure that this space is more livable.

Having been in the business of Community Development for the past 26 years, we have learned a great deal about successful community development. We have learned that it takes all members of a community, collaborating and contributing specialized skills, to revitalize neighborhoods.

We have witnessed the members of this community collaborate to convert spaces into two parks that have helped to improve the aesthetics of the community and provide an avenue for community members to build cohesion.

We have heard stories of the Environmental Wardens who have been trained, gazetted and employed to coordinate and monitor the daily clean-up of the community; the 24 Curfew monitors who in collaboration with the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Kingston Western Police Division, volunteer to ensure that that children and youth under 17 years old are kept off the streets and away from danger.

In accordance with the Human and Community Development and Employment pillar of the ZOSO, the JSIF has made a conscious decision to support young entrepreneurs; under the Third Cycle of the ICDP-II Enterprise Development Grant project. The aim is to revitalize the economy of Denham Town by providing support to small Business owners between the ages of 18 to 30 years old. Today, 12 young entrepreneurs will receive a boost for their respective businesses amounting to at a cost of J\$1.3 million. Under the First and Second cycles, a total of 48 micro enterprises benefited from the award of Enterprise Development Grants, valued at J\$5.7million.

The JSIF through its Operation Certification Programme, has been assisting undocumented residents to obtain birth certificates, which will allow them to access essential services like health care, education and other social benefits.

As we celebrate the Denham Town Day of Excellence, I am even more pleased to see how this community has been transformed into a model of how communities can be developed.

Thank you for partnering with the JSIF to effect the positive transformation that is taking place in this community.

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