



REMARKS BY

MR. COLIN BULLOCK

BOARD CHAIRMAN

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR

**INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS GRADUATION 2015**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Salutations

- Hon. Noel Arscott, Minister of Local Government & Community Development
- Ms. Galina Sotirova World Bank Country Representative
- Mr. Percival Stewart, National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)
- Representatives from the Sponsor Groups
- Graduands
- Ladies and Gentlemen

This afternoon we gather here to celebrate with you the completion of your weeks of preparation to becoming Community Environmental Wardens.

This life changing opportunity is made possible under the **Sustainable Programme for Environmental Resilience**, funded by the World Bank's **Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP)** and implemented by us at the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

The project will cost JMD \$100 Million and is a collaborative effort between the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) and the communities. The Memorandum of Understanding between JSIF and the NSWMA reflects the agreement that the NSWMA will collect garbage from targeted communities at least twice per week. The NSWMA, through its Public Education and Enforcement Departments worked with JSIF, Ministry of Health, Jamaica Fire Brigade, NEPA, and Dispute Resolution Foundation in your training and certification as Community Environmental Wardens. You are now gazetted officers empowered by law in the enforcement of the NSWMA Act and Regulations. This project also speaks to enhancing the aesthetic and capacity of the community by partnering with the community groups.

The project objective is very simple:

- To improve environmental health and awareness in selected underserved communities through capacity building in solid waste management.

Sub-project components include:

- **Training, graduation and gazetting** of one hundred and fifty four (154) environmental wardens
- **Equipping** of 154 wardens with tools, uniforms and supplies to perform job responsibilities
- **Employment** of 154 wardens on a 2-weeks rotational cycle for a period of three (3) years.

The project involves thirty (30) communities, which includes Hannah Town, Denham Town, Tivoli Gardens, Rema/Wilton Gardens, Rose Town, Greenwich Town, Majesty Gardens, Maxfield Park, Ellerslie Gardens, Canaan Heights, Treadlight, York Town, Steer Town, Barrett Town, Granville, Retirement, Anchovy, Russia, Passmore Town, Jones Town/Craig Town, Federal Gardens, Whitfield Town, Shelter Rock, Central Village, Lauriston, March Pen, Tawes Meadows, Bucknor, Knollis and Flankers communities.

It is estimated that approximately 140,000 persons in the thirty (30) targeted communities will benefit directly from the project. However, the entire country will benefit indirectly

from the potentially positive environmental impacts of the project.

Your primary responsibilities and contribution to the project include:

- Clean-up of your respective communities daily.
- Educate residents of the communities with a view to enhancing environmental and solid waste management awareness.
- Enforce the NSWMA Act and associated regulations and plan community environmental projects including, clean-up, composting and recycling initiatives, and
- Assist in the implementation of the school environmental programme in your communities.

We at the JSIF are delighted to be a part of this significant and critical project, and are confident that its successful implementation could be a game changer for waste management. Let me take this opportunity to thank the World Bank, and in particular its Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP) for its financial support.

You will note that your training was comprehensive, and covered all the relevant areas and subject matters you will need to perform your duties effectively. You will not, and are not expected to remember every detail that you were taught. This is why you were provided with a “Warden Training Manual”, so you may refer to it from time to time, to refresh your memory of each topic, as you pursue your daily tasks.

Let me remind you that the management of waste is a very expensive operation. The country required a little under JMD \$6 Billion in 2014 alone to address the needs of this sector. Poor management of waste cost us even more, as it can lead to diseases, epidemic and ultimately death as well as a general reduction in the productive capacity of the country. How you deal with this in your own communities, will help us chart the way forward in this very critical area of national life. It is up to you to make this pilot project work and work well. If you do, then the community environmental warden could become a permanent feature in our nations' waste management model.

Let me wish for each of you, great success in your new assignments. Will it be easy? Probably not. But we are not looking for easy. What you must strive for, is to be effective. It is in your effectiveness that you will see good results, and a cleaner and healthier community in which you will all be proud to live and share with your family and friends.

Thank you on behalf of the JSIF and best wishes. Let's go out and do this. Our collective quality of life depends on it.