



**GREETINGS BY**

**MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND**

**FOR**

**HANDING OVER CEREMONY**

**PetroCaribe Sanitation Project - Phase II**

**At**

**Holy Trinity Cathedral**

**1 George Headley Dr.**

**11:00am**

## **Salutations**

- 1. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, Member of Parliament, Kingston Central**
- 2. Desmond McKenzie Member of Parliament West Kingston, J.P.**
- 3. Dr. Wesley Hughes, Chairman of the Board, PetroCaribe Development Fund**
- 4. Dr. Gladstone Hutchinson, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica and Chairman, Jamaica Social Investment Fund**
- 5. Mrs. Sharon Weber, Manager, PetroCaribe Development Fund**
- 6. Ms. Eleanor Jones Environmental Specialist and Guest Speaker**
- 7. Mrs. Andrea Sweeney, Past President, Rotary Club of Downtown Kingston and other Rotarians**
- 8. Members of the Board of Directors of the PetroCaribe Development Fund**
- 9. Members of the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund**
- 10. Loy Malcolm, Acting General Manager, Technical Services, Jamaica Social Investment Fund  
Other Members of the JSIF Family**
- 11. Leaders and members from the project and surrounding communities**
- 12. Media representatives**

Good Afternoon

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, I thank you for joining us for the Handing over Ceremony for the PetroCaribe Sanitation Phase II project.

Over one year ago we embarked upon an ambitious \$109 million project to improve sanitation facilities in five Kingston communities – Central Kingston (our host community this morning, Hannah Town, Fletcher's Land, Denham Town and Tiovli (Midtown)). The Jamaica Social Investment Fund was engaged by

the PetroCaribe Development Fund to implement 100 sanitation units on their behalf. In addition, in order to execute this project the following partners were engaged: the Rotary Club of Down Town Kingston and the benevolent societies of Denham Town Community, Hannah Town, Greater Kingston, Fletcher's Land and Tivoli Gardens.

Globally, sanitation continues to be a problem in a world where about two and a half billion people are still without access to improved sanitation. (Source UNICEF) Recognizing that sanitation is critical to good health, JSIF first started to invest in sanitation projects through the rehabilitation or upgrade in schools, completing 375 such facilities which have benefited

12, 2473 individuals. This was done at a cost of over \$2.5B from the government of Jamaica and our funding partners.

In recognizing the needs of marginalized communities in Kingston, JSIF ventured into providing sanitation units in a communal setting in 2009.

In the Tivoli (Midtown) Community of West Kingston, the phase one sanitation project impacted over 230 individual through the construction of 13 sanitation units.

Time was to prove that a greater intervention was needed. Starting in September 2011 with training for the communities in the management of the project and works commencing in November 2011, the Petro

Caribe Sanitation Phase II has seen the construction of an additional 100 units in the targeted communities.

The scope of work included installation of toilets, face basins, laundry basins, installation of electrical fixtures and fittings and the connection of households to existing sewer systems.

The improvement of sanitation in Kingston is contributing to sustainable urban development - one of the guiding principles of the Vision 2030 for Jamaica; and also a fundamental objective of the PetroCaribe Development Fund - fostering an improved standard of living

The project feeds into the broader vision and is also sequential with the redevelopment plan for downtown Kingston.

In an attempt to empower the community members, the five Benevolent Societies listed above, as mentioned earlier, were trained in project implementation utilizing the community based contracting methodology.

That is, the community members were responsible for the procurement of goods and services and the construction of the units within their own neighborhood. This form of implementation not only leads to the improvement of community

infrastructure, but also builds the self-efficacy of residents.

In addition a select group of community members will participate in a maintenance and hygiene training that will equip them with necessary skills to care for their new facilities; also a total of 12 youths will be selected to receive training in plumbing skills. This will not only provide despondent youth with a marketable skill, but also provide each community with designated persons to assist in the maintenance of the units.

**Before closing, I would like to highlight the following points:**



(i) I must commend the five communities; this includes the leadership team, the workers who constructed the units and the residents for their commitment and enterprising role in collaborating with JSIF during the implementation of this project. This has been a difficult process at times but at the same time rewarding experience for all involved. As the good old saying goes “ if yuh want good yuh nose haffi run.”

(ii) I must also highlight the role of the Rotary Club of Downtown Kingston and external supervisor team, General Construction in providing the on the ground

assistance needed to execute this project in five communities simultaneously.

(iii) Last, but by no means least; the JSIF as a fund manager has partnered with the PetroCaribe Development Fund for the first time. The JSIF is privileged to be embarking on this social development project which could not have been executed with their funding.

Through this relationship we have been able to introduce facilities which will improve the quality of life of young children, older community members

and other beneficiaries living in the 100 yards totaling 1,551 direct beneficiaries.

Our relationship with the PetroCaribe Development

Fund will continue as a number of other partners,

including the Government of Jamaica and the

Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE)

Fund are currently working on a project to replace pit

latrines in 26 schools in rural Jamaica.

I say to residents today that you should remember to

care and maintain these facilities. In this way, the

investment which we have made together in better

living conditions will be protected for as long as it is

needed. You have my best wishes

Thank You.

Thank You.