



GREETINGS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF

AT THE

Handing over Ceremony

for

ICDP Enterprise Development grants-Treadlight

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

Salutations:

- Master of Ceremonies - Mr. Derrick Wilks
- Mr. Lester Mike Henry, Member of Parliament, Central Clarendon,
- His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Winston Maragh, Mayor of Clarendon,
- Hon. William Shagoury, Custos Rotulorum of Clarendon,
- Mrs. Casmin Hayles Chambers, Acting Principal of the Treadlight Primary School
- Members of my JSIF team,
- Specially Invited Guests,
- and most especially those who will receive equipment to boost their small enterprises today.

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 the body responsible for executing the government of Jamaica's development mission within underserved areas of the island, the JSIF has been working at the level of the community for the past 25 years.

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.

In that regard the Government of Jamaica has invested an overall project sum of \$20 M Jamaican dollars for the implementation of the Integrated Community Development project, \$16 M of which will be shared across 7 communities, for small enterprise owners within these communities.

These Enterprise Development Grants, which are being facilitated under the second phase of the Government of Jamaica's Integrated Community Development Project, are intended to guarantee an improved standard of living for the beneficiaries, by improving their

development opportunities and facilitating their participation in the society and the labour market.

Today, the 14 recipients will be presented with equipment, valued at \$2.2M Jamaican dollars, to enhance their respective enterprises, which range from agriculture to meats and Poultry Farming, and the food service industry, to Cosmetology, personal care services, Garment Industry, Carpentry and Construction.

As a gender certified organization, non-discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and treatment in all aspects of project implementation have been fundamental principles underpinning the work of the JSIF. I am pleased to report that exactly 50% of the entrepreneurs who are receiving equipment today under the ISDP Enterprise Development Grant Project are females.

These grants are special 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 the 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 Enterprise Development grant project is targeted at entrepreneurs just like yourselves who need a helping hand to take your businesses to the next level. The equipment that is being presented here today is not a hand-out. It is intended to provide you with more resources for tackling some of the challenges being faced. It is an opportunity to expand your existing enterprises. I implore each of you to seize this opportunity to become the next generation of business leaders for your community.

Small business is the lifeblood of our communities. The people who decide to go it alone, to set up a business; to set out on their own are, in my view, heroes and heroines, especially in these extremely challenging times. It is an incredibly brave decision to make.

In addition to the equipment being handed over today, these entrepreneurs will receive business development training to enhance their entrepreneurial abilities.

I believe in everyone receiving their equipment today, that you will make the best possible use of this opportunity. You have proven that you are an innovative and hardworking people, so continue to do your best. 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 best in your business ventures.

Do enjoy the rest of your day.