



GREETINGS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF

AT THE

Handing Over Ceremony

for

ICDP II Greenwich Town Parks

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Salutations:

- Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Davonay Williams
- Dr. Angela Brown Burke - Member of Parliament for St. Andrew Southwestern
- Ms. Mona Sue Ho - Senior Manager, Social Development, Jamaica Social Investment Fund,
- Ms. Francene Pryce - Community Development Officer from the Social Development Commission,
- Mr. Justin Duncan - Territorial Education Officer, Ministry of Education and Youth
- Mr. Rupert Pryce - Chairman of the St. Andrew Primary School
- Ms. Colleen Gordon, Principal of the St. Andrew Primary School,
- Dr. Worrell Hibbert - Principal of the St. Andrew Technical High School,
- Ms. Francene Pryce - Community Development Officer, Social Development Commission,
- Ms. Cecile Walker - Acting President, Greenwich Town Community Development Committee
- Ms. Novlette Mighty, President, Greenwich Town Fisher Folk Society,
- Members of my very hard-working JSIF team,

- Friends in the media
- Specially Invited Guests,

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

I am honoured to be in Greenwich Town today to demonstrate the JSIF's ongoing commitment to transforming vulnerable communities across Jamaica. Since its inception in 1996, the JSIF has endeavored to transform underserved communities into spaces where residents can enjoy a better quality of life. To this end, the JSIF has been partnering with the residents of the Greenwich community, since 2014, to deliver services to improve their living conditions and improve their perception of safety.

The creation of parks at the St. Andrew Primary School and the Greenwich Town Fishing Beach adds to JSIF's past investments in Greenwich Town, which include the rehabilitation of roads and removal and substitution of zinc fences with block wall infrastructure(Phase 2 is

in progress); Zinc fence removal and substitution along Marcus Garvey Drive; the rehabilitation of the Greenwich Town Primary School, construction of Safe Passages (now in progress) as well as a host of social services projects including summer camps and enterprise grants. Cumulatively, the investment by the JSIF in Greenwich Town is just over J\$300 million for the period 2015 to date.

With this latest endeavor, approximately J\$4.4 million was invested by the JSIF with funding from the Government of Jamaica Integrated Community Development Project 11 (ICDP 11), to construct 2 parks and green spaces in Greenwich Town. The JSIF intends for this project to be a long-term social investment for the residents. The importance of these green spaces, or what I refer to as Green Lungs, for the sustenance, wellbeing and overall development of this community cannot be overstated. This project aims to improve the environment and aid in reducing the effects of climate change; improve the aesthetics of the community; promote outdoor activities and active lifestyles, thereby

increasing positive social interaction among residents, and provide healthy urban conditions for good physical and mental well-being. With the current stressors in our country and the world at this moment, we must be more aware that our green spaces are vital to the overall health of residents including children and youth. Studies have shown that when people do not have access to greenspaces, communities suffer from higher violence and even preventable, chronic health issues. It is therefore by deliberate design and not by default that this project was conceptualized.

The project scope included the construction of two parks in the community:

The Greenwich Town Fishing Beach benefitted from the installation of fencing along the water's boundary; the installation of park furniture, to include benches and tables; clean-up and disposal of garbage; landscaping; installation of 3 metal enclosures with garbage bins, and the construction of a gazebo.

The St. Andrew Primary School was retrofitted with chain link fencing and park furniture, such as benches and tables. Landscaping was undertaken to include the planting of ornamental plants and installation of decorative bricks.

This project was implemented in partnership with the Greenwich Town Community Development Committee, the St Andrew Primary School, and the Greenwich Town Fisherfolks and is projected to benefit some 7,569 residents.

Being back in Greenwich Town, I can notice the vast improvement in the aesthetics of the community. I therefore applaud the residents for maintaining the projects that you have already received.

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

Please stay safe and enjoy the rest of your day.