



Speaking Notes

For

Mr. Omar Sweeney

Managing Director, Jamaica Social  
Investment Fund

At

Handing Over of the Yallahs Fire Station

On October 26, 2022

## Salutation

Master of Ceremonies, Mrs. Marsha Henry Martin – Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development,

The Most Honourable, Prime Minister, Andrew Holness,

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie,

Member of Parliament for Western St. Thomas, Mr. James Robertson,

His Worship the Mayor of Morant Bay, Councillor Michael Hue,

Commissioner of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, Mr. Stewart Beckford,

Chaplain/Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Jamaica Fire Brigade – Area 1, Mr. Garey Swaby,

Members of the project team from JSIF,

other distinguished guests,

Members of the Media

Good morning.

I am delighted that the Jamaica Social Investment Fund has once again been called upon to support the enhanced disaster risk management, mitigation and response capacity of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, which is exemplified here today in the implementation and completion of this fire station that will serve the approximately 95,000 residents of St. Thomas.

In fulfilling our mandate, the JSIF mobilizes resources on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and in collaboration with other partners, implement projects that focus on national priority infrastructure such as fire stations. I must applaud the unwavering efforts of the Government of Jamaica and the support of the World Bank which made it possible through a loan facility, for the funds to be accessed to finance the Jamaica Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project, (JDVRP), which aims to bolster Jamaica's capacity to plan for, reduce and manage hazard risk and the effects of climate change. The Yallahs Fire Station is one of three such facilities that have so far benefitted under the JDVRP. The J\$535 million Barnett Street Fire Station in Montego Bay was completed and handed over in April, while the J\$238 million Port Maria Fire Station in St. Mary was completed in September and preparations for handing over are being made.

At a Contract value of J\$143,247,058.70, the scope of works undertaken for this project involved the construction of a 2-storey station with two Apparatus Bays, Office and admin spaces, Dining Hall and Kitchen, Multipurpose Conference Room, Fitness Area, Recreation Room, Male and Female dormitories, Rainwater collection apparatus, and an Onsite sewage treatment system. This building is now able to accommodate approximately 40 firefighting personnel and administrative staff. It is anticipated that the department's response time will improve, and the human resource and

equipment capacity of this fire department, will be enhanced to not only respond to disasters, but also to prevent and mitigate hazardous events.

In all our endeavors at the JSIF, the forging of partnerships is critical, and this handing over today has again proven to us that projects that are intended to benefit the greater good of the Jamaican population can only reap success through collaboration.

We at the JSIF are proud to have been called upon to support the work of an Organization, such as the Jamaica Fire Brigade, as it endeavours to minimize the loss of lives, injury to persons and damage to property from fires, natural disasters, accidents and other emergencies. I am pleased to be standing today in this newly constructed building, that will enable the Yallahs Fire department to fulfill its mandate and renew the hope of the people of St. Thomas in a Fire Brigade that is swifter to respond and more equipped to provide world class service.

Thank You.