



WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ICDP)

YORK TOWN CLARENDON

MARCH 5TH 2014

3 pm

Salutations

- Hon. Noel Arscott, Member of Parliament, South West

Clarendon

- Hon William Shagoury, Custos Rotulorum for
Clarendon
- Councillor Sean Barnswell, Mayor of May Pen
- Ms. Jennifer Edwards – Executive Director, NSWMA
- Mr. Baldwin McKenzie, Parish Manager Social
Development Commission
- Loy Malcolm General Manager Project Management
JSIF
- Other JSIF staff
- Police
- Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, I extend warmest greetings and a heartfelt welcome to everyone to the launch of the Integrated Community Development Project in York Town Clarendon

Let me say this is my first function as Managing Director “Designate” of JSIF and I am happy it’s in my home parish of Clarendon.

I offer a special welcome to, Hon. Noel Arscott here in his capacity as Member of Parliament for South West Clarendon.

I would also like acknowledge the World Bank who is funding the project with a US\$42M loan to the Government of Jamaica that is slated to go until May, 2020 and will support projects across eighteen communities.

Today we also acknowledge our partners. These are the Ministry of National Security, National Solid Waste Management Agency and the Social Development Commission. We are reminded by the charges within the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that there is hope for our communities and for a better future for all when we improve capacity at the grassroots.

Most importantly we welcome our community partners, the Community Based organizations and residents who will benefit from this project; we are counting on your support in order to implement this project successfully. We want to hear from you and so value your input.

To date JSIF has only implemented one project in York Town, we recently partnered with the York Town Community Foundation Benevolent Society to implement a summer camp under the Poverty Reduction Programme. The fund

has however invested in other communities in Clarendon such as:

Alley Primary, Comfort Basic School, Milk River Primary School, Springfield Basic School and Toll Gate HC, all works were implemented through the Emergency Recovery Project as well as the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Osbourne Store Basic School under the Caribbean Development Bank.

We at JSIF are happy to say that the partnership between the agency and these communities has received a major boost through this new World Bank Programme.

Although an overview of the project will be presented later in the programme, I want to say that this project seeks to promote public safety. A major leg will be the improvement in access to basic infrastructure such as roads,

storm water drainage; sewage, water supply, household sanitation connections, and zinc fence replacement. The project will also provide a range of social services interventions including after-school educational and recreation projects, minor rehabilitation to school infrastructure, provision of birth certificates, mentorship, employment and skill training opportunities for youth through partnerships with numerous entities including HEART/NTA, NSWMA, and private sector companies, support to vulnerable students and their parents.

We will be investing in building the capacity of residents to manage and maintain the infrastructure constructed and rehabilitated by delivering maintenance training programmes to direct beneficiaries. In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Integrated Community Development is

reflective of the National Vision 2030 which aims to provide a better place for Jamaicans to live, work and raise families.

The JSIF remains committed to investing in communities where resources are most needed.

As we partner together for development, we are expecting more of the outstanding community involvement that we have seen to date. Let us work together to build a better community and a better future.

I thank you