



Scarlette Gillings

Managing Director JSIF

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

AT

**Launch of
Educational Posters for Schools &
Principals' Workshop
Knutsford Court Hotel**

7:30 a.m

March 4, 2015

Salutations

- Rev. Hon. Ronald Thwaites, Minister of Education, Ministry of Education
- Ambassador Paola Amadei, Head Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands
- Ms. Marlene miller Board Member JSIF
- Loy Malcolm JSIF GM Project Management
- Dr. Lawrence Nicholson, Chairman PRP Steering Committee / UWI Mona School of Business & Management
- Other Members of the Steering Committee
- Dr. Eleanor Henry Programme Manager PRP and other JSIF staff members
- Principal and staff from the PRP beneficiary schools
- Ms. Dahlia Harris Master of Ceremony
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

I bring you warm greetings from the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) which is jointly funded by the Government of Jamaica and European Union, and is implemented by JSIF, continues to

demonstrate its strong commitment to sustainable

development through education. As the government entity

with responsibility for the (GoJ's) national poverty alleviation

strategy we want to offer congratulations to the EU and its

members countries for 40 years of development partnership

with Jamaica. The EU support to JSIF spans over 18 years, as

funds from the EU were used to finance pilot activities, the

results of which were used to design JSIF core activities.

More recently in 2001, a restructured intervention of support came in 2001 in the form of PRP and 14 years later we are now at PRP IV.

Today's function is at the core of the PRP which is towards the inclusive growth and equitable development; by promoting economic well-being and enhanced quality of life for residents. One of the pillars is education, and in this case these charts are designed to enhance learning of students in the 40 schools.

We see investment in children as one of best and most valuable long-term investments that can be made.

The project that we are highlighting today is one of several pursued since the start of the PRP.

To date, the programme has completed infrastructure works in the form of new buildings and the refurbishment, rehabilitation, fencing and equipping of existing school

facilities for close to 40 basic, infant, primary and all-age schools island-wide.

By its interventions, the PRP has tackled the issues that affect the learning environment, attendance and safety such as overcrowding of classrooms, and the lack of space for the principal and administrative staff. The programme has also targeted the sanitation facilities and addressed issues of security by providing fencing for the safety of students and staff.

These projects demonstrate the continued commitment of government of Jamaica and EU support (go wide) PRP towards the goal of providing world class “Education and Training as outlined under outcome two of Jamaica’s Vision 2030.”

We express our appreciation to all who have participated in this latest effort. I offer my congratulations to the Principals and PRP team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the deliverables for this project were ready.

The Poverty Reduction Programme, as implemented through JSIF, remains committed to interventions in education where resources are most needed.

I thank you.