

Speaking Notes

For

Omar Sweeney

Managing Director, Jamaica Social  
Investment Fund

At

The Virtual Handing Over Ceremony  
for the PRP Business Support for  
Community Based and Social Enterprises:  
Superior Craft and More Society Project

On March 12, 2021

## **Salutation**

Mr. Damion McClean, Chairman of Jamaica Society for the Blind and Master of Ceremonies

Hon. Julian Robinson Member of Parliament for South East St. Andrew

Mr. Ricard Bardia Divins, Head of Cooperation, European Delegation to Jamaica

Mr. Conrod Harris Executive Director of Jamaica Society for the Blind

Ms. Dyntie Davis, President of Superior Craft and More Co-Operative Society

Ms. Claudette Thompson, Manager of Superior Craft and More Co-Operative Society

Ms. Maxine Harris, Project Manager for the Superior Craft and More Project

Representatives from Department of Friendly Societies

Members of the PRP team

Project Beneficiaries

Representatives from Toyota Jamaica

Representatives of the Media

Good Morning....

It is with great pleasure that I join you today as we virtually hand over grant funding of 1.8 million dollars that will be well spent in developing a world class enterprise.

I am particularly happy to be at the helm of the organization that, through the kind consideration of the European Union can implement such an important project.

The project which has its home at the Jamaica Society for the Blind will not only aid in the development of infrastructure so that the works now being done by **Superior Craft and More Co-operative Society** can carry on, but also will aid in yet another of the important ventures taken on by the noble institution of the Society for the Blind to improve the lives of its members.

The Society for the Blind has been at the fore front of aiding persons who are visually impaired for decades and us at the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, are exceedingly happy that we are able to aid in strengthening the works of the society in this way.

The grant which will be given to The **Superior Craft and More Co-operative Society** will improve this enterprise in two ways:

- ✓ Installation of roofing for their current workspace, to protect against the elements of the weather, as well as to create a more professional look and feel.
- ✓ Procurement of additional materials including wicker, dye, used in the manufacturing process. This will enhance their production levels thus improving their sales ability.

Superior Craft and More is 1 of 6 enterprises to receive grants to implement and manage local community development projects within their respective communities. The grants are being provided through the Poverty Reduction Programme's Entrepreneurship grant initiative.

Through the programme 5 enterprises have received **Business Support** to improve the needs of their **Community-based and Social Enterprises**.

JSIF is pleased that through this grant funding we can serve yet another special needs organization, as we work towards inclusiveness in the way we serve communities.

I again commend the Society for the Blind for the work it is doing and hope that this boost will aid in propelling this business venture further than you could ever image.

Thank you.