

SPEAKING NOTES  
FOR  
Mr. Orville Hill, FCCA, MBA, JP.  
General Manager, Finance, Procurement  
& Standards  
Jamaica Social Investment Fund  
At the  
Contract Signing Ceremony  
for  
the Alligator Head Foundation Facility  
Upgrade & Equipping Project  
On  
Thursday, February 12, 2026.

Moderator, Mrs. Keisha Ann Sleight-Wallace, Senior Communications Officer, Jamaica Social Investment Fund,

Mr. Mark Dean - Managing Director, Managing Director, Prime Fencing and Roofing Systems,

Mr. Christopher Burgess - Managing Director, CEAC Solutions Company Limited,

Mr. Dexter Colquhoun - Director, Alligator Head Foundation,

Mr. Machel Donegan- Operations Manager, Alligator Head Foundation,

Mr. Wade Mars- Executive Director, Tourism Product Development Company,

Mrs. Kerry-Ann Lowe Mullings - Director of Product Development and Community Tourism, Tourism Product Development Company,

Mr. Kearn Wright and representatives from the Prospect Fishermen Group,

Members of the REDI-II Project team,

Residents of Anchovy, and friends committed to Jamaica's sustainable future.

Good morning. Today we gather to place our signatures on a contract that does far more than authorize construction and procurement. It sets in motion a vision of coastal resilience, thriving livelihoods, and environmental stewardship in Portland.

Anchovy's coastline is the lifeblood of more than nine hundred residents of this community. It provides fishing grounds, research opportunities, and growing eco-tourism traffic. Yet, as recent droughts and storms have shown, natural beauty alone cannot guarantee prosperity. Facilities must be modern, energy-efficient, and inclusive; equipment must be safe and sea-worthy, and our marine habitats must be protected if communities are to flourish.

That is the purpose of the Alligator Head Foundation Facility Upgrade and Equipping Project, financed with **J\$45.4 million** under the Second Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI-II). REDI - II is a **US \$40 million** World Bank loan to the Government of Jamaica that is being issued as grants to agriculture and tourism beneficiaries. Its overarching goal is to expand market access and embed climate-resilient practices. Today's contract is a textbook example of that mandate in action.

The Alligator Head Foundation Facility Upgrade & Equipping Project will deliver:

- A rainwater-harvesting system that will capture and store precious rainfall, thereby reducing dependence on municipal supply during periods of drought.
- The installation of a grid-tied solar photovoltaic System will slash energy costs and lower the site's carbon footprint.
- Renovated bathrooms and showers with stalls, designed for persons with disabilities, will make the facility welcoming to every visitor.

- Outdoor showers, privacy fencing, and a covered kayak rack will sharpen the Centre's appeal to eco-tourists who arrive to paddle, snorkel, or study the reef.
- Four retrofitted canoes, each outfitted with life vests, ladders, lights, radios, and life rings, will give the Prospect Fishermen Group a safer, more profitable platform at sea.

Together, these upgrades will strengthen the Foundation's core pillars: active management of the East Portland Fish Sanctuary; rigorous science and research around its reefs, and year-round community outreach.

Twelve members of the Alligator Head Foundation team will work with better tools, lower utility bills, and stronger visitor traffic.

Twenty-four fishers from the Prospect Fishermen Group will operate sturdier canoes and reach prime fishing grounds outside the sanctuary. Indirectly, nearly one thousand residents of Anchovy will gain from new tourism revenue, and an educational centre that models sustainable living.

Investing in this project aligns with Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Development Plan, which calls for balanced growth that safeguards our natural environment. By combining clean energy, water security, marine conservation, and inclusive tourism, this project answers that call. It is proof that environmental responsibility and economic opportunity are not competing goals—they are partners on the same journey.

Signing this contract is only the first milestone. Successful delivery depends on each of us.

- To the Alligator Head Foundation team: maintain these assets, track their performance, and keep opening doors for youth who dream of marine science or eco-entrepreneurship.

- To the Prospect Fishermen Group: continue practicing responsible fishing, honour the sanctuary boundaries you helped create, and share your knowledge with the next generation.
- To our community partners and private-sector friends: design tour packages, craft local products, and tell visitors the story of Anchovy's transformation—because when the story is shared, the benefits multiply.

Let us honour the trust placed in us and deliver on every commitment.

On behalf of every stakeholder represented here, I thank you for your partnership and your resolve. Together, we will modernize these facilities, protect our marine heritage, and open new doors of opportunity for the people of Anchovy.

Thank you and let the work begin.