



GREETINGS BY

Ms. MONA SUE-HO

SENIOR MANAGER, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

AT THE

**Handing Over of Lethe & Bickersteth Greenspaces and Ground
Breaking for the Bickersteth Primary & Infant School Safe Passage
and the Lethe Primary & Infant school Sanitation Block Rehabilitation
Projects**

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

Salutations:

- **Mr. Marlon Tingling** - Master of Ceremonies,
- **+Hon. Homer Davis** - Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister and Member of Parliament, St. James Southern,
- **Dr. Michelle Pinnock**, Regional Director, Ministry of Education & Youth, Region 4, representing the Hon. Fayval Williams - Minister of Education & Youth,
- **DSP. Eron Samuels** - Deputy Superintendent in Charge of Operations, St. James Police Division, Jamaica Constabulary Force,
- **Ms. Tajnah Rowe** - Safety and Security Coordinator, Ministry of Education and Youth, Region 4,
- **Dr. Dwight Collins** – Chairman, Lethe Primary and Infant School,
- **Mrs. Allison McGhie** - Principal, Lethe Primary & Infant School,
- **Mr. Robert Gordon** – Principal, Bickersteth Primary and Infant School,
- **Mr. Dane Julius** – Principal, Roehampton Primary School,
- **Mrs. Cheryl Grant Mitchell** - Principal, Anchovy Primary School,

- Members of the Lethe and Bickersteth Community Development Committees
- Members of my very hard-working JSIF team,
- Friends in the media and Support Staff from the various stakeholder organizations
- Specially Invited Guests,

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund. It is my privilege to be here today to witness the handing over of 4 important projects- 2 in which residents of Lethe and Bickersteth can experience enhanced feelings of well-being and the commencement of two other projects, that are geared towards ensuring that every child in Bickersteth, Lethe and surrounding communities have a safe transit on their way to and from school and have access to a high-quality educational institution.

The implementation of these projects signals the JSIF's thrust to improve the quality of life of residents through the provision of basic infrastructure and social services in Anchovy.

The two greenspaces will provide more than 6000 residents of Bickersteth and Lethe- especially the children - with facilities that promote health and mental well-being. So far, under the Government of Jamaica Integrated Community Development Project - II (ICDP-II), greenspaces have been erected in other parts of St. James including at the Anchovy Primary, Eden, Roehampton, Salt Spring and two in Mount Salem.

I therefore implore the residents to own these parks to take pride in them, while ensuring their continued maintenance; so that these spaces are less hospitable to illicit activity.

As the JSIF endeavours to provide a safe environment for students while they traverse busy roadways on their way to and from school, the Bickersteth Primary School will join four other primary schools and two basic schools in St. James that have so far benefitted from the implementation of Safe Passage: Safe Routes to School projects. This project will consist of several components to include the rehabilitation

and construction of a Sidewalk, rehabilitation and construction of a layby, installation of Guardrails and traffic signs, painting of Guard house, painting of Mural on walls and sidewalk, grading of school play area, construction of Bus Sheds, and the construction of a retaining wall.

The JSIF is also committed to supporting initiatives in education, especially those that focus on the provision of access to suitable Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities while at school. As such, through funding from the ICDP-II, a total of J\$12,548,561.11 will be invested to address the structural deficiencies at the Lethe Primary and Infant School.

The key components of this project will include waterproofing and painting of the bathroom block; rehabilitation and/or replacement of bathroom fixtures; construction of stands for water tanks; minor drainage upgrade; rehabilitation of guttering between the two main blocks; minor rehabilitation of the linkway and Recreational Space, and the fencing and equipping of the play area.

With a more comfortable environment, students will have the opportunity to flourish and learn; supported by a comfortable environment.

On behalf of the management and staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, let me thank all our partners on these four important projects, especially the Ministry of Education and Youth, members of the PTA at Bickersteth and Lethe, and also the members of the Community Development Committees, for your commitment to advancing the long-term social development of these two communities; by helping to foster an environment in which persons desire to live, work, raise families and do business.