



OPENING REMARKS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (JSIF)

Launch

of

ICDP-II Enterprise Development Grant-Salt Spring

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

Salutations:

- **Mr. Marlon Tingling**, Master of Ceremonies
- **Mr. Heroy Clarke**, Member of Parliament, St. James Central,
- **Councillor Joshua Cummings**, representing the Honourable Dr. Horace Chang
- **Mr. Vernon Ellis**, Senior Superintendent of Police Divisional Commander, Area 1
- **Mrs. Angela McIntosh Gayle**, Deputy Superintendent of Police, St. James
- **Detective Inspector Lorenn Knott**, Zone Commander, St. James
- **Sergeant Bruce Walker**, Station Commander
- **Constable Oshane Dwyer**
- **Ms. Mona Sue- Ho**, Senior Manager, Social Development, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- **Mrs. Norma Brydson**, Principal, Salt Spring Primary and Infant School
- **Ms. Carlene Miller**, Principal, Hartsfield Basic School
- **Mr. Randy Hayle**, Parish Manager, Social Development Commission, St. James
- Entrepreneurs and beneficiaries from the first Cycle of Enterprise Development Grants
- Representatives from the Salt Spring Community Development Committee
- Representatives from the Media

It is my pleasure to bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

I am very pleased to be back in Salt Spring, to take part in the launch of an initiative that seeks to assist entrepreneurs to continue to play their part in the development of their community.

Since April 2020, the JSIF through funding from the Government of Jamaica's Integrated Community Development Project-II has been at work in 8 communities in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, St. James and Clarendon to promote public safety transformation, through the provision of basic infrastructure and social services.

The second cycle of the ICDP II Enterprise Development Grant Project, which will be implemented in Salt Spring will see a total of JM\$5,850,000.00 being invested to build the capacity of 30 microenterprises that are dedicated to small scale Manufacturing, Agriculture and Livestock Rearing, Fishery, Agro- processing, Retail and Food Services, Fashion and Garment Construction, Furniture making and

upholstery, Beauty Care Services, Multimedia and Entertainment, and Car Care Services. This is not a hand-out. It is an investment that is intended to help create sustainable employment and income generation in this community.

This second cycle of the ICDP II Enterprise Development Grant Project forms part of the Government of Jamaica's efforts to provide economic support to microenterprises and is intended to contribute to the overall economic growth in Jamaica. To this end, in addition to the provision of equipment to increase their working capital, these entrepreneurs will benefit from Business Development Support, to include Business Development Training in basic Accounting and Business Records Management, Customer Service, Costing of Goods and Services, Business Registration and Taxation, Marketing and Quality Management.

To date, 29 small business operators have already received Grants to purchase machinery, equipment, tools and supplies to boost their businesses. Cumulatively, under the ICDP 11 Cycles 1 &2, a total of 45

small enterprises have so far benefited from grants totaling J\$8.2million, which have helped to keep their doors open and their dreams alive.

Let me reiterate that this project is targeted at entrepreneurs who need a helping hand to take their businesses to the next level. It is not a hand-out. It is assistance that will expand existing small enterprises and prepare the beneficiaries for economic prosperity. These Enterprise Development Grants, which are being facilitated under the second phase of the Government of Jamaica's Integrated Community Development Project, are intended to guarantee an improved standard of living for the beneficiaries, by helping to improve their development opportunities and facilitating their participation in the society and the labour market.

The establishment of partnerships continues to be a crucial factor for fulfilling the JSIF's mandate of poverty alleviation. To ensure that the small businesses that will benefit from grant funding through this cycle of the Enterprise Development Grants have a good chance at being successful, this project is being implemented in partnership with the Salt

Spring Community Development Committee, the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Social Development Commission, the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, the National Fisheries Authority, and the Ministry of Health, and Wellness.

I encourage the beneficiaries to seize the opportunity that is being offered through these grants. Don't squander it. Use it to develop your competencies, expand your existing enterprises and become the next generation of successful business leaders in your community.

Thank you.