



GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

AT THE

Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Enhancement of the Cold Chain Supply and Safety Equipping

Graduation Ceremony

AT THE CARIBBEAN MARITIME INSTITUTE

ON

NOVEMBER 19TH 2014

Salutations:

- Hon. Luther Buchanan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
- Dr. Fitz Pinnock - Executive Director, Caribbean Maritime Institute
- Commander Paul Wright CEO National Fisheries Agency
- Mr. Osric Forrest, Director
- Faculty and Staff of Caribbean Maritime Institute
- JSIF STAFF
- Graduates and Facilitators
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Day to you all.

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

Today's Graduation forms part of the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Enhancement of the Cold Chain Supply and Safety Project being implemented by the Rural Economic Development Initiative with funds from the World Bank. In 2013, the project provided critical equipment to the Fishermen and Fishing Vendors directly connected to the government of Jamaica's aim to improve food safety and create a modern and enabling business environment as a part of our Vision 2030 goals.

For JSIF, this initiative falls under capacity building in the area of business development which has been a new direction for the Fund in the last four years.

JSIF, over the last 18 years has been known for helping the underserved to build schools, roads and water systems in communities as our mandate is to mobilize funds for this purpose. This effort, for our rural communities, started with the National Community Development Project which focused on infrastructure development as well, including feeder roads, health centres and schools.

However, on completion of this particular project a review which was done by the World Bank and the Planning Institute of Jamaica revealed that, along with infrastructure needs, there was also a need for greater economic activity within these rural communities, is also being noted that two main activities which were the basis of community based business were agriculture and community tourism.

It was recognized by our development partners as well that these were the industries which have consistently delivered a sustainable livelihood to rural Jamaican communities.

The decision was taken therefore to create a project to help small agricultural and tourism community groups. This assistance was in keeping with JSIF's mandate, to assist underserved communities to build social capital and alleviate poverty

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) was therefore started in 2010 with US\$15 million in funding from the World Bank to assist these small groups in obtaining knowledge of market needs, market demand and also improve product quality and production techniques.

Today's activity represents the culmination of assistance through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to provide equipment to fish vendors such as igloos while selected fishermen were provided with Life jackets, marine flares and training in basic seamanship and navigation skills.

At this point, we want to acknowledge our partners for this aspect of the project Caribbean Maritime Institute who Delivered the Basic Safety

at Sea training to the graduates here today which reached fishermen from fifty seven (57) beaches in eleven (11) parishes – Westmoreland, St. Mary, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Portland, St Thomas, Manchester, St Elizabeth, Trelawny, St James and St. Ann -. The training covered topics such as basic seamanship and navigation skills; and the safe and proper use of life jackets and other safety equipment. It was delivered with a combination of practical and theory teaching methods.

This project sought to promote sustainability of the fishing industry and will complement one currently being implemented by the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the Improvement of Jamaica's Agricultural Productivity (IJAP), which is upgrading physical infrastructure at six fishing beaches island wide. .

To the fishermen, from:

1. Savanna-La-Mar in Westmoreland
2. White House in Westmoreland

3. Annotto Bay in St. Mary
4. Pagee in St. Mary
5. Manchioneal in Portland
6. Old Harbour in St. Catherine
7. Discovery Bay in St. Ann
8. Rocky Point in Clarendon

Your livelihood helps with food security which is vital to our existence.

We implore, you to make safety the order of the day and apply lessons learnt, and Jamaica will increase its self-sufficiency in the supply of fish to the local market.

We hope that you will make use of the assistance offered in ways that will stand as an example to other local fishers.

You have our best wishes and congratulations on completing the training.

I thank you.