



Scarlette Gillings

Managing Director JSIF

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

AT

Handing Over Ceremony

PRP II Equipping & Fencing projects

March 11, 2014

Central Branch All- Age School

27b Slipe Pen

10: 00 am

Salutations

- Rev. Hon. Ronald Thwaites Minister of Education & Member of Parliament—Kingston Central
- Ambassador Celsa Nuno, Spain's ambassador to Jamaica
- Desmond McKenzie, Member of Parliament, Kingston Western
- JESÚS ORÚS BÁGUENA HEAD OF COOPERATION European Union
- Students and teachers from the beneficiary schools
- MEDIA
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

I bring you greetings from the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

Today marks another occasion to highlight the continued thrust by the Government of Jamaica and the European Union to invest in the nation's children.

Over its 17 years of existence, the JSIF through donors such as the European Union has continued to invest in the upgrading, rehabilitation and construction of early childhood and primary schools. Fully one-third of JSIF's funds are utilized in education.

This handing over for the school's equipping project represents the European Union's supported Poverty Reduction Programme

(PRP) responding to the needs of 7 schools for more and adequate furniture including desks and chairs for students and teachers, perimeter fencing, as well as kitchen and office appliances.

The seven schools that received equipment in this round of PRP assistance are:

- Allman Town Primary
- Melrose Infant, Primary & Junior High
- St. Mary's Early Childhood Development
- St. Michael's Primary
- Windward Road Primary & Junior High, ,
- St. Simon's Basic and
- Central Branch All Age who we want to thank for playing host for this ceremony.

We want to also acknowledge the active participation of the Parent Teachers Associations, the Boards and all other stakeholders who assisted with repairs over the years at these schools. We have every confidence that they will continue to ensure the proper upkeep of these equipment.

This project is valued at over twenty four (\$24 million) with community contributing over six (\$6 million) of that amount.

The scope of works included the construction of five (5) play areas complete with perimeter fencing, and provision of play equipment (swings, jungle gyms, see-saws and slides). Other equipping included

- desks
- chairs
- tables
- filing cabinets appliances for use in the schools' tuck shops.

Indeed all of this was done to create a more enabling environment for the promotion of better learning outcomes.

For the hundreds of students and dozens of teachers who will now benefit, you have our best wishes in the use of this equipment. As we strive with the many partners to improve the schools infrastructure and equipment we urge you to take due care so that future generations can also share in the benefits.

I thank you