



GREETINGS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY CD, PE.

MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF

AT THE

Handing over of the

Grange Hill Primary School Expansion & Rehabilitation project

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2023

Salutations:

- Master of Ceremonies - Pastor Delgado Black,
- **Hon. Marsha Smith** - State Minister in the Ministry of Education and Youth,
- **Dr. Kasan Troupe** – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Youth,
- **Mr. Morland Wilson** - Member of Parliament, Westmoreland Western,
- **s Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Bertel Moore** – Mayor of Savanna-La-Mar,
- **The Very Reverend Canon Hartley Perrin** - Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of Westmoreland,
- Members of my very hard-working JSIF team,
- Friends in the media,
- Students and staff of the Grange Hill Primary school.

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board,

Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

I am honoured to be in Grange Hill today, to demonstrate the JSIF's ongoing commitment to assisting the Government of

Jamaica in its thrust to advance the modernization of the education sector.

Since its inception the JSIF has supported education by investing in the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of more than 400 school related projects. This translates to over JM\$6 Billion Jamaican Dollars.

With this latest endeavor, approximately JM\$ 111.1 Million Jamaican Dollars was invested by the JSIF with funding from the 9th cycle of the Caribbean Development Bank's Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF-9th), to rehabilitate and expand this school plant. This investment was made specifically to support the overarching mission of the Ministry of Education and Youth, to provide quality education in a caring, inclusive, and enabling

environment that promotes the holistic development of our children.

The scope of the work undertaken for this project comprised a Construction, Equipping and Training component. The Construction component involved the construction of 8 additional classrooms; to alleviate the overcrowding that was being experienced at this school. Additionally, this project entailed the construction of a sick bay and staff area with adjoining bathrooms; construction of a Guidance Counsellor's Office; construction of an office space, as well as the installation of a tertiary sewerage system.

Under the Equipping component, the school was provided with educational and technological resources to include: 3 Laptops

with carrying cases, 3 Projectors, and a Projector Screen, a Laser Multifunction Colour printer, teaching aids, and other classroom support tools.

Under the Training component of this project, seven persons from the school benefitted from a four-day residential training in maintenance, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

The entire design of this project will allow the students and staff at the Grange Hill Primary school to feel proud and comfortable to be engaging daily in the important learning process, in an environment that is conducive to learning.

Let me remind everyone that it is through education that we will break the poverty cycle among so many in our Society. I am therefore appealing to all the parents and guardians present here today to support your children's educational journey. Make

sure they never miss a day of school. Get involved in the life and work of the institution. Never ever stand by and allow anyone to vandalize this school. It is the community's asset and must be maintained and secured. Work with the teachers. Keep track of your children's progress. The quality of their future depends on it.

On behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund let me wish for you, all the good that is possible from this rehabilitated learning facility.

Thank you.