



GREETINGS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF

AT THE

Handing Over Ceremony

for

the Barrett Town Health Centre

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Salutations:

- Master of Ceremonies - Mrs. Marline Stephenson Dalley
- Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, and Member of Parliament, St. James East Central,
- Her Excellency, Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, Head of the European Union Delegation to Jamaica,
- His Worship the Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor. Leeroy Williams,
- Bishop the Hon. Conrad Pitkin - Custos Rotulorum for St James,
- Dr. Wayne Henry – Board Chairman of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, and Director General for the Planning Institute of Jamaica,
- Mr. Eric Clarke, Chairman, Western Regional Health Authority
- St. Andrade Sinclair, Regional Director, Western Regional Health Authority
- Mr. Lennox Wallace, Acting Parish Manager, St. James Health Department
- Ms. Audrey Gillings, Senior Public Health Nurse, St. James

- Members of Staff representing the St. James Health Department and the Barrett Town Health Centre
- Friends in the media

To our specially Invited Guests,

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

I am honoured to be in St. James today, to demonstrate the JSIF's commitment to restore our communities to havens of hope. Two years ago, the JSIF announced its intention to spearhead a comprehensive Health Centre Expansion Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the European Union, and the residents of four communities in St. James, that have benefitted from this extensive Programme, under the fourth phase of the European Union's Poverty Reduction Programme (EU-PRP-IV).

It is indeed a pleasure for the JSIF to have been called upon, to be one of the partners on this mission, as the Government of Jamaica seeks to advance its vision for the island's public health infrastructure.

Through a total investment of J\$ 43.8 million Jamaican Dollars from the European Delegation, the Barrett Town Health Centre has received an improved health facility that will provide a better quality of service to the approximately nine thousand registered patients and thirteen health workers from the Ministry of Health & Wellness.

The myriad of problems that were being faced at this Health Centre were alleviated by construction of one Consultation room, two offices, a Records room, a Nebulization room, a Storage room, a Kitchenette, one staff bathroom, and Chain-link perimeter fencing. The existing waiting area was also expanded, and rehabilitation works undertaken to improve existing bathrooms, sections of the Main Building, and damaged external doors.

The JSIF looks forward to continuing our support of improved health service delivery across Jamaica, and to the investment in the economic and social development efforts started so many years ago; to build the foundation for an improved quality of life for Jamaicans.

This health Centre belongs to the community, so I urge the residents to take care of it, so it may serve you for generations to come.

Thank you for allowing the Jamaica Social Investment Fund to play a role in the positive transformation that you will see in Barrett Town. Please continue to stay safe and enjoy the rest of your day.