

SPEAKING NOTES

FOR

Dr. Wayne Henry

Chairman of the Board of the
Jamaica Social Investment Fund

AT

The Handing over of the Safe Passage to
Salt Spring Primary and Infant school

In

Salt Spring, St. James

On

January 27, 2022.

Salutation

Honourable Dr. Horace Chang, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Security and Member of Parliament, North-West St. James.

Honourable, Fayval Williams, Minister of Education and Youth

Mr. Heroy Clarke, Member of Parliament, St. James Central

Your Excellency Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, Head of EU Delegation

Representing the Mayor, Councilor Joshua Cummings, Norwood Division

Ms. Mona Sue Ho, Senior Manager, Social Development, JSIF

Mrs. Norma Brydson, Principal, Salt Spring Primary and Infant School

Ms. Carlene Miller, Principal, Hartsfield Basic School

Members of the Media,

Members of the JSIF team, Members of staff from the Salt Spring Primary and Infant school.

Good Morning

Road safety is a national cause for concern as hundreds of Jamaicans, including children, have lost their lives annually due to road accidents. In 2021, some 484 persons lost their lives on the nation's roads (the highest in the last 10 years); 62 percent of these person were what the Road Safety Unit classify as Vulnerable Road Users, these include motorcyclists, pedal cyclist, pillion riders and of course pedestrians. Of this number, some 20 percent of the fatalities were pedestrians.

This group of pedestrians includes an even more vulnerable group... our children. Last year the Road Safety Unit up to June 2021 recorded that 9 children died while navigating their way on our roads.

The Safe Passage project is an intervention to support the safe commute of children to and from school using specific roadways and throughfares. The project has already been implemented in 8 schools across Jamaica under the first phase of the Integrated Community Development Project, ICDP, which was funded by the World Bank. Building on the success of Phase 1, the Safe Passages Project is now being implemented under the Government of Jamacia's ICDP II project in 5 communities – Salt Spring and Anchovy in St James, Treadlight in Clarendon and Greenwich Town an August Town in St Andrew. Three of these Safe Passages, including Salt Spring, are GOJ targets under the EU Citizen Security Programme for financial year 2021/22.

This Safe Passage in Salt Spring boasts all the features which have become synonymous with this project. At a cost of 14 million dollars- 400 metres of sidewalk was constructed with safety guard rails. School traffic signs were installed, and a pedestrian crossing was put in place.

Additionally, Two (2) bus sheds were constructed, the school fencing was rehabilitated and replaced with a block wall structure with murals depicting messages on road safety. The project does not stop with the infrastructure, it also includes a comprehensive public education and road safety programme including staff, students, residents, transport providers and other road users educating them on proper road. This project will also include a maintenance management component to support the proper use and sustainability of this asset.

This project is a true testament of stakeholders coming together for the greater good of our country. It is my hope, that this Safe Passage programme will have the outcome of providing safe commute for students, staff and other pedestrians in partnership with the wider community and other stakeholders.

I am proud today to be a part of the handing over of this well needed project to the Salt Spring Primary and Infant school which will not only

serve the school and neighbouring public health centre but the general residents of Salt Spring.

I implore you as teacher, parents and caregivers to maintain this safe passage to the best of your ability so that it will not only serve your children but also the next generation.

I Thank You