



GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR THE

Handing-over Ceremony The Rocky Point Market

**Rocky Point, Clarendon
On**

**Saturday, April 12, 2014
10:30 a.m.**

- **The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, ON, MP**

Prime Minister of Jamaica

- **Hon. Noel Arscott, MP Minister of Local
Government & Community Development**
- **Mr. Rudyard Spencer, OD Member of Parliament
South-East Clarendon**
- **His Worship The Mayor Cllr. Scean Barnswell, JP
Mayor of May Pen**
- **Councillor. Winston Maragh Rocky Point Division**
- **Miss Eurica Douglas Manager, National
Association of Parish Development Committees**
- **Mr. Arthur Coleman President Rocky Point
Benevolent Association**

- **The Rev. Nigel Lewis Pastor of Elim & Galilee**

Gospel Assembly

- **Community Members**
- **JSIF Staff members**
- **The Police**
- **Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the board, management and staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

The Fund, as the body responsible for executing the government's development mission within underserved areas of the island, has been working towards community development and empowerment for over 17 years.

In the early years, the JSIF interventions focused on infrastructure development such as road repairs, construction and rehabilitation of schools and health centres. However as the needs changed the fund incorporated interventions such as income

generating projects in rural areas. JSIF has built small agro-processing facilities before but never a Market; this is a first for JSIF and a good learning experience.

Markets traditionally have held a special place in the hearts of Jamaicans, and the thriving market can energize community spirit and economic activity.

The Fund's relationship with the Rocky Point Market began when the Department of Local Government (DLG) approached the JSIF for participation in a collaborative effort to reconstruct and rehabilitate several markets in Jamaica. As a result the Market was upgraded through an investment of over J\$50M from the Caribbean Development Bank/Basic Needs Trust Fund 6 which was implemented by the Jamaica

Social Investment Fund. Overall the project impacted 320 beneficiaries directly and 4200 indirectly.

At this time JSIF wishes to thank all the stakeholders involved in the completion of this project on behalf of the Caribbean Development Bank:

1. The Rocky Point Benevolent Society
2. The Rocky Point Fishing Association
3. The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation
4. The Clarendon Parish Council
5. The Clarendon Health Department
6. National Solid Waste Management Authority

The strong involvement of the Rocky Point Benevolent Society also must be acknowledged as they lobbied on the community's behalf extensively and made themselves available for the many training sessions and mobilized the community for the activities under the Social Marketing campaign and they will have the task of managing the new facility.

This project was not without its fair share of challenges but JSIF engaged the community through several meetings to ensure that their issues were heard and addressed as best as possible. One of the main issues encountered was funding. Limited funding for a venture of this size means inevitably that

this is just a starting point for the operators of the market, the Parish Council and the benevolent society.

We are however confident that through continued partnership and dialogue, issues will be resolved to ensure the maintenance, operation and management of the market.

The project comprised three sub - components; namely social infrastructure, organizational strengthening and maintenance training. More specifically, the community was trained in environmental conservation and food handlers' hygiene practices. This was undertaken through a social marketing campaign aligned to sensitizing the

community on better hygiene sanitation and garbage disposal and improving relations between vendors and the Clarendon Parish Council as well as the Clarendon Health Department.

As we hand over this market we say congratulations in all your endeavours. Please let a thriving economic atmosphere and maintaining the new facility order of the day.

Thank You

