



**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND**

**FOR**

**INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ICDP)**

**CARIBBEAN PALM ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE 88-100**

**SPANISH TOWN ROAD KINGSTON.**

**January 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**

**2pm**

## Salutations

- Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller ON.MP
- Councillor Greenwich Farm Division Karl Blake
- Dwayne Vernon Executive Director Social Development Commission
- Jennifer Edwards National Solid Waste Management Agency
- Patrick Newman Executive Director, St. Andrew Settlement
- Loy Malcolm General Manager Project Management JSIF
- Other JSIF staff
- Police
- Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, I extend warmest greetings and a heartfelt welcome to everyone to the launch of the Integrated Community Development Project in Majesty Gardens and Greenwich Town/ Newport West.

I am happy to see many familiar faces here today. The JSIF has been working continuously in Greenwich Farm and adjoining communities to introduce a better quality of life for all residents.

I offer a special welcome to, Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller whose is here in her capacity as Member of Parliament for South West St. Andrew.

I would also like to single out for special welcome the representatives from the World Bank who are funding the project with a US\$42M loan to the Government of Jamaica that is slated to go until May, 2020.

Today we also acknowledge our partners. These are the Ministry of National Security, National Solid Waste Management Agency and the Social Development Commission. We are reminded by the charges within the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that there is hope for our communities and for a better future for all when we improve capacity at the grassroots.

Most importantly we welcome our community partners, the Community Based organizations and residents who will benefit from this project; we are counting on your support in order to implement this project successfully. We want to hear from you and so value your input.

This is not the first time that the JSIF is channeling resources to communities in South West St. Andrew, previous interventions undertaken in the community include the installation of 330 metres of fencing and pedestrian gates last year along Marcus Garvey Drive.

The JSIF and community partners have also worked on the rehabilitation of the Greenwich Town All-Age School and playfield; upgrading of the Greenwich Farm access road; equipping of a computer centre; as well as skills development, parenting and summer camp programmes.

We at JSIF are happy to say that the partnership between the agency and these communities has received a major boost through this new World Bank Programme.

Although an overview of the project will be presented later in the programme, I want to say that this project seeks to promote public safety. A major leg will be the

improvement in access to basic infrastructure such as roads, storm water drainage; sewage, water supply, household sanitation connections, and zinc fence replacement. The project will also provide a range of social services interventions including after-school educational and recreation projects, minor rehabilitation to school infrastructure, provision of birth certificates, mentorship, employment and skill training opportunities for youth through partnerships with numerous entities including HEART/NTA, NSWMA, and private sector companies, support to vulnerable students and their parents.

We will be investing in building the capacity of residents to manage and maintain the infrastructure constructed and rehabilitated by delivering maintenance training programmes to direct beneficiaries. In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Integrated Community Development is

reflective of the National Vision 2030 which aims to provide a better place for Jamaicans to live, work and raise families.

The JSIF remains committed to investing in communities where resources are most needed.

As we partner together for development, we are expecting more of the outstanding community involvement that we have seen to date. Let us work together to build a better community and a better future.

I thank you