



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

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JSIF BREAKFAST MEETING SERIES WITH PARISH COUNCILS

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), hosted the first in a series of breakfast meetings with Parish Councils across the island. The first meeting was held in Montego Bay and involved the administrative staff of three (3) Parish Councils -St. James, Westmoreland and Hanover.

These breakfast meetings have been hosted by the JSIF in previous years; and have proven very important in the partnership between the bodies over the years.

The meetings provide an opportunity to engage with the Councils outside of the normal day to day interactions. During the meetings JSIF outlines based on the programmes being implemented, an overall status of activities within the parishes and the investments planned.

Importantly both JSIF and the Councils are able to identify and work through any challenges, and highlight any policy or procedural shifts.

The meetings are being held to solidify the relationship with the Parish Councils who the JSIF must inevitably engage with, when implementing infrastructure projects in the various communities.

In addition, the officers of the councils were given details of the various project offerings of JSIF so they could be better able to identify potential projects within their respective communities.

The process of accessing funding for these projects was also explained and Parish Councils were encouraged to first identify then write and submit proposals for projects they want to get underway in their various councils.

JSIF Managing Director, Omar Sweeney in his presentation pointed to the government's move to introduce a new building code which is being promulgated in Parliament.

He pointed out that when the legislation is passed there will be need for proper training in order for persons within the Parish Councils to manage the process.

Mr. Sweeney offered the support of JSIF in providing training and expertise to guide the Parish Councils in the administration of the new building code.

The JSIF partnership with the Parish Councils will be solidified later in the year with the renewal or extension of current MoU arrangements. The next in the series of Breakfast meetings will be held in Kingston at Courtleigh Hotel on April 20 and will see the JSIF engaging with the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation (KSAC), as well as the St Catherine and Clarendon Parish Councils.

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