



GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

LONG COFFEE ROAD REHABILITATION SPONSOR SIGNING CEREMONY

AT THE MT. FAITH REVIVAL MISSION CHURCH

ON

FRIDAY JULY 5, 2013 AT 2 P.M

Salutations:

Mr. Audley Shaw, MP, Manchester North Eastern

Pastor McKenzie-Kirkland

(Pastor for Mt. Faith Revival Mission)

Mr. Desmond Harrison - Councillor for Christiana Division)

Communities Staceyann Bell and Eletha Whyte

Specially invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Day to you all.

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

JSIF remains committed to the core objectives of delivering basic services to communities which are most in need. The deplorable condition of the Long Coffee to Mollison road has hindered the life of the community for so long; both socially and economically.

This is a poor rural farming community with approximately 22 – 33% percent of the population living below the poverty level.

It is in this context that an intervention is being pursued in order to provide a means of opening new opportunities for all affected.

Locally, there are sections of the Long Coffee road where the surface is completely eroded, rendering the road virtually impassable to vehicular traffic.

Farmers, students, the elderly and residents have to travel a longer road to get to the town of Christiana, at a higher cost than normal.

Via this route the distance travelled to Christiana would be approximately 4.5 km, while the route they are forced to travel is approximately 9 km. The condition of the road has also negatively affected agriculture in the community. Donkeys are still used to carry goods from the farms to the main road. According to RADA, The poor road condition has also led to a 30% loss in the marketable produce between farm gate and market.

Farming is a mainstay in the community. While there are approximately 60 registered farmers in Long Coffee, every home has a farm attached to it. With an average farm gate price of \$40 per pound, the average potential income to be gained at each harvesting period for

each of these crops is \$320,000. This potential is not actualized, mainly due to the limited access to markets.

JSIF under the Community Investment Project (CIP), which has the improvement of basic rural infrastructure as its main objective, has committed to rehabilitating some 3 km which will create a better link between the community and Christiana, along with other major towns. The scope of works will include rehabilitation of 2.45km (1.52 Miles) and sheet patch 0.55 km (0.341 miles) with the overall works to include:

- Road formation (11000 m²)
- Sub-Base Material (2500 m³),
- Base course material (2500m³),
- Double surface dressing (11,000m²) and V-Drains (300m).

The estimated 1280 residents of Long Coffee will benefit, 60% of whom are farmers.

Through funding from the GOJ and the Caribbean Development Bank, JSIF will provide \$25.18 million with the community contribution being \$1.8 million in kind.

A maintenance committee will be trained in routine and preventative maintenance. The farmers in the community will also benefit from a technical assistance project that will support them in improving their current agricultural practices.

The project is expected to be implemented over a three month period.

You have our best wishes as we commence this project. The JSIF looks forward to continued collaboration with communities across Jamaica in serving their needs. I thank you.