



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND
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GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

HANDING OVER CEREMONY

Parade Gardens Community Centre Construction

Wednesday June 18, 2014

11:00 am

Parade Gardens Community Centre

Salutations

- HON. REV. RONALD G. THWAITES MINISTER OF EDUCATION
- AMBASSADOR PAOLA AMADEI HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
- AMBASSADOR GODELIEVE VAN DEN BERGH – BELGIUM
-
- GAVIN TENCH – HEAD OF SECTION, POLICIES , PRESS AND INFORMATION EUD
- KELLY THOMPSON DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE – CANADIAN HIGH
COMMISSION
- MS. ANN MARIE MORRISON, J.P. CLLR. RAE TOWN DIVISION
- GEORGE QUALLO, ASST. COMMISSIONER, JCF
- COURTNEY BROWN DIRECTOR, CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
- MR. JEFFERY MCKENZIE MASTER OF CERMONY
- ANTHONY MARKES CDC MEMBER / CSJP SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICARY
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- MEDIA

- POLICE
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Good Morning,

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

Today we are happy to mark the official conclusion of another project completed under the European Union supported Poverty Reduction Programme. The project was implemented with the assistance and collaboration of the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) of the Ministry of National Security and the community based organizations.

Some 400 persons, including many young persons, affiliated with over a dozen Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Parade Gardens are the direct beneficiaries of what we celebrate today; an integrated facility that accommodates social activities for all.

The aim of PRP which is implemented by JSIF is poverty alleviation through sustainable measures, improving the quality of life in communities, with high emphasis on the promotion of community safety.

Today, our sponsoring partners, including hosts Parade Gardens Community Development Committee (CDC) and the Greater Kingston Community Development Projects Ltd can feel justly proud of what has been collectively achieved. More importantly we commend the community members for working together across party lines without incident. This is a prime example of putting community development first.

The birth of this new community institution is intended to positively affect the lives of man, woman and child.

As is found to be often true, the absence of a suitable integrated community space makes it difficult to build social capital in the community, and to encourage, plan and coordinate development initiatives.

There were several external agencies whose efforts to drive social development interventions were blocked due to absence of a neutral and safe facility in Parade Gardens.

The construction of integrated community space facility was therefore in full alignment with the objectives of the European Union supported PRP programme, namely, improvement in socio economic conditions and quality of life in communities.

Under PRP, JSIF completed a facility which can accommodate social activities for all groups. The contracted cost was J\$39 million with approved community contribution of \$10 million. Infrastructure works included construction of an auditorium, a classroom space, one computer laboratory, a kitchen, an office area, a stage with stage room, rehabilitation of the front boundary wall to include a pedestrian gate.

The sponsor groups were required to make a minimum of 25% of the total project cost as contribution in cash or kind. This included the provision of land, provision of storage for material and equipment, provision of a venue and furniture for meetings, ceremonies, and other goods and services.

The PRP and CSJP have together moved to address the critical lack of suitable and integrated community space where young persons could have safe space to gather for their social activities, including training workshops and community events.

It is noteworthy that the young will now benefit significantly, given that many of CBOs target them for development initiatives, since they make up some 60 per cent of the resident population in Parade Gardens.

Such social initiatives help to address the major priority of reduction of problems of public safety. Training and other initiatives which can significantly improve the quality of life for residents – young and old – can now be facilitated.

At this point we urge the community to work alongside the Management Committee to manage the facility so it will be properly

maintained and that the activities engaged here are enriching and nurturing to all. Please make continued maintenance the order of the day. We hope that this centre will be used to transform lives and indeed the entire community, as you come together to promote peace, development and positive change. You have our best wishes.

I thank you.