



Speaking Notes

For

Mr. Omar Sweeney

Managing Director,

Jamaica Social Investment Fund

At

Handing Over of the Albion Primary  
School special Education Block

On March 10, 2023

## **Salutation**

Master of Ceremonies, Master of Ceremonies and Regional  
Director Ministry of Education, Region 5, Mr. Ottis Brown

Minister of Education and Youth, Honorable, Fayval Williams

Member of Parliament for Central Manchester, Rhoda Moy  
Crawford

Lieutenant Colonel, The Honourable Garfield S. Green, Custos  
Rotulorum for the Parish of Manchester

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Donovan Mitchell, Mayor of  
Manchester

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Maureen  
Dwyer

Dr. Wayne Henry, Chairman, Jamaica Social Investment Fund,  
and Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Chairman of the Board of the Albion Primary School, Dr. Pauline  
Samuda

Past Chairman, Albion Primary School, Reverend Khereen Wilson

Principal of the Albion Primary School, Ms. Paulette Chedda

I am pleased to be here today to join with the school family of the Albion Primary School as we officially open this new Special Education Block. The genesis of this project dates back to 2020, shortly after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic where the dire need for a special education facility was emphasized in the Ministry of Education Region 5. At that time the MOEY identified 300 students in the region in need of special needs education services. More specifically, the Albion Primary School was identified as having over 30% of its 226 students with special needs. This is on the cusp of the recently implemented Disabilities Act, which reinforces the right to Education for All.

This new facility boasts three-classrooms, an 8-seater sanitation block, staffroom, storage area, a kitchen, dining area, a principal's office, Guidance Counsellor's Office, multipurpose court, all secured by chain link fencing.

The Albion Special Education Block has all classrooms furnished with desk and chairs for both students and teachers. The kitchen was also outfitted with relevant appliances. Furthermore, the school was

provided with special education apparatus; such as, 2 projectors, 3 laptop computers, a 75" digital display system, 3 fire extinguishers, charts, books and other learning aids. Members from the school community also benefited from a 4-day residential training workshop in Maintenance management and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

The overall cost of this new facility is **\$87 million Jamaican dollars.**

We wish to acknowledge the Caribbean Development Bank who, in addition to providing the funding for this project under the BNTF Cycle 9, has also invested in the training and certification of 163 teachers in literacy and numeracy, teaching of children with exceptionalities and general special education instruction. Additionally, the grant funded 35 Principals and Administrators in Inclusive School Leadership. Overall, the CDB has invested 69% of its total grant funding towards education and human capacity development in Jamaica.

We also wish to thank the Ministry of Education and Youth, for their continued partnership. Their input included the installation of grills on this facility, as well as overall technical support.

As we cut the ribbon today and take the first step into this new building, let us reflect on the impact it will have on not only Albion School, but the region in providing access to education for this vulnerable group.

We implore you at Albion to continue to strive for excellence and to protect and use this resource to enrich the lives of the children that will pass through this institution.