



REMARKS BY

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AT THE

ICDP-II Enterprise Development Award ceremony

THURSDAY, APRIL 06, 2023

Salutations:

- **Mr. Gerrard McDaniel - Master of Ceremonies,**
- **Senator The Hon. Aubyn Hill –Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce,**
- **Ms. Mona Sue-Ho - Senior Manager, Social Development, Jamaica Social Investment Fund**
- **Senior Superintendent Michael Phipps, head of the Kingston Western Police Division**
- **Entrepreneurs,**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning all:

It is my pleasure to bring you remarks today as we award outstanding microenterprises who benefitted from funding under the first and second cycles of the ICDP II Enterprise Development Grants.

In July 2020, the JSIF in support of the Government of Jamaica's policy to provide economic support to microenterprises and contribute to overall economic growth in Jamaica, decided to provide a boost to

small business owners, through funding from the Government of Jamaica's Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP-II). We realized however, that if these enterprises were to succeed, it could not only be about providing financial support as there are other crucial areas where support is necessary to give these enterprises the maximum chance of success. Therefore, a Business Development Support component was incorporated, to include business development training in areas such as Costing, Customer Service, Marketing and Sales, Financial Literacy and Budgeting, Management of business records, and Legal compliance. This Component was vital, as it gave the entrepreneurs a holistic understanding of how to execute strategies to further grow their businesses successfully.

Cycle 3 of the microenterprise project is still in progress, so today, these awardees were selected from Cycles 1 and 11, that benefitted a total of 368 microenterprises in 8 targeted communities in St. James, Clarendon, Kingston, and St. Andrew.

This assistance has helped to create sustainable employment, boost income generation, achieve growth, and in some cases allowed the entrepreneurs to give back to their communities.

As Small Business owners, there will be struggles on your journey to success, but what of that? You have already proven that you care about more than just making money, and that you care about making your communities a better place by investing in it. You have demonstrated the ability to take risks, to organize yourselves, and the drive to diversify your businesses, and make crucial investments in the face of uncertainty.

My hearty congratulations to all. This award event today recognizes your status as winners in your businesses and your communities. You proved that with determination and willpower, success is possible. You embody, each in your specific way, what we need in Jamaica today, I am excited to see what you will accomplish next.