



OPENING REMARKS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (JSIF)

Launch

of

ICDP-II Enterprise Development Grant-Cycle 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

Salutations:

- **Mr. Gerrard McDaniel**, Master of Ceremonies
- **Senator, The Hon. Aubyn Hill**, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce
- **Honourable Ian Forbes**, Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of St. Andrew
- **Mr. Omar Sweeney, Managing Director**, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- **Ms. Mona Sue Ho**, Senior Manager, Social Development, Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- **Other Members of the JSIF Team**
- **Mr. Marlon Nesbeth**, Senior Superintendent of Police, St. Andrew Central, Jamaica Constabulary Force
- **Major Sheldon Bryan**, First Battalion, The Jamaica Regiment, Joint Force Command, Jamaica Defence Force
- **Mrs. Francene Pryce**, Community Development Officer, Social Development Commission
- **Presidents** of the August Town, Denham Town and Greenwich Town Community Development Committees as well as **Entrepreneurs and Beneficiaries** representing the August Town, Denham Town and Greenwich Town communities
- The Media

It is my pleasure to bring you warm greetings on behalf of the JSIF

Board, Management and Staff.

For over 25 years of investment for community development, we, at the JSIF are never daunted by the mission of enabling all members of our beneficiary communities, including the poorest and the most vulnerable, to develop skills and competencies to take greater control of their own lives.

Given the importance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to the growth of the Jamaican economy, this second cycle of the Integrated Community Development Project's Enterprise Development Grant is an important aspect of the Government of Jamaica's efforts to stimulate employment in Jamaica and drive economic growth. To this end, these grants are intended to support entrepreneurs in manufacturing, Agriculture and Livestock rearing, Fishery, Agro-processing, Retail and Food services, Fashion and Garment Construction, Furniture making and Upholstery, Beauty Care services, Multimedia and Entertainment, and Car Care services.

The grants that will be disbursed under this project will provide support to over two hundred and thirty (230) small business operators through the provision of equipment and business development training, that will assist them to fortify the foundation of their enterprises and prepare them to progress to the next step that they take towards elevating their businesses and ultimately their communities.

We are all aware of how difficult this past year has been, especially for Small Businesses that were not left unscathed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This valuable and timely assistance to our micro and small businesses will have a larger impact that extends beyond our entrepreneurs.

To ensure that the businesses that benefit from the Enterprise Development Grants are equipped to develop and thrive, the Business Development component that is available under this project will offer basic Accounting and Business Records Management, Customer Service,

Costing of Goods & Services, Business Registration and Taxation, Marketing and Quality Management; to build their capacity and enhance their entrepreneurial abilities.

In collaboration with the various Community Development Committees that will be engaged through this project; Jamaica Constabulary Force Community Safety and Security Branch, the Social Development Commission, the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, the National Fisheries Authority, and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the JSIF looks forward to continuing to work with the project beneficiaries as they endeavour to enhance themselves and their families.

Thank you.