



GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR

MOU SIGNING CEREMONY

OCTOBER 9th 2012

10:00am

Salutations

- Dr. Carolyn Hayle Executive Director, HEART Trust/NTA
- Pastor Ronnie Henry Executive Secretary

Central Jamaica Conference of Seventh Day Adventist

- Mr. Denworth Finnikin Director/Principal

Portmore HEART Academy

- Participants in the Programme
- JSIF Staff
- HEART Staff and Students
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and welcome you to the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between JSIF and Heart Trust NTA and also the official launch of the JSIF/HEART skills training programme being done through the Portmore Heart Academy and the Above Rocks Skills Training Centre.

This partnership today solidifies the efforts by the Government of Jamaica to place education at the forefront of the nation's development priorities. This goal - in particular - has been pursued in partnership with the World Bank and Japanese Government.

Since inception, JSIF has disbursed 1/3 of its budget towards educating Jamaicans, this including the building of

infrastructure, equipping of schools, and partnering to create access to skills training.

For the signing today, 90 young persons from 5 of the 12 communities benefitting from the Inner City Basic Services Project namely (Tawes Meadows, March Pen, Shelter Rock, Lauriston and Knollis) are poised to benefit from level one and level two programmes at HEART Academy Portmore and the Above Rocks Vocational Training Center. Areas of training include Food Preparation, General Construction, Plumbing, Electrical Installation, Business Administration, Cosmetology and Data Operations.

We want to applaud HEART Trust NTA; our partner today for its 30 years of creating a highly skilled, productive and competitive workforce which has ultimately contributed to Jamaica's Development.

The current project is necessary, as many of the communities have high rates of dropouts from the formal education system, and limited access to skills training opportunities for unattached and at risk youth.

Importantly, it must be noted that the community is contributing \$1.46 million toward this project.

With sincerity, I urge the selected participants to support the programme. Strive for perfect attendance and make every effort to remember that the skills learnt will equip you with a means to earning.

Just to reinforce

- Persons who are certified with skills earn more over the course of their lifetime than those without.
- Training can increase individuals' employability.

- Skills development gives people career progression and promotion opportunities.

We look forward to each every participant selected completing the programme and graduating with full certification.

I thank you!