



GREETINGS BY

MRS. RHONDA LUMSDEN –LUE

GENERAL MANAGER, HR, ADMINISTRATION COMMUNICATION & MIS

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR THE

Richmond Gap to Richmond Vale Road Rehabilitation Sponsor

signing

at the Richmond Gap Church of God in Richmond Gap, St. Thomas.

WEDNESDAY JULY 3, 2013.

Salutations:

- Mr James Robertson, Member of Parliament of St. Thomas Western
- Mrs. Marsha Johnson, Mayor of Morant Bay and Councilor of Richmond Gap.
- Mr. Howard Anderson, president of the Richmond Gap Benevolent Society.
- Pastor Junior Purboo
- Mr Everton Henry, Vice President Richmond Gap Benevolent Society
- Mrs. Andrea Morgan-Francis, Principal the Richmond Gap Primary and Junior High
- Representatives of the Cedar Valley Police
- All specially invited guests.
- Ladies and Gentlemen

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

For residents of Richmond Vale and surrounding communities, this project has been a long time coming. The completion of the road has been a goal greatly longed for in an area where farmers are still being forced to carry their produce on the backs of donkeys.

In fulfilling its mandate, the JSIF seeks to facilitate the empowerment of communities. Notably, for over twenty years, the Richmond Gap Benevolent Society has been trying its best to attract funding for the road. We have not ignored these efforts.

Our job is to assist in building national capacity through the implementation of similar community-based programmes. All of our efforts are in this area.

Despite the many challenges over the period, our interventions have been aimed at reaching this single goal.

The Bethel Gap to Richmond Vale Road is the main access roadway serving the Bethel Gap, Mango Row, Cabbage Hill, Richmond Gap and Richmond Vale communities.

The request from the community for assistance resulted in the plan to complete resurfacing for Bethel Gap to Mango Row, Mango Row to Richmond Gap and Richmond Gap to Richmond Vale. To date only Bethel Gap to Mango Row has been completed.

The condition of the road has contributed to spoilage of valuable produce. It has also increased travel time of children and persons employed outside of the community.

Because of its poor condition, it has also resulted in limited access of emergency vehicles.

Funding for resurfacing is now being facilitated by the Caribbean Development Bank and the government of Jamaica under JSIF's Community Investment Project (CIP) which aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of poor communities by increasing their access to basic services.

The project will be implemented using two procuring modalities. One component is traditional and the other utilizes the Community Based Contracting methodology.

Under traditional contracting arrangements, the rehabilitation of two (2) km of roadway for Richmond Gap to Richmond Vale will include: installation of Culverts, Road Base, and Road Surfacing with an overall cost of \$ 26. 904 million. Of that amount, the JSIF cost is \$ 23.799 million and the community contribution is \$ 3.105 million.

Under the CBC model, V Drains, U Drains and Gabion walls will be constructed at an overall cost of \$ 9. 632 million. The JSIF cost is \$ 8. 461 million while the community contribution is \$1.17 million.

The community has started procurement of the contractor to be used in implementing the CBC portion of the project as bids were opened on Tuesday May 21, 2013.

The community of Richmond is heavily dependent on agriculture and RADA reports that there is potential for diversifying some 120 hectares of agricultural production if the road and water problem is addressed. A consistent water supply and good road network are critical for maximizing economic viability of farming activities.

Partnering with the GOJ through the Parish Council and RADA, we can now look forward to a new day in this community.

We are pleased to see that all elements have been pulled together to ensure the project can go forward after the contract has been signed.

We expect the project to be completed by the end of this year.

Approximately 250 households in Richmond Gap are expected to benefit.

We extend our best wishes for an effort which is being pursued for the benefit of all. I thank you.