

REMARKS

BY

MR OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR

OFFICIAL HANDING OVER CEREMONY

FOR

UNION GARDENS INFANT SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2016

AT

UNION GARDENS INFANT SCHOOL

11.00am

SALUTATIONS:

MADAM CHAIRPERSON- Mrs. Lanna Bennett

Prime Minister- Most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller

Minister of Education- Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites

Ambassador Paola Amadei- Head of European Union Delegation

Chairman of Union Gardens Foundation- Hon. Glen Christian

Vice Chair, Union Gardens Foundation- Mr. Gary 'Butch' Hendrickson

Chief Executive Officer- CHASE Fund- Mr. William 'Billy' Heaven

Students, Teachers and staff of the Union Gardens Infant School

Ladies and gentlemen

A very Good day to you all.

Since our inception in 1996, the JSIF has partnered with various community groups, donors and funding agencies to invest some JA\$5 billion in the education sector. This beautiful facility which we are officially handing over today, was built at a cost of JA\$37 million, and stands as a testimony to our continued commitment to the development of our children, but more specifically to ensuring that

they get the kind of start that will guarantee success in their quest to progress throughout the education system.

At this juncture, let me pause to commend and publicly thank the following partners, without whom the building and equipping of this school would not be possible.

- ✓ The European Union's supported Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP)
- ✓ Union Gardens Foundation led by Hon. Glen Christian
- ✓ Mr. Gary 'Butch' Hendrickson, Project Manager
- ✓ Chase Fund, led by Mr. William 'Billy' Heaven

Prime Minister, Minister of Education, as we enter into our 20th year of existence, the JSIF stands ready and willing to continue and indeed accelerate the growth and development process in our economy, and specifically in our education sector. We are as committed today as we were nearly 20 years ago.

With the European Union as one of our leading supporters, we feel buoyed to take on the awesome challenge of providing quality educational infrastructure for the most underserved communities in our society.

Let this new institution be the model for what all our basic/infant schools across the island should look and feel like. I have no doubt that the students and teachers will look forward to coming to school each

day. A school home that is calming, beautiful and conducive to the learning process.

On behalf of the JSIF Board, management and staff let me wish you all, great successes going forward as we continue to work together with the single objective of ensuring all our children get the solid start they need to compete in this ever competitive world.