

**Greetings from Dr. Gladstone Hutchinson**  
**Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica on the Occasion**  
**of the Signing of the Contract for the Launch of the JSIF Sanitation**  
**Project in West Kingston**  
**August 18, 2011**

**Thank you for the opportunity to bring greetings on the occasion of the** contract signing for the launch of this very significant project. It is significant for several reasons not least of which is its role in fulfilling a central plank of Vision 2030 Jamaica- that of empowering people to achieve their fullest potential. It is also significant because recent data suggest that poor sanitation is one of the factors that is closely associated with social exclusion and a risk factor for increasing the likelihood of the involvement of youth in crime and violent behaviour. It reaches to the heart of human security concerns and increases the opportunity for self agency among the members of the communities that will be impacted by this project.

**In this regard, a recent World Bank study in Jamaica reviewed boys aged** 14-16 who were attending a YMCA programme for high-risk youth who had dropped out of school. It was found that the economic and family factor that had the biggest negative effect on the likelihood of being a programme participant was a lack of access to water and toilet facilities. This was more significant than their economic situation or if they had come from a single parent family. It is also true that if women do not have easy access to

sanitation, their risk of becoming victims of gender-based violence increases.

**Sanitation is therefore central to human dignity and psychological well-being.** This is why sanitation has been identified as one of the top priorities and one of the first areas for intervention in communities under our Community Renewal Programme.

**For those who may not yet know, the Community Renewal Programme (CRP)** was developed as a result of a mandate by the Prime Minister to design an initiative for the development and restoration of communities, affected by the unrest of May 2010. The mandate was acted upon by the PIOJ through a process of broad stakeholder consultations and broadened to include volatile and vulnerable communities across Jamaica in five parishes that have over time, recorded the highest levels of violent and major crimes. The resulting Programme which we refer to as the CRP, now constitutes a foundation for the implementation of the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan and the nation's growth strategy which was recently launched. The Programme has been endorsed by the two main political parties and relies on the coordination and enhancement of the delivery of services to the selected communities as its main mechanism for accomplishing its objectives.

**Among other objectives, the CRP also seeks to re-establish the legitimate role of the state in the targeted communities and to restore human security**

and self agency among its citizens. It will help to address the basic rights of citizens to essential services, whether it be sanitation, education or policing and increase social inclusion, strengthen legitimate and participatory governance and most importantly, reduce crime and violence.

**The CRP is also based upon the principle of partnership** – partnership between the state and citizens, and partnership between different agencies –local and international - and partnerships across sectors. It follows the integrated approach to development exemplified in the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan.

**In this context, this Sanitation project exemplifies the type of partnerships** that are championed under Vision 2030 and the CRP. It brings together the Jamaican Government through the agency of JSIF, an International Development Partner through the PetroCaribe facility provided by the generosity of the Venezuelan Government, and the civil society through the Rotary Club of downtown Kingston as well as the community-based organisations in west and central Kingston. It is therefore established on one of the central pillars of sustainability.

**I therefore applaud this project both because of its potential impact on the** lives of citizens in downtown Kingston, and indeed, on the development of Jamaicans across the nation, particularly as relates to their human security, and because it has been established on the seeds of accountability facilitated by its foundation in partnerships among key stakeholders. We

look forward to working with you as we begin on this particular leg of the journey to realising the goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica “to empower citizens to achieve their fullest potential and contribute to the attainment of a secure, cohesive and just Jamaican society”. I thank you.