



**Director General's (PIOJ) & Chairman's Remarks (JSIF)**  
**Poverty Reduction Programme IV**  
**Handing Over Ceremony for the Barrett Town Health Centre**

**February 11, 2022**

**at**

**11:00 a.m.**

- Master of Ceremonies, Mrs Marline Stephenson-Dalley,
- The Hon Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism and member of Parliament, St James East Central,
- Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, Head of Delegation to Jamaica, Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas and the Cayman Islands.
- His Worship, Councillor Leeroy Williams, Mayor of Montego Bay,
- Bishop the Hon Conrad Pitkin, Custos Rotulorum St James,
- Members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning.

It is my pleasure to bring remarks at the handing-over ceremony for the Barrett Town Health Centre on behalf of the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), as the secretariat for Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, is cognizant of the importance of maintaining good health among its citizens, particularly as an important pillar in attaining the national goal – *“Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Full Potential”*.

The PIOJ, as the National Authorizing Office (NAO), is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of European Union funded programmes such as the Poverty Reduction Programme IV. Under PRP IV, the JSIF announced its intention to spearhead a comprehensive Health Centre Expansion Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the European Union, and the residents of four communities in St James.

To date, under the GOJ-EU Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP), five (5) health centres amounting to approximately \$252 349 653.00 have been implemented in volatile and vulnerable communities across Jamaica.

The EU remains Jamaica's largest provider of grant resources, and continues to be committed to supporting the attainment of Jamaica's national developmental goals. This commitment is evidenced by the current Cooperation Programme with the EU, which is aligned to the country's priorities; which are articulated in the successive Medium-term Socio-economic Policy Frameworks (MTF) utilized to implement Vision 2030 Jamaica.

I wish to express my gratitude to the EU, on behalf of the people of Jamaica, for their continued support and commitment over the past 47 years.

The Barrett Town Health Centre is one of four (4) community health centres in St James, which have benefited from a comprehensive expansion programme under the EU funded PRP. The other health centres are the Flanker Health Centre, which was recently handed over (December 2021), and the Adelphi and Granville Health Centres. The Barrett Town Health Centre was constructed at a cost of approximately \$43.8 million and is expected to benefit an estimated 9 000 community members and 13 health workers of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The value of the health centre ought not to be viewed simply as a "monetary investment" rather an investment in our tomorrow, our future.

The health centre will provide significant benefits to the community and surrounding areas in the following ways:

1. The Centre will focus on people's well-being and will support individuals and families to attain a high level of holistic health. It will provide and promote healthy lifestyle choices through education, public awareness campaigns and community outreach activities;
2. The health centre will offer essential primary and preventive care services, which include basic doctors' visits, immunizations, health screening, dental and general health services. This will aid in reducing the patient load and waiting time at parish and regional hospitals; and
3. The Centre will also offer preventative care and assistance to patients through monitoring of chronic conditions, which will reduce medical costs, as well as expensive emergency visits and hospital stays.

With the completion of the four (4) health centres in St James, the populace of the western end of the island will be progressively better served. It is our hope that citizens will attain better health outcomes in the short to medium term.

On behalf of JSIF and the PIOJ, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the EU for their commitment to the four phases of the Poverty Reduction Programme over the past 27 years and to the coordinating and implementing entities who worked tirelessly to ensure the successful implementation of the projects.

JSIF and the PIOJ stand with you all as we work together to build the foundation for an improved quality of life for Jamaicans; as social development is required to make *“Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”*.