

# Remarks of the Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica at the launch of the IAN Youth Development Programme

February 4, 2021

## GREETINGS:

- Madam Chairperson, Ms Rockoya Johnson, Industrial Liaison Officer of HEART NSTA Trust
- Dr Lincoln Edwards, President NCU
- Mr Omar Frith, Deputy Executive Director SDC
- Ms Rayharna Wright, Director, Region 1 HEART NSTA Trust
- Colonel Martin Rickman, National Coordinator, HOPE Programme
- Dr Nsombi Jaja, Board member, Project Management Global Institute
- Mrs Tanketa Chance Wilson General Manager Grace and Staff Community Development Foundation
- Mr Damion Hylton, Parish Manager KSA, SDC
- Ms Zann Locke, CDC Representative Trench Town,
- Members of the CRP Team Mr Charles Clayton, Programme Director, Ms Charmaine Brimm, Socio-Economic Development Specialist and other Team members
- Trainees
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

It is my distinct pleasure to be here today to participate in the launch of Inter Agency Network - Youth Development Programme. As you have heard, this programme focuses on the important demographic – youth – who are the foundation and future of our society, many of whom may be regarded as the most vulnerable among us at this time. Indeed, our society has for decades been battling with the scourge of crime, and violent crimes in particular, which primarily involve our youth both as victims and perpetrators. This programme therefore provides a timely intervention to give youth the opportunity to become active participants in their community development process.

The Community Renewal Programme (CRP) of the PIOJ, has played an integral role among the partners that were involved in the design and development of this programme which arose out of the SDC's Parish Interagency Network (IAN). The CRP's engagement in this project, comes on the background of the alignment between the role of the CRP and the objectives for the development of the Youth IAN. In this context, allow me to take a few minutes to highlight the role of the CRP, its connection to the Vision 2030 National Development Plan and shared interest in this programme.

The CRP is a platform for coordinating and enhancing the delivery of services and improving the general conditions and facilities in 100 of the most volatile and vulnerable communities among five parishes that were targeted because of the level of violent crimes that they have sustained over an extended period of time.

From its inception, the CRP was designed to be in full alignment with the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan (NDP). For this reason, it is seen as a mechanism through which the Vision 2030 Jamaica NDP may be implemented at the community level. There are six pillars, which form the framework for implementation of the plan, and around which the outcomes and strategies of the CRP have been developed and are being implemented. These are aligned to the Vision 2030 Jamaica NDP as follows:

- ✚ Governance is aligned to National Outcome 6 (*Effective Governance*)
- ✚ Social Transformation is aligned to National Outcomes 1–4 (*Healthy Population, Education & Training, Social Protection, Transformational Culture*)
- ✚ Safety and Justice  
is aligned to National Outcomes 5 and 6 (*Security & Safety and Effective Governance*)
- ✚ Physical Transformation is aligned to National Outcomes 13–15 (*Sustainable Mgmt & Use of Environmental & Natural Resources, Hazard Risk Reduction & Adaptation to Climate Change, Sustainable Urban & Rural Development*)
- ✚ Socio-economic Development is aligned to National Outcomes 7–12 (*Macroeconomy, Economic Efficiency and International Competitiveness*); and

Youth Development, which is identified as a cross cutting issue, is aligned to National Outcomes 1–12. This pillar, Youth Development, also provides the nexus between the CRP, the NDP and the Youth Inter Agency Network.

The primary mechanism utilized by the CRP to guide coordination and the process of engagement for the delivery of services is the Social Development Commission’s (SDC) Inter-Agency Network. The role of the Inter-Agency Network is to provide a common space for partner agencies to address critical issues that require intervention in communities to facilitate their transition towards renewal. The network focuses on pulling partners together and coordinating interventions that will realize maximum impact and reduce duplication. In this forum, community priority issues are discussed, partners are able to share their programme of work which could bring solutions to address the specific issues as well as identify specific interventions under the six pillars of the CRP that may be needed to close gaps in implementation and to support the prioritization of critical interventions.

The Youth IAN Development Programme (IAN\_YDP) builds on this resource by providing an opportunity for youth to engage directly by highlighting and addressing issues of importance to them, and in coordinating and planning interventions that are youth focused. In summary, the IAN\_YDP is a newly designed programme of the Kingston Inter-Agency Network (KSA\_IAN), which seeks to:

1. provide capacity-building support, in the areas of Project Management and Proposal Writing, to the Community Development Committees (CDCs) among the targeted communities and
2. strengthen and motivate youth to become more involved in the community development process.

Despite the constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, to date 20 youth have been trained in the first phase of this programme, and there is more to be done, as outlined in the project overview which was shared earlier.

I sincerely hope that all who are able to benefit from this programme, will fully utilise its opportunities and, in turn, become an inspiration to other youth who may be needing

motivation and direction to chart a better future for themselves. I close by offering congratulations to the partners who contributed to the design and implementation of this programme, and to the youth who have taken the opportunity to participate in this phase of it. I have every expectation that it will be a resounding success, and pledge the continuing support of the PIOJ as it continues to forge a path of inspiration for our youth, as we continue to work together to 'make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business'.

Thank you and God bless you all.