

## **PIAN YOUTH PROGRAMME GRADUATION**

### **SDC GREETINGS**

#### **Inter-Agency Network Youth Development Programme**

#### **Graduation Ceremony**

**March 8, 2022**

Mr Moderator, specially invited guests, graduands, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Allow me first of all to extend an apology on behalf of our Dr Dwayne Vernon (Executive Director) and Ms Judith Taylor (Parish Manager, KSA) who is unavoidably absent today.

The Parish Inter-Agency Network Programme (PIAN) is intended to promote a whole government approach to community development via collaboration towards improved service delivery through the optimal use of resources. As a creature of the Social Development Commission (SDC), one of the main objectives of the PIAN is to identify community priorities and appropriate responses to community needs.

Low skill level among youths in marginalized spaces is one such need that was identified, and through collaborative planning the Inter-Agency Youth Development Programme was realized. The fact that the programme is focused on youth advancement and is in keeping with the thrust towards youth inclusion and increased participation is commendable and serves as a best practice based on its successful outcome.

Commendations are in order to the PIOJ and all the partners who would have given time and resources to see the Programme through.

Congratulations to the graduands who would have “stuck” with the process and did not give up even within a COVID-19 context.

The SDC remains committed to working with our partners and participants to sustain the outcome of this initiative and to add even more value to the communities we serve, as we continue to make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.