



## DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESS RELEASE

**Kingston, May 16, 2012**

### **More help for Poverty stricken communities**

The European Union and the Government of Jamaica today (May 16) launched the third phase of the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP III). Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, Finance Minister Dr. Peter Phillips and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica Ambassador Paola Amadei officially signed the agreement at Emancipation park during a ceremony also held in recognition of GOLA Day. The day was organised to exhibit and highlight the work of project beneficiaries under Phase II of PRP - Grants of Low Amounts (GOLA) Programme.

The EU's PRP III is a 48-month, poverty alleviation programme valued at just under J\$1.1 billion and will support a range of infrastructure and human development projects under the Government of Jamaica's Community Renewal Programme (CRP). The programme will be implemented by JSIF in communities in Kingston, St. Andrew, St Catherine and St. James. Importantly, PRP III infrastructure projects will be executed in partnership with beneficiary communities who will contribute 10 per cent of the total investment in sweat equity.

Also in attendance at today's event were Minister of Education Ronald Thwaites, Opposition Leader Andrew Holness, Director General of the PIOJ Dr. Gladstone Hutchinson, all EU resident Ambassadors in Jamaica and other members of the Diplomatic Corp.

Giving her keynote address, Prime Minister Simpson Miller commended the EU for its assistance to the nation. She lauded the agreement as one which creates a path out of poverty for the most vulnerable and needy. *"It is an important intervention in Jamaica's fight against poverty crime and violence. The programme aims to empower residents of volatile communities to achieve their full potential and contribute to the attainment of a secure, cohesive and just Jamaican society."*

EU Ambassador Paola Amadei in her remarks pointed out that the EU is aware that money on its own cannot remedy the problem of crime and violence but made it clear that providing resources to invest in people was a critical part of the process. *"...the EU will continue to invest in the people as it believes each person can contribute to make the difference...We have already financed some very interesting projects; we have, amongst others, a honey production project, an ornamental fish project, a training project in food preparation and pastry leading to certification...and the list goes on. With less than 10.000 Euros, with this little extra help, we can help the unfulfilled ideas and projects and make a substantial difference in a community. And multiplying those projects as we do across all the difficult communities can make a significant change."*

The EU Delegation also used the occasion to award the winners of its "My Jamaica at 50" competition which was launched in March. (Please see the attached list of winners). Winning photos are now part of a travelling exhibition which was also launched at Emancipation Park. The winning photos can be found at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/euinjamaica>

#### **Contact:**

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**10 – 12**

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE  
Davaughnia Wilson  
St. Patrick’s Primary School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE  
Naeem McKenzie  
St. Patrick’s Primary School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE  
Michael Thomas  
Maverley Primary & Junior High School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE  
Presented to  
Shanalee Cunningham  
Allman Town Primary School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
5<sup>th</sup> PRIZE (Age 10-12)  
Natalia James  
St. Patrick’s Primary School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
6<sup>th</sup> PRIZE  
Shakera Sinclair  
Windward Road Primary & Junior High School

**Winners**

**13-15**

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE  
Shannon Brook  
Maverley Primary & Junior High School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE  
Nicholas Smith

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE  
AnnaKay Moving  
Constant Spring Primary & Junior High

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE  
Tanesha Tomlin  
Maverley Primary & Junior High School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
5<sup>th</sup> PRIZE  
Kadian Mowatt  
Maverley Primary & Junior High School

“My Jamaica at 50” Photographic Competition  
6<sup>th</sup> PRIZE  
Saheeka Douse  
Maverley Primary & Junior High School

**Special Prize**  
13<sup>th</sup> Winner – Voted by staff of the Delegation  
Ramon Mitchell  
(10-12)  
Allman Town primary