



+- DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESS RELEASE

Kingston, January 30, 2012

New facilities for Allman Town Infant

Seventy eight (78) boys and girls currently enrolled at the Allman Town Infant School in Kingston will benefit from newly completed facilities at the institution. This follows a more than J\$45 million upgrade made possible through community support and funding under the European Union's Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP II). J\$31.4 million was funded by PRP II and the remaining \$13.7 million was provided in the value of land, labour and services from the community.

The works were completed over a four month period and the new facilities were officially handed over by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) which manages the Poverty Reduction Programme at a ceremony held at the school this morning (Wednesday, January 30) and attended by Minister of Education and Member of Parliament for Central Kingston, Ronald Thwaites.

Minister Thwaites in his remarks to the audience thanked the EU for its continued support to Jamaica's development, telling those gathered that the EU "could have gone anywhere in the world with their aid but they are here today with us in Allman Town".

Before the infrastructural works, the school was in urgent need of repairs, with limited classroom space and poor sanitary facilities. The completed facility now includes two new classrooms, a sickbay, administrative area, playground, rehabilitated bathroom and classroom blocks; a new drive way and parking area; upgraded sewer system and ramps. The project also included the installation of water storage tanks, the provision of furniture, appliances and general equipping of the facility.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Head of Operations at the EU Delegation in Jamaica Jesús Orús Báguena emphasized that early childhood education formed the basis not just for successful lifelong learning but later employability. "PRP has also invested in community members through internship programmes, scholarship awards as well as community development projects to create jobs and produce income, with the ultimate objective of making communities self-reliant."

Contact- Jodi Brown-Lindo
Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands
Tel: 1 876 924 6333
