



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
PRESS RELEASE

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Sugar workers in Trelawny get keys to new homes

The first set of former sugar workers to benefit from new housing projects under the EU supported Sugar Barracks Relocation project were handed the keys to their brand new homes today. The project which will benefit ninety seven (97) persons will see thirty nine 39 new dwellings constructed at the Spicy Hill community, in Trelawny.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller and Agriculture Minister Roger Clarke. Speaking at the morning event, Head of the EU Delegation in Jamaica, Ambassador Paola Amadei said that that it was a pleasure to return to see concrete benefits in the hands of those that needed them most. Ambassador Amadei, who had previously attended the contract signing ceremony for the houses in November, 2012 Trelawny remarked *"it is these projects which I am most thankful to see firsthand, and it is on occasions such as this on which I am most proud of the work the European Union does here in Jamaica, on my last occasion to the sugar producing areas in Trelawny, I said I looked forward to the day I could return and see keys in the hands of these deserving sugar workers, and I am truly pleased today to witness just that"*.

Recipients, who have born no cost for the assistance, were assigned dwellings depending on the size of their family unit. The impact of the housing project will be far reaching for the residents who had been living in substandard conditions, often lacking proper amenities.

Spicy Hill is one of seven (7) sites in Clarendon, Westmoreland, St. Thomas and Trelawny on which works are being done to relocate sugar workers. The relocation process is being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and at its completion will see the resettlement of some 876 residents from poor conditions in former sugar housing units onto new developments on lands reserved during the divestment of the sugar industry.

The total project will cost an estimated **JMD \$2.4 Billion** and is an initiative of the Government, with funding from the European Union. More than **JMD \$21.3 Billion** has been earmarked by the EU from 2006 for support of the sugar sector, of which close to **JMD\$13.6 Billion** has already been disbursed. These funds have the aim of assisting in the economic diversification, social resilience and environmental sustainability of sugar dependent areas.

"It is with great satisfaction that we see that what once was a challenge, has today translated into an opportunity for 39 families" Ambassador Amadei told those gathered for the occasion.

For more information:

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