

First Relocation Project Under Social Housing Programme Completed

THE NEW Social Housing Programme (NSHP) has entered a new chapter, with the handover of keys to residents in phase one of the Victoria Palms Housing Development in Denham Town, Kingston.

The 12-unit, two-storey development, constructed at a cost of approximately \$72 million, was the first to be delivered under modality two of the initiative, which addresses the relocation of vulnerable communities.

In his keynote address, Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, said the relocation project demonstrates the Government's commitment to revitalise urban spaces, and will be accelerated.

"The Government has a good plan, a strategy to deal with this issue of informal settlement, urban deterioration, urban areas affected by crime and that is, we are going to dedicate a substantial part of the budget, having now developed the administrative and technical part of it, to (facilitate) the acceleration of the project," he noted.

"We are going to build this

at scale in communities across Jamaica that are like Denham Town or St. Paul's Lane. (We) are going to go there and intervene in that situation; we are going to rebuild the community and rebuild your house. That is the commitment of this Government," he said.

Launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Holness, the NSHP is designed to improve the housing condition of the country's poor and disadvantaged population by providing quality, affordable and sustainable housing.

Approximately 280 units have been delivered to date, impacting the lives of over 1,000 Jamaicans. Another 50 units are under active construction.

Most housing units, to date, have been delivered under modality one of the programme, which is the provision of indigent housing across all 63 constituencies, with each constituency receiving five units per annum.

The third modality is the Upgrading of Tenements (Big Yards), with one such project to be undertaken per constituency.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (seventh right); and Minister of Local Government and Community Development and Member of Parliament for West Kingston, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (ninth right), celebrate with new homeowners during the ribbon cutting and handover of units at the Victoria Palms Housing Development relocation project in Denham Town, West Kingston. Also sharing in the moment are Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, Marsha Henry Martin (ninth left); and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Arlene Williams (sixth right).

Single Mother Gets Home in Time for Christmas

ANDREA GAYNOR of Bannister district in St. Catherine is anticipating a wonderful Christmas with her children, after receiving the keys to her home under the New Social Housing Programme (NSHP).

Ms. Gaynor expressed gratitude to the Government and the workmen who constructed her house.

She noted that her living arrangement, for some 10 years, "wasn't easy", citing challenges and conflicts encountered within the shared house she occupied with her children. This, she pointed out, made life "very difficult" for them.

An emotional Ms. Gaynor said, however, that she "kept the faith and held on," adding that she was happy that her decision to visit the office of Member of Parliament for



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left), and New Social Housing Programme (NSHP) beneficiary, Andrea Gaynor (second right), cut a ribbon during a handover ceremony in Bannister, St. Catherine. They are joined by (from second left) Principal Financial Officer in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Judith Robb-Walters, and Member of Parliament for St. Catherine South Western, Everal Warmington.

St. Catherine South Western, Everal Warmington, to

share her plight, resulted in her being selected to bene-

fit from a house under the NSHP.

Meanwhile, Simone Reid of John Reid, St. Ann, was

one of three proud beneficiaries of the Government's NSHP, who received houses in the parish.

The handover, represented the end of years of living in unsuitable conditions to moving into the comfort of a beautiful three-bedroom unit, which was constructed at a cost of \$6.4 million.

In an interview with **JIS News**, Miss Reid said that her living conditions prior to receiving her new home left much to be desired.

"I feel so good getting this house because the condition of the old house was very bad. The roof was leaking and the walls were literally tearing down. I feel 100 per cent better. Words can't even explain how I feel," Ms. Reid expressed.

PM Hands Over Keys to 36 Housing Units in St. Paul's Lane

THIRTY-SIX FAMILIES at St. Paul's Lane in Tower Hill, St. Andrew, whose houses were destroyed by fire years ago are the proud beneficiaries of new homes.

A collaborative undertaking involving the National Housing Trust (NHT), Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ), and Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), the St. Paul's Lane housing development includes access to basic infrastructure such as roads, water and sewerage systems.

The handover ceremony marked a significant milestone in the Government's ongoing efforts to improve housing conditions and facilitate urban renewal in Jamaica.

During the handover ceremony, Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, said that broader infrastructure improvements are planned for St. Paul's Lane, including zinc fence removal, and a golden age home for elderly residents.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre), shares a hug with Dorothy Scott, one of the new homeowners in the St. Paul's Lane housing development in Tower Hill, St. Andrew. Occasion was the handover of keys to 36 housing units in the development recently. Sharing the moment is Chairman of the National Housing Trust (NHT), Linval Freeman.

"If we uplift the conditions under which people live, the physical conditions, it will elevate their minds as well," he pointed out.

Chairman of the HAJ, Norman Brown, encouraged the beneficiaries to

"see this as your investment and to make every effort to protect it."

Meanwhile, Chairman of the NHT, Linval Freeman, in his remarks, said "this project is a testament of our collective commitment to ensur-

ing that everyone has a place called home. Together, we are not just building houses, we are fostering a community where everyone can grow, thrive and realise their potential."



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left), exchanges high fives with two children, during the official handover of 36 housing units in the St. Paul's Lane housing development in Tower Hill, St. Andrew.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Andrew Holness (left), speaks with New Social Housing Programme (NSHP) beneficiary, Simone Reid, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament for St. Ann South West, Hon. Zavia Mayne (right), during a handover ceremony in John Reid, St. Ann.

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