



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY MONTH ***2011***

The theme for this year's Social Development Commission Community Month Activities is ***Building Communities... Building Jamaica "Get Involved, Stay Involved!"*** This seeks to emphasize increased involvement of all levels of society in community development. Therefore, for the month of November we would like citizens to make an active commitment to ***Get Involved... & ... Stay Involved*** in their communities.

BACKGROUND:

As at the end of April 2011, there were a total of 4681 active Community Based Organizations and approximately Four Hundred and Sixty (460) or (58.65%) of Jamaica's 785 communities having active Community Development Committees¹.

This reflects a gradual increase in the number of community organizations over the period 2009 – 2011 shown by the increases in the formation of new community development committees. However, approximately 40% of Jamaica's communities have not organized themselves to the level that they are effectively representing their community. Therefore, during community month ***we are challenging citizens to get involved in community organizations and sustain community participation.***



Since 2009 the SDC has been focusing on the re-energizing of Jamaica at the grassroots. This is aimed at ensuring that meaningful interventions to empower community based organizations are present at the community level. SDC has been facilitating training, consultations and community projects to develop the skills and attributes necessary for citizens' effective involvement in community and national development. Our assessments have shown that a stable quorum of leaders is critical for improved governance and

¹ Retrieved from SDC Annual Report 2011



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Building Communities...Building Jamaica

organizational activities to sustain the national development process and this leadership is lacking.

We would like citizens to see the benefits of having a strong community Based Organization that is able to effectively represent their community. It is therefore seen as fitting that November, which is celebrated as Community Month, focuses on citizens getting involved in community development and contributing to the sustainability of Community Based Organizations. It is hoped that this focus will heighten citizens' participation and commitment to community involvement.



The Social Development Commission currently has a partnership with the Planning Institute of Jamaica linking community involvement to achieving the vision 2030 Jamaica; Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business. The ground work has already been commenced ensuring that the National Development Plan is shared with citizens.



For Community Month 2011 Five National Projects were selected from community plans and submitted islandwide.

These projects focus on the following area:

- Education through school rehabilitation
- Economic enablement
- Environmental sustainability (*clean - up*)
- Community Safety and Security

OBJECTIVES:

- Supporting communities efforts in identifying and solving community challenges
- Re-energize community volunteerism across the island
- Initiate inter - parish interventions amongst partners
- Enhance local partnerships with stakeholders
- Increase visibility of implementing partners
- Build partnership

NATIONAL PROJECTS:

<i>Spanish Town Clean Up, St. Catherine</i>	<i>Nov. 5, 2011</i>
<i>Rehabilitation of Pike All Age School, Manchester</i>	<i>Nov. 10, 2011</i>
<i>Upgrade of Rose Heights Basic School, St. James</i>	<i>Nov. 18, 2011</i>
<i>Boundbrook Come Unity Project 2011, Portland</i>	<i>Nov. 24, 2011</i>
<i>Greenwich Fishing Village Beach Cleaning, Kingston</i>	<i>Nov. 29, 2011</i>