

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MAJOR DONOVAN LEWIS
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER
CORPORATE SECURITY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
AT THE
MONTEGO BAY SPORTS COMPLEX OPENING CEREMONY
SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010
11:30AM-12:30PM**

MR CHAIRMAN.....

MINISTER OF WATER AND HOUSING THE HONOURABLE DR
HORACE CHANG... REPRESENTING PRIME MINISTER, THE
HON BRUCE GOLDING AND MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS
AND CULTURE THE HONOURABLE OLIVIA GRANGE...

HIS EXCELLENCY NOEL MARTINEZ OCHOA,

MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN, AS WELL AS NATIONAL
SPORTING FRATERNITY

SPECIAL INVITEES...

ORGANIZERS OF THE WESTERN PRIMARY MEET

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS...

SPORTING ENTHUSIASTS

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES...

GOOD AFTERNOON

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY REPRESENTING THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, MISS JOY DOUGLAS, WHO IS UNAVOIDABLY ABSENT DUE TO AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT BUSINESS COMMITMENT. MISS DOUGLAS, HERSELF A SPORTS ENTHUSIAST, HAS ASKED THAT I CONVEY HER BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL DAY.

THIS OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MONTEGO BAY SPORTS COMPLEX MARKS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN JAMAICAN SPORTING HISTORY ... AND ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT BY THE UDC WHICH HAS AN ENVIABLE RECORD OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPORTING SECTOR IN JAMAICA.

AMONG THE FACILITIES THAT HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE PLANNING AND PROJECT OVERSIGHT OF THE UDC ARE: THE NATIONAL STADIUM, THE NATIONAL ARENA, THE NATIONAL INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE AND THE NATIONAL

GOLF ACADEMY, IN KINGSTON, AS WELL AS THE G.C FOSTER COLLEGE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS IN ST. CATHERINE.

WE ALL AGREE THAT SPORTS IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF BOTH THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S PEOPLE. MANY OF OUR SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN HAVE MADE US PROUD, WITH WORLD-BEATING AND RECORD-BREAKING PERFORMANCES OVER THE YEARS.

WE ARE HOWEVER, COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT RAW TALENT, IN AND OF ITSELF, IS NOT ENOUGH, AND THAT, AS A NATION, WE MUST PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS.

IT IS WITHIN THIS CONTEXT THAT WE SHARE SOME OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES BEING PURSUED BY THE UDC IN MONTEGO BAY, AS WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS IMPORTANT CITY.

TALKS ARE CONTINUING WITH STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON A GREATER MONTEGO BAY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE. ALREADY, WE HAVE PLANS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMME FOR MONTEGO BAY. THIS PROGRAMME OFFERS SIGNIFICANT TAX BREAKS TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS AND IS AIMED AT REDRESSING URBAN DECAY.

ADDITIONALLY, WE NOTE THAT CONSTRUCTION IS PROGRESSING ON THE STATE-OF-THE-ART MONTEGO BAY CONVENTION CENTRE ALONG THE ELEGANT CORRIDORS OF ROSEHALL, WHILE A RECREATIONAL PARK IS BEING DEVELOPED ON THE SITE OF THE OLD HOSPITAL IN THE HEART OF THE TOWN.

STILL IN THE WEST, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY IN FALMOUTH, THE UDC IS SPEARHEADING A MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR GREATER FALMOUTH, AS WELL AS COORDINATING THE RESORT UPGRADING PROGRAMME FOR THAT TOWN.

THIS IS BEING DONE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE SHIP - THE ROYAL CARIBBEAN'S "OASIS OF THE SEAS", SCHEDULED FOR ARRIVAL IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2011.

WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS ALSO FITTING TO NOTE THAT DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE ALSO BEING FINALIZED FOR CAYMANAS IN ST. CATHERINE, DOWNTOWN KINGSTON AND PORT ROYAL, AND OCHO RIOS IN ST. ANN.

BUT LET'S TALK MORE ABOUT SPORTS..... TODAY, AS YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ANNUAL STAGING OF THE WESTERN PRIMARY INVITATIONAL MEET, PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THESE STATE- OF-THE-ART FACILITIES WERE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA UNDER THE SAN JOSE ACCORD.

TO DATE, APPROXIMATELY 14.9 MILLION US DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON THE MONTEGO BAY SPORTS COMPLEX. HOWEVER, SOME AMOUNT OF WORK IS STILL LEFT TO BE DONE TO MAKE THIS FACILITY FULLY AVAILABLE FOR

ATHLETIC TRAINING AND FOR THE STAGING OF FOOTBALL MATCHES FOR OUR FAMILIES IN THE WEST. AS A RESULT, ONLY LIMITED USE OF THE FACILITIES WILL BE ALLOWED UNTIL THE PROCESS IS COMPLETED.

MAJOR WORKS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE THREE-PHASE PROJECT INCLUDE: COMPLETION OF THE INNER FOOTBALL FIELD, LAYING OF A 400-METRE, 8-LANE, ALL-WEATHER MUNDO TRACK, INNER FENCING, SPECTATOR STANDS AND SUPPORT AMENITIES SUCH AS RESTROOMS AND CHANGING ROOMS, ALONG WITH CAR PARK AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.

PHASE 3B WILL COVER LIGHTING INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPING AND COURT FACILITIES FOR NETBALL, BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE WHO USES THESE FACILITIES TO TAKE ABSOLUTE PRIDE IN THEM AND TREAT THEM AS IF THEY WERE THEIR OWN. IN FACT, WE ARE ALL SHAREHOLDERS IN THIS SPORTING COMPLEX, AS OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND FUTURE USAIN BOLTS, ASAFA POWELLS AND SHELLY-ANN FRASERS WILL NO

DOUBT EMERGE FROM THIS INFRASTRUCTURAL INVESTMENT.

IN CLOSING..... I WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF THE OPENING OF THIS SPORTS COMPLEX TO THANK OUR VARIOUS PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT ...THE CONTRACTORS - PRE-SPORT JOINT VENTURE LTD, THE EXTERNAL TEAM OF CONSULTANTS - NOEL WHYTE AND ASSOCIATES, AND THE UDC'S INTERNAL PROJECT TEAM. AND OF COURSE, YOU THE PEOPLE OF MONTEGO BAY, WHO HAVE ZEALOUSLY GUARDED THE PROJECT OVER THE VARIOUS STAGES AND WHO, WE ARE SURE, WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

AS I LOOK OUT AT THIS GATHERING AND PRIMARILY AT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.WE AT THE UDC ARE ENCOURAGED TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AS WE FULFIL OUR CORE MANDATE.... **TO MAKE DEVELOPMENT HAPPEN.**

WE WISH THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS SECOND ANNUAL WESTERN PRIMARY INVITATIONAL MEET ALL THE BEST

FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY'S EVENTS AND LOOK
FORWARD TO MANY MORE SUCH ACTIVITIES AT THE
MONTEGO BAY SPORTS COMPLEX.

MAY THE BEST SCHOOL WIN!

THANK YOU