



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH & JOB CREATION

Remarks For

**THE HON. HORACE CHANG, M.P.
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
(WATER, WORKS & HOUSING)**

**To address
Contract Signing Ceremony with WIHCON
for Housing Development in Harbour View, St. Andrew**

MONDAY DECEMBER 19, 2016

SALUTATIONS!

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. It is my pleasure to be participating in this contract signing of a Joint Venture Agreement with private developer, West Indies Home Contractors (WIHCON) Limited.

Under this Agreement, WIHCON will develop 96 housing solutions in Harbour View, St. Andrew. The units include 40 one bedroom units, 40 two bedroom units and 16 townhouse units.

Most importantly, 20 residents of Caribbean Terrace whose homes were destroyed by the passage of Hurricanes Ivan and Dean in 2004 and 2007 will benefit from this development.

They will do so by way of a project land cost sales proceeds, payable to the Ministry by WIHCON, which is being reserved and applied as a subsidy towards the cost of 20 of these housing units.

We recognize that we do not have the resources to meet the housing demand and as such, one of the strategies of this administration is to utilize public private partnerships for housing solutions.

The partnership with WIHCON is therefore in line with the Government's Housing Public Private Partnership Policy, which provides the framework through which the Government can provide cost effective housing solutions for all especially low and middle income individuals.

Government partnership with WIHCON is not new, this relationship extends to as far as the 1950s. WIHCON is known to have entered into its first partnership with Government with the development of Mona Heights housing project in St. Andrew where the then

Government contributed Crown Lands for the 680 housing solutions.

With that development, middle class Jamaicans, including civil servants were able to purchase their own home.

WIHCON is also not new to Harbour View, in fact it first venture in this area was again through partnership with the Government where they were able to construct 1,800 two- and three-bedroom houses , that made up the Harbour View community.

With their track record of developing affordable houses in Jamaica, we are confident that this partnership with WIHCON will again be successful.

This development will target individuals in the middle income bracket and will seek to cater to the needs of individuals living in Harbour View, Caribbean Terrace and surrounding environs.

Once again, I'm thankful to be signing to this partnership.