



**PRESS RELEASE
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Greenwich Town social change taking shape - Minister Chang

The Greenwich Town community in St. Andrew is on the cusp of sustainable social change nearly two years after the Government declared a Zone of Special Operation (ZOSO) in the area to curtail a rise in violent crime.

While touring the community last Friday (March 4, 2022), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang witnessed first-hand the scope of infrastructural work undertaken through the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) as part of the Government's social investment thrust.

In receiving feedback from residents, **Minister Chang noted his delight at the pace of work and its positive impact on residents so far. "There is evidence that the types of input through targeted social investment, such as what we have here in Greenwich Town, is working to benefit the citizens,"** he stated, adding: **"The Zone of Special Operation is a finely tuned method that is designed in such a way to give maximum social impact and we are seeing the results in this ZOSO".**

Over the past five years, some \$300 million have been invested in Greenwich Town to improve infrastructure, including zinc fence removal, road rehabilitation and sidewalk construction. The upgrades will benefit the community of just over seven thousand five hundred (7,500) residents.

Minister Chang reiterated the Government's intention to be socially responsible by focusing on sound social investment policies.

He said that the success of soft policing, in the form of the social investment strategy, being pursued in the ZOSOs across the country, accompanied by a hardline approach is being exhibited by the increase in illegal guns seized by the police. He added that coupled with more criminals brought before the Courts, these are good indicators of successes in combating crime and violence.

"When placed in context, Greenwich Town, as is Mount Salem in Montego Bay and several other areas under a ZOSO, are indicative of the kind of change needed to weed out criminal enterprises from our communities."

"The Physical infrastructure is being upgraded and this helps the people to change their outlook. Now there is a desire to be better and for them to work hard for their families and that is what it is about, changing Jamaica one community at a time through sustainable social investment," said Dr Chang.

In addition, the Greenwich Town Enterprise Grant valued at \$13.125 million will benefit some 59 residents (including 15 fisherfolks). The Enterprise seeks to support micro and small enterprise projects within the Greenwich Town Community.

“This is not about petty politics; it’s about serious social investment in our communities and we are committed to that,” said Minister Chang.