



PHOTO BY DALTON LAING

Reverend Noel Monteith (right), former senator and state minister in the Ministry of Education, cuts the ribbon to signify the official opening of the principal's office at Ferris Primary School in Westmoreland. With him are Reverend Carlton Wilson (left), board chairman, and principal, Paulette Hibbert.

Ferris Primary gets new facilities

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FERRIS, Westmoreland:

THE OPENING of a new block at Ferris Primary School in Westmoreland marked the completion of a \$2.84 million project jointly funded by the Ministry of Education and Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) Foundation.

The ceremony to mark this occasion was held last week Thursday when the keys to the new staff room, principal's office and grade-six classroom were handed over to the principal, Paulette Hibbert, who was overwhelmed by the achievement.

She said that in June 2005 when the Computers in Schools Programme was launched, she was offered four computers, but had nowhere to place them. The teachers subsequently gave up the staff room to accommodate the work stations.

SUBSTANTIAL DONATION

JNBS Foundation then donated \$840,000 towards the construction of a new block and in 2007 the Ministry of Education through the then junior education minister, Noel Monteith, donated \$2m towards the project.



Inspector Ralph Medley, sub-officer in charge of Whithorn Police Station in Westmoreland, delivers the keynote address at the opening ceremony for a classroom block at Ferris Primary School.

"The wait was worth it, because now you have a classroom, a principal's office and a staff room and the computer room can now be expanded into a bigger room," said Virginia Turner, regional projects manager for JNBS Foundation.

Education Officer Franklyn Beckford said

that the additional space for students would enhance learning and teachers will be more motivated. "It will boost the overall morale of the school," he said.

In that same vein, principal Hibbert gave the assurance that with this new environment for the grade-six students, passes in the Grade Six Achievement Test would be better.

Guest speaker, Inspector Ralph Medley, who used the opportunity to speak of the integrity of his colleagues in the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

THE RISE OF OPPORTUNITIES

In speaking to the rise of opportunities at the force, Inspector Medley referred to the commissioner in the seventies, the late Basil Robinson, who accelerated promotional courses so that young constables could be catapulted to top positions.

"Even though we reaped success in the seventies, we also reaped an indiscriminate harvest of casualties," said Inspector Medley.

"We reaped 117 men and women dying in the line of duty. They were cut down; they paid the price defending the integrity of our nation. I can assure you that they were buried as honourable men and they remain honourable until today," Medley said.