

# Inspiring young advocates for change

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SANTA CRUZ, St. Elizabeth:

CHAIRMAN OF the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation (JNBSF), Virginia Turner, says its Youth Zoom Competition is to encourage high school students to become advocates for change through photography.

"The JNBS Foundation Youth Zoom Competition was designed to challenge young people to identify and draw attention to problems or achievements that they perceive noteworthy within their communities," she explained.

"The competition has been running for the past two years and has seen some amount of success as well as challenges."

Ms. Turner was speaking at the foundation's workshop at the St. Elizabeth Technical High School recently. Schools that participated in the workshop included: Hampton High, Lacovia High and St. Elizabeth Technical High.

The students were presented with cameras and given tips for their proper use by O'Neil Lawrence, formerly of the Edna Manley School of the Visual Arts.

She said that the significance of the competition is to expose students, as well as helping them to develop visual art skills, that would serve as a vital extra-curricular activity.

She said that the Youth Zoom workshop, which started in the county of Cornwall, will go right across Jamaica.

The JNBSF was established on July 11, 1990, to complement the activities of the JNBS. However, since 2003 the foundation has been focusing on advocating rural development under the H.A. (Tony) Clarke's Rural Regeneration Project.

Ms. Turner said as part of its mandate, the foundation has sought to assist Jamaicans to improve the quality of their lives – mentally and physically – by partnering with institutions and community groups across the island.

Others presenters at the workshop were JNBS's Alethia Carpenter, who spoke on youth savings; Vivien Morris-Brown of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission addressed opportunities in photography; and Gary Mendez, also of JNBS.