

JNBS donates equipment to Port Maria Hospital

The Port Maria Hospital will benefit from the donation of a new autoclave and water softener from the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation (JNBS Foundation). The equipment, valued at \$5 million, will be used on the wards in the hospital as well as in the new operating theatre.

Jennifer Martin, board director of the JNBS Foundation, said the Foundation is delighted to be contributing the needed equipment to the hospital.

"In keeping with the areas in which JN Foundation assists, one of which is rural regeneration, the Port Maria Hospital is certainly considered very worthy of assistance so that it, in turn, can better serve the community in which it is located," she said.

Martin added that the Society has deep roots in St Mary in that several of the building societies in the parish were merged with JNBS, the last being the Savings and Loan Building Society in Gayle, St Mary.

Althea Gardner, chief executive officer of the Port Maria Hospital, said the institution welcomed the

equipment. "We have been seeking assistance from non-governmental organisations and, therefore, we appreciate the fact that JNBS Foundation came on board to partner with us," she stated.

Noting that the initiative was a timely one, considering the fiscal constraints of the institution, she explained that, "An autoclave will significantly enhance the efficiency of the operations at this facility. Previously, we sought outside assistance to have the procedure done; so it is with heartfelt gratitude that we applaud the Foundation for this kind intervention," she added.

The Port Maria Hospital's operating theatre was closed in the 1980s during the rationalisation of the health services. Since that period, trauma cases are sent to the Annotto Bay Hospital or St Ann's Bay Hospital, which are approximately 45 minutes away.

The physical aspects of the operating theatre at the Port Maria Hospital were recently refurbished by the National Health Fund, however, it needed medical equipment and supplies to be fully operational.



Patrice Jones (seated at left), director of finance, Port Maria Hospital, and Jennifer Martin (seated right), director, Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) Foundation, sign a grant agreement to finalise the donation of an autoclave and water softener to Port Maria Hospital in St Mary on Thursday, June 27. Looking on (standing from left) are: Paul Fyffe, deputy mayor and board member, Port Maria Hospital; Dr Isaac Brown, parish manager, St Mary Health Services, and Saffrey Brown, general manager, JNBS Foundation. The JNBS Foundation provided a grant in excess of \$5 million for the acquisition of the equipment, which is expected to assist the hospital in making its operating theatre fully functional.