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THE PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATION OF JAMAICA

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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday, February 27, 2002, the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) in collaboration with the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) held its first quarterly luncheon for 2002 at the Hilton Kingston Hotel.

The function's guest speaker, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, Minister of National Security who has spent approximately one hundred (100) days in this post, informed that since taking office, crime was down in comparison to the last quarter of 2001. In collaboration with CRIME STOP, a small number of firearms have been recovered, arrests have been made and citizens are calling in with information on crimes committed. Dr. Phillips pointed to new legislative strategies that will be utilized in the fight against crime including the Fingerprint Act Amendment which will allow the police to fingerprint and photograph persons charged with serious offenses without first having to go to Court to obtain permission. Remittance companies have also been brought under the ambit of the Money Laundering Act as investigations reveal that they are major channels for laundering.

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The Minister spoke of the establishment of a central authority, which will set the standards for port security in Jamaica and be responsible for determining the criteria for restricted access to our ports

Another highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of donations from PSOJ's Inner City Fund which was established in September 2001 in response to what the PSOJ's associations saw as the need to assist in the rehabilitation of our inner city communities, whose social structures have deteriorated due to violent activity. Six charities received donations. They were: Laws Street Trade Training Centre; PALS Jamaica; St. Andrew Settlement; Stella Maris Food Feeding Programme; Vision Development Foundation; and the West Kingston Development Fund.

The PSOJ's Inner City Fund is an ongoing one; therefore, as funds are injected into this programme, contributions will be made to needy causes that will aid in inner city renewal.

In this, the first set of donations, eleven companies made contributions. They were: Caribbean Cement Company; Citibank NA; Dehring Bunting & Golding; Digicel; Jamaica Private Power Co. Ltd; Kingston Wharves Ltd.; SGS Supervise Jamaica Ltd.; Sweetheart Limited; Tetley Tea Co. Jamaica Ltd.; Tropicair and West Indies Alliance Investment Ltd.

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Companies or individuals who are interested in making donations to this fund may contact the PSOJ at 927-6238 or 978-6795-6; by fax at 927-5137 or by e-mail at psoj@cwjamaica.com.

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