

Prime Minister, the Most Hon. [Portia Simpson Miller](#) , has said the National Housing Trust (NHT) must, in four years, be in a position to proudly declare how many houses it has provided for Jamaicans. This, she stressed, must be undertaken in areas designated for housing.

"The Trust is mandated to expand housing solutions across the country, not only in urban areas, but also in deep rural Jamaica....we need to take this country on a path of planned development," she said.

Mrs. Simpson Miller was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the NHT's Nashville Housing Development near Highgate, St Mary on Friday (September 7).

The development will include 63 serviced lots and 40 houses, of a \$300 million investment in construction expenditure. The housing solutions will be built under the Small Contractors Programme.

In addition, the NHT has partnered with the National Water Commission (NWC) in a \$700 million water project in Islington also in the parish of St. Mary.

"I do not want any housing scheme where they do not have any community centre and a sporting facility. Large schemes must also have a basic school. I have already insisted that this be done where such large schemes are built in Kingston," Mrs. Simpson Miller said.

The Nashville infrastructure is 30% complete and the NHT will start processing loans in less than a year.

Chairman of the NHT, Easton Douglas said the NHT is proud, once again, to be associated with a well planned housing scheme. He said the organisation is projecting more than \$25 billion in development activity for this year, and urged potential homeowners to become contributors so that they can benefit from the cheapest source of housing loans in Jamaica.

In her remarks, Managing Director of the NHT, A. Cecile Watson, said the Nashville development will have special provisions for applicants who are public sector workers, young people, and persons who earn less than \$10,000 per week.

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