

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Montego Bay, St James,
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**HAJ Reaffirms Commitment to Providing Technical Support to Residents of
Edmund Ridge Following Hurricane Melissa; Independent Assessment Confirms
Quality Building Standard**

The Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ) has reaffirmed its commitment to providing guidance and support to residents of the Edmund Ridge housing scheme as they continue the recovery process following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The reaffirmation came during a visit to the scheme by the HAJ team led by Chairman Mr. Norman Brown, and Managing Director, Mrs. Doreen Prendergast, to deliver tarpaulins to residents.

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, the HAJ mobilized its teams to check in across the community, assess the situation, and provide early guidance to affected homeowners. As part of these initial actions, 21 tarpaulins were distributed through the Homeowners Association to households that were most impacted.

To further support residents in navigating the recovery process, the HAJ convened a meeting with homeowners at the Montego Bay Convention Centre. The meeting included a representative of the National Housing Trust (NHT), who outlined the steps residents should take to access insurance coverage and financing options available to support repairs and restoration.

As part of its continued engagement, the HAJ is maintaining dialogue with the Homeowners Association and returned to the scheme with additional temporary materials. A further 45 tarpaulins were handed over to a representative of the Executive of the Home Owners Association and are now set to be distributed through the Association to households who need them.

Chairman of the Housing Agency of Jamaica, Mr. Norman Brown, said the Agency remains deeply empathetic to the experience of residents, noting that Hurricane Melissa was an extraordinary and traumatic event.

“We fully understand that for most people, their home represents their largest investment, and the impact of this hurricane has been deeply unsettling for many families,” Mr. Brown said. “We are encouraged that the overall structural integrity of the development has largely held, and we are committed to providing technical support to residents as they take the necessary steps to restore their homes and return to normalcy.”

Following the hurricane, the HAJ commissioned an independent engineering assessment of the Edmund Ridge development. The assessment confirmed that the houses were constructed in accordance with the required building standards and that appropriate materials, including hurricane straps, were used in the construction of the units.

The scale and intensity of Hurricane Melissa were such that it would have been difficult for any housing development to emerge without some level of impact. Post-hurricane assessments indicate that of approximately 344 solutions that were completed in the development, of those handed over, only 128 suffered roof damage, six of which experienced severe structural impact. The majority of the homes withstood the storm, reflecting the soundness of the overall design and construction.

The HAJ acknowledged the disruption and distress experienced by residents and reaffirmed its commitment to remaining engaged throughout the recovery period. The Agency will continue to provide guidance, advocate on behalf of homeowners, and work with relevant partners to support recovery efforts.

The Housing Agency of Jamaica also reiterated its confidence in Edmund Ridge as a well-planned and resilient housing development, noting that it remains a solid long-term investment for homeowners.