

REMARKS AT YES INVEST - INITIATIVE TO REESTABLISH JAMAICA'S ESSENTIAL OIL INDUSTRY - FEATURING LEMON GRASS

Dr. Audia Barnett

Executive Director - Scientific Research Council

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Mr. Chairman, our very own James Moss Solomon, chairman of the SRC Board; Mrs. Sanchia Templer head of JAMPRO, representing Min. Karl Samuda who is unavoidably absent; Mr. Basil Naar, CEO Churches Coop Credit Union; representatives and friends of the scientific community; my SRC family; stakeholders of the essential oil industry, distinguished guests - Greetings.

Thank you all for coming. I am indeed heartened with the overwhelming support - testament to fact that we (Jamaicans) are essentially hardworking and anxious for an opportunity to contribute to the economy.

The SRC's efforts to stimulate an Essential Oil Industry - is a part of the process started several years ago to establish a Nutraceutical Industry. Some five plants were investigated - Sorrel, Turmeric, Ginger, Rosemary and Lemon Grass (LG). Supported by the Organization of American States, this project laid the foundation for several products - including nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals....and essential oils.

What we are rolling out this evening represents just a microcosm of what is possible. Many more products - Range of essential oils, combinations of oils, products derived from oils, organic, all natural ...you get the idea - we are merely whetting the appetite. The SRC has started with Lemon grass , however we are confident that with the excellent partnerships forged with Min of Agriculture, CARDI, JTI, Churches Credit Union and JBDC and various members of the Wellness Cluster that we will in short order be working on other essential oils for the local and overseas markets.

So- what to expect this evening? We are taking you from the farm through to the value added products - all based on lemon grass. You will see how the oil is extracted and used in the spa industry as well as how the LG can be used in food and personal care products. The SRC will be 50 years old in 2010 and you are specially invited to sample and purchase our Limited Edition Nostalgia Line of LG based Personal Care products. I guarantee that you will be placing orders!! We have also prepared for you samples to demonstrate formulations of various types - e.g. au naturel...products for sensitive skin, high end...and to let you know that our competent team can customize products to suit you and/or your market. We will have several of our team

members present to assist with your questions... In addition, the Ex-Im bank and Churches Credit Union are here to assist with your financial needs. Thank all exhibitors...on that note...

There are numerous persons that assisted us in some way or another - in addition to my marvelous team at the SRC and Marketech- please ...Kudos!! I also wish to thank Pepsi (Andrew Reid) for carbonating our fabulous drink, Yono Industries (Andre Jones) co-packer; JEFE -Tony Frecketon - essences; Mr. Swaby, Mr. Alty Lewis (Lemon Grass) and Isla Botanica (R. Wright) - Lemon Grass Oil.

Ladies and Gentlemen - you have been specially selected to participate in this roll out - because we know that you can recognize a good thing! We have already been bombarded with persons wishing to cultivate Lemon Grass....we need you to come in at all levels....extraction, production of value-added products, utilization of products in hotels, gift packages etc., marketing, retailing...This is our Jamaican Lemon Grass. The onus is now on YOU!!

YES - we have natural resources that are in demand all over the world.

YES - as a people- we are innovative, resilient and ready to do what it takes to get back on our feet.

YES - We have Brand Jamaica

Ladies and Gentlemen I ask you to think, feel and believe in our country.

Let us seize this opportunity to help our country to grow, to support its recovery from socio-economic challenges. We all have a roll to fulfill and together we can make a difference.

Let's say **yes! To Lets Invest. Yes! ... Yes! ... Yes Invest!**