



**REMARKS FOR THE HON. AUDLEY SHAW
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & COMMERCE
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR
SHOPPING CENTER
PROGRESSIVE GROCERS OF JAMAICA LTD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 @ 10 AM**

SALUTATIONS

- Hon. Delroy Chuck, Minister of Justice
- Hon. Fayval Williams, Minister of Education, Youth and Information
- The Most Reverend Donald Reece, Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston
- Mr. Albert Lym, Chairman
- Mr. Sing Chin, Managing Director
- Mr. Timothy Lym, Mr. Craig Chin, & Mr. Bruce Loshusan, Directors
- Members of the media
- Specially invited guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

The story of Progressive Grocers of Jamaica Limited is one of hard work and perseverance.

Under the direction of its Board of Directors, who together possess over 200 years of combined business acumen and experience, Progressive Grocers of Jamaica Limited has become a force to be reckoned with in our business sector.

With a total of 29 supermarkets island-wide, the company employs some 1800 persons across Jamaica. It conducts business with approximately 600 vendors who supply goods to its supermarkets island wide, such as local produce, beef, poultry and pork from local farmers, as well as processed foods and beverages from local manufacturers.

In this regard, Progressive Grocers is directly creating a significant number of jobs in the food service industry, which is a direct advantage to the local economy.

Further, through the establishment of the Progressive Grocers of Jamaica Foundation, this entity continues to make its mark in the country with corporate social responsibility programmes in community development, particularly in those locations in which the supermarkets operate.

They also assist with general welfare programmes such as the Jamaica Cancer Society, Jamaica Kidney Kids Foundation and Food for the Poor.

Over its 22 years of operation, Progressive Grocers has continuously contributed to the social improvement and economic welfare of this country's citizens and for this I commend you.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the Minister charged with creating an enabling environment for commercial activity, I am pleased to see that Progressive Grocers has reached another milestone with the opening of this shopping centre! I applaud your success which is, no doubt, the result of the tireless efforts, commitment and enthusiasm of your founding principals and the other members of the Progressive Grocers team throughout the years.

This latest venture is evidence of growth in the Jamaican economy as we recover from the pandemic by opening up new avenues for trade, and by diversifying the offerings to the local consumer.

Today, as I join you for this ribbon cutting ceremony I publicly thank you for your contribution to the Jamaican business environment.

I am sure you will not only continue to build around your customers' lives today – but also build around how they will live tomorrow.

Heartfelt congratulations all those who have contributed to this splendid achievement! The opening of this new shopping center is, indeed, a day for celebration and, I am sure, the start of much more to come for Progressive Grocers and for our beloved Jamaica.

Thank you.

DRAFT