MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

Southern Regional Health Authority

Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Efficiency

3 Brumalia Road, Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica WI

Tel: (876) 625-0612/962-9491/962-8232 |

Website: www.srha.gov.jm

PRESS RELEASE

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Fax: (876) 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
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May Pen
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Fax: (876) 986-2650

Black River Hospital
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Black River
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Percy Junor Hospital
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October 12, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

J$60 Investment for Black River Hospital to Improve Maternal and Neonatal Care

Healthcare services at the Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth have received a significant boost following the donation of approximately J$60 million in medical equipment and supplies from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The donation, which was officially handed over on Friday, October 9, 2026, includes neonatal, maternal and other critical hospital equipment aimed at improving patient care and strengthening the hospital's capacity as it continues to recover from the impact of Hurricane Melissa.

Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Mr. Michael Bent, welcomed the contribution, describing it as an important investment in the health and well-being of the people of St. Elizabeth.

"It is more than just handing over of equipment and supplies. It represents continued investment. I just want the Church of the Latter-day Saints to know that it is not just a giving, but you are investing in the lives of people, of citizens that use the Black River Hospital" Mr. Bent said.

He explained that approximately J$7.85 million of the donation covers neonatal equipment and supplies, including infant incubators, radiant infant warmers, infant resuscitation equipment, paediatric blankets and baskets.

The remaining J$52.2 million covers other essential hospital equipment, including patient monitors, transport ventilators, warming systems, pharmacy refrigerators, stretchers, hospital beds and electrocardiogram (ECG) machines.

"For our healthcare workers, it means having the tools they need to do their jobs effectively. For our mothers and babies, it means improved capacity to provide care when they are most needed. And for the

(more)

Chairman: Michael Stern; **Vice Chairman**; Simone Scarlett, **Board Members**: Wayne Chen, Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Omar Miller, Denise Edwards, Sherill Morgan, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee**: Howard Lynch, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

people of St. Elizabeth, it means a stronger Black River Hospital" Mr. Bent continued.

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The Regional Director noted that the donation comes at a critical time as the hospital continues its recovery following Hurricane Melissa, which caused significant damage to its infrastructure and disrupted healthcare services.

He pointed out that despite the challenges, healthcare workers remained committed to serving patients, even while managing the personal effects of the hurricane.

Meanwhile, Mission President of the Jamaica Kingston Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mr. Royce Britton, expressed appreciation for the dedication of healthcare workers and reaffirmed the Church's commitment to supporting communities through humanitarian initiatives.

"We recognise so many needs. And the fact that we are here today actually shows the great need that this institution has. And so we know that there are many needs. We want to do more. We wish we can do more. We plan to do more."

He added that the donation reflects the Church's belief in serving others and expressed hope for continued collaboration with healthcare institutions across Jamaica.

(more)

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Picture 1

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(Left to right) Leroy Blake, Welfare Self Reliance Manager, The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints; Elder Paul Sutherland and Humanitarian Missionary, Sister Karen Sutherland from The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints; Royce Britton, Mission President-Jamaica Kingston Mission, The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints; Courtney Cephas, Executive Director, National Healthcare Enhancement Foundation; Diana Brown-Miller CEO, Black River Hospital; Dr. Aggrey Sajabi, Consultant Paediatrician, Black River Hospital; Sean Brissett, Parish Manager, St. Elizabeth Health Services; Michael Bent, Regional Director, Southern Regional Health Authority.

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Picture 2

Some of the donated items.

(30)

For more information contact:
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