

## Birth Registration Assists National Planning Process – RGD cont'd



Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Registrar General's Department (RGD), Yvette Scott (left), addressing residents of St. James, who turned out for the fourth in the series of RGD registration fairs, held yesterday (Sept. 20), at the West Jamaica Conference Centre in Mount Salem

Ms. Scott told JIS News that data from the RGD indicates that before the full introduction of the bedside registration programme in January 2007, an “alarming” number of Jamaican children would go unregistered every year.

“We have from 2006 to now, 1,000 per year... plus those persons, who have never received birth certificates before. The data for 2006 is alarming before pre-bedside registration”, she informed.

The Acting CEO said that the fairs are very important as they provide the opportunity of those children to access the vital document so that “we all can have a better Jamaica and our children can have a right to their identity”. Icyline Johnson a parent from Granville, told JIS News that she was happy for the event, as she is now able to access birth certificate for all her children, which will enable them to be registered for school.

“I am here today to look about my children’s birth certificate so that when I am ready for them to go to school, everything will be alright. Right now, I am feeling good because I didn’t have the money to look about them and now I am able to get them done free of cost, so I am feeling good and want to say thanks to RGD,” Ms Johnson told JIS News.

The venues and dates for the nine remaining fairs are: Social Development Commission (SDC) Complex, Addison Park, Brown’s Town, St. Ann on September 26; Bethel Baptist Church, Half-Way-Tree, St. Andrew on September 28; Jamalco Sports Complex, Clarendon on September 29; Independence Park, Savanna-La-Mar, Westmoreland on September 30; Highgate Church of Christ, Harmony Hall, St. Mary on October 3; the Santa Cruz

Community Centre, St. Elizabeth on October 4; Anglican Church Hall, St. Thomas on October 5; Falmouth Town Hall, Trelawny on October 6; Lynch Park, Buff Bay, Portland on October 7; and Central playfield, Lucea, Hanover on October 10.

All sessions are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Children, who have never been registered, and those who require late entry of name, will also be accommodated. The events will also provide the opportunity for an additional 27,257 children to obtain birth certificates.

UNICEF is providing some \$8.5 million towards the initiative.

**JIS**