

## **Extract from verbatim notes public meeting re proposed development on Pellew Island**

**June 18, 2009**

My name is Marion Sutton and I was born in and around San San. My family owned land in San San from before I was born. I grew up swimming at San San Bay, Monkey Island, Princess Nina Island, whatever you call it, it is part of who I am. It nurtured me. And I am moved beyond words about what is happening here. How many people read the newspapers? I only knew of this meeting through the Sunday's or Monday's paper, I believe. And so, you have here an extremely important discussion about what is supposedly an icon of Port Antonio, an icon of Portland, part and parcel of who we are. And just because as a people we do not have sufficient funds to purchase that icon so we can have it, we can have people come in and say, well, it is private property. And because it is private property, you feel you can go ahead and make decisions which may have an impact in the long run, an impact which none of us once it is started we can reverse. The investigation that was put forth has been very honest, at least you have identified the fact that there are no guarantees, spills may occur, accidents may happen in and around Pellew Island and Pellew Island itself may be damaged and that damage could be reversible (sic). I am asking every one of us to think seriously about what is happening in Jamaica. We have a moral obligation regardless of the ownership of private property to ensure that the beautiful island of Jamaica that we love so much, that it is carried through into the future, that our children and our children's children can enjoy the beauty that I knew as a child. Perhaps it is too late.

*Applause.*

You talk about the hundred or more people whom you might have interviewed – who are these people? Where did they come from, what cross section of the population, who do they represent? The other thing is, Portland we know, has a very high percentage of illiteracy, over the whole of Jamaica, we have a very high rate of illiteracy regarding our environment. Knowledge and understanding of the environment is not something that we have really stressed across the population of Jamaica. Portland, Oregano (sic) is one of my most favourite places, I can drive along the coast of Portland, Oregano (sic) and enjoy what is there; I can't do that in my own country and my heart bleeds because I know that if more people knew about what was happening here tonight, and if more of our Portlanders had the knowledge about the environment, nobody would be able to build anything in Pellew Island.

*Applause*