

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SCOTIABANK

NEWS RELEASE

SCOTIABANK RESCUES JNA UNDER 16 TEAM TO CARIBBEAN CHAMPS

Scotiabank has responded to the plight of the Jamaica Netball Association's JNA, Under 16 Team with a donation of \$500,000 to cover the shortfall in the cost to send the girls to the Caribbean Championships in Trinidad and Tobago come November 23 to December 2.

Scotiabank's Netball Team will make the presentation to the JNA's Under 16 Girls at a friendly match at the Bank's sports club, ScotiaLink, in Liguanea on Saturday, October 7. Following this match the JNA will select the final squad who will represent the at the November championships.

News of the JNA's financial difficulties in covering the full expenses for the team to attend the Championships was made public on Thursday, October 5, when JNA President and International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) finance director, Marva Bernard, expressed despair that the team might not make it to the November event.

Although the JNA had approached several corporate entities for support, only one had responded positively, however this left a shortfall of \$500,000. "Scotiabank has now come to our rescue, and I am indeed very appreciative about the quick response. This donation is our encouragement to work harder and we thank the Bank so very much." said Ms. Bernard. "The team will also use the remainder of the funds to cover on the ground expenses while in Trinidad, as these trips are very expensive", explained Ms. Bernard.

The JNA's Under 16 team has had an outstanding record at the Caribbean Championships since the first games in 1998, losing only once in this eight year history. "We lost in 2005, because of some flaws in our programme. We have re-shuffled and re-focused and are sure that we will be on top again. Our coach, Joan Cargill, the team doctor and managers have rallied around the girls and are making a united effort to help us win. Everyone gave of his or her service free of charge and we now welcome Scotiabank's donation to this team effort," explained the JNA President.

Most of the girls from the Under 16 team are from inner-city communities and rural areas and very happy for the opportunity to represent their country. "They are hungry and

passionate about the sport at this age and come in their droves every weekend to practice. We would not have wanted to miss out on this championship,” said Ms. Bernard.

The JNA has received other corporate donations from Scotiabank over the years, the most recent being the Bank’s sponsorship of a player to attend the World Youth Championships in Ft. Lauderdale last year.

Scotiabank’s donation comes against the background of the company’s ongoing involvement and support of youth sports development at all levels in Jamaica. The Bank’s Netball team continues to enjoy success in the Business House League.

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For more information, contact:

Simone Hull
Public, Corporate & Government Affairs
Scotiabank Centre
932 0549
398 5326