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Proposed increased use of CCTV Cameras in fight against crime

National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague has renewed the call for the public to partner with the Ministry for the use of CCTVs to tackle crime.

Speaking on Wednesday, December 7 at the handing over of a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system to the Islington Police Station in St. Mary, the Minister stated that priority must be given to installing CCTV cameras in every community across the island. *“We want to network the existing CCTVs in the parishes of St. Mary, St. James, Ocho-Rios and Kingston. Eight entities have already expressed an interest in partnering with the Ministry to provide footage from cameras in the public space. I want to encourage other members of the public with CCTVs to come on board. This will increase safety for the country, the community and create partnership,”* the Minister reiterated.

Highlighting the benefits of the CCTV system for the police station, Minister Montague noted that this technology is necessary for all communities across the island, ***“As the security forces seek out the criminals in the cities and towns, they flee to the rural parts but I want to tell them that there is no hiding place in Jamaica for criminals. The days of hiding out in some remote district are coming to an end,”*** he warned.

Minister Montague thanked Quest Security Company for making the acquisition of the system a reality. ***“This is another sign of the strong partnership that is being developed between corporate Jamaica, the Government of Jamaica and the citizens of Jamaica. It is a partnership built on our shared commitment to fight crime and restore law and order to our communities,”*** the National Security Minister stated.

ACP Fitz Bailey in charge of Area 2 underscored the Minister’s statement, ***“This reinforces the partnership approach to tackling crime. The police cannot do it alone. I commend Quest Security for this donation. It shows that there are individuals and organisations who have a corporate conscience,”*** he stated.

The Minister also encouraged the police to make full use of the free Stay Alert App and share it with the community to give more citizens a direct link to the police. He reiterated that the app converts a citizen’s android phone into a personal panic alarm and if a citizen is in danger or witnesses a crime the app can be used to anonymously send an alert to the police.

“This means that tens of thousands of Jamaicans, even in some of the remotest parts of the island, can be an active part of our security system and be able to protect themselves, their neighbours and their communities. This confidential system is already making a difference in the fight against crime,” Minister Montague noted.

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National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague with donor, Managing Director of Quest Security, Joseph Dibbs examining the newly installed CCTV system at Islington Police Station in St. Mary. Looking on are (l-r), Commanding Officer for St. Mary, Superintendent D. Powell, Station Chaplain, Rev. Lenford Newell and ACP Fitz Bailey in charge of Area 2.