



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
TELEPHONE: 754-0030/619-6017/878-0528  
FAX: 754-3601

Email: [gillian.haughton@mns.gov.jm](mailto:gillian.haughton@mns.gov.jm)

**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY**  
NCB NORTH TOWER  
2 OXFORD ROAD  
KINGSTON 5  
JAMAICA

June 24, 2016

### **Jamaica and Chile to strengthen partnership through signing of bilateral agreement**

Following the recent visit of the State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Parnell Charles Jnr. to Chile, both countries anticipate the strengthening of bilateral relations. This is expected to be achieved through the signing of an agreement for the continued exchange of best practices in the juvenile justice system and national security protocols and solutions.

Preliminary discussions were conducted during courtesy calls on Chile's Vice Minister of Crime Prevention, Antonio Valdes Frey, Vice Minister of Foreign affairs, Edgardo Riveros and Vice Minister from the Ministry of Justice, Minister Suarez. If successful, the impending agreement would see the expansion of the trilateral initiative among the governments of Jamaica, Chile and the United States of America.

The State Minister, in a press briefing held at the Ministry's head office on June 21, cited some of the key aspects of the visit that fostered the strengthening of ties between both countries. He explained that, ***“The take-aways afforded by this visit are going to prove useful as the Ministry of National Security undertakes penal reform and decides on how to treat with children to reduce recidivism and in the long term, effect sustainable reduction in crime and violence. With our Chilean counterparts, we are engaging the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to receive their support to further improve our Juvenile Justice System”***

It is expected that with strengthened relations between Jamaica and Chile, the institutional capacity of the island's correctional facilities will be improved. The Ministry looks forward to implementing more effective rehabilitation programmes for juveniles, which will be more pragmatic and diversified, and the breaking down of language barriers as correctional officers learn Spanish and work together with Chilean representatives in Jamaica's correctional facilities.

\*\*\*\*\*