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Online passport applications to become a reality this year

Online passport applications and renewals are to become a reality in 2017 as part of the efforts to boost the national security infrastructure of the island and to foster more efficient security checks.

The disclosure was made by National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague as he toured the Constant Spring Road location of the Passport Immigration and Citizenship yesterday.

The Minister further stated that discussions are ongoing with vendors to facilitate an e-passport system, which is expected to increase operational efficiency and reduce the wait times at the island's major airports.

Speaking with members of PICA's management team Minister Montague stated, ***"This is the year of implementation. We intend to use the resources that we have and to obtain more resources in order to create speedier processes. A visitor to the island should not have to wait five hours in an immigration line before their vacation begins."***

The Minister, who was joined by State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, Parnel Charles Jr., also toured the Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine where he met with staff and observed and was informed about the daily operations of each unit at the facility.

The National Security Minister said he was pleased and commended the staff for the good work they continue to do. ***“I learnt a lot about the operations of both PICA and the Forensic Science Institute. I had an opportunity to meet and interact with the staff, as well as, members of the public and get their thoughts, ideas and comments on how to improve service so that this becomes a collaborative approach across all the Ministry’s Agencies and Departments in which we operate as one and breakdown silos in the creation of a safer and prosperous Jamaica.”***