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For Immediate Release

**Police stations receive J\$8.3 million face lift from the Ministry of
National Security**

The Gayle Police Station and Oracabessa Police barracks in St. Mary have been refurbished to the tune of approximately J\$8.3 million dollars.

The police stations were described by the National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague as two of the stations across the island most in need of repair.

The handing over ceremony for the rededication of the police stations took place on Wednesday April 12 at the Gayle and Oracabessa Police Stations in St. Mary.

Speaking against the background of what he described as the poor conditions of police stations he saw on his visits during his first months as Minister, Minister Montague stated, *“I have visited some of the police stations and I am not pleased with the conditions. I want to be able to walk in and sleep there I must express my appreciation to the hardworking men and women of the police force who have continued to exercise their job functions even in these conditions. Today it is a blessing to rededicate these facilities.”*

He highlighted other measures being put in place to enhance physical conditions at police stations with at least 15 more stations receiving a facelift, the boosting of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) mobility with the acquisition of 200 pre-owned vehicles to arrive in June, and a new police headquarters to be established in Port Maria.

The Minister also announced that there is a renewed recruitment drive to boost the human capability of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The recruitment drives will begin at Tacky High School and Oracabessa High School next Tuesday (April 18) and Thursday (April 20) respectively.

These measures he stated are part of the Ministry's five pillar crime reduction strategy with specific focus on creating effective policing.

The National Security Minister also used the opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Commissioner of Police, George Quallo. In reiterating his support and commitment for Mr. Quallo, the Minister said, *“Mr. Quallo has demonstrated his ability to lead the JCF at a critical juncture. He has risen through the ranks and is a true example that hard work, integrity, values and respect can take you to the top. I am confident that he will strengthen relationships with the other bodies that make up the island's security architecture and I implore us all as Jamaican citizens to give him our full support and I am committed to giving him my full support.”*

He also encouraged the citizens of St. Mary and across the island to use the Stay Alert App to report what they know. *“We need to give citizens the tools to fight crime. With the installation of this application, you turn your phone into your own personal security tool and bodyguard. As of June 1, all phones bought from Digicel and*

Flow will have the app preloaded as part of this effort,” the Minister stated.

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Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague and head of the Gayle Police Station, Mr. Pinnock inspect the refurbished facilities at the Gayle Police Station