



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

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## **Government considering duty free access to CCTVs to assist with fighting crime**

National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague says the Government is giving consideration to duty free access to persons importing CCTVs that will be used to assist in the fight against crime.

The Minister was speaking at a Manchester Chamber of Commerce meeting held at the Golf View Hotel yesterday.

He said: *“We are investing heavily in the intelligence network. We are developing a national CCTV network and we want well thinking Jamaicans to give us the feed for cameras that are facing outwards, in the public space. If citizens are willing to purchase CCTVs, we will provide the specs and waive the taxes for importing the cameras.”*

During the meeting, Minister Montague spoke in detail of the plans that the Ministry has to arrest the current crime situation; chief of which is the five pillar crime reduction strategy. The pillars are Swift and Sure Justice, Crime Prevention through Social Development, Situational Prevention, Rehabilitation and Redemption and Effective Policing.

In a wide ranging address, Minister Montague said the Ministry is to establish an oversight committee, operating similar to the Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC). This committee will provide oversight of the Ministry's policy implementation, as well as monitor and measure the Ministry's achievements.

The National Security Minister noted that the Ministry has been working at the community level through several violence intervention programmes, is boosting the mobility of the JCF with the acquisition and distribution of 80 of the 200 pre-owned cars and 16 pickups.

He also spoke of amendments to the Proceeds of Crime Act, the DNA Act, the Fingerprint Act, the Firearm Act and Anti-gang legislation.

Minister Montague implored citizens to play their part by providing information to the security forces. ***“Crime is our problem. Help the police, not the criminal. Download Stay Alert, call Crime Stop at 311 or write what you know in an envelope, mark an X on it and drop it at the post office,”*** the Minister urged.



National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague addressing the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Meeting