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**National Security Minister to meet with PNP local government
personnel in continued effort to forge partnership to tackle crime problem**

National Security Minister, Hon Robert Montague says almost a year after requesting a meeting with the Opposition People's National Party and its Local Government personnel, the party has responded, proposing a date of February 3, 2018.

However, Minister Montague has respectfully asked the party to propose an earlier date.

In a quick exchange yesterday morning at the Electoral Commission's launch of the registration for political parties, PNP General Secretary Julian Robinson committed to discussing the matter internally to find an earlier date.

Minister Montague said he remains hopeful that an earlier date can be found as we all seek to collaborate to find solutions to the crime problem.

Following a meeting with then Chairman Robert Pickersgill and General Secretary, Julian Robinson, on February 26 last year, the National Security

Minister requested a meeting with the party's local government representatives as part of the efforts to forge partnerships and consensus to tackle the crime problem.

The Ministry had been in contact with the PNP Secretariat during the latter half of last year, trying to get the meeting off the ground.

“I believe the political network islandwide is the best intelligence network, and we have to leverage this to our advantage so it can redound to the benefit of all Jamaica,” noted the Minister.

A similar meeting was held with JLP local government representatives in July last year.

Minister Montague has been having a series of meetings with stakeholders including the church, private security companies, members of the private and private citizens.

“This crime problem is not just for the security forces to deal with. All law-abiding, well-thinking persons have to come on board and play their part in ensuring a safe and prosperous Jamaica.”

He also urged persons to download the Stay Alert app to anonymously report incidents of crime.