



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

Email: gillian.haughton@mns.gov.jm

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

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Ministry of National Security launches National CCTV System

The Ministry of National Security launched its National Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) System dubbed JamaicaEye yesterday at the National Indoor Sports Complex.

The project is an effort to collaborate with key stakeholders, including the public-private sector and the Ministry to establish a collective approach to CCTV surveillance.

Minister of National Security and keynote speaker, Hon. Robert Montague lauded the initiative as coming at a critical time. He said, *“Today is historic, exceptional...game-changing. I want to see our two political parties leading the way on this. My dream is that as nation-building institutions, we must agree on some rules, objectives, standards and a road map for national security and ring fence them. Since I was appointed Minister of National Security, at the very top of my mandate was to craft modern, effective and sustainable approaches to tackling crime. JamaicaEye is one such initiative.”*

Minister Montague said the programme is being implemented with five hundred cameras with a view to building out the project as citizens and private business operators with cameras overlooking public spaces allow their feeds to be accessed by the security forces.

Members of the private sector also sang high praises for the initiative. President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Howard Mitchell said, ***“We believe that this initiative is not only valuable because of the impact it will have on crime but because it serves as a template to show what participative democracy can do. It must serve as a template for all our activities in civil service and government.”***

Director of Digicel Enterprise, Brian Bennett-Easy said Digicel supports the initiative. ***“The team at Digicel is impressed by the project and we fully endorse this initiative. We need to appreciate the fact that technology is an enabler to propel proper governance and I believe the JamaicaEye initiative is the proper action at the right time,”*** he said.

In highlighting Jamaica’s future destination and the impact the initiative will have on curbing crime, Permanent Secretary, Dianne McIntosh said, ***“JamaicaEye is not just about the Ministry or the Security Forces. It is about every Jamaican because in order to make Jamaica safe, it has to be a partnership among all of us.”***

The Ministry of National Security has already implemented cameras in public spaces in Kingston, St James (Montego Bay), Manchester (Mandeville), St Ann (Ocho Rios), Clarendon (May Pen) and Westmoreland (Negril). Members of the public and business owners with CCTV systems can sign up at JamaicaEye.gov.jm.