



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

For immediate release

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**State Minister Charles Tours New Correctional Facility for
Female Inmates of Fort Augusta**

State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, Senator Pearnel Charles Jr. has described the custodial facilities for the 146 female inmates who have been relocated from the Fort Augusta Adult Correctional Centre to the South Camp Rehabilitation Centre, as adequate and conducive to more effective management and supervision.

One day after the relocation, Senator Charles, who has portfolio responsibility for the nation's correctional system, toured the South Camp facility on Friday (March 3) for a first-hand assessment of the move and to have discussions with the correctional officers and the inmates.

"This facility is more secure with new and modern equipment", said the State Minister, mindful of the vulnerabilities of the below-sea level, centuries-old Fort Augusta Correctional Centre to storm surges and high tides, as well as to major natural disasters. In October 2016 under threat of Hurricane Matthew, all the inmates at Fort Augusta were temporarily relocated to the Horizon Adult Remand Centre.

"Notwithstanding the successful transition, inmates have raised a number of concerns, some of which I consider to be

valid and typical of a move of this nature. I have discussed with the leadership of DCS who assured me that they will be resolved in short order", said Senator Charles.

The State Minister also pointed out that the closure of Fort Augusta and the relocation of the inmates to the South Camp Rehabilitation Centre, are in alignment with the Ministry's thrust to improve its rehabilitation and re-integration programmes.

Senator Charles also toured the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre on Friday (March 3).

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