



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

January 10, 2017

State Minister lauds partnership approach to juvenile justice

State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Parnell Charles Jr. met with officials on Tuesday, January 9, to mark the rolling out of the 3rd phase of the Chilean Exchange Programme within the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

It is anticipated that the visit by Chilean partners, represented by Cecilia Salinas Hernandez and Paulina Fuenzalida Catalan will continue to advance learning opportunities for DCS staff through training and technical cooperation, which will contribute to further dialogue between the two countries. This phase of the exchange programme follows a visit by a delegation led by the State Minister to the South American country in June last year to observe the juvenile justice system.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Ministry's head office on Monday January 9, the Minister stated, "*One of the opportunities that*

this programme has afforded, aside from the direct impact on juveniles is that it has allowed us, as the administrators of solutions, to think differently in order to facilitate successful rehabilitation and reintegration. I am very pleased to say to our Chilean partners that arising from our visit we have started the Learning by Doing programme in Jamaica.”

The Learning by Doing programme launched in September 2016 is a shift towards a more student-centred approach within juvenile institutions geared at improving the educational programmes in these facilities and supporting wards who often struggle with learning difficulties and present behavioural problems.

Commissioner of Corrections, Ina Hunter in highlighting the importance of the initiative stated, *“It is the work that we put into our children that will ultimately determine the future for all of us.”*

Minister Counselor of Chile in Jamaica, Roberto Alvarez, said he was pleased that the programme offered the opportunity for cooperation with Chile, especially as it relates to youth with challenging circumstances.

This initiative represents one of the significant action points of the Ministry of National Security’s thrust towards reducing reoffending within the five-pillar crime management strategy.

Sen. Pearnel Charles Jr. in expressing appreciation to the Department of Correctional Services and international partners for their continued commitment to the initiative stated, ***“I want to congratulate the Commissioner, and the Superintendents of the four juvenile institutions. I do not expect it to be easy but I believe that together with USAID, OAS, Trust for the Americas and other partners we have set the foundation for what is going to be the successful implementation of our objectives. This administration is stepping up to the plate.”*** he stated.