



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, April 17, 2024



Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn (second-right), Commissioner of Corrections, Brigadier (Ret'd) Radgh Mason (second-left), Deputy Commissioner of Corrections, Joyce Stone (left) and Superintendent, Joycelyn Roache-Spencer (right) pose at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for a nursery at the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre in Kingston earlier today (April 17).

South Camp nursery will be a haven for incarcerated mothers
- **Minister Cuthbert-Flynn**

Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn says a nursery being constructed at the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre will serve as a haven for incarcerated mothers to bond with their infants.

Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony held at the facility earlier today (April 17), the State Minister shared that: **“with this project, a haven will be provided for mothers in the system who can mentally and physically care for their infants”**.



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She further added that **“with this construction, the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) aims to disrupt the perpetuation of trauma and establish a foundation for positive development and rehabilitation for mothers within the penal system”**.

Minister Cuthbert-Flynn shared that **“during a visit in June of last year, I recognised the urgent need for a secure, safe and nurturing environment dedicated to infants born to incarcerated mothers”**.

The existing Government policy allows mothers to bond with their infants for the initial six months, a move firmly supported by the DCS further highlighting the importance of this bonding approach for incarcerated mothers and their infants.

Minister Cuthbert-Flynn further explains that with this new facility in the local correction system, the anticipation is high for **“positive results for pregnant and nursing women incarcerated at South Camp”**.

As the Government continues to implement strategies under the National Correctional Services Policy (NCSP), the shift from punishment and custody to a humane service approach is priority.

The Ministry of National Security through the DCS will continue to execute projects such as this – to positively impact those within the correctional system. Minister Cuthbert-Flynn further added that **“this serves as a testament that the Government of Jamaica stands committed in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of our inmates”**.

The nursery is being constructed at a cost of \$13,507,997 and is expected to be completed by June of this financial year.

With this addition, up to three mothers and their infants will be accommodated in a three-room structure which will be outfitted to meet the maternal demand at the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre.

The female only facility currently accommodates 110 inmates.

