



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**DCS to get Technology Upgrades – Senator Samuda**

The procurement of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) to enhance surveillance in correctional facilities is now underway says Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda during his State of the Nation Presentation in the Senate earlier today.

The Government is building out an Information Communication Technology (ICT) plan for the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) that rests on four pillars – computer networking, communications, surveillance, and connectivity.

**“The first priority of the plan is to push forward the rollout of the network infrastructure at all DCS facilities and offices. Currently, just about half of these locations have adequate computer networks installed. As a result, vital information and data must still be recorded and stored in hard copy. The inefficiency in terms of physical space and time spent searching through files for information cannot be overemphasized. This underscores the Government’s increased focus on adequately equipping the DCS to record and access information digitally,”** said Senator Samuda.

He added that electronic surveillance protects Correctional Officers and inmates by recording incidents for independent verification. The Ministry’s Security Strengthening Project — which is funded through the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - has committed funding for the procurement and installation of CCTV cameras.

This ICT outlay, valued at approximately thirty million dollars (J\$30,000,000.00) per institution, will also include the establishment of internal networks, a monitoring room at the Horizon Adult Remand Centre and a monitoring centre at the DCS Headquarters. In addition to the introduction of a surveillance system, plans are underway to implement an institution-wide electronic correctional management system within the DCS.

Minister Samuda noted that the system will facilitate the digital collection of data, simplify the monitoring of inmates and provide other vital management tools. This software is the first step toward the true modernization of Jamaica’s correctional services.

The Government is committed to ***Securing our Future*** with a holistic approach to tackling crime, including successful offender outcomes through necessary interventions,



development of new and stronger partnerships, particularly for rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates and wards in the care of the Department of Correctional Services.

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