



**PRESS RELEASE
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Sunday, April 27, 2025



Custos of Kingston, Hon. Steadman Fuller representing the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe and Commissioner of Corrections, Brigadier (ret'd) Radgh Mason pose at the 50th Anniversary Church Service for the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). Chief Justice of Jamaica, Hon. Bryan Sykes, Commissioner of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, Stewart Beckford, Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of National Security, Shauna Trowers, and Deputy Commissioners of Corrections, Dr. Marc Thomas and Joyce Stone also attended the service held earlier today (April 27) at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity in Kingston.

DCS at 50: A legacy of second chances and innovation - Minister Cuthbert-Flynn

“The Department of Correctional Services is more than an institution, it is a ministry of second chances, of healing and rebuilding lives for a safer Jamaica,” emphasised the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn in addressing attendees at the department’s 50th anniversary launch event.



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Last Friday (April 25), the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) officially launched its yearlong 50th Anniversary celebrations under the theme, **“Excellence in Securing, Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Lives for a Safer Jamaica”** at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

The launch, attended by key stakeholders, DCS staff and partners, marked a moment of reflection and renewal, celebrating five decades of resilience, reform and progress.



Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of National Security, Delroy Simpson, representing Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe and Chief Technical Director, Shauna Trowers in attendance at the official launch for the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) 50th anniversary celebrations held on Friday (April 25) at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

While speaking at the launch event, Minister Cuthbert-Flynn lauded the evolution of the DCS, describing it as a cornerstone of Jamaica’s justice and public safety framework.

“The Department has moved from a purely custodial institution to a progressive, reform-oriented agency that champions rehabilitation, reintegration and human dignity. Today, we recognise the visionaries, change-makers and policy-makers who have built not just a correctional system, but a lasting legacy,” she said.

In a demonstration of its continued transformation efforts, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang tabled the National Correctional Services Policy Green Paper in 2024, signalling a renewed strategic approach to rehabilitation and reintegration.



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The policy outlines key reforms to strengthen institutional management, expand rehabilitation programmes and introduce more technology-driven interventions to support inmate transformation and reduce reoffending.

Today (April 27) the celebrations continued with an anniversary church service at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity in Kingston. The State Minister in her address highlighted the spiritual foundation necessary for the continued success of the DCS.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it. Today, we submit the next 50 years into God’s hands, trusting that the Department will not only manage but will continue to minister and save lives,” she affirmed.



The bands of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) parade on North Street following their 50th Anniversary Church Service held earlier today (April 27) at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity in Kingston.

In highlighting the DCS’s achievements, she further praised the extensive rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, including educational initiatives, vocational training, mental health services and spiritual renewal, which have helped thousands of Jamaican inmates rebuild their lives.

The Ministry of National Security remains committed to the full transformation of the DCS, ensuring it becomes the Caribbean’s centre of excellence in correctional management.