



**PRESS RELEASE
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Multi-billion-dollar spend on institutional strengthening is to enhance effective law enforcement response – MNS Chief Technical Director

Delroy Simpson, the Chief Technical Director overseeing the Security Risk reform and Transformation Policy Division in the Ministry of National Security, sees institutional strengthening as necessary for Jamaica's future.

He told a full conference hall during a Plenary Session at the 10th Biennial Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay on Monday, June 17, that strengthening the institutions of law enforcement was a pivotal act by government to break the back of crime and to restore peace and effect good public order and peace in the island.

Key to this, Mr. Simpson emphasised was an assessment undertaken by the Ministry in 2008 which indicated that 150 of 213 police stations were in advanced states of disrepair and that fifteen (15) of those stations were irreparable, which gave birth to the successful **Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (Project ROC)**.

The CTD told scores of diasporans of the government's plan to secure Jamaica and further boost economic growth, informing them that a great number of police stations have been constructed through strategic alliances with the National Housing Trust and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

He reported that since the creation of the **Project ROC** some 148 major projects have been completed at a cost of just over \$ 2 billion.

The CTD told the gathering that the Ministry remains on track to complete the construction of a further nine police stations at a cost of \$1.3 billion by the end of the financial year.

He reported that five new stations are currently going through the public investment process and that works have commenced on two "mega facilities in the Westmoreland and St Catherine Division Police Headquarters, cumulatively valued at \$5 billion.

Mr. Simpson added that \$10 billion is being outlaid for the construction of a facility in Montego Hills, St James to house the Specialised Operations West Unit. He also mentioned the construction of the state-of-the-art Forensic Pathology Suite in Kingston at a cost of \$650 million is close to completion at 98 per cent.



“This accumulative \$19.3 billion investment is only part of the government’s massive outlay to secure fit for purpose facilities for the men and women of the police force, through which citizens can now receive proper service,” CTD Simpson said.

“With the building out of our CCTV network dubbed JamaicaEye, which includes the installation of about 900 cameras on the network, an additional 350 cameras will be installed this financial year, bringing the total to over 1,000 and an investment of \$1.7 billion,” he added.

Speaking of major investments, CTD Simpson stated in addition that billions of dollars are being spent to upgrade the police communication network, which he said is to allow the police to adequately carry out their functions.

“We have a JCF who is our David, but you can’t send David into battle with the proverbial sling and a few stones; we have to give them way more than that, and that is what the Ministry of National Security has been doing,” the CTD said.

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