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MNS LAUNCHES PROJECT R.O.C

The Ministry of National Security (MNS) has launched a new campaign to bring awareness to the public as the Ministry is rebuilding, renovating and retrofitting police stations island-wide. The project highlights the Ministry's transformational agenda to *Rebuild*, *Overhaul* and *Construct* over 200 police facilities.

Project R.O.C commences today with the ceremonial opening of the Shady Grove Police Station at Lluidas Vale in St. Catherine, by the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang. According to Minister Chang, the wooden shack which stood for over 70 years has been completely rebuilt and transformed into a purpose-built police facility, tailored to the needs of citizens.

The objective of P-R.O.C is to convert all police stations into modern, citizen friendly work spaces, provide officers with a comfortable environment conducive for work, while creating the ambience for citizens to willingly and comfortably engage the police.

“All citizens are customers of the government and we want them to feel comfortable and safe when they visit police stations, especially when making reports on sensitive criminal matters such as rape and murder”, said Minister Chang. He says an overhaul of this nature requires willingness, oversight, and funding, which the government sees as a priority, investing heavily in the security architecture.

“There is empirical evidence suggesting that there is a correlation between improved police performance and a decrease in murders stemming from strategic and increased investments in the security forces. Under P-R.O.C we expect to mend the relationship between the police and the communities they protect”, said Minister Chang.

The sum of \$5 billion will be spent to improve the condition of facilities of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). In addition to government funding, the National Housing Trust (NHT) has committed approximately \$2 billion to improve the police stations in the communities it operates. The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) will be rebuilding and renovating select police stations in other communities, at a cost of \$1 billion.

P-R.O.C encompasses the thrust of the Ministry to transform the security architecture through a steady outlay of capital investments in the security apparatus, which is expected to pay dividends in the upcoming year.

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