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### **South Camp Receives US\$300,000 Multipurpose Space**

The girls at the South Camp Juvenile Correctional and Remand Centre in Kingston, are set to receive a newly-built multipurpose space. The project is valued at a cost of US\$300,000 and will provide additional educational, vocational and recreational activities for the wards.

This is being completed under ‘A New Path’: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica. Organization of American States (OAS) representative, Jeanelle Van Glaanenweygel, said **“the project seeks to reduce youth violence, by strengthening reintegration services available to youth in conflict with the law”**.

Glaanenweygel said **“it includes the improvement of the reintegration curriculum, such as remedial education, life-skills, behaviour change and vocational training”**. ‘A New Path’ is implemented by the OAS through its Department of Public Security (DPS), the Trust for Americas and the United States Agency for International Development.

Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Rudyard Spencer, said **“today at this groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a multipurpose space at South Camp, we will address the need for additional classrooms but also ensure that the best practices and international standards are considered”**. Minister Spencer added that the relocation of the Fort Augusta Adult Correctional Centre to South Camp in March 2017, led to the reduction of classrooms and other rehabilitation areas for the young ladies. He welcomed the much needed addition that will further boost the rehabilitation programmes at the juvenile facility.

The construction of the 2,900 square feet multipurpose space begins this September, and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The space is designed to house three classrooms, one information technology room and a cosmetology area that will facilitate skills training for the girls, whilst enhancing their possibility of earning an income after release.

Minister Spencer said that **“under the rehabilitation programmes, staff has seen less incidents of conflict inside the facilities, and the programmes continue to foster a conducive environment for positive development of offenders”**.

Preliminary data from the DCS show that during 2015 and 2016, only 33 of the 713 young people released from two juvenile facilities have returned to the same or another correctional centre. These results represent the mandate of the DCS to break the cycle of crime and violence, by creating productive men and women for the society.