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**Newly appointed State Minister Spencer says transformational work
continues at DCS**

Newly appointed State Minister in the Ministry of National Security (MNS), Hon. Rudyard Spencer, says the transformational work at the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) will continue.

Minister Spencer hosted a meeting today with the management team of the DCS where he reiterated the importance of ensuring successful rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

Speaking at the meeting, Minister Spencer said *“The work you are doing is extremely important because we have a chance to assist these children. Every care must be taken to ensure that they get the kind of assistance that can help them to make a meaningful contribution to Jamaica. All of these children can be and will be rehabilitated. No efforts should be spared.”*

The meeting which focused on the four juvenile institutions: Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre (HTJCC), Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre (RCJCC), Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre (MSSJRC) and South Camp Juvenile Remand & Correctional Centre (SCJRCC) provided insightful overview of the current programmes and activities.

The State Minister was joined by the Commissioner of Corrections, Ms. Ina Hunter; Director of Juvenile Services, Ms. Claudeth Hamilton; Director of Rehabilitation, Mrs. Shawn Shepherd-Martin and the Superintendents of the juvenile institutions to discuss the rehabilitation programmes and forging the way forward.

The State Minister was joined by the Commissioner of Corrections, Ms. Ina Hunter; Deputy Commissioner of Custodial Services, Ms. Joyce Stone; Director of Juvenile Services, Ms. Claudeth Hamilton; Director of Probation Aftercare, Ms. Janet Davey; Educational Coordinator, Mr. Harold Bennett and Superintendents of the juvenile institutions to discuss the rehabilitation programmes and forging the way forward.

The DCS is an agency of the MNS that plays a pivotal role in achieving rehabilitation and redemption. Its mandate is to reduce reoffending and enhance the successful rehabilitation of offenders as essential to creating a safer Jamaica.

This meeting comes on the heels of Minister Spencer's appointment on March 27th as Minister of State. He previously served as State Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.



State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, Rudyard Spencer (centre), met with Commissioner of Corrections, Ms. Ina Hunter (right), Ms. Joyce Stone, Deputy Commissioner of Custodial Services (left) and other members of the management team of the Juvenile Institutions and Probation Aftercare Offices.