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For Immediate Release

National Security Minister says spaces available at Horizon for State of Emergency detainees

Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague says 50 spaces have been provided by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) at the Horizon Adult Remand Centre to hold detainees from the State of Emergency in St. James.

He was speaking at the 76th Intake and Passing Out Parade for Correctional Officers held at the Carl Rattray Staff College in St. Ann last Friday.

The Minister said in another three weeks, 200 spaces will become available at the Tamarind Farm facility.

This disclosure comes amidst recent concerns about the facilities to accommodate detainees at police lock-ups in St. James.

Minister Montague said that in keeping with internationally accepted standards and basic human rights principles, offenders must be treated with dignity.

“We are continuing to look at and amend the Corrections Act because there are certain deficiencies we want to treat with. I am desirous of seeing provisions in the amended Act that make certain

electronic devices illegal and to establish proper communication systems to allow inmates to make phone calls and for their families to be able to communicate with them” noted the National Security Minister.

He stated that, *“Offenders convicted of larceny must be sent directly to the Tamarind or Richmond Farm facilities. If you want to steal farmers’ produce, you must learn how to produce!”*

The Minister highlighted that under the amended legislation, provisions will be made in the penal system to make it mandatory for inmates who are not literate to learn to read and write during their period of incarceration.

The Minister congratulated the 67 Correctional Officers on being the first batch to be polygraphed and pledged that the Ministry will allocate one million dollars for the construction of a gym to assist with the training of correctional officers.

He urged the new graduates to serve with pride, *“Don’t let Jamaica down. Follow in the footsteps of those who served with pride before you. Serve with pride. Don’t sully the uniform. Stay away from corruption.”*

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