



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ground broken for police post at Ian Fleming International Airport

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Senator Matthew Samuda, says the \$40 million police post at the Ian Fleming International Airport (IFIA) in St. Mary, will be a welcomed addition to the Ministry's Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (P-R.O.C). He was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony for the construction project on the grounds of the IFIA, earlier today. The project which is being funded by Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ), is scheduled to be completed in October.

Senator Samuda said in the last financial year, the Government fulfilled its commitment to national security by allocating over \$20 billion for the expansion and improvement of the security infrastructure and technology, for the security forces.

“During the 2019/2020 period, St. Mary has seen the renovations of the Highgate, Islington and Annotto Bay Police Stations, as well as the Oracabessa lock-up, totalling over \$58 million”, the Minister concluded. He pointed out that the new Gayle Police Station, which was opened last month, was constructed with funding from the International Development Bank.

Meanwhile, Minister of Transport and Mining, the Hon. Robert Montague, in his keynote address, noted that his Ministry would support the IFIA by ensuring the police post is constructed within the stipulated timeframe.

“It took three years for this ground breaking to happen. We don't want this post to be just another post, we want it to be a model under the P-R.O.C programme. It should be fitting of an international gateway, because this is a gateway to our world”, said Minister Montague.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Clifford Blake, commended the AAJ for funding the 2000 square feet police post, noting its importance to border security. **“If we look at most of the crimes and challenges that we face, guns are one of the biggest problem. Majority of them come through the borders. It is important that border security forms a critical part of the plan for national security and the investments in vehicles and equipment, is an investment in Jamaica's national security”,** he added.

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