



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday , November 27, 2020

Ground broken for New Mount Salem Police Station in St. James

The Ministry of National Security in partnership with the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) today broke ground for the reconstruction of the Mount Salem Police Station in St. James. The police station will be reconstructed at \$43 Million and is one of two police stations in St. James to be constructed under the JSIF's Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP).

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Honourable Dr Horace Chang said the renovation of the police station is also one of the initiatives under the Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act, which seeks to contain crime and promote community development through social intervention initiatives. **"At the onset of the ZOSOs, the Government articulated that the intention was to execute a hold and build operation. This is where the security forces will go into communities to disrupt criminal activities and eradicate gangs. Once a certain level of peace is maintained, we begin the process of community development through the upgrading of infrastructure, health, education and policing,"** said Minister Chang during the Mount Salem Police Station ground-breaking ceremony in St. James.

He added that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government is committed to investing in the safety and security of Jamaicans.

Minister Chang pointed out that although Mount Salem is known as a **"tough community"**, the security forces have been able to lower crime in the area. **"In the last nine months, we have recorded only two homicides compared to the 12 recorded during a similar period last year."**

The Mount Salem Police Station was initially considered for infrastructural upgrades only. However, after a thorough inspection of the station by the relevant authorities, it was deemed irremediable due to deteriorating structures and unhygienic conditions. The new Mount Salem Police Station will feature an administration block, a guard room, resource room, an exhibit room, armoury area, two interview rooms, three offices, two restrooms, a kitchen area and a parking area.

Head of the European Delegation to Jamaica, Her Excellency, Ambassador Marianne Van Steen emphasized that the safety and security of citizens are important prerequisites to sustainable development. **"So today I am delighted to participate in this ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a new police station in Mount Salem that will serve Nine Thousand and Fifty residents of this community and surrounding areas."**



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She added: **“The European Union is very proud of its partnership with the Government of Jamaica. Over the years we have been able to collaborate to deliver tangible support and assets that result in long-lasting benefits for the people of Jamaica in the right range of areas. We hope we have helped to drive change and socio-economic progress. JSIF has been and continues to be particularly gratifying because this is how we feel we can reach people directly.”**

The Government through JSIF's Poverty Reduction Programme will provide infrastructural upgrades to five other police stations including the Adelphi Police Stations in St. James, Four Paths Police Station and Lionel Town Police Station in Clarendon and the Denham Town and Franklyn Town Police Stations in Kingston.

JSIF's investment in the security force is also in keeping with the Ministry of National Security's Project Rebuild Overhaul and Construct (P-ROC), which aims to convert police stations island-wide into modern, citizen-friendly workspaces and provide officers with a comfortable working environment.

In 2001, the European Union (EU) partnered with the Government of Jamaica for continuous grant-funding support, for the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Programme, which is implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, to provide social programmes for vulnerable communities across Jamaica.

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