



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Tranquility Bay Training Facility Reopened– Minister Chang

Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, has announced that training has commenced for recruits at the Tranquility Bay Wing of the National Police College of Jamaica (NPCJ). The disclosure was made following a tour of the St. Elizabeth based police facility this morning.

Minister Chang said the facility is currently being used as quarantine facility for new recruits for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), who are expected to remain at the facility for two weeks, where they will be screened and tested for COVID-19. The facility has seen the construction of six large classrooms and bathroom facilities, procurement of furniture and equipment, to the tune of approximately \$139 million.

Dr. Chang said with this new facility, the JCF expects to recruit three batches of trainees, comprising 225 persons per batch. He said, the police force currently has 12,000 officers, however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the initial target of producing 1200 graduates will not be attained this year.

When asked about the acquisition of the land, Minister Chang said **“we are currently leasing, however, we are looking forward to acquiring it”**. He added that he is satisfied with the conditions of the facility. **“There are minor things to be done, but these will be completed during the course of the fiscal year, as the Government is committed to supporting the JCF in optimising its capacities”**, he continued.

Under the Ministry’s Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (P-R.O.C), the Maggotty and Pedro Plains Police Stations have been renovated, while work is at an advance stage at the Black River Police Station in St. Elizabeth.

“We are in the process of renovating all of our police stations and facilities at an acceptable level. Proper reception areas and private interview rooms have been installed and lock ups are in good condition. We have taken into account the privacy needs of our citizens and are making these facilities more customer friendly and comfortable”, said Minister Chang.

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