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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Green Acres Police Station Coming Soon

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang is assuring residents of Green Acres in St Catherine that they will have a new, operational police station in place early in the new year.

He said the issues curtailing the opening of the facility are being addressed and will be completed by March 2023, as the Ministry of National Security is putting in the required drainage to protect the building and those it is scheduled to house.

Addressing a recent sitting of Parliament, Minister Chang clarified what is being perceived as shoddy workmanship in the construction of a brand-new police station for the St Catherine community, which has seen parts of the grounds and roadway flooded in bouts of heavy rainfall.

Minister Chang pointed out that the construction of the station was a direct request of the community, as a result of the upsurge in criminal activity in the area. He further noted that the land on which the police station was built was reserved for a community green space.

Minister Chang said: "We have seen significant criminal activity in their area. It's a very well-established community and the citizens need a police station there. The old police station, which was falling apart is located miles away literally and had to be replaced".

He added that during the consultation, residents made it clear that while the road is likely to be flooded the location identified as the green space for the community would not be affected and further, that they would expect the National Works Agency (NWA) to provide drainage for the area, which the NWA agreed to.

"The citizens themselves went out of their way to design the station, they identified funding to start the station and got the contractor and agreed that the location was a good place to put the station. It was that plan which was submitted and approved in the end," the Minister added.

He said, however, a redesign of the police station was necessary given the Ministry policy on the construction of police stations, which has to be built for purpose, with the required office space for the operation of the police force.

Minister Chang explained that after the redesign was undertaken and construction commenced it was certain that more funding was necessary. He added that the Ministry stepped in to cover the cost, as it was a necessary facility given the nature of the community in which it was located.

"So there's a need for drainage to be done and I'm sure it's being done because there's a fair amount of land in the area that is underdeveloped and the police station itself was built on a platform to isolate the construction from flooding, which is seen on low ground," he said.

The \$73 million police station was constructed on a platform which is between 18 and 24 inches above the ground and was constructed under Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (P-ROC).