



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

**National Security Minister hails ‘faithful partner’ IDB in digital transformation of
National Security Agencies**

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang, has hailed the longstanding partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as a **“faithful partner”** on the journey towards the digital transformation of the agencies within the national security architecture.

The Security Minister made the statement during his main address at the handover ceremony for computer equipment to the Training Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, for which a ceremony was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at the National Police College of Jamaica at Twickenham Park, St Catherine.

The equipment is valued at approximately US\$700,000 (JMD\$108 million) and is being funded by the Inter-America Development Bank (IDB) as part of the Security Strengthening Project.

Having partnered with the Government of Jamaica on the Security Strengthening Project (SSP) since 2018, the IDB continues to support the Government’s vision and pursuit of the comprehensive digitization of law enforcement. The handover of computer equipment is the latest in the history of their partnerships.

The computer equipment is in support of the Station Records Management System rollout and the Case Management System under the Security Strengthening Project.

“The digitization of policing operations is the defining feature of 21st-Century policing. While its benefits cannot be overstated, the process does not merely refer to purchasing modern equipment for the police,” said the Security Minister, adding that **“It requires a plan of action, committed partnerships and unwavering political will.”**

Minister Chang pointed out that the digital transformation of law enforcement involves the strategic realignment of, and new investments in technology, innovation, and practices that result in a more effective execution of policing activities.

This, Minister Chang says, requires a multi-pronged approach that targets the development of the infrastructural, technological, scientific, and human dimensions of law enforcement.

He noted that it is that holistic approach to the digital transformation of law enforcement that will result in officers not only being equipped with new digital tools but importantly technology-enabled capabilities that are required for increased operational efficiency.

“The Government has taken this approach, and we are pursuing it vigorously,” Minister Chang said.

He pointed out that since the launch of the Security Strengthening Project (SSP), in excess of US\$7 Million has been invested, through the SSP, into different aspects of the country’s national security architecture to support their digitisation.

This, according to Minister Chang, includes critical technology projects within the Firearm Licensing Authority, the Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine, the Department of Correctional Service, and the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

“This infusion of technology is changing the culture of law enforcement. The old way of doing things is being transformed into quicker, more responsive, technology-enabled processes,” he said.

The Security Minister reiterated that the implementation and expansion of the Station Records and Case Management Systems will have a profound impact on the way the JCF functions.

He mentioned that police officers need to access critical information in real-time and that they need to get the right information, at the right time, to the right person in order to effectively execute their operations.

“Digitisation allows them to do this; to access information, communicate, collaborate and respond to the challenges of today's complex crime landscape more effectively,” Minister Chang noted.

Reiterating his point, the Minister said that digital transformation and modernization efforts must be interconnected in order for them to make practical sense, be sustainable, and benefit the public.