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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo Caption: Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Zavia Mayne speaks with boys at the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre during a tour of the facility yesterday (July 14, 2022).

Wards to benefit from Automotive and Driver's Education Programme

Wards at the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre will benefit from an Automotive and Driver's Education Programme in August, through a partnership with the Ministry of National Security, through the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), and the Jamaica Automobile Association (JAA).

Minister of State, the Hon. Zavia Mayne made the announcement during a tour of the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre on Thursday (July 14, 2022). The programme is part of the institution's rehabilitation efforts and aims to teach wards who are 17 years old to drive and assist them in applying for their learner's license.

Minister Mayne reiterated the Government's commitment to supporting the development and implementation of rehabilitation programmes to address the needs of all inmates/wards/clients. The facility's programmes include educational and vocational modules, such as mathematics, computer science, barbering, auto mechanic and tailoring.

Minister Mayne encouraged the wards to take full advantage of the rehabilitation programmes to better support their reintegration into society. **“Your time here is not permanent but it is a journey you have to go through. It is important that you get an education, as well as the values, attitudes and discipline that the facility offers,”** he said.

Meanwhile, Superintendent at the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre, Maulette White, said the facility is undergoing continuous improvements to its housing and educational facilities to enhance the wards' rehabilitation.

“The major infrastructural improvements to renovate our dormitories began last year as part of our endeavour to improve living conditions for the wards. The renovation is set to be completed by the end of the year,” explained White.

Minister Mayne visited the Spanish Town Probation Office on the second leg of his tour. So far, he has visited and assessed five of the island's correctional facilities; Tamarind Farm Adult Correctional Centre, St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre, Tower Street Correctional Centre, South Camp Juvenile and Adult Correctional Centres.