



August 21, 2019

MNS ‘We Transform’ Sports & Fun Day a Success

Children from the four juvenile facilities across the island yesterday (Tuesday, August 20) participated in the second successful staging of the Ministry of National Security’s ‘We Transform’ Sports and Fun Day at the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre in St. Catherine. The event was geared towards promoting a healthy lifestyle, through involvement in physical activities, which foster teamwork, inclusivity, discipline and respect.

“At the Ministry of National Security, sports continue to be an integral part of the rehabilitation process, particularly in the Department of Correctional Services. Therefore, we place emphasis on social intervention, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that will instil positive values in the young offenders”, said State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Rudyard Spencer, during his opening remarks at the sports day. He encouraged the 125 children in attendance to use sports as a tool that will better assist with their reintegration into communities.

The ‘We Transform’ Programme targets young people, within the care and supervision of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), providing the requisite skill sets and opportunities to transform their lives. Children from the South Camp Road Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre and Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre – and those under the supervision of three Probation Offices within Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine, took part in the day’s activities.

The event aimed to strengthen cohesiveness between the children and staff and included: discus throw, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, medley relays, egg & spoon, sack race, math race, English race, needle & thread, potato race, obstacle race and staff race.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dianne McIntosh, added that **“we are happy that the sports day was held, as the Ministry is on a drive to emphasise Music, Sports and Technology (MST) in all our social intervention and rehabilitation programmes”**.

‘We Transform’ ambassador and mentor, Jeffrey ‘Agent Sasco’ Campbell, awarded the champion boy and girl with \$25,000 each, to advance their educational development. Agent Sasco pointed out that the presentation of this incentive to the top performers at the sports day reinforced and encouraged excellent performance among the children.

The other partners who were instrumental to the successful staging of the ‘We Transform’ Sports and Fun Day included the Organization of American States (OAS), Hi-Pro Ace Supercentre, Famfun Entertainment, Spike Industries, Kris and Charles Limited, Continental Baking Company Limited, Massy Distribution Jamaica Limited, Stewart’s Automotive Group, Cari-Med Limited and Nestle Jamaica Limited.