

MINISTRY PAPER.....119..... 2015
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

1.0 OBJECTIVE

1.1 The purpose of this Ministry Paper is to introduce the contents of the Annual Report of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 and to provide an update on the operations, achievements and challenges for the period under review. Projections of the Department are also included.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Department of Correctional Services was established in 1975 following the amalgamation of the Prison Services, the Approved Schools and the Probation Services. The DCS is that arm of the Criminal Justice System which is mandated to provide custodial and non-custodial services to individuals sentenced by the Courts. The DCS also facilitates the rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders through the implementation of rehabilitative programmes.

2.2 The DCS has responsibility for the operations and management of seven (7) Adult Correctional Centres, one (1) Adult Remand Centre, three (3) Juvenile Centres, one (1) Juvenile Remand Centre and sixteen (16) Community Services Offices (Probation Offices) island wide. The Centres are classified according to the security risk level and gender of the inmates/wards.

2.3 The operations of the Department are guided by a number of statutes including the Corrections Act (1985); the Parole Act (1978); Criminal Justice Reform Act (1978) and the Child Care and Protection Act (2004) as well as other established guidelines, standards operational procedures and international treaties.

2.4 The mission and vision of the DCS are as stated below:

Mission

To contribute to the safety and protection of our society by keeping offenders secure and facilitating their rehabilitation and reintegration as law abiding citizens, while developing a professional and committed staff.

Vision

We are serving the needs of all our clients by creating and facilitating opportunities for their empowerment and rehabilitation resulting in a more peaceful, caring and productive society.

3.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

3.1 Activities of the DCS are contained in the Annual Report for the period under review which is attached as Appendix I.

4.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 Seventy-five (75) training programmes were facilitated and Nine Hundred and Nineteen (919) employees benefitted from these programmes.

- 4.2 The employment of three (3) Psychologist to the Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the period October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.
- 4.3 The employment of sessional Ophthalmologist providing services to the DCS's clients. This has resulted in a decrease in the number of external referrals.
- 4.4 The development of a curriculum, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, for children with learning challenges.
- 4.5 Thirty-four (34) inmates and wards sat examination at the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC) Level. The following passes were achieved: English Language – 38%; Human and Social Biology – 50%; Principles of Accounts – 17%; Social Studies – 92%; Mathematics – 45% and Office Administration – 100% (one student).

5.0 MAJOR CHALLENGES

- 5.1 The trafficking of prohibited articles, particularly in the Adult Correctional Centers, continues to be challenging to the DCS as some Correctional Officers continue to provide inmates with these articles.
- 5.2 The two (2) maximum adult facilities, Tower Street and St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centres are archaic and are operating at approximately twice the specified capacity. This has hampered efforts at rehabilitation and has resulted in the DCS being in breach of various human rights standards and conventions.
- 5.3 The juvenile facilities are in dire need of additional staff including teaching specialist, psychologists, case managers and house mothers. Consequently, this has resulted in the DCS being unable to meet all the needs of the wards.

6.0 KEY PROJECTIONS

- 6.1 The Department of Correctional Services is seeking to improve its offerings to its clients and have identified a number of key projects to be implemented.
- There are plans to construct a modern purpose-built correctional facility to house medium and high risk female and male inmates. This will greatly alleviate the overcrowding and enhance the rehabilitative efforts.
- The DCS has committed to develop and implement a suicide policy in 2013 to identify vulnerable inmates/wards admitted to a Correctional Centre and to promote effective operational procedure that staff shall follow in an emergency

7.0 EXPENDITURE

The Department's Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2012/2013 was \$4,409,000,000.00.

8.0 OUTSTANDING ANNUAL REPORTS – 2013 & 2014

- 8.1 The 2013 Report will be submitted to the Ministry of National Security by August 31, 2015 and the 2014 Report by December 31, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bunting', written over a horizontal line.

**Honourable Peter Bunting M.P.
Minister of National Security**

July 31, 2015