

April 21, 2009

Jamaica Canada sign Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) Programme MOU

Prime Minister of Canada, Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper and his Jamaican counterpart Hon. Bruce Golding this morning signed the official agreement signalling Canada's commitment to assist with the ongoing reform of Jamaica's justice system.

Canada pledged eighteen (18) million dollars to the project.

Addressing this morning's ceremony of the Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) Programme Prime Minister Golding says a proper justice system is vital for economic development.

"Investment activity does not thrive in a country that is not supported by a good strong effective justice system, and therefore it's a situation in which we win on all fronts, and I want to express my thanks to Prime Minister Harper for the support that his Government is giving", said Prime Minister Golding.

In his remarks at the launch Prime Minister Harper says Canada's investment will support legislative reforms, modernize the justice system, help identify shortcomings in management financing and organization of justice institutions and provide poor urban communities better access to justice services.

"Stronger justice institutions will help Jamaica build stronger safer communities, Canada and Jamaica share basic values democracy good governance and the rule of law, Canada will support you every step of the way to strengthen your justice institutions," Prime Minister Harper added.

The three main planks of the four-year JUST program are:

(i) order in institutions – notably strengthening justice institutions so that they are better able to contribute to law and order;

(ii) Order in legislation - promoting legislative and policy reforms that better position the state to ensure good governance and security; and

(iii) Order in society - encouraging communities to provide input into justice system reform, which leads to improved personal security.

The signing ceremony took place this morning (Tuesday, April 21, 2009) at the Executive Building, Office of the Prime Minister on the heels of a hectic three day official visit by the Canadian Prime Minister.

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