## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Commissioner Fisher: New Alcorn County Sheriff Reason for Inmates' Return

JACKSON – The Mississippi Department of Corrections has placed state inmates in the Alcorn County Regional Facility again because of the new administration, Commissioner Marshall Fisher said.

State inmates began returning to the facility last week, and today, it has been fully restored to the 240 inmates by contract.

"I want to be crystal clear that the only reason I agreed to put back inmates and make the county whole again is because of my respect for new Sheriff Ben Caldwell," Fisher said.

On Oct. 29, in a joint investigation with the State Auditor's Office, MDOC removed all state inmates amid allegations that inmates were allowed to change uniforms disguising their custody status, work on personal vehicles and go across state lines.

MDOC suspended its contract with Alcorn County and required the county to submit a written plan of action to avoid future security breaches. Caldwell has met all of the conditions, Fisher said.