

**STATEMENT TO THE SENATE
BY
SENATOR THE HON. DWIGHT A. NELSON
MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY
IN RESPONSE TO
THE 2010 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL REPORT
ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS**

5 MARCH, 2010

[Salutations]

Mr. President,

On March 1, 2009 the United States Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law released its report on drug and chemical control for a number of countries. In the instance of Jamaica the report makes a number of observations on pages 375 – 378.

The Prime Minister in the other House has spoken extensively on the matters relating to extradition requests by the United States of America.

I will now speak, Mr. President, on a number of other observations made in the report.

Background

This report is the Government of Jamaica's response to the findings of the United States Department of State, 2010 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report on Drug and Chemical Control, INCSR. The statements in that report do not accurately represent the efforts being made by the security forces and the Jamaican authorities in the fight against international drug trafficking and organized crime.

Introduction

Drug control in Jamaica falls within the purview of the Ministries of Health and National Security. The Ministry of Health has control over pharmaceutical drugs, psychotropic substances and amphetamine type stimulants as well as precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of the said psychotropic substances as well as cocaine and the opiates (heroin, morphine, opium and codeine). The Ministry of Health also bears responsibility for demand reduction which includes public education, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

The Ministry of National Security has responsibility for controlling supply reduction which includes limiting or eradicating the cultivation of ganja, production, transportation and trafficking of both ganja and hard drugs in and out of Jamaica.

The Ministry of Finance plays a pivotal role in drug control, with Customs being the first line of law enforcement. In addition, The Financial Investigative Division (FID) of that Ministry is responsible for enforcing laws relating to money laundering.

Jamaica has signed and ratified the following international agreements:

- The United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and the 1972 Protocol amending it.
- The United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
- The United Nations Convention Against the Illicit Manufacture and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988
- The United Nations Convention on Corruption, 2003
- The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Supplementing Protocols, 2000
- The Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, 1996.

The Dangerous Drugs Act remains the central piece of legislation under which persons can be convicted for use, possession of, dealing in and preparing to export illegal drugs. Those drugs classified as psychotropic and which are controlled internationally under the 1971 Convention are sanctioned under the Food and Drug Act.

Throughout the years, Jamaica's drug control efforts have benefitted tremendously from assistance provided by the Government of the United States of America.

Throughout the decades of the eighties and nineties and up to 2001 the US Government financed the ganja eradication programme. The US, along with other international partners continues to provide support in areas such as:

- Training for law enforcement agents
- Provision of motor vehicles and equipment for the drug control programme
- Provision of financial assistance to the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard
- Provision of financial assistance to demand reduction projects undertaken by the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)
- Provision of Ion-Scan Machines at the Airports
- Provision of financial assistance to the Fugitive Apprehension Team

Law enforcement cooperation with the United States over the years has included a number of bi-lateral agreements. These include: an Extradition Treaty, a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, MLAT, a Sharing of Forfeited Assets Agreement, and a Maritime Counter Narcotics Agreement commonly referred to as the 'Ship-rider' Agreement.

Through the latter agreement, the Jamaica Defence Force, JDF)(Coast Guard and US Coast Guard and Naval Vessels participated in joint activities in the region inclusive of Jamaica's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone, with the objective of intercepting 'Go Fast Boats' conveying drugs and guns from Central and South America.

Country Actions against Drugs in 2009

Outlined below, along with the relevant available statistics are the various initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Jamaica to combat the illegal drug trade.

1. Policy Initiatives

The Ministry of National Security has been working to effectively develop an evidence based comprehensive policy agenda to respond to the crime situation, while strengthening the research capacity to support national security objectives. A plethora of solutions including legislative proposals is being explored by the government at this time.

The INCSR asserts that the “GOJ’s ambitious anti-corruption and anti-crime legislative agenda announced in 2007 remains stalled in Parliament.” It should be noted however that in 2008, the Government held a series of meetings with the Parliamentary Opposition at the highest levels to discuss a series of anti-crime legislative proposals and to arrive at a consensus as to the way forward. Out of those meetings came the “Anti-Crime” bills:

- The Bail (Amendment) Act
- The Firearms (Amendment No.2) Act
- The Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Act
- An Act to Amend the Parole Act

- An Act to make interim provision in relation to the grant of bail in specified circumstances.
- An Act to make interim provision extending the powers of arrest and detention under Sections 50B and 50F of the Constabulary Force Act.

It was important to secure the Opposition's support as the latter two Bills constitutionally require a two-thirds majority in both Houses for passage. The Bills were designed to assist the Jamaica Constabulary Force in its efforts at crime fighting, as their objectives were to strengthen policing capabilities and intensify crime prevention and apprehension operations. The Anti-Crime Bills were referred to a Joint Select Committee for further review and consideration. The passage of the Bills required the Opposition support and much was done to satisfy the concerns raised in respect of the Bills by the Opposition, but despite these efforts, support for the Bills was not forthcoming. The Government is therefore now exploring other ways to ensure the passage of the legislation, whilst seeking to achieve the same objectives.

Despite the set-backs experienced with the Anti-Crime Bills, the Government was able to pass the Criminal Justice (Plea Bargaining) Regulations and Legal Aid Regulations during this legislative year to bring the Act into operation, which will go a far way in making the necessary in-roads in the fight against organized crime in Jamaica. Hence, whilst the anti-gang legislation would give the police additional capacity to fight gang members, the plea bargaining legislation seeks to encourage members of various criminal networks to come forward and where possible be offered lighter sentences in exchange for critical evidence that will enable the effective prosecution of other members of their criminal networks.

Other legislative measures that have been taken by the Government in its commitment to fighting corruption include:

- The Independent Commission of Investigation Bill which seeks to establish an Independent Commission of Investigations which will investigate cases of abuse of citizens by the Security Forces, and other agents of the State. The debate on this Bill is in its final stages of deliberation in the House of Representatives and is expected to be passed before the legislative year ends on March 17, 2010.

- The Coroner's Act was also amended to provide for the establishment of the Office of the Special Coroner that will conduct inquests in cases where a citizen dies at the hands of agents of the State. Recruitment of staff for this office is about to commence.
- A Bill entitled, the 'Protected Disclosure Act', known by its more familiar name, 'Whistleblower Legislation' seeks to encourage citizens to give information about an act of wrongdoing or misconduct which often times includes acts of corruption within organizations where that person is employed, by providing them with the requisite protection from prosecution and victimization.
- Reform of the libel laws, a matter that is currently before a Joint Select Committee of Parliament, is also currently underway as a strategy to make it easier to expose those involved in wrongdoing at all levels in the society.

It has been noted in the INCSR that Jamaica is not in full compliance with the Egmont Group requirements in 5 areas. The areas classified as non-compliant are recommendations: 12, 16, 20 and 24 which all speak to providing coverage to Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) under the Anti-Money Laundering Legislation or Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and counter-terrorism financing legislation, and secure transactions techniques.

However, the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) at Section 2(1)(i) provides for the Minister of National Security to declare any person a financial institution, who is not listed under the current definition of 'financial institution'. Additionally, paragraph 1(2) of the Fourth Schedule to the POCA defines a 'designated non-financial institution' and also provides for the Minister to designate such institutions. The FID has prepared a draft proposal for designation of these Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, DNFBPs, and submitted it to the Financial Regulatory Unit of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

For Jamaica to become fully compliant and be a member of the Egmont Group, the FID Bill must first be passed. Discussions on the Bill in the Joint Select Committee have just been completed, and its report will now be submitted to Parliament. Canada FIU and Bahamas FIU have already given commitment to sponsor Jamaica's admission to the Egmont Group. The FID is prepared and ready to apply for membership to the Group once the Bill is passed.

2. Accomplishments

As indicated earlier, the statements in the INCSR do not accurately represent the efforts being made by the security forces as the data presented deviates from actual statistics, which the Government of Jamaica has compiled and which is the only authentic source of such information. The official data presented below represent the latest available information compiled by the Jamaica Constabulary Force Police Statistics Division and the Ministry of National Security.

As at December 2009, 8,465 arrests were made for drug related offences. This does not accord with the figure of 6,346 quoted in the report but in fact represents an increase of 1,408 arrests (or approximately 20%) over the previous year. The number of arrests made in 2009 is the highest in four years, with a general upward trend since 2006. (*See Table 1*)

Whereas Cannabis seizures fell by 37% from 35,539.16 Kg in 2008 to 22,294.09 Kg in 2009, cocaine seizures remained constant with some 264.16 Kg of the drug seized in 2009. This figure represents merely 1kg less than the previous year and an increase over 2006 and 2007 by more than 100 kg. (*See Table 2*).

Table 1: Total Number of Drug Related Arrests Made 2006-2009

Arrests	2006	2007	2008	2009
Local Male	6,039	4,927	6,368	7,807
Local Female	403	330	456	503
Foreign Male	257	174	165	104
Foreign Female	94	65	68	51
Total	6,793	5,496	7,057	8,465

Table 2: Total (Select) Drug Seizures 2006-2009

Drugs Seized	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cocaine/Kg	109.150	98.210	265.956	264.160
Cannabis/Kg	37,196.690	37,439.910	35,539.164	22,294.092
Heroin/Kg	10.630	0.060	-	-
Ecstasy (tablets)	500	1,023	-	2,785

Domestic Programmes/Demand Reduction

The country's consistent performance in drug seizures underscores the maintenance of our anti-narcotics efforts. The reduction in ganja seizures, for example, may be attributed to success in previous years at combating production. The extradition of key players in the trade has also impacted the resilience of the drug organizations. Aggressive demand reduction efforts have also impacted consumption thereby reducing local production and trafficking.

These efforts, led by the National Council on Drug Abuse, (NCDA) include work done in the areas of prevention education and demand reduction such as:

- The implementation of substance abuse prevention programmes in eighty-six institutions.
- The delivery of public awareness programmes in substance abuse prevention and healthy lifestyle programmes island-wide – 277 presentations were made to approximately 23,000 persons, 42 exhibitions mounted and 75,300 pamphlets distributed.
- Delivery of primary treatment assessment, individual, group and family counseling –2,831 clients were seen in NCDA community clinics for counseling services and referrals and follow-up through mental health facilities. Programmes were delivered from eleven (11) mental health institutions, which assisted five hundred & four (504) clients.

The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) is now assisting in strengthening these programmes as they relate to drug use and deportees as well as local offenders under the Jamaica Reducing Reoffending Action Plan, (JRAAP).

Challenges

Resource constraints continue to challenge law enforcement efforts at reducing drug trafficking. The records reflect that there has in fact been an overall reduction in ganja eradication efforts. For example, the non-availability of helicopters and the associated operational costs continue to pose a challenge to the security forces, in the use of this medium to aid in the eradication efforts.

Of note are the following:

- a. the movement of cocaine and other drugs from source countries such as Colombia continues unabated because of the inadequacy of Maritime Law Enforcement within the region.
- b. over the past 10 years, United States naval support to the region has declined considerably.
- c. with the implementation of Operation 'All Inclusive' also known as 'Plan Mexico', the increased focus on disrupting trafficking routes through Central America and successes in that strategy have resulted in some trafficking syndicates shifting their activities through the Caribbean taking advantage of the relative freedom of operation occasioned by reduced US maritime interdiction activities here.

- d. there was a significant decline in trafficking activities between 2003 and 2008 following the disruption of several major drug trafficking syndicates particularly through the application of MLAT. The more recent shift back to the Northern Caribbean is characterized by many small actors operating out of several Central and South American countries.

Responses

Despite the crime challenges the Security Forces are committed to the task at hand. The following activities are being undertaken:

- The Transnational Crime and Narcotics Division (TCND) has been restructured, upgraded, staffed and equipped to provide a formidable force in disrupting and reducing all trafficking offences.
- The Organized Crime Investigation Division (OCID) continues to focus on economic crimes, kidnapping, cyber-crimes and participates in transnational investigations with the aim of applying the MLAT.
- The establishment of the Financial Crimes Unit to investigate financial crimes and apply the Proceeds of Crime Act in separating criminals from ill gotten assets is an important development in local law enforcement.

- the building out of a well structured and robust Communications Intelligence Unit, the Digital Forensic Unit
- The Ministry of National Security undertook a Gang Risk Assessment Survey in July 2009 as a critical first step in research and information gathering to address gaps in knowledge on the issue of gangs. This information, along with an extensive review of best practices is important to inform policy-makers in the development of comprehensive strategies to address the gang problem.
- Recent arrests of some of the country's top gang leaders as a means of tackling organized crime.
- A proposal for the development of an anti-gang legislation has been prepared and submitted to Cabinet for approval.

3. Law Enforcement Efforts

In mid 2007, the Ministry of National Security (MNS), commissioned a strategic review of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). The Strategic Review was intended to provide the empirical basis for the adoption of strategies and plans to enhance and strengthen the capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force to better fulfill its mandate.

The aim of the Strategic Review was to examine thoroughly the policies, standards and performance of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, and make recommendations aimed at establishing internationally accepted policing standards for the Force.

The major objectives in accomplishing this included:

- enhancement of accountability mechanisms governing the operations of the JCF;
- the development of recommendations to ensure professionalism, efficiency and enhanced competence of the entire organization;
- development of appropriate standards in recruitment , training and professional development to ensure adherence to internationally accepted best practices;
- improvement of public confidence in policing
- review of the legislative and administrative framework governing the JCF, including the Jamaica Constabulary Force Act.

The review began in July 2007 and was concluded in April 2008. To undertake the review on its behalf the Ministry of National Security established a Strategic Review Panel. This panel included:

- local and international law enforcement experts
- individuals with experience in the management of complex private and public sector organizations
- senior academics with expertise in such areas as governance and policing reform.

The Government is fully committed to the implementation of the recommendations of the Strategic Review Panel. A 5 year action plan has been developed for the implementation of the 124 recommendations made. The Government is in the 2nd year of implementation. An Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) was established vide a decision of the National Security Council (NSC) in August 2008 and comprised:

- Professor Gordon Shirley – (Chairman), Principal of the UWI
- Professor Clifford Shearing - University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Mr. Peter Moses - Private Sector Organization of Jamaica
- The Hon. Oliver F. Clarke, O.J. – Police Service Commission
- Dr. Marshall Hall, CD, JP – Police Civilian Oversight Authority
- Mr. Peter John Thwaites – Chairman, Crime Stop, PSOJ

- Dr. Carolyn Gomes – Executive Director, Jamaicans For Justice
- Senator Basil Waite – Representative of the People’s National Party
- Mr. George Soutar – Attorney-at-Law, Representative of the Jamaica Labour Party
- Assistant Commissioner of Police Novelette Grant.

The main responsibility of the IOC is to monitor and evaluate the pace and progress of implementation and the use of resources. In addition, a Strategic Review Implementation Team was established within the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Much of the first year was spent developing a programme of work for the period of implementation and identifying the resources required for the transformation process. Subsequent meetings focused on assessing achievement against the programme of work and exploring the challenges faced by the Implementation team. Several activities were completed during the year in relation to the strategic objectives dealing with;

i) transforming the culture of the JCF into a professional and service-oriented organization, ii) establishing an Effective Leadership and Management Framework and
iii) improving accountability systems in the police force. Although the list is not exhaustive, of particular note are:

- The development and execution of several culture change workshops, with early indications that there is increased awareness and acceptance of change at the Training Branch among recruits. This has resulted in a notable change in the department of recruits, which has been welcomed by the organization. Plans to redesign instructional and socialization methodology for the recruits are far advanced and are intended to help build a new corporate image and values among new entrants.
- On the issue of the re-branding of the JCF, a committee was established to coordinate this activity and work has commenced. The committee has researched a number of design options (for symbols, name and uniform), and is narrowing the possibility to facilitate wider consultation among the JCF membership.

- The implementation of the anti-corruption policies and other measures to tackle corruption, including the launch of the 1-800-CORRUPT line in January 2009; the security vetting initiative to ensure a leadership free of corruption which commenced with some 50 senior officers vetted;
- The development of a Secondary Employment and Conflict of Interest Policy, which was approved by the National Security Council and promulgated in the Jamaica Constabulary Force Orders.
- As it relates to internal accountability systems, some 288 disciplinary cases were dealt with, reducing the case backlog considerably.
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsored the roll out of professional service delivery initiatives, which were distributed to police stations, post offices, schools and civic groups. This also included the development of an Ethical Assessment Test for the police. The Ethical Test is a police aide memoire to remind members of their legal and moral obligations.

- Several Community Policing Lessons Learnt workshops and management seminars for Divisional and Area Management teams were held in all Areas. The objective of these seminars was to communicate the policing philosophy, mission, culture and leadership style to members. The output of these sessions is the finalization of a **Community Based Policing (CBP) Training Manual** that will be used to train members. A standard definition of CBP (within the Jamaican context) and a diagrammatic model have also been developed. This model will be widely circulated through posters and flyers. The 19 designated Deputy Superintendents with territorial responsibility for CBP have all gone through sensitization workshops. 183 persons have been deployed to strengthen community policing and divisional primacy in the 19 geographic divisions.
- A significant amount of training has been undertaken. Nineteen (19) JCF and two (2) ISCF gazetted officers were sent on a ten-week command management course, which ended on July 10 2009 at Twickenham Park. Eighteen (18) Inspectors completed the ten-week Junior Command Management Course early in 2009. Some 160 newly promoted Inspectors, Sergeants and Corporals began an orientation and supervisory training programme in June 30, 2009. A training programme has been developed for Divisional Primacy Management and Development.

To date, 101 Superintendents have attended the training sessions, while an additional 202 officers from non-geographic divisions are to be trained. In addition, basic recruitment training is being revamped. Major work has been done on the basic recruit training syllabus and a redesign of delivery methodologies. For example, there is a more structured and focused approach to areas of training such as CBP, human rights and use of force, and sociology. While these are not new areas, the emphasis is to clarify learning and teaching objectives to promote a new culture.

- The Tutor Constable System has been revised and is fully operational. Some 72 tutors from the 19 geographical divisions and Mobile Reserve have been trained and 2 management workshops were held.
- Work has advanced under the police reform project in area of rationalization of police buildings to ensure that our security force have comfortable surroundings within which to operate effectively. We have done extensive renovations on many police buildings including the Lionel Town Police Station, the Malvern Police Station and other refurbishment work was done on Darliston, Frankfield, Chapelton, Spaulding and Kendal Police Stations. The Bath Police Station was also rebuilt.

- The upgrading of the Twickenham Park Training Facility is being undertaken with the assistance of the United Kingdom Government, which has also provided funding for a Tactical Firearm Training Centre. In addition, 150 Million Dollars was provided by the GOJ in the 2009/2010 budget to assist with repair and maintenance of the facility.

- The Strategic Review spoke to the Force being transformed into a **Professional Service Environment**, and called on the Government to implement a set of actions to facilitate a Professional Service, including implementation of a rigorous program of civilianization of non-police functions starting with the appointment of a head of Corporate Services to manage all support and Human Resource Management functions. It also spoke to enhancing the capacity of the JCF's Human Resource Management Unit to professionally manage HR policies and procedures including recruiting, training, career development, performance management, promotion, compensation management etc. It is good to note that the civilianization process has started in earnest and that very shortly a Director of Corporate Services will be appointed to drive this process.

- As it relates to the legislative reviews that were recommended by the Strategic Review Panel, Terms of Reference have been prepared to engage the services of a Consultant to undertake the necessary reviews. Appropriate consultations have been held with key stakeholders. There is now a bi-partisan agreement on the accountability framework, we can move with alacrity to have this aspect of the legislative framework dealt with so that the broader legislative review can be undertaken.

Significant strides have been made in the reform and modernization agenda. Much work has been done around culture and Community Based policing aimed at helping with cultural change. Among the other achievements under the programme are: Divisional Primacy, completely revised Police Promotion Policy and an Officer Development Programme.

The support of our International Development Partners has been critical to the security reform agenda. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the UK's Department for International Development, DFID, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the UN Agencies and the European Union (EU) have all offered support to the security sector reform programme for 2008-2011.

One key aspect of the review recommendations on which we have been actively working is the accountability framework for the police force. Meetings are being held at the bipartisan level and we have secured an agreement on the policy framework for the merger of the Police Service Commission (PSC) and the Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PCOA). This new entity will have governance as well as oversight functions, and the overall responsibility for maintaining the Police Force and ensuring the JCF provides efficient and effective policing services. The proposal speaks to the merged organization ensuring that there is a high standard of policing and that the interaction between police and the community is fair and responsive. The new arrangement will also see the Commissioner of Police (while maintaining ‘operational responsibility’) being held accountable for the exercise of his functions and those services the Police Force provides to the public. We expect that very shortly, we will go to Cabinet to have a sign off on the proposal.

The government remains resolute in our resolve to deal with the crime and drug monster. We have already set performance targets for crime and operations, and divisional commanders are required to report on performance and outputs at monthly Strategic Review meetings. Development of a computer based instrument to monitor their targets, has also been implemented.

A new crime recording system has also been developed to record data on gang members, which is now added to the major crimes category as well as arrests made for drugs and guns, all in an effort to help us with our crime index and planning.

4. Corruption

A regional survey conducted in 2008¹ indicated that 62% of the population identified criminality as the most serious problem facing the country, while political issues such as corruption were only deemed significant by 11% of the population. This does not in fact support the allegation that “*corruption ranks first as a concern for Jamaicans*”. The survey also found that while Jamaica had the highest score of perceived corruption in the region, it was ranked in relation to actual victimization of corruption. In addition, National Crime Victimization Surveys, conducted in 2006 and 2009 respectively, indicated that approximately 95% of Jamaicans have never experienced any form of corruption during their lifetime.

The INCSR also states that , “a Bill creating an Anti-Corruption Special Prosecutor remains stuck in the Parliament, despite having the requisite legislative majority needed for passage.”

¹ The Political Culture of Democracy in Jamaica, 2008: The Impact of Governance

The Bill, entitled '*Corruption Prevention (Special Prosecutor) Act*' seeks to establish the Office of the Special Prosecutor, whose role would be to investigate and prosecute public officials and persons involved in corruption. It should be noted that there have been delays due to questions posed in relation to the structure of the Office amongst other matters. Further research is being undertaken by the Attorney General's Chambers and Government is seeking now to move expeditiously in the creation of this office.

As it relates to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, which was adopted in March, 1996, the Convention does not require the establishment of a National Anti-Corruption Agency, but the creation and strengthening of oversight bodies for the prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corrupt acts in areas such as government hiring and procurement of goods and services and the registration of the income assets and liabilities of persons who perform public functions.

Jamaica currently has several established bodies performing such oversight functions, including the Office of the Contractor General, the Integrity Commission (established pursuant to the Parliament (Integrity of Members Act); the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, established under the Corruption (Prevention Act) the Financial Investigations Division and the Auditor General's Department.

Relative to corruption, there has been full implementation of the JCF Anti-Corruption Policy. There has been security vetting (to include the use of polygraph testing) for leadership and lower level personnel in sensitive positions within the Force. Since January 2010, a total of 83 persons have been polygraphed for the purpose of posting.

For 2009, the number of arrests made totalled **64** and also includes: 4 convictions, 3 acquittals, 25 interdictions, 49 suspensions, 13 dismissals and 33 cases pending. Sixty One (61) members were dismissed from the force for various breaches of misconduct and judicial convictions. During the same year, the special panel established to deal with disciplinary matters received 318 cases, completing 260. Thirteen (13) cases are now before the Acting Commissioner of Police awaiting hearing on re-enlistment. Ten (10) members were also retired in the public interest within the same period due to involvement in drugs. Recommendations are now before the Police Services Commission for the retirement of two (2) Gazetted Officers and 13 rank and file members in the public's interest. One (1) Gazetted Officer has also been convicted on criminal charges and an appeal is pending in this matter.

As part of the reform agenda, the Jamaica Constabulary Force is moving ahead with the implementation of an effective corporate planning and budgeting process linked to the implementation of a performance appraisal system for all members of staff. The review and reform of the JCF disciplinary system is also progressing smoothly.

In terms of leadership and management, the recommended redesign of the JCF organizational structure has been completed and is being reviewed, and there is now a Management Board chaired by the Acting Commissioner of Police to oversee the strategic areas of Crime, Administration and Operations. Additionally nineteen (19) Gazetted Officers participated in Command Management Course, while one (1) senior member received Management Training in Canada.

5. Cultivation/Production

Marijuana eradication efforts have slowed somewhat since 2006. In 2006 for example, some 14,857.15kg of the cured drug was eradicated whereas in 2009, this dropped to 5,251.16 kg. At the same time 159, nurseries were destroyed in 2006 compared with a total of 10 in 2008 and 24 in 2009. Seedling destruction was also greater in 2006, with some 9,543,529 units destroyed while in 2009, only 1,072,500 units were destroyed.

As it relates to Ecstasy, the INCSR states that its possession and use is controlled by Jamaica's Food and Drug Act and is currently subject to light, non-criminal penalties. It should be noted however, that this drug, under Jamaican law is considered a precursor chemical and is controlled under the Precursor Chemicals Act and is subject to penalties of up to J\$3Million or 3-years imprisonment or both.

In fact, section 23(1) of the Act states that

“...Every person who –

- (a) engages in any prescribed activity without being licensed so to do; or*
- (b) exports or imports any specified chemical substance without permission so to do,*

commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding three million dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.”

As defined by the legislation, a pre-cursor chemical is any substance which can be used in any of the chemical processes involved in the production, manufacture or preparation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or substances having a similar effect and incorporates its molecular structure into the final product making it essential for those processes.

In relation to precursor chemicals, a prescribed activity means *“...the production, manufacture, preparation, distribution, importation or exportation of any such chemicals.*

In relation to other chemical substances, it refers to the importation, manufacture or exportation of any such chemical substances in significant quantities as outlined in section 2 (1)a.

Efforts are being made to create stiffer penalties for the manufacture, sale and production of Ecstasy tablets and to complete the regulations for the control of precursor chemicals.

6. Drug Flow/Transit

Jamaica's airports are compliant with International Civil Aviation Organisation, ICAO, and other international standards. Our security systems include the use of Ion Scan technology, canine support, body searches and profiling which enable us to intercept contraband moving through the airports which are key vectors. Also, at the seaports, the use of x-ray machines to scan incoming and outgoing cargo has been successful in intercepting guns and drugs. The statistics for our achievements at this point have been previously mentioned.

We intend to build on these successes and work with our international partners on developing our maritime domain awareness capability which will enable us to more effectively interdict trafficking activities within our maritime space.

The Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard and the JCF Marine Police continue to pay special attention to our coastline and maritime space. There is also a strong joint JCF and JDF presence along certain highways and roadways to interdict overland trafficking activities.

The report in its concluding paragraph urges the Government of Jamaica to enhance its collaboration with the United States Government and other regional partners.

Mr. President, I wish to state that Jamaica continues to participate meaningfully in regional efforts to address the crime and security agenda through the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, (IMPACS), and the Council of Ministers responsible for National Security and law Enforcement, (CONSLE).

Jamaica's contribution to CARICOM supports several special projects in the region. Among these are:

- ✓ The Regional Integrated Ballistics Network (RIBIS)
- ✓ Regional Investigative Management System (RIMS)
- ✓ Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS)
- ✓ The Integrated Border Management System

These projects are implemented through IMPACS, and the result of which are fed into our local law enforcement apparatus.

Jamaica provides forensic services to the region and also collaborates with building the capacity of security personnel through a number of regional courses at the Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre, (REDTRAC). These specialized courses include modules on combating criminal networks engaged in money laundering, and drugs and firearm trafficking. Jamaica also remains the sub-regional focal point for disaster management response

In December 2009, an agreement was reached with the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP) for the provision of technical advice to the Government of Jamaica in the development of a National Crime prevention and the Community Safety Strategy through the services of a consultant. The Ministry of National Security has established a dedicated Crime prevention and Community Safety branch, and started working with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies to develop an inter-departmental approach utilizing a participatory process.

Allusion was made in the INSCR to border controls, particularly at the ports. It should be noted that the Border Security and Control Unit in the Ministry of National Security has assembled a Border Security Committee to periodically review and discuss national security concerns particularly at the ports of entry.

Mr. President, Jamaica will continue to cooperate with our regional and international partners, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and others in the fight against organised crime. As government, we have the responsibility for the protection of lives and property. We will not abdicate this responsibility.
