

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Minister of National Security the Honourable Horace Chang, Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson, ladies and Gentlemen, citizens of Jamaica, members of the press, good morning;

As a result of the persistent and precarious security challenges outlined by the Commissioner of Police, the Security Forces recommended to the Prime Minister and Minister and Defence, that a State of Emergency be declared for the entire St Andrew South Police Division, along the following boundaries:

In the South, extending in a south-westerly direction from the intersection of Chisolm Avenue and Maxfield Avenue, along Maxfield Avenue onto East Avenue to the coastline in the vicinity of Petrojam and extending along the said coastline in the vicinity of the Kingston Container Terminal to the Portmore Causeway Bridge.

In the West, continuing in a north-westerly direction from the Portmore Causeway Bridge along the Fresh River, the shared parish border of St Andrew and St Catherine west of Riverton, and extending to the vicinity of the western most end of the Belvedere to Ferry secondary road.

In the North, extending in an easterly direction along the Belvedere to Ferry road to the foot of Red Hills at the intersection of Perkins Boulevard, Molyne's Road and Red Hills Road, the start point.

And in the East, starting at the foot of Red Hills at the intersection of Perkins Boulevard, Molyne's Road and Red Hills Road, extending in a south-southeasterly direction along Molyne's Road, Seaward Drive, Mimosa Road, Aloe Ave, Bay Farm Road, Newark Avenue, Elm Crescent, Keesing Avenue, Hagley Park Road, Omara Road, and Chisolm Avenue to the point of intersection with Maxfield Avenue.

At dawn today, the JDF and the JCF deployed to sections of these communities ahead of today's declaration of a State of Emergency. The State of Emergency will give the security forces temporary additional powers of search, arrest, detention and a limited suspension of certain individual rights. We believe that this is necessary in order to give the security forces the necessary space to carry out the operational tasks that will be required to help bring a sense of normalcy to the communities affected.

While we acknowledge that persons that may be concerned about the implications of the security operations as they go about their everyday lives, we want to assure citizens that both the JDF and the JCF have been properly trained and oriented to give due regard to the basic human and citizen rights of all persons within the community. Our exemplary record in other areas in which a State of Emergency has been declared is a testimony of our commitment to carrying out our duties in a lawful and respectful manner. We will continue this approach in the St Andrew South State of Emergency. Nonetheless, we urge persons to acquaint themselves with the regulations and requirements governing a State of Emergency in order to easily and conveniently transit the area as they go about their lawful business.

During this period of the State of Emergency citizens will encounter various operations such as highly visible Vehicle Check Points. The purpose of these check points is not to unnecessarily inconvenience citizens but rather to add a robust element of security for residents as well other citizens transiting the area. We ask persons that for ease and simplicity as they approach checkpoints to lower their windows and during dark periods to turn on their roof lights. We also implore citizens that as they comply with the guidelines to transit the area they should not slow down beyond what is reasonable just to observe the activities at the check points as this may cause unnecessary traffic build up.

As we pledge to carry out our operations with the professionalism and respect that we are known for, we are also seeking the cooperation and support of all Jamaicans, by imploring them to use either one of the available tip lines to report gang and other

criminal activity in their communities. Persons can call the JDF Tip line, at 876-837-8888 or the police Tip line at 311, to help us remove criminals and criminal activity from their communities.

This community support is a key component of our intelligence and data gathering process and rests heavily on your input and involvement. We will be doing our part by publishing bulletins and social media images and data about illicit activities and wanted men. Please help us to identify these individuals and report them. We anticipate that the success of our Tip Lines so far will be replicated here.

In closing, let me reaffirm that the JDF and JCF have both the commitment and capability to achieve success here in St Andrew South, similar to what we have achieved in other areas where States of Emergency have been declared. We welcome the continued support that we have gotten from citizens and various other groups including the private sector as we strive to bring a lasting peace to our communities.

Thank you.