



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

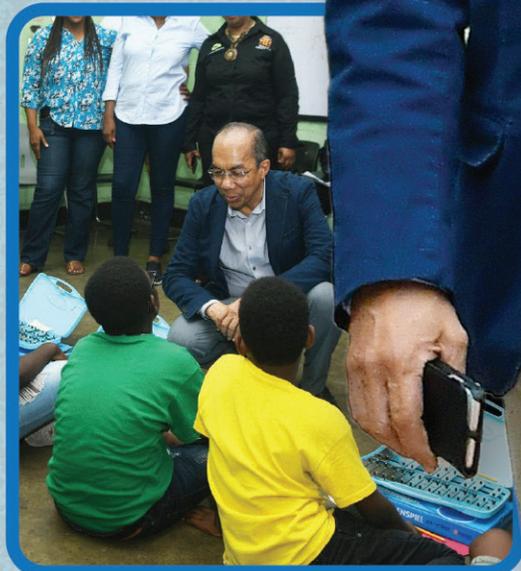
SECTORAL DEBATE

PRESENTED BY
THE HONOURABLE

DR. HORACE CHANG, CD, MP

**MINISTER OF
NATIONAL SECURITY**

**JUNE 30, 2020
GORDON HOUSE**



BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SECURITY RESILIENCE



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INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker,

I wish to dedicate this sectoral presentation to the hardworking, devoted and uncompromising members of Jamaica's security force. In recognition of their tireless and committed service to Jamaica, I will be utilizing my presentation this afternoon to call the attention of the Jamaican people to the reality that faces these officers every day. I will also be inviting and challenging my colleague parliamentarians to an open, honest and frank reflection on the reality of Jamaica's security issues.

On innumerable occasions we have debated and discussed in this Honourable House the crime statistics, anti-crime measures, and the would-be successes of the past. And yet these very well-articulated and oftentimes politically motivated speeches are nothing short of a looped repetition, of what those who now oppose, would have us believe, were successful crime fighting initiatives.

It is not enough for us to meet in this forum every week to regurgitate and seek to frame the last fifteen years as any measure of success, as far as national security is concerned. We cannot, and this Administration certainly has not, been addressing crime in a business as usual manner. If this Parliament is serious about breaking the back of crime, violence, and corruption in this country, then we have to all get serious about putting in place the budgetary, legislative, structural, technological, human resource, training, infrastructural, and equipment needs of the Force. We have to get serious about building, sustaining, and strengthening the capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force!

Mr. Speaker, the Jamaica Constabulary Force is Jamaica's principal crime fighting apparatus. It currently has a complement of twelve thousand officers. Every day, the men and women of the JCF perform their duties with commitment and courage. Living out the oath to serve and protect comes at a very high cost for many of these officers. They are sons and daughters of our soil, oftentimes from very humble homes, who daily, make a conscious decision to carry out the duty of keeping Jamaica and all Jamaicans safe.

The conditions they face out there are not easy. Maintaining public order and social stability, enforcing the law, disrupting gangs and apprehending heavily armed perpetrators are not optional for our police officers. In the changing landscape, our officers are now also tasked with enforcing public health protocols, and intercepting cyber and financial crimes, as well as interrupting the trans-national trafficking of guns, drugs, and persons. This, in an environment in which criminals are "digital-natives" and gun ownership is democratized. The nature of crimes and criminal behaviour has evolved. Today's criminals do not have the same boundaries, rules, or allegiances as their predecessors. They live lavish lifestyles, and occupy multiple up-scale dwellings, which reduces their need to migrate from one area of the island to the next. They are mobile, connected, and violent.

As government, we cannot afford to delude ourselves that conventional crime fighting measures alone will get us below one thousand murders. We must act responsibly and be guided by the informed, intelligence and experience based recommendations of the leaders of our security forces. We have a responsibility to work collaboratively with the security forces to provide them with the resources and support they need to optimize their capacity to effectively carry out their duties in today's criminal landscape.

This Administration has never lost sight of this. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Andrew Holness, we have remained unwavering in doing what needs to be done in order to maintain public order and build a safer, more secure Jamaica. We have made the bold, yet necessary decisions and investments to save Jamaican lives. But this continues to be a work in progress that we are committed to pursuing.

During my close of the sectoral debate last year, I indicated that this Administration was investing heavily in rehabilitating, restructuring and resourcing Jamaica's security forces. I noted on that occasion, that these investments, like any other type of investment, would take time to attain maturity. In the case of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, as one would expect from any organization of its magnitude, it will take some time for them to get to their optimal capacity. Even so, we have begun to see some tangible returns on the increased budgetary allocation to the JCF over the last financial year. So, the public would have been seeing the new police cars and motor bikes, for example, which have resulted in a faster response time from the police. Through discipline, commitment and political will, this government is pursuing a planned investment regime in transforming the police force.



On the matter of the improved police mobility, I am certain that there is a sense of pride that we all feel when we see our police officers patrolling in modern, functional vehicles. It was not too long ago our officers were driving around in vehicles that did not inspire any amount of confidence. If we Parliamentarians are serious about reducing Jamaica's homicide rate, then we must, as a matter of priority, continue to invest in improving the capacity and capabilities of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, even as we build-out the socio-economic development program through the Zones of Special Operations.

Notwithstanding the necessary budgetary cuts that were due to COVID 19, I am confident that with the increasing capacity of the police force under the resolute leadership of Commissioner Anderson, we can expect to see additional signs of a 21st century, modern, equipped, efficient, fit-for-purpose police force in the coming months. This Administration has laid the foundation, and will continue to pursue this pathway to achieving sustainable peace and a resilient security infrastructure, for a safer Jamaica.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker, before I detail where we are on this pathway, I must take a few minutes to acknowledge and express gratitude to those persons who whether directly or indirectly facilitate this mission of a sustainable, resilient and secure Jamaica.

Firstly, I must thank the Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, for his visionary leadership of this country during what has unquestionably been one of the most challenging periods in national and global history. Prime Minister, it is my honour to serve the Jamaican people in this capacity, and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do so.

As Member of Parliament for North West St. James, there is no greater reward than working on behalf of constituents and Councillors who give you their full support. I am privileged and grateful to be your representative in this Parliament.

Earlier this year, the Members of the House would have had the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the long and distinguished service of then Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, Ruddyard Spence. Ruddy was an excellent batting partner for me at the Ministry. His passion for the "We Transform Youth Empowerment Program" enabled us to make several runs in improving the conditions of care, and service to, the youths in correctional care.

Senator Samuda, who has been assigned as Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, has brought a new momentum to the operations of the Ministry. He has embraced his various responsibilities with much enthusiasm, demonstrating a high level of competence, willingness and leadership.



A special note of appreciation to the Permanent Secretary – Ms. Dianne McIntosh, the Heads of Agencies and Departments, Senior Management of the Ministry, officers of the security forces and the staff of the Ministry. Thanks to your collective efforts, we are making positive strides and advancing the mission of a safer, more secure Jamaica, and a resilient security force.

Throughout these years of public service, God has blessed me with the unconditional love and understanding of my wife and life partner, Paulette, and my children, Melissa and Martin. Thank you for standing with me through these many seasons of my political journey, and for partnering with me in service to our country, and our people.

THE PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE & RESILIENT SECURITY

Mr. Speaker, it is said that *“the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy”*.

Since taking office in 2016, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has remained unwavering in his directive that we must identify and apprehend the dons; we must intercept the drugs and the

guns; and we must dismantle and downgrade the criminal gangs. A safer, more secure Jamaica has been and continues to be a priority for this Government.

It is for this reason that in 2017 we began to implement Plan Secure Jamaica as the strategic roadmap to achieving a safer, more secure, and more resilient Jamaica. This comprehensive, “whole of government” plan, positions Jamaica to decisively and effectively address “*threats to the rule of law, natural disasters, pandemics, public disorder, social unrest and malevolent attacks*” of all types. **Plan Secure Jamaica is being implemented.**

For the benefit of the wider Jamaica, and in particular for those Members of the Opposition who continue to baselessly ask about a crime plan, I wish to recall the statement made by Prime Minister Holness during his contribution to the 2017/2018 budget presentation. On that occasion the Prime Minister underscored that “***the plan to tackle crime cannot be successful if it is narrowly focused on the police getting the criminals off the street. A crime plan is only one element of a greater strategy to address all the elements to bringing sustainable peace and security in Jamaica.***”

Mr. Speaker, the police now operate on the basis of a clearly defined strategy and plans, all the way down to the divisional level, that are monitored by the High Command. That is the strategic thinking and unconventional approach to securing Jamaica that this Administration has been applying to our crime fighting, anti-corruption, violence interruption, border security, and gang disruption measures. Guided by the ten (10) strategic focus areas of Plan Secure Jamaica, we have been putting in place the required technological, surveillance, telecommunications, mobility, forensics, human resource, training, and intelligence apparatus to among other things, increase the capacity and resilience of our security forces.

I do not wish for this to be perceived as another exercise in stimulating rhetoric. I want to reassure the people of Jamaica that this Administration is serious about breaking the back of crime, and we are doing this by strengthening the Jamaica Constabulary Force, and the entire security apparatus. Over the 2019 / 2020 financial year, \$5.2 billion dollars was allocated towards the continuation of the strategic investment in the JCF. The investments over the last financial year included:

FY 19/20 Jamaica Constabulary Force Expenditure

TEMS	QUANTITY	COST
Police Facilities		
- Renovations of Police Facilities Completed	34	\$409,713,827.21
- Renovations of Police Facilities in Progress	23	\$158,300,832.27
- New Construction (Green Acres & NPCJ)	2	\$19,300,000.00
- I-Request Facilities Maintenance Program	Currently being Installed	
Total	59	\$587,314,659.48
Police Vehicles Deployed		
- Motor Vehicles	222	\$1,293,831,638.44
- SUVs	107	\$708,911,817.60
- Motor Cycles	83	\$86,000,000.00
Total	412	\$2,088,743,456.04
Technology Equipment		
- Upgrade of JCF Microwave Network	-	\$138,715,744.63
- Traffic Ticket Management System (TTMS) <i>(in collaboration with Court management services; Tax Administration and Island Traffic Authority)</i>	-	\$25,618,784.74
- Data Centre Infrastructure (Servers)	-	\$19,829,001.33
- NPCJ Learning Management System	-	\$28,000,000.00
- Computers and laptops for Police Stations (Station Record Management System – SRMS)	817	\$79,000,000.00
- Vehicle Tracking Project / Fleet management Being increased to cover fleet of 1500 vehicles	156	\$8,000,000.00
- Storage Integration & Data Analytics Project	-	\$43,840,174.14
- Automated Finger Print Information System (AFPIS)	-	\$87,128,000.00
- Computer Aided Dispatch Upgrade	-	\$44,266,000.00
- Cyber Security (Plan Secure Jamaica)	-	\$1,269,321,167.50
- Jamaica Eye (Camera, Equipment, Server)	-	\$555,055,153.60
- Ballistic Plates	400	\$27,160,000.00
- Helmets	500	\$17,850,000.00
- Ballistic Vests	4000	\$308,000,000.00
- Forensic Lab and Autopsy Suite	Work is ongoing	
Total		\$2,651,784,025.94
Grand Total:		\$5,327,842,141.35
JCF Total Capital Budget was \$5.2 B		

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to pursue this path until the capacity and capabilities of the Jamaica Constabulary Force attains the minimum recommended threshold to achieve the desired reduction in crime. This investment is part of a comprehensive, holistic plan to build the Jamaica Constabulary Force into the most efficient law enforcement institution in the Caribbean. That is the commitment of this government! That is planning!

As we advance this process, all Jamaicans should engage in an open and frank discussion about what is the legitimate capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, and what are the reasonable expectations that we should have for the Force given its current capacity. Firstly, we must all agree, that the legitimate capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force cannot be determined exclusively on the basis of the annual crime statistics. The rate of homicide cannot, and should not, be the only measure by which we estimate the capacity of our police force.

Secondly, we must have a shared vision and understanding of what kind of police force we want. Unreasonable expectations have been placed on the JCF by both the political directorate and the public, for decades. With very little recognition for their sacrifice and service, and little investment in their conditions of work, their wellness or their professional standards of duty, it is no surprise that upon taking office in 2016 we observed that the JCF was suffering from an inordinately high attrition rate, and low morale among the officers. The men and women of the JCF had been shown very little appreciation over many years. The JCF was starved of resources for many years. This Government is changing the narrative and the attitude towards the police, and we have already begun to see that the police are now operating at a much higher standard. A standard of high integrity and ethics, with zero tolerance for illicit activities no matter by whom.



Recent events would have corroborated this renewed posture of quality and professionalism that is being engrained in today's Force. This is starting at the very top. The strong leadership of the JCF has established a high standard and is holding its officers accountable, even as work continues to expand and increase the Force's own internal oversight and monitoring of professional standards. I must make special mention of the fact that in 2019 the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) completed investigations into 614 complaints against members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. Of this amount, eight (8) were recommended for charges to be laid, and thirty-seven (37) recommended for disciplinary action. In 2018, investigations into 630 complaints were concluded. Five (5) were recommended to be charged and twenty-six recommended for disciplinary action.

As it relates to police fatal shooting investigations in 2019, INDECOM completed eighty-two (82) such investigations. Of those 82 cases, INDECOM recommended four (4) cases for charges. Two (2) of those four cases were domestic related. The actual number of recoded police fatal shootings in 2019 was 85. This figure represents **the lowest number of police fatal shootings in forty (40) years.**

We cannot dispute these numbers and what they are telling us. They are telling us that the transformation of the Jamaica Constabulary Force is taking place. They are telling us that the JCF's process of internal oversight, through the Inspectorate and Professional Standards Oversight Bureau, is causing officers to operate at a much higher professional standard than we have seen in decades.

Third and finally, we must rely on the guidance of our experts. It is unacceptable for us to continue to look "north" for expertise when we have highly skilled, knowledgeable, qualified, and experienced homegrown security experts. Having an intimate cultural understanding of how crime is perpetrated in Jamaica must supplement the scientific and wider strategic and operational considerations in determining the capacity of our police.

Even so, partnerships are a critical component of successful crime fighting. Jamaica has had longstanding and mutually beneficial partnerships with our regional and bilateral partners, most notably, the ABC+E countries. That is the United States of America, The United Kingdom, Canada, and the European Union. These partnerships play a critical role in Jamaica's crime fighting operations, particularly in the areas of interdicting the illicit transshipment of guns and drugs, and dismantling gangs with international networks.

Admittedly, there must be synergy among these conditionalities and the human resource, equipment, structural, infrastructural and training needs of the organization. Only combined, will we be in a position to determine the capacity we need to effectively deal with the chronic crime epidemic in Jamaica. This objective assessment of the Force's capacity development needs, has been undertaken by the leadership of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, and presently forms the

basis of a three pronged strategy that is targeted towards **strengthening their law enforcement capabilities; advancing the organizational transformation; and increasing their stakeholder engagements.**

While this work of rebuilding and resourcing the police is on-going, the States of Public Emergency and the Zones of Special Operations have provided a well needed and welcomed reprieve for the people who live, or earn their living, within the affected areas. This Government has always maintained that the use of States of Public Emergency has been to stop the bloodletting and save lives. The SOEs are only one of the strategic tools in our crime fighting arsenal that are being utilized by the security forces. And yet, on every occasion, persons who do not live or work in these communities, who do not understand the reality faced by the people of these communities, stand on their platform of moral authority and decry the effectiveness of the SOEs.

It is a completely different reality for the persons who are most affected. The persons who live and work in these areas have a very different perspective on the success of the SOEs. Their measure of success includes their ability to sleep at nights and the freedom to walk about their community free of fear. These are the people who are living and experiencing the benefits of the SOEs. These are the families for whom the States of Public Emergency are providing a safe and peaceful environment. These are the communities where confidence and hope are slowly being restored, and where engagement with the police is being redefined.

In addition to the incontestable reduction in the number of violent and other crimes; the safety, wellbeing, sense of security and dignity of the people in these areas, are also a measure of success for the States of Public Emergency, that must be taken into consideration. Across the Western region of the island, where a State of Public Emergency has been held in place the longest, the security experts report that violent crimes are at a twenty-year low, and gun seizures are at an all-time high. Since January of this year, the police have seized more than sixty (60) new firearms in St. James. This reflects the renewed trust and confidence that the people have in the work of the police.

Mr. Speaker,

Persistent high levels of violent crimes, public disorder, and pervasive gang activity have plagued Jamaican society for decades. In February 1972, almost 50 years ago, the headline of The National Weekly newspaper carried the headline **CRIME WAVE HITS MO.BAY; MAY RUIN TOURIST TRADE.** The article went on to state, (and I quote) “Montego Bay is now in the grip of a serious crime wave which leading citizens feel can no-longer be hushed up. Criminal gangs have taken charge of sections of the town, and in these areas the people are going about their business in fear. Rival gangs have been clashing with blazing guns, and over the past few weeks there has been a disturbing upswing in robberies”.

The fact that this headline bears significant semblance to our context, going back almost fifty (50) years, is cause for great concern. The member from Central Manchester uses every possible opportunity to call attention to what he seems to regard as a commendable reduction in the homicide rate over the period 2012 to 2015. But truth be told, over the last fifteen years there have been a minimum of one thousand Jamaican lives lost as a result of homicides each year. **No fewer than one thousand Jamaican lives lost, every single year, since 2005.** So what really is there to commend? By this measure, none of us can claim success!



Over the last fifteen years there has been an ebb and flow cycle in Jamaica's homicide rate. The academics tell us that as an interim target, we should strive for a homicide count of less than 800 annually. It is recommended that until we get to that 800 level, all available security tools and measures should remain on the table. Gang violence is perpetuated by reprisals. While the homicide rates remain above one thousand, and the gangs persist in reprisal attacks, we must continue to ensure that the security forces are equipped with all the necessary tools and resources.

The fact that there are some among us who seem to only see above the red line (the thousand lives mark) is infuriating. There seems to be a coordinated attempt to convince the Jamaican people that the rate of homicides over the 2012 to 2015 period were commendable and a result of the initiatives implemented by the government of the day. No such thing **Mr. Speaker!** That is most erroneous, disingenuous, and a misleading use of statistics!

What explains the reduction in homicides from 2011 to 2014 was the investment made by Former Prime Minister Golding in 2008/2009, and the State of Public Emergency of 2010. This security operation allowed for the dismantling of criminal networks that caused the decline in homicides in the period thereafter. The subsequent government failed to invest in Jamaica's security apparatus. That explains the upward trend in the homicide rate from 2015 onwards.

Mr. Speaker, investments in security, similar to investments in the financial sector, take time to mature. The investments made by any Administration in securing our people, and saving lives, will not have immediate effect. The impact of these investments and the benefits to our people would only become visible over time. It is for this reason, that this Administration, under the leadership of Prime Minister Andrew Holness, has been implementing a comprehensive investment plan, and has been unwavering in our drive towards a better equipped, adequately resourced, and highly proficient Jamaica Constabulary Force.

The only other time in our nation's history that any government invested in any substantial or even comparable way in our security forces was in 2008/2009. In that financial year, just over seven billion dollars was allocated to national security. This was followed by a seven-year drought for national security. Jamaica's security infrastructure, the men and women of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, were starved for the next seven years!

Over the period spanning 2009/10 to 2015/16 the budgetary allocation towards national security capital expenditure averaged just over two and a half billion. With this level of neglect, the security forces were being asked to perform at a standard that they did not have the capacity to do. Upon taking office in 2016, this Administration allocated \$6.5 billion to national security, and has made it a point of duty to increase the national security capital budget every year. Last year, we allocated \$21 billion.

After a 22% drop in 2017, there has been a flattening of the homicide rate since 2018, with a 3% variation over the last 2 years. The capacity of the JCF to interrupt this cycle is being strengthened. None of us should take any comfort, or feel any sense of satisfaction, as long as we continue to have a minimum of one thousand Jamaican lives lost to criminality each year. If we are to break this trend and move homicides to below eight hundred, then we must change the focus of our assessment from anecdotes and skewed interpretations of statistics, to a body of knowledge that is scientifically based and informed by the experts.

As Parliamentarians, we must change the narrative from one that is attempting to shift political responsibility in order to earn political mileage. There is no mileage to be gained from the loss of Jamaican lives. **We need to elevate our discussion around crime!** We must move to intelligence driven, expert informed, and science based debates on security. We must continue to invest according to a comprehensive plan, with established targets, and clear outcomes. Anything else is unacceptable!

THE WAY FORWARD

As the capacity of the JCF strengthens, Jamaicans can expect to see their increased use of DNA, forensics, and ballistics analyses to assist in securing convictions. A greater emphasis on investigations, including cold case investigations, and increased reliance on technology. Over the 2020/2021 financial year, the JCF will advance work on several key areas including the build-out of their technology support systems. This will include the expansion of the Smart Check-Point facility, the deployment of body worn cameras, access to central database from the service vehicles, expansion of the radio and microwave communication systems, and increased capacity for surveillance through the closed circuit television (CCTV) network.

THE PLAN: FORCE DEVELOPMENT
Technology Projects

2020

PRESENT

- MICROWAVE NETWORK – *Upgrade Complete*
- VEHICLE TRACKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY- *Ongoing 196*
- FORENSICS AND CYBER FORENSICS
- DATA CENTRE- *Q3 2020*
- 119 UPGRADE - *Complete*

Q1 2020

- JCF WEBSITE - *Complete*
- COMPLAINTS & COMMENDATION SYSTEM
- INCREASED CAPACITY FOR SURVEILLANCE (CCTV)- *Ongoing*

Q2 2020

- SMART CHECK POINT *Completed- 120 vehicles are being installed with tablets*
- BODY WORN CAMERAS- *200 planned to be deployed in Q3*
- DATABASE ACCESS IN SERVICE VEHICLES – *Same as Smart Check point*

FORCE FOR GOOD





This robust use of technology will lead to the trust and confidence of members of the JCF and the public alike. The goal is to deliver the right services in the right way, enabled by modern technologies and underpinned by the professional standards and values of policing. This technology driven component of the JCF's modernization will ensure that all Jamaicans have access to improved policing systems and a greater sense of safety and security.

Of note, **Mr. Speaker**, the JCF has prioritized engagement with stakeholders as a critical component of its anti-crime strategic plan. The JCF's strong and longstanding engagement with both the local as well as international partners has been of tremendous value. The recent interception of an international drug smuggling network was one example of the Jamaica Constabulary Force working collaboratively with international partners in the fight against drugs. This case in particular, symbolized the new dispensation of the JCF. This is a JCF in which all forms of illegal activities are vehemently condemned. This JCF has a zero tolerance for all acts, and actors of criminality. This is the new Jamaica Constabulary Force.

This new JCF is a Force for Good, and the investments made in strengthening their capacity has had direct and positive impact on the lives of our people. For example, since the mandatory stay at home orders for students due to COVID-19, the members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force Quick Response Team have been assisting with the distribution of school work to two hundred and fifty (250) students across ten (10) communities in St. James. These quick response teams have been vital in reducing serious crimes particularly in densely populated areas. These fit-for-purpose bikes were procured during the last fiscal year, and are now serving a much bigger purpose, by securing our children's knowledge and wellbeing. The program will be expanded according to plan.

Similarly, the Jamaica Constabulary Force has partnered with the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) COVID-19 Response Fund to facilitate the distribution of donations to citizens who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis. The men and women of the Constabulary Force have been spearheading the actual distribution of the care packages to these residents across the island. This gesture of kindness and genuine concern for the overall safety and wellbeing of our people is the signature of the transformed Jamaica Constabulary Force.



By increasing the capacity of the JCF we are connecting the police to the people. We are facilitating more timely response to crime scenes, and to life needs. The increased capacity of the JCF is the foundation for sustainable peace and a resilient security infrastructure in Jamaica.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force is currently undergoing the most aggressive modernization, restructuring and reform process in the history of the organization. They are designed to optimize the efficiency of the Force through the expansion of the Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Branch, the Inspectorate and Professional Standards Oversight Bureau, the Criminal Investigations Branch, increased recruitment and training (*with the start of Tranquillity Bay facility*), the Specialized Operations Branch, and the technology branch. I must call attention to the fact that this technology branch is only nine (9) months old, and has already contributed significantly to the work of the police.

While this work of institutional transformation is taking form within the JCF, the Ministry of National Security continues to oversee and organize strategic and targeted social intervention initiatives

in order to prevent crime. The revised approach to social intervention positions the Ministry as the arrowhead of a process that engages all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies in a coordinated manner, to ensure maximum impact for the people. This work is undergirded by the Ministry's flagship campaign, which beacons all Jamaican to 'LIV GUD' with each other.

OTHER CRITICAL AREAS OF JAMAICA'S SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Major Organised Crime and Anticorruption Agency (MOCA)

The work of the Major Organised Crime and Anticorruption Agency (MOCA) is another critical component of a resilient security apparatus. Since August 2014, MOCA has illustrated its capability in the areas of intelligence collection and analysis, investigation of complex and challenging anti-corruption and major organised crime cases. Many of these cases have huge amounts of data to collate and analyze, as well as extra jurisdictional aspects. The Agency has demonstrated its capabilities in professional case building, cyber forensics competencies and its strategic vision to work with local, regional and international partners.

MOCA was conceptualized to be a dedicated entity to tackle Jamaica's highest level of National Security threats. The bulk of the Agency's investigations and cases before the courts, at the moment, are within the category of financial crimes, which are comprised of money laundering, fraud, lottery scamming and the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) related offences. The others are corruption and organized crime related matters.

Over the period April 2019 to March 2020, coordinated and intelligence-led operations resulted in an additional thirty-five (35) new investigations. The investigations supported by ongoing legal consultations have resulted in the Agency accounting for a total of one hundred and fifty-seven (157) cases before the courts currently. Additionally, the Agency is actively investigating sixty-eight (68) cases, of which twenty-one (21) are classified as significant.

MOCA continues to play an integral role in the integrity screening process within Jamaica. Critical to the maintenance of integrity is the utilization of the vetting and polygraph process used in the promotion of integrity among key public sector organisations. Of note, MOCA was instrumental in the investigations that led to convictions in the recently concluded Manchester Parish Council Case. This case was the first of its kind in Jamaican history, given its complexity and the investigation and successful conviction of several public officials on corruption and fraud charges.

In order to successfully fulfill its mandate, MOCA, has developed and currently has at its disposal, a team of highly trained, specialist officers, and support team members. Specially trained and experienced investigators, world class, internationally accredited Intelligence and Crime Analysts, and experienced team of Cyber forensic specialists comprise the MOCA team.

The MOCA Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Regulations 2020, were approved in this Parliament, earlier this year. The establishment of this Code of Conduct is a timely reminder that those involved in law enforcement hold a position of public trust and must operate with the highest degree of integrity, professionalism, and ethical conduct. With this approved Code of Conduct, an appointed day notice will be announced in the coming weeks, following the finalization of discussions in relation to the remuneration of MOCA officers.

BORDER SECURITY

The resilience of Jamaica's security infrastructure is also heavily reliant on strong border management and coastal surveillance systems.

PICA

The Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) has undertaken a digital transformation of its border management operations. In addition to its Online Passenger Declaration Form, PICA has launched an Online Adult Passport Renewal System, and installed an additional fifteen (15) Automated Border Crossing (ABC) kiosks at the Sangster International Airport. This brought the number of ABC Kiosks at the Sangster International Airport to fifty (50). Prior to COVID-19 approximately 45% of the passengers were using the Kiosks. Our investments in these contactless border management systems were timely, and demonstrate the forward thinking approach that has been adopted by PICA. This was also demonstrated in their anchoring of Jamaica's managed re-entry process.



MARITIME, AIR AND CYBER COMMAND (MACC Brigade)

The Maritime, Air and Cyber Command (MACC Brigade) of the Jamaica Defence Force recently acquired a FCS 5009 Cutter, which has been named the 'HMJS Nanny of the Maroons. This highly efficient and flexible vessel is suited for patrolling under various conditions. It is equipped with the latest technology to provide improved performance, speed, reduced fuel consumption, improved safety, and operational efficiency during patrols. This brings the number of offshore patrol vehicles (OPV) in operation to three (3).

This additional offshore patrol vehicle (OPV) will significantly increase our maritime capability, and our efficiency in monitoring Jamaica's coastline. The guns for drugs trade remains a significant threat to the security of our people. This increased capacity will improve our capability to interdict the illicit flow of guns, drugs, and the transshipment of cocaine. These are the key issues involved in the transnational crime affecting Jamaica. This illegal trade feeds the criminal underworld and propagates killings and advanced credit fraud schemes.

This government is continuing to make these kinds of investments based on our comprehensive, well thought out plan, to deal with crime and security in the long term.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the JCF reports that **all major crimes are down**, including murders. The security experts report that the States of Public Emergency have been successful in as much as they have added to the plethora of other counter-gang, anti-crime and public order measures that the Jamaica Constabulary Force have been implementing. The SOEs do not replace these other necessary security measures. They add to them!

Jamaica has been experiencing a crime epidemic for over fifty-years. The use of emergency security measures alone will not fix this problem. That has never been the position of this government. We are using these emergency measures to support the other equally critical security measures, while we invest in increasing the capacity of the security forces.

Even with the positive reports from the security experts, and the evident stabilization of violent crimes over the last two years, this government is not satisfied. We will continue to invest because it is only by strengthening the capacity of the police to do their jobs will we be able to achieve sustainable decline of violent crimes.

For over fifteen years, political administrations have failed to deliver sustainable, targeted, and efficient anti-crime solutions. They have failed to invest in Jamaica's security infrastructure. That is nothing to be proud of. For the first time in our nation's independent history, we are pursuing a comprehensive Plan to secure Jamaica.

Prosperity and economic growth are achieved only on a foundation of security. Safe communities and safe city-centres are at the heart of our socio-economic and cultural development. Safe borders and effective coastal surveillance are the basis for the development of our Blue Economy. We will make our towns safer by investing and developing in our security forces.

These, **Mr. Speaker**, are the features that will ensure that we bring prosperity to the people of Jamaica. These are the features that will provide prosperity for all Jamaicans.

May God continue to bless Jamaica!

Thank you!



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Printed and Produced by the
Jamaica Information Service
June 2020