

# Prime Minister Urges J'cans to Give up Criminals

**P**RIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is reiterating his call for Jamaicans to cooperate with the police to stem criminal activities in Jamaica.

Speaking at the hand over of a social house in Orange Bay, Portland on March 25, Prime Minister Holness said Jamaicans must realise that cooperating with the police is one of the most effective ways to help to rid the community of crime and criminals.

"Tell us what you know. Many of you see what is happening, many of you know what is happening.... I want to appeal to your good conscience as citizens of Jamaica. We now have a police force that has a structure that will protect you....Your safety and security is utmost when you provide information," Mr. Holness stated.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness makes his address at the hand over of a social house in Orange Bay, Portland on March 25.**

Adding that the 'Get Every Illegal Gun' campaign is yielding results, with the confiscation of several illegal weapons including high-powered rifles, Mr. Holness said the monetary reward is being "steadily

taken up" by persons who know what is happening in their communities, and he implored others to join in the fight against criminality. "If you know what is happening, use the channels and get that information to

the police. You will be protected, your identity will be protected, you can benefit from it, and at the end of the day, you would have played your part in making Jamaica a safer place," the Prime Minister said.

## Positive Behaviour Programme for Schools

THE MINISTRY of Education and Youth is looking to fast-track implementation of the school-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (SWPBIS) initiative.

This, in response to incidents of violent conflicts among students, particularly at high schools. At least four institutions have reported such occurrences, one fatal, since the start of 2022.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams, said that the Ministry will be working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to determine the extent to which the initiative can be expanded.

Minister Williams was speaking during the ministry's semi-virtual press conference on March 25.

The SWPBIS is tailored to create and sustain safe schools by fostering a disciplined and structured environment to deal with challenges such as student violence.

It targets issues such as truancy and behaviour modification among adolescents through a data-



**Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams**

driven approach, and developing pro-social skills.

Mrs. Williams, who indicated that the SWPBIS was being piloted in several institutions, noted that the exercise had been stalled at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic when schools were forced to close.

"We will be reactivating that... [and we] will move it from just being a pilot phase," she said. The Minister informed that some good data was gathered during that pilot phase, and will be forwarded to UNICEF.

Mrs. Williams further advised that the Education Ministry will be working with the Ministry of Justice to commence instilling restorative justice principles in students.

## Anchovy to Get New Police Station

THE COMMUNITY of Anchovy in St James and its surroundings are soon to benefit from a new police station, as ground was broken for the facility on March 25 by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang.

The new two-storey 5,300 sq. ft. building is to be constructed under the Ministry's 'Project Rebuild, Overhaul, and Construct' (PROC) initiative, aimed at making police stations islandwide, modern and citizen-friendly workspaces.

The construction of the new Anchovy Police Station will be done in collaboration with the National Housing Trust (NHT), which is providing project financing and management at a cost of \$200 million. The project will be executed over the next two years.

Included in the scope of work is the construction of workstations and living quarters, a new sewage disposal system, the paving of driveways and parking lots, the erection of a boundary wall, installation of kitchen and laundry.



**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (centre), officially breaks ground for the new Anchovy Police Station in St. James on March 25. Also participating (from left) are Custos of St. James, Bishop the Hon. Conrad Pitkin; State Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (West), Hon. Homer Davis; Commissioner of Police; Major General Anthony Anderson; and Senior General Manager for Construction and Development of the National Housing Trust, Donald Moore.**

In his address, Minister Chang stated that the construction of new police stations across the country is sending a strong message that the

police force is transforming to meet the modern challenges.

He said Western Jamaica needs to be properly equipped with modern

infrastructure to function effectively amidst the changing habits; of hardened criminals but must also be user-friendly to the wider community.

## Portland Resident Receives House



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (second right), and recipient of a three-bedroom unit under the New Social Housing Programme, Clovett James (second left), display the keys to the house at a hand over ceremony, held on March 25, in Orange Bay, Portland. Others from left are Member of Parliament for Portland West, Hon. Daryl Vaz; Councillor for the Buff Bay Division, Dionne Hunter; and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Audrey Sewell.**

For more JIS News visit [www.jis.gov.jm](http://www.jis.gov.jm)

