



Ministry of National Security

SECTORAL PRESENTATION 2023

Tuesday, April 25, 2023



TECHNOLOGY

*- Transforming the Force for Good;
Securing a Nation*

Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, CD, MP
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of National Security



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Madam Speaker, it is said that a man of wisdom understands that his top priority is to his family. I wish to acknowledge and thank both my immediate family, my wife Paulette and my children Martin and Melissa and my North West St. James family which includes councillors, the Executive Management team, PD workers, my office staff and the constituents. It is your continued support, loyalty and confidence that have allowed me to serve the constituency of North West St James and by extension Jamaica, over these many years.

Madam Speaker, the job of Minister of National Security is one of the most challenging portfolios in the Government, given the propensity for criminal activity and the impact of transnational criminal actors in Jamaica. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to our Prime Minister, and Leader, Andrew Michael Holness for his continued confidence in allowing me to execute on our Plan Secure Jamaica, to ensure sustained reduction in all crimes, improve public order and public safety.

I want to further express appreciation to my Cabinet colleagues with whom I have had the privilege of working over these many years. Thanks to my colleague Members of Parliament on both sides of the aisle, and the staff of the Houses of Parliament who facilitate our proceedings and make our creature comforts tolerable.

Thanks to the Hon. Zavia Mayne, my colleague in the political directorate, Permanent Secretary Courtney Williams, the Heads of the Agencies responsible for executing the work of the Ministry of National Security. I refer here to, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA), Department of Correctional Services (DCS), Institute of Forensic Science & Legal Medicine (IFSLM), Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA), Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA), Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre (REDTRAC), and the Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PCOA), along with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and the Combined Cadet Corps, for which we have administrative responsibility.



To the Chief Technical Directors, management and the wider staff of the Ministry of National Security who are responsible for policy development and programme support, thank you for your continued dedicated service to the people of Jamaica.

OPENING

Madam Speaker, I will commence my presentation this afternoon with a few comments on the Government's new compensation structure, and its impact on our security forces which account for nearly 30% of the public sector employees.

I could not report on national security without speaking to this process which is providing a more rational compensation package for the security forces.

For the first time in our nation's history, we have successfully implemented a transparent and predictable compensation system for public sector workers and by extension our security forces. In particular, it will provide much better pension benefits for our hardworking officers, and a better base for future negotiations and human resource development. The present and future generation of officers now have the assurance of a compensation system that supports the delivery of high-quality public services, promotes equity and will pay the officers competitively.



Madam Speaker, while we would want to see the compensation being implemented at a faster rate, we must act in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure that the gains we have all sacrificed to achieve are not thrown away. This is the thrust of the Government to ensure that the Public Service has a cadre of knowledge-based workers who are effectively trained and competitively compensated.

Madam Speaker, radical changes which seek to replace legacy will evoke some level of apprehension among any population; bearing in mind that legacy even when irrational has certainty. This new compensation structure is a simple but radical shift from a complicated legacy. The discussion on behalf of the law enforcement groups was a very involved process that showcased public sector governance, negotiation and employee representation at its finest.

Madam Speaker, this process involved the leadership of the Police Federation, the senior officers of the Ministry of Finance, led by Deputy Financial Secretary Wayne Jones and head of the Transformation Implementation Unit, Chairman of the Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC) and former President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) Mr. Keith Duncan, and myself, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security. Together we were able to resolve a difficult and knotty problem, ontime, and to the relative satisfaction of all parties.

Madam Speaker, the entire process in this particular phase of this negotiation represented democracy at its best. The political leadership, the private sector leadership, the civil service leadership and the trade union leadership worked together, to come to a settlement in the interest of our country. It demonstrates that working together we can resolve the most difficult challenges. I want to commend the Police Federation who demonstrated a willingness and commitment to have a resolution: Chairman Corporal Rohan James would work fourteen (14) hours before departing for home. General Secretary McBean, whose mother fell ill at a critical moment, kept on working by telephone from the Falmouth Hospital. I want to express my profound gratitude to the Federation Executive Committee.

I want to further mention the support of Mr. Keith Duncan – who, when on Sunday, upon realizing that our offices would not be available to accommodate us comfortably, opened his boardroom and called out his staff to serve the team.

Madam Speaker, consultation, inclusion, partnership, and equity are key features of the Andrew Holness administration, which assures the people of Jamaica of our continued success in transformational development.

Madam Speaker, we identified security as a national priority and developed **Plan Secure Jamaica** – an integrated, inclusive, and enduring strategic security programme for the country. **Madam Speaker**, this is not a reactive policy. I will quote from our Manifesto 2016 which reflects our early commitment to restore public order and public safety to the people of Jamaica.

“Improving citizen security is the single most important growth-inducing reform that Jamaica can undertake. There must be substantial and sustained improvement in security and justice before the people will feel safe to live, work and invest in Jamaica. We are convinced that this is achievable in the medium term. Progress will require a comprehensive approach, including institutional reform (starting with the police and the justice system), a vigorous and unrelenting drive to eradicate corruption, **and bold and decisive action to finally deal with social exclusion.**”

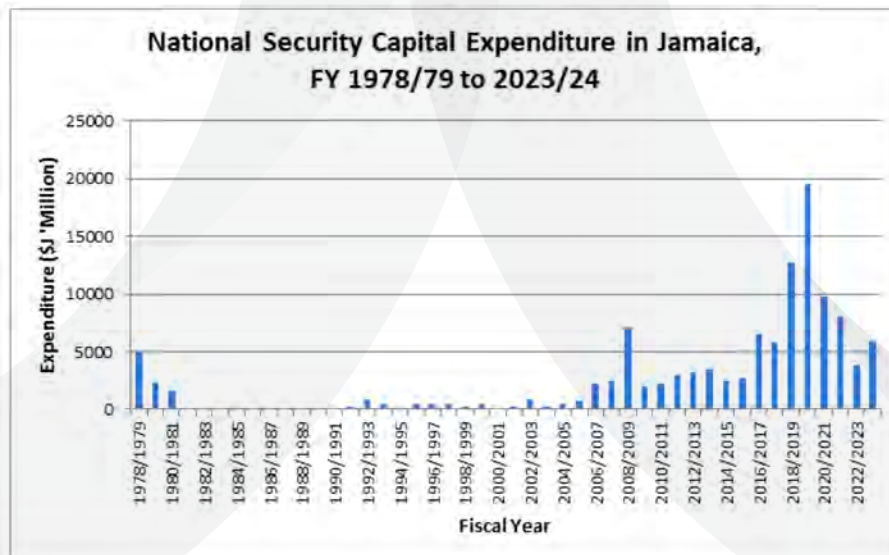
Madam Speaker, this was not merely a campaign document. It reflects our deep commitment to a comprehensive security strategy that we continue to implement. It is the unfortunate practice of previous Administrations to talk and plan and talk and plan. **We plan and execute.** That’s the mantra of this Andrew Holness Government.

I stand here today, **Madam Speaker**, to assure the people of Jamaica that this Government is on track with fulfilling our commitment to “substantial and sustained transformational changes in security; to a comprehensive approach to institutional reform; and implementing bold, decisive action to eradicate social exclusion. We are on track with building a stronger and more efficient security team, to ensure the outcomes that all Jamaicans desire - a safer, more prosperous Jamaica.

Of course, we had the interruption by the COVID-19 pandemic for 3 fiscal years.

INTRODUCTION

M**adam Speaker**, over the last 25 years, the country has had to grapple with one of the highest murder rates in the region, and at the same time, low levels of investment in our national security. This is a reminder of the failure of past administrations to prioritize this critical issue. The graph below reflects this quite clearly. Minor effort was made from 2006/2007 onwards, but the real investment started in security in 2016/2017.



Madam Speaker, it is important that I remind the country of what we have done and what we intend to do, as we continue the implementation of **Plan Secure Jamaica**.

- We are now training 1,260 recruits annually from expanded training facilities and adding a net of 800 officers to the Force.
- We have upgraded the police P25 Radio Communication Network.
- We have expanded network connectivity across police facilities islandwide to complete the digitization process
- We have expanded the police fleet of fit-for-purpose motor vehicles, which are equipped with computers, cameras, and a full fleet management system, for the first time in the history of the Force.
- We have established the finest Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine (IFSLM) in this region. The Forensic Pathology Autopsy Suite will be completed this year.
- We have constructed six (6) fit-for-purpose police stations, namely: Shady Grove, Olympic Gardens, Buff Bay, Port Antonio, Mount Salem and Green Acres which will be ready for occupation later this year.



We have extensively renovated **six (6)** others and retrofitted them into professional institutions, these are: Franklyn Town, Adelphi, Four Paths, Denham Town, Bog Walk and Lionel Town.

Five (5) police stations are currently under construction, Frome, Little London, Stony Hill, Anchovy and Lacovia.

We have impacted one hundred and thirty-three **(133)** other police facilities across the island through major refurbishing. This was done on the basis of an engineering review of all our facilities.

- We have completed the final planning phase to start construction of the St. Catherine North and the Westmoreland Divisional Headquarters this fiscal year; which are likely to become Area Headquarters. The process of developing a KMR Headquarters is on-going.



Madam Speaker, we are going to continue the programme until we impact all 186 facilities.

- The digitization of the police Force is continuing
- We have established ten (10) Domestic Violence Intervention Centres across the island
- We have expanded the JamaicaEye CCTV surveillance programme
- We have digitized the Traffic Ticket Management System (TTMS) with electronic ticketing capability, providing a foundation for efficient public order enforcement and better use of fixed-fine regimes
- We have achieved ISO 9001 certification for the JCF
- We have established multi-biometric identification system at the Criminal Records Office (CRO)
- We have established, restructured and refocused several critical specialized formations within the JCF for greater operational efficiency and effectiveness
- We have changed the uniform of the Force to one that is more relevant
- We have established social transformation programmes in the challenged communities with a strong monitoring and evaluation component
- We have expanded our youth engagement programmes
- We have established the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA)
- We are digitizing the Passport, Immigration, and Citizenship Agency (PICA)
- We have amended the “Anti-Gang” Legislation [Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) Act, 2014]
- We have repealed and replaced the old Firearms Act with the Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act, 2022

Madam Speaker, we are on the way to completing our programme of transformation in the security forces. We are seeing improvements. I know we will achieve our objective of greater public order and public safety.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Madam Speaker, in analyzing the security environment in Jamaica I want to highlight a number of critical developments:

1. Improved Sense of Community Safety

Although crime remains a serious issue for Jamaicans, and rightly so, crime victimization and feelings of insecurity have been significantly reduced since the 2019 survey. Specifically, the 2021 Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) Survey reported Jamaica as having a crime victimization rate of 7%, and only 18% of Jamaicans felt insecure in their communities.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that the increased presence and visibility of the police officers resulting from our strategic investments, is beginning to restore confidence at the community level. On the other hand, while the police continue to impact community safety by reducing certain types of criminal activities, we are seeing the organized criminal terrorists changing their operations and impacting the national mood.

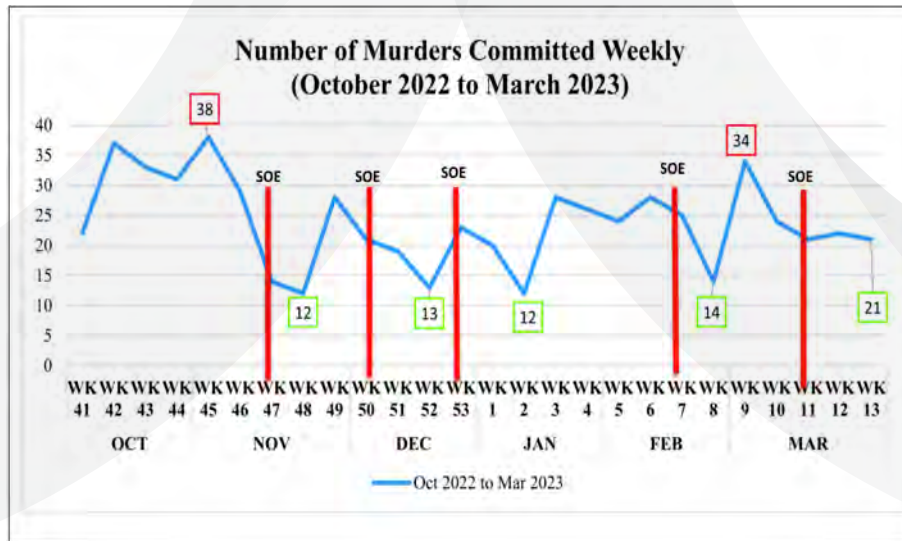
2. Shift in the Mode of Operations of Criminals

Madam Speaker, we have observed that the criminal terrorists are operating in organized alliances to hit high-value targets. These kinds of criminal activities tend to generate heightened national concern, such as the stealing of ATMs having acquired the equipment to rapidly extract, the targeting of cash-in-transit and other cash-heavy locations. Inter-gang wars have been reduced, however the impact of criminal terrorist alliances carrying out these types of activities have significantly impacted the national psyche. The police have built up intelligence, analyzed their activities and are developing effective strategic deployments. We continue to expand and improve our intelligence capabilities to ensure they have all the tools required for strong effective policing, including legislative tools such as the Zones of Special Operations (ZOSO) and States of Public Emergency (SOE).

Madam Speaker, States of Public Emergency save lives and reduce the activities of the criminal terrorists. **This impact is well established.**

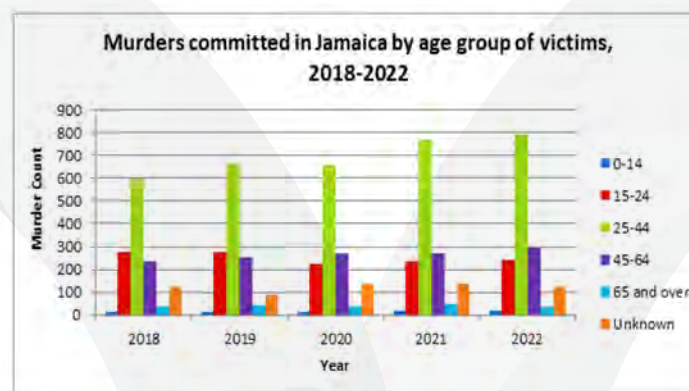
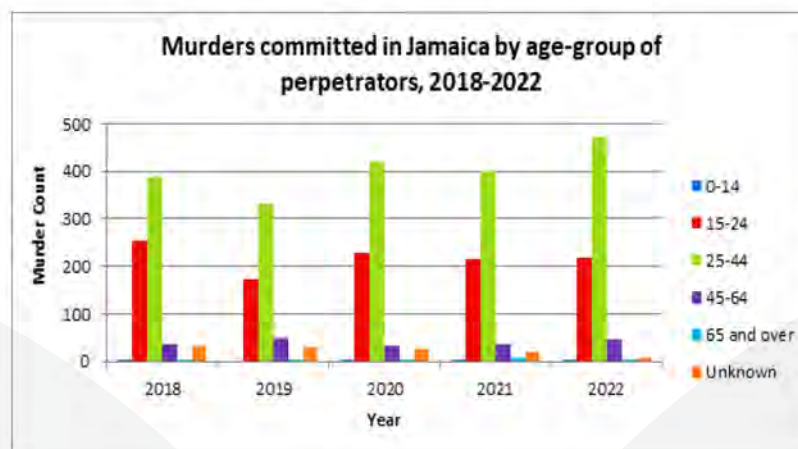
The SOE is one of our best tools to disrupt gangs and save lives.

The chart below shows the weekly murder trend since October 2022 and clearly illustrates that the weeks following the declaration of States of Emergency, typically experience significant reduction in murders. In fact, the weeks that recorded the lowest weekly murder counts, all fell within the two-week period of the SOE.



Madam Speaker, we need strong policing to deal with criminal violence. Our analysis of the police statistics shows that the 25-44 age-group is responsible for the majority of victims and perpetrators of criminal violence in the country.

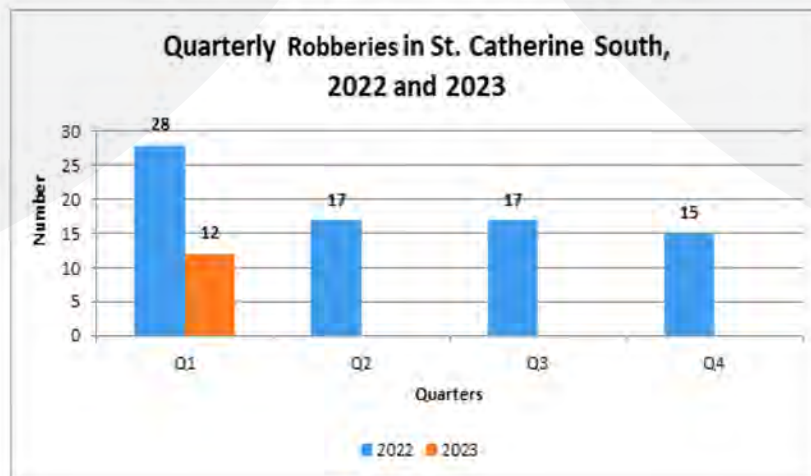
For example, in 2022, 63% of the murder perpetrators fell into the **25-44** age-group, and **52%** of all murder victims.



Madam Speaker, these are seasoned criminals. They are not amenable to restorative justice and diversion programmes. These are criminals who need to be apprehended, charged, imprisoned and rehabilitated under controlled circumstances or separated from society until they can do no further harm. We must equip and train the police to deal effectively with these criminals.

3. Reduced Crimes of Opportunity

Madam Speaker, the investment in the police to provide improved mobility and effective presence is contributing to significant improvements in public safety. The graph below demonstrates the impact of the Quick Response (QR) team in the St. Catherine South Division, where for the first quarter of this calendar year, the Division has seen a **57%** reduction in acquisitive crimes, when compared with the corresponding period in 2022.



Madam Speaker, as the investments in the police continue to impact the crimes of opportunity, we are seeing a significant decline in overall major crimes in the country. Last year (2022) the five-year average for major crimes, which include the categories of shooting, rape, robbery and break-ins, was the lowest it has ever been in the country for the past 25 years. The five-year average for major crimes declined by a whopping 38% between 2015 and 2022, moving from eight thousand four hundred and thirty-seven (8,437) in 2015 to five thousand two hundred sixteen (5,216) in 2022.

Madam Speaker, murder, which is largely a retaliatory crime, has remained over the one thousand mark for the last 23 years, with only noticeable declines during and immediately after the States of Public Emergency. We have taken note of a declining trend over the last six months. This decline coincides with a number of activities:

1. Increase police officers - not yet at the target
2. Improved mobility - further expansion to come
3. Launch of the JCF Operation Relentless II (a joint operation with the JDF)
4. Strategic use of the SOEs in select districts.

The first quarter of 2023 recorded the lowest murder count for a first quarter in the last seven (7) years. Since the start of this year and up to April 22, 2023, murders committed in the country have reduced by 17% compared to 2022, while overall major crimes have seen a 20% reduction.

Madam Speaker, with the continued use of the States of Public Emergency, and with increased numbers in the security forces and the additional equipment in which we are investing, this Government could assure the country of a one third reduction in homicides. This fact seems to escape the members of the Opposition.



Madam Speaker, at this juncture, we are not seeking to raise a flag of victory. We are making steady progress, but I must point out that 50% of investments do not mean 50% success. The relationship between transformation and investment is not a linear one. This is why the complete investment is important. Presently, we are seeing seeds of success and we will continue to pursue our plans and commitments until we have achieved our objectives.

Madam Speaker, I will now focus on the way forward, as we continue to build on the solid foundation that this Government has prepared.

STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY FORCES

Madam Speaker, the JCF Transformation and Modernization Programme focuses heavily on three (3) key elements that are critical to any successful organizational transformation, namely: **people, technology** and **processes**.

The People

Madam Speaker, the most valuable asset in crime fighting is the men and women of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. In recent years, we have made significant changes in how we recruit, train, develop, and promote the members of the Force.



Madam Speaker, we recognized the need to increase the strength of the Force. To this end, we have expanded our training capacity by renovating and acquiring additional facilities to ensure that we can consistently add between eight hundred (800) and one thousand (1,000) new officers to the Force each year. The graph below illustrates this.

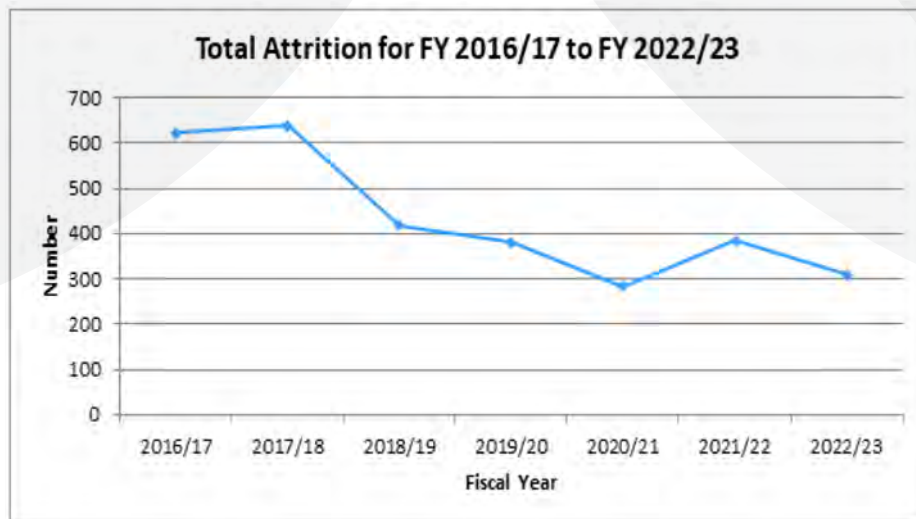


We have expanded the suite of specialized training programmes to ensure increased capacity, improved supervision, and to introduce a transparent, merit-based system of promotion. These include:

- Initial Officer Training Programme
- Officer Development Training Programme
- Inspector Development Training Programme
- Accelerated Promotion Programme
- High Potential Detective Training Programme
- Training of Trainers Programme
- Special Operations Training
- Quick Response Training

The object is to have fifteen thousand (15,000) trained, equipped officers operating within a modern police eco-system. **Madam Speaker**, over the past five years, there has been a sharp reduction in total attrition, as seen in the graph below. While this represents a positive development, we are mindful that there will be continued attrition as young adults join the police force to improve their resumes and make themselves more marketable. We are now operating with a 4% attrition rate, which is acceptable.

The reorganization of the Force, our investments in human and physical resources and a more sensible compensation structure, we expect to maintain this trend. We are training and developing the men and women of the police Force – a truly powerful **“Force for Good”**.



Technology

Madam Speaker, I will spend some time explaining the expanded use of technology in the Force for efficiency gains and as a powerful Force multiplier.



P25 Radio Communication Network

Madam Speaker, the JCF radio network, one of the finest in the island, had to be totally rehabilitated and expanded to ensure islandwide coverage.

The construction of ten (10) additional sites has been earmarked to reduce the “dead spots” identified across the island and ensure significantly improved coverage islandwide when completed. Works on these ten (10) proposed sites are set to commence this 2023/24 fiscal year. **Madam Speaker**, we are ensuring that we cover the entire island with an effective, modern, resilient police radio network.

Islandwide Network Interconnectivity

Madam Speaker, we are digitizing the police Force. We are the only public entity that is on the path to full digitization critical for modern efficient operation of any institution. There is, therefore, a need for connectivity across all two hundred and twenty (220) police facilities. One hundred and seventy (170) of the two hundred and twenty (220) facilities have been prioritized for almost immediate attention.

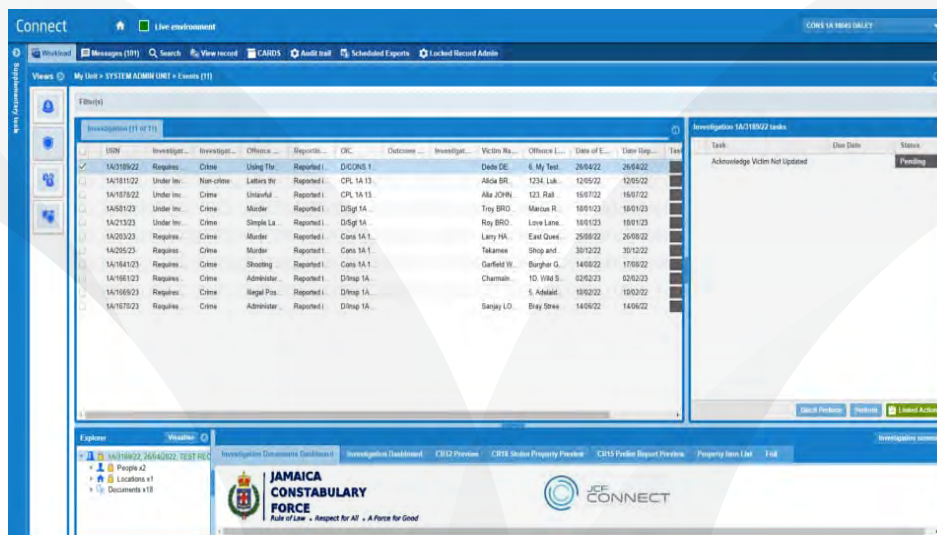
Madam Speaker, to achieve this target, we are using a number of modalities, which include; the JCF Microwave Network, the Government broadband network (GovNet) and commercial service providers. At present, 50 facilities are already connected and a further 120 facilities will be connected during this 2023/24 fiscal year.

As a next step, the remaining 50 facilities, most of which are located in remote geographical areas, are being assessed for the use of satellites and other modalities. Where feasible, connections will be executed during the course of this fiscal year. **Madam Speaker**, the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) is a crucial player in border control and border security. PICA, like the JCF, has strengthened its digitisation efforts with its new E-passport, and will be moving to a fully digitized entry process. PICA’s operation is crucial to visitors’ experience at our ports of entry.

The Processes

The Digitization of Police Records

We are replacing the “big books” at police stations with the electronic Station Records Management and Case Management Systems. The thrust to cover all stations has commenced and by the end of this month (April 2023), twenty three (23) stations will be outfitted. Another one hundred and twenty (120) will be on-boarded by the end of this fiscal year.



CCTV Surveillance

The **“JamaicaEye” Programme**, which now has eight hundred and sixty (860) GOJ cameras installed, will be further expanded during this fiscal year. An additional three hundred and twenty-eight (328) cameras are earmarked for the corporate area and a monitoring centre will be constructed in Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth. **Madam Speaker**, we are now actively exploring how we can expand this to the critical areas across the island. Portmore is a priority for installation.

Electronic Ticketing

The fully integrated, digitized Traffic Ticket Management System (TTMS) has been implemented. To date, eight hundred and twenty (820) handheld devices and printers have been procured. This will be increased to three thousand (3,000) by the end of this fiscal year.



Fleet Management

We have an effective Fleet Management System for police vehicles. Presently, one thousand one hundred and sixty (1,160) vehicles, including boats and motorcycles, are being tracked with the system. We intend to increase the fleet to one thousand five hundred (1,500) operational vehicles.



Digitization of Police Certificate Applications

The digitization of the police certificate application process and the upgrade to a multi-biometric identification system have greatly improved service delivery at the Criminal Records Office (CRO). Our people no longer stand in long lines to apply for a police certificate.

Real-time Situational Awareness and Response

We are on track to establish a modern, state-of-the-art command and control centre, (C5 level) which connects and integrates all the systems. This will greatly improve police efficiency and ensure even quicker response times.

Asset Management

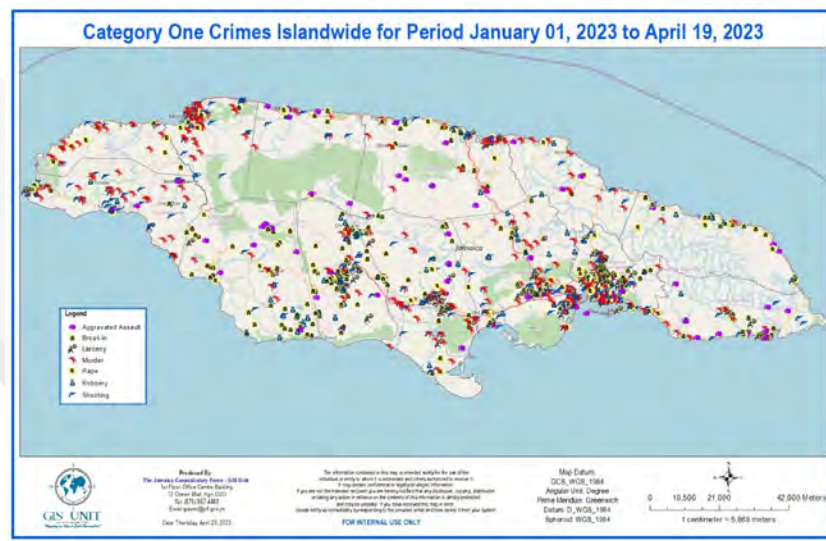
Madam Speaker, we are putting in place a full Enterprise Resource Planning solution which includes an effective Asset Management System. Motor vehicles will be serviced on time; office supplies delivered on time, etc. The procurement of the system is advanced and will be in place during this fiscal year.

Video Capture of Field Encounters

Madam Speaker, body-worn cameras allow for improved accountability and impact the speed at which complaints against the police are resolved. Four hundred (400) cameras are deployed and another one thousand (1,000) will be procured during this 2023/24 fiscal year.

Geospatial & Crime Analysis

Madam Speaker, the adoption of geospatial technology within the Force has allowed the executive management and commanders to make more data-driven decisions, identify crime hotspots and help to guide the strategic deployment of resources. We are developing a data driven decision-room. We will be the most modern police force in the region and we will win the war against the criminal terrorists. We will find them, prosecute them and lock them up. If they attack the police, my officers are well trained and are capable of protecting themselves.



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Madam Speaker, our investment in Social Transformation has been equally robust and comprehensive. This Government took the policy position to discontinue the projectised approach which did not provide sustainable benefits to the people and to instead utilise a public health model approach to crime prevention.

This all-of-Government, data driven, and empirically based approach ensures continuity, sustainability and meaningful transformation of the lives of the people.

In May 2020, **Madam Speaker**, Cabinet approved the implementation of the Citizen Security Plan (CSP) as a key component of Plan Secure Jamaica. The CSP utilizes a multi-sectoral approach to social investment and social transformation, and is geared towards three priority outcomes:

1. Crime and violence reduction
2. Safer Spaces, and
3. Human and Community Development

The Citizen Security Plan is monitored by the Citizen Security Secretariat (CSS) through a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, which tracks over seventy (70) key indicators across the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

In order to provide proof of concept for this new inclusive, collaborative, whole-of-Government approach to tackling the social causes of crime, the Citizen Security Secretariat (CSS) prioritizes three primary strategies:

1. Inter-Ministerial School Support Programme (ISSP) - which targets children ages 7-17.

Madam Speaker, this initiative engages 34 primary and high schools located in or served by the seven (7) communities in which Zones of Special Operations have been declared. The selected students participate in interventions that seek to improve school attendance, behaviour, and literacy as well as the overall management of the schools.



Madam Speaker, to date the Ministry of National Security has provided for:

- Referrals to MoEY to access expert psychological counselling treatment;
- Motivational mentorship through our case management methodology (*includes risk assessment tools, development of treatment plans, and broader support to access interventions through case management);
- Home visits; and
- Referrals to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for PATH consideration;
- Referral to any Agency of Government with which they need to interface.



2. At-Risk Youths Strategy - which targets unattached youths ages 18-29.

Madam Speaker, the At-Risk Youth Strategy initiative is at its preliminary stage. A series of workshops were convened earlier this year with several critical stakeholders. These took the form of a knowledge exchange and learning forum to identify best practices for treating with youth at risk. These discussions will inform the drafting of the National At-Risk Youth Strategy in the short to medium term.

While this process advances **Madam Speaker**, our critical agencies have commenced their own initiatives in partnership with the CSP. Of note, **Madam Speaker** is the HEART/NSTA Trust National Service Corps Residential Camps which exposes unattached youth to training that equips them to lead productive lives.

Madam Speaker, one hundred and ninety-one (191) at-risk youth who were engaged from Zones of Special Operations and other hotspot communities matriculated in HEART's first Residential Camp earlier this year. They received remedial literacy and numeracy support as well as skills training in barbering, allied health, tiling, data entry and nail care attendants. **Madam Speaker**, these are valuable skills to have in Jamaica. These youngsters can now go out and earn based on these professional capabilities. They will become prosperous, healthy and law-abiding citizens. **This is Prosperity Live!**

Through this all-rounded initiative, **Madam Speaker**, participants benefited from cultural site visits, volunteering experiences, as well as a sports day. There are currently 30 youths who have been identified and who are being trained at the Department of Correctional Services Staff College in anticipation of their enrolment in the next cohort of the residential camps (starting in May). Furthermore, **Madam Speaker**, an evaluation is presently being undertaken to improve our at-risk youth engagement model moving forward.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry has expanded our **LIV-GUD School Invasion** which is our flagship initiative for engaging at-risk youth in schools, towards reducing acceptance of violence as a normal way of dispute resolution. This approach promotes pro-social norms, attitudes and behaviours, through music, sports, technology, dancing, drama, and informative sessions delivered by key stakeholders such as the JCF Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB).



3. Psychosocial Support - which targets children, youths and parents

Madam Speaker, psychosocial support for children, youth and their family is another of the primary strategies being emphasized in this proof of concept. This is being achieved through a two-pronged approach:

(a) Through our case managers who are experienced in working with vulnerable youth and families, particularly in volatile communities. **Madam Speaker**, we will be seeking to engage an additional 100 case managers this financial year.

(b) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of National Security the Ministry of Education and Youth to identify and engage psychologists for the provision of counseling services to three hundred and eighty-three (383) students 100 of which are high-risk students, and 283 medium-risk students.

Madam Speaker, all of these strategies for meaningful social transformation are underpinned by empirical data to ensure that interventions are evidence-based and are sustainable. To date **Madam Speaker**, we have made significant gains with this approach to Social Transformation:

- We have a fully established and operational Governance, Coordinating & Oversight Mechanism in the Citizen Security Business Group (CSBG), which comprises all Permanent Secretaries, the Financial Secretary, and the heads of all relevant Agencies, such as the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), National Parenting Support Commission, and the HEART/NSTA Trust.
- Two residential shelters have been completed and are accepting clients. Clients were provided with temporary accommodation and counselling support.
- 25 safe spaces were completed
- Eighteen thousand six hundred and forty-one (18,641) parents have been trained in parenting programmes, and

- Thirteen thousand five hundred and ninety-nine (13,599) at-risk youth have received professional certification.
- Forty thousand (40,000) at-risk youth have been enrolled in a skills training programmes

Madam Speaker, this all-of-Government approach ensures that all aspects of the child’s physical, emotional, environmental, and social needs are addressed. This is a critical component of our crime prevention thrust which targets the individual child, their family and their community.

This Government **Madam Speaker**, believes in equipping all of the people of these communities with:

- Knowledge - better schools and training
- A healthy environment – so we are removing zinc fences. We are renovating community parks and creating safe leisure spaces;
- Building safe sidewalks for our children;
- We have requested that the Ministry of Health provide psychological support at the clinics associated with the identified communities;
- We are empowering our most vulnerable citizens by ensuring their sense of identity and dignity – providing them with national identification cards, birth certificates and other important resources. The Ministry of National Security’s Social Fairs in collaboration with the Social Development Commission (SDC) and other Government agencies is an important outreach effort where we take the services into the communities.



Madam Speaker, in building a stronger, safer and more prosperous Jamaica, we cannot rely on peace brokers, we must equip our people with the skills and tools so they can all be peace-makers...so entire families and communities must be engaged.

Furthermore, **Madam Speaker**, the Ministry is implementing a Government-to-Government programme through partnership with USAID. This programme is geared towards improving the relationship between the security forces and communities with a focus on at-risk youth. These are currently being implemented in 9 communities and across 22 schools. The key activities have included:

- Violence audits and training of community groups in:
 1. Basic Conflict Mediation and Interruption, Trafficking in Persons, and
 2. Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.

- Support to schools through music and basketball programmes.
- Support to Child Diversion and Restorative Justice initiatives.
- Providing case management and psychosocial support to at-risk youth and their families. These are carried out through strategic partnerships with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), community groups, private sector stakeholders and international donor partners.



Madam Speaker, as I indicated earlier, it is the policy of this Administration that critical issues are addressed collaboratively, with all stakeholders taking their place in the process. The Ministry of National Security is intervening in vulnerable communities to reduce gang recruitment and provide a model that can be scaled nationally by the respective portfolio ministries and agencies. In crime prevention, we must on-board all stakeholders, the residents, MDAs, private sector, and our international donor partners.

I must highlight Project Star led by the PSOJ and the Local Partners Development (LPD) initiative which are both aligned with our collaborative approach to social transformation and have been doing impactful work within the vulnerable communities, in conjunction with the Ministry of National Security and other Government MDAs.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO SUPPORT CRIME FIGHTING

Madam Speaker, we are developing a robust modern legislative framework to support the work of our security forces.

- The Anti-Gang (amendment) Act – was passed and enacted.
- The MOCA law and Regulations – were passed and enacted
- The Corrections (amendment) Act 2021– was passed and enacted
- The Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Act – was passed and enacted
- The Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act 2022 – was passed and enacted

Those that are at the Bill stage include:

- Immigration Bills (IRCC and Aliens Act)
- Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Amendment) ZOSO Bill

Given their advanced stage, and we anticipate that they will be concluded during the second quarter of this year.

Madam Speaker, other pieces of legislation that are prioritized for conclusion this year include:

- Amendments to the Fingerprint Act
- Further amendment to the Proceeds to Crime Act to include provisions for unexplained wealth

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

Madam Speaker, the transnational nature of criminal activity requires an equally multi-pronged approach. For the greater part of last year Jamaica chaired the CARICOM Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE). We utilized the opportunity to influence and address regional security challenges while identifying best practices to curb criminal violence in the respective CARICOM islands. Last year we would have noticed the uptick in incidents of criminal violence in several of the Eastern Caribbean islands and this further consolidated the resolve of national security ministers to encourage greater intelligence sharing and analysis to protect our borders and our region from transnational criminal activities. This culminated in the recently convened CARICOM Heads of Government Symposium in which our Prime Minister articulated his war on guns and the entire CARICOM region came together in unison to address this horrible scourge of crime on our beautiful Caribbean islands.



I am pleased to inform you **Madam Speaker**, that this year Jamaica will host the 37th International Drug Enforcement Conference. The conference is expected to have over 400 dignitaries, high ranking police and military delegates from over 100 countries in attendance. **Madam Speaker**, Jamaica is the first CARICOM country to host this conference. This conference will create a multilateral forum for the international police and prosecutor communities to strengthen international security relations and counter-narcotics cooperation, share drug-related intelligence, and to develop operational strategies that can be used to combat transnational organized criminal organizations involved in the illicit drug trade. **Madam Speaker**, Jamaica's hosting of this conference is reflective of the resolve of the Government to adopt strong measures and foster strategic partnerships to combat transnational criminal activity.

CONCLUSION

Since 2016 we developed a comprehensive Plan Secure Jamaica as the roadmap for the required investment, technological development, institutional and legislative modernization to equip the security forces for efficient and successful law enforcement.

Madam Speaker, our police officers are engaged in combat with these criminals, and we are confident that we will win.

Criminal terrorists only have to succeed once to create fear in our society – the police have to succeed every time to overcome this atmosphere of fear. The police now operate with improved intelligence and analytical capabilities, modern fit-for-purpose equipment and tools (ballistics vest, appropriate uniforms, body-worn cameras, etc: reliable communication, and updated legislation, to ensure they win.

We are seeing evidence of improved capabilities, for example:

Gang Cases

1. Klansman Gang Trial – 15 convicted and awaiting sentencing.
2. Uchence Wilson trial – 9 convicted and sentenced.
3. Five (5) other gang trials are presently before the courts, involving:
 - The Ranco gang
 - King's Valley extension gang
 - Umbrella gang
 - Singer/Night-time gang
 - Jaggy gang
4. Another 51 gangs with over a thousand members are on the police radar.
5. Beryllium robbery case (Braeton Parkway)- 4 vehicles seized; 7 suspects taken into custody. It is apparent that the police response time in terms of arrival on-site and apprehension is improving significantly.

Intelligence-Led Operations

Madam Speaker, police activities are intelligence-driven. I will outline a few examples of what that means:

- On May 21, 2022, one of St. Catherine South's most wanted was killed during a confrontation with the police on the North-South Highway. Police had the intelligence that this individual was in Portmore to murder an entire family. The police intervened and the criminal sought a safe return to the north coast. He was intercepted on the highway but expired in combat. One firearm was recovered.
- **Madam Speaker**, last year, an armory of 10 firearms were seized from the Nanny Ville gang. Further intelligence led to the fatal shooting of the leader and the recovery of another 3 firearms
- On July 19, 2022, three (3) members of the 'Speculation Gang' terrorizing St. Elizabeth and Manchester for several weeks were engaged, 2 were fatally shot and 2 firearms recovered.
- 2 gang members from Montego Bay journeying to Kingston to purchase one thousand 1,000 rounds of ammunition were intercepted by the police. They were not aware that the police had already identified the supplier and were awaiting them. A fatal shoot-out ensued. 2 firearms were recovered.

Cocaine & Cash Seizures

6. **Madam Speaker**, over the last year, 3,385 kg of cocaine has been seized with an estimated street value of over US\$150,000,000.00. (This is over \$20 billion Jamaican).
7. Similarly, cash seizures of US\$3,807,435.00 & CAD\$30,000.00 (largest in our nation's history)

Major Fraud Corruption Cases

Madam Speaker, the security forces are not only disrupting gangs. They are also equally engaged in disrupting white-collar criminals who unfortunately, often facilitate other criminal activities. Of note,

8. **Seprod case – 23 suspects arrested.**
9. **Burger King cases – 5 arrested and charged.**
10. **Five (5) bank cases – 7 arrested**
11. **Government – INSPORTS – 4 arrested**
12. **Public Sector Corruption – 2 arrested and charged**

Real Estate Forfeitures

- In July 2022, MOCA in conjunction with FID, recorded the most significant asset forfeiture (in terms of dollar value) ever recorded in Jamaica – JMD500 million in cash and other assets from a convicted drug dealer.
- In August 2022, one individual was sentenced to 14 and a half years imprisonment in the US, arising out of a multi-jurisdictional matter. As a result of this investigation, 12 high-value residential properties and three (3) businesses have been identified for forfeiture proceedings.

Lotto Scamming Cases

- In July 2022, 10 individuals were convicted in a matter involving 32 members of a lotto scamming syndicate in western Jamaica, having pleaded guilty. Thirteen (13) remain before the Court.

Firearm Seizures

- 4621 guns seized since 2017

Extraditions

- Twenty-four (24) criminals were extradited for money laundering, drug trafficking and scamming.

Madam Speaker, this Government recognizes that crime is our greatest concern. Our citizens are killed. It undermines our democracy and corrupts our institutions. It generates social disorder and general lawlessness. This Government did not just talk. We made it the priority. We have invested and continue to invest. We are recruiting. We are transforming.

We are modernizing. We are building. We are developing the most powerful **Force for Good** – the Jamaica Constabulary Force. We have expanded and strengthened the Jamaica Defence Force. We have institutionalized the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA). We have a strong Financial Investigations Division (FID). We have an active Contraband Enforcement Team (CET) – note the firearm seizures at the Montego Bay port. We have PICA. They operate as one team prosecuting the criminal terrorists and protecting the families of this country.

Murder is the most emotionally traumatic and devastating criminal act. To get at it, we must fight on all fronts- the fraud, the corruption, the gangs, the drugs, scamming, the guns, indiscipline and disorder.

We will have social transformation and inclusiveness, while prosecuting the criminal terrorists and protecting the sons and daughters of this beautiful land.

The Prime Minister has given his commitment and this Minister will carry out his mandate without fear or favour.

WE WILL WIN THIS WAR.





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