



**HEADQUARTERS
JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE**
UP PARK CAMP
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA

Tel: (876) 926-8121-9 Ext 2081
www.jdfmil.org

6 July 2024

PRESS RELEASE

**MARITIME AIR AND CYBER COMMAND RESCUES NINE FISHERMEN
FROM MORANT CAYS**

Kingston, Jamaica: The Maritime Air and Cyber Command (MACC) of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) rescued nine (9) fishermen on the Morant Cays on Friday, 5 July 2024 following a search and rescue operation.

Initial reports had indicated that eleven (11) fishermen were missing but subsequent reports have confirmed that number to be nine (9).

The fishermen departed the Cow Bay area in St Andrew for Morant Cays in three (3) canoe-type vessels on Saturday, 29 June 2024 and were expected to return on Tuesday, 2 July 2024. When they failed to return and efforts to reach them proved futile, the JDF was contacted to begin search and rescue operations.

The fishermen were found trapped on Morant Cays, after deteriorating sea conditions, due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl, made it difficult for them to sail. They were escorted to shore by servicemembers from the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard where they were reunited with their families.

The Jamaica Defence Force advises all seafarers that overdue vessels and vessels in distress can be reported to the Maritime Air and Operations Centre at (876) 926-8121 at extension 4004-6 or 876-836-1216.

The JDF remains committed to utilising our assets and operational capabilities to preserve lives and ensure the safety and security of all our citizens.

– END –

CONTACT

**Civil/Military Co-operation and Media Affairs Office
Headquarters Jamaica Defence Force
(876) 926-8121 Ext: 2081 / 876-224-0529
hqjdf.cmc@jdf.mil.jm**