



Ministry of National Security

2025 SECTORAL PRESENTATION

Transforming the Jamaica Constabulary
Force - Restoring Public Trust

Presented by:
The Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, OJ, CD, MP
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of National Security

Tuesday, April 29, 2025





Ministry of National Security

SECTORAL DEBATE PRESENTATION 2 0 2 5



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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security

Theme:
TRANSFORMING THE JCF - RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Madam Speaker, the privilege granted to me to deliver this eighth Sectoral Presentation as Minister of National Security is one I regard with humility and gratitude.

National Security has been one of the most challenging portfolios over the last three decades. To have retained the confidence of our leader and Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, to lead in this capacity since 2018, has been crucial to advancing the investment in transformation, and a high point of my political career. Thank you, Prime Minister!

Madam Speaker, the saying “there is no ‘I’ in team” appropriately captures my sentiment for the various teams that support my being here today. To my wife and children whose unconditional support propels me onwards every day; my colleague Cabinet members - we continue to share the vision and work towards building a strong and prosperous Jamaica; and Minister of State Juliet Cuthbert Flynn – the energy and vitality you bring to the work of the Ministry is unparalleled.

Madam Speaker, the operational work of National Security is carried out by Agencies comprising some of the finest law enforcement officers, investigators and analysts anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. I must recognise the Heads of these Agencies for their outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to a safer Jamaica.

To the team at the Ministry, led by Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe and the Chief Technical Directors; my Close Protection detail, and administrative staff – all work tirelessly behind the scenes to support the mission of a safer and stronger Jamaica. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I am truly blessed to work alongside a dedicated management team, Councillors, party workers, and community leadership of the North West St. James constituency. They have stood firm in difficult times and remain deeply committed to **building our communities and improving the lives of our people.**

But critically, **Madam Speaker**, I owe a profound debt of gratitude to the **citizens of the constituency.** Their friendship, love, and support have carried me through. **They believed in me, walked with me, encouraged me, supported me — and most importantly, voted for me.** In doing so, they chose Jamaica, embracing the vision of our Prime Minister, Dr. Andrew Holness, to build a **resilient and prosperous nation.**

Madam Speaker, our hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey gave us the roadmap; Sir Alexander Bustamante gave us the mandate; and Prime Minister Dr. Andrew Holness gave us the mission – “*One God, One Aim, One Destiny*” – Jamaica strong and prosperous.



INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, in his recent contribution to the National Budget Debate, the Prime Minister provided a clear vision for Jamaica's **next chapter**. At the heart of this vision is public safety and public order. These, **Madam Speaker**, are the very foundations of a **dynamic and progressive society**.

Having led the Ministry of National Security for the past seven years, I know first-hand the significant transformation that has taken place within our law enforcement Agencies, and the modernization of our laws and policies to make them more relevant and robust. That is why, today, I can stand here confidently and declare that our national security architecture is stronger than at any other point in our history.

Madam Speaker, our National Security framework is strong, our personnel are highly trained, and their operations are efficient. That is Jamaica's national security today – strong, highly competent and efficient. While, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) remains our principal law enforcement agency, the other departments and agencies play critical roles in safeguarding our nation. These include:

- The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF);
- The Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA);
- The Department of Correctional Services (DCS);
- The Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine (IFSLM);
- The Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA);
- The Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA);
- The Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA); and
- The Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PCOA);

Together, these entities form an **integrated security apparatus**, working collectively to ensure the safety and well-being of all Jamaicans.

Madam Speaker, I would like to dedicate this Sectoral Presentation to the men and women who serve within the various agencies of our national security apparatus. They work tirelessly and selflessly to protect our people, our communities, our homes, our borders, and our businesses. They serve this nation with distinction, often at the risk of their own lives.

Madam Speaker, this year I will focus on the work of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The police are the gateway to our criminal justice system. As first responders to crime and disorder, they stand on the front line of justice. They uphold the law, protect lives, and safeguard rights. Their presence brings order. Their actions build trust. The police are not just law enforcers who move among us – they are **a fundamental pillar of the nation-state**.



Madam Speaker, for more than two decades, crime and violence have been the **primary concern of the Jamaican people**. This has damaged public confidence, hindered investment, and disrupted the lives of our citizens.

But today, I can say with confidence: **we are at a tipping point** in our country's journey. We are beginning to see the results of our policies and investments in national security. The tide has shifted. Our police officers and the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness remains resolute in the efforts to secure Jamaica and Jamaicans.

“ The police are the gateway to our criminal justice system. As first responders to crime and disorder, they stand on the front line of justice. ”

WHERE WE ARE COMING FROM

Madam Speaker, policing stands as one of the most universal and enduring professions. Police forces are among the most widely recognised and visible institutions in any society. They must consistently embody the principles of justice, fairness, and inclusion. They remain the critical link between the law and the citizenry.

Madam Speaker, when the Andrew Holness-led administration took office in 2016, we inherited a Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) that was severely under-resourced and in dire need of transformation. Decades of underinvestment had left the Force struggling to effectively combat crime and maintain law and order. The level of crime and violence had surpassed the capacity of the JCF. Quite frankly, the force was ill-equipped to address the evolving nature of criminality. The situation was alarming; morale among the rank and file was low, and the state of the Force reflected years of neglect.

To be more specific **Madam Speaker**, when we took office in 2016, we inherited:

- **Dilapidated Physical Infrastructure** – majority of police stations were unfit for occupation.



Old Mount Salem Police Station in St. James.

- **Manpower Deficit** – prior to the integration of the auxiliaries into the JCF in 2014, by the then Administration, the strength of regular police officers was just under **10,000**. This merger was not an expansion of the number of law enforcement personnel in the country.

- **Inadequate Mobility** – the quality of the fleet was an embarrassment to every Jamaican and every police officer. They were old, run down and of all varieties of make and model.



- **Unreliable Telecommunications and Connectivity** – communication was unreliable. Officers in the field often found themselves unable to relay critical information, thereby compromising operational effectiveness and officer safety.
- **Minimal Use of Technology** – operations were largely manual, with little or no technological integration.

The cumulative effect of these deficiencies – poor working conditions, lack of equipment, stagnant career progression, and constant public criticism – had left the morale of our police officers at an all-time low.

Madam Speaker, this was the grim state of Jamaica's law enforcement apparatus when we took office. The challenges were massive. This government made **National Security a top priority** and set about to change the situation. We launched a bold, comprehensive transformation of the JCF. Our goal, as an Administration, was to restore credibility, modernise operations, and equip our officers with the tools to protect the Jamaican people.

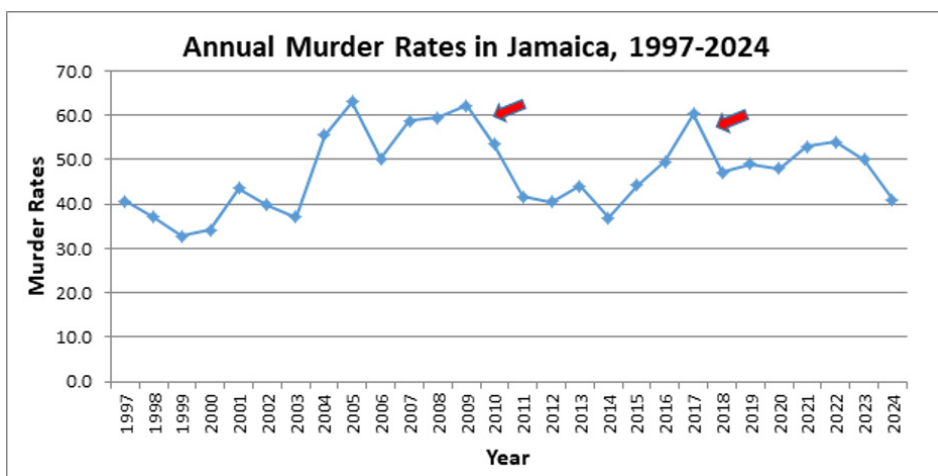
OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

Madam Speaker, our approach to addressing social disorder and criminal violence has always been guided by a well-calibrated, strategic framework. This is based on a holistic policy requiring strong enforcement measures in parallel with building and developing the police force, while introducing effective social intervention.

We have been deliberate in emphasising that States of Public Emergency (SOEs) are not used indiscriminately, rather they are deployed strategically in exceptional circumstances. They are designed to reduce extreme criminal violence.



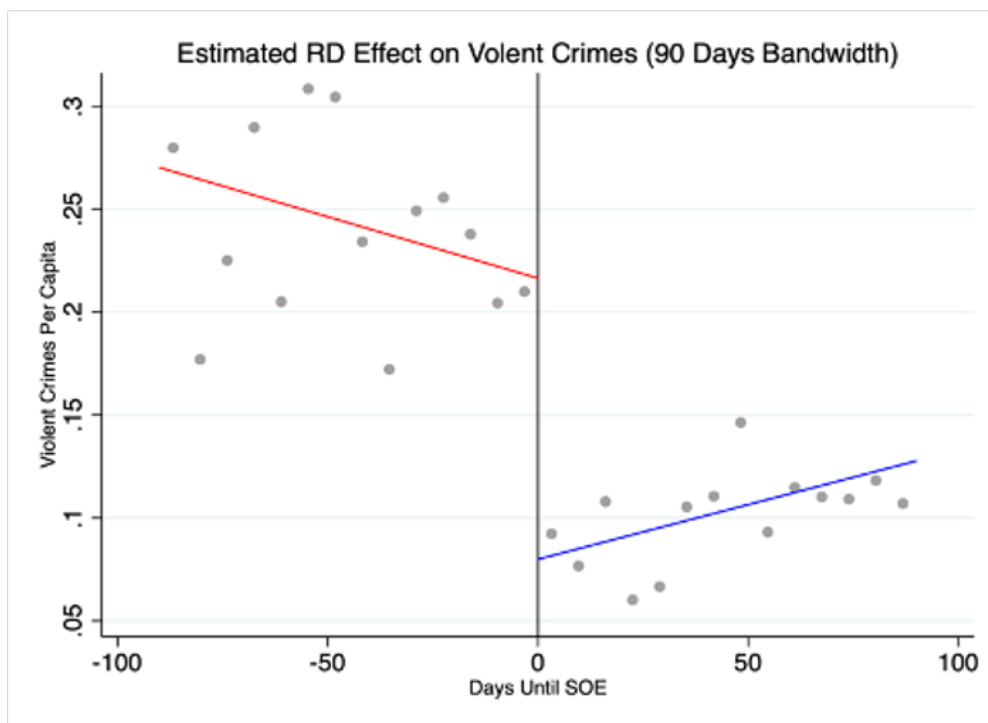
While there has been much debate about the use of emergency measures, the evidence of their effectiveness is undeniable.



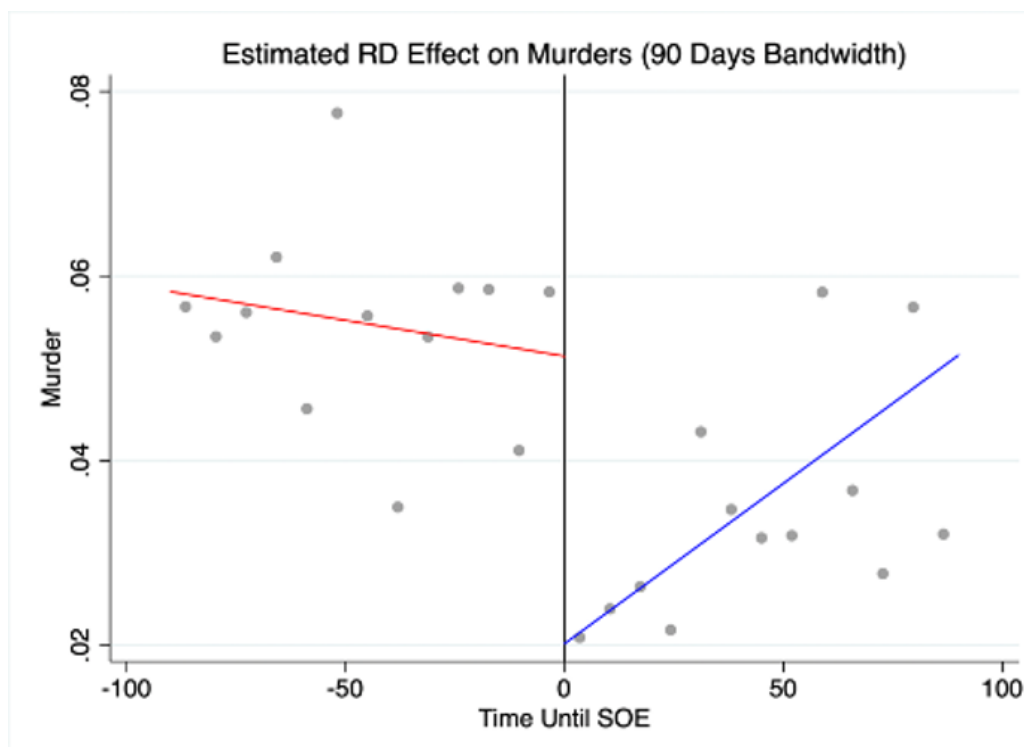
Various studies have proved the capacity of SOEs to rapidly reduce killings, suppress violent crime, and restore a sense of order in communities under the siege of violence.

A recent empirical study, conducted by econometric and public policy scholars at Florida International University, employed a range of causal models to assess the effectiveness of the States of Public Emergency (SOEs) in Jamaica, over both the short and long term.

The results were compelling. On average, across each police division, there was a **62%** reduction in violent crimes following the implementation of the SOE compared to the same period prior in the same divisions. This decline was primarily driven by reductions in murders (**56%**), shootings (**58%**), aggravated assaults (**18%**), and robberies (**41%**).



A 62% reduction in Violent Crime (Murder, Shooting, Agg Assault, Rape and Robberies) per 1000 population within a 90-day window surrounding the implementation of the SOE



A 56% reduction in murders per 1,000 population within a 90-day window surrounding the implementation of the SOE

The **red line** in the charts represents crime trends 90 days before the SOE cutoff declaration, while the **blue line** shows the average trend 90 days after. Importantly, the SOE was found to be effective in reducing overall crime levels in the treated areas, over the long term, compared to areas that remained untreated.

It is these types of evaluations that provide us with reliable and robust causal evidence that Jamaica's use of SOEs has had a significant and measurable impact, on violent crime levels and deterrence.

Madam Speaker, Jamaica is not alone in recognizing the necessity of such measures. Over the past two years, several Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Ecuador, Honduras, and Peru, have implemented SOEs to swiftly curb spiraling homicide rates.

According to a June 2023 report by the **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)**, no fewer than 30 SOEs were declared across the LAC region between April 2020 and April 2023.

Let me be clear, **Madam Speaker**, we have never suggested that SOEs were a **“silver bullet” for our crime problem**. They are but one set of tools in a broader, multi-pronged strategy designed to restore law and order. That is why we have persisted in implementing a comprehensive policy for national security. This included the expansion and development of the police force, sustainable crime reduction policies, and the coordinated work of all the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). We are combining immediate enhanced measures with strategic investments in law enforcement and social investment programmes.

Every step we take is part of a deliberate, well-considered plan – never knee-jerk, always purposeful, and focused on achieving clear, measurable results.

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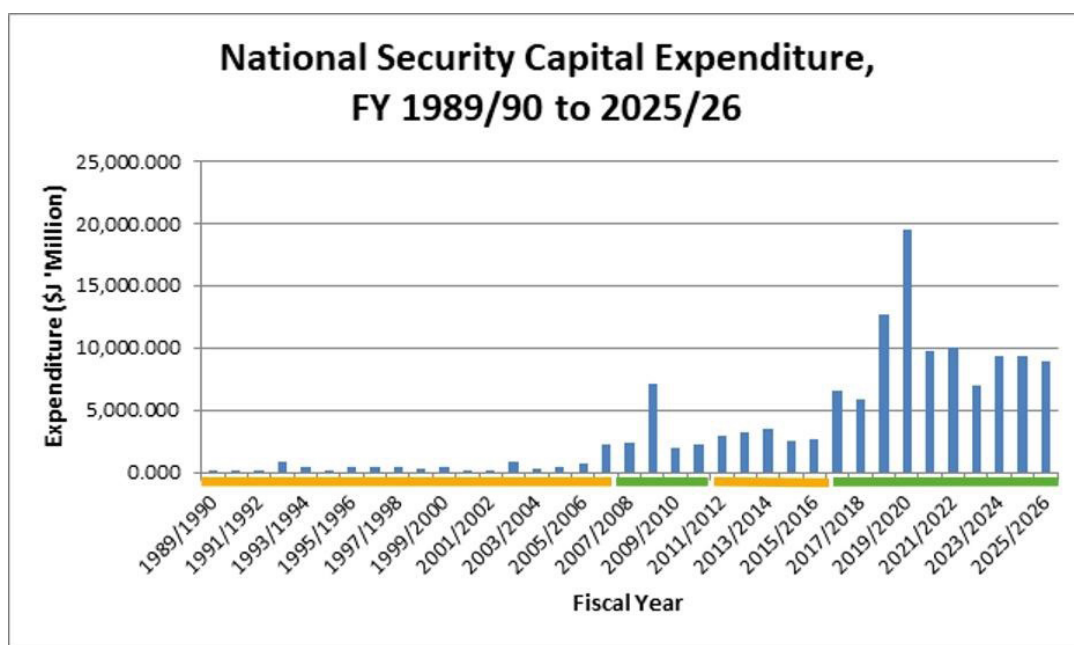
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KEY INVESTMENTS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Madam Speaker, we have made unprecedented investments designed to increase the capacity and strengthen all the entities of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). These investments have been broad-based and systematic, addressing both operational effectiveness and the well-being of our police officers.

Since 2016, we have invested annually, on average, **J\$9.9 billion** in national security capital expenditure. This is **three times** the average annual investment under the previous PNP administration, and an astonishing **21 times** the annual average during the PNP's uninterrupted 18-year tenure from 1989 to 2007.



Our commitment to transforming and modernising the JCF reflected in several key areas, namely:

1. Expanded Human Resource and Training:

Our sustained investment in recruitment has enabled us to expand the human resource capacity of the police, bringing it up to the approved establishment level. Recruitment continued even during the “COVID” years. We leased Camp Verley, acquired Tranquility Bay, rehabilitated Harman Barracks, and improved facilities at Twickenham Park, which is now one of the finest police training facilities in the region. Since 2018, we have trained and graduated approximately **6,000** police officers. This expansion has allowed for more efficient deployment, with several specialised units; increased police presence in communities; and proximity policing where necessary.



In addition, **Madam Speaker**, we have introduced comprehensive leadership and supervisory development programmes to ensure that officers at every level are equipped to lead effectively in today's complex policing environment. We have expanded and modernised the police training curricula; equipping officers with advanced investigative techniques, intelligence analysis capabilities, and specialised operational skills.

2. Improved Tools, Technology and Equipment:

Madam Speaker, the police have made the integration of advanced technology into their operations a top priority. Some of these initiatives include:

- Equipping police stations with **electronic Station Records and Case Management Systems** to digitise front office operations. To date, **51 stations** are live with these systems; **Hopewell** in Hanover and **Harbour View** in Kingston East readily come to mind.
- Deploying a Fleet Management System across the island to enable real-time tracking. Currently, over **1,400** vehicles are being tracked through the system.



Fleet Management System

- Equipping police officers with electronic handheld devices and wireless printers to facilitate the quick and efficient issuing of traffic tickets.



- Introducing an online application and appointment scheduling system for police certificates. Applicants no longer contend with long lines at the door of the Criminal Records Office. However, work is being done to further improve this process.

These technological tools have not only increased operational efficiency and enabled faster decision-making. **They have improved the quality of service delivered to the public.**

Madam Speaker, the digitisation process continues in earnest. “Big books” are being replaced by electronic systems, and legacy records are being converted into digital files.

A major milestone in our modernization effort has been the upgrade and expansion of the **P25 digital radio communication system**. This upgrade has substantially increased communication coverage across the island, providing secure, reliable, and real-time connectivity for law enforcement personnel. These enhanced communication capabilities have significantly improved emergency responsiveness, tactical deployments, and coordination among units, particularly during joint operations.

Madam Speaker, the national CCTV surveillance network – **JamaicaEye**, has grown into a critical national security asset, enhancing our ability to monitor public spaces, deter criminal activity, and support investigative work. To date, over 1,200 cameras have been successfully integrated into the network.



3. Better Mobility and Response Capability:

Madam Speaker, we have established, for the first time, a modern fleet of police vehicles, equipped with up-to-date technology. Since 2016, we have procured **1,806** motor vehicles for the JCF, at a cost of approximately **J\$6.6 billion**. This expanded fleet has translated into faster response times, increased patrol coverage, and enhanced

visibility of law enforcement personnel in the communities. These are critical factors in deterring crime and reassuring our communities.



4. Improved Working Conditions and Welfare for Officers:

Madam Speaker, for a professional to work efficiently and well in a high-stress and demanding environment, they need proper working conditions. We therefore proceeded to rehabilitate and rebuild police facilities across the island.

This was done under a well-planned **Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (R.O.C)** initiative, following an engineering assessment of all the stations.

This transformative programme is aimed at creating a more professional, functional, and dignified working environment for our officers, while simultaneously enhancing the physical spaces where citizens engage with the officers. Every police facility across the island has been positively impacted under this initiative, either through upgrades, refurbishments, or complete reconstruction.

In the first few months of this year, **Madam Speaker**, we commissioned into service two (2) newly constructed police stations – **Lacovia and Frome**. These state-of-the-art facilities are not only modern in design, but environmentally sustainable, featuring solar power, water storage systems, and built-in communication redundancies. They

stand as a testament to the evolving standards of our policing infrastructure. And we are not done yet – **three (3)** more police stations, currently under construction, are slated to be opened in the coming weeks – **Stony Hill, Little London and Anchovy.**



In tandem with the improvements to physical infrastructure, we have implemented merit-based promotional pathways to reward excellence and enhance career development within the Force. Since 2024, **1,375** police officers, including **80** Gazetted ranks, have been promoted to fill critical vacancies, improve supervision, and effect our policy to increase the Officer Corps, as indicated in my previous Sectoral Presentations. **This is the first time in the history of the Force that the Officer Corps is moving towards the recommended ratio for efficient policing – that is, 3% to 4% of the total strength.**

These strategic actions are not only designed to boost morale and professionalism within the Force, but to ensure officers feel valued, motivated, and supported as they carry out their vital duties in service to the people of Jamaica.

Madam Speaker, this holistic and strategic development of the Jamaica Constabulary Force is part of a well-planned, long-term national security agenda. By investing in our law enforcement professionals, leveraging cutting-edge technology, and maintaining a balanced approach between crime control and crime prevention, we have set a strong foundation for sustained crime reduction and public safety.

THE VALUE AND ROLE OF GOOD LEADERSHIP

Madam Speaker, in all that we do, leadership is paramount. Indeed, it sets the tone. It determines the outcome. When the transformation of the JCF required firm political will, this Administration, under the leadership of the Most Honourable Dr. Andrew Holness, rose to the occasion.

Not only with the requisite resources and patience, but with clarity of vision, constancy of purpose, and unwavering resolve.

At a time when many had lost confidence in the JCF, and questioned whether true transformation was even possible; when some believed that simply changing the name from “Force” to “Service” would suffice; this Administration held steadfast to a new transformative vision.

We believed then – as we believe now – that we did not need to look beyond our shores for a “saviour.” **Our faith was, and remains, in our own people.** We believed in their competence and intellectual capacity. We knew there were Jamaicans with the experience, commitment, and leadership to implement the transformation of this vital national institution. **We chose Jamaicans. We choose Jamaica.**

Madam Speaker, the JCF is emerging as a distinctly Jamaican institution, guided by capable and committed local leadership. At its helm are Jamaicans of integrity and vision, directing and inspiring some of the brightest young talents our nation has to offer.

The transformation was initially guided by the leadership of former Commissioner, Major General Antony Anderson, who was appointed in 2018. He came with 40 years of experience in security. His tenure laid a strong foundation for ongoing growth and institutional reform. Today, under the leadership of Commissioner Dr. Kevin Blake, who emerged as the natural successor, we see a motivated and energized workforce.

Madam Speaker, the transformation agenda has not only continued, but has progressed seamlessly, following **one of the smoothest leadership transitions in the Force’s recent history.**



The Force that is taking shape today is data-driven, intelligence-led, and grounded in scientific, evidence-based approaches to modern policing. Nowhere is this more evident than in our strategic efforts to combat gangs and dismantle criminal networks.

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DISRUPTING GANGS AND CRIMINAL NETWORKS

Under the leadership of Commissioner Kevin Blake, the JCF has embraced advanced analytical methods to enhance policing strategies. Notably, the Force has integrated mathematical models into its operations – drawing on the groundbreaking work of Professor Jonathan Farley of Vanderbilt University, who proudly shares Guyanese and Jamaican heritage.

Professor Farley's seminal applications of Lattice Theory and the Theory of Ordered Sets originally to address terrorist cell dynamics, are now being applied to the analysis and disruption of criminal gangs operating in Jamaica. These models provide critical insights into the structure, behaviour, and vulnerabilities of organized crime networks.

Madam Speaker, this is innovation! This is deep thinking, data-driven policing. As a matter of fact, **Madam Speaker**, our very own Commissioner Kevin Blake has gained international recognition for his work in this area of mathematical modelling for targeted crime fighting.

This empirical approach is producing the desired results. Through deliberate conflict monitoring, meticulous evidence gathering, and the preparation of robust case files, we are better positioned to secure successful prosecutions and deliver justice. That is our objective!

Since the start of 2025:

- **Sixty-three (63)** gangs have been impacted through investigations and operational efforts;
- **One hundred and fifty nine (159)** known gang members have been arrested;
- **Thirty-four (34)** members aligned to gangs were charged for applicable offences, which include murder, firearm breaches and lottery scamming;
- **Fifteen (15)** gang members have been charged under the "Anti-Gang" Legislation

Overall, **ten (10)** gang-related cases, involving over **90 accused**, are currently before the courts. Meanwhile, the ongoing efforts of the police resulted in **forty-six (46)** active gang investigations being pursued and **89** case files newly opened.

During the First Quarter of 2025, a total of **eighty-five (85) gangs were identified as active across all nineteen (19) police divisions**. This represents a significant reduction when compared to the **120** active gangs that were recorded during the same period in 2024 – reflecting a decrease of **29%**, or thirty-five **(35)** gangs.

This downward trend is a clear indication that our strategy is gaining traction and delivering tangible results in dismantling criminal networks and disrupting their operations.

This is the power of focused, intelligence-driven policing. **We are taking the fight to the gangs, and we are winning.**

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Historic Low Crime Levels



Madam Speaker, this strategy of “**Focused Deterrence**” that is based on scientific analytics is indeed working. We are not just seeing better numbers; we are on a clear path to sustainable crime reduction. For the first time since structured data capture and disaggregation began in the JCF, we are recording several **historic achievements**:

- **Lowest weekly murder count in 24 years** – with **6 murders** during Christmas week in 2024.
- **Lowest monthly murder count in 25 years** – **48 murders** in February 2025.
- **Lowest quarterly murder total in 25 years** – **187 murders** in **Q1 of 2025**.
- **Most consecutive weeks with murders below 15**, in 25 years – A run of **7 weeks** since March 2025.
- **Most weeks in a quarter with murders below 20**, in 25 years – **11 weeks** in **Q1 of 2025**.
- **Lowest quarterly Major Crimes** in 25 years – **898 cases** in **Q1 of 2025**.
- **Most firearms recovered** in a single quarter – **276 firearms** in **Q1 of 2025**.

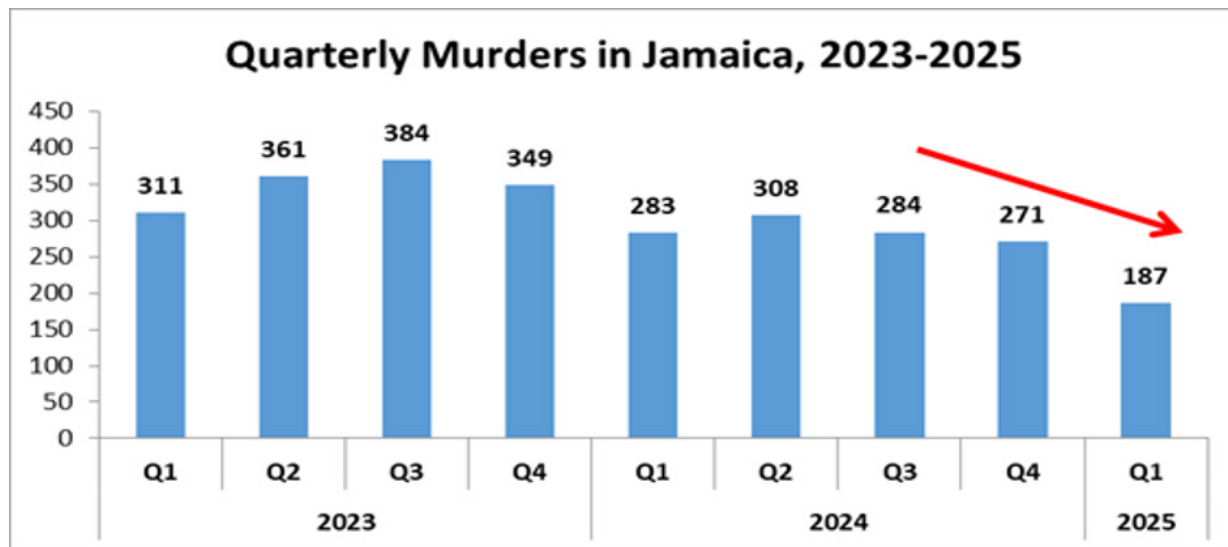
At the close of 2024, murders fell by **18.4%**, building on a **7.3% decline** in 2023.

Sustainable Path of Crime Reduction

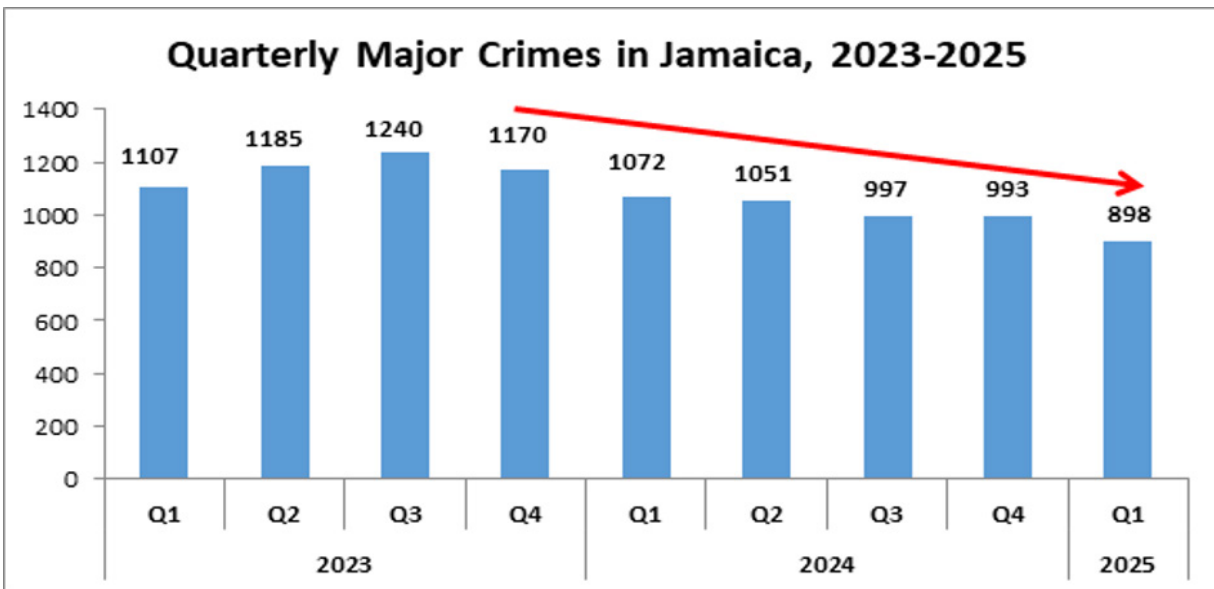
Madam Speaker, we are not just reducing crime; we are **changing the trajectory**. Jamaica is firmly on the path to long-term, sustainable crime reduction.



In the First Quarter of 2025, the country recorded **187 murders** – marking the **third straight quarter** of decline since **Q2 of 2024**.

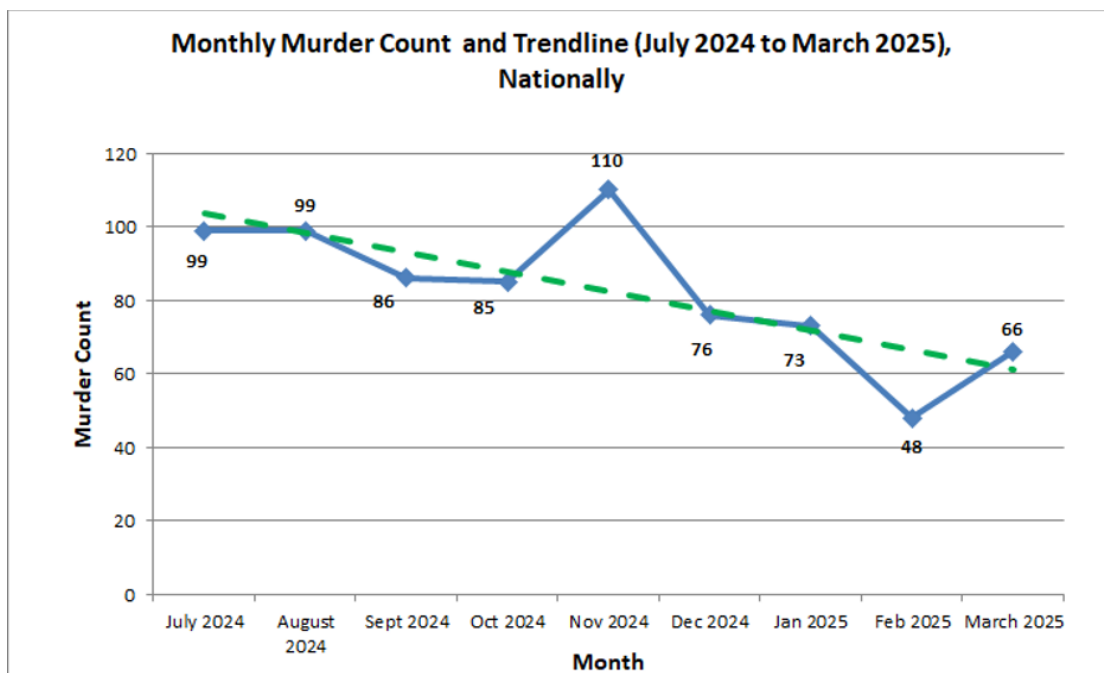


Even more compelling – **Major Crimes** (murder, shooting, rape, robbery, and break-ins) have now fallen for **six consecutive quarters**, starting from **Q3 of 2023**.



Current Murder Trend

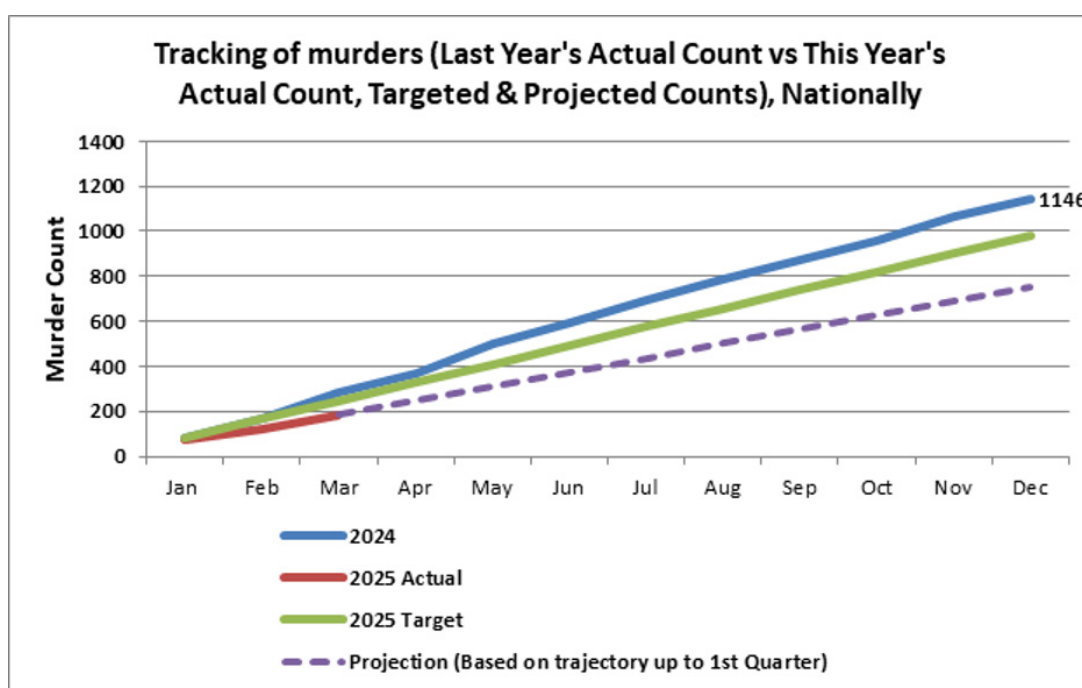
When we examine the monthly murder count since July 2024, the trend line (**green, dashed line**) confirms a general steady decline in murders.



So far this year – **January 1 to April 27, 2025** – there have been **227 murders**. This represents **132 fewer lives lost**, or a **37%** reduction compared to the corresponding period in 2024. **Major Crimes** are down by **19%** over the same period.

Madam Speaker, when we do a deeper analysis of the murders year-to-date, not only are we well below last year's pace (**the blue line**), but we are also tracking below the 2025 target (**the green line**) that was set.

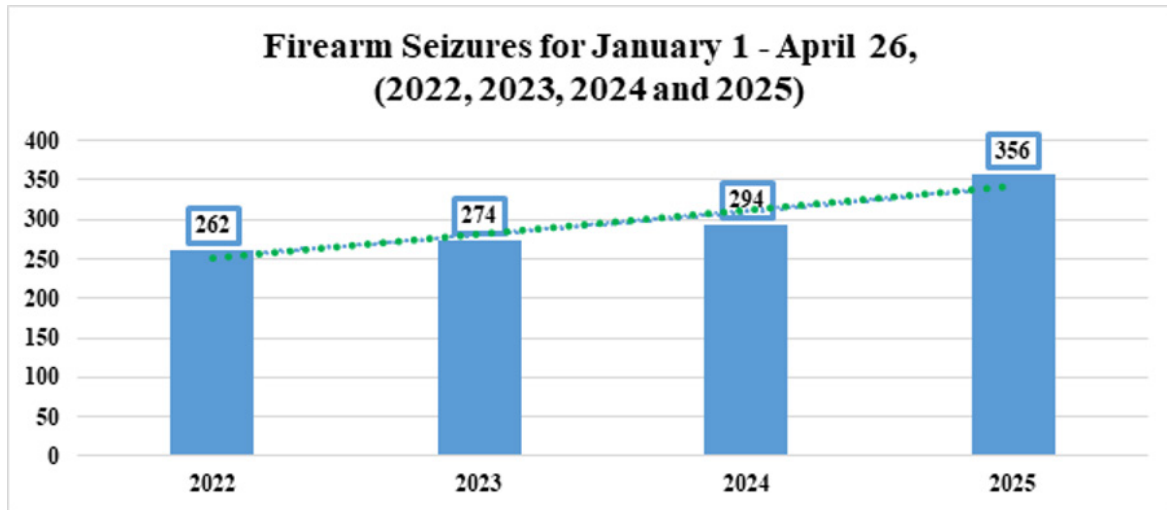
If the current downward trend in murders continues – as projected by the **purple dashed line** – we are on track to record fewer than **800** murders in 2025. This would represent not only a historic low, but a major victory for every law-abiding Jamaican.



Madam Speaker, I say to the public **do not to watch the headlines, pay attention to the trend lines!** In today's world, access to information through social media is faster than ever. However, headlines are often sensational, focusing on the negative while giving little attention to the positive. In some cases, they may even spread misinformation. That is why it is important to look beyond the noise and focus on the actual data and long-term trends.

Our relentless focus on gangs – and their weapon of choice, the gun – is paying dividends. Between **January 1 and April 26, 2025**, a total of **356** firearms were seized, marking a 21% increase over the same period in 2024. In addition, **9,605** rounds of ammunition have been recovered so far this year – a **130%** increase compared to 2024.

Of note, **Madam Speaker**, since November 2022, when the Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction, and Regulation) Act came into effect, there has been a steady increase in the recovery of firearms. These are strong signals, **Madam Speaker**. **The tide has turned!**



“ So far this year – January 1 to April 27, 2025 – there have been 227 murders. This represents 132 fewer lives lost, or a 37% reduction compared to the corresponding period in 2024. Major Crimes are down by 19% over the same period. ”

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Madam Speaker, we are not stopping here. The process of reform and modernization will continue. We are building a Jamaica Constabulary Force that is institutionally resilient – ready to meet the future. That future is emerging.

It will be defined not only by more modern infrastructure, but by iconic and aesthetically pleasing facilities. These include the proposed **Police Plaza** in Downtown Kingston; the **Westmoreland Divisional Headquarters** in Llandilo; the **St. Catherine North Divisional Headquarters** in Spanish Town; and the proposed **Specialised Operations West** in Montego Bay.



In addition, **six (6)** police stations are slated for reconstruction and are currently advancing through the pre-investment phase. These stations are:

- Cave Valley, St. Ann
- Amity Hall and Granville, St. James
- Bull Bay, St. Andrew
- Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland
- Mocho, Clarendon

Equally important is the institutionalisation of maintenance systems. We are not just building new facilities – **we are ensuring everything we build is sustained.**

The new **C5 Centre** currently being rolled out will be a game-changer. This advanced command-and-control hub will integrate our technology systems to provide real-time information and intelligence to our officers. That means quicker responses, and better outcomes on the ground.

Mobility will continue to be a critical force multiplier. That is why, rather than relying solely on capital budgets, we have made recurring allocations to maintain a modern, operational vehicle fleet. More motorcycles are being added to expand our quick response capabilities across the Force.

Madam Speaker, Cabinet has approved the Ministry's Strategic Master Plan to expand the **JamaicaEye** surveillance network. This plan will roll out an additional **2,500** cameras islandwide over a three-year period. Already, **500** cameras are earmarked for Portmore, Port Antonio, and Old Harbour. In the coming weeks, we will open a new monitoring centre at the Olympic Gardens Police Station in St. Andrew.

Madam Speaker, the JCF is making strides towards full digitisation. To support this, the Ministry will hand over an additional **1,000** rugged handheld ticketing devices and **1,500** mobile printers in the coming weeks. This will bring the total to over **6,000** devices – enabling a complete shift to digital ticketing and smarter, more consistent traffic enforcement.

We are expanding our forensic capabilities. The soon-to-be-opened state-of-the-art **Forensic Pathology Autopsy Suite** will further enhance intelligence and evidence gathering through science and technology.



A key part of this transformation is the development of the **National Police College of Jamaica (NPCJ)** into a true centre of excellence. In 2024, the NPCJ achieved accreditation from the **International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST)** – placing it among an elite group of global law enforcement training institutions.

Additional accomplishments include:

- Programme accreditations from the **University Council of Jamaica (UCJ)**, with more to follow;
- “**Accredited Training Organisation**” status from **NCTVET** for the Driver Training Department; and
- New partnerships with local and international universities to broaden educational opportunities for officers.

We will continue to invest in the human capital of the JCF, by offering training that meets both local and international standards.



Simultaneously, we are expanding our **ISO 9001 Quality Management System** to all JCF core and support sites – driving consistency, efficiency, and improved service delivery. Increasingly, **Madam Speaker**, the **JCF is becoming more client-focused and citizen-friendly**.

We are creating a **professional culture**—one that respects the **dignity and rights of every Jamaican**. This is a **new Jamaican Police Force**. We are embedding **quality service delivery** into police training to ensure respectful and professional interactions with the public at all times. We have **redesigned police stations** to be more welcoming – featuring **reception areas instead of guard rooms**, and **private interview rooms** to ensure citizens are treated with dignity.

The police are being trained not only to enforce the law, but to **treat people right – at all times**.

Madam Speaker, this is the evolution of the Force, shaped by the sound policies of this government, backed by government financing of critical programmes, and guided by the **visionary leadership within the Force and the Ministry**.

“ We are expanding our ISO 9001 Quality Management System to all JCF core and support sites – driving consistency, efficiency, and improved service delivery. Increasingly, Madam Speaker, the JCF is becoming more client-focused and citizen-friendly. ”

CORRECTING OUR SOCIAL ILLS

Madam Speaker, our murder statistics are showing encouraging signs. Youths aged 15 to 24 years account for **10 %** of murder victims so far this year – down from **17 %** in 2024 and **14 %** in 2023.

I acknowledge that social programmes often take time to reflect in the statistics, but we are already seeing results in some areas — particularly within the **Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs)**.



Madam Speaker, we must remember that ZOSOs are specially designed, holistic interventions aimed at driving both environmental and human development within communities.

Each year, we invest approximately **J\$2.13 billion** in programmes run by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund. When we include supporting programmes, and the cost of security personnel within the Zones, that figure is **effectively doubled**. This decries the notion being put forward by the Opposition that we are not investing in social transformation.

This may seem high, but as we look to the future — and our third term — we recognise that this is a cost **we cannot afford not to pay**.

As we move forward, we undertake to introduce effective programmes in all one hundred (100) vulnerable communities identified across the island. We will implement programmes of transformation in all these communities to **restore hope and opportunity to Jamaicans who have been oppressed by poverty, crime, and past policy missteps.**

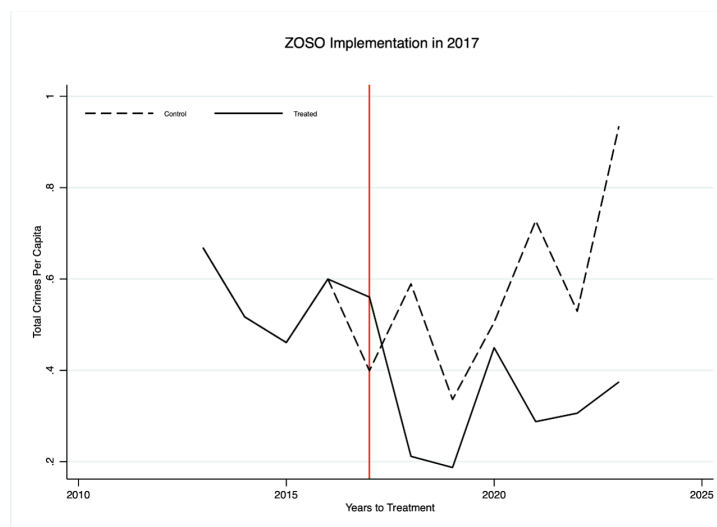
In 2024:

- Norwood and August Town recorded **zero murders**;
- Mount Salem recorded **one murder**; and
- Savanna-la-Mar and Parade Gardens each recorded **two murders**.



When we compare communities that were treated under the ZOSO with those that did not receive it, there is a clear and measurable shift in crime outcomes. At the point of each declaration, **crime trends in ZOSO areas consistently remain lower than in untreated (non-ZOSO) communities**, by approximately **73%**.

Take, for example, since Mount Salem and Denham Town were designated as Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) in 2017, there has been a clear divergence in crime trends within these communities when compared to non-ZOSO communities with similar social-ills. Crime in the treated areas (ZOSO communities) **(the solid black line)** declined significantly, while crime in the untreated (non-ZOSO) communities continued to rise **(broken black line)**.

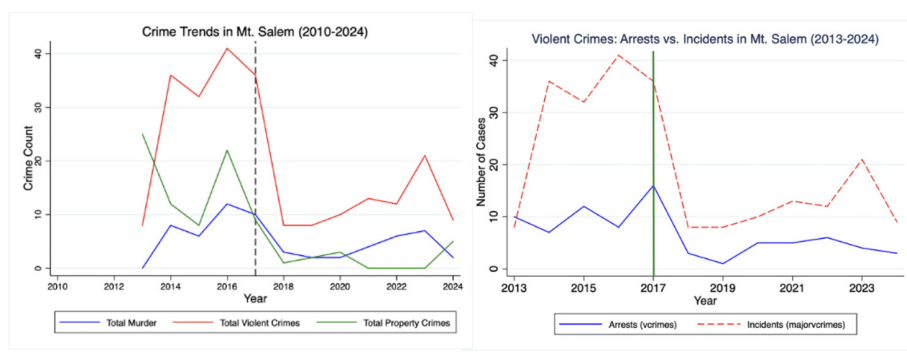


This divergence reflects the impact and success of coordinated government intervention. These results are a direct outcome of integrated efforts across government institutions — ranging from title distribution, and vocational training through HEART, to infrastructure upgrades like drainage installation, zinc fence removal, parenting workshops, and road improvements.

Madam Speaker, through the Zones of Special Operations, **lives were not only saved, but transformed.**

Madam Speaker, this kind of multi-dimensional intervention cannot be achieved by non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) acting in silos. It takes strong, sustained government action to create safer communities and better living conditions for our people.

Madam Speaker, I can go further to say, this type of approach reinforces the value of combining security measures with social and economic development in addressing the underlying drivers of crime. The chart below depicts the significant shift in crime in the Mount Salem community.



On the basis of violence alone, at present, few of the vulnerable communities would justify a declaration of a ZOSO. Much of this is due to proximity policing and effective police deployment.

However, there are still vulnerable communities in need of transformation. To address this, we will scale up our social transformation programmes. These will include infrastructure improvements – such as roads, light, water supply, police stations, schools, land titling, garbage collection, and the removal of zinc fences – alongside coordinated social services, including healthcare, skills training, and enterprise support. These interventions will be complemented by targeted psychosocial support. A coordinated team comprising case managers, community liaison aides, and psychological first aid responders will facilitate the effective delivery of these services.

Madam Speaker, the **Inter-Ministerial School Support Strategy (ISSS)** – now active in 37 schools near ZOSO areas, is a major collaborative effort to reach families in vulnerable communities through the school system.



In addition to our social transformation efforts, the Ministry, through the **LIV GUD** anti-violence campaign, has maintained an active presence in schools within the ZOSO areas. By engaging directly with students as young as three years old, in their school environment, the initiative promotes positive values and encourages behaviour change. This early intervention effort reinforces the Ministry's commitment to building safer, more resilient communities, one family at a time. As we move forward, we will be expanding the work of **LIV GUD**.

OUR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Madam Speaker, much of what we aim to achieve in communities across Jamaica depends on **responsive policy and a robust legislative framework**. Institutionalisation and sustainability of our interventions can only be realised through the passage and enforcement of appropriate laws.

At the heart of this effort is the **Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act**, which provides the legal foundation for our anti-crime and pro-development strategy.

In addition to this core legislation, several other important laws have either been enacted, or are currently under review, to bolster our law enforcement capabilities, improve prosecution, and support the prevention of criminal activity and apprehension of perpetrators:

- The **Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency Act (MOCA Act)** was passed as part of our strategic anti-crime framework, empowering MOCA with independent investigative authority.
- Increased penalties have been implemented under the **Trafficking in Persons Act**, to better address this heinous crime.
- The **Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)** has been amended to strengthen Jamaica's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime.
- A complete overhaul of our gun laws has been undertaken through the **Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act**. The accompanying regulations and further amendments, guided by prosecutorial feedback, are under way.
- We have also reviewed the **'Anti-Gang' legislation**, improving its operational and prosecutorial effectiveness.
- Reform of the **Corrections Act** and a new **Corrections Policy** are currently being finalized to modernise rehabilitation and institutional governance.

Furthermore, **Madam Speaker**, the Ministry will be tabling proposed amendments in the coming weeks to modernise Jamaica's immigration laws, specifically the **Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizens) Act and the Aliens Act**. This will strengthen our border management and security capability. These changes will enable the more effective use of passenger information for national security and terrorism prevention, while creating a more enabling environment for legitimate investors, and global talent, seeking to contribute to Jamaica's development.



CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, this Government is deeply committed to public order and public safety. **We care about the lives of all Jamaicans.** As a result, we made a commitment to the Jamaican people and invested significantly in our national security.

We have transformed our police force into a modern, highly professional law enforcement team – one rooted in Jamaican culture and grounded in respect for the dignity and rights of our people. This is an ongoing process, but today we are already seeing remarkable results:

- Historically low crime figures,
- Reduced carnage on the roadways,
- Record firearm seizures,

and most importantly, the **restoration of opportunity and hope for those in our most vulnerable communities.**

To all Jamaicans listening to my voice, here and abroad – I know you are tired of seeing and hearing about crime, but I want you to know **this Government is working for you.** So, choose the Government that **cares**; the Government that **listens**; the Government that **delivers.**

In our third term, with peace, prosperity and good order, the people of Jamaica will realize their dreams and aspirations.

Choose Jamaica!

Choose Progress!

Choose Dr. Andrew Holness!



LIV
GOOD!

