

PATHWAY TO A SAFER & PROSPEROUS JAMAICA



**SECTORAL
DEBATE 2016**

Presented By:
Hon. Robert Montague, MP
Minister of National Security
July 6, 2016

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Pathway to a safer and prosperous
Jamaica**

Sectoral Debate Presentation

Minister Robert Montague

George William Gordon House

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Salutations

First of all I wish to thank the Almighty for what he has done for me, by me and through me. I wish to thank my family for standing with me even in difficult times; for believing in me while others did not.

Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate you, for elevation and promotion. Let me also thank the Most Honourable Prime Minister for his confidence in me, in appointing me to this portfolio.

To the Parliamentary staff headed by Mrs Cooke, I remain grateful for the guidance and support. To my Minister of State, Senator Pearnell Charles Jnr.; a bright, thoughtful and resourceful young man, whose assistance is invaluable. To the staff at the Ministry and all its agencies, a big thank you.

My personal security team, headed by Inspector Samuel Heron, Sergeant Blackwood, Taylor, Constable Cleve Malcolm and the section headed by Corporal S King in St. Mary.

May I also state my heartfelt thanks to my driver and sometimes my only company, Mr. Ralston McKinley aka Jimmy.

He has been with me every step even when the roads are rocky and when the hills are steep. Jimmy was there. Mass Jimmy a heartfelt thanks.

To my personal and support staff a big thank you. I wish to single out Mr Dennis Wright, my colleague, friend, big brother and sounding board. Dennis a heartfelt thank you.

I wish to thank my five Councillors , Doreen Hutchinson , Jason James, Bruce Farrell, Fitzroy Wilson and Hugh Radway. Three of whom are from the PNP; let me acknowledge the three councillor candidates, Sheldon Kidd, Leroy Sewell and Krystal Lee.

To my political team, the runners, the outdoor and indoor agents, the supervisors, the taxi drivers, the management team, it's their work and the support of the people who have placed me here.

Mr Speaker, this team, my team did the most remarkable job in the last election.

As a result of their work I received the highest number of votes as a candidate in all of Jamaica, 11,710, in the 2016 general election.

This 11,710 is more than all the votes cast, in 14 constituencies including Kingston Western, St Andrew South, East Kingston and Port Royal and Central St Catherine and Central Clarendon. SW St. Andrew, in total only got 19 more, but next time, next time!

Western St Mary Victory

Mr Speaker, when you add all the votes cast JLP, PNP and rejected votes 14 seats did not get more than this candidate. A remarkable job by my team. To the people of Western St Mary I am humbled and honoured to be able to serve you once again.

I thank you for your participation in our election process whether you voted for me or against me. I thank you.

I treasure the trust, I pledge to serve and will honour the commitment. My offices in Oracabessa and Gayle are open to all. I am the Member of Parliament for all citizens of Western St. Mary. I was the JLP Candidate and now also the PNP Caretaker. I serve all the people. I am here to serve, not to be served.

Western St Mary Development Plans

- We intend to continue work on the roads to upgrade them across the constituency.
- I will continue my college and university programme to grant scholarships to at least 100 students.
- We intend to assist high and primary students with book vouchers.
- We are far advanced with two local hotel chains to restart the Heart/NTA skills training centres in Woodpark, Oracabessa.
- We will move to provide water in Comma, complete the Derry/Hazzard supply, Richards Pen, repair Carron Hall and finally get the Mason Hall water supply going.
- We want to do work on the mini stadium in Oracabessa and other playing fields to expand the football, cricket, netball programmes to include coaching workshops.
- We want to expand and improve Wavez 96.3 our community radio station.
- Working with Minister Henry and Minister Vaz and private sector interests, we will extend the runway at the Ian Flemming International Airport to make it more active and create more jobs.
- We are currently negotiating with Housing and the Port Authority, to construct suitable space for a call centre.

- We want to complete Huddersfield, Three Hills and Galina Land Settlements and make more lands available for people. Housing is important for our people.
- We are completing discussions, to make available more lands and support for our farmers.
- We want to create opportunities for people we want to complete on work to make people prosperous.

We know it will take time, but we are clear in what we are doing. We are going to make St. Mary great again.

National Security: Situation Analysis

Mr. Speaker, Members of this Honourable House; in this, my maiden speech to the Parliament, as National Security Minister, I want to pay respect to those who served before me and thank them for their service to the nation and their advice when I consulted them, on taking office. I wish to acknowledge, that there is no greater responsibility for any Government than the security of its people and the maintenance of Law and Order in society! This government know this.

Let me acknowledge and thank all our international partners, for their support not only now but over the years. A grateful nation acknowledges your contribution and looks forward to continuing our partnership.

I have taken on this task out of a sense of duty to a country that gave me everything; and out of an enduring belief that together, we can secure a safer environment for all our citizens and residents, as well as the three million visitors to our shores every year.

Undoubtedly, Jamaica is the most consequential island state in the Caribbean, not just because of our renowned beauty and abundance of highly creative people but also because of our geo-political relevance.

We have the notable distinction of being the third largest English-speaking sovereign state in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States and Canada. The world pays attention to what happens in Jamaica.

Since assuming office in March, I have sought to consult with the people at the community level. In town hall meetings and one-on-one discussions, we have met with the unions and the Federation, other representatives, sector groups, the churches, agencies, the staff and the ordinary citizen; I have kept my finger on the pulse of the people's concerns about crime and violence in the country.

Like every one of you in this Honourable House and across Jamaica, I am fully seized with the national security challenges we face. We know that many of our people feel fear and despair, and have grown cynical and disconnected. Many feel helpless, hopeless and fearful. We acknowledge this.

This has made it very difficult to co-opt the full partnership of the people in the hard fight against the criminal elements who are bent on de-stabilizing communities and the country.

Crime manifested in illicit firearms, trafficking, firearm use in committing murders, drug trafficking, domestic violence, lottery scamming, threats to our internal borders as well as Marine Exclusive Economic Zone and various forms of cyber threats constitute the major challenges to our personal, as well as our collective security.

Criminality endangers not only our national security but also retards economic growth, investment, trade, and is a clear and present threat to this Government's Prosperity Agenda.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, this Minister and the Ministry he leads, is not afraid of the forces of lawlessness and the criminal kingpins in this country. We will not shirk in this war against those who would challenge the authority of the State and bring untold terror to the people. We have a duty to protect all citizens of this country and every visitor or investor who steps on our shores.

Governments everywhere face threats of criminality and of course terrorism, but we will not shirk from fighting for the majority of our people who are good citizens.

Mr Speaker,

This government understands the situation, we acknowledge the critical role of security to the growth agenda, and we know the fear, of our people. We cannot continue this way.

Brand Jamaica is being damaged. Our overseas brothers and sisters are thinking twice before they come home.

Investors are calculating security as a major part of their budget. We did not get to this state overnight. It took us years and we as a nation will not walk away overnight.

There is no magic wand, no quick fix, no silver bullet, we as a nation will have to work hand in hand, united and committed, over time to take back our country. Tough choices, sacrifices, patience and understanding and an investment of faith and resources, will be needed. We will have setbacks, challenges, but together we shall overcome. It took us years to get here and we cannot bury our heads in the sand, sit on our verandahs, sound off on Facebook, but we must together partner with one another to take back our homes, our streets our communities and our country. There will be no quick fix.

As a country we cannot afford crime. Crime accounts for 7% of Jamaican Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If we reduce crime we can grow the economy, without investing an extra dollar. Crime not only affects everybody, it's very costly to everyone. That sir is a broad outline of the situation.

We acknowledge, we understand, we know. We are not daunted. We are building a safer Jamaica. Community by Community.

I will lead the charge. Make absolutely no mistake about that!

I am comfortable. I have the staff and with the help of all we will create a safer Jamaica.

This country man has the strength, the focus, the vision and the political will to do what has to be done. There will be no comfort for the wicked, no rest for the weary and no safe haven for the criminal.

Mr Speaker, we are going to be different, focussed and bold in tackling this monster.

We will build on the foundations that are there, continue programmes that work, put new energy into old programmes and implement new and different ones.

Five Pillars Strategic Crime Plan

In that regard we have devised a strategy that has five elements that will provide the basis of a short to long-term programme, that fits within the objectives of Vision 2030(Jamaica's National Development Plan) and the realities of our resources.

Swift and Sure Justice

Swift and Sure justice: there must be a justice system that delivers swift, just and sure justice. Our justice system is under pressure; judges, prosecutors and lawyers work in conditions that need to be improved.

Cases need to be move faster through the system. Delays increase the pain of the victims and their families, demotivate crime fighters and embolden the criminal. Bail must be restricted in certain circumstances.

We have 134 people who have murdered while on bail. Those lives could have been saved. We have one man, charged for murder, bailed, committed a double murder, bailed again and murdered again, then bailed and murdered again. Unbelievable He was offered bail again!

Five murders, one man.

Yet, he was offered bail one more time. His mother was warned by the community not to bail him as they feared he would kill again. She persisted in trying to bail him. She was also murdered. Six murders, six lives, six Jamaicans.

We must carry out urgent reform. People must know the system will be swift, sure and just.

Social Development

The second element is Social Development:

We need to understand, that the seeds of crime were planted years ago.

We must then tackle some of the root causes of crime; not just the symptoms. We must treat with inadequate family income, poor parent-child relations, poor educational outcomes, we must reduce illiteracy and we must equip our people with the tools to resolve conflict.

We have become coarse, uncouth, selfish, “good manners are gone on vacation”, our values and attitudes are questionable. 37% of our murders are a result of domestic violence. People murdering people they know; murder over simple things, a little argument; family disputes over land even \$20.

We need to be kinder and gentler people; we need again to be our brother’s keeper.

We can together make Jamaica safer, one person at a time. If we pay attention to the little things, they matter.

Situation Prevention

The third element is Situation Prevention:

How to change the current situation, reduce opportunities for crime and give you the people hope. Hope in today and greater hope for tomorrow.

New communities must be properly planned, older ones upgraded over time.

Communities must have roads, so the ambulance, the garbage and fire trucks and the police car can go in safely.

We must move to improve the housing conditions of at least 40% of our people, who live in unplanned settlements. People must have proper names and addresses that must be known.

Informal settlements will be surveyed, plans drafted and this government will improve the communities over time. We have done so already.

Flankers, Mammee Bay, Boscobel. Streetlights must be fixed, pipes repaired and roads paved.

We are working with the Ministry of Local Government to make a condition of approval for developments over 400 units must have an approved CCTV system and a police post.

We will work to upgrade our informal settlements. It is Jamaicans that live in them and must get a chance to live the Jamaican dream. They too have aspirations and ambitions. Let us harness them.

Our informal settlements must not only be a source of votes it must be a source of pride.

Effective Policing

Our fourth element is effective policing:

A community-based approach to policing is essential, if we are to restore yours and the peoples trust and confidence in the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

Respect for your human and constitutional rights is the surest foundation for effective policing, along with improved investigative techniques. We have already engaged our Custodes, to strengthen existing Parish Consultative Committees and establish ones where there is none.

We intend to launch a consultative committee in every parish and for every police station. We will utilize this cadre of people to assist in reducing domestic related violence.

The Justice of the Peace (JP), business people, the Church, principals and your civic-minded citizens are essential.

We intend to increase the Neighbourhood Watches and Youth Clubs.

We must engage our Youth. It is from this sector gangs recruit. We will work with the Citizen Security and Justice Programme, CSJP, HEART/NTA, the NYS and other stakeholder organizations, to create more opportunities.

The welfare of our serving men and women must be addressed in a coordinated and structured way. Training will be a constant in this thrust. We must all work with the police, to ensure a safer country.

Rehabilitation and Redemption

The fifth element is rehabilitation and redemption:

We must redirect our inmates from a path of crime. We must audit our inmates. We must put them to work, educate them and impart a skill. We must give hope for a brighter and prosperous tomorrow.

We must improve the working conditions and terms for our correctional officers.

We must create a proper registration and processing centre for deported persons and provide for the access to social services.

This broad based programme is all encompassing, long term, and it is within this context, that we will move forward, to create a safer Jamaica, one community at a time.

Mr Speaker, having acknowledged the situation; outlined a broad strategy, let me now move to some initiatives we are pursuing. But, let me warn you sir I will not be going into too much details. As in seeking to inform you the citizens we will also inform the criminals. I have no intention of doing so. But, I have a responsibility to reassure you the citizen, the farmer, the taxi driver, the helper, the teacher, the businessman that we are aware of your situation and we are taking the steps to correct it.

Worldwide Terrorism Acts

However, allow me Mr Speaker to once again to express my sincere sympathy to the people of Orlando and by extension the government of the United States of America, for the horrible murder of 49 persons a few weeks ago.

We as a people we have always supported our neighbours in times of crisis. We mourn with the people of Paris; Brussels; Nigeria, Kenya, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq and Saudi Arabia as they deal with the aftermath of terrorism. We mourn with the families who have lost loved ones.

Jamaica is not immune from terrorism. We will increase our vigilance in this respect.

West Kingston Commission of Enquiry Report

Mr Speaker, much has been said about the WKCOE Report. This government congratulates the commissioners, the majority of the members of the security forces, who had to restore law and order, when the state was threatened. The people of Tivoli Gardens who displayed courage in coming forward. They have demonstrated a confidence in the system. We thank all those who worked, assisted, reported or testified. Recommendations were made and we are moving swiftly to address, and implement them. We owe it to ourselves as a people

Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)

The JDF has already moved to review the use of force and weapons system policy.

Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)

The JCF acknowledges that a few members failed to follow established procedures and protocols.

The police have in large part since May 2010, been working on improving the general performance of the force and indeed have gone deeper and further than the recommendations of the WKCOE 2016, in some instances.

The use of force policy is being revamped; a pilot project for body cameras has been done and will be implemented, before year end; The Inspectorate of Police has been reorganized and is working to ensure adherence to established protocols.

Memorandum of Understanding

Indeed a MOU is to be signed soon with INDECOM to agree and establish the way how the police and INDECOM will work together, going forward. This is an important breakthrough, a positive step. INDECOM and the police must work together not against each other.

We have worked long and hard for the protocol and I wish to commend both Commissioner Terrence Williams and Dr Carl Williams for sticking to the job at hand and recognizing that it is for you the Jamaican people they work.

The MOU will detail the steps to be taken by both as they engage, investigate and treat with each other.

National Security Action Plans

Mr. Speaker, I will now detail as much as I can some of the action we are pursuing and will pursue in order to:

- Protect our borders,
- Minimize the terrorist risk,
- Reduce crime and grow the economy.

National Security Taskforce

We want to reassure you that we are treating with the situation but we cannot and will not go into too much detail. We do not wish to tell the criminals our plans. However, we are going to put in place a broad based committee chaired by Dr. Orville Taylor to involve civil society, media, trade unions, academia, other sector interests. The committee will guide on policy, set standards and evaluation benchmarks and give general guidance on National Security.

One of their tasks will be to set a timetable on all the recommendations that have been made over the last twenty years, for implementation. The Evaluation Centre in the Ministry is already compiling all the studies.

It was the founding Father of the Nation, the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante who said, "Good people must take advice". This Minister is open to advice!

Crime Priority Funding

Many persons believe that the Minister of National Security alone can solve Jamaica's crime problems. That's a myth. We all must solve it. Together we can. I will lead and we will triumph, in creating a safer Jamaica.

Let me be very very clear, the Minister cannot direct the police, cannot transfer a police officer, and cannot promote a police officer. The Minister cannot interfere in the operations of the police force or the army.

The law gives that right to the Commissioner of Police. It's the Police Services Commission that promotes gazetted officers. That's our law. **It was passed to take politics out of the operations of the force.** This government is a law-abiding government. It is on that principle we will build a safer Jamaica for you and your family.

However we as a government have decided to make tackling crime our number one priority.

We must as a nation be steadfast, committed and focused, this government is and more.

Hence this administration is going to over a three-year period make the largest investment in the National Security apparatus in our history. Never before will so much be invested in ensuring our peace and safety. We are not talking millions, but billions.

We will do so because it will be the greatest investment in our country ever. We will invest because we want a safer Jamaica, safer communities and safer homes.

We know our needs and while our international partners can, have and will assist, as an independent sovereign nation we must lead the way. We must put our money where our mouth is. Crime is our problem. We must begin to take the hard tough choices to deal with it.

We can seek assistance but we must sacrifice too and invest in ourselves. There is no other way. We have to own the problem, in order to solve the problem!

To this end I thank the Prime Minister and all my Cabinet colleagues, for understanding and or holding some of the new programmes so as to allow funding for our peace and security.

The Ministries of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Tourism and Economic Growth and Job Creation, the Transport and Mining and Local Government for being willing to invest their available resources in the fight against crime.

I thank them all for their support, the steadfast commitment and foresight. Without security there will be no tourism, no transport, no agriculture, no jobs, no you, no me and no Jamaica.

Border Security Audit

Our borders stretch for up to 70 miles. Our marine economic zone can produce up to US\$10 million per year in natural resources. But our brothers and sisters from Central and South America are reaping more than us. The movement of drugs, people and guns is too free and frequent.

We have ordered an audit of our borders. If at our established ports we are finding guns and drugs, can you imagine what is coming in at our other ports? We along with the Ministry of Agriculture will be acquiring the appropriate technology and deploying it to treat with security on our borders and for our resources.

Passport Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA)

This agency has done well. It is self funding and will be investing to renew itself and will give, rather than a two-star customer service experience, you will soon get a five-star one.

The wait time for a passport application is approximately now five hours. Online applications, more offices and officers are some steps to treat with this.

The wait time at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay is about an hour, we are using machines and increased staff to reduce that to 30 minutes.

We have started a facial recognition check to reduce passport fraud; we are moving to e-passports and online renewals; and provide more kiosks; we must improve the service and not compromise security.

Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA)

This entity regulates the private security industry in Jamaica. This too is almost self funding.

In a meeting with some of the players recently, the need for reform was underscored. We must address the terms and conditions of our serving 25,000 security guards.

You can register and be licensed as a security guard. Do the duties as a security guard but collect the pay of a watchman. That cannot be right or just. I have asked the PSRA to explore with the Ministry of Health and private providers, a health insurance scheme for our security guards and their families.

Let us reassure the guards and the companies that the vetting, working conditions and the space to operate will be dealt with. Everyone must be treated fairly. Reform is on the way.

This industry is vital to our economy: banks, water systems, airport, ports, Ministries and private homes depend on this industry. They offer a vital service.

Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA)

This is another self-funding entity. We congratulate them for reducing the processing times for firearms. However I have asked that the vetting be improved, but the processing must be shorter.

Length of time is not necessarily quantity of time.

We have moved to clear the backlog. Some are dating back to 2012.

We must give our citizens a chance against these dog-hearted criminals.

Law-abiding citizens can and will get gun licenses but the proper vetting and training must be done. Ballistic marking, periodic recertification will be done. We have also started a programme of reviewing some of the persons who currently have licences. We intend to revoke some licences because they ought not to have been issued in the first place.

National Security Training College

We intend to establish a National Polytechnic on Security, a University College. This entity will seek to have all courses and training programmes accredited, by the University Council of Jamaica. As such, the Carl Rattray College, Police Training Academy JDF, Immigration and Security Guards will have their training certified and will be on a path for continuous and higher learning.

The police, soldier or correctional officer, when they are finished their basic training will be assigned academic credits and as they do other courses they will receive further credits, so that over time they will qualify for a Certificate, Diploma , Associate's or Bachelor's degree. They will also get credits for attendance at Community Colleges to add to what they have. We must invest into our own people, give them a chance to earn and learn.

Department of Correctional Services

We are truly changing lives here. We are moving to audit all inmates so that no one is lost in the system.

On a Tuesday the breakfast that they now eat is produced by inmates themselves.

Eggs and callaloo we have started with. As production ramps up more days will be added. We will soon partner with College of Agricultural Science & Education (CASE) to provide small hydroponic systems, for production where space is limited. Our prisoners must work. They must contribute to society and ease the burden on the taxpayer. It's not a hotel, it's a prison.

They must learn to read and write and learn a skill. We are going to ensure that we arm them with skills not to return.

We will be utilizing better technology to disrupt communication with the outside world. Too many murders are being ordered from within the prison walls.

We are going to use electronic monitoring, to help reduce our prison population, low-risk prisoners, will be given an option to go home. We will geo-fence the home and the families pay for the monitoring. Taxpayers ought not to be burdened anymore. It costs \$660,000 per year to keep an inmate and only \$77,000 to electronically monitor them.

We will also utilizing Community Service Orders in a major way. Inmates will be dressed in brightly coloured suits, electronically monitored as they work in the communities.

We are relocating low and medium-risk inmates, in order to break the chain of hardened prisoners passing on their skills or sending messages out. The reclassification, relocation and electronic monitoring will help to reduce the prison population. Thus allowing us to close sections of Tower Street and St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centres which are deemed unsafe.

Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)

This is Jamaica's Defence Force and we salute those who serve and praise the army for its role over the years. We have already redesigned the JDF website, as the amount of traffic from certain countries gave us cause for concern. We will not advertise our abilities or capabilities. When you run up inna Jamaica army, that's when you will find out that we are the best that there is.

We intend to modernize the army, with new equipment and technology; increase its ranks, more training and reorganize the cadet force. We have just acquired a training aircraft for our cadets. I thank Airman Victor Beek, for his tenacity in this regard and salute him.

Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA)

We commend the work and worth of our MOCA team. We intend to bring to Parliament in short order the MOCA bill. This will in effect make MOCA a standalone agency.

This administration, says to MOCA, go where the evidence leads you, do not allow arrogant political persons who have their own agenda, to rob the taxpayers of Jamaica. Go anyway, go everywhere, the corrupt and criminal must not get comfort. As a former Councillor and Mayor, I call upon all players in Local Government to come together and expose those who are corrupt, let us together expose those who wish to give our Councils a bad name. We cannot hide from the fact that some of the people in Local Government are corrupt.

Contractors being paid cash, senior staff have no anti-corruption returns, work not done is certified and paid for, one set of people getting rich while the drains are clogged, roads are not repaired, garbage not collected. MOCA, if the evidence leads you to one Parish Council, go! If it's two, go! If it's three, go! If you have to go to all Parish Councils, Go!

I now say to all those people who keep collecting money and don't do any work, Stop It! Get in touch with MOCA before we get in touch with you.

Tell us who sent you, and who you gave the money to. call 119 or Crime Stop and tell us. Use the **STAY ALERT** app and tell us. Talk before it's too late.

We thank our international partners for the tremendous role they have played in MOCA's formation, gestation and growth.

Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)

This is Jamaica's and the Caribbean's best police force! Yes there are a few bad eggs but to have survived over one hundred years as an organization is commendable.

We salute the members of the force who only want to serve their country and create a safer Jamaica. For those who have fallen, a grateful nation says thanks to your service and to your families. You were ensuring a safer Jamaica; we will not let you die in vain.

The police force, as Chris Martin sings, is a "big deal" a really big deal". However, a young constable told me that in order to continue being a big deal, he and his colleagues are taking Rihanna's advice, and "will work work work"

That is why this Government has underscored the independence of the Commissioner of Police giving him a free hand to run the Force. We have full confidence in Commissioner Dr. Carl Williams, at this time. When crime goes down as it is doing now; we must congratulate and commend Dr Williams, the High Command, the officers and rank and file. We must however tackle murders, as this is the index Jamaicans use to measure how safe they are.

- We have started to invest heavily in our intelligence network for the police and army.
- We will increase the mobility of the police using pre-owned motor vehicles. The advertisement for tender will be published later this week.
- We will roll out more mobile stations.
- We are repairing police stations especially lockups in order to ensure that proper ventilation is available in cells.
- We want to ensure the welfare and safety of our serving men and women, hence more bulletproof vests and protective equipment will be issued. Better working conditions are coming.
- I have visited many stations, seen some needs have addressed them and shortly will be delivering on the commitments made.
- The promotion policy is being reviewed. Existing and established standards must be kept.
- Some *District Constables* will be back to the district and more police for the streets.
- *District Constables* and JDF 3JR pension system is back on the agenda.
- Policemen and women must now be physically fit as fitness will be a part the bi-annual medical that will be done. We will be investing in the Medical Service Branch, so that the JCF and not the individual member pays for this medical.

In addition, we will at the Area level, establish gyms, for a start. This will ensure that members will be able improve their lifestyle and reduce work-related stress and lifestyle diseases.

- We intend to create a private and confidential space at the Training centre for the counselling of officers. I commend DCP Novlette Grant for leading this initiative.
- We will improve the firearm training programme, for our police personnel. Our officers need to fire more rounds, train more on the simulator. Our officers need to shoot straighter.
- We will restart the Graduate Entry Programme. We are proposing that for officers who have achieved tertiary training and have satisfied other criteria, the Assistant Superintendent position ought to be made available to them. An accelerated career will be opened.
- We will train more officers this year. We have already doubled the usual annual intake. Vetted and subjected them to lie detector tests, the drive against corruption begin at the entry level. We will be training much more so as to put more officers in the field.
- We will review the police book of rules and regulations, and ensure that each officer gets a copy. Officers are required to abide by the rules, but they don't have the book.
- We are purchasing dogs from Cuba, to help with tracking, search and rescue and the fight against drugs and weapons.

- Today, I announce 10 scholarships valued at \$100,000, for the children of slain or injured security officers, tenable at tertiary institutions. The Police Federation, the United District Constables Association, the Police Officers Association, the Correctional Officers and the JDF will make the recommendations.
- A major initiative aimed at our at-risk youth will soon be rolled out along with the churches and non-government groups in St James and then into other areas. We will offer them our full support.
- The use of technology will be increased, in all aspects of policing. New energies and resources will be placed in the anti-lottery scamming activities. Jamaica, cannot afford lottery scamming. Too many guns, too many broken homes, too many broken families. We cannot afford it and we will fight it.
- A national CCTV system is coming, where businesses and homes can purchase their own cameras and be a part of the system. we will give the standards of the cameras, people can purchase and become a part of the national system.
- More non-lethal weapons will be deployed.
- A national conference on Citizen Safety and Security will be held later this month in Montego Bay; to give the ordinary Jamaican, a say and to appraise them as how they can be a part of the solution.

- A multiple dimensional saturation programme will start within three weeks, to get Jamaicans to resolve conflicts peacefully. We will call on all well-thinking persons here and abroad, we will utilize all aspects of media. We ask for full cooperation.
- We intend to ask our brother and sisters overseas to help us, with their ideas, skills and resources.
- We are moving to engage retired policemen and women, business people and civic-minded Jamaicans, on a voluntary basis, to become Special District constables. We will be utilizing the database at the FLA, to invite licensed fire arm holders, who have already been vetted, trained and certified to join this corps of volunteers who will be ensuring a safer Jamaica. Retired ACP Errol Strong has agreed to coordinate this effort.
- We will be increasing the number of vehicles that will be converted to use LPG. We are seeing a 60%, savings on the use of petrol by switching to LPG.
- More training will be undertaken in the laws, with emphasis on lottery scamming and intellectual property.
- More assets will be placed on getting the guns of the streets; the signs are encouraging so far as over 50 guns have been taken off the streets in four weeks. That is why we need to get the police officers, out of the Family Court and on to the streets. Taxpayers never paid to train them to be answering to maintenance orders.

They were trained to be on the streets keeping the peace and collecting the guns.

- With the help of technology and our partners, we will disrupt the guns-for-drug trade.
- The use of more cordon and searches, check points, foot patrols and simply occupying public spaces and bringing order to our roadways is where we will start.
- We are working with The Ministry of Transport for the road Traffic Act and a system of indentifying which parish a vehicle is from. Plus owners will soon be asked to verify the address on their licences and car registration. Too many times addresses turn out to be open lots or a cemetery. Over a specific timeline, you will be asked to take in a bill and a letter from a JP. If the address is wrong, the JP will help to find you. JPs must only verify who they know.
- We will monitor our exit and entry points to towns and cities.
- The Army has been deployed to work with the police in Montego Bay and three other areas.

Mr Speaker, I wish I could tell you the whole story but I can't. Rest assured and people must be reassured that crime is getting our full attention. We are for a safer Jamaica, Safer Communities and safer you.

Guns

However Mr Speaker, there is one thing I want the world to know. Detection is the greatest deterrent to crime. The police are targeting this year a 60% clear-up rate for murders. We intend to help them go further; we are strengthening the investigative abilities of the force, making them more mobile, increasing training and treating with this easy bail issue.

Because the gun is featured in the vast majority of our crimes we must give it special attention. In that regard, we will seek to have an increase in the mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes, trafficking and possession; escalating depending on the type of weapon. And the minimum should only be reduced by the plea bargaining process.

We will seek to have all gun murders, classified as capital murder. We will seek this year, by better application of the plea bargaining law, to reduce or eliminate, the penalty, if credible information is given, in order to retrieve a gun or to disrupt the trade.

We want to create a wedge between the community and criminals who possess guns. In that regard, increased monetary rewards will be offered for information.

Psychology and soft talking won't get through to these dog-hearted fellows. Victims and their families have rights too. We will engage communities not to glorify the criminals.

We know all of this won't work unless we catch them. And catch them we will. Criminals must think twice before they act.

Some sections of Jamaica especially Western Jamaica and Montego Bay have been making the news recently. I say to the people fear not because the steps are being taken. You have seen some positive steps already. More is to come.

- Our intelligence network has been greatly enhanced in western Jamaica.
- We will be expanding MOCA West.
- A Mobile Reserve West will be established
- Additional training space will be created in Western Jamaica.
- A Coast Guard base will be established in Montego Bay.
- The amount of officers in western Jamaica will be significantly increased.

I seek your cooperation, understanding and information.

Let all good people unite and fight back. The criminals have united. We must unite to ensure a safer Jamaica. A safer Montego Bay. Safer Towns and safer communities.

Laws: On the Legislative Front

We intend to be active this year on the legislative front.

The MOCA Act, A National Security Act, The Police Civilian Oversight Commission Act; we intend to place Praedial Larceny under the Proceeds of Crime Act, amend the Offensive Weapons Act, to include more knives; we want to make Jamaican Permanent Residency into a step towards Citizenship, The Noise Abatement Act, will be amended to grant extensions to entertainment events beyond 2a.m., with conditions. For example, any dance or event whether granted an extension or not and a child is found there, the promoter, the venue and the sound system will be warned then suspended then banned.

Everyone must play their part.

We have been engaging with major stakeholders in discussions and meetings. We are still to meet with some. I have written to both major political parties for meetings with their officers. We intend to engage the other political parties.

We have met with the Jamaica labour Party (JLP) and await a date to meet with the leadership of the PNP. I am willing to meet them anywhere even Old Hope Road. The team and I want to tell them our plans, our plans that will not harm them. Our plans that will prosper them.

I anxiously await the date for that meeting, because all of us have to work together for a safer Jamaica.

MNS Stay Alert App

I urge everyone to help and you can. Download the Stay Alert App from the Google Play Store. Put in your phone number if you want to use your PANIC BUTTON.

Take pictures, text, video tape anything and everything and upload it anonymously to the police.

If you have a smart phone, take it out, go to the Google Play Store, type in Stay alert, and download the app. It is free. We are now working with the mobile companies to in short order to remove the technical glitches, so that the app is data free. One company has already agreed to preload the app on new mobile phones. The others will be using the database to encourage their customers to download the App.

No one will know it's you. Be your own police, use the camera as your weapon, your safety device, your bodyguard. Your means of contributing to a safer Jamaica.

Let the articulate minority demonstrate forcefully and meaningfully that they are the patriotic majority.

Conclusion

We have started a holistic programme to tackle a multi-dimensional problem. We have acknowledged the current situation. Placed solutions on the table. We have begun implementing same. We want a safer Jamaica.

- We will divert the young from joining gangs by social intervention.
- We will detect the criminals by getting better intelligence;
- We will disrupt illegal trade and criminal activities, by more police and army presence.
- We will deter offenders from a career in crime by stiffer penalties from the justice system.

We are seeking a safer Jamaica. This government will lead but, we need your help to create a safer country.

We understand the challenges but will exploit the opportunities. We remain focussed with our vision, steadfast on our mission for a safer Jamaican community and home.

We will serve you, we will protect you and we have reassured. Let us all work for a safer Jamaica.

We know of the impatience, the fear and the powerlessness. However, we are on a Pathway of Action. Join Us. We must rise to the challenges. Let us turn our crises in to opportunities, obstacles into objectives, millstones in to milestones. United as one people, we are powerful. Let's together take back our country. Let's correct the small things, but remain open for new advice and remain focused on the larger picture of creating a safer Jamaica.

Jamaica, be assured, We are moving to implement the solutions, this is not just about feeling good, this is about making fundamental change. So you the taxi operator, the student, the media, the farmer, and the ordinary citizen have a role to play in the solution.

This Government, this joined-up Government, this administration will lead the fight. The times are tough, the criminals are tough but our response will be tougher. This fight, this battle, for our nation and its future, we shall win, we will win, we must win.

Jamaicans it's time for unity, when we stand together we are stronger. Let us stand together for a safer country, for a safer you.

Let us know this, let us believe it, that's why we, together must everyday continue to pledge;

“To think generously and honestly, so that, Jamaica may, under God, increase in beauty fellowship and prosperity”.

Mr Speaker, if it so pleases you.

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