



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS &
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TELEPHONE: 754-0030/619-6017/878-0528
FAX: 754-3601

Email: gillian.haughton@mns.gov.jm

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY
NCB NORTH TOWER
2 OXFORD ROAD
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA

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For Immediate Release

Security Programme Oversight Committee (SECURIPOC)
launched

Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague today announced the launch of the Security Programme Oversight Committee (SECURIPOC) to hold himself, the Ministry, its Departments and Agencies (MDAs) accountable.

The initiative is a step for citizens to be involved and contribute to the crafting and evaluation of implementation strategies and plans developed by the Ministry.

Speaking at the launch, held at the Ministry's head office today, the Minister said, *"People are asking if I am calling down oversight on myself and the answer is yes! As a servant to the people, somebody must hold my feet to the fire."*

The committee which comprises 15 members from academia, the trade union movement, the private sector, community, faith based and

other organisations will be responsible for monitoring the compliance and progress of the MDAs in relation to implementation of their key performance indicators and make recommendations to the Minister.

In a move to adopt a bipartisan approach to treating with crime, the Minister extended an invitation to Opposition Spokesman on National Security, Peter Bunting, to be a member of the Committee and to add his voice. *“I am hopeful that Mr. Bunting will accept the invitation because I would want him to add his opposing voice so that the rest of the country will get the signal that we are serious about crime,”* the Minister said.

Speaking on the role of the committee, the Minister said *“I want to dispel any thought that this is the oversight committee of the police, it is a committee for the national security architecture, including all agencies. What we are doing is a whole of Ministry, inter-agency co-operation.”*

Chairman of SECURIPOC, Peter Moses underscored this by saying that the committee is not expected to be a hard hand to the various agencies but will work with them to clear any obstacles and hold each other accountable.

In establishing the importance of the committee, the Minister said, *“National Security is not a partisan or governmental response only. National security affects everyone. It is estimated that crime is costing us 5% of GDP. When you work that out in real numbers, you are*

looking at over 70 billion Jamaican dollars per year. With that money we could build at least a hundred schools, an additional five or six hospitals...Crime is therefore affecting everyone in Jamaica.”

The key roles and functions of the committee are

- To receive and review information from the Ministry, its Departments and Agencies on the progress of implementation of key performance indicators
- Monitor the compliance and progress of the Ministry in relation to implementation
- Assist in ensuring the agreed targets are achieved and advise the Minister of concerns or developments
- Make recommendations to the Minister of National Security on key performance areas and
- Review and make recommendations concerning the desire of the Ministry to increase the active participation of citizens.

The committee, chaired by retired banker and consultant, Peter Moses includes several notable individuals.

1. Mr. Peter Moses	Retired Banker (Consultant)	Chairman
2. Mrs. Doreen Frankson	Businesswoman (Managing Director, EdgeChem Jamaica Ltd.)	Deputy Chair
3. Ms Lisamae Gordon	Attorney-at-Law	Secretary
4. Mr. Lee Issa	Businessman (Chairman/Owner Couples Swept Away)	Member
5. Mr. Fredrik Moe	Businessman (Developer)	Member
6. Mr. Kevin O'Brian Chang	Businessman (Director, Fontana Pharmacy)	Member
7. Dr Kavita Johnson	Member of Academia (Department of Government, University of West Indies)	Member
8. Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans	Member of Academia (President, International University of the Caribbean)	Member
9. Mr. Wesley Nelson	Businessman (Senior Vice President, Bustamante Industrial Trade Union)	Member
10. Mayor Richard Creary	Mayor/Councillor (St. Mary Municipal Corporation)	Member
11. Mr. Egeton Newman	Businessman (President, Transport Operators Development Sustainable Services)	Member
12. Mr. Ian Haughton	Businessman (Consultant)	Member
13. Ms D'Jamila Ward	Businesswoman (Export Business Development Manager, Jamaica Manufactures Association)	Member
14. Ms Sarah Newland	Businesswoman (Administrator/General Secretary, Kingston YMCA)	Member
15. Dr Parris Lyew-Ayee	Member of Academia (Director, Mona Geoinformatics Institute, University of West Indies)	Member



Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague (right) with Commissioner of Police, George Quallo (centre) and Chairman of the Programme Oversight Committee, SECURIPOC, Peter Moses



Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague (right) consults with Chairman of the Programme Oversight Committee, SECURIPOC, Peter Moses