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**MNS signs MOU with tertiary institutions to provide training at a cost of \$J28 Million**

The Ministry of National Security today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with four tertiary institutions for the development of a certificate programme in fundamentals in Security Science.

The programme which will cost \$J28-million dollars will provide 400 graduates for matriculation, principally into the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) in a bid to increase the training intake capacity of JCF.

The four colleges that were signatory to the MOU are; Moneague College, Montego Bay Community College, Hydrel University College and the Catholic College of Mandeville.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Montague lauded the tertiary institutions for their willingness to partner with the Ministry. "*The*

*signing of this MOU today formally establishes a historic and strategic partnership between these institutions as we bring together two essential elements of any successful modern society, the creation of partnerships and the use of science and technology,"* he stated.

The programme, which is completely free for all trainees, will provide a more cost effective and convenient approach. It is intended to provide a larger pool of qualified individuals for recruitment in the JCF primarily, while reserving eligibility for employment in to other government agencies and positions in the private security industry.

This training will assist the government in its goal of employing 3,000 additional police officers.

While the primary objective of the programme is to increase the number of qualified candidates available for employment within the JCF and broadly in the local security sector; the programme is not to be confused with an offer for employment.

In providing clarity on how the programme will work, Minister Montague said, *"The programme is essentially an introduction to the fundamentals of law enforcement. Successful completion will not guarantee consideration for recruitment."*

Recruitment will be dependent on the candidate passing a polygraph and medical test and having a thorough background check done.

Each institution will educate 100 trainees, which are then vetted and admitted to the National Police College of Jamaica to undertake a shorter training programme.

Chief Executive Officer of the Hydel University College, Dr. Hyacinth Bennett lauded the Minister for the unprecedented move, ***"I think it signals a Minister who is bold and innovative and is on a road that has not been trodden before. He is determined and resolute to curb this crime monster and has complete confidence in us as educators,"*** she said.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Yvonne Martin-Daley thanked the Minister for this game changing move in partnering with the tertiary institutions. ***"This is a audacious move by the Minister, and I want to thank him for his hard work and commitment to building brand JCF."***

The course is slated to begin at the next school term in August 2018 and will last for one semester.

The Minister also highlighted the move to transform the National Police College of Jamaica to an accredited degree granting institution. ***"We want to enhance the police force's position of being a viable long-term career option filled with educational opportunities. We intend to offer more opportunities for police officers to pursue Bachelors and Masters degrees because we must have the best and brightest serving in the forc,"*** the Minister stated.

This partnership is a unique programme that is utilised by the United States and Cuba where officers complete the theory part of

training at home before moving on to the practical and hardcore police training at the Police College.

The signing of this MOU fits into the Ministry's Five Pillar Crime Reduction Strategy with emphasis on Effective Policing.

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National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague (centre), Permanent Secretary, Dianne McIntosh (2nd L) Acting Principal of the National Police College, ACP Yvonne Martin-Daley (Left) Chairman, Montego Bay Community College, Nathan Robb (right), Principal of Montego Bay Community College, Dr. Maureen Nelson, President of the Catholic College of Mandeville, Dr. Dianna Davis-Smith, CEO of Hydell University College, Dr. Hyacinth Bennett, Principal Lecturer of the Moneague College (Port Maria Campus), Delroy Granston and Commandant, Supt. Merrick Watson at the signing of the MOU