



**PRESS RELEASE
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Serious Crimes at its Lowest in Over 20-years

As a result of the massive investment made over the last five years and at the policy directive of the Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, Jamaica is witnessing its lowest recording of serious crimes in over 20 years.

The disclosure was made earlier today by Minister Chang during his Sectoral Presentation in Parliament, where he laid out the Ministry's plan of action regarding the national security apparatus.

“Over the last five years, serious crimes, which include murder, shooting, rape, robbery, and break-ins, have declined by an average of 5 per cent per annum,” the Minister said.

He further stated that **“between 2015 and 2020, total serious crimes declined by approximately 24 per cent, moving from 6,667 in 2015 to 5,086 in 2020. This is the lowest recording of serious crimes in over 20 years.”**

The decline is due in large part to the Ministry's overall strategy on crime prevention, detection and mitigation through an outlay that has positively impacted areas of the JCF to include technology, training and physical upgrades, bringing the force into 21st Century policing and further positioning the JCF as a *Force for Good*.

Minister Chang told Parliament the Jamaican people are now becoming accustomed to the new look, improved efficiency and professionalism of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. **“we are now seeing significant improvement in policing capacity and response, as well as the crime trends”**, he said.

“There is a renewed confidence and heightened reassurance that this modern, more agile and efficient police force is transmitting to the public, and rightly so. The citizens of the country can take comfort and be confident that the re-equipped and restructured Jamaica Constabulary Force is impacting on the level of criminal violence in our society,” assured Minister Chang.

He said that reliable mobility, quality communications, effective surveillance and efficient record-keeping and case management are critical elements of a 21st century Police Force, that is equipped apprehend modern criminals.

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