



**PRESS RELEASE
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Minister of National Security and Peace, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (4th right, first row) and Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe (second right) are joined by President of the Caribbean Association of Forensic Sciences (CAFS), Inspector (Ret'd) Gregory Williams (third right) and members of the CAFS executive and specially invited guests at the CAFS Biennial Conference on June 8 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

Forensic Science Emerging as Critical Tool in Jamaica's Fight Against Crime – Dr. Chang

The increasing use of forensic science is strengthening the delivery of justice and security by transforming the way crimes are investigated and prosecuted, as investigators access more reliable evidence.

This was highlighted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, as he addressed the opening ceremony of the Caribbean Association of Forensic Sciences Biennial Conference on Monday (June 8) at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

The Minister stated that forensic science has become indispensable to modern law enforcement as it helping investigators to evaluate, interpret and reconstruct crime scenes, identify offenders and support successful prosecutions.



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“Today, the response to a crime scene extends far beyond an investigator carrying a notebook and securing a perimeter. Most of our investigations are supported by an integral suite of forensic services,” Dr. Chang said, noting the role of integrated forensic services in strengthening investigations and supporting the justice system.

Jamaica’s investment in forensic services has contributed to advancements in DNA analysis, fingerprint examination, ballistics, digital forensics, toxicology, and crime scene reconstruction.

The Minister pointed to the work of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), which cleared 619 murder cases in 2025, representing an approximate 92 per cent clearance rate. He said this achievement reflects not only the skill of investigators, but also deliberate investments in modern forensic tools and capabilities.

He also highlighted the establishment of the JCF Forensic Services Branch, which consolidated major forensic disciplines under a single structure to improve efficiency, strengthen evidentiary support, and enhance investigative processes. Additionally, the Minister noted that Jamaica is preparing for the commissioning of its state-of-the-art Forensic Pathology Autopsy Suite which is expected to significantly reduce post-mortem waiting periods.

While acknowledging ongoing challenges, including shortages of trained professionals, laboratory capacity limitations, and case backlogs, Dr. Chang said continued investment, regional cooperation, and professional development are necessary to

For his part, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Richard Stewart, added that regional collaboration is key to ensuring the advancement of forensic science across the Caribbean.

“Our strength is not measured by the size of any individual operation but by the state of the regional forensic network we build together. We must continue striving towards our common goal: a Caribbean where scientific evidence is reliable, trusted and consistent, whether it is applied in Kingston, Bridgetown, Georgetown, Port of Spain or any other jurisdiction across the Caribbean,” he said.

The CAFS Biennial Conference brings together forensic practitioners, scientists, law enforcement professionals, prosecutors, academics, and other stakeholders to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and advance forensic practice throughout the region

