



**PRESS RELEASE
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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (right), in conversation with Director-General, Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency, Col. Desmond Edwards (left) and Executive Director, Integrity Commission, Mr. Craig Beresford (centre) at the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency's Rewards and Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the AC Hotel in Kingston on May 22, 2026, to honour and celebrate the Agency's work.

Minister Chang praises MOCA's quiet but Critical Role in protecting Jamaica

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, has commended the work of the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) in safeguarding the country against organised crime, corruption and emerging digital threats while underscoring the importance of professionalism, integrity and institutional accountability in strengthening Jamaica's national security framework

Speaking at MOCA's Rewards and Recognition Ceremony at the AC Hotel by Marriott on May 22, Dr. Chang said the Agency has become a critical pillar within Jamaica's security architecture through its intelligence-led, technology-driven and highly specialised approach to law enforcement.



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In a period when public discourse around policing and security operations remains especially sensitive, the Minister emphasised that the country’s long-term security strategy must continue to be rooted in professionalism, public trust, lawful enforcement and strong institutions.

“Jamaica’s security framework is stronger because of your efforts, and our citizens are better protected because of your dedication,” Dr. Chang told members of the Agency, noting that many of MOCA’s successes often occur outside the public spotlight.

The ceremony recognised members of staff for outstanding service, professionalism, leadership and commitment to duty. The Minister said the initiative represented more than a celebration of individual achievement, describing it instead as an affirmation of the values required to build resilient and trustworthy national institutions.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, presents the Vanguard Award to members of the Major Organised Crime Unit at the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency’s Rewards and Recognition Ceremony held at the AC Hotel in Kingston on May 22, 2026. The Vanguard Award was presented to the team achieving outstanding investigative results with strict adherence to legal and evidentiary standards.

The Security Minister reflected on MOCA’s evolution since its establishment in 2014 and its transition into an autonomous law enforcement agency in 2021, highlighting that the Government’s investment in the institution was aimed at ensuring Jamaica could more effectively respond to increasingly sophisticated criminal networks and evolving security threats.

He pointed to MOCA’s expanding role in cybercrime investigations, digital forensics, anti-corruption enforcement, anti-money laundering efforts and the disruption of transnational organised criminal enterprises.



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“At a time when criminal activity is becoming more adaptive, borderless, and technologically advanced, agencies like MOCA are essential to protecting the country’s institutions, economy and public confidence,” the Minister said.

Importantly, Dr. Chang stressed that the Agency’s effectiveness must continue to be guided by its core values of integrity and accountability, particularly given the nature of its anti-corruption mandate.

“The fight against corruption, by its very nature, demands that those who lead it are themselves beyond reproach,” he stated.

The Deputy Prime Minister also praised the collaborative effort behind the Agency’s work, recognising investigators, intelligence analysts, forensic experts, legal officers, administrators and technical personnel whose combined contributions support MOCA’s operations.

He further reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to strengthening the legislative and institutional framework supporting the Agency, including continued investment in its operational capacity and professional development.

“As Jamaica continues to confront complex security challenges, the country must continue building institutions that inspire public confidence, uphold justice, and strengthen the rule of law,” he emphasised.

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