



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 31, 2026



Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn (left) presents new Immigration Officer, Jeffany Burke with her certification, at Friday's (August 28) graduation ceremony at the Caribbean Military Academy, Up Park Camp. Ms. Burke was among twenty-nine Immigration Officers to officially welcomed into the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA).

New Cohort of Immigration Officers Urged to Keep Integrity and Dignity Intact

Twenty-nine Immigration Officers have officially joined the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), following a graduation ceremony at the Caribbean Military Academy, Up Park Camp, on Friday, August 28.

Charged to serve with integrity, honour and professionalism, the new officers represent Jamaica's strengthened frontline in safeguarding national security and facilitating the movement of people across its borders.

Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, urged the graduates to uphold integrity, discipline, and accountability as they assume their duties as **"guardians of Jamaica's borders"**.



@MNSGOVJM

Drawing on her own journey as an Olympian, Minister Cuthbert-Flynn emphasised that the principles of character, preparation and discipline are as vital in public service as they are in sports.

“Your integrity is all you have and you must preserve it. Integrity is doing what is right even when no one is watching,” she said.

“As Immigration Officers, you are entrusted with protecting confidential information and applying the law fairly and professionally. Your uniform must represent more than its sleekness and beauty. It should embody professionalism, dedication, and the authority of the Jamaican state,” the minister added.

The immigration officers were reminded that their conducts will shape how Jamaica is perceived globally and that as ambassadors, they must not allow themselves to be pressured into breaking the trust which has been bestowed in them.

The cohort successfully completed an intense seven-week Immigration Officers Training Programme, designed to prepare the new cadre of officers for the responsibilities associated with protecting Jamaica’s borders, facilitating legitimate travel and migration, while delivering professional services to members of the public.

The Ministry’s Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe, reinforced the Minister’s charge, highlighting the critical role immigration officers play in safeguarding Jamaica’s sovereignty.

“You now stand ready to serve Jamaica in one of the most vital areas – national security. You will be front and centre in protecting our borders, safeguarding our sovereignty, and ensuring that the movement of people across our nation’s gateways is managed with fairness and dignity,” she said.

Ambassador Stone Roofe noted that immigration officers are the first line of protection against transnational crime, human trafficking and illicit trade.

She stated that every passport examined, every traveller that has been processed and every decision that is made by the immigration officers contributes to the broader mission of keeping Jamaica secure.

“Your diligence strengthens the confidence of our citizens and partners alike,” she told the graduates.