



**PRESS RELEASE
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Government will continue strategic investment and legislative amendments to improve citizen security, says Minister Chang

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, says the government will continue to pursue the necessary strategic investments, legislative amendments and social development needed to improve citizen security and public safety.

He made the point in his statement to Parliament today, while seeking an extension to the Zones of Special Operations (ZOSO).

“We will do this while being mindful of citizen’s rights, and of their responsibilities, thereby preserving and enhancing the quality of life for all Jamaicans and creating new foundations for lasting prosperity and peace,” said Minister Chang.

He said, while Jamaica has one of the most robust Constitutions and a Charter of Rights that guarantees the preservation of the rights of all her people, these rights must be counter-measured with responsibilities and the obligation to not infringe on the rights of others. The extension of the ZOSOs is designed to ensure continuity of the significant work that is being done within the Zones.

Minister Chang further told the Parliament that the effectiveness of the Zones of Special Operations is devoid of debate. The Zones of Special Operations have been successful as a tool for restoring order, reducing criminal violence and reprisals and creating a safe environment for social and infrastructural development.

He stated that the clear-hold-build principle that undergirds the special security measure has positively impacted the lives of the residents of these communities where the ZOSOs are established.

“The government will continue to utilize the appropriate tools, and implement the necessary policies and programmes to ensure the safety, security and well-being of the people of Jamaica. We will not compromise, waver or negotiate on this matter,” said Minister Chang.

He said that as the current extension nears its expiration, the Government will continue its engagement in the process of review and assessment of the Zones.

This approach, Minister Chang noted **“reaffirms that the community is the heart of the Jamaican society. The concept and implementation of ‘Zones’ have demonstrated that enhanced security measures can effectively deliver community safety and security while setting the conditions for development. There is no question today, that this is being achieved.”**

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