



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**DCP Fitz Bailey urges citizens involvement in the prevention of crime**

Deputy Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey makes the case for an all-of-society assault on crime, stating that the issue is not solely the domain of the police but that of the entire Jamaican society.

The DCP made the point as part of a panel at the second Plenary Session on the opening day of the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Diaspora Conference being held at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James.

He stated that several root causes have been identified for the proliferation of serious crime throughout the island.

DCP Bailey pointed to the socioeconomic condition of some citizens, the lack of good family values, and the state of communities as a few major factors. He went on to state that cultural norms and legal frameworks feature among the issues as well.

**“...And so, you will appreciate that crime is a very complex problem that cannot be effectively addressed by the police alone. In fact, when you look at crime, we must look not only at enforcement but also prevention which is very critical,”** the DCP noted.

In addition, DCP Bailey, said that while law enforcement can respond to deter criminal activities, **“lasting solutions require addressing the root causes of such crime which are embedded in societal structures”**.

He said further that a holistic approach is needed to move the country forward to include education, social services, economic development and community engagement.

He said: **“I know this has been said before, but we really do need a joined-up approach in treating with crime”**.

In addition, the DCP mentioned that several approaches have been discussed and embarked upon to address the issue of crime, including a detailed look at the legal framework, stating that there is significant legislation that has been enacted to support the police in the execution of their duties.

He explained further the positive impact of the anti-gang legislation, which he said was developed to disrupt and dismantle gang activities across the country. This, he said has been



bearing fruit, with most of the top gang leaders serving time in prison and their gangs dismantled.

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