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PRESS RELEASE  
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**National Security Minister pledges collaboration with Police Federation to safeguard the welfare of officers**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang is reiterating the government's policy commitment to building one of the most effective, efficient, and professional police forces in the region through the necessary investments.

He told delegates at the Jamaica Police Federation's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Central Conferences on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, that he remains **"fully committed"** to serving the men and women of the Force, **"advocating" for them in the "best interests of the Force and the Nation"**.

The two-day conference is being held at the Ocean Coral Spring Resort, Trelawny under the theme: **"Focused Together; One Path, One Goal, Through Excellence and Commitment"**.

The Security Minister said that he will continue to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with the Central Committee of the Police Federation in pursuit of common goals and objectives in lifting the morale and professional standards of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

**"I am confident that Permanent Secretary Ambassador Stone Roofe will likewise pursue an open engagement with the Police Federation as we work collaboratively with you to safeguard the welfare of police officers and build a stronger, more orderly, and peaceful Jamaica,"** he continued.

The Minister noted that he has already commissioned a review of the **Book of Rules (1988)**, which has been promulgated 35 years ago. The Minister noted the document needs to be updated to reflect current realities.

He further said that a committee headed by Deputy Commissioner Richard Stewart has been named to start the review process.

**"After the terms of reference are developed, the Police Federation and the other representative bodies will have an opportunity to help to shape this important document, so that it is aligned with the requirements of a modern police Force,"** cited Minister Chang.

According to the Minister, the review presents an opportunity to factor in critical matters for police officers for which the Central Committee has advocated over the years. Some of these issues the

Minister noted include legal representation, medical treatment and interdiction, which he is insisting will be addressed in this revised **Book of Rules**.

**“The updating of the Book of Rules is consistent with the government’s vision of a modern, professional, well-positioned Police Force,”** said Minister Chang, while encouraging the Central Executive of the Police Federation to **“actively engage in this process as we craft the way forward for our Jamaican police force”**.

In addition, Minister Chang noted the government’s push for professional development within the Force, pointing to the expanded and upgraded facilities at Tranquility Bay, Harman Barracks and the acquired training facility at Camp Verley in St Catherine.

**“We know that you, the hardworking and dedicated men and women of the Jamaica Constabulary Force are at the heart of these efforts,”** Minister Chang said.