

Office of the Director of Public Affairs &
Communication

Email:
ministryofnationalecurity@mns.gov.jm
Phone: (876)754-0030 | (876)564-5925



Ministry of National Security
NCB North Tower
2 Oxford Road
Kingston 5
Jamaica

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**Successful One Don trial shows new impetus of the JCF in tackling criminal gangs –
Minister Chang**

Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang, welcomes the conclusion of the trial of members of the One Don faction (Klansman Gang) in the Home Circuit Court.

Minister Chang, who is also the National Security Minister heaped praise on the work of the police, describing their efforts as **“tireless dedication to law enforcement in the service of all law-abiding Jamaican citizens.”**

He said their work highlights the new impetus with which the Jamaica Constabulary Force now operates.

“The successful utilisation of the anti-gang legislation in this trial is a clear indication that the government is tackling the longstanding problem of organised criminal violence, those who mastermind or organise behind the scenes and their foot soldiers, who carry out the vicious acts,” Minister Chang said.

According to him, the successful end of the trial represents an important step towards the delivery of justice in Jamaica, noting that while the conviction has had a significant impact on the country’s largest organised gang, work to disrupt and dismantle gangs based in Spanish Town and across the country will continue. Notably, the trial occupied two rooms of the Supreme Court demonstrating both the complexity and the attendant challenges of gang trials of this kind.

“The anti-gang legislation has value and we will await official recommendations from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the police to see where further amendments are needed,” the Security Minister stated.

“There will be some amount of review of The Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) (Amendment) Act, 2021. The idea is to make sure those who organise, manage, assist and execute plans to kill, torch people’s homes and to carry out any other unlawful act, pay the fullest possible price as the law would allow,” said Minister Chang.

Additionally, Minister Chang noted, that while the sentencing has raised public concerns, where the sentencing can be more robust that is the remit of the judiciary of Jamaica whose integrity and independence are beyond question. He said if there is need for change legislatively, then that

will be examined. There is a commitment to listen, to review and to introduce suggested changes that will make the law more effective in protecting our citizens.

The trial against the Spanish Town-based gang and its leader Andre “Blackman” Bryan began in 2021, representing the biggest gang trial in the English-speaking Caribbean. Fifteen members of the gang, including its leader Bryan, were sentenced by the Chief Justice.