



Office of the Director, Public Affairs &
Communication
Email: ministryofnationalecurity@mns.gov.jm
Phone: (876) 754-0030 | (876) 564-0071

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

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 2, 2022

Unattached Youth Truck Driving Programme to be Expanded – Minister Chang

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang says the Government will be expanding the Commercial/Articulated Truck Driver Programme given its success since launching in 2021.

He was addressing the graduating class of over thirty young people who completed the Commercial/Articulated Truck Driver Course at the Caribbean Military Technical Training Institute in Flanker, Montego Bay on Thursday, December 1, 2022.

“We have created an alternative for young people who want to lead a positive way of life. We are offering the young men and women in these challenged communities a positive alternative. With this in mind, we as a government are looking at expanding the programme”, the Minister said.

Minister Chang expressed his pleasure in the success of the programme, which affords young people from challenged communities an avenue to acquire certification and skill in the operation of heavy vehicles.

“It is appropriate for me to remind the country that we are offering our young people in these challenged communities an alternative to a life of crime,” the Minister stated.

He noted that communities deemed challenged are those that have been left on their own. He reasoned that as a consequence, schools located in these areas are not up to the quality they should be.

“It is instructive to know that the weakest schools we have are located mostly in these challenged communities,” Minister Chang said.

Full-Time student Chantol Spence was among several students awarded for excellent work done over the life of the programme. Spence received awards for being the Highest Academic Achiever and Most Outstanding Student, while Alex Anderson was given the Highest Academic Achiever and the Most Outstanding Student awards for Part-Time students. He also received the runner-up award for Best Driver (Part-Time).

The truck driver course is an initiative of the Ministry of National Security and is facilitated by the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) through the Caribbean Military Technical Training Institute and is partnered with the HEART NSTA and the Caribbean Maritime University.

The course targets unattached youth in Western Jamaica as well as Kingston and its environs, as these areas have been experiencing a high level of crime over the years.

In addition, the course prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skill to drive articulated and combination vehicles including trailers, trucks and buses, delivery vehicles, for-hire vehicles, and other commercial vehicles.

“We are making a positive investment in the lives of our young, by allowing them to learn new skills which they will now use to better their lives and that of their families,” stated Minister Chang.