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PRESS RELEASE
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**Zones of Special Operations is an effective tool against crime and violence -
Chang**

The Special Security and Community Development Measures, Zones of Special Operations, encompassing the Denham Town, Mount Salem, Greenwich Town, August Town, Norwood, Parade Gardens and Savanna-la-Mar communities has been extended for a further period of sixty (60) days by an act of Parliament.

The House of Representatives approved the extension of all seven Zones of Special Operations during a sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, where the extension was sought in accordance with the requirements under the *Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act, 2017*.

“Communities are being transformed and residents now have hope and a level of optimism about their future, and the future of their children. The human, social, economic and infrastructural investments that are being made in these communities have renewed the hope of residents, increased their interest and restored a sense of safety and security within the space,” said Minister Chang.

He added that the Zones of Special Operations have served the people well, noting that as work advances in the ‘Build Phase’, there will be an increase in surveillance within the named communities to provide an additional layer of safety and security.

“This is being done to spur sustained reduction of crime and violence within and around these communities,” said Dr Chang. He added: **“It is the policy of this government to be guided by continuous review and reassessment of programmes, to ensure they remain relevant to the needs of the people.”**

Minister Chang pointed out that equally important to the success of the Zones of Special Operations is the implementation of a targeted operational strategy.

The reduction of criminal activities, improved social and infrastructural conditions, and enhanced economic prospects are key measures of the continued success of the Zones of Special Operations,” Minister Chang said.

In addition, the Minister indicated that the government will be undertaking an in-depth assessment of the Zones of Special Operations Programme, the result of which will underpin future adjustments to the Zones, which will include the broadening of the boundaries of some of the Zones currently in operation.

“In the interim, I wish to assure the residents of vulnerable communities that the government is sensitive to the level of violence, informality and social decay that have taken hold in your communities over the years,” said Minister Chang.

He further stated that **“as we implement Plan Secure Jamaica, the government is unapologetic about utilizing all available security measures and tools to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the people of Jamaica”**.