



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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JCF, an employer of choice for many Jamaicans – Minister Chang

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang is declaring the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) an “**employer of choice**” for Jamaicans, attracting some of the best and brightest available talents.

He made the declaration during his keynote address at the Passing Out Parade and Awards Ceremony for 276 freshly minted Constables at the National Police College of Jamaica in Twickenham Park on Friday (June 9, 2023).

“We are attracting the best young talents to serve the people of Jamaica and to be a force for good,” Minister Chang stated.

In expressing delight, he said that the new batch of police officers signals a step closer to achieving the stated target of expanding the numbers of the Jamaica Constabulary Force to at least 15, 000 members.

Additionally, Minister Chang stressed that the government has always viewed the work of law enforcement as the gateway to prosperity since economic development is based on a foundation of public safety and good public order.

“Law enforcement has a very critical role to play in restoring hope and dignity, especially, among our most vulnerable populations,” he said, adding that **“As an Administration, we are delivering on our commitment to make the necessary investments in the Police Force”**.

Minister Chang is urging relatives and friends of the graduates to continue supporting the young officers in doing their part in building a stable society. He noted that this was especially so, as law enforcement is under constant pressure from criminal networks and the perpetrators of criminal violence and social disorder in the society.

He said: **“Increasingly, we are seeing the police being called upon to carry out more and more non-law enforcement functions. Oftentimes, the police are the first responders in certain public health or mental health and domestic crisis situations”**.

This, he added, requires police officers to demonstrate not only resilience but significant flexibility and adaptability in carrying out their duties.