



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Minister Chang urges use of Domestic Violence Intervention Centre to deescalate tension after death of JCF member

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang describes the death of Police Detective Sergeant Victor Francis as “**untimely and most unfortunate**”.

He said, Francis’ decision to intervene in an altercation was an act of bravery and showed his commitment to his job as a member of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Francis succumbed to stab wounds he received during a fight between two men in Portmore, St. Catherine on Saturday, September 10, 2022.

Minister Chang has offered condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

“The entire national security family and indeed the people of Jamaica are saddened by the death of Detective Sergeant Francis,” he said, **“who in carrying out duties to secure the peace eventually lost his life”.**

“His act of bravery will not be forgotten,” the Minister said while reiterating a call for greater understanding and awareness from members of the public.

He stated that interpersonal violence has caused the lives of too many Jamaicans, some innocently, which is inflating the homicide rate.

“The inability to resolve conflicts without violence is at a critical stage for this country. We have seen lives lost, families ripped apart and society suffers as a result,” Minister Chang said.

The Minister added: **“I strongly urge all Jamaicans to be better. Do not allow anger and rage to get the better of you. Utilize the Domestic Violence Intervention Centres provided for you to deescalate tension.”**

Further, he stated that the value of the Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice programmes cannot be overstated, as they offer citizens alternate ways of defusing angry tension, which, if left alone can lead to the loss of life.