

Office of the Director of Communicati
& Public Affairs
Phone: (876)754-0030/619-6017/564-
0071
Fax: (876)754-3601
Email: information@mns.gov.jm



Ministry of National Security
NCB North Tower
2 1/2 Oxford Road
Kingston 5
Jamaica

June 26, 2018

Ministry of National Security and National Council on Drug Abuse Embark on Public Awareness Drive

The Ministry of National Security in partnership with the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) has embarked on a series of public awareness activities under the theme, 'Don't Die for a High: #Stay Drug-Free'.

The announcement was made at a press briefing held at the Ministry's Oxford Road Head Office last week in recognition of the United Nations 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' being celebrated today (June 26).

In endorsing the importance of this collaboration, Chief Technical Director responsible for Policy within the Ministry, Rohan Richards, emphasized the Ministry's commitment to prevent drug related crimes, diversion of illicit chemicals and medicine into the illicit marketplace and the identification and investigation of new psychoactive substances.

Speaking at the press briefing, he said, "Drugs and crime are a huge obstruction to achieving Vision 2030. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we will not be able to tackle cultivation production and trafficking. The Ministry therefore reaffirms its commitment to creating safe secure and healthy communities for all Jamaicans. While the Ministry's focus is on supply reduction and enforcement, the Ministry acknowledges its shared responsibility in addressing drug abuse and drug trafficking."

According to NCDA's Research Analyst, Mrs. Uki Atkinson, the primary focus is now being directed towards concerns posed by emerging drugs such as lean (cough syrup), marijuana 'ganja' edibles, embalming fluid and fentanyl.

Information from Detective Inspector Sheldon Coulson from the Jamaica Constabulary Force's (JCF) Narcotics Division revealed that several efforts have been implemented to target persons involved in illicit trade. He also noted that

there is a cohesive link between illicit trafficking and organized criminal networks.

In combatting this, Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, in his Sectoral Debate highlighted that the Ministry as part of its policy direction will make law enforcement and dismantling organized crime and gangs two of its key focus areas.

The United Nations observance of drug abuse and illicit trafficking is an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

In unification of this cause, the Ministry and the NCDCA seek to provide the Jamaican public with the relevant information on matters relating to drug usage and abuse.

Reports of drug abuse and request for assistance can be directed to the hotline 876-564 (HELP)/ 876-564-4357.