



Ministry of National Security **2022 Sectoral Presentation**



The Honourable **Dr. Horace Chang, CD, MP**Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of National Security





INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

adam Speaker, today I am making my fifth presentation to the Sectoral Debates as Minister of National Security. I assumed portfolio responsibility for this Ministry four years ago, with a newly appointed Commissioner of Police and the Government's strategic decision to prioritize citizen security. **Madam Speaker,** this meant prioritizing budgetary support and institutional reorganization, in order to combat the persistent epidemic of crime.

Today, I want to give a hard and sober report on what we have done, what we are currently doing and what we are committed to do going forward. This is while accepting that the COVID-19 Pandemic has impaired activities for almost two of those years. **Madam Speaker,** I would like to thank the Almighty for his blessings, his grace and his protection over these four challenging years.

Special acknowledgement and thanks to Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, for his continued confidence in allowing me to serve in this capacity. I commend him for his steady and visionary leadership, especially during what has been, a very challenging period.

I wish to recognize, as well, my Cabinet colleagues and Members of Parliament on both sides of the aisle, with whom I have had the pleasure of working to improve the lives of the citizens of our country. I want to express my gratitude to Senator Matthew Samuda, who served as Minister without Portfolio up to January of this year. I commend him for the tremendous service he gave to the Ministry during his tenure.



Allow me to welcome Mr. Zavia Mayne as the Minister of State. He has taken on his various responsibilities with passion and zeal.

Thanks to Permanent Secretary, Mr. Courtney Williams, the senior management team and staff for their continued support and dedicated service, in advancing the policies and programmes of the Ministry.



My sincere gratitude to the heads of our various Agencies along with their staff, as well as the chairmen and members of boards, within the security architecture. Thank you for your commitment and invaluable contribution to the safety and security of the country.





To the constituents of North West St. James who continue to express confidence in my leadership, I am eternally grateful.

Special thanks to my leadership team, the finest political team in the island, which includes, Senator Charles Sinclair, Mayor Leroy Williams, and Councillors Joshua Cummings and David Brown.

I wish to acknowledge as well, my outstanding management team, led by Mr. Norman Brown as well as my dedicated party workers. To the members of civil society and community groups, leaders of industry and commerce, along with the church leaders, you have all played a critical role in the development of North West St. James.

Finally, I would like to express special thanks to my wife, Paulette and my children, Melissa and Martin, for their unceasing support and understanding as I continue to serve. Your love and prayers have helped to sustain me.

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

adam Speaker, while the Ministry administers nine (9) agencies within the country's security architecture, the public's primary focus is on the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). This is correctly so, since the JCF has primary responsibility for law enforcement across the country.

The JCF in carrying out its crime management and public order responsibility relies on the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) for operational support, and the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) and the Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine (IFSLM) for intelligence and investigative support.

All the Agencies do play a crucial role in the security of our nation. These include the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), the Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA), the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), the Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA), the Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PCOA), and the Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre (REDTRAC).

Madam Speaker, my presentation today, will be done in four parts. First, I will focus on the building out of the law enforcement capacity of the JCF, by highlighting the significant investments we have made.

I will then highlight critical areas of the criminal landscape, to engender greater appreciation of the approach we are taking, to address this epidemic of criminal violence.

Next, I will emphasize our social investment programme, which is not only designed to strengthen the social services available to our most vulnerable, but to give them hope and restore their dignity. I will conclude, by highlighting some of the critical legislative tools that we have brought, as well as those that are currently in the legislative pipeline.





I. LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY



adam Speaker, over the past four years, this Government has invested heavily in the security Agencies. The JCF, being our premier law enforcement entity continues to see dramatic transformational changes.

Madam Speaker, the Police High Command is executing the Government's policy to modernise and transform the police force. We are now better prepared to ensure public safety and reverse the criminal violence that plagues the society.

1) ORGANISATIONAL RESTRUCTURING

Madam Speaker, the development of the JCF has resulted in the establishment of several new formations and the re-missioning of several others. This is intended to better serve the people of Jamaica and meet the professional needs of the members of the Force. Please allow me to highlight them.

Madam Speaker, for the first time in the history of the JCF, a **Technology Branch** was established. Headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police, it has the responsibility for managing the technology transformation of the Force as well as directing it in this global digital era.

Since its launch in 2019, this Branch has facilitated and coordinated a number of technology projects geared at improving operational efficiency and service delivery. It boasts a team of highly skilled, technical professionals in the fields of, communication, technology electronics and cyber security, who are focused on ensuring that this aspect of the Force is optimally maintained and developed.

Madam Speaker, it is quite amazing that prior to 2019, no such Branch, with this level of focus, existed within the JCF, considering that we have long entered the digital era. **Madam Speaker,** another formation, established for the first time, is the Welfare Department.

It reports directly to the Office of the Commissioner and acts as the single focal point for the coordination of all staff welfare matters. This is the first time that a systemic attempt has been made to place priority on the welfare of our officers.





The range of interventions include, the coordination and resolution of medical care for members who are injured or become ill; pension and seniority payments; death benefit claims and issues relating to transfers.

Madam Speaker, recently, in response to the welfare needs of the members of the JCF, the Ministry, working in conjunction with the Welfare Department and other stakeholders, developed protocols for the priority medical treatment of police officers. The protocols are supported by a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) and a mobile application called "MediApp".

Madam Speaker, as we seek to restore public order and build the public's confidence on our roads, we established the *Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Branch*, in 2018, headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police. This was a crucial time, when schools were on the brink of reopening and several major roadwork projects were being undertaken across the Corporate Area.

Since then, the Branch has fostered significant improvements in traffic management and enforcement capabilities. Additionally, we have seen the continued expansion of its quick response capability to deal with critical incidents in some of our urban areas.

Madam Speaker, following the disbandment of Mobile Reserve, the **Specialised Operations** was established. It is designed as the highly disciplined, para-military unit of the Force, capable of rapidly deploying in potentially high violence situations.

Since its establishment, significant investment has been made, which covers infrastructural development, mobility, surveillance capabilities and continuous tactical training and development.

The Special Operations and the recently launched, Joint Anti-Gang Task Force, have significantly impacted the criminal landscape, through the interruption of gang activities, the seizure of illegal firearms and ammunition, and the interdiction of wanted persons.

These formations are at the forefront of our thrust to rid the country of illegal guns, gunmen and gangs.

Madam Speaker, in September 2020 our latest portfolio, the *Force Development and Logistics* headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police was established. It is responsible for the reform and modernisation efforts, as well as technological advancements, research and support service activities of the Force.

Madam Speaker, the strategic decision to provide the transformation programme with this level of executive leadership is a reflection of the importance that is placed on this programme.

In July 2019, the Inspectorate of Constabulary was restructured and renamed the *Inspectorate and Professional Standards Oversight Bureau (IPROB)*. With this reorganization, the internal capacities to investigate complaints of corruption and to self-regulate were duly established.

Madam Speaker, IPROB continues to promote integrity, ethics and professionalism among the members of the Force.

Madam Speaker, the **Legal Affairs Department** was revamped in October 2018. For the first time in the history of the Force, a cadre of experienced, civilian attorneys was recruited to staff this formation.





The Department is designed to assist in amending legislation, and helping to guide prosecutions. It plays a critical role in the quality of case files that the police are placing before our courts.

The Department has since developed a 3,600-page handbook entitled, The JCF's Offences, Points to Prove and Authorities Handbook, 2021. This, **Madam Speaker**, acts as a comprehensive guide for police officers in the prosecution of cases.

Madam Speaker, we are all aware of the social media strategies developed by the Force. In September 2019, the *Corporate Communications Unit (CCU)* was restructured has benefitted from the addition of senior communications experts.

The Unit has since instituted a structured strategic communication programme and has leveraged its growth in the social media domain to engage with its various stakeholders. Currently the JCF boasts over 204,000 Instagram followers, over 193,000 followers on Facebook, and over 109,000 Twitter followers.

Madam Speaker, we now turn to the *Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB)* which has been refocused to play a more critical role in the creation and maintenance of safe communities.



The new leadership has been re-energized and given the mandate to institutionalise the concept of citizen security throughout the island. This is done through the development of partnerships and the expansion of community safety programmes.

RECONFIGURATION OF THE POLICE AREAS

Madam Speaker, the police is organised into five geographic areas, which have retained their original boundaries in spite of increasing population and urbanization. While much has been done in institutional restructuring, there are a number of critical changes in the pipeline that I wish to mention.

Among the proposed changes to further enhance our law enforcement capacity is the reconfiguration of

geographic areas. This is to make them more relevant and in keeping with the current situation in Jamaica.

The new configuration will see the **six divisions** in the Corporate Area along with St. Thomas becoming the new Metropolitan Region. The police divisions of St. Catherine and Clarendon would become a new Area.

Madam Speaker, increased population, commercial and industrial activities, as well as the changing dynamics in criminality, will require modifications to the current Area One. So, St. James, Hanover and Trelawny would justify their own administration. Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Manchester will become one Area.





PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGSTON AND ST. ANDREW METROPOLITAN PORTFOLIO

Madam Speaker, municipalities, the world over, have long recognized the need for the unification of policing services within their metropolitan areas. This is aimed at achieving greater operational efficiency.

The divisions within Kingston and St. Andrew, although operating in close proximity, have six (6) independent divisional headquarters. Each has its own command structures, deployment arrangements, operational strategies and communication framework. This mode of operation creates silos, and poses significant challenges to effective coordination and command and control.

A suitable location to house the portfolio headquarters has been identified, while the concept has received approval from the *Public Investment Management Committee (PIMC)*. The proposal build-out is ongoing. This, **Madam Speaker**, will create the need for another position of Deputy Commissioner of Police on the Establishment.

Madam Speaker, while the criminals operate seamlessly across policing divisions within the Corporate Area, there is no way that law enforcement efforts should be constrained by geographic boundaries.

2. Investment in Technology



Speaker, this Government is making the necessary investment to bring the JCF's technology infrastructure into the 21st Century. A number of technology projects were undertaken over the past four years. These include:

• EXPANSION OF THE NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME ("JAMAICAEYE")

To date, over 850 GoJ CCTV cameras have been installed across the main townships of Kingston, May Pen, Mandeville, Ocho Rios, Negril, Montego Bay, Spanish Town, Santa Cruz and Black River.





Later this year, an additional 300 cameras will be strategically installed across the Downtown Kingston and Stony Hill areas.

NEW ELECTRONIC FEATURES TO THE TRAFFIC TICKET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TTMS)



The pilot of the new electronic ticketing feature of the TTMS was launched on December 30, 2021, with 100 handheld devices. Between December 30, 2021 and April 22, 2022, the JCF issued 20,392 electronic tickets, of which 7,678 were paid, generating revenues of over JM\$26 million.

An electronic warrant feature to support the efficient use of the TTMS in the Courts was also developed. Additional handheld devices will be procured this year to expand the pilot island-wide. **Madam Speaker,** I expect the public to see, highly visible results before the busy Christmas period.

• UPGRADING OF THE AUTOMATED PALM AND FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (APFIS) TO THE LATEST MULTI-BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (MBIS)

This system serves the JCF as a critical forensic tool, as well as a valuable resource, to provide information on criminal record history. This facilitates the issuance of criminal record certificates to members of the public.

UPGRADING OF THE COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) SYSTEM

This upgrade has allowed the JCF to significantly improve its response time. The System facilitates the efficient allocation of resources and provides relevant information to police responders through improved situational awareness.

CONTINUED UPGRADING OF THE JCF P25 RADIO COMMUNICATION NETWORK

This provides secured voice communication capability, through the radio devices used by the JCF, JDF, DCS and Bank of Jamaica (BOJ).

CONTINUED UPGRADING AND EXPANSION OF THE JCF DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK

This allows for the secure, encrypted end-to-end wireless data communication services, to police facilities island-wide. Further upgrades will be done through the installation and configuration of microwave equipment at fifty-one (51) priority JCF facilities.

STATION RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Madam Speaker, you will be pleased to know that the nineteen (19) station diaries are being replaced. Phase 1 of this project started in April this year, with the Harbour View Police Station in the Kingston Eastern Division. Twenty-four (24) additional police stations, across all the parishes, will be on boarded as part of this phase over the coming weeks.





DEPLOYMENT OF BODY WORN CAMERAS

Under Phase 1, 400 cameras were deployed across 16 locations island-wide. During this financial year, Phase 2 will see the deployment of an additional 1,000 cameras across 120 police stations island-wide.

SMART CHECK APPLICATION

This application allows an officer to ascertain if a person is wanted, or whether a vehicle, that is stopped, has been reported stolen. This is done by simply executing a search function on the application.

AMBER CONNECT FLEET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This System has been deployed across the JCF's fleet and provides real-time GPS location data. It generates alerts and allows for the strategic management of the fleet. To date, 959 service vehicles are being tracked, comprising 800 motor vehicles, 141 motorcycles and 18 service boats. This has resulted in better driver behaviour, improved productivity, more efficient planning, and improved response time to citizens' calls for service.

TIER 2 DATA CENTRE

This Centre provides secure storage, increased capacity and high redundancy for the JCF's mission critical applications and systems.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A C5 (COMMAND, CONTROL, COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS AND CYBER) FACILITY

Madam Speaker, the Police Emergency and Control Centre (PECC) in Kingston will be reorganized and incorporated into a C5 facility at a cost of approximately JM\$2 billion. The Centre will be embedded with the latest technologies to enable members to deliver services using real-time telemetry to address security and safety concerns. It will include a command and control room to oversee all occurrences island-wide as well as the national surveillance camera system – the "JamaicaEye".

Madam Speaker, I am happy to report that we have secured a newly-built facility, at a perfect location, to host this C5 facility. The current PECC facility operates at about a C2 level. The new facility will have a major impact on police efficiency and operations.

3. Investment in the Physical Infrastructure







adam Speaker, the state and design of police stations directly reflects the strength, capability, and impact of police presence. They not only symbolize the Government's authority, but provide a feeling of safety and confidence to the public.

Over the past five fiscal years, we have made significant investment in the physical infrastructure of the JCF. This involves converting police facilities into modern, efficient, citizen-friendly, professional workspaces. Some critical features are embedded in the design of each facility that is being constructed or renovated. This includes private interview rooms, customer-friendly reception areas, and a built-in community space.

Over the period, the Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with the National Housing Trust (NHT) and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) have constructed or rehabilitated 121 police facilities, at a cost of approximately JM\$2 billion. This includes seven (7) fit-for-purpose police stations, which were either newly constructed or rehabilitated by the JSIF and four (4) that were newly constructed by the NHT.

For the FY 2022/23, the Ministry is targeting the renovation of fifteen (15) police facilities at a cost of JM\$500 million, while the NHT will be commencing the construction of five (5) police stations at a cost of approximately JM\$1 billion. These are:

- i. Frome Police Station
- ii. Little London Police Station
- iii. Lacovia Police Station
- iv. Anchovy Police Station
- v. Stony Hill Police Station

All five projects are now at the procurement phase.

This fiscal year, the Ministry will significantly advance the construction of another five (5) major projects at a cost of approximately JM\$6.6 billion. These are:



FORENSIC PATHOLOGY AUTOPSY SUITE

Madam Speaker the construction of the country's first ever Forensic Pathology Autopsy Suite is currently 15% complete, and is scheduled for completion in this financial year.







THE WESTMORELAND DIVISIONAL HQ

Procurement for this project is ongoing and work is set to commence this year.



• THE ST. CATHERINE NORTH DIVISIONAL HQ

The preparation of bill of quantities for this project is currently in progress. This facility will become a police area headquarters.

• THE MONTEGO HILLS POLICE FACILITY

The procurement of design professionals for this project is currently in progress.



• THE GREEN ACRES POLICE STATION

This project is currently 92% complete.

Madam Speaker, all these projects along with the C5 Facility and the JamaicaEye Surveillance Programme, represent approximately JM\$16 billion of investment in the police.





4. Investment in Mobility

adam Speaker, the issue of maintaining the police fleet at a mobility of at least 1,500 is crucial. Since FY2016/17, 1,263 vehicles, comprising SUVs, cars, pick-ups, buses, trucks and motorcycles, have been procured at a cost of approximately JM\$4.1 billion, and delivered to the JCF.

This fleet has significantly boosted the Force's response capability and operational effectiveness. In fact, the quick response teams in the urban areas are proving to be a vital part of the JCF operations.

A breakdown of the acquisition of vehicles over the period shows:

- 758 vehicles between FY2016/17 and FY2017/18;
- 358 vehicles FY2019/20;
- 79 vehicles FY2020/21;
- 68 vehicles FY2021/22;



Madam Speaker, the Ministry and the JCF are now preparing a Fleet Management Plan. This will ensure that a fleet of at least 1,500 active fit-for-purpose police vehicles is maintained. **Madam Speaker,** crucial to all of this, is that we keep refreshing the fleet, by replacing those that are past their optimal performance level.





5. Recruitment and Training



adam Speaker, we often hear the call for "more boots on the ground". However, most times, such call is made without a full appreciation of what it really takes to produce professional law enforcement officers.

Madam Speaker, in addition to acquiring the required physical space to train, we must train the trainers in the Jamaican philosophy of policing, as we build the "Force for Good", to restore public safety, and good order for our people. In the year 2021/2022 in spite of COVID, 1,260 officers were trained. Over the past two years, although delayed by COVID-19, we are on track and are moving fast to catch up with the numbers. **Madam Speaker,** for the first time in the history of the JCF, its strength has actually exceeded 12,000.

6. Improving Public Trust and Confidence





adam Speaker, we have strengthened our recruitment processes to ensure that the JCF's professional standards are upheld. This police force is not only vetting all new recruits, but is taking studied steps to remove the "infiltrators". This was reflected recently with the arrest of some gang members and the significant number of police officers whose contracts were not renewed by the Commissioner of Police. Madam Speaker, historically, these "infiltrators" are used to brand the Force, which is most unfair to the hardworking men and women of the Force.

Madam Speaker, I can assure the public that we have effective systems in place to identify the "infiltrators. It must be noted that most of this work is being done by the police officers themselves and not by some external body. The police force should be commended. The country can now have confidence that the leadership of this Force is taking every step to remove the "infiltrators", who undermine the system and get involved in criminal activities.

7. Adoption of International Standards

adam Speaker, we recognized that one of the strategies to ensure continued improvement in the delivery of policing services is the adoption of a quality management systems based on international standards.

Madam Speaker, to this end, the JCF embarked on a path of gaining ISO 9001 Quality Management certification. The first phase of the process involved the Matilda's Corner Police Station, the Duhaney Park Police Station and the Police Emergency Communication Centre (PECC). This includes all their supporting units that facilitate the delivery of effective frontline services. **Madam Speaker,** today, I am happy to report that, not only did the JCF pass the Stage One Audit in flying colours, but it successfully completed the Stage Two Audit in March of this year. They are currently awaiting certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ).

Development of the Capacity in the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)







adam Speaker, the Ministry of National Security provides administrative services to the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF). The portfolio of Defence remains in the Prime Minister's Office. However, I must make a brief comment.

Border control activities are crucial to the strengthening of the country's law enforcement capacity. Over the past five years, the Government has invested heavily in the JDF's Maritime, Air and Cyber Command (MACC) Brigade, to develop its monitoring and interdiction capabilities. We can now intercept the transnational criminal actors in our territorial waters and maintain domain control of our maritime economic zone.

Madam Speaker, we must remind the country that, until the JCF is brought up to the required numbers, the JDF must play a broader role in the fight against criminal violence.

Madam Speaker, the JDF is heavily involved in youth engagement, through the Jamaica National Service Corps (JNSC), which is the primary recruiting base of the JDF and other government agencies. The JNSC is an outstanding, pioneering training programme, developing both skills and character in our young Jamaicans.

Development of capacity in the Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine (IFSLM)



adam Speaker, we now have one of the finest forensic science and legal medicine institutes in the Western Hemisphere, which is comparable to any in North America. Our crime management and investigative capabilities have significantly improved recently through technological advancement in forensics.

After some initial issues, we have now completed the necessary work to get our DNA technology operational and functioning optimally. We have one of finest Ballistics Unit and our pathology services will be significantly boosted with the completion of our state-of-the-art Autopsy Suite this financial year. **Madam Speaker,** today, not only do we have the capacity to serve the Jamaican society, but our Caribbean neighbours as well.





We are looking at Jamaica becoming the hub for the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBS) in this region.

Madam Speaker, we all can agree that a lot has been done to build out our law enforcement capacity. However, we still have much more to be done in order to get to where we want to be and overcome fifty-five years of severe neglect. Only this Government, under the leadership of Andrew Michael Holness has seen it fit to ensure that we take steps to have an adequately staffed and properly equipped Police Force.

Madam Speaker, we understand and share the public concern of the high homicide numbers, which has been with us for over 22 years. The Government, will have to adopt programmes that will have an immediate impact as well as to deal with the root causes over the medium and long term. This means that we will have to adopt policies which include effective policing to reduce homicides, alongside the required social programmes for the medium and long term. We are confident that the approach we are taking will impact on the epidemic of violence. However, I will spend some time to speak of the criminal landscape in Jamaica that poses unique challenges.

II. THE CRIMINAL LANDSCAPE

adam Speaker, we need to recognize that we are the only liberal democracy that has a homicide rate in excess of 40 per 100,000. We, therefore, have to adopt strategies that will apprehend and remove the violence producers from society, within the framework of our Constitution and jurisprudence. These strategies must not only be acceptable to civil society, but the entire democratic architecture.

Some of our neighbours, who have had this problem, have responded successfully, using different strategies and tactics. They have different democratic traditions and a different Constitution. Their response has largely been military, either by militarising the police or constabularising the military or both. We are not seeking to do either of them. We must note that we are one of the few countries, in which we see significant reductions in major crimes, while murders remain at a persistently high level. **Madam Speaker**, this is a phenomenon that has attracted the attention of many, who have studied these areas.

However, there is some changing pattern in the inter-gang violence that accounts for some of this phenomenon. Gangs involved in extortion, drug dealing and turf control will have high incidence of community killings, which known tactical policing can deal with; as now appears to be happening in sections of the Corporate Area. On the other hand, gangs involved in advance fee fraud and transshipment of drugs, tend to avoid community petty crimes, but indulge in targeted killing of their competitors. This is evident in Area One, which has the highest increase in killings. They use contract killers and are scattered in small groups in deep rural areas. They operate wherever cellphone connectivity is available.

The crime statistics show that year-to-date, Area Four, which covers most of the Corporate Area, is experiencing **70 less murders or a 32% decline**, over the corresponding period in 2021. Here, we can see the huge impact that hotspot policing, the use of technology and effective analysis are having in the urban areas.

On the flipside, Area One, which covers the four western parishes is seeing **70 more murders or a 53% increase**, for the similar period. This is reflecting the significant shift of criminal activities to the rural areas, where the use of hotspot policing and technology are far less effective. As a result, controlling the criminal violence in the deep rural spaces presents some challenge.

Madam Speaker, I would like examine three primary features of criminality in the Jamaican context.





THE KILLINGS

The biggest cause of concern is of course, murder. This can only be dealt with by strong policing, to stop the killers and remove them from the streets. We, therefore, need highly trained police officers, supported by the military where necessary, to apprehend these killers and lock them up. If they engage the security forces, the security forces are trained and equipped to deal with them accordingly.

Madam Speaker, "shottas" cannot be dealt with by social investment. Many of them, especially in Area One, are earning huge sums of money, either as advance fee scammers or big traders, who buy the weapons to kill our people. These are persons who are empowered by the possession of a gun. They cannot be empowered by counselling and JM\$5,000 per week. It is for this reason that we must organize the specialized operations teams of the police and mobilize the military as is necessary. Additionally, we have to provide the legislation to support the security forces and equip them appropriately with body cameras, body armours, firearms, proper uniforms, good working spaces, and provide quality intelligence, so that they can do their work effectively, against these marauding murderers. The need for special powers in these areas is impatient of debate.



In highly vulnerable and volatile communities, we have introduced legislation such as the Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) to intensify security operations. However, we still need further legislation to assure the citizens that we can remove and monitor the violence producers.

PUBLIC DISORDER WITH EXTORTION AND STREET CRIMES

Madam Speaker, on the next level there is public disorder with the associated extortion and street crimes. Public safety is a critical part of giving confidence to the public. Therefore, we have to ensure that we bring a level of safety to public spaces, which is critical for people to work, conduct business

and enjoy themselves. Additionally, we need policing on the road to ensure a level of good public order and discipline. We need adequate numbers of police officers, as their very presence will serve as deterrence in these situations. Persons coming from work with their cellphones and weekly wages must feel that they can move around freely and safely in the spaces where they work and conduct business. This indeed is a primary policing activity and can only be done effectively by police officers.

Madam Speaker, the BPO workers in New Kingston, shoppers on King Street in Downtown Kingston or in the market in Brown's Town, St. Ann and the drivers on Red Hills Road must begin to feel safe and operate in a space of good order.

Madam Speaker, as we increase the Force strength, we will restore peace, good order and safety in the public spaces and on our roads. Transportation centres and market districts, which are primary centres of extortion and disorder across the island, will be especially targeted to get the gangsters involved in this kind of activity.





ORGANIZED MONEY LAUNDERING AND TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Madam Speaker, on a third level, there is organised money laundering and transnational criminal activities. In dealing with this aspect, the police will continue to work with MOCA and FID to pull down the big, organised criminal business players, who are still generating funds that bring in the guns wholesale and sell them to the murderers to kill our people, especially our young men. **Madam Speaker,** these criminal business leaders sit atop the criminal spectrum and either scam, sell drugs or collect the money from the extortionists and then "rinse" it and buy guns to give back to the "foot soldiers" on the streets.

Madam Speaker, the people who transship cocaine are really criminal business leaders. They operate a network of businesses, which make huge amount of money. They have the connections to buy the guns in the United States and then they bring in the money and the guns. They have collaborators who "rinse" the money for them. This is where we need the assistance of our international partners, as theneed for collaboration, especially at this end of the criminal spectrum is crucial.

Madam Speaker, we must work quite openly and strongly with our partners in North America, since it is their citizens who are being scammed and it is their citizens who are demanding the drugs. Therefore, we have to work together to overcome these problems. **Madam Speaker,** illicit funds bring in about US\$1 billion and rising, annually, into Jamaica. This revolves mainly around lottery scamming, cybercrimes, money laundering, and drug and firearms trafficking. This kind of money corrupts and undermines our institutions, while maintaining gangsters who create murders and disorder. We will dedicate our security institutions to work willingly with our international partners to apprehend, convict and extradite where necessary, the big criminal business players.

Madam Speaker, the police have to organize to stop the killers, pull down the criminal business leaders, and provide public safety and confidence in the streets and public spaces. That is the objective outcome of our investment and restructuring of our Police Force.

Madam Speaker, we must face the reality that there is nothing short term about social investment. As a Government, we will pursue short, medium and long term strategies to deal with the criminal epidemic. The short term is **hard, efficient policing**. Social investment is medium and long term. The enormity of the problem is unique to Jamaica. We have no precedence to follow, but this Government has the political will to follow new directions and will introduce new legislation that will satisfy our peculiar situation.

III. SOCIAL INVESTMENT

Madam Speaker, let me reaffirm, without any ambiguity, the Government's firm commitment to strengthening the institutions that serve our vulnerable communities. We are not varying it and we are not qualifying it. It is the priority expenditure of Government. We have established the Citizen Security Business Group (CSBG) to ensure that we have quality public service in our most vulnerable communities.

The core Government services as well as quality policing are critical to the transformation of these communities. It is for this reason that we have constructed and upgraded police stations with Domestic Violence Intervention Centres (DVICs) and community facilities for the public to engage the police along with proper reception areas to serve the public.

Madam Speaker, quality institutional services will restore a sense of social equity, dignity and self-worth, while providing opportunities for personal development. This will reduce the availability of our young males, in particular, being recruited into gangs.





Madam Speaker, this means we must have quality education –infant, primary, and secondary; good training opportunities; good public health services, with a proper Psychosocial Department; effective social services that reach the needy and not the greedy; and strong community organization.

Madam Speaker, this is our policy that is clearly documented in the Citizen Security Plan (CSP).

We are initiating programmes in a number of vulnerable communities that reflects the policy and demonstrate that the whole-of-government approach will work. For example, the ZOSOs, which include community security, physical improvement and social transformation.

We are collaborating with the Ministry of Education and Youth to start the 25-School Strategy. It will be funded by our International Partners to target some of our most vulnerable communities. The programme includes interventions to improve social services to the parents in terms of economic and social activities as well as the provision of both psychologists and social workers.

Madam Speaker, let me quickly point out that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are welcome partners. However, where NGOs come in, they must work in conjunction with and not parallel to the government agencies.

Madam Speaker, the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) in partnership with the JCF, is embarking on a national Social Transformation and Renewal (STAR) Project. This is a good example of partnership with the private sector. This Project is aimed at working in a synchronized way to strengthen social cohesion and resilience in some of our most violent communities. An initial six (6) communities have been earmarked for intervention.

Madam Speaker, we are currently using campaigns such as *"Liv Gud"* and the Social Services Fair as part of the mobilization effort to reach our targeted communities.



Programmes, driven by the CSBG through the various Agencies, involve skills training and character development. Emphasis is placed on skills that appeal to our inner-city young males, such as articulated vehicle operation and construction. We will train and certify over 20,000 youths annually, including the entire relevant age cohort within the ZOSOs.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Youth, we hope to engage over 300,000 parents over a three-year period. This will not only involve counselling, but introduce the social and economic support required.





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Madam Speaker, as we continue to tackle the issue of domestic violence, the police,

through its Community Safety and Security Branch, has played an integral role in this effort. Through continued partnership, ten (10) Domestic Violence Intervention Centres (DVICs) have been established at police stations islandwide.

In addition to the established DVICs, there has been the hosting of Domestic Violence POP-UP clinics islandwide by the police to sensitize the public on domestic violence issues.

In 2021, 544 civilians were trained as first responders to domestic violence, while 108 police officers have been trained in Domestic Violence Intervention, since the start of this year.

Madam Speaker, we are working with 154 schools to assist in managing violence and truancy problems in our schools. So far, 174 School Resource Officers (SROs) and 47 School Liaison Officers have been trained. In fact, in 2022 alone, 69 additional School Resource Officers were trained.

Meanwhile, we are expanding the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force to all secondary schools.

The Violence Prevention Programme is a collaborative effort which includes the JCF, JDF, Ministry of Education and Youth, the Ministry of Justice and the SDC.

REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS



Madam Speaker, the rehabilitation of offenders is a crucial part of reducing recidivism. This Government remains committed to rehabilitation at both the individual and community level.

The We Transform Youth Empowerment Programme is one of the Ministry's flagship youth transformation programme geared at equipping youths, under the care and supervision of the Department of Correctional Service (DCS), with the requisite skillset, character and support to become productive citizens.

The HEART/NSTA Trust Certification Programme, continues to partner with the Juvenile Institutions.





The programmes that will be implemented within this fiscal year include:

- i. Barbering Level 2;
- ii. Nail Care Attendant;
- iii. Hair Braider and Weaver;
- iv. Hairstylist;
- v. Fundamentals of Makeup Artistry;
- vi. Housekeeping Level 2;
- vii. Breakfast Cook;
- viii. Baker; and
- ix. Public Area Attendant

On the academic front, the DCS continues to make significant strides. As at March this year:

- i. 141 wards were engaged in academic activities;
- ii. 151 wards were engaged in vocational activities;
- iii. 271 inmates are enrolled in academic activities;
- iv. 484 inmates are enrolled in vocational activities;
- v. 123 inmates and wards registered for the 2021 CSEC Examinations; 16 wards and 107 inmates;
- vi. 45 percent of all candidates who sat the exam, passed at least one subject;
- vii. 50 percent of the registered juvenile candidates were successful in at least one subject;

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Madam Speaker, positive community engagement is a critical part of the JCF's community policing initiatives. Presently, there are:

- i. 110 active Police Youth Clubs (PYC) across the island, and there is a recruitment drive to increase the membership;
- ii. 713 Neighbourhood Watch groups, of which 267 (37%) are active and there is a drive to reactivate 30% of the dormant Neighbourhood Watch groups by end of 2022;
- iii. Two (2) Beach Watch groups have been launched and two (2) have been sensitized and are to be launched by the end of 2022;
- iv. In 2021, 87 police officers and external stakeholders were sensitized on the JCF Proactive Violence Interruption Strategy (PVIS) to combat incidents with the potential for reprisal;
- v. All Community Safety and Security (CSS) officers island-wide and over 100 volunteer pastors are trained in the PVIS

These activities reflect the gravity which this Government places on social investment. We must restore social equity and provide gender opportunities to our most vulnerable. By addressing the risks and resilience factors faced by the youths, families and the communities, we will ensure a restoration of harmony and good order.





IV. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

adam Speaker, critical to creating a modern, security architecture, is a strong, effective legislative framework. **Madam Speaker,** the requisite legal tools will allow us to effectively tackle the current and emerging challenges in our security environment.

Madam Speaker, over the past four years, a lot has been achieved on this front. Some of the legislative tools brought, include:

 MAJOR ORGANISED CRIME AND ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY (MOCA) (CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS, 2020; MOCA APPOINTED DAY NOTICE; AND MOCA (INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS, 2021

Madam Speaker, these three (3) pieces of legislation effectively established MOCA as a fully independent and autonomous law enforcement agency and provided for the proper administration of the functions of the Agency.

Madam Speaker, as at March 2022, MOCA had 133 persons before the various courts, stemming from 69 court cases, including a major lottery scam matter with 32 co-accused.

Since 2020, the Agency arrested 21 persons for lottery scamming activities, 17 of whom were subsequently charged under the Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) (Special Provisions) Act. Within the same period, 39 persons were convicted for lottery scamming.

• THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SUPPRESSION OF CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021 ("THE ANTI-GANG ACT")

Madam Speaker, the amended "Anti-Gang Act" was passed and enacted. The amendments:

- i. Specified additional offences for activities in which criminal organisations are engaged;
- ii. Increased the number of offences under the Act:
- iii. Expanded the list of aggravating factors to be considered when sentencing an individual convicted of certain offences under the Act; and
- iv. Improved the trial procedures in order to protect the identity of witnesses for connected matters.

Madam Speaker, these amendments will bolster the Government's efforts in interrupting and undermining organised criminal activity with the framework of a stronger legislation.





 THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021



Madam Speaker, this amended Act was passed and helped to create an Anti-Human Trafficking regime that discourages, disincentivizes, and promulgates deterrence of the offenders and recidivists.

Additionally, amendments were made to empower the Minister, by order subject to affirmative resolution, to make amendments to monetary penalties in the Act.

• THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019 AND PROCEEDS OF CRIME (MONEY LAUNDERING PREVENTION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2019

Madam Speaker, these pieces of legislation have helped to strengthen the integrity of Jamaica's domestic financial system by making the Regulations fully compliant with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). They have also strengthened the efforts of law enforcement and other stakeholders to stem money laundering.

• THE CORRECTIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

Madam Speaker, these amendments were urgently needed to provide for more effective measures to address the problem of prohibited articles within correctional facilities.

The pieces of legislation in progress to be delivered this year include:

THE FIREARMS (PROHIBITION, RESTRICTION AND REGULATION) ACT, 2022

Madam Speaker, this repeal and replace Bill is still before the Joint Select Committee, which is currently reviewing public submissions. These deliberations will be concluded shortly and will move to the next stage of the process.

The Act is targeted at providing more prohibition, restriction, and regulation (as may be appropriate) of firearms and ammunition, and for connected matters.





• THE LAW REFORM (ZONES OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS) (SPECIAL SECURITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEASURES) ACT, 2017 (ZOSO ACT)

Madam Speaker, steps are currently being taken towards completing the requisite amendments to the Act.

The report of the Joint Select Committee to review and report on the ZOSO Act was tabled in the House of Representative on January 25, 2022 and in the Senate on February 4, 2022.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PASSPORT ACT, 1935 AND REGULATIONS

Madam Speaker, these amendments are to support the implementation of the proposed Visa Policy.

The draft Cabinet submission on the proposed amendments has been circulated to the Attorney General's Chambers, Chief Parliamentary Council and Legal Reform Department.

• AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION (COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS) ACT, 1945 AND THE ALIENS ACT, 1946 AND ATTENDING REGULATIONS;

Madam Speaker, the final draft Bills have been received from the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and have been submitted to the Attorney General's Chambers for opinion. These amendments are targeted at facilitating the harmonization and modernization of the Acts to effectively address current border security and control issues. Additionally, they will strengthen our anti-terrorism efforts and improve the activities of PICA to include the use of technology.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT (POCA)

Madam Speaker, the Ministry is currently undertaking amendments to POCA to include provisions for the introduction of an Unexplained Wealth Order regime. This regime will compel individuals to explain the sources of their wealth.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FINGER PRINTS ACT;

Madam Speaker, we have commenced work on this Act with a view of addressing the inadequacies that prevent law enforcement and the criminal justice system from ordering fingerprints in specific cases. It will also incorporate the use of modern technology to record fingerprints.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS FOR THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021;

Madam Speaker, these regulations are intended to give effect to the recently amended Dangerous Drugs Act with respect to the disposal of drug seizures before the completion of legal proceedings.

These proposed regulations will seek to provide specific guidance on the destruction of drugs for the purpose of the effective operationalization of the amended Act.

For FY2022/23, the Legislative Agenda includes:

- i. A comprehensive review of the Corrections Act;
- ii. Development of a Security Personnel Integrity Bill;
- iii. Development of a National Intelligence and Security Bill;





We are now in the process of strengthening our legal and policy units to ensure that we can execute our legislative agenda more effectively and in a timelier manner.

CONCLUSION

adam Speaker, effective change and transformation is a process, not an event. The need to build a strong, effective Police Force, after years of neglect, will take time. It will be costly and requires national commitment. This Government is, however, committed to the process and will complete the job.

The Police Force is a national one and has responsibility for all aspects of crime. They must deal effectively with brutal gangs, populated with killers; they must ensure public order and public safety; and they must dismantle organized, criminal networks.

I am confident that the men and women of the JCF, JDF, MOCA, FID and the other supporting Agencies have the will, training and requisite skills to get the job done.

As a Government, we are providing the tools required to ensure victory over this epidemic of criminality that is pervading our society.

May God continue to bless Jamaica!

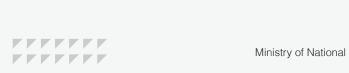








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