



MINISTRY OF  
**NATIONAL  
SECURITY**



# SECURING OUR FUTURE

State of the Nation 2021





Senator the Honourable

**Matthew  
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Minister without Portfolio in the  
Ministry of National Security

**STATE OF THE NATION  
PRESENTATION**

## Securing Our Future

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GORDON HOUSE  
Friday, September 24, 2021





# SALUTATIONS

Mr. President, allow me to share with colleague senators and indeed all who have joined this sitting through the PBCJ, a prayer that I came upon recently. I've been unsuccessful in identifying the author, but I still thought it useful to share:

***"Heavenly Father, be merciful to our great land and to those who lead us in our communities, cities, and national government. Give to each a sense of calling. May each put a high value on justice, righteousness, honesty and service".***

I thought this prayer a good reminder to myself and indeed my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I wish to place on record my thanks to the Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Andrew Holness for the opportunity afforded me to serve in this capacity. Mr. President, I wish also to acknowledge you for your constant guidance in my political career thus far. It is well appreciated.

Mr. President, I have more people to thank than this sitting would allow...

To explain to this chamber, how my family has supported and sacrificed for me would also take all day, but I have to

acknowledge & thank them. Mr. President, I've highlighted many of those who have played critical roles in my personal development in the past, they know who they are, and I again extend my gratitude.

Mr. President, I wish to highlight those with whom we work. Firstly, the staff of this Parliament provides yeoman service. On behalf of my colleagues we thank you. Madame Clerk, I wish to acknowledge your ascension, and extend my own congratulations and indeed thanks for the support you have given to me since 2016.

Mr. President, I must acknowledge those with whom I work with at the Ministry of National Security. They are patriotic, professional, and deeply committed to making this nation safer. So I salute them, led by PS Courtney Williams, and his Chief Technical Directors. Mr. President the men and women who comprise the National Security Architecture are true heroes, they give more than 100% and put them selves on the line despite the state not being able to provide all they require. I salute them.

My colleagues in the Government caucus have become an extended family, and we've drawn closer over the last few months. We work daily to further the agenda of this administration, the agenda



## Salutations

supported by 100's of thousands of Jamaicans who gave the JLP a renewed mandate in the most difficult of circumstances facing the global challenge of a century! Quite frankly the margin of victory showed they trust this government, and we must build on that.

Mr. President, despite our resounding victory, the challenges we face, require a bipartisan effort. Project Jamaica, the aspirations largely defined by the Vision 2030, needs all of us if it is to take the shape we desire.

I've never once doubted the patriotism of my colleagues, on either side of the divide, the commitment to national development is put on display weekly in this chamber. Our spirited debates, as we fulfill our mandate as the Nation's legislative review chamber, can give rise to acrimonious relationships. Mr. President, we have had moments in recent times, which have tested the ability of us to work across the aisle.

Its understandable, I'm sure, not even unusual in a parliamentary democracy. I again extend the invitation to colleagues across the aisle to join us in breaking bread in the dining hall of the Parliament at the end of each week's sitting. I believe this can assist in bridging the divide.

My presentations have followed a consistent format and approach in these SON debates. Previous to being sworn in to the Cabinet, I focused on:

- ▶ **The Economy**
- ▶ **The Environment**
- ▶ **The General wellbeing**
- ▶ **The issues of the day...**

Of course, I have mixed these with an occasional political jab or two.

These are not the issues I can focus on this year, based on my Ministerial assignment, but they are issues to which I hope to see colleagues pay keen attention as the State of the Nation Debate progresses.

Mr. President, my contribution to the State of the Nation debate, is indeed, my first as a Member of the Cabinet. Mr. President I have chosen to present under the theme **"Securing our Future"**. This against the quoted backdrop of Peter Drucker, who said:

***"The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence; it is to act with yesterday's logic."***

Allow me to first highlight the security situation as I see it!

### Overview of National Security in Jamaica:

**"Securing our Future"**, Mr. President is consistent with the goals we all have as citizens. In fact we have consensus on this goal. It is reflected in Jamaica's overall effort to realize Vision 2030 and to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Specifically, it is the role of our National Security MDAs to pursue Goal 2 of Vision 2030, which is to make "the Jamaican society [...] secure, cohesive and just", as well as to achieve UN SDG 16 which is to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".



# NATIONAL SECURITY ECO SYSTEM

The eco system we have put in place as a country to achieve these goals is represented below. Important to note, the job of "Securing our future", spans across 4 Main Ministries. This is in no way intended to shirk responsibility, rather to ensure colleagues and indeed those watching at home, understand how we have approached Security as a Nation.

We all have a role to play in making Jamaica safer, however we at the MNS accept our awesome leadership responsibility in achieving this, with humility and cognizance of the implications of our work.

## Eco System:

### National Security Architecture





# NATIONAL SECURITY ECO SYSTEM

## Resource Allocation:

Mr. President, it is important also for colleagues to understand what we have spent to achieve our levels of Security.

- ▶ The table below will clearly show that as a Nation that we have not sufficiently prioritized the need for Security as a pillar of achieving our Development Goals.
- ▶ It should be noted that this Government, has prioritized the National Security Fight and continues to increase the rate of Investment in this area. The evolving Crime situation locally and regionally, quite frankly, will require the GOJ to invest at a higher rate, if it is to ensure a robust architecture is in place.
- ▶ All of this is to ensure that colleagues appreciate that the investment simply doesn't provide the required levels of Border Security, Policing, Offender Management or Data Security that we require.

Total capital budget for MNS				
Summary of Budgetary Allocations Over A Decade				
Financial Years	Recurrent Revised Budget	Capital Revised Budget	Overall National Budget	Percentage of National Budget
	NET			%
	\$'000			
2021-2022	30,412,810.0	6,480,397.0	830,780,887.0	4.44%
2020-2021	28,448,704.0	9,297,819.0	853,468,320.0	4.42%
2019-2020	27,078,107.0	19,556,576.0	859,071,631.0	5.43%
2018-2019	23,539,443.0	12,664,446.0	802,563,141.0	4.51%
2017-2018	18,326,413.0	5,336,942.0	815,265,140.0	2.90%
2016-2017	16,411,384.0	6,250,342.0	592,743,903.0	3.82%
2015-2016	15,123,205.0	2,404,924.0	808,421,331.0	2.17%
2014-2015	14,036,000.0	2,447,432.0	539,311,875.0	3.06%
2013-2014	13,533,224.0	2,921,865.0	500,709,827.0	3.29%
2012-2013	13,109,146.0	2,055,868.0	602,531,232.0	2.52%

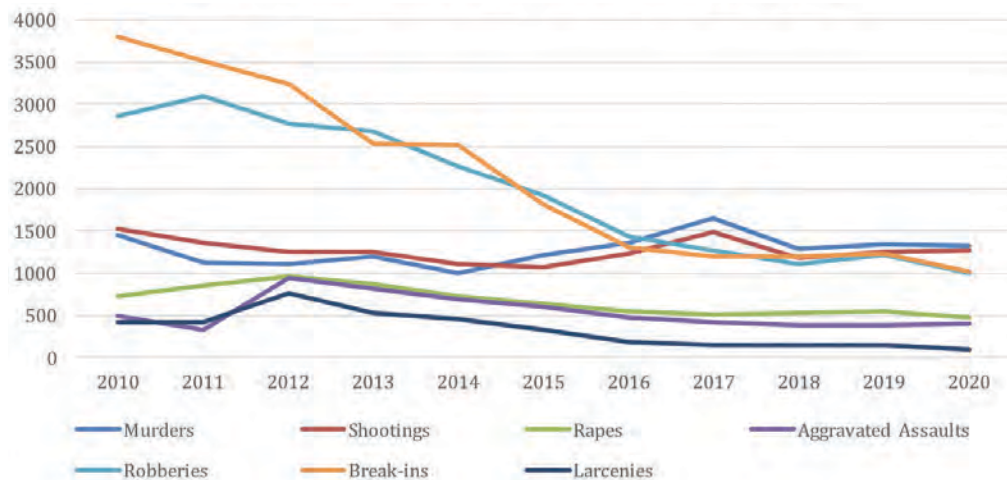
# NATIONAL SECURITY ECO SYSTEM

Mr. President, I have also chosen to highlight the Security Outcomes over the last 10 years. Crime numbers by year. It can be seen below:

**Category One Crimes Reported for Years 2010 - 2020**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Murders</b>	1446	1133	1102	1201	1005	1208	1354	1647	1287	1339	1323
<b>Shootings</b>	1528	1354	1247	1245	1104	1077	1226	1483	1170	1253	1276
<b>Rapes</b>	731	861	965	865	723	633	542	510	524	544	479
<b>Aggravated Assaults</b>	489	333	935	812	696	607	471	428	384	392	402
<b>Robberies</b>	2856	3097	2773	2674	2269	1918	1433	1277	1100	1216	992
<b>Break-ins</b>	3793	3507	3238	2537	2524	1813	1311	1206	1189	1242	1016
<b>Larcenies</b>	425	426	761	533	449	338	189	143	151	143	97

**Categories One Crimes Reported For Years 2010-2020**



	Murder	Shooting	Rape	Robbery	Break-In	Grand Total
<b>January 1, 2020 - September 19, 2020</b>	926	899	414	766	765	3770
<b>January 1, 2021 - September 19, 2021</b>	1026	906	291	544	651	3418
<b>Percentage Difference</b>	10.8	0.8	-29.7	-29	-14.9	-9.3



## NATIONAL SECURITY ECO SYSTEM

Mr. President, these statistics give much room for analysis and indeed debate, however, let us never forget that every statistic listed above represents Jamaicans who have been victims of Crime.

Though the overall crime rate has continued to decline, there is no doubt that we are concerned at the rates of increase in murder and shooting triggered by Gang violence.

The Police Divisions which have accounted for the increase in murders and shootings are the 3 Kingston Divisions, Southern St Andrew, St James & Westmoreland. Mr. President, there is a common thread here. These police divisions were last year, up until August under States of Emergency. Mr. President, quite frankly the situation on the ground in these areas, require the use of this measure. Extra ordinary security measures have been agreed for use by both sides of the Political Divide for any area which has a murder rate of above 30 per 100,000. This is the case in ALL of the police divisions I have listed.

This agreement can be found in the Crime Consensus, signed in 2020 by both Political Parties. I'm aware of the legal hurdles and the legislation which is to come,

I'm however rolling the wicket so there is greater understanding for the policy & operational choices which are to be made. Mr. President, DPM, Dr. Horace Chang, gave a full overview of the plans for the National Security Architecture when he made his contribution to the Sectoral Debate earlier this year. As he mentioned however, often it is the JCF which is seen as the face of Security for obvious reasons. I believe, in his presentation he

outlined comprehensively the route to modernization and reform. The legislative focus was also clearly explained, three critical pieces which will come to this parliament for consideration before the end of the calendar year include:

- ▶ Firearms Act
- ▶ Corrections Act
- ▶ MOCA Regulations (Final)

Today Mr. President, beyond the overview provided, I would like to focus on the Agencies & Programs under my stewardship, which include:

- ▶ Offender Management:
  - ▶ The Department of Correctional Services
    - ▶ Custodial Management
    - ▶ Probation & After Care
    - ▶ The Parole Board
- ▶ The Private Security Regulatory Authority
- ▶ The Jamaica Combined Cadet Force
- ▶ The role of National Security MDA's in the Covid Fight:
  - ▶ DRMA Enforcement
  - ▶ The Controlled Re-entry program
  - ▶ The ENDS Program





To his left Dr. Michelle Royer - Powe  
Post : Dir of medical services  
Sitting : Chief Technical Director  
Rehabilitation and Inspectorate  
Policy Division (Acting )

# OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

The DCS is comprised of Sixteen (16) probation offices, Seven (7) adult correctional facilities, Four (4) juvenile facilities but indeed has one mission!

"We contribute to national security by securing, supervising, rehabilitating and reintegrating offenders as productive and law-abiding citizens"

## Governance

If we are to "Secure our future", rehabilitation for successful reintegration is critical if we are to realize the security outcomes. The Offender Management, Rehabilitation Policy and Parole Board Administration Branch is the Unit within the Ministry of National Security which contributes to Crime Prevention by facilitating the successful management, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

As of last year this Branch has been charged by Cabinet with developing an Offender Management Policy. This

document will establish a blueprint for increasing the support received by all offenders from entry into the correctional facility, throughout the rehabilitation process and during reintegration. The policy will focus less on punitive measures and instead support Successful Offender Outcomes (SOOs). This support is expected to result in a lower risk of re-offending and hence a lower level of crime. A second draft of the policy is currently under review, and finalization is projected for December 31, 2021. Colleagues will be the first of its kind in Jamaica.

Mr. President. the Branch is also leading the effort to revamp the legislative framework that governs the administration of corrections in Jamaica, specifically the Amendments to the Corrections Act, 1985 and Correctional Institutional (Adult Correctional Centre) Rule, 1991. The new legislation will provide significant support for the changes which are being proposed by the Offender Management Policy. To note we have



## Offender Management

decided to approach the legislative overhaul in two phases. The comprehensive review of the Corrections Act is ongoing and is also expected to be finalized by December 31, 2021. In addition to the general updating of the law, special attention is being paid to the issue of prohibited items in Jamaica's correctional institutions.

Mr. President, on June 7, 2021, Cabinet approved the drafting instructions for legislative amendments to various sections of the Corrections Act, and the Adult Institutions Rules, to address the specific issue of prohibited items in Jamaica's correctional institutions, which allow for unauthorized communication outside the facility. The first phase of the amendment is intended to provide stronger legislative support to security arrangements and controls within the correctional centers while facilitating tighter control of prohibited articles being transported in and out of the centers.

The new policy and the reviewed Corrections Act are expected to herald a new beginning for Corrections in Jamaica striving for improved public safety through the rehabilitation of offenders.

To achieve this Vision, the Department of Correctional Services will treat our inmates and wards as clients; provide support for each client from entry until they are reintegrated; rely heavily on scientific evidence in assessing the needs of each client; be more proactive in making necessary interventions; and develop new and greater partnerships, particularly for rehabilitation and reintegration, as we seek Successful Offender Outcomes (SOOs).





# Offender Management

## Intervention Strategy

In tandem with the Offender Management Strategy, the Youth Offending Strategy, which is geared towards reducing re-offending and offending amongst youths who have run afoul of the law, will continue to evolve within the current financial year. Additionally, the implementation of the Correctional Services Technical Working Group to address issues with a focus on the 'duty of care' to the juvenile wards, especially in respect to appropriate measures of discipline and timely access to education and psychosocial interventions will provide meaningful resources to guide Government in its effort to improve youth policy, as well as assist in the coordination of the delivery of services to our youth. The Youth Offending Strategy will also focus heavily on diverting children from the criminal justice system toward more therapeutic interventions which will enhance their social adjustment.

A Gender-Based Violence Intervention is being coordinated within the Juvenile Centers, commencing with South Camp Juvenile Correctional and Remand Centre. This comes amidst the continued acts of violence perpetrated against our women and girls, as well as the observed lack of empowerment among girls within the center surrounding issues of gender roles and relationships.

Once introduced in our male Juvenile facilities, the intervention will educate

our boys who hold many misconceptions towards their roles including how women should be treated.

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## Physical Infrastructure

The total population within the custody of DCS hovers around 3700 people, approximately 300 of which are juveniles. Unfortunately, the great majority of our adult population (around 2500 inmates) are housed in two institutions, both of which were constructed in the 19th Century. Moreover, one of those institutions is more than 100% overpopulated while the other normally operates at full capacity. To note, this is the only facility of the 11 which is over populated.

Mr. President, the situation is incongruous with the direction we envision for Jamaica's Correctional System. Our facilities ought to serve both a rehabilitative and a custodial function, but they were mainly constructed with the latter in mind. But their deteriorating state even undermines that function. The existing infrastructure at that facility and others are in need of upgrading to shore up their respective capacities. The government WILL in short order invest in augmenting the current infrastructure of our correctional centers.



## Offender Management

That is why, Mr. President, during my tenure at the Ministry I have made it my priority to ensure that all proposed DCS infrastructure projects are properly and fully scoped. This way, when scarce funds do become available, these infrastructure projects will be shovel-ready. Infrastructure assessments by engineers are underway to properly assess suitability and state of all DCS infrastructure which will allow us to properly program public expenditure.

Of course, most such projects would merely amount to a facelift in the current facilities, which would only address the DCS's short-term needs. In the mid to long term, Mr. President, the government will need to construct a state-of-the-art super-max facility. The discussions related to such a facility have been taking place for a number of years, across successive administrations. During my tenure year I have convened a working group comprising DBJ Officials along with MNS & DCS staff to complete the planning and scope of the supermax facility so that when the funding does become available construction will be able to start.

We are also paying special attention to our particularly vulnerable population within our facilities, such as the juvenile wards and infirmed inmates.

At the Rio Cobre Juvenile facility, we are in the process of completing the renovation of a housing block that will give the institution enough space to

house all boys within the custody of DCS who have been received convictions. At the Tamarind Farm Adult Correctional Centre we have recently repurposed a space specifically for the infirmed inmates who cannot be housed with the general population, especially as COVID still lurks. This facility is one of the changes which have been made to help the DCS avoid the mistakes which led to the issues surrounding Noel Chambers Death.

### Technological Infrastructure

While we are scoping the major physical infrastructural projects, we are focused on implementing the technological projects in the DCS. The DCS IT plan rests on four pillars: computer networking, communications, surveillance, and connectivity. The first priority of the plan is to push forward the rollout of the network infrastructure at all DCS facilities and offices. Currently, just about half of these locations have adequate computer networks installed. As a result, vital information and data must still be recorded and stored hard copy. The inefficiency in terms of physical space and time spent searching through files for information cannot be overemphasized. Thus, the focus placed by the government on adequately equipping the DCS to record and access this information digitally.



## Offender Management

Given that security is core to the Correctional Service's function, installing surveillance systems in all facilities is necessary. Electronic surveillance protects both Correctional Officers and inmates by improving surveillance and recording incidents for independent verification. To this end, the IDB Funded "Security Strengthening Project" is helping the DCS to procure and install surveillance systems. This ongoing initiative includes the installation of CCTV systems, internal networking, and monitoring room at the Horizon Adult Remand Centre, as well as a monitoring center at DCS Headquarters itself. This project will be executed at a cost of approximately thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000.00) per institution.

Currently none of the DCS facilities are networked with the fiber optic cables required for the modern management of the organization. This is why the SSP has also embarked on a mission to connect six DCS locations, including the Headquarters and our maximum security Correctional Centers, to GovNet Fiber. From there, DCS will be responsible for connecting its remaining locations and offices.

The connectivity component is critical to the most transformative Management & IT initiative DCS has ever undertaken – an institution-wide electronic correctional management system.

Mr. President the procurement process for this project is underway. The system will facilitate the digital collection of data, and will make the tracking and monitoring of an inmate's well-being, rehabilitation, & court appearances much more efficient. It will also provide other vital management tools. This software is the first step toward the true modernization of our correctional services.

### Duty of Care

The DCS is required not just to hold individuals within its walls, but also to maintain and administer treatment in line with Internationally recognized Human Rights Standards. The Duty of Care extends beyond fulfilling the basic





## Offender Management

human needs of nutrition, shelter, and medical attention. The DCS is expected to engage in the rehabilitation of our clients who will one day rejoin society.

Mr. President, our wards and inmates participate annually in external examinations such as:

- ▶ Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate,
- ▶ Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination
- ▶ Jamaica School Leaving Certificate.

Of DCS's 11 Correctional and Remand Facilities, 9 have active educational programs that currently employ 25 civilian teachers. Though the pandemic has affected 2020 and 2021 enrollment numbers, 123 inmates/wards are registered to participate in the 2021 CSEC examinations.

A total of 601 inmates and wards are enrolled in the academic programme (385 inmates & 216 wards). The academic programmes within the Juvenile facilities are guided by the National Standard Curriculum and the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate syllabus, while the adults are guided by the High School Diploma Equivalency curriculum as well as the CSEC syllabus.

470 inmates/wards are enrolled in vocational programmes, which are guided by the HEART/TRUST NSTA. Providing inmates and wards with practical vocational skills is both important for the rehabilitation and reintegration processes. Re-entering society with a skill makes them more attractive for potential employers, and better able to find productive means of sustaining a living for themselves and their families.

One of our vocational programmes that has certainly produced positive effects is agriculture, which we have revamped under the reform of DCS's farming programme. The inmates involved in this programme have become so proficient that we are now producing 100% of the poultry consumed in DCS facilities, and produce enough eggs to feed all inmates twice weekly. Over the FY22 period, 30 more inmates are to be trained and certified under this initiative, and, on the 15 acres of land DCS has under production, we expect to double our current output of vegetables.

Mr. President, youth offenders require special attention if we are to divert them from a life of crime. This is why the Ministry has established the "We Transform Youth Empowerment Programme". This program targets the reduction of re-admission to the juvenile centres and by extension, crime and violence reduction.



## Offender Management

During the FY21, the **We Transform Programme** successfully developed various partnerships.

Through these partnerships, the wards benefitted from JA\$1.93M worth of computer equipment, educational scholarships, the training of mentors, vocational skills training to include a Software Coding Programme, internship placement and the provision of entrepreneurial opportunities. Additionally, Mr. President, a woodwork shop was constructed and a music studio upgraded at the Metcalf Street Remand Center.

During the past financial year, there was the phased implementation of the virtual platform to facilitate the resumption of the We Transform Mentorship Programme at two of the juvenile centres.

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### Mental Health

Mr. President, there are also those in custody who need a deeper, more attentive level of care. Approximately 262 inmates have been diagnosed with mental disorders -138 of which are unfit to plea - accounting for approximately 7% the incarcerated population. However, this figure mostly represents those with psychotic disorders; we know that a greater proportion suffer from less apparent psychiatric conditions that go undiagnosed. Global studies suggest

that incarcerated people are 2-3 times more likely to have a mental disorder and 15 times more likely to have a psychotic disorder than the general public.

Mr. President, there remains major obstacles to delivering adequate care to these inmates. Those deemed unfit to plea have been essentially held in custody indefinitely, as they are unable to undergo trial and complete the judicial process. The Correctional System in Jamaica however, is not presently suited to the proper care of the mentally ill as it has inadequacies in personnel, programmes, and physical infrastructure to ensure adequate treatment of the medical conditions and the eventual assessment and reintegration of unfit to plea inmates and convicts into the society.

However, Mr. President, the DCS is a **"Creature of Instruction"**: it must provide adequate care to those individuals who are convicted or remanded by the courts. I can assure the members of the Senate and indeed the public that DCS is following its legal & moral obligations to provide reports to the Courts, while taking the steps to seek the release of the mentally ill where deemed appropriate.

However, Mr President we continue to work to improve the care within the system. DCS has been authorized to hire a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist



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who will design and oversee a Forensic Mental Healthcare Programme. But beyond that, we have started the process of reversing a tragic mistake made in the 1970s, when the then government closed a Forensic Ward that housed inmates in need of psychiatric care. Our Ministry has initiated the planning process with the Ministry of Health & Wellness and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to re-open a proper forensic ward, to be completed within this term of government.

### Security

Our prison population is estimated to be around 137 inmates per 100,000.. Consequently, Jamaica' has the third lowest prison population in the entirety of the Caribbean and Latin America. The only

countries in these regions with lower incarceration rates are Venezuela and Haiti, whose chronic instability has undoubtedly hindered the reach of their criminal justice systems. Jamaica's low incarceration rate is even more striking when you consider that we also have among the highest crime rates in the region.

Mr. President, as one considers the Security contribution of the DCS there are two factors which I believe are worthy of consideration.

Firstly, the DCS has had one escapee in 3 years. One too many, however an admirable rate of detention. Secondly, a more challenging issue. The issue of Contraband, more specifically the use of Cellular phones in the commissioning of crimes and the operation of Criminal Gangs from behind bars. Mr. President, though not new this represents a continued threat to National Security. Over the last 12





## Offender Management

months, through renewed focus we have removed some 2300 phones from the facilities. The following steps are being taken to create the environment to address this chronic issue:

- ▶ Amendment of our Legislative framework to criminalize possession, use, and smuggling of electronic devices.
- ▶ Procurement of appropriate technology to monitor entrance ways, search and scan for devices and disrupt electronic communique
- ▶ Adjustment of training manuals and retraining of Correctional Officers
- ▶ Infrastructural Changes at points of entry.

DCS strives to play its part in protecting the public from dangerous actors, deterring crime, and administering justice for those who have been wronged by criminal elements, thereby helping Jamaica grow more secure, peaceful, and just.

### Covid-19 & DCS

Mr. President, maybe the most significant and problematic development to affect the correctional services worldwide has been the emergence of Covid-19.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, DCS has done well to mitigate the effects admirably. The institutions relative success is partly due to foresight. Sensitization to the potential threat began in late January 2020 through sharing of the basic facts that were known about the virus then with key members of the DCS Medical team and representatives from the Correctional Centres. Subsequently, A Comprehensive Contingency Plan was prepared with MOHW, CDC, PAHO, and WHO guidelines forming the foundation. DCS HQ then carried out an education effort targeting staff and inmates throughout the organization. Pamphlets were handed out, posters were erected and the radio stations in the facilities were used to share information. The Parades were used as a platform to educate staff. Small face to face sessions were held in some institutions and the local health departments visited some of the institutions and provided inmates and staff with educational material on the virus.

Mr. President, once Jamaica recorded its first case of COVID-19, DCS implemented measures in an attempt to prevent or delay the virus entering our Correctional Centres. The Medical Director inspected all Correctional Facilities to identify areas to be used to quarantine and isolate inmates and to identify items needed for these areas. Personnel accessing the Correctional Centres or any of the offices were subject to a temperature screen



## Offender Management

sterilization of the hands using alcohol and were made to answer a questionnaire daily which helped both the screening process and any potential need for contact tracing.

Major Steps taken included:

- ▶ A COVID-19 Taskforce was convened to meet on a weekly basis to coordinate relevant activities.
- ▶ External visitors were prohibited entry.
- ▶ Sanitization and washing stations were strategically erected across the Centres, and additional water tanks were installed.
- ▶ Management of inmates:
  - ▶ They were required to adhere to quarantine orders.
  - ▶ New admissions were segregated from the inmate population for two weeks and monitored daily for infection.
  - ▶ Any inmate displaying symptoms were immediately isolated and promptly tested. Other instructions issued were to cut down on the congregation of inmates at the tuck and barber shops.

The DCS Procurement Unit was charged with prioritizing requests for sanitation and PPE material, and staff

members of each facility were trained in the proper usage with help from the MOHW staff. Other COVID-19 prevention protocols such as mask wearing and physical distancing were implemented and are enforced daily within the facilities. Moreover, to limit external contact as much as possible, food and other items from outside DCS were prohibited.

A major step forward for digitization was taken, although prompted by Covid, the mention dates for Court sittings at the Horizon remand centre were done digitally!

### Current Situation

Mr. President, currently we have fifty-eight (58) inmates and wards who have tested positive for the virus while seven (7) have been hospitalized. Additionally, thirty-eight (38) staff members have tested positive and are now in isolation.

The Medical Services Unit continues to work assiduously and has been unrelenting in the fight against the pandemic. To date, approximately 300 inmates from the adult correctional institutions and more than 300 staff members have been inoculated. Data from the Unit also indicates that since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, two hundred and six (206) inmates and wards and two hundred and twenty-eight (228) staff members have recovered from the virus. The



## Offender Management

death count remains at five (5) : two (2) inmates and three (3) officers, all from the first wave of the virus. Jamaica remains one of the countries with the least amount of cases in its correctional system within our hemisphere. For that, Mr. President, I believe the DCS should be highly commended.

Overall Mr. President, the DCS has weathered the virus by functioning as a cohesive unit. The facilities received support from the Ministry of National Security, the Commissioner and other Heads of Departments, and the Superintendents of the facilities heeded the directives from Medical Staff. Furthermore, involving inmates in the management of COVID-19 cases at Tower Street has been a notably successful approach. The inmate orderlies have learnt new skills in triage, documenting, contact tracing and line listing. It has given them a sense of purpose and they have gained additional respect from their fellow inmates.

rather than serve the entire sentence in the correctional facility. This conditional release is governed by the Parole Act of 1978.

Overseeing the offender reintegration process is the Parole Board, which deliberates on applications and approves parole for those inmates who have demonstrated that they have been satisfactorily rehabilitated and are ready for reintegration.

During the 2020/2021 financial year, **67 cases were submitted to the Parole Board for consideration, of this amount, 38 were granted parole and 21 were refused.** The remaining 8 applications were deferred for additional information.

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted the Parole Secretariat in reviewing and submitting the targeted number of 180 cases to the Parole Board as it was difficult for the stakeholders to complete all the requisite investigations at the community level.

### Parole

Mr. President, Parole is a form of conditional release whereby authority is granted to an inmate to live outside the penal institution under supervision







# PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY

## Security industry at a glance

Jamaica has approximately 750 registered private security guards for every 100,000 people, representing a relatively high concentration of private security personnel per capita when compared globally. The industry has grown from 12,400 private security guards registered in 1995 to 22,600 guards in 2020. By contrast, the JCF is currently comprised of approximately 11,000 members, which sees the ratio of registered private security guards to JCF officers hovering around 2:1. The growth of the private security industry in Jamaica highlights the increasing importance of private security to the overall security and economic wellbeing of the nation.

The Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) is a statutory body under the MNS, charged with monitoring and regulating the operations of private security firms, private security guards, private investigators, and security trainers. Its stated mission is to monitor and regulate the organizations and individuals operating in the private security industry and to facilitate a close link between private security and state security in the interest of national well-being. Its vision is to promote international and professional

standards and practices in the private security industry. It has the authority to grant, refuse, suspend or cancel licenses as it may deem necessary for the purpose of executing its mandate under the PSRA Act.

Mr. President, the PSRA has also had to expand in response to the industry's growth. Consequently, over the 2020/2021 period the PSRA opened its new regional office in Montego Bay, St. James, and is continuing initiatives to achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification, increase the PSRA's footprints across the island through the establishment of a Mobile Registration unit, and to launch a mobile application that will increase industry compliance with the regulations.

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## Strategic Industry

Proper regulation of the industry is important because private security firms contribute significantly to Jamaica's development by providing a range of services that enhance the security of public places, residential areas, workplaces, government offices and critical national infrastructure, maintaining an environment conducive for business



## PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY

across all sectors. The Private Security Industry is not only a facilitator of economic growth but is itself a strategic industry, crucial to advancing the national security interests.

Mr. President, the Government of Jamaica's Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2018-2021, identifies the enhanced governance of the Private Security Industry within the strategy of Strengthening the Anti-Crime Capability of Law Enforcement Agencies. The sector strategy of strengthening governance and regulation of the private security sector for a coherent public-private approach to promoting increased security and safety, further speaks to increasing the regulatory framework of the Private Security Industry and ensuring the implementation of systems of accountability.

Mr. President, given Jamaica's security issues, the private security service is also a necessary input for other commercial enterprises. A contraction or disruption of the security industry would lead to a condition of scarcity or of increased costs imposed on the rest of the private sector. The Government's security services are not adequate to make up for any potential shortfall in private security services. Moreover, the private security services allows State Security Services to concentrate on more acute security concerns. Hence strong monitoring and management of the Sector for stability, standardization and continued growth is the assignment of the PSRA.

The Government of Jamaica is a major consumer of PSI services, which means it too would face dramatic cost increases in the procurement of those services should the industry suffer any disruption.

Even more importantly, private security services complement state security forces in areas such as aviation and seaport security, directly contributing to the protection of critical national infrastructure. Leveraging the private security industry allows the government to pursue national security goals more efficiently.

Jamaica's relatively large private security sector and its geographic location means the PSI is well-positioned to evolve into an export industry itself. Jamaica is an island of stability in a region of relative instability, and our private security firms have the ability to grow to fill a portion of the regional demand, creating more employment opportunities for Jamaicans.

In recent years, there have been calls from several sectors to modernize the regulation of the Industry to address issues relating to the diversity of services offered and the rationalization of government's classification of private security guards. In response to this the PSRA proposed a Code of Conduct and Ethics for the PSI to key Industry stakeholders, with a view to addressing a wide range of measures for the continuous improvement of the management of the Industry, including:

- (a) establishing a protocol for the conditions of service in line with international best practices;
- (b) providing, in a structured format, a number of principles touching and concerning the PSI, the adherence to which constitutes, a fundamental condition for guaranteeing the minimum necessary degree of professionalism and quality;



## PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY

(c) prescribing certain standard operating procedures for private security companies jointly recommended by PSI stakeholders, the PSRA and the Ministry of National Security (MNS); and

(d) providing a mechanism outside the legislative framework by which employees in the PSI may raise grievances and have them addressed.

Mr President, Colleagues, the Private Security Industry is a strategic industry for the Growth and Development of Jamaica, not just because of its employment absorption capacity, but because of the value that it adds to national security! The industry will be treated accordingly. Over the next 24 months the appropriate reviews and consultations will take place to ensure that the legislation governing the industry is consolidated and appropriately updated. Additionally I wish to encourage all operators in the space to ensure compliance with the PSRA as they can expect stronger enforcement going forward.







# The JCCF

Mr. President, I now turn to the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force. A programme that I believe holds great promise for diverting at-risk youth while also attracting some of our brightest and best to the JDF. Promoting discipline and patriotic service is at the core of the JCCF's mission. One of the five Objectives of the Force is to instill in the cadets an ethos of service to fellows, school, firm, and country. While in the cadets students develop a sense of responsibility for their community. Through participating in the programmes voluntary service activities cadets feel the satisfaction inherent in making a difference to their world, and in the camaraderie of working alongside their peers. The skills, discipline, and diligence cadets learn smooths their integration into the adult productive world, making it more likely they will become productive members of society.

Though COVID 19 has created many challenges for the JCCF due to the limitations on in-person activities, with the zeal to achieve its objectives it pressed on engaging the youths and positively impacting their lives. Since January 2021 one hundred and twenty-one (121) Cadets have been recruited. The strength of the Force now stands at four thousand, two hundred and sixty-nine (4,269). The Officers and Adult Ranks monthly training Course continues with approximately Eighty-two (82) Adult Volunteers. Seven

(7) Teachers from schools identified to be established are currently on this Course which ends in August 2021. In February 2021, thirty-Seven (37) ex Cadets joined the Jamaica National Service Corps programme.

The JCCF benefits from the cooperation and assistance of other national security organizations. JCCF Regiments are currently twinned with the JDF Infantry Battalions. This twinning is designed to support the JCCF in recruitment and training and to provide mentorship. Additionally, there are discussions which seeks to establish Independent and Band and Drums Units on Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Bases in Mandeville and Montego Bay. The JDF in collaboration with the MNS is currently assisting the JCCF in procuring 2000 suits of Training Uniform and Boots.

Beyond that, Mr. President, I have committed to help the JCCF source the resources needed to expand their operations to more schools whose students we believe would benefit. But, in keeping with government policy, any further investments will accord with a theory of change, with returns on these investments evaluated along the way.



# RESPONSES TO COVID-19

## Controlled Re-Entry

Mr. President, the corona virus and its associated disease Covid-19 became a reality in late 2019. The Government of Jamaica, led by MHPM Andrew Holness, recognised the potential for devastation and was proactive in our approach to safeguard the people of Jamaica, their lives and livelihoods.

The Ministry of National Security was called upon to coordinate the security activities related to the Government's comprehensive Covid-19 response by providing enforcement support to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in their regulatory role. This became necessary when the Disaster Risk Management Act was activated on March 13, 2020.

The MNS was also tasked with providing the security considerations needed at our air and sea ports in an effort to provide a safe environment and reduce the opportunities for infection. Covid-19 Mr. President, also had the effect of creating a major disruption in air and sea travel globally and Jamaica, unfortunately was not spared.

Mr. President, on the fifteenth of January, 2020, the Government of Jamaica announced a travel ban on passengers arriving directly from China as well as passengers who had been in China within the past 14 days. As a direct consequence of this action Mr. President, 19 Chinese Nationals arriving in Jamaica, were denied entry and confined to state controlled quarantine under the protection of the Ministry of National Security.

Mr. President, on March 10, 2020 the Ministry of Health and Wellness confirmed Jamaica's first case of Covid-19 and 3 days later on March 13 the entire island of Jamaica was declared a disaster area in accordance with the DRMA. This was swiftly followed by the quarantining of 7 and 8 Miles Bull Bay for a period of 14 days. The Ministry of National Security through the Jamaica Constabulary force and the Jamaica Defence Force was for the first time during the pandemic called into action to serve, protect and provide assurance to our citizens in a quarantine bubble.

On April 15, 2020 Mr. President, The Ministry of National Security was again called upon to provide similar services as the entire parish of St. Catherine was



## RESPONSES TO COVID-19

placed under 24-hour quarantine for a period 14 days after the discovery of a Covid-19 cluster at the Alorica BPO. This was followed by similar operations in Dover, Enfield and Annotto Bay in St. Mary, quarantined for 14 days as of May 7, 2020, Sandy Bay in Clarendon as of August 6, 2020 for 14 days and Lower Summit, Church Corner and Bamboo River in St. Thomas as of August 9, 2020, also for 14 days.

As is well known Mr. president, at this time the ports of entry were still closed to arriving passengers. This of course included thousands of Jamaicans who were outside of our borders when the decision was taken to restrict incoming access. To that end the Prime Minister announced the formation of the Controlled Re-entry Task Force of which I was tasked with Ministerial responsibility.

This task force would ultimately call upon the services of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, The Jamaica Defence Force, The Ministry of Health, The Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency, The Ports Authority of Jamaica and the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited.

In order to facilitate a smooth and orderly process the JamCovid web portal was launched. This web portal was used as the official conduit through which Jamaican citizens and visitors alike would make applications and await approval to gain access to our shores.

The Controlled Re-entry Task Force utilizing the functions of the JamCovid web portal was able to coordinate the return of all Jamaicans who were desirous of returning home, and we made every effort to get them home because this is in

fact their home.

Mr. President, throughout this period, the MNS was called upon to coordinate the safe return of our citizens through various ports of call including the Norman Manley international Airport, The Sangster International Airport and The Falmouth and port Royal Cruise Ship Piers. This was enhanced by the use of Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) tracking to ensure all our citizens who returned to our shores were observing the quarantine orders. This was once again facilitated through the multi-faceted JamCovid App and monitored by the JCF.

On June 15, 2020, the GOJ reopened our borders to all travelers which presented us with a new challenge. Protocols were established whereby applications by our visitors were vetted by the MOHW and PICA resulting in the approval of eligible applicants and denial in adverse cases. This initiative has resulted in well over a million visitors being welcomed to our shores, rejuvenating our vital tourism industry.

As we carefully maneuvered the peaks and troughs of the pandemic, the GOJ implemented a nightly curfew which was adjusted as seen fit depending on the fluctuations in the number of infections. With the emergence of the Delta Variant, we experienced a third wave of infections which ultimately resulted in the implementation of no movement days from Sundays to Tuesdays over a 4 week period.

Mr. President, as you well know, this administration is committed to ensuring a balance between saving lives and maintaining livelihoods and as such this



## RESPONSES TO COVID-19

measure was tweaked and reduced to Sundays only as soon as there was a significant reduction in our rate of infection.

With the introduction of vaccines into the anti-Covid-19 arsenal, the JCF has been providing security at the majority of our vaccination sites. This process is leading to the gradual inoculation of our population and we can now look forward to a welcomed return to what we once knew as normal. Though this may be some way in the future, the MNS stands ready to offer any and all levels of support that may be required.

### **The E-commerce National Delivery Solution (ENDS)** **[www.ends.gov.jm](http://www.ends.gov.jm)**

Now Mr. President I will turn my attention to the E-commerce National Delivery Solution or ENDS as it became widely known. This program is a prime example of the Policy intent of the Government of Jamaica to balance lives & livelihoods.

ENDS, Mr. President, has 2 processes:

1

It is a web portal designed to carry out the registration of compliant businesses intending to operate during the hours of curfew, and;

2

It provides a directory of the companies that have been approved to operate during curfew hours.

Let me take this opportunity Mr. President to reiterate that ENDS is not a business. ENDS does not sell any products. ENDS does not collect any money from any

company or individual for any reason and ENDS does not deliver, and is not responsible for the delivery, nor the cost of delivery for products purchased. The platform simply provides entities of various sizes the ability to utilize their online storefront, payment, and delivery solutions to facilitate business continuity during the curfew hours, instituted to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Our partners in this endeavor, The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ), the visionaries behind this fantastic initiative, developed and donated the initial web portal as their contribution to the partnership.

The Ministry of National Security, working in conjunction with the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development through the various Municipal Corporations and the Social Development Commission and the Ministry of Transport and Mining through the Transport Authority, was tasked with coordinating this initiative. The mandate Mr. President was to issue, revoke and manage the permits of prospective businesses.

Mr. President, the ENDS pilot was launched in the Portmore Municipality on March 26, 2021 amid little fanfare but with great expectation and quite simply, it was a resounding success. At this point I would like to give a special commendation to the Jamaica Constabulary Force who played a critical role in policing the pilot by safeguarding the interests of the citizens of Portmore. The target was to protect lives and livelihoods. Target set, Target met.



## RESPONSES TO COVID-19

The next step Mr. President, was to expand during the Easter holidays to include Kingston and St. Andrew as well as St. James. Our razor thin team, worked tirelessly and at great personal sacrifice to secure a seamless operation along with the JCF and both municipalities, who threw the entire support of their corporations behind this initiative. Our target on this leg was to successfully operate in multiple locations with the same level of efficiency and professionalism as was achieved in Portmore. Once again Mr. President, target set, target met.

Following on the heels of the hugely successful Pilot programme in Portmore (St. Catherine), St. James as well as Kingston and St. Andrew the programme was expanded to all Parishes with registrations beginning on May 6, 2021 with full roll-out beginning on May 21, 2021.

Mr. President, to date ENDS has recorded the registration of over 740 businesses and counting. This includes Quick Service

Restaurants, Vendors, Supermarkets, Small and Medium Businesses, Health Facilities, Pharmacies and Couriers. Up to the 18th of September when the curfew restrictions were relaxed, ENDS had been responsible for the safe resumption of work of over 7,850 Jamaicans in various sectors. The target Mr. President was to balance lives and livelihoods. Target set, target met. The ENDS directory, Mr. President, now proudly boasts the listing of 319 approved restaurants, 79 approved supermarkets, 38 approved delivery providers, 24 approved cafes and 19 approved pan chicken vendors.

Going forward Mr. President, we must anticipate the possibility of further instances where a more robust curfew could become necessary. In such an instance ENDS remains at the ready to register any and every business that can present a safe model of operation that will not exacerbate the spread of the dreaded Covid-19 disease.





# Conclusion

Mr. President, the goal of building a Safer Jamaica is paramount in the minds of this Government. It is the foremost responsibility of any Government. There are many more programs that I could bring to the attention of the country that will lead to the achievement of this objective. The time today simply would not allow.

I however wish to assure the country that this Government, led by the MHPM Andrew Holness, supported by the DPM Dr Horace Chang is doing what is required to Secure Our Future.

## Thank You.



## NOTES



A series of horizontal lines for taking notes, overlaid on a background graphic. The graphic includes a wireframe hand at the top, a pixelated keyhole in the center, and a wireframe hand at the bottom. The bottom section of the page is decorated with a pattern of white dots of varying sizes.



## NOTES



A series of horizontal lines for taking notes, overlaid on a background graphic. The graphic features a wireframe hand holding a pixelated map of Latvia, which has a keyhole in the center. The bottom of the page is decorated with a pattern of white dots of varying sizes.



## NOTES



A series of horizontal lines for taking notes, overlaid on a background graphic. The graphic features a wireframe hand holding a shield with a keyhole in the center. The shield is composed of a grid of dots, and the hand is also made of a wireframe mesh. The entire design is set against a light blue background with faint architectural lines.





# MINISTRY OF **NATIONAL SECURITY**

Senator the Honourable

**Matthew  
Samuda**

Minister without Portfolio in the  
Ministry of National Security

**STATE OF THE NATION  
PRESENTATION**

## **Securing Our Future**

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**GORDON HOUSE  
Friday, September 24, 2021**