



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS &
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TELEPHONE 754-0030/619-6017/878-0528
FAX: 754-3601

Email: gillian.haughton@mns.gov.jm

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY
NCB NORTH TOWER
2 OXFORD ROAD
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA

November 8, 2016

23-thousand private security guards now have access to self-contributory health insurance scheme

The Ministry of National Security through the Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA), today launched a self-contributory health insurance scheme for private security guards, provided through Guardian Life.

The announcement was made by Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague at a press briefing held at the Ministry's Oxford Road head office today, November 8, 2016.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Montague highlighted the process that led to this occasion, *"I am of the view that the security guard industry is under-appreciated in this country. These 23,000 men and women are a vital part of this nation's growth agenda. Banks, schools, ministries, airports cannot function without them."*

Some guards are certified yet many times we do not give attention to their working conditions. Today is therefore a historic day. Under the scheme, guards at the entry level will be able to access health insurance at a cost of 997 Jamaican dollars per month.”

The self-funded health insurance scheme provided by Guardian Life Insurance, will become effective on December 1, 2016. The scheme also has two other plans as a part of the scheme to cater to all categories of earners within the industry; J\$1473 and \$2725, respectively.

Executive Director of the PSRA, Roslyn Monteith Campbell reiterated the Minister’s statements. *“This is a moment of joy. Though the programme is self contributory, it is a big step and I implore each and every security guard to learn the details of the plan.*

Vice President of Marketing and Sales at Guardian Life, Alicia Foster said Guardian Life is delighted to be a part of this important occasion. *“The private security industry employs thousands of men and women and we want to ensure that they stay healthy. I applaud the government and the Minister of National Security for taking this bold step for this very important sector.”*

The Minister congratulated Guardian Life for its role in the process. In this regard he said, *“The scheme is affordable,*

accessible and underlines the commitment of this government to the people of Jamaica.

Minister Montague also announced the government's intention to treat with security guards as a special group. *“There is now a joint cabinet submission with the Ministry of Labour to treat with the conditions of service for our security guards. We are also looking to establish a National Security Polytechnic where university credits will be attached to the courses that people do within the security apparatus so that these credits can be accumulated to the level of a diploma, associate degree up to the Masters level. We want to put the security guards on a pathway that will lift the industry and the country,”* he said.

=30=