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HUNDREDS GATHER FOR MOTIVATIONAL SESSION HOSTED BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Over 400 persons representing personnel from the Ministry of National Security's Departments and Agencies, journeyed from across the island to attend a New Year 'Blast Off' and Motivational Session hosted by the Minister of National Security, Robert Montague at the Jamaica Conference Centre, in Kingston on Tuesday, January 17.

Highlights of the event were motivational presentations made by popular artistes Bounty Killer and Ninja Man.

The controversial Ninja Man, 51, caught the undivided attention of the group when he offered to assist the security forces through community involvement.

He described the law enforcers as "*slaves to our country*", because the men and women of the force can never be justly compensated for the level of sacrifice they make daily to protect the citizens of Jamaica. Ninja Man said that speaking from "bad man's" perspective, he wanted to warn persons not to use the entertainment industry as a front for criminal activities, as the law would eventually catch up with them, as it had with him.

He praised members of the security forces for the work they have been doing and called on Jamaicans to help in making Jamaica a safer place. ***“It is not the government’s job to make the country better. The government’s job is to run the country. It is our job, as a people, to work together to make Jamaica the country we want to see,”*** Ninja Man stated.

In his presentation, entertainer Bounty Killer said whereas Jamaicans had a lot of love for each other, they were slow to respond to the needs of the community, choosing instead to wait on others to respond. According to him, if there was a choice between paying \$12,000 to attend a popular event, or give \$1,000 to charity, the choice of many Jamaicans would be to attend the event.

In praise of the female members of the security forces, Minister Montague serenaded with Tarrus Riley’s “She’s Royal” and Kenny Rogers’ “Write Your Name (Across My Heart)”, but moved into a serious tone when he declared that next month the Ministry of National Security will launch a ***“Love me to live, don’t love me to death”*** campaign. The campaign, he explained, will be aimed at encouraging churches to lead members into the communities to promote harmony in the homes and to be violence interrupters before situations escalate.

“We are asking the church leaders and their members to go out into the communities and engage members at the point of quarrels and arguments. Let us not wait until its funeral time. It is time for us to actively do something about this issue of domestic violence,” Minister Montague told his audience.

He commended Acting Police Commissioner Novelette Grant on the work she has been spearheading in training members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force in domestic violence matters and stated that it is now time for police personnel to apply what they have been taught.

In her address, Grant, called on members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force to work together, emphasizing the importance of team work in completing assigned jobs.

“We need to stop seeing each other as rivals and competitors. We need to work together to compete against the situation of crime and violence,” the Acting commissioner stated.

The ‘Blast Off’ which was conceptualized by the National Security Minister, was aimed at providing a motivation and morale booster for members of the Ministry’s Departments and Agencies. The event also featured presentations from Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Saphire Longmore and Sociology Lecturer, Dr. Orville Taylor.

MCs for the event were Markland 'Action' Edwards and Wesley 'Burgerman' Burger, who kept the audience entertained and in high spirits by giving away prizes courtesy of the Ministry of National Security and several private sector donors.

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