



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

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For Immediate Release

Marine bases to be established in Clarendon, St. Mary and St. Elizabeth

Three marine bases are to be established at Rocky Point, Clarendon, James Bond Beach, Oracabessa and Little Ochi in St. Elizabeth.

The establishment and joint operation of the bases is part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed recently between the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Customs Agency.

Details of the MOU were given at a press briefing at the Ministry of National Security this morning.

In addition to the establishment of the bases, Jamaica Customs will provide the Jamaica Constabulary Force Marine Division with two new Boston Whaler vessels.

Speaking at the press briefing, National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague welcomed the MOU stating, ***“We do not manufacture guns or bullets legally in Jamaica yet in 81% of crimes, the gun is featured. We have to stop the flow of guns. This MOU that will provide additional protection along the Southern Coast and a section of the North Eastern coast is welcome.”***

The Minister further stated that the two new vessels will add to the current fleet of 12 that the Jamaica Constabulary Force received from the United States Embassy to provide inshore patrols while the recent acquisition of two ships for the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard will do off-shore patrols.

Minister Montague said that the MOU represents an historic moment because it will change the way Jamaica secures its borders.

Providing an overview of the MOU, Commissioner of Customs, Major Richard Reese said, ***“This MOU speaks to a strengthening of the partnership with the JCF as the Customs Agency is co-located with the JCF marine bases. In association with the JCF we also do interdiction of suspicious vessels in coastal areas. This is another milestone as we work together to strengthen our border protection.”***

Acting Commissioner of Police, Novelette Grant said the JCF is pleased with the MOU and the steps being taken to interrupt trafficking of persons and contraband. ***“This MOU is an indication of the type of approach required to deal with the security of Jamaica’s borders. It is the joined up approach which requires all of government and whole of society coming together,”*** she said.