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National Security Minister says Gangs under pressure

Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague says increased activities by the security forces are putting gangs under pressure.

Minister Montague says many of the murders are inter- and intra-gang related arising from increased police intelligence and seizure of weapons which in turn have created tension and conflict among the gang members.

Minister Montague said the government is determined to continue the social intervention programmes in the areas to result in a safer and more prosperous Jamaica for all.

He said as the police continue to dismantle gangs in areas such as Barrett Town and Hanover, other gangs are attempting to infiltrate the communities and take over the space.

In addition, he pointed to a disturbing new trend where feuds involving gang members overseas are being fought in Jamaica. Some of these conflicts arise from lottery scamming and the gun for drugs trade.

The National Security Minister also notes that domestic conflicts are adding to the murder tally. Minister Montague is calling on members of the public who know of persons in conflict to encourage them to seek help by speaking with a counselor, a justice of the peace or a pastor.

He's also appealing to persons with relatives overseas who are in conflict, to let the police know so action can be taken.

The security forces have intensified their activities to curtail gang-related murders with the imposition of curfews.

They will continue implementing other measures to clamp down on crime and violence.

Minister Montague is urging all well thinking Jamaicans to work with the Ministry in implementing the 5-pillar crime strategy and help with law enforcement.

Citizens can do this by sending any information to the police anonymously using the Stay Alert mobile app, or by writing down the information, placing it in an envelope, mark an X, and drop in the mail box at the post office.

Persons may also call Crime Stop.

The National Security Minister reiterated that the crime situation cannot be solved overnight, and will require an all-of-Jamaica approach with citizens working closely with the security forces.

Minister Montague said the Government is aware of the trauma and pain suffered by persons who have lost loved ones, and the damage to brand Jamaica.