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For Immediate Release

Jamaica Combined Cadet Force to help stem youth criminality

Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague says the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force (JCCF) is one of the best suited institutions to empower young people across the island.

He was speaking at the handover of a Toyota Corolla motor vehicle to the JCCF on Thursday at the headquarters in Up Park Camp, Kingston.

The vehicle was handed over to assist the organization in its thrust to double the number of cadets as a means of getting more unattached youths into the cadet programme.

The Minister said *“It is my intention to continue supporting the JCCF so that it will be empowered to double its strength within this year. If we are to meaningfully impact our youth and reduce crime through social development, then we must do more in this regard. We can divert a lot of our youngsters from a life of criminality through the cadet programme.”*

The vehicle handed over is the first to be given to the JCCF in recent years. This move follows several initiatives recently launched by the Ministry to encourage more youth participation in the Cadet Force.

The JCCF is a movement that provides youth with stability and purpose through training based on military expertise. The ultimate goal is to develop leadership qualities in the recruits.

The process of renewal and expansion of the JCCF has already begun with launch of the JCCF Alumni/Friends Registry last year. This allows cadet alumni and friends to volunteer with the JCCF, whether through their time, finance or mentorship of current cadets.

The JCCF currently has 2600 cadet participants and 94 cadet units operating island wide.

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Minister of National Security, Hon Robert Montague cuts the ribbon at the handing over ceremony of a Toyota Corolla vehicle to the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force. He is flanked by Permanent Secretary, Dianne McIntosh (4th right), Adjutant Training Officer, Major Simoan Foster (left) and Acting Commander, Lt. Col. A. Gracey