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For Immediate Release

Minister of National Security says JCF attrition rate reduced

Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague says there has been a reduction in the Jamaica Constabulary Force's attrition rate. He was speaking at the Inspectors' Branch Board Symposium held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel yesterday.

The Minister said *“For the first time in five years, there has been a fall in the attrition rate of the JCF. The numbers are there to show it. We are down from 500 officers leaving the force for the year to just over 200.”*

The Force Orders published by the Jamaica Constabulary Force reported that in 2016, 137 JCF members retired and 360 resigned. In 2017, 90 JCF members resigned and 186 retired, which represents a significant decrease in the attrition rate.

Minister Montague attributed this to the move of the Ministry to create effective policing by improving working conditions for members of the JCF across the island.

The Minister said that the budget being proposed for national security for the coming fiscal year is over J\$11-billion dollars. This is the largest amount to be spent on national security to date. He also said included in the budget are more initiatives to improve working conditions of the JCF.

The Ministry has already carried out major repairs on 47 police stations and minor repairs to 61 stations, bought stand-by generators to service police stations, 4500 ballistic vests and 3000 helmets, procured over 400 motor vehicles to date and purchased gym equipment for the 19 police divisions.

Further to this J\$11-million dollars has been spent on purchasing appliances for police stations across the island including fridges, microwaves, stoves and television sets.

He persisted in his appeal to commanding officers of police stations in need of minor repairs to use the funds available through the JCF 150 Station Fix-Up Initiative.

The Minister also highlighted the recent addition of dorms at Harman Barracks and the National Police College and the employment of attorneys to expedite the preparation of cases to go to Court and replenish the Legal Defense Fund.

Minister Montague expressed thanks to the Inspectors and by extension their families for the work they do and encouraged them to continue to foster attributes of leadership and accountability. ***“Effective leadership requires accountability and accountability requires honesty. I do not support calls for the disbanding of the JCF. Every Jamaican can find at least five police men or women that they trust. These men and women who serve are the best in the Western hemisphere bar none and I want to place on record my sincere thanks to you all,”*** he said.



National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague speaks at the Inspectors' Branch Board Symposium while Chairman of the Jamaica Police Federation, Sergeant Cecil McCalla looks on