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August 16, 2017

## **Minister of National Security to meet with Police Federation to discuss amendments to Sections of Constabulary Force Act**

The Ministry of National Security notes the concerns raised in the media by the Jamaica Police Federation regarding consequential amendments to Sections 5 and 70 of the Constabulary Force Act arising from the *Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act*.

The Ministry recognizes that the consultation process in relation to these consequential amendments could have been more extensive. It should be noted however, that prior to the *Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act*, the *Constabulary Force Act* made provisions for: i) a term of enlistment, in particular the six month notice period required before a Sub-Officer or Constable can withdraw from the Force (Section 5); and ii) meetings to be secret (Section 70).

As far back as 2010, based on the recommendations of the 2008 JCF Strategic Review, a decision was made to modernize the Jamaica Constabulary Force and its legislative framework. This resulted in a series of consultations with key stakeholders.

Of particular note, discussions relating to amendments to Section 5 of *the Constabulary Force Act* were held with the JCF, the then Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF), the Jamaica Police Federation and the Police Officers Association.

Since the start of 2017, a new working group has been established to re-energize the legislative review process which has been identified as a key priority for the Government. The said working group involves the JCF and the Jamaica Police Federation. Discussions surrounding this matter are ongoing.

It is the culture of the Ministry to facilitate productive consultations. In this regard, National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague will be meeting with the Jamaica Police Federation on Thursday August 17, 2017 with a view to discussing the concerns raised.

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