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March 17, 2016

## For Immediate Release

### **Hon. Robert Montague discloses plan to curb crime**

National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague on Thursday (March 16) disclosed critical areas his administration will be focusing on to secure Jamaica.

Speaking at a high level police officer's conference, Minister Montague outlined in detail the plans that the administration is taking to arrest the crime situation in the country. The Minister stated, "*This administration has crafted a plan to treat with crime. Included in this plan are the elements citizen safety and security, cyber security, public order, tackling corruption in all its forms and territorial integrity.*"

The other elements of the plan are mitigating against terrorism, succession planning for the continuation of government and a focus on education.

He told the officers that this plan needs their full commitment and thanked them for the excellent level of service they continue to provide in trying circumstances. ***“You have served this country through thick and thin and we must place on record our appreciation for that service... When a police officer leaves for work in the morning there is no guarantee that he or she will return home,”*** Minister Montague stated.

The Minister also brought attention to the victimization survey conducted in April 2016 (sample size 4,700), which showed that only 9.3% of people interviewed felt crime had increased in their community but 60.4% felt crime had increased all over the island so it is more about perception than the reality. ***“The murder numbers are still up but the clear up rate is also up. This means that the chances of getting away when you commit murder are getting very slim,”*** he said.

During the conference attended by Acting Commissioner Novelette Grant, members of the Police High Command and other senior officers, Minister Montague also highlighted the efforts of the Ministry of National Security to mobilize the police force in order to create effective policing; one of the five pillars of his crime management strategy.

***“We are moving to procure 120 pick-ups and 80 more pre-owned cars, repair police stations, provide gyms for each police division,***

*install more CCTV cameras across the island, attorneys for each division and re-visit the e-diary software system for all police stations. We have invested heavily in the intelligence network and the Forensics lab, we have also purchased 3500 ballistic vests and 2500 ballistic helmets, signed an MOU with the churches for the handing over of contraband, upgraded JCF communications from analogue to digital and established three new coastguard bases in Rocky Point, Oracabessa and Alligator Pond. These are just some of the additional investments we have made to create effective policing even as we seek to amend laws, audit gun ranges and recruit more police personnel,”* the Minister stated.

These improvements have been bolstered by support from international partners such as the US and Canada, which have contributed a driving and shooting simulator to the JCF and a Bullettrax System to the Forensics Lab, respectively.



National Security Minister, Hon. Robert Montague speaking at the All Officer's Conference held at the Police Officer's Conference Centre on Thursday