



**PRESS RELEASE
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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang in conversation with Chief of Defense Staff, Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss Gorman at the Opening Ceremony for National Cybersecurity Day held at the Caribbean Military Academy in Kingston earlier today (October 31). Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Rocky Meade looks on.

Jamaicans must be kept informed of Cybercrime risks – Minister Chang

“Jamaicans must be kept informed about the reality and the risk of cybercrimes,” declared Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, underscoring the Ministry's commitment to protecting Jamaicans from cyber threats.

In remarks delivered at the Major Organised Crime Agency (MOCA) and the Mona School of Business and Management Public Lecture held at the University of the West Indies (UWI) yesterday (October 30), the Minister highlighted the critical importance of awareness, education and collaboration in the ongoing fight against cybercrime.

Speaking at the lecture, the Security Minister drew attention to the evolving landscape of cybercrime in Jamaica, noting that, **“Much of the evolving crime and violence revolves**



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around the use of digital instruments, it is now emerging as the primary cause of homicide in Jamaica.”

He stressed that the increased use of digital technology in criminal activity has placed additional pressures on the nation’s law enforcement agencies who are charged with confronting these sophisticated forms of crime.

Further to this, as the Cyber Awareness Month of activities comes to a close, in a call to action at the Opening Ceremony for National Cybersecurity Awareness Day today (October 31), the Minister reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to strengthening national cybersecurity defences. **“The government remains committed to raising awareness and fostering dialogue around cybersecurity as it is essential,”** he stated.

Recognising the urgent need for resilience, the government has prioritised education and training as foundational steps in safeguarding citizens against cyber risks. **“A crucial step to building resilience in the fight against cybercrimes lies in education and training,”** the Minister emphasised, underscoring the Ministry’s dedication to empowering Jamaicans to better understand and respond to cyber threats.

The Ministry’s multi-layered strategy to combat cybercrime includes forging partnerships with key stakeholders, as the government views collaboration as a key component in developing a robust and united approach to national cybersecurity.

Minister Chang further highlighted that investment in technology is another pillar of the approach. **“To support these efforts in the fight against cybercrime, we must also prioritise investments in cutting-edge technology,”** He pointed to the recent increase in budgetary allocations as a clear indication of the government’s commitment to fortifying Jamaica’s cyber infrastructure. **“A prime example of the commitment in this regard is the increased budgetary allocation towards the strengthening of the nation’s cyber infrastructure,”** he added, assuring that these resources will enhance the capabilities needed to monitor and respond to cyber threats.

The Ministry of National Security remains dedicated to equipping law enforcement agencies with the advanced tools and training necessary to bolster their investigative capabilities. By expanding awareness, fostering partnerships, and leveraging technological advancements, the commitment to protecting all Jamaicans from the perils of cybercrime and to building a resilient cybersecurity framework across the nation, remains the mantra.

