



PRESS RELEASE
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All hands on Deck – Minister Chang

“A safer, more secure Jamaica requires all hands, all sectors and all citizens on deck” says Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang. The need for a collaborative approach to crime fighting was outlined by the Minister at the Naming and Commissioning Ceremony for the Jamaica Defence Force’s patrol vessel, HMJS Nanny of the Maroons, in Port Royal on Wednesday (July, 29).

The Minister noted that securing Jamaica’s borders and territorial waters is critical to national security, and the newly acquired vessel is a confirmation of the Government’s commitment to making Jamaica more safe and secure.

Minister Chang emphasised that the establishment and expansion of the Maritime, Air and Cyber Command Brigade **“has dealt a significant blow to the criminals involved in transnational criminal activity”**, disrupting human trafficking and the illicit trade in guns and drugs.

“The strategic collaboration among our security forces; our targeted investments in science and technology driven solutions, and the resultant expansion of our security capabilities will positively impact crime in a sustainable way”, Dr. Chang continued.

HMJS Nanny of the Maroons was built in Vietnam, and is the first of two Damen patrol vessels received by the Jamaica Defence Force. It will be used for search and rescue, fisheries protection, maritime law enforcement, marine pollution control, coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling and drug interception.

The vessel was named in honour of Jamaica’s only female hero, the Right Excellent Nanny of the Maroons, who epitomised strength, resilience and commitment to her people. The crew of HMJS Nanny of the Maroon is expected to embody Nanny’s legacy as they carry out their duties on behalf of the Jamaican people.

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