



**PRESS RELEASE
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Gov't commits to provide JCF with technological and Scientific Tools

The Ministry of National Security is working to improve the legislative ambit within which the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) operates says Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang.

“The government will ensure that the police have all the legal, tactical, technological, scientific, and force multiplier tools that are necessary to effectively carry out their duties, serve and protect the people of Jamaica”, he said.

Minister Chang was addressing the second staging of the award ceremony for the Police Civilian and Oversight Authority's (PCOA) Transforming Our Police Service (TOPS) Competition, which was held earlier today.

The Minister added that the Government is fully committed to the process of change across the JCF and will continue to provide the support and investments necessary to develop the competencies and capabilities of police officers.

“As an organization, as a country and as a government, now more than ever, we must all come out in strong condemnation of all forms of crime and violence. We must give our full support of the work of the police - the true force for good in Jamaica”, Dr. Chang said.

He pointed out that the recipients were being recognised for having demonstrated exceptional compliance with the policies of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), which helps to boost morale across the organisation.

“You have exemplified the true professionalism and integrity which are at the heart of our police force. Thank you for providing such commendable service to the people of Jamaica! You have set a standard for quality policing which should be recognised and replicated”, he said.

The Greater Portmore, Above Rocks, Cedar Valley and Bath Police Stations copped the awards for the best performing police stations in Area 5, while the St. Andrew North Police Division was awarded the Division of the year.

The ceremony which was held at the Office of the Commissioner of Police earlier this afternoon also saw prizes being awarded for records management, station administration, station facility and community/customer service.

In addressing the ceremony, Chief Executive Officer of PCOA, Mrs. Otarah Byfield-Nugent, said the primary objective of the competition is to build public trust and confidence in the JCF. **“TOPS 2020 has seen a greater inclusion of the community in determining the outcome of the competition and we recognise the value of the initiative and hope to continue executing the programme across all areas of the JCF”**, explained the CEO.

Sub-Officer in charge of the Above Rocks Police Station, Sergeant Garfield Wallace, who accepted the cash award of \$100,000 for the top performing police station said **“it is an overwhelming achievement for the men and women who serve that community”**. He added that despite the challenges, **“we are elated and appreciative”**.

“I want to thank all the men and women who serve at the Above Rocks Police Station and extend gratitude to the hierarchy of the St. Catherine Division for seeing in me the leadership qualities necessary to make this award possible”, concluded Sergeant Wallace.

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