



**PRESS RELEASE
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Security Guards to Assist in Enforcing COVID-19 Protocols – Minister Chang

Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang says the Ministry may have to call on private security guards to assist with enforcing COVID-19 measures in public spaces across the island.

“Security guards will be called in to ensure protocols are maintained. We don’t necessarily expect police officers to be everywhere monitoring who will be wearing mask and who will be maintaining social distance and certainly we can engage elements of the security guards system to work with us to ensure we maintain protocols...it is critical to maintain the protocols to control the spread of COVID-19 virus,” said Minister Chang, during the opening ceremony for the Private Security Regulations Authority’s (PSRA) Western Regional Office in Montego Bay, St. James earlier today.

He added that for Jamaica to flatten the curve and ensure the that there is genuine prosperity for all, **“we have to have an effective security operation to secure the public”**.

Meanwhile, Executive Director of the PSRA, Mr. Rick Harris said the opening of the Authority’s Montego Bay office will meet the growing demand for its support and services offered to the private security sector.

“The office will improve the Authority’s ability to be more efficient and effective in monitoring and regulating the private security industry in the western part of the island, thus increasing compliance of private security guards, companies and other stakeholders to the Private Security Regulation Authority Act,” he said.

As of December 2019, approximately 24,000 private security personnel were registered with the PSRA, in comparison to approximately 13,000 at the end of 2007. The Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) was created to monitor and regulate the Private Security Industry. The body was created in 1992, and is an Agency of the Ministry of National Security.