



**PRESS RELEASE
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Senior Policy Director in the Ministry of National Security, Renee Steele presents prizes for the Top Prisoner in Custody Award to Inspector Byron Palmer of the Oracabessa Police Station at the Transforming Our Police Service (TOPS) Awards Ceremony held at Cardiff Hotel & Spa in St. Ann earlier today (November 27).

Ministry of National Security reaffirms commitment to strengthening Police-Civilian Partnerships

“Together, we can continue to build a police force that embodies trust, transparency, and excellence.” – Ms. Renee Steele, Senior Policy Director, Crime Prevention and Community Safety Branch.

At the annual Transforming Our Police Service (TOPS) Awards Ceremony held at Cardiff Hotel & Spa earlier today (November 27), the Ministry of National Security reaffirmed its steadfast support for the Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PCOA) and its instrumental role in fostering positive change within the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

In her address delivered on behalf of Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Senior Policy Director, Renee Steele commended the PCOA for its ongoing efforts to shape a more transparent, professional and accountable police service.



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The Senior Policy Director praised the PCOA's success in enhancing community partnerships through initiatives like the TOPS Competition, which recognises police officers who have demonstrated exemplary service and adherence to the highest standards of professionalism.

“The Ministry of National Security remains committed to supporting the PCOA's mission to bridge the gap between the police and the citizens they serve,” Ms. Steele stated.

She added that: **“Our collective aim is to build a safer and more inclusive Jamaica, where trust and cooperation between law enforcement and communities are paramount.”**



Deputy Commissioner of Police Clifford Blake presents the award for the Top Station in Area Two to Cpl. Wilson of the Castleton Police Station at the Transforming Our Police Service (TOPS) Awards Ceremony held at Cardiff Hotel & Spa in St. Ann earlier today (November 27).

Since its inception in 2019, the TOPS initiative has become a symbol of the evolving culture within the Jamaica Constabulary Force, fostering collaboration, improving morale, and promoting ethical policing practices. The Ministry emphasised that such efforts are crucial in transforming policing in Jamaica, making it more transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs of the public.

In line with these objectives, Chief Executive Officer of the PCOA, Otarah Byfield Nugent, acknowledged the significant strides made in fostering stronger police-civilian relationships.

“Our officers have demonstrated excellent service to the citizens of Jamaica,” she said. **“But transformation should not only be a guiding principle for the JCF but for every citizen who wants better,”** she added.



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She further emphasised the importance of sustaining and strengthening the TOPS initiative, stating, **“TOPS is all about preserving the heart of the programme and upgrading the soul and depth of the impact.”**

By focusing on both recognition and continuous improvement, the PCOA aims to deepen its influence on the JCF and the broader community.

The PCOA plays a critical role in ensuring that the voices of citizens are heard and considered in shaping police policies and practices.

The Ministry holds an ongoing commitment to the PCOA, noting that the continued success of the police force hinges on strong civilian oversight and active community engagement.

“We will continue to work closely with the PCOA to ensure that the progress we have made in police reform is not only maintained but built upon,” Ms. Steele said.

“Together, we will foster a future where every citizen feels safe and valued, and where our police force exemplifies the highest ideals of integrity, professionalism, and service” she stated.

As the ceremony concluded with heartfelt congratulations to the awardees, the Ministry of National Security reaffirmed its unwavering support for the ongoing work of the PCOA in helping Jamaica achieve its vision of a safer and more just society for all.

