



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 11, 2025



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (second right) shares a moment with Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency Yasuhiro Atsumi (first left) while exploring the Kingston Harbour on one of the newly donated Inshore Patrol Vessels from the Government of Japan to Jamaica yesterday (April 10). Looking on are Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe (first right), Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman (second left), Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ambassador Sharon Miller (third left) and Assistant Commissioner of Police, Jacqueline Green-Scaffie (third right). The Government of Japan handed over the vessels at the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard Headquarters.

Strengthening Coastal Defense and Border Security key to curbing transshipment crime
– Minister Chang

“We don’t manufacture guns, they come into Jamaica from all angles, therefore we have to take steps to protect our borders and to protect our population from this kind of invasion,” Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang emphasises.



@MNSGOVJM

He made the remark while addressing attendees at the handover ceremony for five (5) Inshore Patrol Vessels (IPVs) donated by the Government of Japan to the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) yesterday (April 10).

Minister Chang in highlighting the importance of this contribution shared that, **“We have to deal with the serious problem of not only violence on our territorial space, but the transshipment of contraband and other nefarious activity across the space.”**

He further explained, **“The patrol vessels here are a contribution to the continued development of our security architecture, it is in a special area of maritime security where we face particular challenges.”**

The vessels handed over marks a significant step towards enhancing national security, protecting vital marine resources, fostering international relationships, and promoting sustainable economic growth.

Minister Chang shared that **“the maritime economy is also of growing importance for Jamaica and we have to ensure we can protect and exploit the maritime area around Jamaica which means we need an effective maritime presence.”**



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (third left) poses for a photo with the Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency Yasuhiro Atsumi (centre), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Ambassador Alison Stone Rooffe (second right), Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman (third right), Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ambassador Sharon Miller (second left), Assistant Commissioner of Police, Jacqueline Green-Scaffie (first left) and Brigadier, Elon Clarke (first right), at the handover ceremony for Inshore Patrol Vessels to the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force yesterday (April 10).



@MNSGOVJM

This momentous gesture which comes as a part of the Japan Grant Aid Programme for Economic and Social Development, accentuates the enduring partnership between the two nations as they celebrate 61 years of diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman in her address noted “**these inshore patrol vessels will increase the JDF’s law enforcement capabilities to effect its duties in the maritime domain.**” She added that these duties includes maritime interdiction, fisheries protection, surveillance and monitoring and search and rescue operations.

The vessels donated includes a 40-foot Furuno patrol boat for the JDF, as well as a 40-foot Furuno patrol boat and a rigid-hull inflatable boat for the JCF.

The Ministry of National Security remains resolute in its thrust to fostering a safer and prosperous Jamaica for all through collaborative initiatives.

-30-



@MNSGOVJM