



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**Friday, December 6, 2024**



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang presents Constable Sherwette Watson from Batch 156 with the award for Highest Mark Obtained. The award was given during the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Passing Out Parade and Award Ceremony, held at the National Police College of Jamaica yesterday (December 6).

**Support for our police force is crucial to national progress – Minister Chang**

**“Let us not undermine the mission of the Force, as a strong and effective Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) is critical to the foundation of our society,”** declared Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang during his address at the Passing Out Parade and Awards Ceremony for Batch 156.

The graduation held yesterday (December 6) at the National Police College of Jamaica in St. Catherine, welcomed 139 newly trained constables to the JCF. The constables were urged to embrace their role in fostering safety, security and national development under the government’s *ASPIRE Jamaica* strategy.

Minister Chang lauded the new recruit’s commitment to serving the nation, emphasising the vital role they will play in transforming communities and in ensuring a peaceful environment conducive to economic growth.

The Security Minister reaffirmed the government’s unwavering support of the JCF, noting significant strides made in modernising the force.

**“Through initiatives like Project Rebuild Overhaul and Construct (ROC), we are equipping the JCF with state-of-the-art infrastructure, cutting-edge technology, and modern tools to enhance operational efficiency,”** he stated.

As the transformation of the Force continues to take ground, Minister Chang in delivering the keynote address sought to address concerns about the public perception of the police.



Newly minted constables of Batch 156 display their marching drills during the Passing Out Parade and Award Ceremony held at the National Police College of Jamaica on yesterday (December 6). The Jamaica Constabulary Force is now 139 members stronger as they continue to serve and protect Jamaicans.

He appealed to the wider society to recognise the immense sacrifices made by over 14,000 men and women of the Force.

**“It is crucial that we guard against undermining the effectiveness of the JCF. One mistake, or the actions of a few, should not overshadow the dedication of the vast majority who serve with dignity and integrity,”** he urged.

The Minister further highlighted the pivotal role of the JCF in the Prime Minister’s *ASPIRE Jamaica* strategy, particularly in advancing economic growth through safety and security. He detailed ongoing investments in infrastructure, training, and technological upgrades, which will ensure that the JCF remains agile and capable of addressing modern challenges.

As the graduation ended, Minister Chang expressed confidence in the new recruits, calling on them to be role models and catalysts for change. **“The choices you make today will shape not only your future but the future of Jamaica. Stand firm for justice, protect the innocent and inspire the next generation to follow a path of service and integrity.”**

The government, through the Ministry of National Security, remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen the JCF, ensuring it continues to be a “Force for Good” in the fight against crime and violence.

As the nation moves forward, the Security Minister called on all Jamaicans to support the transformation of the JCF and contribute to building a safer, more prosperous Jamaica.