



**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Relocation of Haitian Migrants and Update on Immigration Status

The Government of Jamaica wishes to update the public regarding the Group of thirty-seven (37) Haitian migrants who arrived illegally in Jamaica on July 10, 2023.

From June 8 to 11, 2024, the Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, facilitated the relocation of the Haitian migrants to a new location.

This move was necessary to return the property temporarily provided by the North East Jamaica Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists. The Ministry extends its gratitude to the church for its significant contribution in easing the challenge of providing adequate shelter for large, unexpected arrivals.

The Ministry also acknowledges the ongoing commitment of the Jamaica Red Cross, other volunteers, and our partner Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Regarding the group's immigration status, the Ministry is currently reviewing each case individually and will provide further updates at an appropriate time.

Following the collapse of the Haitian government and the resignation of former Prime Minister Ariel Henry, the Ministry is developing a temporary humanitarian stay option for Haitian nationals already in Jamaica. This option is contingent upon successful background checks, security screenings, and meeting other prescribed requirements. Some migrants have applied for asylum in Jamaica, while others face various charges in court.

The public is reminded that between July 2023 and May 2024, there were five recorded arrivals of illegal Haitian migrants in Jamaica. While some have sought asylum and are being processed under the Refugee Policy, approximately eighty (80) Haitian migrants have been repatriated, and twenty-two (22) remain in police custody pending ongoing court proceedings.

The Government of Jamaica, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, continues to collaborate with regional and international partners to address the social and political challenges in Haiti sustainably. The Multinational Security Support, led by Kenya, is in an advanced state of readiness, with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) having organised teams. The JDF is leading joint training operations with other CARICOM countries in anticipation of deployment.



@MNSGOVJM

The Ministry of National Security remains vigilant in monitoring the situation in Haiti and will provide periodic updates to the public.

-30-



@MNSGOVJM