

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!!

**Remarks by Hon. Robert Montague,
Minister of National Security
Multilateral Summit:
Combatting Crime in an Interconnected World
Kingston, Jamaica,
June 15-16, 2017**

- [Salutations]
- The Ministry of National Security recognizes the importance of having and maintaining strategic partners in its fight against transnational organised crime. Therefore, please allow me to convey our sincerest appreciation to the Government of the United States, for convening and organising this multilateral summit .
- We also want to place on record our thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Moreno for his relentless efforts and energy in making this conference possible.
- We want to wish him well as he goes on another phase of his life, as he leaves our shores we recall the lyrics of “Jamaica Farewell” **“Sad to say I'm on my way, Won't be back for many a day, My heart is down, My head is turning around I had to leave Kingston town.”**
- We also welcome the overseas delegates, and our keynote speakers, former New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, and former Head Chief General of the Colombian National Police, General Ross Jose Serrano.
- The Jamaican Government in co-sponsoring this event is underlying our thrust, and know can't do it alone, hence we welcomed a delegation from the New York Police department, and INTERPOL, as we move to learn

from them and share our own experiences as we confront the monster of crime.

- Jamaica remains available and willing to partner with others who wish to join us because we all have to help each other; even with our limited resources and challenges, we have much to learn, and much to offer.
- This summit is not only timely but relevant because the world continues to face a series of complex and interconnected threats that, taken together, form a web of drugs, crime and violence. In the digital age, it might only take seconds for a threat to manifest itself at home.
- The truth is, while globalization has expanded international trade to the economic benefit of many countries around the world, it has also diversified the range of organised crime activities that countries such as Jamaica now face. This is a phenomenon that we have been, and we must continue to, confront head on. A loophole created in one jurisdiction affects neighbouring countries and consequently undermines the effectiveness of any multilateral efforts.
- We would only be able to effectively combat this broadening range of criminal activity through concerted, strategic and collaborative co-operation at a global level.
- Organized crime has manifested itself in different activities, including:
 - Drug Trafficking and Trafficking in Firearms;
 - Human trafficking
 - Money Laundering;
 - Cyber Crime and
 - Terrorism.

- Transnational criminal organizations have essentially taken advantage of our increasingly interconnected world to expand their illicit enterprises
- Criminal networks are not only expanding their operations, but they are also diversifying their activities, resulting in a convergence of transnational threats that has evolved to become more complex, volatile, and destabilizing.
- Without a doubt, the global security landscape has shifted over the years and continues to do so as a consequence of this dynamic and evolving world that we live in.
- When we look critically at the Jamaican situation, the risk factors for crime and violence which essentially evolved around politics and economics in the 1970s, morphed to the illegal drug trade in the 80s and 90s, and now to organised crime including lottery scamming, the gun trade and cyber crime and human trafficking, today. This is furthered by globalization and advancements in technology.
- Of course, our geographical position along the main drug transit routes -- between the major cocaine producing and cocaine consuming countries -- also factor highly in our crime and violence situation.
- This we have recognized and that is why transnational organised crime...including trafficking in narcotics, weapons, ammunition and people, money laundering...has been identified as a clear and present danger or a high probability, tier one threat within our 5 pillar crime strategy.

- Throughout our **5 pillar Strategy**, activities related to effective policing, swift and sure justice and reducing reoffending speak to the some strategies to combat transnational crime. I speak specifically now about the development of a National Anti-Gang Strategy, National Anti-Drug Plan and the work of the National Task Force against Trafficking in Persons. I speak as well of improvements to various pieces of legislative instruments such as the Proceeds of Crime Act.
- As a country, we take regional and international security very seriously and have been taking the necessary actions to contribute meaningfully to this effort. This Government is committed to strengthening regional and international security in the fight against a wide range of security threats and challenges.
- We have shared information with our partners, done joint operations, training and assist with search and rescue within the region. We will continue to play our part to reduce the threats to our nation.
- But Jamaica's main problem is the illegal guns and gunmen. We do not produce guns nor ammunition, but the gun is present at 80 per cent of our crime scenes. We may have issues with our police, weaknesses in our laws, limited resources, but we are clear what our number one problem is...it is the illegal gun.
- We are targeting this hence we have invested in two ships and a surveillance plane to protect the integrity of our borders, and to reduce opportunities for illegal guns to come in. We are not where we want to be, and that is why we continue to invest heavily in the intelligence network, our Forensic Institute, because data collection, storage and analysis form the foundation of our thrust against illegal guns.

- We seek cooperation and assistance from you our regional partners in this targeted against illegal guns. Jamaica is committed in assisting other regional nations with their priorities, whether it be drugs, human trafficking, or guns like us.
- But let there be no mistake, we have identified that the illegal gun is our major problem, and we are focused in our resolve to reduce the number of illegal guns on our streets.
- Let there be no doubt that we are also targeting lottery scamming, corruption with the police force, human trafficking and cyber crimes. We are moving to leverage technology, CCTV, enhanced forensics, big data analytics, and the hardening of our cyber defence.
- While our number one priority is to reduce illegal guns and ammunition, tackling corruption within the security forces, and eliminating lottery scamming.
- Enhancing social intervention strategies to stem the flow of young Jamaicans into gangs is also twinned priority of this Government.
- As we move towards our goals, we acknowledge that there will be challenges, but we will not be daunted.
- We remain resolved and resolute, firm and committed focused and strong. We will not be deterred in our mission
- We are redoubling our efforts, enacting relevant legislation, allocating additional resources, because this is a fight that we must win.

- We know that this is a fight not only for the security forces, it is not a fight for the Government only, it requires bi partisan support, Opposition and government and we remain open and willing to sit with the Opposition, civil society groups, academia and any other significant grouping because this fight requires a all-of-society approach.
- This is a fight as a Government and a country we will win. Let there be no doubt about that.
- We know that the manifestation of crime today is a result of seeds planted 15 to 20 years ago; the solutions therefore will not come overnight, because there is no quick fix, no instant answer, there is no switch to turn the crime off.
- What will bring success is an increase in public trust, a partnership with our communities, respect for people's rights, less corruption, stemming the flow of our youths into gangs, use of technology, a calm and informed citizenry, and strong leadership. This administration, my Ministry, is providing that leadership.
- My police force, the JCF, is up to the task, staffed by committed police personnel who are resolved just like the Government, to make Jamaica the place to live, work, raise families and do business.
- I salute my officers for their hard work and commitment, and as we redouble our efforts let it be known that the members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force are one of Jamaica's greatest assets.

- For example, Sergeant Ruth Anderson, a 32 year veteran, received a major award from Florida for her stellar work in Community Policing. I am proud and humbled to be their Minister.
- This conference brings together a broad range of talented persons and widely respected organisations. This is important because we can build new bonds, and strengthen existing ones at the same time.
- Only by combining...all of our efforts...for a more secure world...can we hope to change the world for the better. To address today's security challenges, we therefore need an approach that transcends national borders as well as various disciplines.
- In concluding, I am expecting robust solutions-oriented discussions on emerging global regional threats, proposed efforts to counter the illegal gun trade, illicit trafficking and the building and integrating of regional capabilities as outcomes from this dialogue.
- We wish you well, enjoy Jamaica, and take a little piece with you when you return home.
