

Remarks Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles  
Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security  
At the  
NCU Service of Thanksgiving for the Police  
Saturday April 16, 2016

Salutations

The Ministry of National Security greatly appreciates the support being shown today by the Seventh Day Adventist community for the work being done by the men and women of our security forces. I am honored to be representing the Ministry and our Minister, the Hon Robert Montaque who had wanted to be here in person but could not make it.

He has asked me to tell you that he welcomes the strong partnership that exists between the Church and the security forces, and looks forward to working with the leaders and members of churches across Jamaica, in our shared mission to create a safer and more prosperous Jamaica.

As our Governor General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen has said; “there is nothing wrong with Jamaica that cannot be fixed by what is right with Jamaica.”

We firmly believe that if all of us as law abiding Jamaicans, work as partners with the members of the security forces, and the agencies established to promote and preserve lawfulness in Jamaica; we will overcome the crisis of crime and violence that we face as a country.

We cannot allow a minority of persons who have committed themselves to lives of crime and violence, to terrorize our citizens, traumatize our children and hold our communities hostages to fear. We must restore the values of discipline, honesty, hard work and care for each other that have been hallmarks of the Jamaican society.

These are values that transcend religious, political or social labels, these are the values on which we have been nurtured as a people, values that are essential for the achievement of our goals as individuals, communities and country.

Today we are here to acknowledge a group of persons who embody these values, outstanding public servants who courageously serve on the frontline of our war against criminality and violence. Men and women who have sworn to serve and protect our people in very challenging and demanding circumstances, many times at great cost to themselves, their families and their loved ones. They fully deserve the recognition and honor being shown to them today.

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica and the Ministry of National Security in particular, I salute the Church for demonstrating in such a powerful way your support for our security forces and the fight for law and order in our country. I know that it is a source of encouragement and inspiration to them as they seek to go 'beyond expectations.'

Thank you again for your gracious invitation, may God continue to bless our country and the brave men and women of our security forces.