

Speech for the HM Robert Montague
Signing of the MOU between the MNS, JCF and the UWI.
for the Provision of Accommodation & Training
for the JCF
Thursday August 17, 2017

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

I am pleased to be here to participate in the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of National Security, the Jamaica Constabulary Force and University of the West Indies.

One of this Government's top priorities is the reduction of crime. It is a battle that no one person can win alone. It is a battle that we all must fight and we all must be committed to. Each man, each woman, each entity must play their part. It is through partnerships, agreements and working together for a common cause, that we will, and we must, tame this beast we call crime.

The Ministry of National Security has been and will continue to give focus to two broad policy and priority programme areas that are designed to create a safer and secure nation while simultaneously supporting the economic growth agenda. One of these priority programmes speaks to strengthening the institutional capacity of the security forces.

These programmes, among many others, are clearly documented in the Ministry's Five-Pillar Citizen Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy. The strategy lists Effective Policing as the first of its five priority pillars.

In order for us to have Effective Policing, it is estimated that the JCF needs another 3,000 police officers to bring the compliment to about 14,000. But, the JCF has an attrition rate of approximately 500 police officers per year. Based on the capacity for training that currently exists at the police training facilities at Twickenham Park and the Harman Barracks, we continue to lose more that we can train.

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The Ministry continues to find ways to increase recruitment and retain police personnel so the JCF can have the human resources it needs to carry out Effective Policing and in turn assist in reducing the crime rate.

This MOU that will sign today provides the JCF with facilities at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus for the training and accommodation of recruits. The ability to train more police personnel, to provide additional training and maintain an acceptable level of police officers within the JCF is another step in the right direction towards the fight against crime.

Under this partnership:

The University of the West Indies (UWI) will provide several things including:

- ✓ Housing for 300 recruits of the JCF every six (6) months for the period of 3 years. This will allow us to train more recruits in an effort to increase the police complement.
- ✓ Space for the establishment of a JCF App Development Team.

In this day and age of technology, the police need to have information literally at their fingertips to be able to manage crime. We need to look to technology to help prevent and solve crime. The criminals are using technology to commit crimes; we need to be able to match them every step of the way. The security forces need to have quick and easy access to information. We need to stay on top of technology and be one step ahead of the criminals.

This approach combined with initiatives to amend the JCF Act will help us to create a modern Police Force which will allow for more effective policing and quicker and swifter justice.

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Under this MOU, there will be a collaboration between the UWI Mona School of Engineering, the Computer Science Department and the JCF to establish a JCF App Development Team so that we can use use technology to disrupt cyber criminals especially scammers.

The impact of this facility even extends to the security of the UWI campus, the placing of 300 recruits at a time on the campus provides an additional disincentive for criminals to visit.

We must understand that everyone has to play their part. It is through these public and private sector partnerships that we will be able to tackle the issues and problems. We need to bring together the skills of other groups and combine them with the skills of the JCF, if we all band together, the criminals will not stand a chance.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the signing of this document formally establishes an historic, new strategic partnership between these three entities. We continue to count on the continued support of our partners and stakeholders as we assiduously seek to achieve our goals.

I look forward to seeing the end results and exploring the opportunities that this will offer as the partnership develops.
