



MAKING  
STRIDES  
TOWARDS A SAFE AND  
SECURE JAMAICA

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**SECTORAL DEBATE 2013**

PRESENTED BY: HON. PETER BUNTING, MP  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY  
JUNE 19, 2013

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Presentation in the  
**2013 Sectoral Debate**  
by the Hon. Peter Bunting, MP  
Minister of National Security, June 19, 2013

Theme:

# Making Strides Towards A Safe and Secure Jamaica

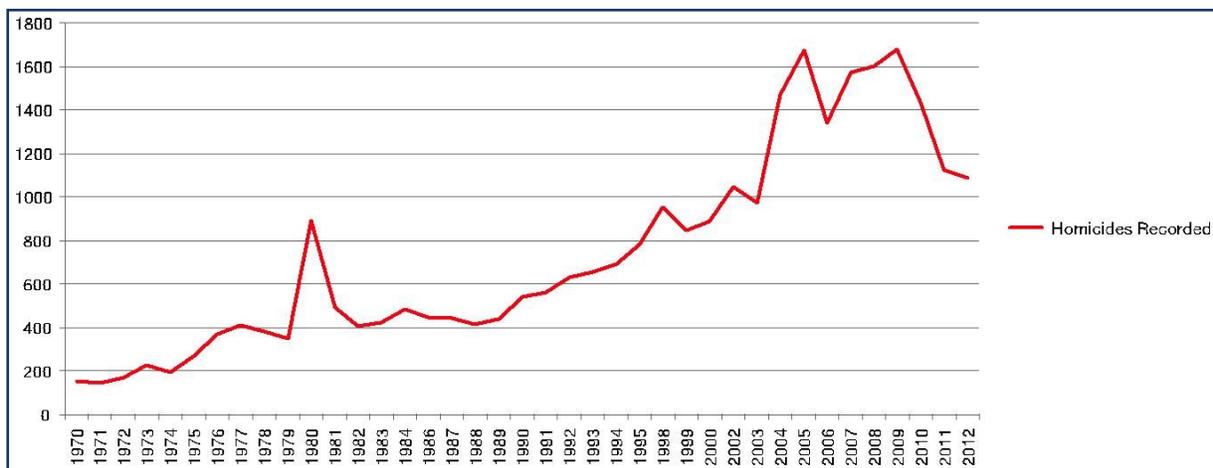
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## INTRODUCTION

The mandate of the **Ministry of National Security**... broadly speaking... is to create an environment of safety and security for our citizens; to protect our borders—the maritime and territorial space; to prevent the trafficking of narcotics and other contraband; to regulate the use of firearms; and to manage the correctional system.

Crime has had a very negative impact on our national development for the last four decades. The **Planning Institute of Jamaica** has stated that the principal obstacles to rapid growth and development in Jamaica are **crime and corruption**. During the preparation of the **2012 National Security Policy**, it was estimated that our GDP would be between three times and ten times its current size (depending on the assumptions), had we not had an exceptionally high crime rate over the past four decades. And, the economic impact pales when compared to the grief, pain, and suffering caused to the victims, their families, and their communities.

### HOMICIDES RECORDED 1970- 2012



| Figure 1. Homicides Recorded 1970-2012

A graph of the number of homicides per year over the last four decades, (**Figure 1.**) shows a seemingly inexorable increase until 2010. However, as a consequence of the May 2010 operation to extradite Christopher Coke; and, the **continued anti-gang operations** by the Security Forces in the succeeding months, there was a **large reduction in murders for approximately one year**. But, by the second half of 2011, murders were again on the rise...**as gangs regrouped**, and the ability of the resource-stretched Security Forces to maintain the intensity of operations waned.

In the **18 months since this Administration has been in office**, we have worked hard to achieve a sustained reduction in crime, albeit at a slower rate than in the immediate post May 2010 period. More importantly, we have been **laying the foundations for sustained and continuing long-term improvements**.

This presentation is organised in three broad areas:

1. The **first** has to do with **Crime Control and the Strengthening of Institutions** that are concerned primarily with that portfolio.
2. The **second area** is about **Crime Prevention**, the **Social Interventions** that are already underway, or that are to be implemented in the coming year.

3. And, **the final area** I will focus on is the **Engagement of the Wider Community: Towards Making Jamaica a Safe and Secure Society.**

This latter task is not about the **Ministry of National Security** and the **Security Forces** alone. It is really about **eliminating the sub-culture of violence** that has emerged over recent decades. And, it is clear that we must create a **broader coalition** of the **“well thinking and the willing,”** to accomplish this mission.

In that regard, I'd like to make reference to a recent hit song by **Queen Ifrica** officially titled **“Corrupt System,”** but informally referred to as, **“Don't Cry Mr. Bunting.”**

This song is an eloquent and poetic example of **constructive criticism**. Unlike some in Opposition and media...whose consistent chorus is: **“Crime is going up... blame the Government,”** **Queen Ifrica's song** is one of concern and makes some very constructive suggestions. In fact, **I will weave some of the lyrics from that song into this Sectoral Presentation.**

The first excerpt I will refer to states:

**“Di first ting you haffi do is clean up the force;  
too much wrong people inna de right post”**

This speaks to having the appropriate structures, and the right personnel and leadership. And, I will now turn to what we are doing in that area...

## **CRIME CONTROL: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

### **Restructuring Of The Jamaica Constabulary Force**

I don't believe anyone can be satisfied with the general pace of conducting criminal investigations, the ratio of investigations that lead to arrest, and the ratio of arrests that lead to convictions.

Some years ago the **Crime Portfolio** was absorbed into the **Operations Portfolio**, which in my opinion had the effect of:

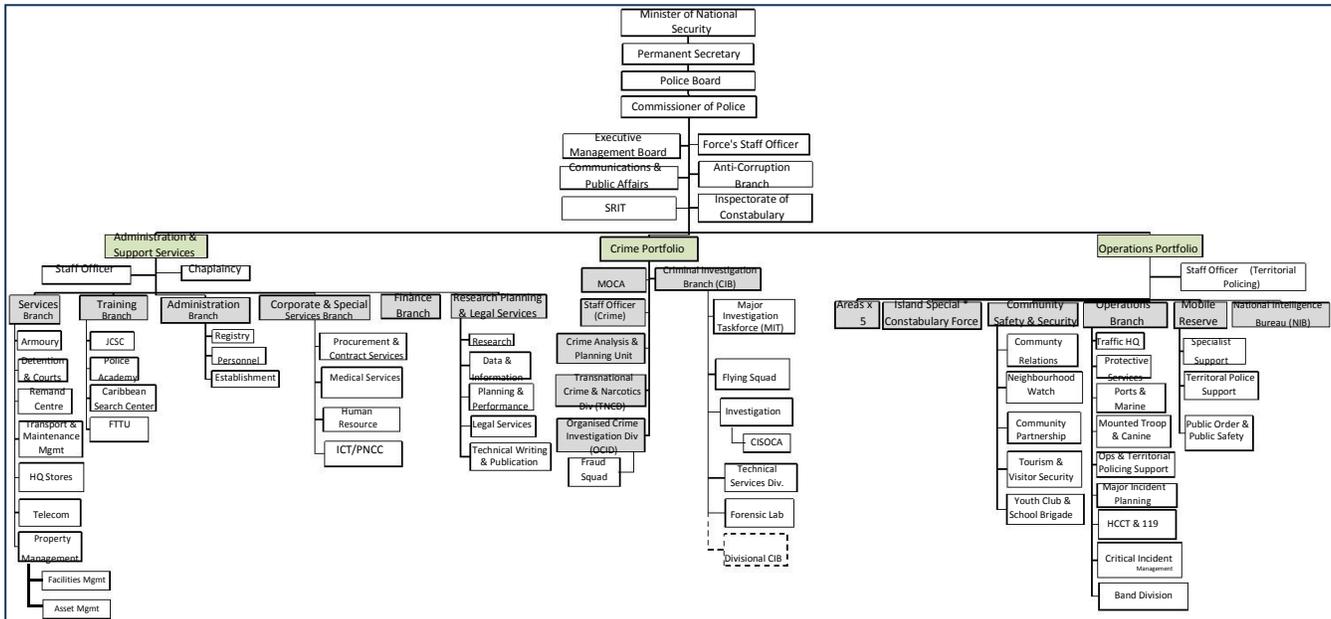
- 1) Diluting the criminal investigation effort, and
- 2) Creating too wide a span of control for the DCP Operations to be optimally effective.

Therefore, earlier this year we re-established the **Crime Portfolio** under the leadership of **DCP Carl Williams.** (Figure 2.). The objective is to improve our investigative capability and, therefore, improve our clear-up and conviction rates, which historically have been poor.

We firmly believe that there are major benefits to be achieved from the separation of these portfolios, and we are convinced that their operations will lead to:

1. Better **strategic oversight** from Deputy Commissioners, who will be able to concentrate on a narrower area of responsibility;
2. Improved **strategic coordination**, communication and control of the different formations and units within portfolios;
3. Wider **scope for career planning** within specific areas of expertise, within a particular formation.

## APPROVED JCF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2013



| Figure 2. New Police Organisation Chart

### Criminal Investigation Portfolio

The **Criminal Investigation Portfolio** comprises 1,700 personnel, or approximately 20% of the JCF's establishment. This portfolio has strategic oversight for 13 units and formations; and is led by the Deputy Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners for the Criminal Investigation Branch and Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Task Force respectively.

The portfolio primarily deals with investigation and preparation for prosecution of criminal cases. A top investigator requires expertise in numerous disciplines, and intuitive knowledge that can only be acquired through experience. Hence officers who opt to serve in criminal investigation must see a clear career path. The separation of the portfolio will ensure greater emphasis on building capacity, training and identifying leaders and implementing succession planning in areas where the expertise takes years to develop.

Generally speaking, the management of criminal investigations in a police organisation the size of the JCF, with the level of serious, violent and organised crime requires full-time strategic management oversight and support. And, it requires someone at the strategic management level to focus on the acquisition of equipment, training, technical assistance and external support for the portfolio on a full-time basis. It also requires hands-on coordination, control and full accountability for the vast amount of data uncovered during investigations.

### Operations Portfolio

The **Operations Portfolio** remains the largest in the **Jamaica Constabulary Force**, headed by **DCP Glenmore Hinds**, with **four Assistant Commissioners** in charge of Operations, Mobile Reserve, Community Safety & Security, and the National Intelligence Bureau, respectively.

In addition, the Deputy Commissioner has overall responsibility for all **19 geographical divisions** as well as the **non-geographical divisions**, which include; Marine, Police Control Centre, Ports,

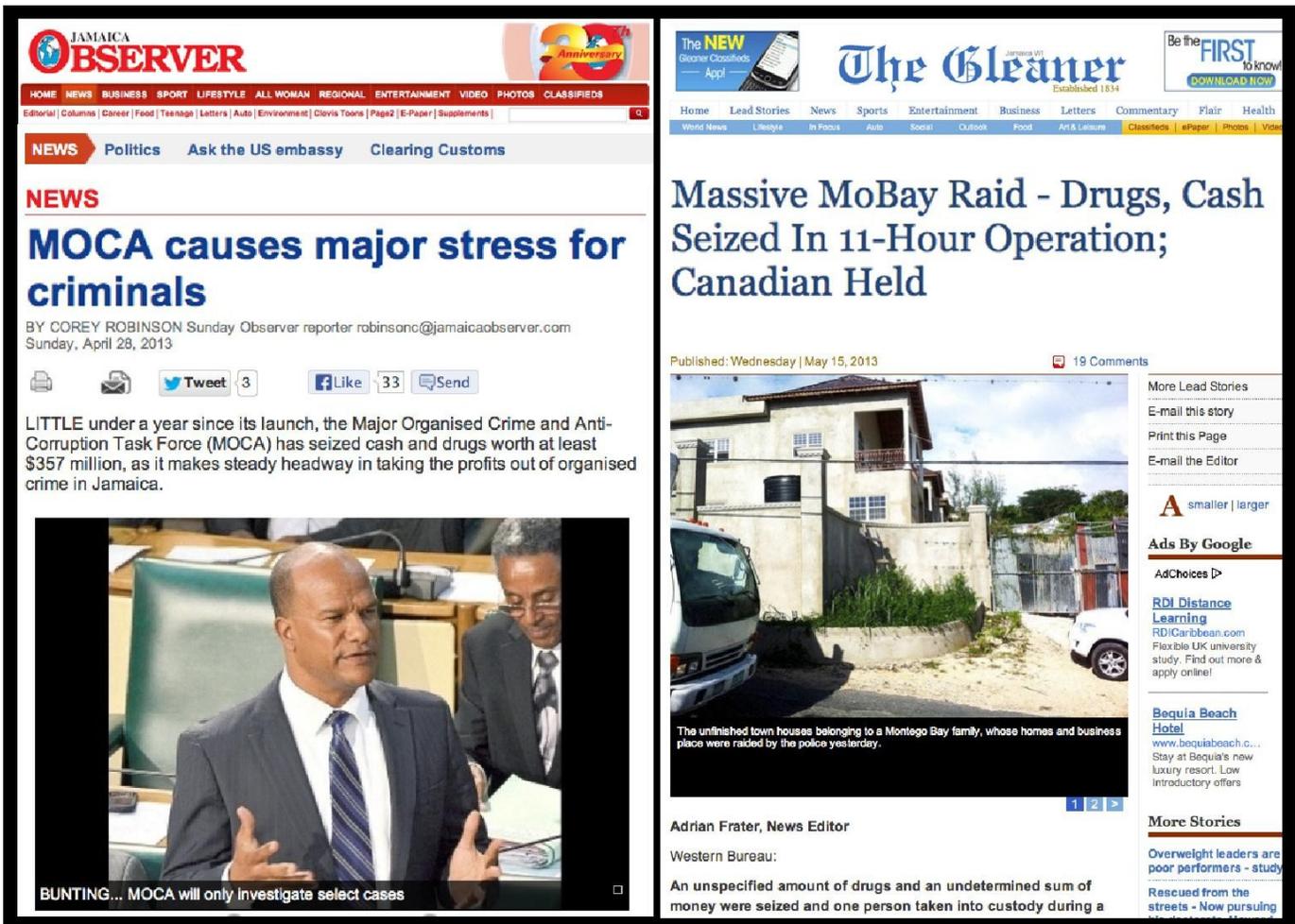
Traffic, Community Safety and Security. Collectively these divisions make up approximately 70% of the establishment of the JCF.

The sheer size and scope of the Operations Portfolio, given daily monitoring and analysis of the numerous data moving through the system, requires full-time oversight and strategic guidance by the portfolio head. The separation of the portfolio provides significant advantages that can only redound to the benefit of the JCF.

## MOCA

One year ago, the Ministry launched **MOCA... the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Task Force**, which is mandated to gather intelligence on long and short-term targets, and to **provide evidential leads for the investigators to conduct arrest and seizure operations.**

MOCA is supported by **the JCF**, along with **local and international partners**; and its **overriding objective is to: dismantle major organised crime syndicates and “take the profit out of crime.”**



| Figure 3. Newspaper articles highlighting success of MOCA

MOCA is a fully vetted, sensitive investigative unit though not in the tradition of **SWAT-type teams** deployed in body armour and ballistic helmets. Their skills are much more forensic, and focused on areas such as the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes as well as asset forfeiture.

This unit is specifically designed to address those criminal kingpins who have operated with impunity over a long period of time and the corrupt public officials and other professionals who facilitate their illicit activities.

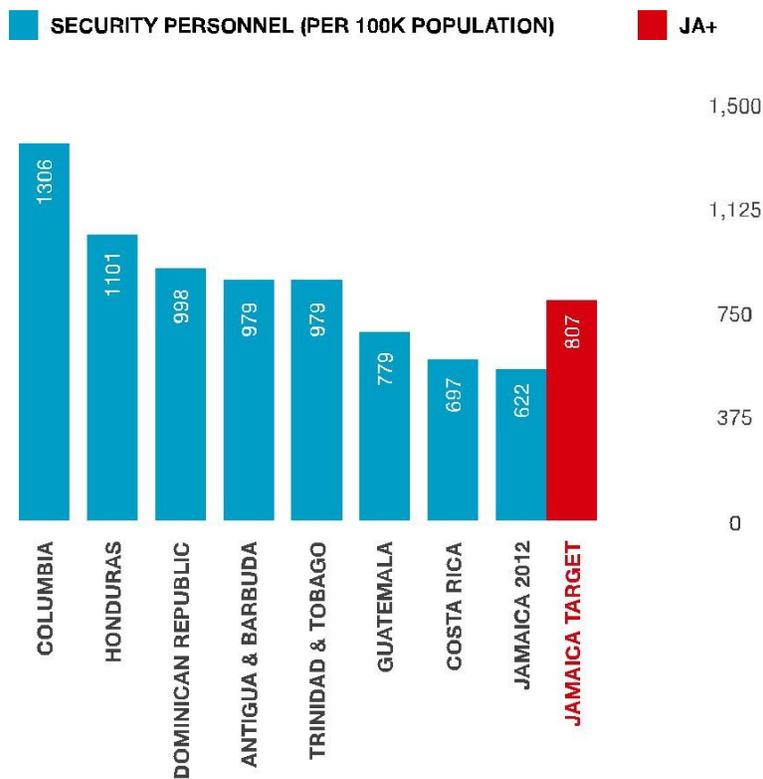
The slogan of this task force is **“Taking the profit out of crime,”** because what is common to narcotics trafficking, lottery scamming, gunrunning, extortion and other organised crime is **making money.**

Already we are starting to reap successes from the establishment of this Unit and I have great expectations that in the months and years to come, MOCA will be the catalyst for a large reduction in major organised crime in Jamaica.

### Human Resources

Despite the high levels of crime we have had for a long time, Jamaica has a proportionately smaller percentage of our population employed in public security than our peers in Caribbean and Latin American countries.

## COMPARATIVE CHART OF SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL PER 100,000 IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

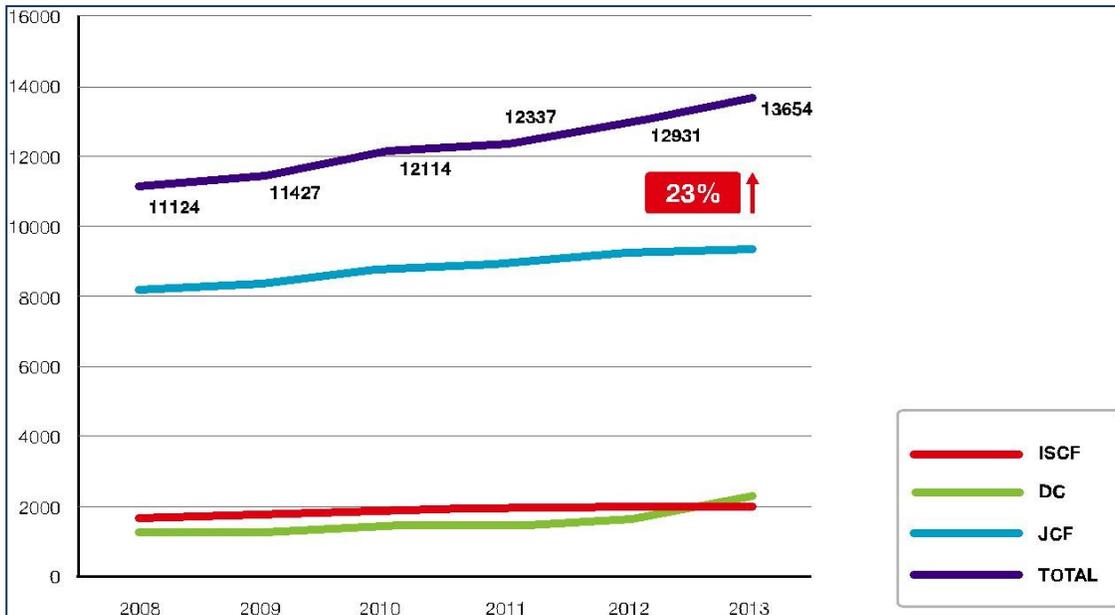


| Figure 4. Chart showing peer comparison

Therefore, this Administration has strived to maintain, and even accelerate, the pace of recruitment and training notwithstanding the fiscal constraints faced by the government.

Over the last five years we have seen an almost 25% increase in the numbers of Police personnel (combined JCF, ISCF and District Constables) with much of that increase coming in the last 18 months, (Figure 5). Even after these increases, we are still below our peers, in terms of the proportion of our population employed in the public security forces.

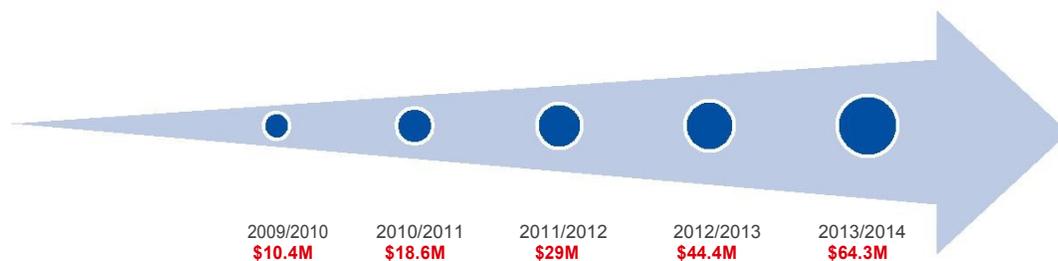
### CHART SHOWING INCREASE IN NUMBER OF POLICE PERSONNEL (STRENGTH)



| Figure 5. Chart showing increase in number of police personnel

We are also seeing a qualitative difference in the calibre of personnel—both at the level of recruitment; and, because of the investment we are making through in-service training. While the entry requirement has not been raised beyond the **5 CSEC** subjects, 15% of the Force now has first or second degrees, with another 10% currently pursuing degrees. This means that within a few years one in four members of the JCF will have at least a first degree and many of those will also have graduate degrees or professional qualifications.

### TRAINING BUDGET IN-SERVICE MEMBERS



| Figure 6. Chart showing budget spent on training of police personnel

Just last Friday, 18 Police personnel graduated from the **New Accelerated Promotion Programme as Assistant Superintendents of Police.**



| Min. Bunting and recent graduates of the New Accelerated Promotion Programme June 14, 2013

Today, while there are many in the JCF who have excelled, I am proud to single out **two members** who have **attained multiple degrees in various disciplines.**

- Sergeant, **Stacey-Ann Powell**, of the **Organised Crime Investigation Division (OCID)**, is the proud holder of a Master of Science Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies; a Bachelor of Science in Management Studies and Human Resource Management; an Associate Degree in Business Administration; and a Certificate in Public Relations.
- Detective Corporal, **Delton Gordon**, of the **Technical Services Division (Scenes of Crime)** who has attained a Master of Science Degree in Forensic Toxicology; and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Education.

They represent **the changing face of the Jamaica Constabulary Force...** as we continue to guarantee that: ***“We have the right people in the right posts!”***

**Mobility as Force Multiplier:** Because of fiscal constraints, we will not be able to get the size of the Security Forces to optimal levels in the short term, but we are also increasing our investment in vehicles, which will act as a force multiplier. During the last fiscal year, we spent **\$600 million acquiring vehicles for the Security Forces**, which is more than what was spent in the previous three fiscal years combined. We will continue the investment in Force mobility in the current year.

This additional investment in vehicles will facilitate increased patrols and vehicle check points which will reassure citizens, and restrict the free movement of criminals and contraband.

## **Anti-Corruption Efforts**

Finally, it is especially important that the **persons charged with upholding law and order in our society demonstrate the highest level of professionalism and integrity in the performance of their duties.**

Therefore, in keeping with the commitment by the JCF to remove and eradicate this blight on the country's reputation, a total of **91 persons** were arrested and charged by the **Anti-Corruption Branch** for corruption in the last year. This includes **51** sworn members and **40** civilians. In addition, **14** members were retired in the public interest and 50 persons were removed from the Force for acts that were considered unethical, or which breached the organisation's Code of Conduct.

And, in accordance with the vetting policy initiated by the Strategic Review, ethical interviews and polygraph examinations are conducted routinely in order to facilitate promotion and placement of personnel in sensitive areas within the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

## **Use of Technology**

And, as our society becomes more adept in the use of **Information Communication Technology**, the Ministry of National Security is taking full advantage of its capabilities in terms of crime control and crime prevention initiatives. For example:

**Smart Phone App:** Members of the Police Force are now in a position to use a Smart Phone Application to **check the authenticity of drivers' licences and motor vehicle documents** by simply accessing the Blackberry (Smart Phone) **Law Enforcement Database** that has been installed on **550 handsets** of Traffic and Operational Personnel across the island.

**CCTV:** To facilitate our efforts in detecting criminal offences in public spaces, we will be expanding surveillance via closed circuit television during the next financial year. The necessary equipment has already been installed in Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, and Half-Way-Tree; and we will be expanding the use of this facility by increasing the number of cameras in existing towns; and, will also expand the surveillance to include areas of Spanish Town.

**APFIS Upgrade:** We upgraded the JCF's **Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System** (APFIS) at a cost of **J\$260 million**. One component involves the conversion of the remaining paper-based **Fingerprint Records** to digital format. Last year, I signaled that the Ministry intended to go for greater cost recovery in the provision of these types of services; and, I can now report that this has been smoothly implemented.

**Police Radio System:** There is also a provision in the budget to convert the analogue **Police Radio System** to a digital system with enhanced capabilities at a cost of **J\$240 million**.

## **Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA)**

Mr. Speaker, when I was appointed to the Ministry of National Security 18 months ago, I received many complaints about the **Firearm Licensing Authority**. Since its inception six years ago, the Authority had only processed about half of the total number of applications received; therefore, there was a three-year backlog of approximately six thousand applications.

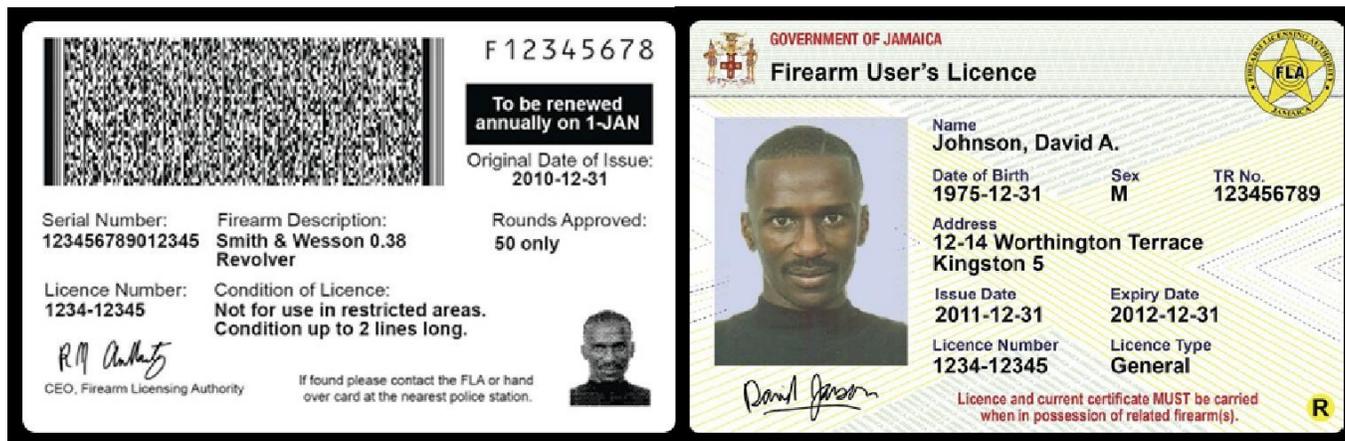
We, therefore, appointed new members to the Authority led by **Mr. Robert Gregory**, as Chairman. The Authority, in turn, identified **Dr. Kenroy Wedderburn**, as having the operations and project management

expertise to do the necessary re-engineering of the firearm application and renewal processes. I wish to thank Scotiabank who agreed to second Kenroy to the FLA for three years, at no additional cost to taxpayers.

I am pleased that the efforts of the new members of the Authority and the CEO have resulted in a more than threefold increase in firearm applications processed. As a result of this increased rate of processing, the backlog of three years of applications was cleared within a year. Work has also accelerated on the recertification of existing firearm licensees, which includes the capture of the ballistic signature of all licensed firearms.

In addition, the **High Security Identification Card**, which replaces the old “firearm licence book” and which was mooted from 2009, was introduced within six months of the appointment of the new CEO.

### SAMPLE HIGH SECURITY IDENTIFICATION CARD



| Figure 7. The HSIC Card

My only concern with the FLA is with the congestion at Worthington Avenue. And, the Member of Parliament has been making representations on that matter; therefore, we are looking for a more appropriate location. We are also exploring the **establishment of a Mandeville Office** to handle a significant amount of the processing for licensees in the mid-island region; in the same way that the **recently opened branch in Montego Bay** has improved service in the west and reduced the load on the Kingston office.

In the meantime, through process improvements, we are seeking to reduce the number of persons who gather at Worthington Avenue; and, we are also working with the Traffic Police to manage the flow of vehicles.

### Forensic Science Laboratory

The Forensic Science Laboratory made huge improvements in 2012 evidenced by the 64% increase in the number of forensic, DNA **and ballistics certificates** produced in comparison to the previous year. In 2012, 6,843 certificates were issued compared to 4,163 certificates in 2011.

This followed on increased resources, such as **new comparison microscopes** for the **Ballistics** and **Biology Departments**; access to an improved supply of DNA reagents and supplies; and the **assignment of a Forensic Liaison Officer from the JCF** to the Forensic Lab; as well as, the introduction of modern protocols, the acquisition of **new instruments for the Chemistry, DNA and Biology Departments**; and the number of **Ballistic Experts** was also increased.



| Min. Bunting at the Forensic Lab

In addition, the merger of the **Legal Medicine Unit** and the **Forensic Laboratory** into one entity, and the consolidation of personnel and resources, have so far improved efficiency. For example, **2,586 autopsies** were conducted by the Legal Medicine Unit in 2011 and **1,192 (or 46.1%) of post-mortem reports** were completed. While in **2012, 2,903 autopsies** were done; and **2,657 or 91.5% of post mortem reports** were completed.

We plan to upgrade **the Forensic Lab** to **Executive Agency status**, to operate as a fully independent and autonomous body, with a **new organisational structure; and expand its current resources**; as well as, the ability of the Lab to generate revenue.

Training programmes for the Lab Technicians will be increased; and, it is projected that it will eventually facilitate the **Regional Integrated Ballistics Information Network (RIBIN)**, in the sharing of ballistics data among CARICOM countries.

We look forward to continued improvement in the performance of the Forensic Laboratory.

## **PICA**

I am pleased to announce that the **Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA)**, continues to justify its establishment as an **Executive Agency**, and maintains an enviable record of performance.

In the past year, PICA and the Ministry of National Security cleared over **500 citizenship application files** some dating back five years. The Ministry now processes citizenship applications received from PICA within one month; and last year, a total of **2,243 “descent” and “non-descent” applications** were approved.

The immigration service at our airports continues to improve with the **immigration experience at the Sangster International Airport being ranked number one in Latin America and the Caribbean**, last December in a survey conducted by the Airports Council International (ACI). And, this was before we re-engineered the outgoing immigration process, which has further shortened the processing time.

This re-engineered outgoing immigration process, allows passengers travelling via compliant airlines to bypass outgoing immigration booths. Instead, the immigration processing takes place as part of their check-in process. So far, airlines representing 96% of the passengers are compliant.

This development is facilitating a better passenger experience for both citizens and tourists. It is also important in keeping our airports and tourism product competitive.

Last year, the Agency processed a total of **150,777 passports**, representing an increase over the **147,000 issued in the previous year**. And, its response rate has increased, given that 98% of citizens, who apply at PICA headquarters for passports, **can collect within seven days**.

## Legislation

The Ministry of National Security has established **five Legislative Priorities for this year**:

- **The first is the Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) (Special Provisions) Act**, which was passed in March 2013, to specifically target the “Lottery scam” advance fee fraud and other fraudulent transactions; and for other related matters.
- This morning, the Legislative Committee of Cabinet approved the Bill entitled the **Criminal Justice (Suppression of Organised Criminal Groups) Act**, for the suppression and disruption of organised criminal groups, and make consequential amendments to existing legislation, as necessary. This long awaited Bill is now scheduled to be tabled in Parliament next week.
- We are now awaiting responses from the **AG’s Chambers** and the **Legal Reform Department** for their review and comments on the **DNA Evidence Bill**, to provide for the taking of DNA samples from persons arrested in relation to specified offences. This Bill will be tabled within a couple months.
- **The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Bill** to increase the penalty for the offence of trafficking in persons, and make new provisions for offences akin to trafficking and other related matters was tabled three weeks ago. This should be debated and passed within the next two weeks. This is the final in a series of measures designed to respond to the downgrading of our status to Tier 2 Watchlist on the US State Department 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report.
- **Five**, a draft Bill entitled the **Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act 2013** was received by the Ministry with queries from the **Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC)**. We have sought to amend this legislation to fulfill Jamaica’s international requirements outlined in the **Financial Action Task Force 40 recommendations**, and to facilitate greater utility and implementation of the Act, locally.

## CRIME PREVENTION: SOCIAL INTERVENTION

I want to now turn to the less well known activity of the Ministry of National Security, and that is, our efforts **towards crime prevention as opposed to crime control.**

There has evolved some dysfunctional elements in our culture over the past few decades, which have developed a sub-culture of violence and has legitimized criminal gangs and criminal behaviour and these messages, have been reinforced by some of our **popular entertainers** who have produced songs glorifying criminals and criminal behaviour.

This is perhaps the area that Queen Ifrica's song was speaking to when she said, and I quote:

***"...and to the rest of Jamaica,  
a really full time fi we start love wi  
neighbour, even if all a dem give up pon wi,  
we can't give up pon wi self."***

Part of our task, therefore, as a Ministry and society, as a whole, is to attempt a re-socialisation of persons, particularly young people, who have been influenced by these dysfunctional elements of our culture. And, the principal vehicle for this has been the Citizen Security and **Justice Programme (CSJP).**

### **Citizen Security And Justice Programme**

Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, time for all Jamaica, not only those in government or law enforcement, but, all of us in the public and private sector, ***to work together to address the root causes of many of our social problems that lead to crime and violence.***

Indeed, it is ***not only time for us to start to love our neighbours...we must start loving ourselves.***

This Government recognises that loving ourselves as a people means that—we must work harder to care for the communities in which we live. Far too many Jamaicans now live in communities that are held in the grip of fear, where a few unlawful elements create an atmosphere of hostility and hopelessness, and silence the good citizens who work hard everyday to build meaningful lives for themselves and their children.

We understand that in order to transform those communities into places where we can live and work in peace, we must go ***"door-to-door"*** to win back the Jamaica that we all know and love.

For more than a decade, the **Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP)** has been working with residents in some of our most volatile communities to win back the peace. The current programme will end in December; but, I am pleased to announce that we plan to launch **CSJP III**, which will be bigger and better than what we have seen in the past ten years.

Thanks to our international partners, the **Canadian Government**, through **CIDA**; the **Government of the United Kingdom**, through **DFID**; and the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**, **CSJP III** will deploy more than **US\$50 million**, or approximately **J\$5 billion** during the next four years, to revitalise communities across Jamaica.

The Ministry of National Security has commissioned an evaluation of the previous programmes to ensure that the new programme will build upon our successes in those communities, which have benefited from the programme; as well as, to ensure that our interventions will provide sustainable opportunities for the

growth and development of our citizens.

While the CSJP will **maintain its basic elements**, the programme will now be **redefined to include a National Crime Prevention Focus** that will expand its initiatives beyond the current concentration on volatile inner-city communities...to include preventive actions, and address early signs of social disorganisation in communities across the island.

We have experienced tremendous success with our **skills development and job placement programme for youth from inner-cities in concert with the JDF**. The results include— the transformation of the attitudes of these young people, who have been exposed to some of the best role models that our country has produced. Consequently, we will **be increasing the number of beneficiaries under this programme**, and will widen our recruitment to include vulnerable youth from rural communities islandwide.

### **Graduates of the CSJP/JDF Vocational Programme**



CSJP Graduates

We understand that many of our young people who end up pursuing deviant lifestyles are persons who have been subject to unfortunate circumstances and negative influences. CSJP III will incorporate a new element that will help to provide many of our youth with alternative options.

I am pleased to announce that we will be launching a **Police Cadet Training** element, which will recruit young people from across the country into a programme that allows them early access to one of the most rewarding career options in Jamaica today.

Another **major component of CSJP III** will be a renewed focus on support for activities **to change the socio-economic circumstances of high risk groups and communities**, and to reduce the negative socialization processes, which lead to crime, violence and disorder. To this end, we will provide additional support for business/entrepreneurial development that will enable community members to access critical resources designed to boost small community-based enterprise.

CSJP III will also strengthen support for inter-agency interventions in communities islandwide that have experienced extreme trauma caused by violence. These interventions will be focused on rapid responses to counter the possibilities of wider episodes, reduce reprisals, promote **Restorative Justice**; and, thereby, rebuild a spirit of community.

At the heart of our interventions will be **an Integrated Approach** that seeks to improve efficiencies by drawing upon the human, financial and other resources of state agencies that have responsibilities for community safety, the private sector and civil society groups.

To achieve **Improved Programme Coordination**, CSJP will have greater coordination of programme services with in the Ministries of Justice, Education, Youth and Culture, Sports, Health and Local Government and their Departments and Agencies.

Our approach will be rooted in the recognition that for community crime prevention to become transformative, the interventions to be undertaken in CSJP III must be sustainable. One of our key objectives will be to ensure that CSJP III programme activities will be incorporated into the corporate plans and budgets of relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) over the next four years. This will ensure the continuation of the key elements of the programme well beyond the expiration of current funding.

The final component of the new CSJP will be an enhanced **Social Marketing Programme** that will be focused on reversing the pervasive culture of violence that exists in Jamaica today. We will develop **National Messaging** focused on key behaviour changes at individual and institutional levels, and we will begin to **create a national coalition** that involves every well-thinking Jamaican in building a culture based on caring for each other and uplifting our communities. Therefore, we have begun to make adjustments to how the programme operates, to put greater emphasis on **Social Marketing**.

Last year we introduced **a new initiative** which involves **almost 500 “at risk” young people**, who are currently in an **on-the-job Internship Programme** with the **JDF Engineering Regiment**.

In this programme the young people are learning specific construction skills. They will work alongside the **JDF Regiment** in implementing construction projects; and, also very importantly, **go through a re-socialisation process**. We have already seen the transformation taking place, and it is our intention to expand the intake after this initial Pilot Programme.

Many people seem to think that the members of the **Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)**...while outside of a **State of Emergency**, or some threat to the sovereignty of the state...are at **Up Park Camp** playing dominoes. Nothing could be further from the truth. Apart from the fact that at any given time half of the JDF members are deployed in support of policing, they also play a critical role in **emergency response, disaster relief, search and rescue, and medical evacuations**.

And, I can also point to their recent role in **building hundreds of houses** for persons who were made homeless following the passage of **Hurricane Sandy**, last October. Importantly, the celebration of many ceremonial occasions would be drab without the JDF participation, in particular, the contribution to the Jamaica 50 celebrations including the Military Tattoo was outstanding.

## JDF Passing Out Parade



| Minister Peter Bunting and Chief of Defence Staff at JDF Passing Out Parade.

### Publication Education Communication Campaign

The Ministry of National Security continued its media and communication campaign, with the theme “Silence Brings Violence.” Advertisements which focused on the illegal lotto scamming activities were also released during the period under review.

#### The campaigns sought to:

Encourage law-abiding citizens to get involved by providing critical information to the security forces and, where possible, being prepared to give evidence.

Rebuke the culture of silence and the belief that, *“informa fi dead.”*

Appeal to communities and family members, to stop protecting criminals within their communities and families.

Highlight some of the terrible crimes being perpetrated by Scammers and other gangs that rely on fear and reprisals to subjugate citizens and communities.

Through the **Citizen Security and Justice Programme**, the **Men with a Message** group, that is, **reformed gang members were used as messengers**, to promote **the possibility and benefits of change to especially at-risk males**. They also continued their face-to-face campaigns, **reaching approximately 22,000 youth** during the period.

The Ministry has also actively used several **social media platforms** to support its **communication and public education programmes**. Social media has proven to be effective in facilitating real-time engagement with citizens, providing immediate response and assistance to the public and instant

dissemination of vital information from the Ministry of National Security; as well as, across Government Ministries Departments and Agencies.

## **Correctional Services**

The **Correctional Services** has traditionally been an area of neglect by successive governments. It is an indictment on us as a nation that after **50 years of independence**, our principal penal institutions date back to slavery. In one way it is understandable. There is not a large political constituency sympathetic to inmates...certainly not adult ones. In fact, many people believe that persons are sent to prison to be punished; and, therefore, the conditions there should be harsh.

This Administration does not share that view. Convicted persons are sent to prison **as punishment**. Once there, it must be the goal of the **Department of Correctional Services** to rehabilitate them, and prepare them for re-integration into the society. Even from an enlightened self-interest perspective, since most of our inmates will be **released within three years**, it certainly makes no sense to dehumanize these, mostly young men, for that period of time...before releasing them back into society.

Most of the **existing facilities were never designed with rehabilitation as a priority**; and further, in some cases, they are literally crumbling to pieces. Therefore, we must look at new facilities. Certainly over the medium term we will need at least **two new facilities** for adults and juveniles, respectively.

I am pleased that we are getting some interest from at **least two reputable companies to enter into a public/private partnership with the government to build a modern, adult correctional facility**. The **Development Bank of Jamaica** has been tasked to manage this process; and, I'm hopeful that we will make some tangible progress on this issue during this year.

On the subject of **Juvenile Facilities**, we have given a commitment to have a complete separation of juveniles from adults...by the end of this year. Contractors have been selected and renovation work will re-commence during this month on the **South Camp Road facility** to accommodate the juveniles from **Fort Augusta**.

While this is good, the more important objective of this Administration is to **minimize the number of juveniles who end up in correctional facilities**. The truth is that...when this happens, it is often an individual; or, cumulative failure of the family, the school, the community, the health services, and the social services.

Therefore, I am not excited about building more facilities for juveniles; however, I am excited about **fixing the system upstream**; and, diverting most of these young people from ending up in the Correctional System.

The **Ministries of Youth and Culture, Justice, and National Security** have been working assiduously to solve this problem; and, I can inform the House...that **as at June 16, 2013**, there are only **five female juveniles at Horizon**, moving from **30 at June 2012**, and **35 in January 2011**.

Additionally, the number of **female juveniles in Fort Augusta** has **simultaneously been reduced from 74 to 44** within the last year. Therefore, we have cut the size of the problem in half over the last year... even as we move to complete the renovation of the facility at **South Camp Road**.

The current **Commissioner of Corrections, Lt. Col. Sean Prendergast**, who has been on secondment from the JDF, will proceed on **pre-retirement leave** at the end of the month; and, will consequently, demit

office as Commissioner. The Ministry wishes to thank him for the outstanding service he has given to the **Department of Correctional Services**.

## ENGAGEMENT OF THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Mr. Speaker, the **final broad area** I want to speak to is the *Engagement of the Wider Society* in this task of *making Jamaica a safer and more secure society*.

My song says:

*“If you want divine intervention as the antidote,  
...campaign like when you want di vote...  
go yard to yard yes knock di gate  
And don’t bother worry cause it no late...”*

I have often said...and I make no apology for it...that I am convinced that we will not achieve our long term targets of bringing crime and violence to acceptable levels in Jamaica, **solely** on the efforts of the Security Forces. I believe that I have a legitimate role to play in creating that **coalition of the well thinking** who are also willing to take some action.

*And I am, therefore, campaigning like when I was looking for votes...and here is what I have done:*

### Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches

It has always struck me as paradoxical that Jamaica, according to the **Guinness Book of World Records**, has the **most churches per square mile in the world**, while also having **one of the highest murder rates**. I nevertheless continue to have faith that **the Church can be one powerful catalyst for changing** that sub-culture of violence, which I spoke about, earlier.



| Minister Bunting and Executives of the Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches.

Recently, the Ministry met with a delegation of leaders from the **Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches** and proposed that we work jointly on **three initiatives**:

1. Every church will adopt a community, and **work explicitly to prevent crime and violence therein**. Churches will, therefore, become more accountable for crime prevention and mitigation in at least one community.
2. Develop protocols for **the Church to act as an intermediary between offenders and the state** (law enforcement), and how to handle criminal matters, such as—confessions and handing over illegal weapons to the authorities.
3. Document best practices **to achieve point one**, which could be replicated across the country, using churches as the vehicles. For example the **programme of Rev. Conrad Pitkin**, Chairman of the Jamaica Association of Full Gospel Churches, in Montego Bay; and, **Rev. Rohan Edwards** in Spanish Town, and the **Rose Heights Covenant of Peace**.

### **Manchester Dispute Resolution & Violence Prevention Association**

At the beginning of 2012 we had a forum with the Police and citizens in my constituency where the police pointed out that Manchester, unlike most other Police divisions...had most of its murders resulting from domestic incidents. Therefore, it was hard to address the issues with policing. We formed a Steering Committee, which morphed into this Association that involves the **Ministers Fraternal, the Police, Northern Caribbean University; and some Political Representatives**, and came up with a programme to **train first responders in a number of communities**.

So far, we have trained approximately **100 persons in Georges Valley, Grey Ground, Greenvale, May Day, and Albion/Hillside...as First Responders**. These First Responders are trained to recognise domestic disputes with the potential to escalate into violence. They intervene if necessary; and, then refer the case to a pastor, social worker, or community Police personnel. There is a **24-hour Help Line**, as well.

As at **June 15, 2013, murders are down 50%** in Manchester when compared with the **same period in 2012**. I am the first to recognise that, **“correlation is not causation,”** however, I think **First Responders** could very well be **contributors to the reduction**.

### **Conscious Artistes**

I have met with representatives of the conscious entertainers, including **Queen Ifrica** and her team, and we are pleased with our discussions about interventions and re-socialisation through the **powerful medium of the creative industries**. Our intention is to link it back to some of the efforts we are making through the CSJP, in terms of social marketing.

### **Street Pastors**

Last Thursday, I met **Les Isaacs**, an Antigua born resident of the United Kingdom who recently received an **OBE** (Order of the British Empire for the Street Pastors Initiative) from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. This meeting also included members of **Operation Save Jamaica (OSJ)**, a local partnership organisation.

Over ten years ago, on an earlier visit to Jamaica, Isaacs was impressed by the work he saw being done by a group of pastors in Trench Town. He subsequently invited two of them to share in several boroughs of London.

It was out of these meetings that the **Street Pastors Movement** began. Now, there are over **11,000 volunteers serving in over 250 locations in the UK**.

These volunteers agree to go on the streets one night a month, to engage with marginalised youth. Their approach is ***Listen, Care, & Help***. And, they provide needed assistance... **referring young people to various agencies**. The initiative has **brought down crime in the various areas in which they operate in the UK**.

I have **linked Mr. Isaac and the OSJ team**, who have been given the responsibility of facilitating the roll-out nationally, with our Chaplain **Bishop Gary Welsh**.

**Bishop Welsh** will be introducing a **Station Pastors Programme** with a **group of 160 volunteer pastors attached to each station across the island, as referral points**. When there is a murder, the impulse from that community is revenge. The idea here is that, in the first instance...the pastors would go into the community and take the community through the grieving process. These pastors would also educate community members...about forgiveness and reconciliation; ***in an effort to reverse the reprisal-type response***.

Therefore, we are hoping that **these two initiatives can work together** to expand the reach into our communities.

### **Diaspora Engagement**

It is very disheartening to note how scamming has impacted the reputation of good upstanding persons and businesses operating in Jamaica and the Diaspora. Therefore, efforts have been made to **engage the Diaspora on this issue specifically and more broadly on crime and violence, which remains of interest to Jamaicans living around the globe**.

To this end, I have met with several **Jamaican Diaspora groups** in Dade and Broward Counties, in Florida; Queens and the Bronx, in New York; and Washington, DC in the USA; as well as in Toronto, Canada; and London, UK. In fact, we have had an active Diaspora engagement process.

### **International**

As you are aware, the Christopher Coke extradition matter gave a battering to our international reputation and we have deliberately engaged, cultivated and rebuilt relationships with our traditional partners, primarily the US, UK and Canada, as well as our CARICOM partners, to the point where the US Ambassador to Jamaica has described our current co-operation as **“unprecedented”**.

And, in the areas of narcotics, gun smuggling and organised crime, we have close liaison with Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies in the countries of our main partners.

### **Mental Health**

We have also been in dialogue with Prof. Freddie Hickling from Psychological Services Associates whose research revealed a direct positive correlation between a heightened crime rate and the deterioration of mental health services in Jamaica. According to a study conducted by The Caribbean Institute of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CARIMENSA) a significant percentage of homicides involve persons who display signs of either acute or chronic mental illness.

In an attempt to stem violence associated with mental issues, Prof. Hickling has proposed a programme that will see seven ‘linkers’ being deployed in each constituency. These persons will be trained professionals who can easily identify signs of mental illness or psychological dysfunction and offer appropriate care or referral to the most relevant agency before the issues escalate into violence.

The discussion also brought to the fore a rise of violence in schools and the link to psychological impairment resulting from the physical and/or mental abuse being witnessed or experienced by many of our children. The benefit of these 'linkers' as they are referred to by Prof. Hickling is that they can identify and deal with these issues long before they manifest into violent behaviour. Undoubtedly, the advantages of such a programme will not only be accorded to the national security portfolio, but the decentralization of these services will work to improve and increase efficiency in the country's mental health care system, and increase overall productivity, as these individuals will be treated and released to carry on their normal lives.

The MNS is exploring a wide gamut of options and will further engage mental health professionals to assess the feasibility of this approach.

### **Other Initiatives**

Other initiatives that were undertaken this past year included The **Art of Living Programme**, specifically related to the rehabilitation of inmates; and the **Rotary Back2Life Programme**, focusing on the mentoring of teenage boys at the Rio Cobre Correctional Centre.



| Minister Bunting with Dushyant Savadia and Shaggy at concert for inmates at the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre.

When I look at the potential...if we could get a thousand initiatives like these going in communities across this country... we would make a huge difference in saving lives!

## CONCLUSION

In the final analysis, when we examine year to date (Jan 1 to June 15, 2013 ) statistics compared with 2012, serious and violent crimes were down by 10%; and, **acquisitory crimes, robbery, housebreaking and larceny** were down by 13%.

That is the reality of where we are today. I know that for victims and their families the fact that the statistics are going down is not enough; but, it is important to indicate the progress being made. For example, in **2010 murders were 67% higher than in 2013**, which means that: **In the last three years...murders... year to date...declined by 40%.**

Therefore, Mr. Speaker...what we have outlined is the **investments that we have been making** in our **Crime Control and Crime Prevention** efforts over the last 18 months.

- We have highlighted the strategies we have been using to **improve the capacity of the JCF**, and the other Departments and Agencies of the Ministry.
- We saw **murders reduced in 2012 to the lowest in nine years**.
- We continue to see a **reduction in murders year-to-date** of 6%; and a 10% overall reduction in serious and violent crimes.
- We have **increased the seizures of narcotics and illegal firearms**, which are up 8½% and 14%, respectively.
- We have shown our **determination to engage the wider society** in partnering with us in our Crime Prevention efforts through CSJP and non-Governmental initiatives, which being implemented through a variety of projects and programmes.
- We have identified **social interventions to rebuild communities** and engage persons in the wider society.

We are making some progress; however, we are still, in absolute terms, at an unacceptably high level of crime by international standards. But, to quote Queen Ifrica, again:

***“And don’t bother worry, cause it no late.  
Tell di people dem fi hold di faith.  
We likkle but we tallawah don’t forget.  
you eva si Jamaica people fail at anything yet!”***

### Call to Action

We firmly believe that the re-organisation initiatives, training, and the re-deployment of financial resources in the management of the Ministry of National Security portfolio will make a major difference in carrying out our stated mandate; leading to the achievement of positive outcomes during the next fiscal year.

We are also confident that our focus on transparency, trust and credibility will galvanise the human and financial resources available to the Ministry, its Departments and Agencies to counteract the negative impact of crime on our society.

In the final analysis, we are confident that there are many law-abiding and decent citizens across this country who are prepared to **support the work of the Security Forces** from their respective churches and community-based non-governmental organisations, and who are also willing to take action and help us to stem the tide of lawlessness.

We have no choice but to succeed. The people of Jamaica deserve to go to bed and not worry about their safety. Children deserve to go to school without fear of molestation. Adults need to work hard, nurture their children, and enjoy the benefits of their hard work.

In that regard, as a nation—we, the people, need to resolve that: Individually, or as a community, we are accountable; and, therefore, **it is our resolve to Move Towards A Safe and Secure Society.**

We have a major undertaking before us, because although much has been done, there is still much more to be accomplished. But, **we will only be successful if we work together....and we must.**

***The Hon. Peter Bunting, MP  
Minister of National Security  
Sectoral Presentation  
Wednesday, June 19, 2013***