



PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Citizen Security & Safety: Vital to
Prosperity**

Sectoral Debate Presentation

Minister Robert Montague

George William Gordon House

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Salutations

Mr Speaker Thank you.

First, I wish to give thanks to God for his grace and love.

It is these that have kept me on this journey and will see me succeed.

Sir, I also wish thank you for your able guidance to this honourable House.

I want to thank my Prime Minister Andrew Holness because it was he who had the faith and courage to appoint me.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I thank you for your advice, encouragement and support.

It shows that crime and violence is not partisan and requires a joined up effort.

To my State Minister Senator Pearnel Charles Jnr.; a better deputy, I could not deserve.

To Miss Dianne McIntosh, Permanent Secretary, the Heads of Agencies, Directors, staff of the National Security family I thank and appreciate the work you have done in making Jamaica safe.

To the many volunteers, Chairmen of Boards, Board members and their support staff; a grateful Minister expresses his appreciation.

To my personal staff both in Kingston and St. Mary, Thank you for putting up with me but I know you share the passion and the mission.

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A special thank you to Miss Barbara, my helper for many years, to Miss Keisha Pennant, AKA Mommy, Keisha thank you, you more than anyone understand my moods, but you remain the same.

To Mass Jimmy, Ralston McKinley, my driver you have been with me through thick and thin. Thank you.

To my security team led by Inspector Samuel Heron, including those in Kingston and St. Mary, I thank you.

I want to acknowledge my five councillors for dedication and hard work.

To my Constituency of Western St. Mary thanks for granting me the privilege of being your voice in this House, your servant, to improve your community. I am humbled and honoured.

To my constituency workers, I am forever grateful to you. It is you who delivered 11,710 votes to make me the candidate to get most votes in the last general election. A great performance Mr Speaker. I salute you all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, the former Opposition leader, Mrs. Portia Simpson-Miller; I wish you well madam; and also acknowledge the new Opposition leader, Dr. Peter Phillips.

Mr Speaker, my one regret is that my Mother and Father never lived to see this moment. But I know they are smiling down from Heaven.

I wish to recognize the 16 students and three teachers from Tacky High School here today.

Mr Speaker the Member from Central Manchester made some unfortunate comments last week. Later on, I intend to deal with them.

I also note the brave action of the station guard at the Hayes Police Station in Clarendon. He repelled an attack by gunmen over the weekend.

In addition, the Ministry has noted two recent private licensed firearm holders using their weapons contrary to good practice during the Carnival season. There has been an increasing and worrying trend of private gun owners brandishing their weapons in public spaces, especially at entertainment events.

Let me be very clear, if you pull your weapon, or discharge it in a public space illegally it will not only be removed, and revoked, but you can take this commitment to the bank, it will not be returned. So pull it at your own peril, and pray to God you don't shoot or assault any innocent persons.

No matter who you are, who you are related to, or where you work, it will be gone.

Let me also warn those motorists and bikes with blue lights on their motor vehicles and motor bikes, make sure you have an ID card signed by the Commissioner of Police as you must be a member of the JCF.

Remove them, and remove them now! Only the police are permitted to have blue lights on their vehicles.

Bikers you need to get your helmets and wear them; because we will be cracking down on you. And make sure your papers are in order.

We urge all illegal taxi operators to legitimize their operations, whether it is owned by police, soldier, politician or dem aunty. Legitimize yourself as we are about to launch a major drive against illegal taxi operators. This Minister supports taxi operators as long as you are legal.

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So bike riders, licensed firearm holders, and illegal taxi operators you have been warned. Take this as the first tranche in the PR campaign. You have been warned.

I ask all the Members of this House to have a conversation with all the persons who fall in the above categories, so that when the crackdown comes, do not call me.

Securing Jamaica for a Safer & Prosperous Future

Introduction

If we are to achieve our National Goals as set forth in our National Development Strategy: Vision 2030; then we must create a safer and secure Jamaica.

To that we must craft an ALL OF GOVERNMENT approach to issues.

This Government has done so and is committed to put the resources and political will behind it

How Will We Secure Jamaica?

In order to secure Jamaica there are 10 basic elements we must treat with:

1. Public Order

As a Nation we must take back control of our public spaces. Illegal Vending, squatting, “The do as I please mentality”, must all be curbed, so that public spaces can be enjoyed by all. Hence, we have launched Operation Clean Sweep, which is bringing back some semblance of order.

2. Corruption

This simply put is the bypassing of rules and procedures for selfish gain.

If we are to build a safe and prosperous Jamaica, all Jamaicans must be committed to tackling corruption, the greatest threat to national development.

Hence, we are strengthening our Anti-Corruption Laws, merging agencies to concentrate resources and enforcing adherence to already established laws.

3. Territorial Integrity

This requires the protection of our borders for the use and enjoyment of Jamaicans and whom we invited.

We have 497 miles of coastline, a marine space 25 times the size of Jamaica and 145 illegal ports.

Currently, we are challenged to protect it all, but we are up to the task because we are losing some \$US10 M per year in fishing resources and guns, drugs and other contraband are entering illegally.

We have invested billions of dollars, Mr Speaker, Billions not Millions when others would not, in to purchasing two ships and a surveillance plane.

We have seen dividends already where recently three ships illegally fishing in our waters have been boarded. We have chased Go-Fast boats out of our space.

We have introduced facial recognition software into our passport application process, which has identified 473 multiple passport holders; 73 are already before the courts.

We have increased the number of Immigration Officers.

We will introduce online passport application, e-passports and e-gate for landing in the near future.

We have increased cooperation with our partners and upped the use of international watch lists.

We have for the period April 1 2016 to March 31, 2017 refused entry to 507 persons and deported 138 persons.

4. Terrorism

This is the use of a sudden catastrophic event to create fear and panic in this world we live in.

We cannot wait on an attack. We must prepare ourselves.

We therefore will be amending our anti terrorism laws, engaging a consultant to write our **Terrorist Response Manual**.

We have already started to harden our defences, rearrange soft targets and have invested heavily into our Intelligence network, we increased information sharing with our partners and have begun to actively work on more bi-lateral agreements.

We are taking terrorism seriously and have started training of our officers at CMU.

We assure this House that much work is taking place, but we cannot go into much detail.

5. Protection of Critical Infrastructure

Our bridges, hospitals, water supplies are unprotected. Access is to and by anyone. Yet the impact of the actions of one person can be devastating for the nation.

We see the amount of discomfort and inconvenience the phased reduction of service at Cornwall Regional is causing.

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We saw the disruption to the National Economy when the Harbour View Bridge as well as the Yallahs Bridge washed away. What is the backup plan, the alternative route?

The National Works Agency (NWA) and the National Water Commission (NWC) are currently doing those assessments and working on new plans.

A Government of Jamaica Protective Security policy is soon to be passed to establish a mechanism/framework for the protection of Government operations, its employees, assets, information, integrity and reputation from real or potential threats presented by both internal and external sources.

6. Continuation of Government

Government is needed to provide overall direction and guidance to our affairs.

But if there is a catastrophic event is there a plan for the continuing of Government?

What if on the opening of Parliament when all critical heads gather, something should happen? On that one day in one place are The Governor General, Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, Commissioner of Police, Chief of Defence Staff, Chief Justice, Director of Public Prosecutions, Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Agencies, and the President of the Court of Appeal.

Mr Speaker, how could we as a Nation survive if all was lost one time?

What are the plans? Is there a designated survivor? Is there a backup command post of the Commissioner of Police or the Chief of Defence Staff away from their Headquarters? Can the Prime Minister of Jamaica run government from elsewhere if Kingston is not safe or accessible?

These critical questions we wish to assure the public and you Mr. Speaker are being addressed.

7. Cyber Crimes

The use of cyberspace to criminally enrich oneself or damage another's reputation is a growing trend. Hacking, Lottery Scamming and the illegal interception of communication are but some of the issues we must confront.

When criminals take your identity, get control of your power supply or your TELECOMS network, the damage cannot be calculated.

Hence we as a caring government are hardening our resistance and defence.

We conducted a **Cyber Defence Audit** on critical networks and are in the process of treating with weaknesses.

8. Education

We see Education as a tool of crime fighting.

A literate person has the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. An educated person is trainable and becomes economically viable.

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Not only are we strengthening our **Safe Schools Programme**, but we are far advanced in completing a discussion with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to introduce a unit in all HEART/NTA modules to teach etiquette, punctuality, conflict resolution skills, career planning, volunteerism and civics.

We believe that attitude comes from within but discipline from outside. If our young people want to benefit from a second chance in life they must accept this enhanced programme that will be supervised by the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

9. Protection of our Economy

Growth in our economy is fragile. How will a terrorist attack affect it?

How do we recover? Can we recover?

How do we protect the integrity of our financial systems, from money laundering, tax evasion and other illicit activities?

We are moving to enhance the work and scope of the Revenue Protection Division (RPD) and the Financial Investigations Division (FID).

We will be moving to bring them and all other agencies i.e. Courtesy Corps., Port Security Corps, under the Ministry of National Security.

We are completing soon a new act to govern the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

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The Prime Minister has tabled the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) Act. Already we are hopeful for a smooth passage in the House.

10. Crime & Violence

Every Jamaican must not only be safe but must feel secure in carrying out their daily activities and to achieve their life's goals.

Five Pillar National Crime Strategy

Introduction

The Ministry of National Security has direct responsibility for crime and violence in Jamaica.

We have moved to look at it in a holistic way fully understanding that better policing and more equipment alone cannot solve the problem. Nor can the problem of be solved overnight because there is no quick fix, no magic wand, no switch; as the seed of the situation we face today was planted 15 to 20 years ago.

We acknowledge and ask all Jamaicans to note that solving crime is not an instant fix or overnight thing as one person in this House keeps saying.

5 Pillars

We have laid out the **5 Pillar National Crime Strategy** on which our work will rest.

Swift & Sure Justice

There can be no prosperity without justice. Our Justice System is under pressure and we will fix it.

Case backlog, poor working conditions, lack of witnesses all contribute to slowing the delivery of justice.

We thank Minister Delroy Chuck and his team, for working hard to use innovative measures to correct the shortcomings of the past.

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Every Jamaican must be confident that the system will deliver and on a timely basis.

So, retired judges and additional court staff are being recruited. Court houses are being repaired; plea bargaining enhanced; police are better preparing case files. In addition, 20 lawyers will be employed.

Each of the police divisions will be assigned one lawyer to help with the preparation of case files and to represent officers if required.

We are not there yet, but are well on the way because we have the will and Jamaicans interest at heart.

Reducing Reoffending (Rehabilitation & Redemption)

First, I wish to commend the men and women of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) for their stellar contribution to nation building.

With limited resources, poor working conditions, but a faith and belief in Jamaica and her future they have delivered.

Mr Speaker, when last have you heard of an inmate escaping from a penal institution?

The good Senator Pearnel Charles Jnr. who has responsibility is amazed at the level of commitment from the DCS personnel.

The Correctional Services and its officers have conducted searches to reveal drugs, money, knives and phones. They have disrupted plans of inmates to create mayhem in the society.

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It is the hard work and passing of intelligence to the authorities by the Department of Correctional Services staff that has helped to improve the system.

It is the work of the correctional officers that have stopped the recording of songs illegally and it is the work of these officers that have helped to stem murders in St. Catherine. We commend them. That is why we have polygraphed the new recruits. Of the 115 recruits, 2 have dropped out, 80 (59 males, 21 females) were successful, 71%.

It is the officers who completed the inmate audit and reclassification.

It is they also who supervise the various rehabilitation programmes being run by various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and partner agencies.

It is the officers who supervise the agricultural programme that produces two meals once per week.

It is the officers who have repaired the **Cell phone Jammers**. A new day has dawned.

We must commend our probation officers for their role being comforter, friend and advisor to the many wards of the state and parolees.

They provide love and guidance and many times the only glimpse of hope and kind heartedness to the rejected of society. We salute them.

We have completed the waiting area at Richmond and Tamarind Farm prison facilities; making it more humane for families when they visit.

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We thank Food for the Poor for the classrooms at Tamarind Farm and thank the College of Agricultural Science & Education (CASE) for the Hydroponics set for the St. Catherine District Prison which has produced one crop of vegetables already.

We are almost done with the testing of electronic bracelets. So far it has gone well and some 20 parolees or early release persons are using them.

The new section at Tamarind Farm will be in service soon.

We will Gazette the order that Tamarind Farm and the South Camp Road facility become receiving centres for the system. This will enhance on service delivery and reduce overcrowding at Tower Street and St. Catherine facilities.

We have more space than inmates in the system but most are at St. Catherine or Tower Street.

We will also do some much needed repairs and rehabilitation at Tower Street and we will also be expanding on farm and skills training.

They must contribute to their room and board, taxpayers must get a break.

Our aim is to equip our inmates with skills so they do not return.

So we are doing chess, sports, literacy as means of conflict resolution. More trade training, formal high school equivalency.

We wish to thank the churches, NGOs, individuals and the international partners for their work in the correctional facilities.

We are on the road using the Correctional Services to fight crime.

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We have put in metal detectors; upgraded the CCTV network and restarted the search team and intelligence unit

Crime Prevention through Social Development

We acknowledge that it is as a result of social disorder that crime thrives.

Too many of our schools produce poor educational outcomes, too many broken homes; there has been a breakdown of family life; the family as a fundamental unit of society is broken.

The spiritual groundings that we know are disappearing.

Collectively as a society we must pause, take stock and reset our values and attitudes for a better tomorrow.

This malfunctioning of society is the root cause of crime. No matter how much we lock away, no matter how many gangs we disrupt more recruits and criminals are coming up.

That is why this Government, this Minister of National Security is committed to correcting the problems at the root.

We are therefore introducing the National Identification System (NIDS); where every Jamaican, will have an identification card with vital information;

We are insisting that your father's name be put on your birth certificate;

Giving more time in schools via the Career Advancement Programme (CAP);

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Channelling unattached youth; especially boys, into the **Learn, Earn, and Give and Save (LEGS)** programme.

Mr Speaker, the unattached youth will be recruited by some force. Good or evil.

We want it to be good; hence we are taking them into a National Service, introducing a new unit into Heart/NTA training system. Expanding the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force (JCCF).

We are disrupting and displacing gangs and you can be assured that we are using social intervention to treat with the root causes of crime not the symptoms.

Therefore we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the churches that sets out the protocol by which the clergy will deal with illegal weapons, contraband and wanted persons. We have also reactivated 12 of 14 Parish Community Consultative Committees, the 489 Neighbourhood watches are up and running again, we intend to launch more and train the members.

Situational Prevention

The fourth pillar is Situation Prevention.

We have 40% of the population in informal settlements with poor roads, light and water supplies. We need better coordination of our built and natural environment, better order.

45% of our lands have no title or the title is not in the name of the owner.

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Corruption is crippling the society and has become the norm.

We have to treat with our current situation and this government is taking the steps to do so.

We are increasing spending on the **Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP)**.

We are amending the land titling laws to make titling better.

We are updating the work of various planning departments and enhancing the systems.

We are improving the services offered to our citizens.

We want illegal capture of land to be a thing of the past; we want to see planned communities with a police post and CCTV systems; regular garbage collection, proper street lighting and better water supplies.

None can deny that many times it is your situation that leads to a life of crime.

We are therefore determined as a Government to improve people's situation because we are a government that cares. We will reduce crime if we regularize our circumstances.

We will have a new law to have **Special Zones**, where we can begin to normalize our communities.

We will see the security forces clearing specific communities of gangs, holding their communities, and building out the infrastructure for the social agencies to do their work within these communities.

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I saw some of these communities recently in Brazil. The transformation after four years is something to see. I saw a hotel in the middle of a Favela (Brazilian inner-city settlement). Small businesses were flourishing.

People were saying that after the initial suspicion they saw opportunities and exploited them.

They saw many services they never had, they now have. Interestingly, they speak of how they pay their utility bills, send children to school, sporting achievements and how they feel a part of something bigger.

It is not beyond us in Jamaica to remove the barriers, equalize the opportunities and build a better Jamaica.

Let us move to pass the **Special Zones Act** and let inner-city communities be great again. Let us recapture the Jamaican dream.

Effective Policing

The fifth pillar is Effective Policing. We believe effective policing is the way to go.

We must respect the human rights of others; utilize technology, information gathering and age old police techniques.

It is this combination that will ultimately break the back of crime.

5 Pillar National Crime Strategy Ministry Paper

Mr. Speaker in this document is our **5 pillar National Crime Strategy** which will be tabled as a Ministry Paper but will be circulated today to our members. In this publication are more details, time lines and plans. This is a guide, our road map to a safer and more prosperous Jamaica.

This is not a static document. It is our foundation but it can change as circumstances demand.

But is a fundamental body of work that the government has now placed in the public domain. We welcome thoughts comments and ideas.

Security Forces

Mr Speaker let me place on record the thanks and appreciation for the service of our men and women of the security forces of Jamaica.

These men and women serve their nation and deserve every commendation.

District Constables

To the hardworking District Constables (DCs), we thank them for their years of service.

We are pleased to inform you that this Government, under this Minister has finally granted District Constables the right to pension. No longer must they work to age 60 before they get an honorarium. We salute their service.

2,300 District Constables (DC) are now pensionable effective April 2016.

New Commissioner of Police

Mr. Speaker after the sudden departure of Dr Carl Williams last year, DCP Novelette Grant was asked to act as Commissioner.

She did so for more than 90 days. She served her nation well at that level with grace and dignity. We thank her for her service.

The position of Commissioner of Police (CP) was passed to a little country boy who went to King Weston All Age School and Oberlin High; but by his hard work, integrity and humility has risen to be Jamaica's 29th Commissioner of Police.

George Fitzroy Quallo has over 40 years of experience and we are confident with God's guidance he will lead the JCF on the transformation road. Congratulations.

The George Quallo story of a little country boy rising up from rural Jamaica to become the Commissioner of Police is a true prosperity story.

New Chief of Defence Staff

After putting on a paramilitary uniform in 1975 at Wolmers Boys School; Graduated top student at Sandhurst. He had lunch with her Majesty the Queen.

He served the Air Wing, the Engineering and Support Service Battalion, earned a PhD on his own time, lectures and serves on many boards and institutions.

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The Defence Board confirmed Major General Rocky Meade as Chief of Defence Staff.

We congratulate you sir and equally thank Major General Antony Anderson for his service to this nation as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and we note your sterling work as Jamaica's first National Security Advisor; as you continue to serve this nation.

Ministry of National Security

Permanent Secretary

We congratulate Miss Dianne McIntosh who returned to the Ministry as Permanent Secretary.

Your transformational work as Permanent Secretary is being unfolded as the Ministry has embarked on a journey to transform itself to better serve the Nation.

We also thank Major General Stewart Saunders, the former Permanent Secretary, and for his work with the University of the West Indies (UWI) with regards to the Masters in National Security Programme.

Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA)

We thank Dr. Kenroy Weddeburn for his service to the FLA. He resigned to pursue other paths and after a long search the board is recommending Mr. Shane Dalling, Attorney at Law as the new CEO. We congratulate you sir.

Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA)

Equally Miss Jennifer McDonald a fine public Servant came to the end of her contract at PICA, and the Public Service Commission, after a long and exhaustive search and vetting process has informed that Mr Andrew Wynter is the new CEO of PICA.

Team MNS

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry has a very good team of new and experienced players. All are proven performers.

A New Approach to Critical Ministry Posts

Sir, it is my belief that the time has come for us as a Nation to begin the conversation of “Ring Fencing” critical positions that are vital to the success of any Administration and find a mechanism to allow the new administration to be able to appoint persons that they are confident will execute their programmes they presented to the people of Jamaica during an election campaign.

We are a young but mature democracy. It is not beyond us to do.

But we must be practical if the people endorse a certain path it is the administration, the government that will feel the wrath of the people if it is not done.

Yet it is easy for a person to be resistant to the administration to sabotage a programme and with laws giving certainty of employment to our Civil Servants and rightfully so.

We must find a way to allow an administration to implement the plans it presented to the people. You may not agree with me but let the dialogue begin.

Investment in the National Security Architecture

Mr. Speaker let me outline the investment in the National Security Architecture:

- We have increased recruitment in both the Jamaica Constabulary Force(JCF) and Jamaica Defence Force(JDF)
- We purchased two ships and a plane. We intend to purchase another plane.
- We will continue work on the barracks at Up Park Camp.
- We will begin work in Montego Bay and start to build a new base in the second city and at Braham Wharf in Savanna-la-mar. We have completed the land acquisition.
- We will commence work on the jetty in Port Royal. However, the jetty for the public, customs and the police is 80% complete.
We thank Jamaica Customs for underwriting the costs. Equally, their contribution in building out three new marine police posts in Oracabessa, Rocky Point and Alligator Pond and provide vehicles for each post.
- We will expand training especially in foreign languages at the Staff College.
- For the Police we will take possession of the 120 pickups and 80 pre-owned motorcars in May 2017. We intend to purchase more.

Thirty-six units have already been received and are working well and serving the communities.

- We intend to purchase a suitable hearse so that we can replace the HIACE bus that is used to take our men and women on their final journey.
- We repaired 114 cars, many were in disrepair during Minister Bunting's time
- More cars and bikes will be procured.
- We intend to convert more cars to LNG.

Having completed the procurement for the conversion kit, 10 cars are to be converted starting within the next 30 days.

- We intend to repair some 30 stations this year. We did 17 in the last financial year.
- 20 lawyers will be employed to be assigned, one to each police division.
- We have repaired the dormitories at the National Police College and are far advanced in having it become a degree granting institution, a National Polytechnic on Security.
- New Police Stations at Shady Grove, Longville Pk. Port Maria, courtesy of the National Housing Trust (NHT).
- 20 new mobile stations will soon be completed and deployed.
- The DNA registry is now up and running. We wish to thank Dr Judith Mowatt, the JCF, and the Ministry's Legal Department for the sterling work done to make this happen.
- We are developing a Drone Policy to treat with the sale and use of drones.

- We now have four forensic pathologists and staff are moving to reduce the backlog for autopsies. We will be constructing four autopsy suites. Two in Montego Bay and two in Kingston.
- Mr Speaker I am pleased to inform you that the 23,000 security guards in Jamaica are now certified and can if they desire, access health insurance.
- Their condition of service is the subject of a joint cabinet submission between the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Labour that will soon be a reality. We are determined that security guards be treated with respect as they provide a critical part of the security service in Jamaica. Banks, airports and water installations cannot be operated without them. The men and women in this industry are close to my heart and I am committed to providing them with dignity.
- We had a National Conference on Citizens Safety and Security at the Montego Bay Conference Centre where ordinary Jamaicans got to question and put forward useful suggestions and ideas.
- We had a meeting with the Peoples National Party (PNP). They were briefed on National Security issues. My office is organizing to set a suitable date for us to meet and update the new President of that organization.

Guns, Gangs & Lottery Scamming

Mr. Speaker, last year we concentrated on our borders to make them secure as well as we invested in the Institute of Forensic Sciences and Legal Medicine.

This strategy is working. We are now better able to restrict the flow of illicit items and guns in to the country.

New technology and advancements are allowing us to prepare better cases and enhance our intelligence gathering.

We are using software that was developed by young Sergeant Miguel Bernard and used by the institute to trace guns.

It shows that the top five most wanted guns in Jamaica have done 51 kills. Each gun is featured in multiple police divisions. It tells a story of these guns. We want the guns and the users and owners of them. This home grown software is being studied by the International partners. We place on record our commendations to young Miguel Bernard.

We want those guns and gunmen. That's why this year our aim is guns gangs and lottery scamming.

We have stated if you are caught with a gun and provide information to the police we will not oppose your bail.

So far, it has worked as the information provided has resulted in a record increase of gun recovery since the start of the year (to April 15): 241 as against 176 for last year, an increase of 37 %.

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So if you see a guy with a gun charge on the street, Mr. Speaker you can rest assured the he would have provided valuable information as to who gave him the gun, where there are more and who is connected.

Mr Speaker every Bad Man wants bail. And Mr Speaker as we ask them, “Dem Chat” and we are getting the guns.

Also some refuse to cooperate and as a result approximately 30% of these with gun crimes are not taking up bail.

But, we urge all families to tell your relatives talk to the police and we will not oppose bail.

So Mr. Speaker look out as we tighten up on guns, gangs and lottery scamming this year. This is our focus this year.

There will also be a focus on unattached youth. So we are increasing our enrolment in the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force (JCCF) especially in Western Jamaica.

Already, the Spot Valley High will be one of the training centres. We have 19 officers in training for a new cadet battalion for Western Jamaica. We only have 293 cadets in Western Jamaica and we must significantly increase this number. We have started discussions with 10 schools in Western Jamaica for new Cadet Units.

The JCCF now has a plane and a private pilot training programme. We have also started an Agricultural training programme for cadets.

We are going to target the gangs; we are going to pursue them. We have the intelligence and we are targeting them.

Legislative Amendments

Finger Print Act

We will be amending the Finger Print Act so that investigators can finger print a person charged or collect finger prints from items in the public space.

Firearms Act

We will amend the Firearms Act to allow for changes for transparency, accountability and general management.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Although amended last year, we will further amend this act, so you will need to explain your sudden wealth and prove that you are a legitimate taxpayer and operate legitimate and registered businesses.

We will also place praedial larceny offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Offensive Weapons Act

Amendments to be made as soon as the consultative process is completed

Noise Abatement Act

Amendments are completed and it will be tabled shortly.

MOCA Act

Already tabled in Parliament

Police Services Commission/Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PSC/PCOA)

Plans to merge are now on the way.

Police Rules

The police rules will be amended to give more power to the Inspectorate of Police and the Early Retirement Scheme is back after being amended.

This will give the Commissioner of Police another tool to rid the Jamaica Constabulary Force of corrupt officers in the national interest.

New Road Traffic Act

It is the intention off the Government to pass the new Road Traffic Act. It will modernize the old one. It will promote greater safety for all our citizens.

We are announcing an **Amnesty on traffic tickets to commence as of July 1, 2017**. It will be for 60 days. People will be able to pay outstanding tickets without penalty or interest. We urge all Jamaica to participate.

2017: Decent & Law Abiding People Year

This year 2017 Mr. Speaker is decent and law abiding people year. The good people of Jamaica deserve a break and they are going to get it.

The people now know that this government is committed to citizen safety and security. They know we are committed to the task; they see the signs already; the police are making progress, the use of technology is in full use.

New Information Mechanism

We want to introduce another mechanism to pass on information.

It's simple; write to the police with the information. Put it in an envelope and put an X on the front. Use gloves if you don't want your fingerprints on it.

Drop it in the post box when no one is watching. Under an agreement with Jamaica Post it will reach the police.

Stay Alert App

You can download the Stay Alert app from either the Google PlayStore or the Apple store. We now have more than 100,000 downloads.

We wish to thank Digicel and Flow as through an agreement with them as of June 1, all new phones have the **Stay Alert App** preloaded. We commend them.

So people can send pictures, audio, video and text anonymously if they want to report anything.

Response to the Member of Parliament for Central Manchester

Mr. Speaker, the Member from Central Manchester made some unfortunate remarks last week. Very unfortunate. In his quest for headlines he shouted and pontificated "fake news" , since then, everybody who is associated with National Security, is calling him Mr Fake News. I do not support name calling.

Mr Speaker, I have no wish to embarrass or humiliate the young man from Central Manchester. Sir, I will only lay out the facts.

Mr Speaker it was not all doom and gloom. He made at least two points where one thought he could have done more. He criticised me on the legislative agenda we had planned.

I concede.

Our performance was not as robust as it should have been.

On the matter of turning firearm holders into special District Constables; during the consultation of the final draft for the proposal, the technical staff raised a number of questions, e.g. whether they would fall under the remit of INDECOM. Further research and work is taking place. Mr Speaker these and other matters we thought the young man would have dived into because we are open to suggestions and ideas. Instead the young man did not heed Dr. Phillips advice to students of UTECH "keep away from selfish, narrow politics".

Mr. Speaker he went on and tried to score political points.

He stated:

Comment 1

“Last week the American media pointed to many policy reversals on campaign promises e.g. 1) Avoiding the use of military force in Syria 2) Labelling China a currency manipulator 3) On the North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO) being obsolete.”

Mr. Speaker, what right does the member have to use the Parliament to negatively comment on the Internal Affairs of a friendly country?

Mr Speaker, is it normal to use the Parliament to attack and question in a subtle way, the President of the United States of America or any other leader? It is actually against established diplomatic protocols. It is also against the Standing Orders of Parliament.

The United States is our biggest partner in National Security. Why attack them?

Do you know what you are doing? Do you know the possible effect on many Jamaican businesses and families if we pick a quarrel with our biggest trading partner? Our oldest ally in the fight against crime? A country where thousands of Jamaicans call home.

Do you know what you are doing? Have you thought of the effect on the many Jamaicans living in the USA as a result of your loose comments?

The United States Government spends millions of dollars on Jamaica's National Security Architecture, training, donation of assets, sharing of intelligence, assistance with our maritime space and you a former Minister of National Security are being so careless with the lives of thousands of Jamaicans.

Do better young man.

I am sure the United States Embassy will say all is well. But, that's what good Ambassadors do. We have an excellent one from Washington.

Comment No. 2

He unfortunately and ill-advisedly, claimed that the **DNA regulations** were not crafted or published.

The Jamaican Gazette of Friday March 31, 2017 published same (pass a copy to Bunting).

I do not wish to embarrass him. I am just laying out the facts. Destroying the "FAKE NEWS"; with great fanfare he stated no DNA registry. Well what say you now?

Comment No. 3

Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman claimed **we have not spent the billions promised**. Sir on Page 6 of his speech is an extract of the yellow budget book (The Estimates of Expenditure) that he held up. He did not put it on the screen.

Why? Because it showed the revised estimate (supplemental budget) increased by not 1, not 2, but over 3 billion dollars. 3 Billion dollars. 3 billion not millions but billions.

Yet he artfully left it out. Sad Sad.

I wish to quote from a former a Prime Minister,

"Dem Lie" – Most Hon. Michael N. Manley

The money was used to purchase 2 ships and a plane. I have the invoices here and will give him copies.

Comment No. 4

Dogs- He well knows that we can only buy dogs from rabies-free countries. We must respect the process and laws of our partners. We cannot go and demand dogs or any other goods, we have to make the request and wait. He never even placed an order for dogs. We have the money, we have the need but we must be respectful of laws of countries with which we partner.

Comment No. 5

In his speech on Page 7, at the very first line he left out a part of the sentence “Nor has the **new 300 bed facility at Tamarind Farm** been commissioned” You know why he left it out? Tell them Hon. Member, Tell the Speaker.

The former Minister of National Security, just before me, built the new wing, and I say congrats, beautiful building, well built, we can name it after him as is!!!

It has no sewage treatment facility.

Honourable Member from Central Manchester, consult the former Minister, get the facts before you speak. We cannot use the facility until the sewage plant is completed. This error of yours, has used up millions of dollars that could have bought more cars.

Comment No. 6

He claimed that the company which won the bid to supply the motorcars and pickups, O'Brien's International Car Sales, did not import any motor vehicles for the "last two years".(Speech) but he said 5 years.

Sir, the Trade Board has informed that O'Brien's in 2016 was issued with 27 permits. In 2015, 16 permits; 2014, 64 permits, and in 2013, 206 permits.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism knows this company well, as it is qualified to receive duty concessions on motor cars for rental and O'Brien's has accessed this facility. We have letters from the said Ministry for May, June and July of 2015.

The company has imported cars as these C87 Customs forms show. These are from 2014 and 2015.

Coincidentally, the price in the successful bid for the Axio Corollas for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) is **\$1.3m. Do you want me to stop?**

Comment No. 7

Mobile Stations: He questions where they are? Sir, the Ministry of National Security now follows the procurement guidelines. They are being built out now, here in Jamaica not imported from overseas. "DEM LIE"

Comment No.8

Police rule book (Book of Rules) was published electronically and has been made available to Force members and indeed any member of the public who cares to examine. It has been available on the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) website under the resources section since August 2016.

Again “dem lie”

Comment No.9 (Summary)

He criticised me for calling “Tief, Rapist, and Murderers; Dutty Criminals”.

Mr. Speaker will the Member tell me what term I should use? What term better describes them?

Mr. Speaker, I thought the gentleman would come here and thank the Administration for paying the \$309M to the retired officers who could not get paid during his period as Minister.

I thought he would be delighted for the officers who have seen 17 police stations repaired.

I thought he would be ecstatic to know that we bought a brand new coaster bus for the Police Federation; a new bus for hardworking staff at the Ministry; 2500 ballistic helmets; 3000 ballistic vests; 250 motorbike helmets; 800 beds; 15 million for District Constable Uniforms; 100 combat boots for ladies;

50 mobile radios

22 million dollars to purchase raincoats.

Citizen Safety & Security-Vital To Prosperity

- Six generators, fire extinguishers

Mr Speaker, we must not use National Security to push our partisan political agenda.

I am hopeful that the young man regrets his actions and will do better research in his next portfolio. He has failed here and let down his side.

Paraphrasing the Most Hon. Michael Manley: “ Dem Lie Dem Lie” “Dem Lie”

Congratulations to the PNP delegates they did not vote for that Peter.

Conclusion

People have the tools to join the fight against crime. The Government is investing the resources necessary:

- We will increase recruitment in the JDF and the JCF, Immigration and the Correctional Services as we wish to go up to establishment strength;
- We have modernized the Forensic Lab, built out the DNA registry ;
- We intend to target Guns, Gangs and Lottery Scamming.
- We will be writing a Drone Policy;
- We have purchased two ships and a plane for greater border security
- We are targeting unattached youth, especially boys, are finally getting attention.
- We will be upgrading police stations
- We will continue to increase the mobility of the force
- We are taking terrorism seriously and have started training our officers.
- We will continue our investment in the intelligence network.
- We have introduced facial recognition software for passports
- We will repair and upgrade our prisons
- We will increase social intervention programmes
- We will continue to build partnerships, locally and internationally.

We have a clear path, the good people of Jamaica can be reassured that we take their safety and security seriously. We are investing the resources, utilising technology and building partnerships. Be a partner for safety and security.

Citizen Safety & Security-Vital To Prosperity

I call on all Jamaicans to become active in community organisations, let us recapture our neighbourhoods, let us take back the space from the criminals, and let us build a society that turns it back on corruption and criminality.

We have laid the foundation Mr. Speaker, and as the song says, We know where we are going, Joy bells are ringing, Jamaicans are singing.

Yes Mr. Speaker we know we are going. We are going from poverty to prosperity.

If it so pleases you Mr Speaker.

Thank you.