

Guests at Heads of Media Meeting (July 2015)

- Dr. Carl Williams, Police Commissioner
- Clifford Blake, Deputy Police Commissioner
- Karina Powell-Hood, Senior Superintendent

The Police Commissioner said that the media plays a critical role as stakeholders and stories should be edited to help solve crime and caution should be taken not to mis-quote. The JCF was encouraged to develop a communication strategy so that its successes could be publicized.

The Commissioner advised that, compared to last year, all crimes except for murder had declined significantly. Greater results were noted in Clarendon and St. Catherine. Controlling crime in St. James and Trelawny was proving to be challenging. Their strategy was to go after the heads of criminal organizations. He added that many criminals pay lawyers to release them on bail and continue to commit multiple murders.

He said they had increased their number of Police Officers and had formed a strategy to disarm criminals. The Commissioner said that the JCF intended to deploy 80% of the Officers to operational duty. He added that they had partnered with private Security companies to complement the JCF and planned to introduce a network of CCTV cameras.

The Commissioner was encouraged to address the credibility issue in the Force so that the public would be comfortable approaching the Police. He responded that a campaign was being run to address Police Officers' professionalism and conferences outlining initiatives for

crime-solving.

The Police Commissioner was encouraged to meet with the Press Association of Jamaica to have direct discussions with journalists and was reminded that citizens had a high level of trust in Crime Stop so the JCF should get them involved. Crime news stories should be tagged "Please Contact Crime Stop".