



Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade

PRESS RELEASE

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RETURNING RESIDENTS' TASKFORCE

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The Returning Residents Taskforce, an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), has put in motion strategies to support individuals in their transition home. This includes engagement on the priority areas identified by Returning Residents such as enhanced service delivery, involvement in community and national development and the creation of safe and cohesive communities.

Headed by State Minister Senator the Honourable Pearnel Charles Jr., the Taskforce is a collaborative effort of stakeholders including MFAFT, representatives of the Returning Residents Associations across Jamaica, the Ministry of National Security, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA).

In an effort to immediately increase awareness, a Returning Residents Safety and Security Handbook was created by the JCF, which is available for download on the MFAFT's website and on other partners' online platforms. There is also to be a follow-up publication from the JCA which will be a guide to the customs process. This is intended to be a useful guideline in best practices and procedures to be adopted when engaging in transactions and interacting with community members, upon return.

These instructive publications – which support the Ministry's long-standing Returning Citizens Information Guide – form one component of the Taskforce's wider crime prevention and disruption strategy, as it works to bolster Jamaica's partnership with the Diaspora and maintain a focus on crime reduction and the security of all citizens.

In the meantime, the Police, through an island-wide network of Territorial Officers and Coordinators of the Community Safety and Security Branch,

have ramped up their interaction with the Returning Residents' community by hosting more than 70 meetings, aiding in vetting prospective employees and making direct visits to returned residents.

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