



***CHAMPIONING***  
***CHANGE***

***for CITIZEN SECURITY AND JUSTICE***

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## **Time Come to Champion Change in Citizen Security and Justice:**

*Presentation by Hon. Fitz Jackson, MP*

### **Introduction**

Madam Speaker, the time has come for Jamaica to champion transformative change. For too long, our people have endured the dual scourges of violent crime and systemic corruption - twin barriers to real progress that demand urgent, principled leadership. The People's National Party stands ready to deliver this change: a future where security is rooted in justice, opportunity, and accountability.

### **The Current Security Landscape: Progress Amid Persistent Crisis**

The recent 30% reduction in murders in 2024, is a welcome shift after eight years of escalating violence under the JLP administration. However, this decline follows a grim reality: under this JLP Administration, regrettably more Jamaicans have been murdered than under any previous two-term administration. Had the Government maintained and strengthened the PNP's pre-2016 strategies it inherited less people would have been murdered. Indeed, that would have accelerated the downward trajectory begun under the PNP..

#### *Murders in Jamaica: 2008-2024*

This decline, while encouraging, is fragile. Jamaica's homicide rate remains among the highest globally, compounded by unchecked financial crimes and mass shootings. The JLP's reliance on *States of Emergency* (SOEs) as a blunt instrument that eroded community trust and damaged livelihoods - proved disastrous. Their approach mirrored "net fishing," indiscriminately sweeping up innocent young men and children while failing to dismantle criminal networks.

## A Better Way: Focused Deterrence, Data-Driven Policing

The PNP has long championed a balanced approach to security - one that pairs enforcement with prevention. Commissioner Blake's recent endorsement of ***focused deterrence*** - targeting the 1% responsible for 70% of violence—validates our stance. This “spear fishing” strategy, combining intelligence-led operations with community engagement, has driven the 2024 decline. Madam Speaker, the Opposition had been pleading for this approach for well over eight (8) years, and it fell on deaf ears, because the Prime Minister, the then *de facto* Minister of Security and supported by the former Commissioner of Police maintained an exclusive **tough-headed** and aggressive pursuit of a “**looking tough**” exclusive military approach, that have only served to plunge the country into a state of deepened insecurity.

So, we commend the present Commissioner, Dr. Blake, for his leadership and the new approach he has brought to the JCF. His approach aligns with our 2023 proposals: court-supervised detention of high-risk suspects, expanding the Jamaica Eye surveillance network, and balancing enforcement with social intervention. This model respects constitutional rights while delivering results. Madam Speaker, the global data supports this approach as the most effective in achieving sustainable security for our country. In this regard, I give this Parliament and my fellow Jamaicans, the solemn undertaking that the next PNP government will commit the necessary resources to the JCF, and its allied entities to ensure continued and widened success in sustained crime reduction, and citizens security. And here, we emphasise citizens' security. It's not just about reducing crime rates, but also about improving the quality of life and creating conditions where people can feel safe and thrive. I share an exchange I had some many years ago with former Commissioner of Police Col. Trevor MacMillan.

On the occasion of the opening of the police post in Greater Portmore, in a sideline chat we had, he shared with me from a book he read by a retired New York police officer. ***The officer wrote that a community's real security is not how many murders are being committed, but how safe the people in the community feel. If there are few people being murdered, and people feel very insecure,***

***there is a security problem.*** If there are a lot of murders, and the community feels safe, there is a murder problem.

The vice versa also holds true.

In Jamaica, we have both; a security problem, and a high murder problem. The Next PNP administration will pursue achieving both: continued and accelerated murder reductions and increased security of our people - in their homes, on the streets, and in their communities. Nothing less can ever be deemed a success.

In recent times we hear this JLP administration's seeming sudden pivot, where they now profess support for social programmes. This rings hollow. And there is indeed a synergy between hollow and ring! The PNP, and the country have a very reasonable basis for skepticism: this is the same JLP government that, upon taking office in 2016, *discontinued or defunded* every flagship social intervention initiative inherited from the PNP—the Unite for Change initiative, the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP), and the Peace Management Initiative. The government of Prime Minister Holness spent years dismissing such programmes as “ineffective.” **Now, with elections looming, the JLP seeks to adopt the PNP's proven model of combining targeted policing with social investment. While we welcome the pivot, let's be clear - This is not leadership, it is opportunism and worse they are poor copycats. : Dem Tek the Jamaican people fi fools.**

**Madam Speaker, no Party or government should ever insult the intelligence and wisdom of our people, and be allowed to get away with it! We are reminded of the words of the great Peter Tosh: *you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time.***

**Madam Speaker: That fooling time “done”, the peoples' TIME COME NOW!**

2017: almost 1700 murders

Critically, the 2024 decline began only after the PNP's steadfast refusal to extend SOEs and our successful court challenges against their misuse. The JLP's militarization of policing is akin to "net fishing," That approach is the JLP's DNA. Jamaicans can never forget the **Coral Gardens rounding up of Rastas and banning of books by writers committed to improving the lives of our people.**

Based on the irrefutable data we now have, the excessive overuse of SOEs has failed to save lives during the period as we were made to believe. But another major casualty of the SOEs' overuse, is the loss of its shock and awe effect necessary during periods of emergencies.

**Madam Speaker,**

**Let us be clear: sustainable change requires more than election-year theatrics and gimmicks. It demands unwavering commitment to programmes that address root causes - a commitment the PNP has upheld, and which the JLP has never championed.**

### **The Institution of the JCF**

No one is denying Jamaica's crime problem but accountability and public safety go hand in hand. The JCF while striving to serve and protect must respect the rule of law. In order for us to begin to address crime, citizens and the state need to work together. This cannot be achieved if there is a low level of trust between citizens and the JCF. What we need is a fully competent, motivated, and resourced team.

The next PNP government will accelerate the use of body-worn cameras by members of the JCF. Body-worn cameras protect both civilians and officers. If we can justify their use in low-risk situations abroad, we must demand them here where the stakes are life and death. Body-worn cameras are essential to show whether the force used was justified as well as to protect both lives and truth.

The inconsistencies revealed through body-worn camera footage in countless instances underscore how vital these tools are—not only for ensuring accountability but also for protecting the integrity of the justice system. Justice cannot be reduced to hollow rhetoric; it demands concrete, unwavering action.

We assure every Jamaican, that any practice of police that seeks to undermine respect, and all that we expect in a free and democratic society will not go unattended. After all, it is the trust and collaboration between the security authorities, inclusive of MOCA, the JDF and others, that is imperative and indispensable to achieving a sustainable safe and secure Jamaica.

I mentioned earlier the need for a motivated membership of the JCF and others. We note the welcomed increased enlistment in the complement of the JCF recently. We are also aware that while enlistment has been a challenge, retention was perhaps a greater challenge. In this regard, the next PNP administration will prioritize dealing with those issues that will further encourage police officers to remain in the organization. Growing up as a child I recall very well how competitive it was to become a police officer, being a profession of choice. We must endeavour to once again, let being a police officer, a career of choice!

**Madam Speaker**, it is for these reasons that I assure all rank-and-file members and officers of the JCF, that the incoming government of the PNP will have your back in your chosen career of service to your country, our country. Jamaica needs the best that you all can offer to be a safe, secure, and harmonious country for all.

**Corruption:        The        Silent        Thief        of        Jamaica's        Future**

**Madam Speaker**, in the recently concluded budget debate, our finance spokesperson and Leader of Opposition set out very clearly, some of the strategies and programmes that the next government we form will be pursuing. Central among them is growing the economy, both in terms of opening new areas of economic activities and expanding



existing ones. The increased and sustained safe and secured Jamaica I discussed earlier is but one critical element of our development agenda, not just socially, but also economically. However, these efforts are significantly made more difficult, if not impossible, if corruption or irrefutable and strong perception of corruption remain high.

Security cannot flourish without integrity. The Prime Minister himself once declared corruption is a “**significant retardant to growth.**” (*Reference the Integrity Commission Debate notes*) How ironic, then, that this administration now sabotages the very institutions designed to combat corruption.

Under the JLP, **Net Foreign Direct Investment has plummeted** from US 926.5 *million in 2015 to US 376.5 million in 2023*, a whopping 59.3% reduction in eight (8) years! - a direct consequence of revenue leaks, graft, and investor distrust. The Integrity Commission (IC), once praised by the Prime Minister as a beacon of accountability, is now under assault by various members of the Cabinet and others on the government benches. These blatant conflicting signals and actions cannot give confidence to investors, foreign or local, whether micro, small, medium or large.

This glaring evidence of hypocrisy deepens dishonesty and distrust which are potent ingredients in undermining all sincere efforts at building a secure and just society. The JLP government’s “all-out assault” on accountability betrays every Jamaican who deserves honest governance and to have a Government they trust.

### **The PNP’s Holistic Vision: Security, Justice, Opportunity**

Madam Speaker, the PNP’s plan is clear:

1. Targeted Security: Expand focused deterrence, empower the JCF with advanced tools, and legislate pre-charge detention protocols to disrupt organized crime.
2. Prevention & Social Transformation: Invest in youth programmes, trauma counselling, and job training. Revive initiatives like *Unite for Change* and the Peace Management Initiative to break cycles of violence.

3. Anti-Corruption Vigilance: Strengthen the Integrity Commission, enact Unexplained Wealth Orders, and mandate body-worn cameras and other mechanisms to restore public trust.
4. Data-Driven Governance: Allocate resources based on evidence, not political expediency. Track financial crimes and audit public spending rigorously.

### **Conclusion: Time Come for Bold Leadership**

The JLP's legacy is one of stagnation and self-interest. But Jamaica's resilience is undimmed. The PNP's vision—of a nation secure, just, and free from corruption—is within reach.

Madam Speaker, let us champion this change together. Let us build a Jamaica where safety is not bought at the cost of liberty, where prosperity is not stolen by the corrupt, let us put Jamaica first so every citizen can say, with pride: Jamaica Nice, *"Jamaica Time Come!"*



## **PORTMORE: A Community with its People at the Centre**

Much has been said about Portmore over the past 18 months or so, and particularly over the last five (5) months. Portmore as a community has been around for well over 60 years. Most persons who have been away from Portmore for anywhere close to 20 years, upon their return are amazed at what has taken place over the period.

With all the transformation that we can see, much more is to be done in the continuing efforts to make Portmore a better place in fulfilling Jamaica's 2030 vision: "...***Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.***" And of course, to enjoy more and better sunshine, than in any other part of Jamaica!

**The people of Portmore find themselves there for many different reasons. Being there, they have decided to do their part to make it the best it can be, with the resources that become available as we go along and go forward. In the process, they have mobilized their collective wisdom to improve the space where they are, and the governance arrangements they have inherited.**

In much the same way that our fore parents were uprooted from Africa against their will, the governance arrangement and structure that they have fashioned, is being dismantled by this JLP government by a partisan and self-serving **bait & trick** ploy, that they will be much better off if they are no longer a part of St. Catherine, but a parish of their own. What cheap tricks and insult, being inflicted on the residents of Portmore? In other words, saying to Portmore residents: your further development can only happen, if your municipality now becomes a parish. If this insulting argument should hold any merit, then many other growing communities across Jamaica, such as **May Pen, Linstead, Negril, Santa Cruz**, and the list can go on, and on, should become parishes.

As the Government dishonestly argues that the reason for making Portmore a parish is for its development, the questions being asked, for which no credible answers are forthcoming, are:

- Will becoming a parish cause the roads to be fixed and maintained?
- Will becoming a parish cause more reliable water supplies?
- Will becoming a parish cause the communities to be more secure than they are now?
- Will becoming a parish cause the sewage treatment plant in Greater Portmore to be maintained, and the perpetual stench from the ponds end?
- Will becoming a parish cause us not to have any, or less mosquitos?
- Will becoming a parish cause less traffic congestion all over Portmore?

**And the million-dollar question being asked is:** if becoming a parish will solve all these problems, why are all the many places across Jamaica that are already in parishes for decades, still having many more pressing problems than those in Portmore?

*But alas*, the real intent was revealed most boastfully, by no other than a former senior member of the Prime Minister's Cabinet, the Member from Southwest St. Catherine and senior officer of the JLP. He spilled the beans. He told the country this: "they will make Portmore into a parish, cut away from the rest of St. Catherine with the boundaries that they want. And after then they will take control of the St. Catherine municipality; create a safe seat for the JLP that they will never lose". It is of note that the political boundaries stipulated by that Member for achieving those goals, **are exactly what is provided in the Counties and Parish Boundary Act**, which they rammed through the Parliament. If this is not the most classical demonstration of gerrymandering, then the earth is NOT round, it is square!

All this 15<sup>th</sup> parish adventure is being justified on the basis that it was an election promise made by the JLP, that is being kept. The Chairman of Joint Select Committee of Parliament on the matter, and a Member of Parliament in St. Catherine was reported in the media telling a gathering in Gregory Park recently that if they didn't keep the promise to make Portmore a parish, they would be accused of lying to people to get their votes.

With this public statement in mind, the country is asking what about these following promises made by no other than the Prime Minister himself from 2016:

1. **Legislation for Term limit for Prime Minister within 100 days**
2. **Legislation for impeachment proceedings within 100 days**
3. **Legislation for Fixed date of elections within 100 days**
4. **Job Description for Ministers**
5. **5 in 4 economic growth**
6. **70,000 NHT houses by 2025**
7. **Sleep with windows and doors open**
8. **Liveable wages**
9. **World-class Healthcare**
10. **Improved Educational outcomes**
11. **And the biggest unkept promise - PROSPERITY FOR ALL**

**Madam Speaker**, we have heard the very vociferous screams of warning by the Prime Minister about **promises** during this period leading to elections within the next five (5) months. In light of these listed and many other unfulfilled promises that cannot be successfully challenged, is that Member from South Central St. Catherine, former chairman of Joint Select Committee on Portmore as a 15<sup>th</sup> parish, and former Minister of Energy and Petrojam will now say that the Government can be accused of lying?

**Is this another case of “cock mouth kill cock?”**

**Madam Speaker**, it is now universally acknowledged that gerrymandering, which is the manipulation of political boundaries to the advantage of a Party in power, is corruption. No spinning will change this fact. That member from Southwest St. Catherine has confirmed publicly the intent of the government. Consequently, any reasonable and logical person will conclude that the intent was corrupt. Anything corruptly conceived will only breed corrupt outcomes. Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequity, poverty, social division and a host of other undesirable outcomes. This is the **stain** that is being foisted on the people

of Portmore by a corrupt pursuit! This corruptly conceived 15 parish hoax will most certainly result in a miscarriage. **SHAME ON THIS GOVERNMENT, SHAME!**

This haste in the corrupt pursuit was being compounded by blatant disregard for the Constitution. This was recently confirmed by the Court Orders now in effect, that block the Government from bringing the Act into force, until it abides by certain specific requirements of our Constitution. For those who would take the time to familiarize themselves with the now public submissions before the Court, they will be aware that the basis of the Court Order now preventing Portmore from being declared a parish, is but ONE of the cited breaches of the Constitution by the Counties and Parishes Boundary Act of 2025 better known as the **Gerrymandering of Political Boundaries Act of 2025**.

That matter before the court is scheduled to be heard in full within the next two (2) months. Thereafter, we will speak further about it and set out a civil, democratic pathway for making any changes to Jamaica's now existing 14 parish structure. This is relevant not only to us in Portmore and St. Catherine. All Jamaicans ought to have a voice in any structural changes to be made to the national 14 parish configuration in place for over 100 years. Such a pathway, consultatively pursued, will for the first time, seek to establish clear criteria to be fulfilled by a parish, and how any subsequent changes will be made.

In the meanwhile, we in Portmore will continue our mission, to make Portmore a better place as we have been doing over the last 60 years. **NO GERRYMANDERING AROUND HERE!**

I must **Madam Speaker**, once again, say thanks to the people of Portmore for their open support and endorsement for the efforts we are making to preserve and build their Municipality, in keeping with their own vision. We in the People's National Party will forever be indebted to them, and the people of Jamaica. **THANK YOU!**