

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kahmile Reid - Senior Public Relations Officer

The Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM)

1 A Dumfries Road, Kingston 10

Gen: 1.876.968.8875 Ext. 282. Mobile: 1.876.564.6765.

Email: kahmile.reid@indec.com.jm



INDECOM is here to stay

August 15, 2016 - "INDECOM is here to stay", this was the message Prime Minister Andrew Holness had for the people of Jamaica at INDECOM's Church Service held on Sunday August 14, 2016 at the St. Ann Parish Church. This message was delivered by the Hon. Derrick Smith, Minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister. Minister Smith represented the Prime Minister at the Church Service as the Commission celebrated its 6th Anniversary.

Speaking at the Service held under the theme "Promoting Principled Policing", Minister Smith said, as a Government, the vision for INDECOM is that it becomes an organization that has the confidence of both citizens and the State.

"Our vision we know is shared by a vast majority in society and within law enforcement. What is also interesting about the vision for the Commission is that, instrumental to its success is a strong partnership with the police force and the army."

It was never our expectation, Minister Smith said, that there should be any adversarial relationship between INDECOM and agents of the State, but rather one of collaboration and partnership. Despite the teething pains, he said, I would like to commend the Commissioner of INDECOM, Terrence Williams and his teams and Commissioners of Police, past and present for the important work they have done and continue to do to build public confidence in our security forces and correctional officers.

Minister Smith urged the congregation to support INDECOM as while many may not recognize the importance of INDECOM, the role of the Commission in aiding positive evolution of our system of law and order is extremely significant.

"If people have no confidence that they can call on an objective arbiter of their rights are being breached then distrust will fester," he said.

It is this distrust, he emphasized, that has infested our society; undermining the efforts of the rule of law and undermining our institutions.

"Having an organization whose role is not merely to lock up police, foster negative perceptions or dismiss concerns of citizens, but rather aspires to get to the truth is extremely significant for all in a just society," he said.

In closing, Minister Smith reiterated: "The administration give INDECOM its full support and we appeal to all parties involved to respect each other's authority. INDECOM is here to stay, so a way has to be found for all to coexist." Commending the Commission on its work thus far he said:

"I commend INDECOM on their 6th Anniversary, you have done well in convincing many who were apprehensive of the reason for your existence, but there is more work to be done in enhancing trust between you and important stakeholders in the society.

Min. Smith charged INDECOM to focus its energy on influencing positive perceptions of the organization by being accountable to the people of Jamaica who, in the end, will be the judges of their success or failure.