

February 28, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

JCC calls for timely appointment of Commissioner

Kingston, Jamaica: The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) notes that inasmuch as this past Friday was the closing date for applications for the post of Police Commissioner, it is to be hoped that the Police Service Commission (PSC) is effecting its processes as carefully and expeditiously as possible so that the country may shortly be apprised of its recommendation for this manifestly important role.

In this respect, we have noted a number of recent calls for the PSC to look outside of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and even outside of Jamaica, for the next Police Commissioner. On the face of it, the invitation for applications makes no assumption that the successful candidate must be an officer of the JCF, or even be a citizen of Jamaica.

However, the JCC is not persuaded that the candidates to be considered should exclude the officer corps of the JCF. We do not accept the premise that the top rank of the JCF is bereft of individuals with the requisite skills, integrity, and independence of mind to get the job done. It is our view that whoever is selected must not only have the capacity to perform, but must also be properly resourced if he or she is to produce the quantifiable results that Jamaica needs both in the short and long term. From our perspective, the best-qualified person should be appointed no matter what his or her antecedents may be.

In the interim, without prejudice for or against Acting Commissioner Blake, the JCC congratulates the JCF for the recent high visibility of its officers at key high-traffic locations in the Corporate Area. We urge that this programme be rolled out quickly across the entire country. We have long bemoaned the arrant indiscipline of far too many of our motorists, and acknowledge that change in behaviours will only be possible once wrongdoers come to believe that their infractions will be severely sanctioned. We trust that this initiative will be a long-term one.

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