

Munroe: Confidence in police at its highest

Friday, May 22, 2015

THE public's trust in the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has grown in the last nine years and is now at its highest level, according to Executive Director of the National Integrity Action Professor Trevor Munroe.

Munroe, who cited data from the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), said the gains resulted from the effort made by members of the Dr Carl Williams-led JCF to improve the relationship between the police and citizens.



Executive Director of the National Integrity Action Professor Trevor Munroe addressing the hand-over ceremony for community policing material at the Police Officers Club in Kingston. Some of the material handed over by the USAID/COMET II to the Jamaica Constabulary Force included training handbooks/manuals to assist the police in building a culture of lawfulness among its members, and MOCA-branded exercise books to support the anti-lottery scam school outreach programme. (PHOTO: JIS)

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Speaking at a hand-over ceremony for community policing material at the Police Officers' Club in Kingston this week, Professor Munroe said that according to LAPOP the element of bribery and victimisation in Jamaica was significantly low in 2014.

"By 2014, in the publication which is to be launched on June 10, that has gone down to 12 per cent. (This figure) is well below, in fact, half of what the global average is, which is 27 per cent of people globally, admit(ing) to taking or pay(ing) a bribe," he said.

LAPOP functions as a consortium of academic and non-governmental institutions and individuals across the Americas. Its principal survey project is a bi-annual regional survey of the Americas called the Americas Barometer.

The survey measures citizen views on system support, political tolerance, citizen participation, local government, corruption, and authoritarianism, and many other topics related to democratic politics and opinion.

Citing several departments within the JCF -- MOCA, the Community Safety and Security Branch and the Anti-Corruption Branch -- Professor Munroe said the work being undertaken by them "are responsible for so much that is positive in what continues to be a very significant struggle to combat corruption".

Some of the material handed over by USAID/COMET II included training handbooks/manuals to assist the JCF in building a culture of lawfulness among its members; MOCA-branded exercise books to support the Anti-Lottery Scam School Outreach Programme; brochures on the Safe Schools Programme; handbooks aimed at supporting the Neighbourhood Watch Programme; community based policing brochures; and manuals on personal safety plans aimed at supporting the police youth club and neighbourhood watch programmes.

One of the core objectives of the COMET II project is to promote community-driven activities to contribute to improved crime prevention, intervention and enforcement by addressing underlying causes of crime and promoting improved communications and interactions between citizens and police.