



THE PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATION OF JAMAICA

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PRESS RELEASE

Law and Order Consultations move ahead a commitment to consultation

"I am very encouraged by today's meeting with Mr Derrick Smith, Opposition Spokesman on National Security, The Commissioner of Police and representatives of the PSOJ." said Minister Phillips. "We have all committed to a new and historic process of consultation and transparency in dealing with matters relating to law and order in the run up to elections" continued Mr. Phillips.

"The JLP has confirmed its confidence in The Jamaica Constabulary Force and its leadership and awaits the outcome of the Police investigation into the concerns that our party has over the recruitment and inclusion of politically motivated personnel in a new police squad" said Mr. Smith. "We will do everything we reasonably can to make the valuable proposed process of consultation work effectively," added Mr. Smith.

The Commissioner of Police Mr. Francis Forbes told the meeting that he intended to run a professional law and order agency and welcomed the opportunity to answer the questions raised at the meeting about the operations of the Police Force. "We believe that the Police dealt professionally with the 1997 elections. It is our intention to play our part to ensure that the upcoming election is peaceful and that politics plays no part in Police activities" added the Commissioner.

"We have seen our democracy deepen today. Mature leaders consult between themselves to iron out problems. The public want to see more communication between the country's leaders. Messrs Phillips, Smith and Forbes should be commended for initiating this process".

"There must be a real chance now of this election being the most peaceful in the history of the country. The Police must be encouraged to train its staff and to develop a professionally run SWAT team acting without political bias" said Hon Oliver F. Clarke, President of the PSOJ.

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APRIL 03, 2002