




PMI executive: Implement community renewal programme

2012-02-09 13:12:19 | with audio | (0 Comments)

The People's National Party administration is being urged to implement the Community Renewal Programme that was initiated by the former government.

The call is being made by Horace Levy, Board Member of the Peace Management Initiative, in light of Jamaica's standing in the 2012 Caribbean Human Development Report released by the United Nations Development Programme.

The report, among other things, noted that organised crime, weaknesses in the police force and an inefficient justice system are some of the issues impeding progress in Jamaica.

It also revealed that Jamaica has the highest number of youth convicted of crime in the region and spends billions of dollars every year to tackle the issue.

Levy believes fighting crime at the community level by implementing the Community Renewal Programme, will play a major role in reducing youth crime and gang related activities.

Levy, who is also a research fellow at the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security at the University of the West Indies, believed there are other ways of dealing with criminal gangs apart from the anti-gang, tough policing approach.

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Most J'cans believe justice system corrupt - UNDP study

2012-02-12 11:41:20 | (0 Comments)

A study conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says over 57 per cent of Jamaicans surveyed believes that politically connected criminals are likely to go free whenever they face the criminal justice system.

According to the 2012 UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report on Citizen Security, 57 per cent of Jamaicans believe the entire justice system is corrupt.

The report, which was released last week, also shows that 36 per cent of Jamaicans believe judges are corrupt. Jamaica was among seven Caribbean nations that were included in the survey.

Among the seven Caribbean nations, Jamaica recorded the third highest percentage in the category; 'JUDGES ARE CORRUPT' second in the 'POWERFUL CRIMINALS GO FREE' category and second in the category of the 'POLITICALLY CONNECTED CRIMINALS GO FREE.'

While admitting that systematic data are not available, the report notes that conviction rates in the Caribbean are alarmingly low. The report has also revealed that a majority of Jamaicans do not believe that the police are capable of breaking the back of gang violence.

According to the UNDP study, only 23 per cent of Jamaicans surveyed say they have high or very high confidence in the ability of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to effectively tackle gang violence.

The findings of the UNDP study comes amid claims by the Police High Command that they have managed to destabilise some of the most dangerous criminal gangs in the country.

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UNDP report calls for paradigm shift

2012-02-08 15:47:36 | (0 Comments)

Jerome Reynolds, Gleaner Writer

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has told Jamaica and other Caribbean countries that there needs to be a shift in policy direction if the region is to move forward.

The 2012 Caribbean Human Development Report released by the UNDP today laments that economic progress and human development is being hampered by crime and violence and weak institutions.

The report notes that that region accounts for some 27 percent of the world's homicides.

It highlights that Jamaica has the highest homicide rate in the Caribbean and the third-highest murder rate worldwide, with about 60 murders per 100,000 persons.

The report also revealed that organised crime, weaknesses in the police force and an inefficient justice system are among the issues impeding progress in Jamaica and the rest of the region.

It said these issues contribute to a lack of confidence in institutions, economic stagnation and feelings of insecurity by citizens.

The UNDP report is therefore calling for a paradigm shift in the Caribbean.

It is recommending among other things, reform of the criminal justice system as well as the police force.

The report said greater emphasis needs to be placed on human development programmes.

This, the UNDP believes will help prevent crime, foster a safer society and improve economic prospects.

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Crime threatening Caribbean livelihood - report

2012-02-08 08:42:44 | (1 Comments)



Police probe crime scene - File

The 2012 Caribbean Human Development Report is indicating that crime has become one of the main challenges, threatening economies and livelihoods in Caribbean countries.

However, the report noted that the right mix of policies and programmes can halt the problem.

The report, which will be released today, said with the exception of Barbados and Suriname, homicide rates including gang-related killings have increased substantially in the last 12 years across the Caribbean.

The researchers recommend that Caribbean governments call for regional governments to beef up public institutions, to tackle crime and violence while boosting preventive measures.

They also recommend that Caribbean governments implement youth crime prevention measures through education, as well as employment opportunities that target the marginalised urban poor.

In Jamaica and Trinidad in particular, the researchers said gang-related killings have almost doubled between 2006 and 2009.

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