



The Ministry of National Security  
Commonwealth of The Bahamas

**2026-2027 National Budget Contribution**

**The Honourable Myles LaRoda, M.P.**

**Minister of National Security**

The House of Assembly

June, 2026

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Madam Speaker,**

It is a privilege to rise in this Honourable House as the representative for the people of Pinewood Gardens.

**Madam Speaker,**

I rise with profound humility and an acute sense of purpose as the duly elected Member of Parliament for the Pinewood Gardens Constituency. Pinewood is a community whose story is, in many ways, the story of the Bahamian working family.

Pinewood was born in 1972 out of a vision to give lower and middle income Bahamians a home they could call their own. Pinewood became and remains a community in New Providence where hardworking families could build homes, raise children, and invest in their future.

**Madam Speaker,**

The people of Pinewood did not send me to this Honourable House to add my name to the long list of those who promised and did not deliver. They

sent me here to work, to be present, to be accountable, and to be relentless in the pursuit of tangible and life-changing improvements that the community has waited far too long to receive. I carry with me the weight of their history and the force of their expectations.

I carry the aspirations of every young Bahamian in Pinewood who deserves safe streets, functional infrastructure, quality schools, and a representative who will stand in this Chamber and fight for them without ceasing. That is my mandate and that is my mission! And, that is the solemn covenant I have made with the people of Pinewood who, once again, reposed their trust in me on the 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Madam Speaker,**

I would be remiss, and frankly less than honest, if I do not pause to acknowledge the people who make everything I do in this House possible. Public life, Madam Speaker, is not a calling that belongs to the politician alone. It is a calling that is answered every single day by the family that stands behind me. They are quietly, faithfully, and often without the

recognition they deserve.

My wife has been my anchor, my counsel, and my greatest source of strength through every campaign, every late night, every difficult decision, and every moment of doubt. She has held our family together with a grace and a steadiness that I could never adequately repay. I want this Honourable House and the Bahamian people to know that behind whatever I accomplish in this seat, there is a woman of extraordinary character who made it possible.

To my children and grandchild, you have shared your father with a constituency, with a cause, and with a nation. You have done so with more maturity and more generosity than any children should be asked to give. I see your sacrifices and I am proud of the people you are becoming.

I want you to know that everything I fight for in this Chamber, I fight for with you in mind, and because The Bahamas I am working to build is The Bahamas I want you to inherit. To my wife and children, I say, thank you,

for being my greatest inspiration.

**Madam Speaker,**

I want to place on the record that since receiving this appointment following the General Elections, I have wasted no time in getting to work on behalf of the Bahamian people. Within days of assuming the portfolio of Minister of National Security, I convened meetings with the senior staff of the Ministry and sat down personally with the heads of our law enforcement agencies and the Parliamentary Registration Department.

**Madam Speaker,**

What I found was not an institution in disarray, instead, I found institutions of dedicated, professional, and mission-driven men and women who are clear about their mandate, committed to their country, and ready to execute. Those meetings gave me confidence, they gave me clarity, and they gave me an even deeper appreciation for the seriousness of the responsibility that the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Philip ‘Brave’ Davis has entrusted to me.

I did not go into those rooms as a stranger to the security landscape of this nation, but I left them with an even sharper understanding of where we are, what has been built, and exactly what must be done next. The work has already begun, Madam Speaker, and this Budget will accelerate it.

**Madam Speaker,**

Before I speak to the work ahead, I must pay tribute to my colleague and predecessor, the Honourable Wayne Munroe. His stewardship of this Ministry for almost five years was nothing short of exemplary.

Minister Munroe received a mandate through the Blueprint for Change and it was a mandate to reform, to recruit, to modernize, and to make the Bahamian people safer. Madam Speaker, Minister Munroe executed it with discipline and dedication and the results are on the record.

Under his leadership, The Bahamas experienced the largest law enforcement recruitment drive in Bahamian history, a 31 percent reduction in murders, a transformed correctional system, landmark

legislative reforms, and a regional security posture, of which, this nation can be proud.

**Madam Speaker,**

Minister Munroe passed this Ministry on in far better condition than he found it, and for that, this nation owes him a debt of gratitude. Madam Speaker, I accept this responsibility fully aware of the weight it carries because I understand, at the most fundamental level, why national security is not merely a portfolio priority, but a civilizational imperative.

The great psychologist, Abraham Maslow, taught us through his hierarchy of human needs that safety and security are not luxuries, but they are the very foundation upon which all other human progress is built. Before a child can learn, before a family can thrive, before an entrepreneur can invest, before a community can flourish, the basic condition of physical safety must first be guaranteed.

An advanced society cannot be constructed on an insecure foundation. No

amount of economic growth, educational attainment, or social development can take root in communities that live in fear. It is, therefore, the first duty of government, before all others, to ensure that every Bahamian can walk their street, sleep in their homes, and raise their children without the shadow of violence over them.

**Madam Speaker,**

I have been passed the baton and I intend to run with it. The Blueprint for Progress is not a new beginning; it is an acceleration of a proven direction. The five-pillar crime strategy is working; the new correctional model is working; the investments in technology, recruitment, and community policing are working.

My mandate is to deepen every one of those pillars, to complete the infrastructure already under construction, to deliver the legislative reforms already in motion, and to ensure that the progress recorded in this House today becomes the platform for even greater achievements in the years ahead. The Bahamian people did not re-elect this Administration to

start over; instead, they re-elected us to build on what works. That is precisely what I intend to do!

**Madam Speaker,**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the investment in safety and security is not an expenditure, it is the most strategic allocation a government can make. The threats facing modern nations have multiplied and evolved, including transnational organized crime, digital fraud, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, firearms trafficking, gang proliferation, and climate-driven displacement.

All of the aforesaid places unprecedented demands on law enforcement institutions that must now be equipped not only with boots on the ground, but with technology, intelligence infrastructure, forensic capability, and regional partnerships that would have been unimaginable a generation ago.

A government that underfunds its security apparatus does not save money, instead, it defers cost and it pays that deferred cost in lives lost,

communities destabilized, investors deterred, and tourists who choose safer destinations. The Bahamian economy is built on the confidence of visitors, the trust of investors, and the productivity of its people, all of which cannot perform at its full potential in an environment of insecurity.

**Madam Speaker,**

It is for this reason that this Administration has made a deliberate and unapologetic decision to increase the safety and security budget. We understand that every dollar invested in a safer Bahamas is a dollar that protects every other dollar this Administration spends on healthcare, education, housing, and economic development.

For the 2026/2027 fiscal year, my Ministry and agencies under remit will be allocated **two hundred and ninety-six million, four hundred and ninety-four thousand, nine hundred and thirty-six dollars (\$296,494,936)** in recurrent expenditure. This will reflect a **6 percent increase** compared to the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, for capital expenditure, my Ministry and agencies will be

allocated **thirty-seven million, ninety-eight thousand, four hundred and thirty dollars (\$37,098,430)**. This will reflect a **1 percent increase** compared to the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

**Madam Speaker,**

I now shift my attention to the law enforcement agencies under my remit inclusive of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, and the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services. Together, they form the architecture of safety upon which every other national ambition is built.

**Madam Speaker,**

This Administration has always understood that crime is not defeated by enforcement alone. Since 2021, we have pursued a comprehensive, evidence-based approach built on the Five-Pillar Crime Strategy of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP): Prevention, Policing and Detection, Prosecution, Punishment, and Rehabilitation. What I report to this Honourable House today is the product of that whole-of-government

approach delivered by over 5,000 men and women in uniform serving across our archipelago.

## **CRIME REDUCTION — 2025/2026 Results**

**Madam Speaker,**

I am proud to report that crime continues to trend downward. For the year ending 2025:

- Overall major crimes were down 10%
- Crimes against persons were down 6%
- Crimes against property were down 11%
- **Murders were down 31%**
- Armed robberies were down 7%
- Housebreakings were down 43%

**Madam Speaker,**

These are not merely statistics, but lives saved, families preserved, and communities restored. A **31% reduction in murders** exceeded our own Blueprint for Progress target of 25% and it is among the most consequential public safety achievements in the modern history of this nation.

**Madam Speaker,**

Behind those crime statistics are thousands of operations, hundreds of thousands of hours of police work, and the daily courage of the men and women of the Royal Bahamas Police Force. During the 2025/2026 fiscal year, our operational productivity yielded the following:

- 276 firearms and 5,725 rounds of ammunition were seized
- 4,107 lbs. of cocaine and 955 lbs. of marijuana were seized
- 3,097 search warrants and 3,606 warrants of arrest were executed
- 59,301 fixed penalty notices were issued

## **PILLAR ONE: PREVENTION**

**Madam Speaker,**

The most cost-effective investment in public safety is preventing crime from occurring in the first place. Early intervention, community engagement, and addressing the social determinants of crime produce returns that no amount of enforcement spending can replicate after the fact. Our prevention strategies include the:

- Help Young People Exceed (HYPE) is a joint initiative with the Ministry of Education, Health and Wellness and Social Services. It is my Ministry's flagship early intervention programme targeting at risk-youth. In the new fiscal year, my Ministry will allocate \$160,000 to continue guiding our youth towards productive adulthood through effective steps of prevention and early intervention.

- Community Centres will be allocated \$700,000 to continue serving as physical hubs for delivering social intervention programmes such as soft skills in at-risk communities.
- Defence Force Rangers Programme will be allocated \$300,000 to continue focusing on leadership development and the core principles of military structure, discipline and mentorship to redirect at-risk youth.
- National Youth Guard (ages 18–25) will be allocated \$1,525,000 to train young people between ages 18 – 25 years to strengthen national disaster response during emergencies and improve national resilience.
- Grow Your Child Programme allows incarcerated parents to bond with their children to disrupt intergenerational crime.
- The first ever 28-bed Female Juvenile Facility to be completed this budgetary period will ensure that juveniles are no longer housed with adult offenders.

## **PILLAR TWO: POLICING and DETECTION**

**Madam Speaker,**

Effective policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not simply a matter of presence, instead it is a matter of precision. Intelligence-led policing concentrates resources where and when they are most needed, producing more arrests per officer hour, more disruption per dollar spent, and more deterrence per patrol deployed.

This Administration has invested heavily in both the human capital and the technological infrastructure required to make this vision a reality. The Police Force has achieved the most significant modernization of its operational and technological capabilities in its history. Technology investments will include:

- Expansion of the CCTV network at a cost of \$4,125,000
- Purchasing security and communication equipment at a cost of \$1,250,000
- Investing in police and prison equipment (forensics, parole software, BDCS management, and canines) at a cost of \$4,900,000
- Maintenance of the Marco's Alert System at a cost of \$610,746
- Maintenance of the electronic monitoring system at a cost of \$4,361,729
- Integration of the Fusus Surveillance and Community Integration Platform (CCTV, body-cams, drones, ShotSpotter) at a cost of \$1,100,000

Investments will also be made in intelligence and forensics, including:

- Modernizing the AFIS-ADEMIA digital forensic platform for fingerprint identification.
- Additional body-worn cameras and digital evidence management

platforms will be deployed.

- Advanced DNA analysis, digital forensics, and cybercrime investigation capabilities will be expanded.
- The Criminal Investigation Branch to relocate to One Montague Place, East Bay Street.

**Madam Speaker,**

Maritime security, as lead by the Defence Force, is responsible for patrolling 100,000 sq. miles of our economic zone across 700 islands and cays. In the upcoming fiscal year, we will continue to:

- Advance the radar installations in Eleuthera, Abaco, and Ragged Island thereby expanding our maritime surveillance to 5 radars. We are grateful to the Government of the United States for these donations.
- Continue decentralization at Gun Point (Ragged Island), Grand Bahama, Abaco, and Bimini.
- BAHNUS (national drone programme) will receive \$1,880,035 for a new communication network to support all law enforcement agencies.
- Purchasing maritime security and communication equipment at a cost of \$310,000.
- Vessel refitting and dry docking for HMBS Arthur Dion Hanna, Rolly Gray, Cascarilla, and Lawrence Major is expected to cost approximately \$24,000,000.

- Three 30-metre vessels are scheduled for 10-years dry docking service at a cost of \$2,900,000
- A new 48-metre roll-on/roll-off vessel will be purchased and committed to access all Family Island ports.
- Coral Harbour Base developments will continue with a capital injection of \$3,600,000, while the Inagua Base developments will cost \$400,000.
- Exercise Osprey Nexus Initiative 2026 will include 7 Caribbean partner nations participating to expand regional safety.

### **PILLAR THREE: PROSECUTION**

**Madam Speaker,**

Detection without consequence produces no deterrence. The prosecution pillar of the PLP's strategy ensures that when the work of our police and defence forces succeeds in apprehending offenders, the judicial system delivers outcomes that are swift enough to be credible and serious enough to be consequential.

Justice delayed, as this House well knows, is justice denied and not only to victims, but to the deterrence calculus of every would-be offender watching the system. Research suggests that the certainty of punishment, not its severity, it is the dominant deterrence mechanism to crime. To

complement, my Ministry will:

- Establish a Backlog Reduction Court to assist in clearing outstanding cases within 24 months.
- Expand the specialized firearms courts, as committed in the Blueprint for Progress. Concentration will be on prosecutorial expertise and judicial bandwidth on the crime category most directly linked to violent deaths.
- A new virtual court complex will consist of the Appeal, Supreme, and Magistrate Courts with Family Island virtual access. My Ministry will invest \$1,540,000 to advance this initiative.

**Madam Speaker,**

Effective prosecution requires not only capable investigators but a modern legal arsenal. This Administration has delivered the following legislative reforms to strengthen prosecution including the:

- **Firearms Act and Firearms Bill 2024** which now closes ghost guns, modification, and conversion device loopholes.
- **Proceeds of Crime Act** provides the mechanisms to identify, restrain, and confiscate criminal assets thereby disrupting organized criminal networks at their financial core.
- **Smuggling of Migrants Act and Bill 2025** now criminalizes migrant smuggling operations with vessel confiscation powers and extending jurisdiction beyond territorial waters.

- **Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2024** now empowers impoundment of unlicensed/uninsured vehicles and mandates insurance cancellation reporting within 5 days which now closes enforcement gaps in stolen vehicle prosecution.
- **The National Action Plan, approved by Cabinet in 2024**, is aligned with the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap and it serves to strengthen regional intelligence-sharing and cross-border prosecution cooperation against transnational firearms trafficking.

## **PILLAR FOUR: PUNISHMENT**

**Madam Speaker,**

Punishment serves multiple functions in a just society as it expresses community condemnation of serious wrongdoing, provides a period of incapacitation that protects the public, and, when properly administered, it initiates the process of accountability that precedes rehabilitation. Our improvements to the rehabilitation pillar include:

- The Conditional Release of Offenders Bill 2026 which ends automatic 1/3 sentence reduction and replaces it with structured parole (curfews, mandatory education/employment, drug abstinence, supervised reintegration).
- A new 820-bed high/medium security facility under construction will replace the 74-year-old Maximum Security Unit. It will include a Super Max Unit, chapel, classrooms, mental health and medical clinic.

- The new \$2,500,000 medical facility is nearing completion and it will eliminate the use of the Prince Margaret Hospital.
- The northern exterior security wall will be improved and included will be CCTV, cell phone jammers, radios, and surveillance upgrades costing \$1,150,000.
- To date, there are 41 residents in work schemes and 123 residents on the Work Release Programme

## **PILLAR FIVE: REHABILITATION**

**Madam Speaker,**

Punishment without rehabilitation is simply deferred crime. Every person released from custody who has not been equipped to live differently returns to our communities as a continuing public safety problem.

The fifth and final pillar of our strategy asks the most challenging question of the entire framework: not what do we do to offenders, but what do we do for them and for the society they return to. Our accomplishments include:

- Since 2021, approximately 144 former residents have passed through the rehabilitation programme interventions with only 1 returning to custody.

- Every sentenced resident who offers labour is paid thereby reducing immediate economic pressure to reoffend.
- Grow Your Child Programme will be expanding into the Remand and Maximum Security Units.
- Partnerships with BTVI, UB, and National Training Agency for marketable qualifications of inmates upon release will continue.

New programmes for 2026-2027 at BDCS will include a:

- Block plant programme with a capacity to produce 10,000 blocks per day will be introduced. This will be undertaken through public-private partnership and the revenue generated will be used to offset cost and for the financial independence of the residents.
- An industrial kitchen with the capacity to prepare 40,000 cook-and-chill meals per day will soon commence. This system will also support the country during disaster response.
- The Golden Yoke Programme will house a chicken farm with 400 layers, while offering agricultural training and institutional food cost offset.

## **RECRUITMENT — Largest Drive in Bahamian History**

**Madam Speaker,**

Recruitment is the foundation of everything relative to the PLP safety and security architecture. Technology amplifies officers who are already deployed, it does not replace them. That is why the historic recruitment

achievement of this Administration is inseparable from our policing and detection record. These numbers represent the largest law enforcement recruitment drive in Bahamian history achieved in a single term of Government. From September 2021, to date, the PLP Administration has recruited:

- 787 new police officers were recruited
- 379 new correctional officers were recruited and nearly 400 promoted
- The Defence's complement will its 2,000 complement upon completion of 104 Marine recruits in July 2026
- The Blueprint for Progress promises a minimum 100 new frontline police officers per year.

**Madam Speaker,**

These five pillars do not operate in sequence. They operate simultaneously and the men and women of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, and the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services are the human embodiment of all five, every day, in every island of this Commonwealth.

To every officer of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, every marine and officer of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, and every officer of the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services, this Administration sees your sacrifice, honours your service, and will continue to invest in your capacity to keep the Bahamian people safe.

## **REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS COMMITTEE**

**Madam Speaker,**

I now shift my attention to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Committee and the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy. Together they represent this Administration's conviction that lasting public safety is built not only through enforcement, but through the principled and compassionate management of those who have passed through the justice system. From September 2021 – March 2026, approximately 433 applications were reviewed, of which:

- 250 were approved for expungement
- 69 were referred to Prerogative of Mercy
- 85 were curfew-related violations
- 4 were referred for counselling and 1 for anger management

The first family island sitting was held in Freeport, Grand Bahama

followed by Exuma. My Ministry will be expanding this initiative to Abaco, Eleuthera, Bimini, and Cat Island.

## **PREROGATIVE OF MERCY**

**Madam Speaker,**

The Prerogative of Mercy is not a peripheral function of government; it is one of the most constitutionally grounded expressions of the PLP's conviction that a modern justice system must balance enforcement with humanity.

The Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy work sits at the intersection of our Five-Pillar Crime Strategy's punishment and rehabilitation pillars. Reviewing cases of persons convicted of criminal offences who have demonstrated rehabilitation, remorse, discipline, and the capacity to reintegrate positively into society.

- This fiscal year, 23 early release applications were considered, of which, 13 were approved; 6 were denied, but approved for the work scheme; and 4 were deferred.
- Request for expungement consisted of 16 applications, of which, 5 were approved and 8 denied.

- Over 300 foreign nationals' sentences were remitted and deportation approved allowing for prison population management.
- A new legal instrument was developed and early release processes are now managed internally by my Ministry. It no longer requires repeated review by the Office of the Attorney General at every stage and instruments are sent directly to the Office of the Governor General for final approval.

## **STANDARD SECURITY INSPECTORATE**

**Madam Speaker,**

Just as we are committed to giving deserving individuals a second chance within a fair and accountable justice system, we are equally committed to ensuring that the institutions entrusted with upholding that system, our Security Forces, are themselves held to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and transparency. It is to this commitment that I now turn my discussion relative to the Standard Security Inspectorate.

- The Security Forces Bill 2026 is under review with Law Reform and the Revision Commission.
- It covers all 5 security forces including RBPF, RBDF, BDCS, Customs, and Immigration.
- The office of the Inspector General of Security Forces will be established with independent oversight body for audits, inspections, investigations, and performance evaluations.

- Upon legislative completion, the Bill will be submitted to Cabinet, then tabled in the House for debate and passage.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR SECURITY**

**Madam Speaker,**

The private security sector is not a peripheral feature of the national safety landscape, it is one of the most active and visible layers of law enforcement support in this country. The PLP is committed to building it outward from government to the civilian sector via a fully professional, well-regulated, and strategically integrated partner in the effort to keep every Bahamian community safe. To date,

- The Section has collected \$156,000 in licence fees for the year.
- 152 inactive companies were cancelled and 250 unlicensed freelance guards removed from market.
- A new magstripe security guard licence was designed and an online portal via MyGateway was developed by the Department of Digital Transformation. This allows Family Islands to now apply and pay online.
- An amendment to the Inquiry Agents and Security Guards Act is underway with anticipated completion by end of 2026.
- My Ministry will allocate \$20,000 to continue the work of training and improving the sector through leading industry reform.

## **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIPs)**

**Madam Speaker,**

Just as we guard our shores against environmental crimes that threaten our natural heritage, we must with equal, and indeed, greater urgency guard the most vulnerable among us against those who would exploit human lives for profit, and it is to the grave matter of trafficking in persons that I now turn.

- For the year ending 2025, over 2,000 persons were trained across law enforcement, health, social, civic, and faith sectors.
- My Ministry offered victim support to 8 persons and 2 dependent children.
- Investigations year ending 2025, resulted in 39 matters, of which, 8 are matters pending trial including 7 sex trafficking and 1 labour trafficking cases.
- 9 suspects were charged including 3 Bahamian males, 1 Bahamian female, 2 Jamaican females, and 3 Chinese males.
- My Ministry will allocate \$92,500 in the 2026/2027 fiscal year to continue the work of eradicating this modern form of slavery.

## **BAHAMAS WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (BahWEN)**

**Madam Speaker,**

While we strengthen the human institutions that protect our people, we

must equally fortify the natural environment that sustains our nation. No community can be truly safe, prosperous, or resilient if the coastlines, marine resources, and biodiversity upon which our economy and way of life depends are left undefended. It is to that frontier of national security that I now turn, with emphasis on BahWEN.

- It is a multi-agency environmental enforcement task force responsible for illegal dredging, land clearing, marine resource violations, and pollution.
- To date, over 50 environmental court dockets have been filed with convictions and fines exceeding \$40,000.
- BahWEN legislation is expected to be enacted before the end of 2026 and it will enable formal enlistment and training of the first recruits for the Unit.
- My Ministry, for the 2026/2027 fiscal year will allocate \$500,000 to support an operational base development, marine assets, and establishment of an Environmental Court.

## **PARLIAMENTARY REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

**Madam Speaker,**

I now turn to the Parliamentary Registration Department. This Department is responsible for the management and execution of national elections throughout The Bahamas and, it just recently administered very

successful elections on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, a mere few weeks ago.

- For the 2026 General Elections there were 209,264 registered voters which was the highest ever registered in Bahamian history.
- Approximately, 140,242 persons or 67 % voted and, though low, it reflected a regional trend of low voter turn-out.
- For regional context, voter turnout in countries with elections held in the last two years, reveals Guyana 58%, St. Kitts & Nevis 58%, Trinidad and Tobago 54%, St. Lucia 48%, Jamaica 40%, and Barbados 30%

**Madam Speaker,**

My Ministry contracted to Canadian Bank Note Company to improve the biometric electoral management system and this was endorsed by OAS and commended by International Observers (2026). Some biometric electoral management system improvements include:

- The first biometric voter's cards were launched in St. James, Killarney, Carmichael, and West Grand Bahama.
- Approximately, 63,303 persons verified and consented to biometric voter's card and 40,812 cards were issued to date.
- The features include poly-carbonate card with laser-engraved personalization, tamper-resistant data, 10-year lifespan, QR code and e-Poll Book sync.

- The e-Poll Book is projected to be ready for summer 2026 and in use for the Local Government District Elections and all future General Elections.
- My Ministry, for the 2026/2027 fiscal year will allocate \$1,808,250 to advance the electoral process in The Bahamas.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Madam Speaker,**

What this House has heard today is not a collection of departmental updates, it is the portrait of an Administration that has approached the safety and security of the Bahamian people as a total, integrated, and unrelenting national mission. The PLP's accomplishments under the Blueprint for Change speak for themselves:

- 31% reduction in murders and 43% reduction in housebreakings are the most significant crime reductions in modern Bahamian history.
- 276 illegal firearms seized; 4,100 lbs of cocaine interdicted; and 5,725 rounds of ammunition removed from our streets.
- 787 new police officers, 379 new correctional officers, and the Defence Force growing to its historic 2,000 strong complement.
- Fusus surveillance platform, expanded CCTV and ShotSpotter networks, and modernized forensic capabilities integrated into various law enforcement platforms.

- Firearms Bill, Proceeds of Crime Act, Road Traffic Amendment Act, Smuggling of Migrants Bill all enacted in a single term.
- 433 rehabilitation applications reviewed; 250 Bahamians granted expungement; 13 early releases approved; and 300 sentences remitted.
- 2,000 persons trained in trafficking awareness; 9 suspects are currently before the courts; and victims supported with over \$73,261 in expenditure.
- BahWEN established and has over 50 environmental court dockets and \$40,000 in fines and convictions.
- 209,264 registered voters; 40,812 Biometric Voter's Cards issued and the most advanced electoral infrastructure in Bahamian history.

**Madam Speaker,**

The Blueprint for Change was this Administration's promise to the Bahamian people in 2021. It was a promise to build a safer, stronger, and more just Commonwealth and every figure read into this record today is proof that we kept it. The Blueprint for Progress is not a new promise; it is the natural continuation of a proven plan, the next chapter of a story that began when this Administration inherited a nation battered by a hurricane and a pandemic and chose, despite it all, to build stronger.

The Security Forces Bill, the BahWEN legislation, the Conditional Release of Offenders Bill, the Biometric Electoral Management System, and the full operationalization of every initiative reported to this House today. These are the deliverables of our second mandate, and we will deliver them because the Bahamian people, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, looked at our record and said, carry on!

**Madam Speaker,**

When Bahamians vote for the PLP, they vote for the only Administration that has demonstrated, not promised. We have demonstrated that we possess the vision, the discipline, the compassion, and the courage to keep this nation safe. They are truly safe with 'Brave' on land and on sea.

As your Minister of National Security, I pledge my commitment to this Administration, the people of the Pinewood Constituency and to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Madam Speaker, Pinewood supports this 2026-2027 budget and we look forward to continued accomplishments for our nation. **Thank you.**