



JN Foundation launches First Responders

Aims to reduce traffic fatalities along St Ann roadway

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JAMAICA NATIONAL (JN) Foundation launched its First Responders Programme at Cardiff Hotel in Runaway Bay, St Ann, with the certification and installation of the first cohort of 14 volunteers in the field.

The First Responders Programme aims to equip community volunteers residing in rural crashprone areas to respond and provide emergency pre-hospital care for crash victims.

The programme, conceptualised by JN Foundation and the Jamaica Automobile Association (JAA), has as its main objective, minimising the loss of lives among crash victims. It received support from Jamaica Constabulary Force, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Action for Road Safety and St John Ambulance, which trained the volunteers.

Saffrey Brown general manager, JN Foundation, said the pilot project is in response to the con-

tinuing high number of fatalities caused by road crashes every year. She said JN Foundation and JAA sought to develop an intervention to reduce fatalities and, after consultation with Mona GeoInformatics Institute and Dr Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr, it was felt the most beneficial corridor to pilot the project would be from St Ann's Bay to Discovery Bay.

Brown said the aim is to reduce casualties.

Allison Christie Binger, executive director, St John Ambulance, said her organisation is playing a very instrumental role in the project.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Dudley Scott of Area Two police headquarters, welcomed the project and urged road users to be more cautious.

Scott said some of the crash hotspots in St Ann include Drax Hall and Roaring River main roads, the Discovery Bay main road and Queen's Highway.

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