

State of emergency called for Kingston, Jamaica

PRIME Minister Bruce Golding has declared a state of public emergency, limited to sections of Kingston and St Andrew effective 6:00 pm today.

Golding said that based on the advice of the security forces, the action has been taken so as to ensure public safety. The state of emergency was called following an emergency meeting of the Cabinet at 2.00 pm today. "The Cabinet took the decision to advise the Governor General to issue a Proclamation pursuant to Section 26 of the Constitution declaring that a state of public emergency exists in the parishes of Kingston and St Andrew," a release from the Office of the Prime Minister said. The proclamation shall remain in force for a period of one month unless extended by the House of Representatives or earlier revoked. Meanwhile, gunshots continue to be fired in West Kingston and roadblocks have now been mounted as far as the intersection of Maxfield Avenue and Spanish Town Road.