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NEW CANNABIS BOARD APPROVES LONG-AWAITED REGULATIONS

One week after being appointed by Cabinet to lead the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA), a new Board of Directors has approved the regulations that will guide the start of Jamaica's legal ganja industry.

The CLA, which was created by the Dangerous Drug (Amendment) Act 2015, has powers to make and oversee the implementation of regulations for licences, permits and other authorisations for the cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and transportation of hemp as well as ganja, for medicinal, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

The Minister responsible for the Authority, the Hon. Karl Samuda, has congratulated the Board for the speed at which the Board has been able to develop the regulations, acknowledging that this was due in large part to the level of continuity that has been given to their work. Of the 16 Board members of the CLA, 12 have been returned, including Chairman of the National Council on Drug Abuse, Professor Wendel Abel; prominent Rastafarian Verald 'Ras Iyah V' Vassell; Rastafari Millennium Council Executive member Robert 'Prophet Greg' Mogg; Businessman Jason Henzell; University of the West Indies Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Archibald McDonald and Head of the National Council for Science and Technology, Professor Errol Morrison.

Among the new additions to the board are Attorney-at-Law Hyacinth Lightbourne, who will serve as Chairman; Communications Consultant and Government Advisor, Delano Seiveright and Civil Society advocate Eleanor Crichton Hussey. The Board also includes technical representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Security and the Attorney General's Chambers.

The Regulations that have been approved address the licensing regime for the ganja industry and do not deal with hemp products, which will be addressed in regulations to be developed. With these initial Regulations now approved by the Board, the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel will now move to finalise the document for the signature of both Chairman of the CLA as well as the Minister of Justice, ahead of being submitted for gazetting and entry into law.

The Authority has noted that while it awaits the passing of the Regulations into law, it will be convening town hall meetings in several parishes during the last two weeks in May.

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**Cannabis
Licensing
Authority**
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Notes to Editors:

About the Cannabis Licensing Authority: The CLA, which was created by the Dangerous Drug Act, has powers to make and oversee the implementation of regulations for licences, permits and other authorisations for the cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and transportation of ganja, for medicinal, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

About Jamaica's UN Drug Treaty Obligation: Parties to the 1961 Convention undertake to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution and stocks of, trade in and use and possession of the controlled drugs so that they are used exclusively for medical and scientific purposes. The production and distribution of controlled substances must be licensed and supervised.

Interviews: Interviews with Hyacinth Lightbourne, Chairman of the CLA, and other designated Board spokespersons will be available on request

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