

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE |

KINGSTON, JAMAICA



MEDIA CONTACT | berlbfran@gmail.com | 968-4923 | 312-0509

Building an Industry;
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Public Advisory Release Aug 08/2016

Public Advisory: Regarding the local availability of Cannabis and Cannabis Derived or Infused products in Jamaican retail and other outlets

It has recently been brought to the attention of the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) that there is a proliferation of cannabis, cannabis-infused, and cannabis-derived products, of both local and overseas origin, being made available and/or sold throughout Jamaica.

The CLA wishes to advise unaware potential consumers, producers, and retailers of such products that by purchasing, processing or producing such products they are engaging in an activity that is both illegal and unregulated as no licences for such activities have been granted.

The CLA was established pursuant to the Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act (2015) for the purpose of enabling a lawful, regulated ganja industry for medical, therapeutic and scientific purposes to be established in Jamaica. The legal and permitted use of ganja religiously and as a sacrament is exclusive to the Rastafarian faith and is administered by the Ministry of Justice. Permits for religious use do not allow for the commercialisation of the industry as this is only permitted under the CLA.

The Interim Regulations for the lawful ganja industry were gazetted in May 2016 and made legally binding. Subsequently, the CLA held three public town hall meetings and participated in eleven parish stakeholder meetings in the months of June and July. During those meetings, the Regulations and application processes were explained and feedback was sought from grassroots farmers, stakeholder groups, and interested parties. The process for applying and subsequent approval of licenses has been on-going since June, and is expected to take at least five months for due diligence and other checks prior to any licenses being approved. Valuable stakeholder discussions and feedback have led to necessary amendments to the regulations being contemplated and this process too is both on-going and dynamic.

Accordingly, the CLA wishes to make clear that to date, no licenses, permits, approvals, or the like have been granted by the CLA to any individual, company or co-operative. Accordingly, any cannabis product produced and/or sold in Jamaica is done so illegally.

The CLA will advise the public when licenses have been granted.

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Additional Information:

For further information about the requirements of the regulated cannabis industry in Jamaica, please consult the following sources:

1. Cannabis Licensing Authority website: <http://cla.org.jm/>
2. Ministry of Justice: Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act Fact Sheet:
http://moj.gov.jm/sites/default/files/Dangerous%20Drugs%20Amendment%20Act%202015%20Fact%20Sheet_0.pdf

Contact: Eleanor Hussey
Cannabis Licensing Authority
Tel: 809-2906

Berl Francis
Tel: 968-4923 or 312-0509

August 7, 2016

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