

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIREARM LICENSING AUTHORITY  
FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 TO AUGUST 31, 2013**

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**1.0 OBJECTIVE**

1.1 The purpose of this Ministry Paper is to introduce the contents of the Annual Report of the Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA) for the period September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013 and provide an update on operations, policies, structure, earnings as well as achievements over the period under review.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Section 26A of the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2005, establishes The Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA), as a self sustaining agency which commenced operations on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006. Its main strategic objectives are as follows:

- To maintain integrity, transparency, accountability and objectivity throughout the entire process of the issuance of firearm licences.
- To reduce the number of unqualified firearm users, by developing and maintaining the required standards for ranges, security companies and firearm dealers.
- To ensure an efficient procedure for the application and the issuance of firearm licences.
- To improve standards for data collection, re-assessment tools and staff training.
- To conduct regular audits and security reviews of clubs, private security companies, facilities, private gun licence holders and their weapons.
- To utilize modern technology to capture for inclusion within an electronic database, the initial ballistic signature of new weapons as well as to undertake the regular testing of weapons.

2.2 Section 26B of the said Act outlines the responsibilities and functions as follows:

- To receive and consider applications for firearm licenses, certificates or permits
- To grant or renew firearm licenses, certificates or permits
- To revoke any firearm license, certificate or permit granted under this Act
- To amend the terms of a firearm license, certificate or permit
- To receive and investigate any complaint regarding a breach of a firearm license, certificate or permit

2.3 Section 14 (1)(2) of the Third Schedule of the Firearms Act notes that the FLA shall within four months after each financial year submit an annual report for the preceding

financial year to the Minister for tabling in the Houses of Parliament. It is in this regard that notification be given for tabling of the said report in the Houses of Parliament.

### **3.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY**

**3.1** Activities of the Authority are contained in the Annual Report for the period under review which can be seen at *Appendix I*.

### **3.2 Achievements**

**3.2.1** Significant achievements of the Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA) for the period under review are as follows:

- The launch of the High Security Identification Card System (HSICS) by the Honourable Minister Peter Bunting, in April 2013;
- An increase in the number of recertification of licensed firearm holders from 200 in December 2012 to approximately 420 in May 2013 (a 110% increase);
- A reduction in the average turn-around time for firearm licence applications from two (2) years to Approximately six (6) months;
- The newly appointed Review Board in May 2012 which has cleared a backlog of 6,000 files and along with the Chief Executive Officer, employed strategic measures to prevent a re-occurrence of such backlog; and
- The opening of the western regional office in Montego Bay, St. James in November 2012 to facilitate customers in that section of the island.

### **3.3 Challenges**

Notwithstanding the accomplishments, the Authority is still confronted with challenges such as:

- The limited space for waiting and parking at the current location of the FLA Headquarters which has posed a problem for the customers and residence within the vicinity. FLA customers are forced to park on the street where they have to walk from their vehicles unto the facility with their weapon(s) to conduct business which may pose a security risk to both the customer and the firearm.

### **3.4 Meetings and Attendance**

There is no provision in the Firearms Act with respect to meeting dates and time for members of the Authority to meet. As a practice however, a meeting of the FLA Board, that is the Authority, is held at least once per month and other meetings are conducted as deemed necessary.

### **3.5 Income & Expenditure**

A comprehensive audit of the FLA's financial statements was done for the period under review and is included in the annual report attached. At the end of the financial year

2012/2013 the Firearms Licensing Authority made a net loss of Thirty-Eight Million One Hundred and Forty-One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Three Dollars (**\$38,141,663.00**) after making a contribution of Fifty Million Dollars (**\$50,000,000.00**) to the Consolidated Fund to assist the Ministry of National Security in the execution of its strategic priorities. The retained earnings at the end of the financial year 2012/2013 were Two Hundred and Fifteen Million Twenty-Three Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (**\$215,023,656.00**).

- 3.6 The FLA generated its income from revenue collected for core services offered by the Authority.
- 3.7 The Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Security have approved the payment of a travelling allowance with effect from 01 April 2013.
- 3.8 Details of the salaries and emoluments of all Board Members and Executives can be seen on page 16 of the Annual report attached at *Appendix I*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bunting', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Honourable Peter Bunting M.P.  
**Minister of National Security**

**March 25, 2014**