

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATION AUTHORITY
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1. The purpose of this Ministry Paper is to introduce the contents of the Annual Report of the Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) for the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 and to provide an update on the operations, policies, structure, earnings and achievements for the period under review.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) was established as a result of the enactment of the Private Security Regulation Authority Act, 1992. The mandate of the Authority is to regulate and monitor the operations of organizations and individuals in the Private Security Industry.

2.2. The PSRA has jurisdiction over the operations of the following entities and personnel and also grants, refuses, suspends or cancels licences as it may deem necessary for the purpose of executing its mandate under the Act:

- Contract Security Organizations
- Propriety Security Organizations
- Private Security Guards
- Private Investigators
- Security Trainers

The Mission and Vision of the PSRA are as stated below:

Mission

- To monitor and regulate the operations of organizations and individuals operating in the Private Security Industry
- To facilitate a closer link between Private Security and State Security in the interest of national well-being

Vision

- To promote international and professional standards and practices in the Private Security Industry

2.3 During the period under review, the Authority continued its thrust towards modernizing its structure and processes in order to meet its corporate and strategic objectives while contributing to the mandate of the Ministry of National Security in the maintenance of public order and reduction in the rate and fear of crime as well as the transformation of attitudes to private security awareness.

- 2.4 In accordance with Section 8 (1) of the PSRA Act, the Authority is expected to submit to the Minister an Annual Report within five (5) months after the end of each Financial Year, dealing generally with the activities of the Authority during the preceding Financial Year.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY

- 3.1 A copy of the Annual Report of the Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 is attached as *Appendix 1*.

- 3.2 The Authority had set out to accomplish the following objectives for the period under review in order to ensure its relevance and sustainability in the Private Security Industry:

- Continuation of registration of Private Security Guards and Private Security Companies in order to improve compliance of security personnel and companies within the Industry;
- Continuation of its Electronic Archiving Project to streamline all stakeholder information, eliminate manual documents and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Authority. To this end, the Authority set a target to scan Twenty Four Thousand (24,000) application files over the period of review;
- Establishment of a comprehensive web-based PSRA Watch System to record and manage all transactions processed for individual Security Guards, Private Security Companies and Stakeholders; and
- Facilitation of meetings with key stakeholders to consider and review the role of the Private Security Industry in a logistics-centred economy.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS

- 4.1 The PSRA has made significant progress in several areas during the Financial Year 2014/2015 several of which are listed below:

- As at the end of the period under review, the Authority's Register shows that there was 1.0% more Private Security Guards registered/licensed. However, there was 1.2% decline in the registration of Private Security Companies, relative to the previous financial year;
- In the Authority's Electronic Archiving Project, Thirty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five (32,945) files containing critical stakeholder information were scanned during the period, exceeding the target by 39%;
- The Authority's PSRA Watch database system went live in November 2014 and has significantly improved service delivery. The comprehensive web-based system allows for the electronic capture and management of data on security guards, security companies and stakeholders;

- On November 1, 2014, a new fee structure was approved and implemented. The new measure is estimated to generate at least 40% of the PSRA's required revenue, and, thereby, reduce the Authority's call on the Consolidated Fund; and
- Between October 2014 and December 2014, the Authority facilitated three (3) meetings to consider and review the role of the Private Security Industry in a logistics-centred economy. Among the issues discussed were the legislative framework needed to govern the Private Security Industry in the operation of a Jamaica Maritime Logistics Hub. The meetings highlighted the need for additional training/certification of security guards, and for security vetting of members of the Private Security Industry. Also discussed were Jamaica's national security architecture and the possible threats which would be faced by the establishment of a Logistics Hub. The meetings underscored the key role to be played by the PSRA in the National Security Framework and identified several important areas of collaboration.

5. LIMITATIONS

5.1 The Annual Report indicates that the Authority was faced with various challenges during the course of its operations. These include:

- Difficulties in enforcing the requirement of PSRA certification of the training of security guards for a minimum eighty (80) hours, due to resistance by some companies to grant such certification;
- Only four (4) companies are certified as Accredited Training Organizations (ATOs) for training for security guards by the Human Employment and Resource Training (HEART) Trust National Training Agency (NTA). However, the Authority has endorsed City and Guilds training programmes, recognised across the European Union, as an alternative to National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica (NVQ-J) Level 1 and Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) training;
- The Authority continues to experience delinquency of Private Security Companies in the timely renewal of licences; and
- The proposed amendments of the Private Security Regulation Act to reflect new realities of the changing security environment were not achieved during the year under review. It is expected that increases in fines for violations by companies could improve compliance. Further, a comprehensive review of the legislative architecture governing the Private Security Industry is required.

6. MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

- 6.1 Section 3 of the First Schedule of the Private Security Regulation Authority Act, 1992, states that members of the Authority are mandated to meet at least once every Three (3) months, or as often as is necessary.

7. SUMMARY OF INCOME

Approved Budget	\$79,110,000.00
Subvention through the MNS	\$50,335,278.00
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>	
Fees Collected	\$16,887,257.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$583,643.00
Interest Income	\$1,401,497.00
Total Gross Revenue	\$69,207,675.00

- 7.2 Details of the salaries and emoluments paid to all Board Members and Executives for this financial period are outlined as *Appendix I* in the attached Annual Report.



Peter Bunting, M.P.
Minister of National Security
January 2016