

MINISTRY PAPER 55/19

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FIREARM LICENSING AUTHORITY SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The matter for tabling in the Houses of Parliament is the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA) for the period September 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Pursuant to Section 26A of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 2005, the Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA) was established in 2005 and commenced operations on March 1, 2006. The FLA was formed to streamline and finalize the granting, renewal and revocation of firearm licences, certificates and permits and attendant processes, to modernize and regulate the licensing of firearms in Jamaica in keeping with worldwide standards, and to act as a centralized administrative body and database repository.
- 2.2 Section 3(b)(4A) of the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2016, amended Paragraph 14(1) of the Third Schedule and now defines “financial year” as “the period ending on the 31st day of March in each year.” The Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2016, has also provided that “the period immediately after the financial year ending on 31st day of August, 2015, being seven months from September 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, shall be treated as the financial year next following”; hence the period being reported on in this Annual Report.
- 2.3 In addition, Paragraph 14(2) of the Third Schedule of the Act provides that “*The Minister shall cause a copy of the Report together with the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Auditor-General’s Report thereon to be laid on the Table of the*

House of Representatives and of the Senate.” The Annual Report attached to this Ministry Paper therefore contains the Auditor-General’s Independent Audit Report at pages 33 to 34 and the Financial Statements at pages 35 to 48.

3.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY

3.1 Activities of the Authority are contained in the Annual Report for the period under review, which is attached to this Ministry Paper as **APPENDIX I**.

3.2 Significant achievements of the FLA for the period under review include the following:

- Processing of approximately three thousand seven hundred and fifty-three (3,753) new applications and renewals for four thousand one hundred and ninety (4,190) licences;
- Approval for the review of the Agency’s Organizational Chart which resulted in the upgrading/reclassification of several positions;
- Introduction of a youth employment/work experience initiative, in collaboration with the National Youth Service. The programme has provided employment opportunities for persons leaving secondary and tertiary institutions during the period of review;
- Introduction of a full range of services at the Montego Bay Regional Office, to include ballistic testing, since November 2015;
- Introduction of a “Safe Use and Handling Assessment Policy” as a part of the annual renewal process, which supports the Authority’s overall thrust to improve efficiency and effectiveness;
- Implementation of a departmentalized accounting system which has resulted in a smoother decision-making process;
- Growth of the Authority’s investment portfolio by approximately thirty-five percent (35%);
- Review and revision of internal procedures that govern the operations of the Application and Certification Branch;

- Reduction of the turn-over time for the internal processing of new licences from 3-4 weeks to 2-3 weeks; and
- Winning 1st place in the Public Sector Customer Service Competition for being “the Most Improved Customer Service Entity” and selected as 1st Runner Up for being “the Most Creative/Innovative Entity”.

4.0 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

- 4.1 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 2015/2016, the Firearms Licensing Authority made a net surplus of **\$118,108,475.00** and retained earnings amounted to **\$375,331,057.00**.
- 4.2 The FLA generated its income from revenue collected for core services offered by the Authority.
- 4.3 Additional details regarding the annual compensation for all Board of Directors and Senior Management Executives can be seen on page 24 of the Annual Report.



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Minister of National Security
August 19, 2019