

# MINISTRY PAPER.....19

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FIREARM LICENSING AUTHORITY SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 – AUGUST 31, 2015

### 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, 2014 – August 31, 2015.

### 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 with specific goals in mind; 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 In addition, Paragraph 14(2) of the Third Schedule 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 36 to 37, and the Financial Statements at pages 38 to 52.

### 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 six thousand (6,000) new applications and renewals for twenty-eight thousand, three hundred and eighty-seven (28,387) licences;
- Approximately six hundred (600) firearms that had been in the custody of the police have been safely and properly destroyed ensuring that they do not fall in the hands of criminals;
- Approval for the opening of a Regional Office in Mandeville, Manchester was granted by Cabinet on August 24, 2015;
- Implementation of a Batch Processing System on the Point of Sale which allows the Accounts Unit to process multiple renewal payment transactions. The upgrading of this application resulted in a reduction in the turnaround time for processing Security Guards;
- Implementation of a new renewal procedure for Security Companies which accounted for the renewal of Security Guards' Application being completed ahead of time for the first time. As a result, the audit period for Security Companies was condensed to two and a half (2 ½) months down from twelve (12) months;
- Implementation of a File Reconciliation Project to determine the status of files that were without a Board decision;
- Implementation of procedures to combat corruption within the Authority which lead to the resignation of two (2) persons and the removal of another;
- Growing of the Authority's investment portfolio by one hundred and ninety-six percent (196%) resulting in the Interest/Income Portfolio being surpassed;
- Winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Public Sector Customer Service Competition for being "the Most Improved Customer Service Entity" and 2<sup>nd</sup> place as the "Best Customer Service Entity"; and
- The staging of the first Firearms Awareness Week held August 10-14, 2015.

**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 2014/2015, the Firearms Licensing Authority made a net surplus of **\$72,229,018.00** and retained earnings amounted to **\$257,221,582.00**.
- 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 pages 27 and 28 of the Annual Report.



Dr. Horace Chang, M.P.  
**Minister of National Security**  
August 19, 2019