

MINISTRY PAPER **1166/19**
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE (CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT) AUTHORITY
APRIL 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The matter for tabling in the Houses of Parliament is the Annual Report and financial statements of the Police (Civilian Oversight) Authority (PCOA) for the period April 1, 2014 to March 2015.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Police (Civilian Oversight) Authority (PCOA) was established in 2005 to assist with the transformation of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to improve accountability, adherence to policy guidelines and promote proper policing standards of the JCF. Pursuant to Section 4 (1) of the PCOA Act, 2005, the Authority performs the following functions:

- a) Monitor the implementation of policy relating to the Force and its Auxiliaries;
- b) Monitor the standard of performance of the Force and its Auxiliaries so as to ensure that internationally accepted standards of policing are maintained, and to report thereon;
- c) Conduct inspections of the Force and its Auxiliaries;
- d) Monitor the management and use of financial and other resources of the Force and the Auxiliaries; and
- e) Perform other such functions as may be necessary for promoting the efficiency of the Force and its Auxiliaries.

2.2 Pursuant to Section 7 (3) of the Act, the Minister shall cause a copy of the report to be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives and of the Senate as soon as possible, but in any case, not later than two months after submission of the report to him.

3.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- 3.1 A copy of the Report is attached at **Appendix I**. During the period under review, the PCOA embarked on a number of activities to include but not limited to, re-inspection of forty-one (41) police stations over four (4) geographical divisions. This monitoring activity assisted in understanding the reliability of JCF's Force Orders and will aid in enhancing the effectiveness of the operation of the Force, especially in the area of records management.
- 3.2 During the review period, the Authority performed a thematic inspection pertaining to the Criminal Investigative Branch which formed the central focus for the review period. The report contains assessment on how efficiently the police investigated crime, established clear suspects for apprehension and complied evidence and statements at a standard that would secure successful prosecution. Based on the review, the PCOA inspection team found that the 2013 cases that remained unsolved could be grouped into six (6) major categories as follows:

Categories	Murder	Robbery	Larceny	Total
Little or no evidence of case work	99	336	84	519
No clear suspect(s) identified	165	262	30	457
Slow progress of prescribed work	99	143	19	261
Not yet able to charge suspects (s)	71	43	6	120
Unavailable witness(s)/complainant(s)	25	59	14	98
Cannot apprehend suspect(s)	61	27	6	94
Total	520	870	159	1549

- 3.3 Upon further inquiry, the PCOA inspection team recognized that the three (3) most influential factors impeding the clear up rate for murders, robberies and larceny cases were attributed to little or no evidence of case work, no clear suspects identified and slow progress of prescribed work.
- 3.4 The assessment revealed that there is a significant concern regarding the supervision and management of cases within the JCF. At least 50% of the cases (34%-little/no evidence of case work and 17%-slow progress of prescribed work) showed major deficiencies in

relation to consistent and systematic supervision that would allow for critical advancement in the work delivered on these files.

3.5 Subsequent to the abovementioned findings, the following are among the twelve (12) recommendations PCOA submitted:

- a) Targeted clear up rates for major crimes should be included as a part of overall JCF Performance Targets;
- b) Files for cases under investigation should be reviewed by a supervisor at least monthly and notifications of such a review inscribed in the file;
- c) The JCF should implement as a part of its Strategic Objectives, sustained initiatives aimed at improving the citizens' confidence and willingness to participate in the investigative process;
- d) JCF should adhere to promulgated policies regarding the training and qualification criteria for detectives;
- e) Case Management Forms and processes should be standardized across all Divisions as a quality control mechanism;
- f) The updating of a victim's family or complainant on the status of the investigation should be promulgated as Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) across Divisions, with a view to improve public perception and support; and
- g) An interactive case assignment system should be promulgated and implemented across Divisions.

4.0 MEETING AND ATTENDANCE

4.1 In keeping with the provisions of the Act, the Authority is comprised of seven (7) members and is required to meet at least once per month for ten (10) calendar months of each year, or as may be otherwise required to carry out its functions. Table 1 illustrates the attendance of the Board Members:

Table 1

Members	Meetings Attended	Apologies
The Most Hon. & Rev. Charles Dufour, DD,OJ, CD (Chairman)	12	1
Dr. the Honourable Marshall Hall, OJ	12	1
Mrs. Arlene Harrison Henry	8	-
Mr. Rudolph Hamilton, OD	13	
Pastor Glen Samuels	3	-
Professor Anthony Harriot	11	1
Mr. Gladstone Lewars	9	-

5.0 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- 5.1 The audited Financial Statement 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 Authority recorded an accumulated deficit of ten million, five hundred and forty-nine thousand, nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars (\$10,549,939). The records further illustrated that the deficit was a result of balances carried forward from previous years and increased operating expenses, particularly in compensation of employees and security services.
- 5.2 The total operating costs of \$40,570,607 for the year 2014 and \$38,881,509 for the year 2015, were met from the subvention provided by the Ministry of National Security.

6.0 DECLARATION OF COMPENSATION

- 6.1 A copy of the compensation package of the Board of Directors and Senior Management of the PCOA for the period under review has been included in the Report.



Dr. Horace Chang, M.P.
Minister of National Security
July 31, 2019