

# MINISTRY PAPER #35

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATION AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The matter for tabling in the Houses of Parliament is the Annual Report of the Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) for the year ended March 31, 2017, which provides an update on the Authority's operations, policies, structure, earnings and achievements for the period under review.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The PSRA is a statutory body under the Ministry of National Security (MNS) that 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 grants, refuses, suspends or revokes licences as it may deem necessary for the purpose of executing its mandate under the Act and has jurisdiction over the operations of the following entities and personnel: Contract Security Organizations; Propriety Security Organizations; Private Security Guards; Private Investigators and Security Trainers.

### 3.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY

- 3.1 The activities of the PSRA for the period under review are contained in the Annual Report, which is attached to this Ministry Paper as *APPENDIX I*
- 3.2 During the period under review, the Authority continued its thrust towards improving efficiencies in its structure and processes, in order to meet its corporate and strategic objectives, while contributing to the mandate of the MNS in the maintenance of public order, reduction in the rate crime, as well as promoting the professionalization of the private security industry.

- 3.3 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.

#### 4.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

- 4.1 The PSRA has made significant progress in several areas during the Financial Year 2016/2017, some of which are listed below:

- The launch of the *'I am Certified'* advertising campaign, which focused on advising stakeholders in the Industry, and the wider public, of the required training standards for the licensing and registration of private security guards, private security companies, security trainers, etc. The campaign specifically pointed to applicants' requirement to provide evidence of training certification based on either of three options: the PSRA Regulations eighty (80) hours basic training, the HEART Trust National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica Standard (NVQ-J), or City & Guilds International. The *'I am Certified'* campaign utilised electronic and printed media to communicate this message. Importantly, all companies were advised in writing that the evidence of certification was required for registration and renewal of licences, effective January 2016.
- Sixty-three (63) companies were closed consequent on an extensive licensing and registration verification process. The Inspectorate and Monitoring Units undertook this initiative, with the assistance of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, to address the issue of companies that failed to renew their licences/registration in a timely manner and regularise their status.
- The launch of a Self-Contributory Health Insurance Scheme for private security guards, as announced by the Honourable Minister of National Security on November 8, 2017. The insurance scheme emanated from stakeholder consultations and a commitment made by the Honourable Minister to advocate for improved working conditions of private security guards, and was informed by a Medical Insurance Survey conducted in preceding months. The Scheme provides access to

insurance coverage for a range of medical services to the approximately twenty-three thousand (23,000) registered private security guards, for monthly premiums ranging from Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Dollars (\$997.00) to One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars (\$1,882.00). The Authority facilitated consultations with stakeholders and the Guardian Life Limited – the insurance provider, as well as engaged in a Public Awareness Campaign with the Jamaica Information Service, to promote and clarify details of participation in the Scheme.

- Eighteen thousand five hundred and twenty-seven (18,527) security guards and twenty-nine (29) new security companies were registered by the PSRA during the review period.
- Twelve (12) employees of the Authority received Customer Service Training during the period March 27, 2017 to April 10, 2017, to develop the critical skills and competencies of staff to deliver efficient and effective customer service. The intervention was also geared at higher employee motivation and engagement, as well as greater organizational productivity.

## **5.0 LIMITATIONS**

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

- The high cost of advertising in the media – radio and television, consequently led to a reduction in public education public awareness of the roles and functions of the PSRA. However, the Authority continued to make use of its website, the JIS and social media.
- Delinquency in the renewal of Company Licences in a timely manner was mostly due to the inability of a number of security companies being unable to obtain current Tax Compliance Certificates

**6.0 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

- 6.1 A comprehensive audit of the PSRA's Financial Statements was conducted for the period under review and is included in the Annual Report attached. At the end of the Financial Year 2015/2016, Private Security Regulation Authority realised a net increase in cash for the year of **\$35,164,580.00** and had closing cash and cash equivalents of **\$106,271,641.00**.
- 6.2 Additional details regarding the salaries and emoluments paid to PSRA Board Members and Senior Executives are provided in *Appendix 1* and *Appendix 2* of the Annual Report.



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**Minister of National Security**  
June 25, 2020