



Publication of the National Security Policy Coordination Unit (Jamaica)

Security Connect

On a point of policy

National Identity System (NIDS) stakeholders review concept designs for safety, integrity & confidentiality

THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION UNIT (NRU) - Office of the Prime Minister held a two-day workshop from March 26-27 to review concept designs for the National Identification System (NIDS). The system is expected to ease e-government integration across sectors, and also support the creation, vetting and security of unique digital identities while maintaining the privacy and other rights of each citizen or resident of Jamaica.

The 2013 National Security Policy (NSP) for Jamaica has placed the NIDS programme as a top-tier action item to help advance other activities related to the intelligence architecture.

The workshop participants included representatives from the Ministries of Health, Labour and Social Security, National Security and Finance and Planning, who discussed the best practices for a safe and secure National Identification Number (NIN) that would be integrated across different e-government platforms.

The target is to have the system in place, so that in 2016 the (NIN) will be issued to all new born, and gradually expanded to the population in a structured way over time. The timetable towards this goal includes having the legislative framework for NIDS to be completed by January 2015 and to bring the NIDS system before Cabinet as a white paper by the end of the financial year in March 2015.

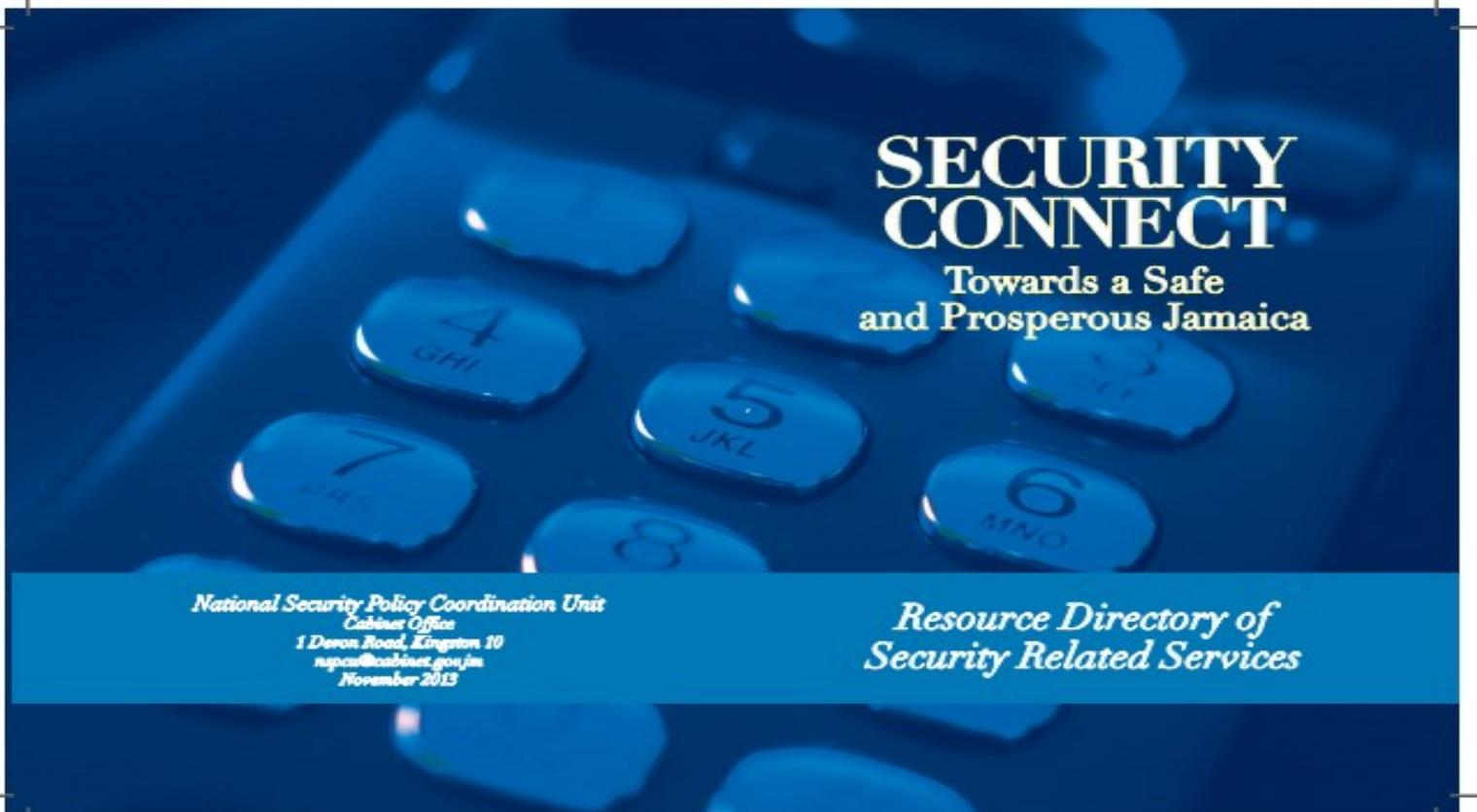
The NIDS programme is funded by a technical cooperation grant



Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining (MSTEM), Julian Robinson, read the Prime Minister's message at the two-day workshop where stakeholders of the NIDS project discussed concept design options.

agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank with GOJ counterpart funding.

The 2013 National Security Policy for Jamaica notes that the National Identification System would help to prevent many forms of money-laundering and tax evasion (provided that all public and many private transactions require the use of the national ID number, including government offices, tax, banking, large money transfers and investments).



Resource Directory of Security Services >>>

The NSPCU publication SECURITY CONNECT - a comprehensive directory of security-related services - has been widely distributed to education and library outlets across the island. The directory supports the National Security Policy (NSP) by bolstering information on social structures that are in place to provide services for personal and community safety and security.

The directory is intended to empower Jamaicans to more fully participate in ensuring their own safety and security, as it provides relevant and practical information that will place the user in direct contact with organisations that can help to reduce personal vulnerability to crime or to get access to security related services. Among the broad areas that are listed in the directory are the care and protection of children; control of transnational crime; the protection of water resources and prevention of pollution;

safety in communities; the reporting of and prevention of corruption, as well as provides detailed contact listings for social services, victim support, restorative justice and dispute resolution services, among others. It also lists documents that citizens will need to verify their identity and securely conduct business in Jamaica.

The directory also provides information on pertinent occupations such as where to go to establish the credentials of persons in several occupations that are related to security such as early childhood education, motor vehicle operators, seafarers and pilots; fishers; and advisors in finance and public accountancy.

The directory was published by the National Security Policy Coordination Unit (NSPCU) in November 2013 and is available online at:

<http://www.cabinet.gov.jm/National+Security+Policy>

VIBRANT DISCUSSIONS AROUND THE AMENDED PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT

FOLLOWING THE 2013 ministerial order by the Minister of National Security under the 2013 Proceeds of Crime Amendment Act (POCAA), vibrant discussions are now happening within the legal profession to ensure that the application of the act continues to strengthen all aspects of national security. Among the areas of discussion is to ensure that the constitutional rights of citizens remain protected; and also rules of privacy and confidentiality between an attorney-at-law and a client.

Also being discussed are the administrative processes for undertaking legal searches, and also if attorneys can be asked to be witnesses.

The amendment helps to maintain public confi-

dence in the integrity of the financial system and fights crime by seeking to remove the incentives to commit crimes. The 2013 National Security Policy also notes that tactics used in money laundering are also used in tax evasion, this includes the payment of professional fees. The intent of the law is so that investigative bodies can reach to the furthest regions of criminal organizations.

The POCAA requests that lawyers who are engaged in specific activities file an annual declaration for activities including purchasing and selling real estate; managing clients' money or other assets; organizing contributions for the creation, operation or management of companies or legal arrangements; purchasing or selling a business entity. The discussions include comments from groups representing legal professionals.

ANTI GANG LEGISLATION IS ALREADY IN USE

WITHIN WEEKS OF the passage of the Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organizations) Act in April 2014, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has utilised the provisions in the act to charge persons who are suspected of being a part of a criminal gang. The landmark legislation supports recommendations in the 2013 National Security Policy for Jamaica which notes that the most effective way to break the grip of major organized crime is to seize their assets and put them out of business.

The cases that are now before the court include offences for knowingly obtaining a benefit from a criminal organization; knowingly aiding a criminal organization to carry out a serious offence; and disposing of or sharing in the proceeds of a criminal organization. These cases arose out of two separate incidents across the country; one was a robbery and the other was a shooting.

Minister of National Security, Peter Bunting, in his 2014 sectoral presentation said, "The police have been training and sensitizing members to use this potentially powerful tool in the fight against crime."

The legislation has scope to recognize criminal organizations and activities when a group of three or more persons engage in planning or who are involved in serious offences. It makes provision for the disruption and suppression of criminal organizations by various means in order to restore a sense of security in the Jamaican society and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with crime effectively.

Greater Traceability for Agricultural Products

AN UPDATE ON Food Safety Initiatives was tabled in Parliament on April 16, 2014. The 2013 National Security Policy for Jamaica notes that the country needs to improve its food security, and be more technology driven in its approach to food resources, and that this will energize trade. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is placing focus on the ability of all stakeholders in the food chain to be able to demonstrate adequate traceability of all food sources. This impacts agricultural production, agro-processing, food service industry, trade and commerce, public health and overall economic development. Included in its actions is an identification system for cattle and pigs to begin in the second quarter of the financial year.

The Veterinary Services Division continues its work towards getting laboratory accreditation to achieve acceptability of its testing, and that will in turn facilitate trade. It will submit an application to the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation International Organization for international accreditation by March 2015.

Rehabilitation in Correctional Institutions

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES on May 28 held a mini-exposition at the Horizon Adult Remand Centre which showcased the art and craft, furniture and home economics products that were made by inmates through rehabilitation and re-integration programmes of the department.

Minister of National Security, Peter Bunting, speaking at the exposition remarked that there is need for more psychiatric and psychological support, but that there has been some measure of success with the rehabilitation of juveniles, especially girls. He pointed out that the current ratio of students to teachers is less than ten students to one teacher.

Jargon & Definitions

CORRUPTION

THERE ARE MANY different forms of corruption, but from the perspective of national security, it involves any person in a position of public trust who by an act of an omission or a discharge of his or her duties illicitly obtains benefits for himself or herself or for another person or persons. These can take the forms of gifts, favours, promises or advantages. A public official can be involved in corruption by soliciting or accepting offers, whether directly or indirectly.

The act of corruption undermines the basis for law and justice in a country and Jamaica has indicated its commitment to fight corruption by becoming a signatory to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in 2005 and the Inter American Convention Against Corruption in 1996.

The 2013 National Security Policy for Jamaica notes: three types of corruption:

Organizational corruption is where one or more persons operate criminal activities inside legitimate organizations. This includes payments or gifts to ensure that a service is delivered or a penalty overlooked. This can create vulnerabilities that can be exploited by criminals.

Judicial corruption is often a more subtle process and can occur when a lawyer advises his client to conceal the source of his funds that may be facilitating crime, but the payment to the lawyer will be concealed in the fee.

Political corruption may take the form of close links between a politician and a contractor which result in the flow of favours in both directions, not necessarily involving cash.

Sources: Anti Corruption References of the Office of the Contractor General
<http://www.ocg.gov.jm/ocg/view/anti-corruption-references>

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