



Publication of the National Security Policy Coordination Unit (Jamaica)

Security Connect

On a point of *policy*

The 2013 National Security Policy (NSP) was tabled in Parliament on April 29, 2014 by Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller. It outlines priorities and actions towards establishing a safe and secure environment for the people of Jamaica, building a prosperous and progressive society founded on democracy, liberty, justice and the rule of law, and responsibility and respect for human rights and dignity.

The National Security Policy Coordination Unit (NSPU) — Cabinet Office is responsible for coordinating action on the NSP and to track its progress. The **Security Connect** newsletter will provide updates to actions being taken to implement the actions that are recommended in the policy. The policy is online at <http://www.cabinet.gov.jm/National+Security+Policy>

A NEW APPROACH:

National Security Policy (NSP) for JAMAICA 2013

The 2013 National Security Policy (NSP) is a comprehensive document that pulls together several initiatives implemented, or to be implemented by the government, and puts in place other mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to Jamaica's security issues.

The update and review of the NSP was led by experts in the field through a process that involved wide consultation by civil society and private and public agencies that have a role to play in national security.

The NSP identifies areas for priority action and recommends where resources should be focused so to have the greatest impact on improving national security. It is a framework document that identifies actions for implementation, and the coordinating and monitoring mechanisms to measure the

actions as to be taken to ensure a safe and secure environment.

The NSP identifies crime, violence and corruption as the foremost threats to the national security of Jamaica, to the integrity of the state, and to the lives of the people.

Some of the actions outlined in the policy include reforms to disrupt transnational organized criminal organizations and local gangs by removing the profits from crime. The recent passage of the Proceeds of Crime Amendment Act (2013) is a recommendation of the NSP.

Other key recommendations now underway include the reform of the justice system including improving court management; policing by consent, the adoption of coherent anti-gang strategies, sustained focus on at-risk individuals and communities; and strengthening of the system of governance.

Timely Review >>>

3 main reasons for updating the National Security Policy

There was a clear need to review and upgrade the 2007 National Security Policy (NSP) in light of three main issues.

1. Changes in the environment

The global security environment is evolving rapidly, criminal enterprises have sophisticated technologies at their disposal, posing an even more challenging feat for governments worldwide to keep pace. There is a new wave of

security threats emerging, for example, cyberspace provides a fertile ground for criminal collusion; therefore, we must be constantly revisiting our approach to match the challenges.

2. Need to analyze probabilities and impacts

Some threats are much more likely to happen than others or have the potential to cause greater harm. It is therefore important to have a clear and logical process for assigning an appropriate priority to each potential threat so that resources are not spread too thinly.

It is clear that incremental adjustments to the way we do things will not provide an adequate response. There is a need for a completely new framework of law enforcement.' Minister of National Security, Peter Bunting, Sectoral Debate, July 17, 2012

3. Need to prioritize actions

Jamaica is now one of the most indebted countries in the world and government spending exceeds annual

revenues. It is therefore

important that clear priorities are established so that security forces and other agencies can be optimally configured to maximize the use of resources. The NSP

ranks threats into categories according to priority and the response required to address them.

Prioritizing

The NSP review ranked all the various security threats facing Jamaica into one of four categories based on the **probability** that the event will happen, and the **impact** that it could cause Jamaica.



Ranking threats according to probability & impact

These threats were determined through a thorough horizon scan of the internal and external environment. The various risks/threats identified were then weighted and ranked in a probability impact assessment matrix to determine the priority that should be attached to the threat.

Some threats are much more likely to have the potential to cause far more harm. If every threat were given the same priority, this would mean resources would be stretched too thinly to be effective elsewhere.

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Prioritizing *contd...2* >>> Ranking threats

TIER 1 Clear and present dangers

These threats are top priority and require an active response. These include transnational organized crime, gangs and domestic organized crime, facilitators (eg: lawyers, real estate brokers, accountants), a political system compromised by links to organized crime, corruption of elected public officials, serious delays and other failings in the judicial system, corruption in the security forces and political tribalism.

TIER 2 Major potential or imminent threats

Some of these threats have the potential to cause catastrophic harm to Jamaica. It is therefore very important to actively monitor all Tier 2 threats, and to be prepared to rapidly upgrade them to Tier 1 if necessary. These include Mexican drug cartels, terrorism, energy and resource security, climate change and natural hazards.

TIER 3 Persistent, low impact problems

These include low economic growth, high rates of unemployment, poverty, increasing disparities of wealth, education and opportunity.

TIER 4 Potential risks that are less probable

Currently seen as less probable and also as having less potential to inflict harm. These threats include food and water security and deportees.



NSP Consultation

A wide stakeholder consultation over several months and a resource team comprising senior security personnel was established to guide the policy review process. Senior Director in the Office of the Contractor General, Craig Beresford, makes a point at a consultation on targeting facilitators of organized crime. From left: Jonathan Wemyss-Gorman and Lloyd Parchment, Jamaica Bankers Association; Marcia Copeland, Tax Administration Jamaica; Assistant Commissioner of Police, Leslie Green.

Key points in the policy >>>

The often ignored role of the ‘Facilitator’

One of the key issues identified in the review to date is the need to focus on the role of the facilitators of organized crime. This group includes politicians, lawyers, accountants, bankers, and real estate brokers. The facilitators create an enabling environment for criminal activity, and allow it to flourish. Organized crime depends on those facilitators; they channel contracts to fronts for organized crime, allow corrupt transactions to create shell corporations, operate offshore bank accounts, establish front businesses to conceal illegal activity, create a façade of respectability for these businesses by serving as proxy directors, and launder money into real estate and other assets and holdings.

Frequently asked

questions >>>

Q: How long will the NSP be relevant?

A: In order to remain relevant, a review should be conducted every three years or as needed, depending on current threats. The national security environment is dynamic and some of the indicators for a new policy may include changes to: international security environment; national policies; legislation; new challenges and initiatives in the society.

NSP supports increasing domestic food production

Included in the National Security Policy is the acknowledgement that Jamaica is a net importer of food and that high food prices or high volatility in food supply might impact Jamaica in the future. World food prices are trending upward, and this has a negative impact on the living standards of many residents. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Roger Clarke said, "We have to continue that battle to feed ourselves and to make sure that food security is a constant on the horizon....We cannot continue to find ourselves in a situation where



- a recommendation from the National Security Policy (NSP)

The Major Organized Crime and Anti Corruption Task Force (MOCA) is a direct recommendation in Tier 1 from the National Security Policy (NSP). It became operational in September 2012. The MOCA team aims to reduce crime by removing profit from crime by forfeiting the illicit assets of their targets.

The unit is staffed by the Jamaica Constabulary Force, with critical support from vetted personnel assigned from the Jamaica Defence Force, the Financial Investigation Division, Jamaica Customs, the Revenue Protection Division, and the Tax Administration of Jamaica. This approach reduces the challenge of accessing information and intelligence across departments and agencies.

In addition, the lottery scam task force, has been absorbed as a unit within MOCA. This progress has encouraged United States (US) Law Enforcement agencies to revive the Jamaica Operations Linked to Telemarketing (JOLT) initiative which combines local and US government efforts in investigations.

last year we imported nearly US\$1 billion worth of food into this country. We have to stop that. If we want to import a billion, let us try to export more to find the money to pay for that." Minister Clarke was speaking at an event on October 10, 2012 in Kingston celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Jargon & Definitions

NATIONAL SECURITY

The concept of national security includes all the measures taken by the state to ensure the survival of the nation, the protection of national interests and the safety and welfare of the people.

National Security includes all necessary measures to deter, mitigate and protect against any significant external or internal threats. This requires the maintenance of standing armed force to deter attack by conventional or unconventional forces, including terrorism and narco-terrorism, and to support the police and civil authorities in the event of civil unrest. It also requires the maintenance of police, intelligence and other security services to ensure the maintenance of law and order, to control and deter crime, corruption, violence and disorder, to maintain cyber-security, protect sensitive information and prevent fraud.

Finally, it involves ensuring civil defence and emergency preparedness, protecting vital infrastructure, and building resilience in social and economic systems so that they can withstand shocks.

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