

CABINET OFFICE

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME**

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**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010**

The Policy Development Programme outlines the national policies which are being developed by Ministries and the stage that each has attained. For the purpose of this document, a National Policy is a course of action to be taken by the Government to resolve a given problem or interrelated set of problems. The policy is contained in a document which is subject to approval by the Cabinet and is tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

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**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2010**

No.	Ministry	Name of Policy	Purpose	Stage
1.	Agriculture & Fisheries	A Medium Term Policy Framework For The Jamaican Cattle Sector	This policy aims to stimulate redevelopment of the dairy farming sector through: – <b>Alignment of the value-chain</b> to ensure greater equity to all industry stakeholders inclusive of the consumer; – <b>Increasing the international competitiveness</b> of local beef and milk production; – <b>Attracting youth and women</b> to ensure continuity.	2
2.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Animal Health Policy	The policy aims to develop a coordinated, sustainable and internationally compliant and Animal Health and Welfare system. This policy covers the health and welfare of animals of aquatic and terrestrial natures that are used for food, work, sports, companionship, research, teaching and entertainment (equine).	2
3.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Food Safety Policy	The policy aims to implement programmes that promote high standards of food hygiene and maintain systems of surveillance and control to ensure compliance with those standards.	4
4.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Banana Policy	This policy will provide the platform for the restructuring and re-orientation of Jamaica's banana industry in light of the decline of the export banana sector.	4
5.	Agriculture & Fisheries	National Organic Policy	This policy will cover organic food and farming systems. It will address accreditation of certification bodies, development of national organic standards and legislation that will govern the production and trade of organic food. It will also address Government's role in marketing, research and development and the provision of extension services and removal of fiscal disincentives to the organic agricultural sector. Capacity building among farmers and extension officers will also be addressed by this policy.	4
6.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Food and Nutrition Security Policy	The food and nutrition security policy will: (i) Define the food and nutritional goals that are to be met so that the country's agriculture and food systems can deliver adequate and nutritionally appropriate quantities of food, especially to low-income	4

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AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2010**

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			and vulnerable groups; (ii) Make prescriptions for a structured food import replacement program and a re-orientation of food imports and the food distribution system, to increase the availability of good quality-nutritious foods in Jamaica.	
7.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Agricultural Land Utilisation Policy	The goals of the policy are to : (i) Ensure environmentally sustainable use of agricultural land resources; (ii) Create and maintain a diversified, dynamic and progressive utilization of agricultural land; (iii) Conserve, protect and manage forest lands that will lead to sustainable economic and social benefit; (iv) Enable and facilitate developmental/ welfare activities through infrastructure and support services; and (v) Maintain National Food Security	4
8.	Agriculture & Fisheries	National Seed Policy	The policy aims to create a framework for the development of a local seed industry plan.	4
9.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for Sustainable Fisheries Development in Jamaica	The policy aims to improve the institutional capacity and present management practices in the fisheries industry; to mitigate further deterioration of the resource base of capture fisheries and achieve sustainability in use of the said resource base.	5
10.	Agriculture & Fisheries	Plant Health Policy	The policy aims to establish a coordinated, sustainable and international compliant plant health system that enhances Jamaica's plant health status, thus fostering consumer, plant and environmental health and food security.	6
11.	Cabinet Office	Data Sharing and Pricing Policy	The primary objectives of the data sharing policy is to provide a consensus-based and sustainable approach for the sharing of data between entities to support decision making and more joined-up delivery of public services. It will address the issue of pricing, in order to prevent prohibitive costs that could impede the efficient delivery of services or	4

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AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2010**

No.	Ministry	Name of Policy	Purpose	Stage
			timely decision-making	
12.	Cabinet Office	National Fee Policy and Fee Structure for the Development Applications Approval Process	Due to the prevailing concerns relating to the proliferation of fees being imposed by commenting agencies and the non-standardized fee structure being operated by the Local Planning Authorities (LPA)  This is an overarching policy to guide the manner in which the fees are administered and to implement a standardised fee structure across the LPAs and also includes the commenting agencies which are found to qualify for the receipt of fees for their role in the Approvals Process.	4
13.	Cabinet Office	National Customer Service Policy	This policy encapsulates into a single point of reference, the various guidelines, policies and programmes concerning customer service within the Public Sector. It provides a framework that enables organisations to development and implement a robust customer service programme.	4
14.	Cabinet Office	Decentralization Policy	The policy seeks to create the framework for the decentralization of public services where appropriate.	5
15.	Education	Safe Schools Policy	To provide schools with policy guidelines directed at securing children at school and addressing issues of security in schools.	2
16.	Education	Compulsory Education Policy	The policy is designed to support the mandatory engagement of all children between the ages of 3 to 18 years in a meaningful learning process and in a structured and regulated setting. It addresses regular attendance at learning institutions for all children as well as exposure to both academic and vocational programme at the secondary level	4
17.	Education	Special Education Policy	This policy will guide the implementation of the special education mandate of ensuring adequate and appropriate provisions that will ensure access and equity, in the planning and delivery of special education services.	4
18.	Education	National Lifelong Learning Policy	To foster a climate that allows for continuous engagement by the population with knowledge and skills acquisition, leading to enhanced personal and national productivity and employability as well as active citizenship, strong families, healthy population and personal fulfilment.	4

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AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2010**

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19.	Education	National Play Policy	This policy is in keeping with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and as part of the new thrust to make Jamaican schools more child friendly. It also supports the new child-centred play based on national early childhood curriculum.	4
20.	Education	National Curriculum Policy	The policy will create a regulatory framework that will provide clear and specific guidelines that will result in the development and implementation of curricula of the highest quality.	5
21.	Education	National Policy for HIV/AIDS Management in Schools	The policy will guide the management of HIV/AIDS within educational institutions in order to promote effective prevention and care within the context of the education system	5
22.	Education	National Policy on Independent Schools	This policy will provide a broad-based framework to guide operations and governance of the independent (Private) educational institutions in Jamaica, outlining registration procedures, accreditation and supervision.	5
23.	Education	National Parenting Policy	To support the development of an enabling environment for our nation's children	6
24.	Energy and Mining	National Minerals Policy	The policy will focus on the development of the minerals industry.	4
25.	Energy and Mining	National Energy Conservation and Efficiency Policy (An addendum to the National Policy 2009-2030)	This policy is an Addendum to the National Energy Policy. It is specifically intended to highlight Government's position on measures to optimize energy efficiency and energy conservation	5
26.	Energy and Mining	Renewable Energy Policy	This Policy is also key component of the National Energy Policy 2009-2030. The policy will promote the security of energy through the diversification of fuels as well as development of renewable sources.	5
27.	Energy and Mining	Bio-Fuels Policy	Policy also intertwined in the National Energy Policy 2009-2030. This Policy is intended to establish and promote a viable bio-energy industry in Jamaica, where bio-ethanol and bio-diesel are supported in production and consumption.	5
28.	Energy and Mining	National Carbon Emissions Trading Policy	The National Energy Policy 2009-2030 provides support for this policy. The Carbon Emissions Trading Policy is designed to promote sustainable development. It resulted from directives under the Kyoto Protocol for	5

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No.	Ministry	Name of Policy	Purpose	Stage
			Clean Development Mechanism	
29.	Energy and Mining	Waste to Energy Policy	This Policy will provide support for the generation of energy from waste fostering the creation of a solid waste management framework and supports the goals of the National Energy Policy of sustainable economic growth and development.	5
30.	Energy and Mining	Electricity Power Sector Policy and Strategy	This policy is being developed in line with the National Energy Policy to target the electricity sector. The policy will seek to address incentives for the use of renewable sources of energy with a move towards net metering as one specific component.	5
31.	Finance & the Public Service	Accrual Accounting Transition Policy	Guides the implementation of accrual accounting in the Public Sector	1
32.	Finance & the Public Service	Charities Policy (Tax Reform Policy)	To provide a framework to inform the provision of tax benefits and/or exempt status for tax purposes to registered charitable entities. The policy seeks to formalize the ad hoc system of waivers currently provided to entities based on charitable grounds. The policy will ultimately form the basis for the development of a Charities Act.	2
33.	Finance & the Public Service	Tax Incentive Policy (Tax Reform Policy)	To ensure that the taxation system meets the required criteria of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity/fairness</li> <li>• Simplification</li> <li>• Transparent</li> </ul>	2
34.	Finance & the Public Service	Taxation of Mutual Funds	To identify and establish a taxation policy for operators of mutual funds.	2
35.	Finance & the Public Service	Depreciation Policy	Guides the accounting of the Public Sector Fixed Assets under the Accrual Accounting System.	4
36.	Finance & the Public Service	Pensions Reform/Public Sector	To design and implement a new pension system to facilitate sustainability of GOJ Pension Scheme and improve the administration of the current system.	4

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AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2010**

No.	Ministry	Name of Policy	Purpose	Stage
37.	Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade	Jamaica's Revised Trade Policy	This Policy is to enhance Jamaica's ability to export goods and services and to this end, to ensure that trade is mainstreamed into the National Development Plan	1
38.	Health	National Health Policy, 1991 (to be reviewed)	The policy establishes the framework within which the Ministry will undertake its operations. It sets out the government's approach to: health financing; public/private partnerships; health service delivery.	1
39.	Health	National Drug Policy	To guide the selection, regulation and use of pharmaceutical preparation	2
40.	Health	National Waste Management Policy	To guide the storage, transportation and disposal of waste in the health sector	2
41.	Industry, Investment & Commerce	National Quality Policy (Review)	The National Quality Policy was approved by Cabinet in 2001. The policy is now 10 years old and a review is timely.	1
42.	Industry, Investment & Commerce	Small Business Development	This policy seeks to articulate in a precise and clear way the Government of Jamaica vision for the Sector and the means for achievement of the vision. The policy governing small business development is a subset of the National Industrial Policy 1996. Presently, the objective is to consolidate all the policies relating to the small business sector.	4
43.	Industry, Investment & Commerce	Motor Vehicle Import Policy (MVIP)	The MVIP was last revised in 2004 by way of Ministry Paper No. 73. There have been developments in the sector which require a review of the Policy with respect to other vehicles and/or parts that may need to be placed on licensing and the certification process for dealers, among other matters.	4
44.	Industry, Investment & Commerce	Film Industry Policy Framework	This policy framework seeks to articulate an enabling environment for the film industry as enunciated in the National Industry Policy.	4
45.	Industry, Investment & Commerce	Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) Industry Policy Framework	The recommendations seek to create an environment with which to attract greater levels of investment in the BPO industry	4
46.	Justice	Restorative Justice Policy	Restorative Justice is a response to crime that focuses on restoring the losses suffered by victims, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused, and building peace within communities.	5
47.	Justice	Child Diversion Policy	Provide alternative options to youth offenders to steer them away from	5

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AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2010**

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			formal prosecution and eventual incarceration thereby facilitating positive behaviour modification and rehabilitation.	
48.	Labour & Social Security	National Employment Policy	To promote full and productive employment for all groups (including the disabled) and employment free from discrimination based on sex, religion, race, colour or political extraction.	2
49.	Labour & Social Security	National Hazardous Installation Policy	The primary intent of this policy is the prevention of major accidents involving hazardous installations (locations where substances of a hazardous nature are processed, stored, disposed of or handled in such quantities) and limiting the consequences of such accidents. It will set out the types of sites deemed hazardous, systems and procedures that should be adhered to and the protocol for visiting and inspecting these locations to ensure that they are adhering to the national laws and guidelines.	4
50.	Labour & Social Security	National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy	To provide guidelines and legislation to promote the health of the population through healthy lifestyles, protect the rights of people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS and mitigate the social-economic impact of the epidemic.	5
51.	Labour & Social Security	Flexible Work Arrangements Policy	The primary intent of the policy is to facilitate the implementation of flexible work arrangements in the Jamaican workplace. This will allow for the implementation of a variable work schedule in the workplace.	5
52.	National Security	Small Arms Policy	To develop a policy in relation to the adoption of the provisions of two (2) conventions into our local legislation guided by the OAS model regulations and consideration given to increasing the penalties for all firearms related offences.	1
53.	National Security	Youth Offender Strategy/Policy	Defining roles and responsibilities of Ministries, Department and Agency (MDA) in the care of juvenile offenders	1
54.	National Security	Border Security and Control	To develop inspection criteria and policy framework to identify, regulate and monitor non-official ports of entry.	2
55.	National Security	Vetting Policy	To develop a policy for screening personnel to determine the suitability of persons; it is aimed at ensuring a person's character and circumstances	5

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			are such that he/she can be trusted to carry out the position employed and safely manage sensitive information.	
56.	National Security	National Crime Prevention Community Safety Strategy (Safe Community Policy)	To promote crime prevention and community safety within the broad framework of National Security policies.	5
57.	Office of the Prime Minister	Beach Policy	To provide guidelines for the use of the foreshore, beach and floor of the sea. Addresses issues of public access, coastal erosion, cays, fishing beaches.	
58.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Policy and Strategy on Environmental Management Systems	To establish the framework within which Environmental Management Systems will be adopted across all sectors of society.	
59.	Office of the Prime Minister	Policy on Environmental Stewardship of Government Operations	For the public service to lead conservation and efficiency measures by example.	
60.	Office of the Prime Minister	Towards a Watershed Policy for Jamaica	To provide guidelines for watershed management and funding.	
61.	Office of the Prime Minister	Biosafety Policy	To provide the Institutional framework for Biosafety in Jamaica.	
62.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Hazardous Substances and Hazardous Wastes Management Policy and Strategy	To reflect, inter alia, recommendations arising out of the Hazardous Wastes Management policy framework. The Policy will address priority areas for attention, institutional arrangements and guiding principles.	
63.	Office of the Prime Minister	Orchid Policy	Conservation and management of endangered orchids including those listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and flora .	
64.	Office of the Prime Minister	Policy Towards Dolphin Conservation	To provide for dolphin conservation and dolphin attractions management.	
65.	Office of the Prime Minister	Coastal Resources and Wetlands Policy	To establish guidelines for the protection and conservation of coral reefs, sea grass, mangroves and coastal wetlands.	
66.	Office of the Prime Minister	Mariculture Policy	To establish guidelines for mariculture.	

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67.	Office of the Prime Minister	Policy on Homelessness in Jamaica	To provide a framework for the management of the homeless in Jamaica, and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of Government agencies and other stakeholders.	
68.	Office of the Prime Minister	Information and Communication Technology Policy	To achieve greater social and economic development for the people of Jamaica, through increased application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in all sectors facilitated by affordable ICT services, and effective management of the national radio frequency spectrum as well as other ICT assets.	
69.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development		
70.	Tourism	Community-based Tourism Policy	Tourism is a vehicle through which poverty can be alleviated, gender equality and the empowerment of women can be promoted and delicate natural and cultural heritage can be protected. The Policy is therefore intended to provide modes of engagement for community based tourism initiatives to fulfil these goals.	1
71.	Tourism	Water Sports Policy for Recreational Areas	This policy which would be an accompanying document to the National Oceans and Coastal Zone Management Policy should also engender sound environmental management and protection of the marine and riverine environment.	2
72.	Transport & Works	Construction Policy	To provide a consistent policy framework in order to inter alia: encourage wider participation in the industry, encourage innovation on and modernisation of the industry, promote regional cooperation, speak to safety and security issues including extortion, refine procurement rules and develop skills levels in the construction industry.	2
73.	Transport & Works	Right of Way Policy	To provide an enabling environment and the necessary infrastructure to ensure the orderly and efficient use of the Right of Way along Jamaica's main road network in order to facilitate the promotion of information/communication technology as a tool for economic growth and for enhancing the quality of life of citizens.	4

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74.	Water & Housing	National Housing Policy & Implementation Plan for Jamaica	To give strategic direction to Jamaica's housing sector to enable the Government to meet its vision/target of providing access to adequate and secure shelter for all Jamaicans by 2030	4
75.	Youth, Sports & Culture	Integrated Community Development Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The articulation of an integrated policy that speaks to the elimination of the fragmented approach to programme development, project management and implementation.</li> <li>• To provide the framework and direction for the development of stronger, more prosperous and more integrated communities.</li> <li>• To enable citizens to be empowered to fully participate in the achievement of sustainable growth, Community and National Development and the prosperity of Jamaica.</li> </ul>	2
76.	Youth, Sports & Culture	Cultural Industries Policy	<p>Building on the Creative Industries chapter of the National Cultural Policy, the Cultural Industries Policy concerns would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Encourage/promote innovation, entrepreneurship,</li> <li>b) Set out strategies for creating funding opportunities, including access to venture capital, government investment, subsidies, tax exemptions, tax credit, and the creation of a creative industries fund;</li> <li>c) Outlining programmes for market development;</li> <li>d) The protection and fostering of intellectual property rights;</li> <li>e) Outline the relationship between the creative industries and education, job creation;</li> <li>f) Create measures to support research.</li> </ol>	2
77.	Youth, Sports & Culture	National Youth Policy (Revision)	The National Youth Policy (2004) represented the first comprehensive revision of the 1994 National Youth Policy. The National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) is now embarking on a further revision of this Policy based on the 5 year cycle of the current policy and the need to promote evidenced based policies by undertaking a number of activities ( <b>National Youth Survey, Situational Analysis, Programmatic Inventory</b> ) which are designed to determine the key areas that this policy should address and to be able to measure its future effectiveness. Through these activities there should be a greater	3

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			understanding of the young people of Jamaica, their perspective on all elements of their lives and the various needs and concerns that exist.	
78.	Youth, Sports & Culture	National Sports Policy (Revision)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The development of a healthy, disciplined and united society through the provision of better opportunities and facilities that will encourage greater participation and the fulfilment of basic social, physical and mental needs through Sports.</li> <li>(ii) To provide a framework of excellence at the highest level of competition in the true spirit of sportsmanship and fair play and with a view towards enhancing national image and goodwill.</li> <li>(iii) To development and improve the knowledge and practice of sports generally.</li> <li>(iv) To influence the development of strategies and programmes for the coordinated development of Sport</li> </ul>	4
79.	Youth, Sports & Culture	National Policy for Gender Equality	To mainstream gender in all policies, programmes and plans.	6
80.	Youth, Sports & Culture	Sexual Harassment Policy	To provide protection to all citizens, especially women who, indications are, experience sexual harassment to a greater degree than men, and to ensure environments for work, study and access to services and accommodation are free from harassment.	6
81.	Youth, Sports & Culture	<p>Cultural Policy (Revision)</p> <p><i>The Policy was approved in 2003 but has not been published. It is currently being reviewed with a view to having it subsequently published. The review process has two phases, internal and external. It is currently undergoing the internal review.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To articulate a clear vision of the place of culture in national life, the importance of cultural expression and diversity as essential factors of cultural development.</li> <li>(ii) To make provisions to ensure the full participation of communities in cultural expression and cultural development.</li> <li>(iii) To outline strategies for building cultural infrastructure and enabling cultural institutions to manage cultural development.</li> <li>(iv) To establish links between cultural policy and policies related to education, science and technology, industrial development, environmental protection, tourism product enhancement and entertainment.</li> <li>(v) To indicate Government's intentions regarding the documentation and recording of cultural trends, the collection of oral traditions, the</li> </ul>	7

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			development of cultural centres and spaces for cultural and artistic expression at the level of communities, and the promotion of culture industries and entrepreneurship. (vi) To identify sources for funding cultural development.	

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