

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

POLICY REGISTER

THE POLICY REGISTER

The Government of Jamaica Policy Register was established to provide an up-to-date information system containing a record of all national policies. It includes a brief explanation of the intent of each policy, the Ministry that is responsible for each policy and, where available, the date of promulgation of each policy.

The Register serves as a reference point for stakeholders who require information on policies guiding the work of Ministries and should enhance coordination in policy development and implementation.

Whilst this Register records the national policies guiding the work of Ministries, it is expected that Ministries will, where possible, make copies of the policies available on their websites.

DEFINITION OF POLICY

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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Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Plant Health Policy (Ministry Paper No. 4/11 dated 25 January 2011)	The Policy seeks to address the gaps and failures in the current plant health system in light of the requirements of international treaties and agreements of which Jamaica is signatory and food safety and phytosanitary standards of major trading partners.

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Ministry of Education	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Education: The Way Upward	This policy document represents the commitment of the Government to engage the Jamaican people in partnership to develop human resources as the primary tool for personal, social and economic development.
National Policy for HIV/AIDS Management in Schools	This policy promotes respect for the rights and dignity of students and school personnel with HIV/AIDS and is intended to be used to guide the management of HIV/AIDS within schools and other educational institutions.
The Task Force Report on Education Reform	This document presents an action plan for the creation of a world-class education system, which will generate the human capital and produce the skills necessary for Jamaicans to be globally competitive.
Competence-Based Transition Policy	This policy is designed to ensure that students transitioning from the primary to the secondary level are ready to access secondary education. This is based on the ability of each child to demonstrate the skills and competencies that are required on the completion of the Grade Four (4) curriculum by being certified as literate through the National Grade Four Literacy Test.

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Ministry of Energy & Mining	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Energy Policy 2009-2030 (Ministry Paper No. 124 - tabled in the House of Representatives on 8 December 2009 and in the Senate on Friday, 11 December 2009)	This policy seeks to, among other things <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage national energy base• Diversify the energy base• Encourage conservation and efficiency in energy production and use;• Promote the development of renewable energy resources; and• Make electricity available and affordable to customers

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Ocean and Coastal Zone Management Policy	To provide a comprehensive framework for the management and development of resources in Jamaica's ocean and coastal zones. A National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management was established in 1998 to coordinate the policy and is guided by terms of reference which include measures to develop an integrated marine policy for Jamaica.
Jamaica's Revised Trade Policy	<p>This Policy has been in place since October 2001 and is outlined in Ministry Paper No. 69 of 29 October 2001. The Policy has three key objectives, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create new, diversified exports by facilitating the growth of domestic capital as the basis for diversifying exports and facilitating market penetration;• To displace imports, i.e., steadily reduce the share of imports relative to outputs; and• To increase the flow of net positive returns from overseas assets that have been generating significant remittances and other capital flows. <p>The Policy also provides for enhanced stakeholder consultation (largely via the Jamaica Trade and Adjustment Team mechanism) in the process of trade policy formulation, implementation and review.</p>

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Ministry of Finance	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Audit Committee Policy	Provides guidance on the standards to be applied by Audit Committee members in Ministries/Departments and Executive Agencies and improve the operational activities of the Committees.
Comprehensive Motor vehicle Policy for the Public Sector	Provides the framework in which government-owned vehicles are operated to ensure that the desired objectives of efficiency, cost containment and probity in the management and administration are achieved within the entire Public Sector.
Depreciation Policy	Guides the accounting of the Public Sector Fixed Assets under the Accrual Accounting System.
Privatization Policy & Procedures (Ministry Paper 34/1991)	To guide the privatization of public assets.
Government of Jamaica Public Sector Procurement Policy (Ministry Paper No.95/10)	The Policy sets the framework for the operation and management of the public procurement system and underscores its guiding principles and tenets. The Policy guide will public officers and all stakeholders and give direction for the further development of the procurement system.

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Ministry of Health	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Drugs for the Elderly	To improve access of elderly persons, sixty years of age and over, who have certain identified diseases to basic pharmaceuticals at a minimum cost.
National HIV/AIDS Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To outline the role of social institutions and promote the involvement of all sectors of society in the national response to HIV/AIDS. • To affirm the rights and responsibilities of persons living with HIV/AIDS, of those interacting with them, of people vulnerable to HIV infection and of health care providers. • To delineate the mechanisms for effective implementation and monitoring.
National Healthy Lifestyle Policy (2004)	To support health promotion among individuals and corporate entities
National Infant Feeding Policy (1995)	To contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality rates among Jamaican children. Reference guide for the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding and safe and adequate weaning practices throughout Jamaica.
National Health Policy (1991)	To establish the framework that guides the operations of the health sector including health service delivery, legislative framework and health financing.
Mental Health Reform	To provide assessable, equitable, integrated, comprehensive, community based mental health services to the people of Jamaica, while at all times respecting their human rights and following evidenced based practices.

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Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Consumer Protection Policy	The Act provides for the promotion and protection of consumer interests in relation to the supply of goods and the provision of services in order to ensure protection of life, health, welfare and safety of consumers and others. It also provides for the establishment of a Consumer Affairs Commission.
Motor Vehicle Policy (Ministry Paper 13, 1995) (Ministry Paper 13, 1998) (Ministry Paper 19, 1998)	This policy provides for the importation & sale of motor vehicles, inspection and regulations of the sale of motor vehicles on the domestic market.
National Quality Infrastructure Policy	The objective of the policy is to facilitate the promotion of quality and productivity through training, funding, public education programmes, etc.
Development of an Entrepreneurship Culture	To provide a policy framework and the necessary institutional support to develop enterprise skills in young people and to encourage the creation of new and innovative enterprises in order to achieve economic growth and increased productivity.
Development of Value Added Products	To provide the policy framework and institutional support to encourage the use of adaptive technology/research and development in order to facilitate the process of product innovation and material research in relation to natural resources – fibres, clays, fruits, herbs - and creative efforts in software development in order to exploit new and emerging business opportunities.
Encouragement of Export Industries	To provide the policy framework and policy interventions to promote continued expansion of exports through the growth of existing competitive industries in tradable goods and services as well as diversification into new competitive industries.
Free Zone and Office Space	To facilitate the delivery of competitive investment and export expansion through the provision of ready factory and office space for activities in targeted sectors – ITC, light manufacturing agro processing - and in aiding such firms to benefit from reduced transaction costs through agglomeration of support services and resources.
Investment Facilitation	To contribute to an appropriate framework for investment by ensuring that the business environment is more business friendly, efficient and competitive particularly in terms of the turn around period for the approval process of investment applications.
Modernisation of Industry	To ensure that the policy framework and the policy interventions encourage firms to engage in the retooling of plant and equipment, technological upgrading and modernization of processes and that the institutional support is provided to firms seeking and requiring technical assistance in their operations.
Strengthening of SME Sector	To provide an environment that is conducive to micro and small enterprise development in order to assist in the growth and competitiveness of these firms and the employment and export opportunities they provide training, financing, technical assistance and business development services are critical support measures to the thrust.
Government Concession for the U-Drive Industry	The U-Drive sub-sector also benefits by importing/purchasing vehicles duty free. All applications are processed through a special committee and recommendations are made to the Ministry of Finance for final approval.
National Science & Technology Policy	This policy seeks to promote the development of science and technology to enhance national development and foster international competitiveness.

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Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
The National Culture Policy	This policy provides opportunities for full and unbridled cultural expression as an act of liberation and empowerment.
The National Youth Policy: Jamaican Youth in Shaping the World	This policy identifies the need for an institutional focal point for the effective coordination of, and collaboration on youth related programmes. The policy also re-introduced the National Youth Service as a programme that emphasizes development of leadership skills and enhancement of the social skills of youth.
Sports Policy	<p>The specific objectives of the policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of 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; • 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; • To develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport generally; and • To influence the development of strategies and programmes for the co-ordinated development of Sport.
Jamaican Policy against Doping in Sport (2005)	<p>The policy consists of general principles, rules and standards for Jamaican National Sports Federations, their affiliate members, clubs, teams, associations or leagues; National Leagues not affiliated with a National Sports Federation; Participants in any capacity in any activity organized policy a, held, convened or authorized by a National Event Organization; and all athletes, support personnel and participants in sports, including those charged with implementing this policy.</p> <p>The purposes of the Jamaican Policy against Doping in Sport are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote a drug-free environment for sport in Jamaica, and provide all Jamaicans, especially our athletes and athlete support personnel, with protection of their right to participate in doping-free sport, and thus promoting health, fairness and equality for all participants in sport; • To ensure harmonized, coordinated and effective Anti-Doping Programmes at the national and international level regarding the detection, deterrence and prevention of doping; and • To respect the rights of individuals and sporting organizations through appropriate fair procedures for, and means to oversee, doping control, determinations of anti-doping rule violations and their consequences, and other decisions made in the interests of drug-free sport.
National Policy Statement on Women	<p>The ten goals of the policy statement cover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing access to employment and income; 2. Upgrading women's skills and increasing their access to credit and markets 3. Improving pay, working conditions and promoting the diversification of women's employment opportunities; 4. Ensuring available, affordable, adequate child care services; 5. Providing adequate protection and means to redress women and children who are victims of family violence, incest, rape and sexual harassment; 6. Improving housing supply and terms of acquisition to assist women in the

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	<p>provision of shelter for themselves and their families;</p> <p>7. Eliminating legal discrimination and implementing reforms necessary for the protection and advancement of women;</p> <p>8. Ensuring that the provision and distribution of basic services between men and women is equitable;</p> <p>9. Promoting women's rights to contraception and choices about the number of children they desire; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring equal rights for females in all areas of education.
National Policy on Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the right of every child to life and the attainment of the highest health standard for children. • To guarantee protection from all forms of maltreatment and special care for the disabled children and children without families. • To ensure protection from interference with privacy and special protection in times of civil disturbances or war. • To recognise children as whole human beings having an inalienable right to participate in society's affairs within their intellectual and emotional capacities. • To ensure special care, education and training for all children with disabilities to enable them to realise their fullest potential. • To facilitate the involvement of children in all aspects of Civil Society in keeping with the child's evolving capacities. <p>To ensure the recognition of the child's identity with a view to promoting his/her participation in Civil Society.</p>

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Ministry of Justice	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Plan of Action for Child Justice	Enhancing the ability of the nation's children to live responsibly and productively in their communities and at the same time, emphasizing public safety and accountability on the part of the child offender.
Jamaica Justice System Reform Policy Agenda Framework	Outlines the major strategic objectives and the priority initiatives that would be conducted over the next five (5) years towards attaining the Government's goal of justice reform

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Ministry of Labour and Social Security	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Policy for Senior Citizens (1997)	The policy recognizes the need to create the conditions and possibilities for the full participation of senior citizens in the community for as long as possible and to ensure systems of care and protection where necessary.
National Policy For Persons With Disabilities (2000)	The contextual framework for the National Disabilities Act. The policy seeks to foster an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to realize their full potential through employment and training.
Reform of Social Safety Net (Ministry Paper #5, 2002)	To provide the broad context, objectives and phases of the reform of the social safety net. The reform of the social safety net seeks to improve targeting of the poorest segments of the population for welfare benefits, improve the relevance and effectiveness of the various social programmes and increase efficiency in the delivery of social services.
Labour Market Reform (Eaton Report, 1996)	The Report examines how best to reform the labour market to make Jamaica more competitive in the global arena. The report identified ten areas for labour market reform. These include, review of the LRIDA, restructuring of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, flexible work arrangements, national pension scheme, transportation, physical security, gender issues, training and education and occupational health and safety.

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Ministry of National Security	
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National Security Policy (2007)	Overarching policy coordinating the activities of Government around the issues of National Security.

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Ministry of Transport and Works	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Road Safety Policy (2004)	Provides the basis for achievement of the vision a safe traffic environment. It also assists in guiding and coordinating the actions of the relevant ministries and organisations toward the rational use of scarce resources and reducing duplication of effort. It creates the framework for the undertaking of corrective programme interventions and will facilitate steps to access funding.
National Transport Policy (2007)	To guide the overall development of the transport sector and to provide the framework for the development of environmentally-sound transport infrastructure and services in support of sustainable economic and social growth.

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Ministry of Tourism	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Tourism Master Plan for Sustainable Development	The Master Plan recognizes that the greater diversification of our product offering is the key to improving our competitive position both regionally and in the global context. It acknowledges that sustainability requires: greater involvement of communities in the industry, whether as entrepreneurs, or as service providers, so that there will be a better spread of the benefits; incorporation of more opportunities to showcase Jamaica's culture and heritage; forging stronger linkages with sports and entertainment; forging stronger linkages with other productive sectors and greater focus on environmental management and protection by all players in the sector. Also, there has been increased effort in events led (including sporting events) promotion and in focusing more attention on marketing and promotions in Europe.
Tourism Ground Transportation Sub-Sector Incentive Policy	<p>In October 2006, the Tourism Ground Transportation Sub-Sector Incentive Policy came into effect. The purpose of this policy is to <u>establish harmony and consistency</u> among the various incentive regimes of the transportation sub-sector of the tourism industry, and also, to create the enabling environment ensuring a safe and reliable service of a high standard and quality at a world class level to the diverse group of tourists that visit Jamaica.</p> <p>The overall goal of this policy is to <u>create the enabling environment</u> for the transportation sub-sector of the tourism industry so that it will provide a safe and reliable service of a high standard and quality at a world class level to the diverse group of tourists that visit Jamaica.</p>
Incentives for Tourist Attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since April 2003, Cabinet granted approval for incentives to be made available to the attractions sub-sector. Incentives are made available for the establishment, refurbishment, conservation, reconstruction, and repositioning of attractions in the market place and in an effort to stimulate growth in the sub-sector. • The sub-sector now benefits by importing specific items free of GCT and Custom Duty up to a maximum of five years and Corporate Tax exemption if required and approved for the same time period.
HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy for the Tourism Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the transmission of HIV; manage and mitigate the impact of the disease in the workplace; improve access to prevention, knowledge and skills, treatment, care and support of workers living with and affected by HIV and AIDS; and reduce stigma and discrimination toward any worker known or perceived to have HIV and/or AIDS.

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Ministry of Housing, Environment & Water	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Jamaica Water Sector Policy, Strategies and Action Plan	<p>The policy objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water Resources Management</i> – the management, assessment and regulation of Jamaica's' water resources. It will see the creation of a comprehensive database, water quality monitoring and assessment and a programme for public; • <i>Urban Water & Sewerage</i> – provision of the necessary quantity of potable water and minimum standard of sanitation services to all at an affordable price. It also envisions improvements in sewerage treatment and disposal, proper disposal of industrial effluent and the protection of the environment. Will seek to encourage private investments in new infrastructure through Public/Private Partnerships (PPP); • <i>Rural Water Sanitation</i> – by 2010 all households rural and urban will have full access to potable water through various modalities and that by 2020 all major towns will be sewerred; • <i>Urban Drainage</i> – to be addressed as an integral part of the Water Sector; and • <i>Irrigation</i> – irrigation water to be provided in a cost effective and efficient manner with due regard to cost recovery. Promote formation and legalisation of Water Users Associations (WUA).
Housing Public Private Partnership Policy, 2008 (formerly Joint Venture Policy)	To provide the Ministry with an improved framework within which to give direction to developments: 1) being undertaken under the Housing Act on lands owned by the Government and 2) on privately owned lands which are being facilitated by the Ministry or housing agencies.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica	To ensure the most sustainable use and conservation of the country's biological resource in keeping with the Convention on Biological Diversity (to which Jamaica is a party).
Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas	To support the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional system of protected areas.

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Ministry of Housing, Environment & Water	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Forestry Policy (2001)	The Forestry Policy sets out primary goals and priorities pertaining to the conservation and protection of forests and the sustainable management of forest lands and watersheds. It also deals with strategies and tools for implementation of these goals, including community participation, promotion and regulation of forest industries, forest research, public education and forestry training, incentives, funding and monitoring. It also outlines the mandates and roles of Government agencies involved in forest land management.
National Land Policy (1997)	<p>The goals and objectives of this Policy are to ensure the sustainable, productive and equitable development, use and management of the country's natural resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy also aims to compliment socioeconomic development initiatives of the country. It challenges and seeks to remove inefficient, onerous and out-dated legal, administrative, management and other barriers that affect the planning, use, control, development, protection and conservation of Jamaica's physical resources.
Integrated Solid Waste Management Policy	<p>The policy covers the following issues in relation to solid waste management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Framework • Institutional Framework • Cost Recovery • Operational issues related to collection, transportation and disposal • Waste minimization • Waste processing • Hazardous and Medical Waste • Public Education • Relationship to other national policies and legislation • Enforcement

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Cabinet Office	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Public Sector Modernisation Vision and Strategy Paper 2002-2012 [Ministry Paper 56/2002]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To confirm the role and core functions of Government; 2. To improve the ways in which Jamaica is governed, through sharing the exercise of power and increasing participation in decision-making; 3. To promote effective management, through appropriate mechanisms that expressly reflect the government's priorities; 4. To re-affirm the values of the public service, stressing integrity, objectivity and accountability; 5. To deliver high quality services to users at a reasonable cost; 6. To deliver high quality policy advice to the government; 7. To secure performance improvements through the establishment of a performance culture in the public service; 8. To value public servants and make sure that they are both motivated and properly equipped to meet these challenges; and 9. To manage all the resources in the public sector to achieve the best value for money in the delivery of services.
Jamaica 2015 – A Framework and Action Plan for Improving Effectiveness, Collaboration and Accountability in the Delivery of Social Policy [Ministry Paper 54/2002]	<p>A guiding framework for the development of social policy in Jamaica up to 2015 which provides the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a vision for the kind of society Jamaica aspires to being and achieving; b. a set of key policy goals which sum up a range of concrete outcomes or results which represent progress towards the realisation of the vision; c. a set of goals and objectives for changes in institutional systems and relationships which support the achievement of the policy goals; d. a framework for assessing progress over time towards the goals; and e. an Action Plan outlining a five year programme of measures to strengthen the design and implementation of social policy with a view to achieving progress in relation to the outcome and process goals outlined.
Strategic Environmental Assessment Policy	<p>The Government of Jamaica commits to ensuring that all its policies, plans and programmes adequately consider potential environmental effects and impacts, and where these are adverse, incorporate appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate these effects and impacts.</p> <p>In accordance with the vision and strategy for the modernization of the public sector, environmental implications will be fully included and adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making, on par with economic and social considerations.</p>

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Office of the Prime Minister	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Industrial Policy (1996)	To provide a competitive environment in which all Jamaica-based firms are in a position to operate at internationally competitive levels. It is concerned with investment, productivity and growth in the sectors producing tradable goods and services in the economy.
Local Government Policy (2003)	<p>Aims to implement mechanisms to ensure the effective delivery of service to citizens on a financially sustainable basis with the active involvement and participation of the citizens in keeping with the vision.</p> <p>The vision is for the creation and establishment of a new framework of governance for the management of the modern Jamaican society, with the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory • Autonomy • Accountability • Developmental • Empowerment <p>The policy provisions cover 5 main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Municipal Management Mechanisms • Definitions of the roles and functions of Central Government and Local Government • Establishment of dedicated financial resources to support the work of the Local Authorities • Create space for the participation and representation of civil society on all Local Government Structures • National discussions to determine whether the existing 13 Local Authorities should be rationalized or consolidated in response to the proposed new municipal structures and to achieve economies of scale and efficiency

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Office of the Prime Minister	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Information and Communication Technologies Policy (2011)	The Policy seeks to achieve greater social and economic development for the people of Jamaica through increased application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in all sectors facilitated by affordable ICT services and effective management of all national ICT assets. It also seeks to advance Jamaica's vision of regional leadership in ICTs by enabling connectivity over multiple and diverse platforms.