

## GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2013/2014 BY MINISTRY

No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Cabinet Office	Office of the Utilities Regulations Bill	To grant to the Office of Utilities Regulation certain regulatory enforcement powers to enable it to secure compliance with its statutory mandate by the regulated industries.
2.	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Aquaculture Inland and Marine Products and By-Products (Inspection, Licensing and Export) (Amendment) Bill	To plug loopholes discovered in the Act since the opening of the conch season in 2001 and make provision for imports.
3.	2	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Agricultural Credit Board (Repeal) Bill	To repeal the Act to, inter alia, transfer functions of the Agricultural Credit Board to the Registrar of Co-operatives and wind up the operations of the Board.
4.	3	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Facilities for Title (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to allow for application to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act without first having to apply for a loan and make provision for a Community Land Tribunal at the Parish level for adjudicating rights and interest in land and resolving disputes.
5.	4	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Fishing Industry (Amendment) Bill	To repeal and replace existing Act for the better management of the fishing industry
6.	5	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Veterinary (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to achieve consistency with current practices in veterinary medicine; correct inherent deficiencies; and ensure the objectives of the Act were met.
7.	1	Ministry of Education	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To provide for the establishment of the Jamaica Teaching Council, consequential amendments to the provisions of the Education Act dealing with the Teachers Service Commission, and for the introduction of a system of teacher licensing.
8.	2	Ministry of Education	Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission Bill	To provide for the establishment of a national oversight body for tertiary education in Jamaica (J-TEC).
9.	3	Ministry of Education	Mico University College (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To provide for the validation and indemnity of all acts by the Mico University College from 2006 to 2010, during which time the College operated without the existence of a valid scheme of management, due to an omission to gazette the order approving its scheme of management.
10.	1	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Financial Investigations Division (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Financial Investigations Division Act to enable the Division's membership in the Egmont Group.
11.	2	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill (No.5)	To resolve a conflict between Section 70 of the Income Tax Act which allowed expansive power to obtain information and the Revenue Administration Act which were more instructive; And to adapt the recommendations of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes and affiliate OECD, that Jamaica amend its tax laws to eliminate the current position where under the Revenue Administration Act, information was obtained on pensions of interest to the Jamaica tax authorities.

### Categories

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12.	3	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act	Jamaica was Peer Reviewed by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information, an affiliate of the OECD. The review highlighted deficiencies in the RAA, Income Tax Act and Companies Act, all of which need to be amended in order to achieve greater transparency and facilitate effective exchange of information. This Bill will remove domestic tax interest and facilitate effective exchange of information. This is in response to the requirements of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax purposes.
13.	4	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Amendment the constituent Acts of various Statutory bodies; Consequential amendments to the PBMA and FAA Acts (Harmonization Bills)	To harmonize the enabling statute of statutory bodies to the PBMA Act so as to improve the governance and accountability of such bodies and for related matters.
14.	5	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill	To designate the Bank of Jamaica with overall responsibility for financial stability
15.	6	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Bank of Jamaica (Omnibus) Bill	To facilitate the enactment of a single new legislation to merge the provisions of the Banking Act, the Financial Institutions Act, and the Bank of Jamaica (Building Societies) Act and Regulations, and for amendments to existing provisions to enhance the supervision of deposit taking institutions.
16.	7	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Validation and Indemnification) (Amendment) Bill	To validate the implementation of the Customs User Fee (CUF) and the amendment of the Customs Regulations to unequivocally reflect the use of the Fee so that it accords with GATT standards.
17.	8	Ministry of Finance and Planning	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill (2)	To provide for (i) Fixed penalties for not displaying the GCT Certificate and failure to return said Certificate; (ii) Amendment of Section 28 to compel the tax payer to be registers whether or not he had been served a notice by the Commissioner; (iii) Relevant sections of the Act to be amended to restrict the periods and circumstances in which tax credits may be paid; (iv) GCT to be payable on one-off major entertainment events; (v) Persons who are registered to notify the Commission of any changes which affect registration; (vi) The unauthorised collection of tax and not paying over the tax collected to the Revenue to be made offences; (vii) Section 61 of the GCT to be amended to expand the powers of the Commissioner with respect to anti-avoidance; (viii) Elimination of the requirement for registration of persons below the threshold; (ix) Removal of the disparity between the treatment of imported raw materials and the procurement of raw material locally by manufacturers;

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				(x) Shortening of the period for claiming tax credits on capital goods; (xi) Execution of documents (returned and other declarations); (xii) Expansion of the provisions of Section 23(2) as regards transfer/sale of a business as a going concern; and (xiii) The offences and penalties.
18.	9	Ministry of Finance and Planning	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill (3); Validation of GCT Provisional Orders; Amendment of Schedules	To validate the Provisional Orders to amend the GCT Act, which were introduced between 2003-2011 to implement revenue measures. Also to make additional amendments to the GCT Act to remove ambiguous provisions and increase penalties.
19.	10	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Sector Procurement Bill Contractor General (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the framework for public sector procurement system and to legally separate that National Contracts Commission from the Office of the Contractor General.
20.	11	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Revenue Administration (Amendment) Bill	To create the Revenue Appeals Division in replacement of the Taxpayer Appeals Departments; and to establish the Division, Commissioner, Officers, functions and powers.
21.	12	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Securities (Amendment) Bill	To inhibit the establishment of unlawful financial organizations, modernize the framework for the regulation of collective investment schemes and correct other deficiencies in the legislative framework for the regulation of the securities industry
22.	13	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Charities Bill	To provide a legislative framework for tax treatment of all charities.
23.	14	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Harmonisation of Tax Laws	To provide for the harmonisation and/or inclusion of tax treatment for charities and charitable purposes.
24.	1	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill	To implement obligations under the Convention.
25.	2	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism Bill	To provide for implementing the obligations under the Convention established by Security Council Resolution 1373
26.	3	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matters) (Amendment) Bill Extradition (Amendment) Bill	To incorporate into Jamaican law the provisions of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 2005; the Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of the Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 2005; and the Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of the Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms, 2005

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27.	4	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Caribbean Financial Action Force/ United National Charter VII Bill	To implement resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in order to enable Jamaica to fulfil commitments to the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, as well as its obligations under the United Nations Charter.
28.	5	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Rome Statute Bill	To establish the International Criminal Court under the laws of Jamaica to enable the ratification of the Rome Statute.
29.	1	Ministry of Health	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To establish a Nurse Practitioner Council to regulate control and monitor all categories of Nurse Practitioner and to provide for the legal recognition of the clinical practice of Family Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anaesthetists and Mental Health Nurse Practitioners to enable them to prescribe a limited list of drugs set out in their practice protocols.
30.	2	Ministry of Health	Radiation (Safety & Control) Bill	To regulate safety of radiation to users & unsuspecting public
31.	3	Ministry of Health	National Family Planning Act Amendment of Schedule	To amend the schedule in order to make provision for changes to the composition of the Board.
32.	1	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill	(i) To reflect Jamaica's membership in the WTO; (ii) To establish that the registration fees do not include the cost of advertising; (iii) To provide for the suspension of a trademark as a result of disuse for a period of five years without good reason; (iv) To empower the Minister to amend the monetary penalties in the Act by way of order subject to affirmative resolution of each House of Parliament; (v) To introduce the concept of a cooling-off period; and (vi) To provide the basis on which the revocation of a trademark can be effected.
33.	2	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Jamaica Personal Property Secured Transaction Bill	To reform the collateral system in Jamaica.
34.	3	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Copyright (Amendment) Bill (No.1)	(i) To ensure Jamaica's accession to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Copyright Treaty. (ii) To incorporate provisions of the WIPO Copyright Treaty to protect authors, composers and creators of literature. (iii) To allow for: (a) access to copyright works by the print and hearing disabled; (b) establishment of a voluntary deposit system for copyright works to be hosted by the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office;

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				(c) establishment of the duration of copyright for works created by the Crown and corporate bodies; (d) provision for access to "orphan works;" (e) clarification of the rights in adapted works; (f) extension of the rights of libraries and archivists to archive material that was in digital format; and (g) protection of first importers of sound recordings in Jamaica by ensuring them the first right of distribution of same.
35.	4	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	i. Holding Company and International Business Company Bill; ii. Trusts Bill; iii. Trust and Service Provider Bill; and iv. Limited Liability Bill	To support the suite of services offered by the Jamaica International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
36.	5	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Patents & Industrial Designs Bill	To replace and repeal Patents Act and the Design Act; fulfil all the provisions of the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the USA/Jamaica Bilateral Treaty on Intellectual Property; and bring Act into conformity with international standards of protection for inventors and innovators.
37.	6	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Business Registration Form Bill	To give legal effect to the business registration form and to repeal sections in other legislation requiring similar forms.
38.	7	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Insolvency Bill	(i) To review the laws relating to personal and corporate insolvencies in Jamaica to aid in the rehabilitation of debtors and the presentation viable businesses; (ii) To ensure procedural clarity in the operation of insolvency laws in Jamaica; (iii) To make recommendations for the appropriate legislative changes, including Temporary protection from creditors; Reduction of the need for court proceedings and where necessary simplify the process and reduce delays; A system for licencing and regulating private trustees; and Similar qualification requirements for all trustees.
39.	1	Ministry of Justice	Caribbean Court of Justice Bill	To make provisions for the implementation of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, and for connected matters
40.	2	Ministry of Justice	Committal Proceedings Bill	To abolish the existing procedure of preliminary examinations in cases of indictable offences and seeks to put in its place a new committal proceedings regime in the Resident Magistrates Court.
41.	3	Ministry of Justice	Constitution (Amendment) (Caribbean Court of Justice) Bill	To provide for the replacement of appeals to Her Majesty in Council with new provisions for appeals to the Caribbean Court of Justice as Jamaica's final appellate court; and for connected matters.

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No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
42.	4	Ministry of Justice	Defamation Bill	To modernize the laws relating to libel and slander.
43.	5	Ministry of Justice	Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Bill	To repeal the provisions for appeal to Her Majesty in Council and to replace those provisions for appeals to the Caribbean Court of Justice; and enact transitional provisions to exclude from the application of the provisions of the Bill, appeals to Her Majesty in Council which were instituted, where leave was granted or application for leave was made, before the date of commencement of the amending provisions.
44.	6	Ministry of Justice	Evidence (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the introduction of significant reforms to, among other things, allow for the reports of experts to be admitted into evidence without the need to call the expert who made the report.
45.	7	Ministry of Justice	Administrator General (Special Measures) Bill	To provide the Administrator-General with special powers to permit the settling of estates which the Administrator General is currently unable to complete.
46.	8	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders)(Amendment) Bill	To amend the Bill to reduce the rehabilitation period from 2 phases to 1 phase, provide for the automatic expungement of certain minor offences, and to exclude certain serious offences from record expungement.
47.	9	Ministry of Justice	Single Anti-Corruption Entity Bill	To establish a single anti-corruption entity to assume the functions of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, the Integrity Commission and the Office of the Contractor General.
48.	1	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Caribbean Community (Free Movement of Skilled Persons) Bill	To increase fines and penalties, allow for charging of fees for skill certificates, institute One Certificate Regime, and to expand the categories of persons approved for movement under the regime.
49.	2	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Assistance Bill	To incorporate institutional changes under the Social Safety Net Reform (a Unified Benefits Programme) and repeal the Poor Relief Law of 1886.
50.	3	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Disabilities Bill	To provide for further protection and legal entrenchment of rights of persons with disabilities
51.	4	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Occupational Health & Safety Bill	To provide for safety standards at workplace
52.	5	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	(i) Apprenticeship (Amendment) Bill; (ii) Holiday (Public General) Amendment Bill; (iii) Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill; (iv) Shops and Offices (Amendment) Bill; and (v) Women (Employment of) (Amendment) Bill	To amend existing legislation to facilitate the implementation of Flexible Work Arrangements based on White Paper.

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No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
53.	1	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Building Bill	(i) To improve the efficiency of the building approval process and provide a framework for the effective management of the building industry. (ii) To incorporate the Kingston and St. Andrew Building Act and the Parish Council Building Act.
54.	2	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Constitution (Amendment)(Local Government) Bill	To have Local Government included in the Constitution
55.	3	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Disaster Risk Management Bill	To provide for a strengthened legislative framework for disaster management. This Bill will replace the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act.
56.	1	Ministry of National Security	Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Gangs and Organised Criminal Groups) Bill	To introduce legislation for the suppression and disruption of criminal gangs criminal gang-related activities and make consequential amendments to existing legislation as necessary.
57.	2	Ministry of National Security	Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment)(Amendment) Bill	To increase the penalty for the offence of trafficking in persons, to make new provision for offences akin to trafficking and other related matters.
58.	3	Ministry of National Security	DNA Evidence Bill	To provide for the taking of DNA samples from persons arrested in relation to specified offences.
59.	1	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Quarries Control (Amendment) Bill	To amend the existing Act to improve the management of quarries.
60.	2	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Data Protection Bill	To implement a co-regulatory regime to address the protection of the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data; to regulate the collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of certain information relating to individuals; and to provide for connected matters.
61.	3	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Telecommunications (Amendment) Act	To amend the Act to establish the basic requirements and conditions for the implementation and operation of number portability in Jamaica
62.	1	Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment	Timeshare/Vacation Ownership	To develop a framework to facilitate the introduction of Timeshare/Vacation Owners schemes in Jamaica.

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No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
63.	1	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Road Traffic (Amendment ) Bill	To: (i) provide for comprehensive revision of Act ; (ii) repeal and replace the current Road Traffic Act and Regulations (1938) and Companion Acts and Regulations; and (iii) establish Island Traffic Authority as a statutory body.
64.	2	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Port Authority of Jamaica Bill	To repeal and replace existing Act, to ensure that the legislation relating to the Authority was in keeping with the Shipping Act, 1998; to bring several Acts relating to maritime activities and port operations, repeal a number of existing Acts, including the Harbour Fees Act, the Harbour Lights and Lighthouse Act and the Port Authority Act; and to address the weakness in power and functions of the Port Authority of Jamaica.
65.	3	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Rent Restriction (Change of Name & Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the provision of adequate legislation governing the rental of properties in Jamaica and to bring about greater efficiency in the processing of applications & complaints
66.	4	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Shipping (Pollution Prevention, Response, Liability and Compensation) Bill	To implement several international conventions (including International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Damage; International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness & Response Cooperation (ICOPP & R); Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to protect shipping & preserve the marine environment from pollution by ships.
67.	5	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Shipping (Amendment) Act	To amend existing legislation to ratify the application of an annual fee in lieu of Customs Duty, Customs User Fee, Environmental Levy and General Consumption Tax payable by owners of yachts.
68.	1	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Crown Property (Vesting) (Amendment) Bill	To establish a National Divestment Committee to advise Minister responsible for Land and Environment; To provide for the Minister making an Order to exempt certain categories of divestment being routed through the Committee.
69.	2	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Real Estate (Dealers and Developers) (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the Real Estate (Dealers and Developers) Act which governs the practice of Real Estate business in Jamaica.
70.	3	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Registration (Strata Titles) (Amendment) Bill	To improve the ability of the Strata Corporations to manage, control and administer the common property and resolve disputes in connection with such properties.
71.	4	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Water Supply and Sewerage Service Bill	To provide the framework for multiple service providers in the water sector through a licensing regime, and to establish the appropriate institutional framework, responsibilities and roles of the various players in the water sector consistent with the Policy.

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No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
72.	1	Office of the Prime Minister	Broadcasting and Radio Re-Diffusion (Amendment) Bill	To provide a legislative framework (as an interim measure pending promulgation of an ICT Act) for the electronic media sector which takes into account current and emerging advances in broadcasting regulation.
73.	2	Office of the Prime Minister	Television and Sound Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill	To provide a legislative framework (as an interim measure pending promulgation of an ICT Act) for the electronic media sector which takes into account current and emerging advances in broadcasting regulation
74.	3	Office of the Prime Minister	Betting Gaming and Lotteries Bill	To allow for the appointment of a Minister with responsibility for the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education Fund as distinct from the Minister with responsibility for Betting, Gaming and Lotteries

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