

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

Preamble

The Policy Development Programme (PDP) is a tool which is used to track the progress of national policies being developed by Ministries. The Programme is updated biannually, at six-month intervals. The current update includes information on 52 items as some ministries did not submit their updates within the required timeframe. Additionally, some of the items listed are being clarified with the relevant ministries. The items move in and out of the PDP because final approval has been secured or there are changes in the priorities of Ministries. *The steps in the PDP are summarised below:*

Annual Call for Policies

Ministries should advise the Cabinet Office of the status of policy initiatives in process and upcoming policy relevant activities for the financial year. Should a policy issue emerge after this activity is completed, the Cabinet Office can be advised by letter that a policy is being developed and should be included. This policy proposal will be submitted to the responsible Cabinet Committee for approval.

Development of a Concept Paper

Each Ministry must develop a **Concept Paper** which provides information on the nature of the problem to be addressed by the policy and what approach is being contemplated to resolve it. The Paper should include any initial research or consultations, i.e., the evidence on which this policy will be based. This concept paper will be reviewed by the Cabinet Office. If the Paper meets the criteria set out it will be recommended for Submission to the responsible Cabinet Committee. If the recommendation is accepted by the Committee the policy will be approved for development.

Planning for Policy Preparation

Once the Cabinet Committee approves the policy for development, the Ministry must prepare an Action Plan which must include timelines and resources.

Key

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Policy Preparation & Analysis

The Ministry should prepare a draft policy document for consideration by the responsible Cabinet Committee. The Committee may take a decision to approve the document for public consultation or recommend changes which must be resubmitted for final approval of the document. The movement of the policy document depends entirely on the decision of the Cabinet Committee.

Public Consultations & Review (Green Paper)

Once the draft document is ready for consideration, it must be submitted to the responsible Cabinet Committee for approval as a Green Paper. This document will be used as the basis for meeting with key stakeholder groups, inside and outside the ministry/agency, to get feedback on the draft policy. All consultations must be guided by the **Consultation Code of Practice for the Public Sector** which sets out the standards for such activity.

Point of Readiness (White Paper)

The draft document must be revised based upon feedback from the consultative process. Once revisions are incorporated the Ministry may want to go back to key stakeholders with the revised inputs for the policy. Once the consultation process is concluded the final document should be prepared and submitted to the responsible Cabinet Committee for consideration. The Cabinet Committee may decide at this point to approve the tabling of the document in Parliament as a White Paper or recommend further changes to the final policy document.

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No.	Ministry	Name of Policy	Purpose	Stage	Status
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: -Alignment of the value-chain to ensure greater equity to all industry stakeholders inclusive of the consumer; -Increasing the international competitiveness of local beef and milk production; -Attracting youth and women to ensure continuity.	2	
	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.		See the Ministry of Health section
2	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	Three islandwide consultations were carried out and these comments are now being incorporated into the policy. The policy will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in the FY 2009/2010.
3	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.	5	An islandwide consultation was carried out and comments are now being incorporated into the policy. The policy will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in the FY 2009/2010.

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4	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	
5	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	
6	Education	Language in Education Policy	This policy provides direction for the treatment of language issues in the Jamaican educational context in order to improve language and literacy competencies.	4	
7	Education	Mathematics and Numeracy Policy	This Policy outlines the principles concerning the use of Mathematics both as a natural tool throughout the curriculum and one to be used in everyday life.	4	
8	Education	ICT in Education Policy	The policy proposes to provide a framework to guide the development of the nation's schools through the provision of access to current technologies to all students while equipping teachers with ICT skills to develop and deliver curriculum.	4	
9	Education	Boarding Policy	This policy will set out guidelines with respect to the operation of boarding schools targeting areas such as administration and management in order to support access and equity.	4	

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10	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	
11	Education	Guidance and Counselling Policy	This policy will provide a national framework for a more structured approach to the delivery of the guidance programme in its three components viz. curriculum, responsive services and service learning.	4	
12	Education	National Policy for Health and Family Life Education in Jamaica	The policy will seek to ensure more systematic and effective development and implementation of HFLE by institutionalizing the mechanisms for strengthening and facilitating HFLE in the formal and non formal sectors.	4	This existing Policy is being revised based on feedback from evaluation of its implementation.
13	Education	National Policy for HIV/AIDS Management in Schools	The policy which guides the management of HIV/AIDS within educational institutions in order to promote effective prevention and care within the context of the educational system is being reviewed.	4	This Policy document being revised to include further comments from internal stakeholders.
14	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.	4	Under further review.
15	Education	Sixth Form Policy	This policy will guide the establishment and structure of the Sixth Form programme.	4	
16	Education	National Curriculum Policy	The policy will create a regulatory framework that will provide clear and specific guidelines that will	4	Policy being reviewed for alignment to the <i>Standards</i>

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			result in the development and implementation of the highest quality curricula.		<i>for Jamaican Primary Schools.</i>
17	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.	4	Further work is being done to provide additional information on the proposed new direction of providing education up to age 18 years.
18	Education	GSAT Placement/NAP Policy	The policy will guide the placement of students at secondary schools.	2	
19	Education	TVET Rationalization Policy	The policy will provide guidelines to expand access to technical and vocational education at the secondary level to ensure that all secondary level students acquire marketable skills	4	Being considered as part of the Compulsory Education Policy.
20	Education	Re-integration of School -aged Mothers in the formal Education System	The policy will provide the framework for the re-integration of teenage mothers into the formal public education system to continue their education.	2	
21	Education	National Parenting Policy	To support the development of an enabling environment for our nation's children	6	
22	Education	Competence-based Transition Policy	The policy is designed to ensure that students transitioning from the primary to the secondary level are ready to access secondary education.	4	
23	Energy & Mining	National Energy Policy 2006-2020	This policy seeks to , among other things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Energy Policy; • Diversify the Energy base • Encourage conservation and efficiency in energy production and use; and 	5	This policy has been the subject of broad national consultations. It is at the stage of Green Paper, and has been tabled in the

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make electricity available and affordable to customers 		Houses of Parliament (February 28, 2006) for further debate.
24	Energy & Mining	National Minerals Policy	The policy is meant to bring a focused approach to the development of the minerals industry. A major purpose is ensuring that the non-traditional and emerging segments of the industry are afforded significant opportunities to make an increased contribution to the country's development.	5	<p>The public consultations have been completed. The recommendations obtained during the consultations are being included in the revised draft policy, which will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>N.B. The National Energy Conservation and Efficiency Policy (An addendum to the National Energy Policy 2006-2020) was accepted by Cabinet and tabled in Parliament as an addendum to the National Energy Policy on 27th July 2008.</p>
	Finance & the Public Service	<i>No update received</i>			
	Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade	<i>The Ministry is developing policies to guide its work. There are no policies that will go the route of Green Paper or White Paper at this</i>			

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		<i>time.</i>			
25	Health	National Health Policy	Review of 1991 Policy to make it more responsive to national and international goals.		The Ministry is reviewing data and examining options.
26	Health	Medical Waste Management Policy	The Policy covers the Management of Medical Waste that is generated by healthcare, pharmaceutical and veterinary facilities. It outlines the regulatory and operational requirements to manage waste in a manner that will ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe environment for employees, patients and visitors - comply with national policies and regulations, which govern the medical waste management structure. Protection of surrounding communities from inappropriate handling, treatment and disposal of medical waste.		The Ministry is currently in having discussions in respect of this Policy.
27	Health	Food Safety Policy	To implement programmes which promote high standards of food hygiene and maintain systems of surveillance and control to ensure compliance with those standards.		The Policy has not yet been adopted. Discussions are ongoing and the Policy is still being reviewed by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce.
	Industry, Investment & Commerce	<i>No update received</i>			

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28	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	Over a four-month period from August 12 to November 25, 2008, twenty-three (23) public consultations were conducted across the island. Revisions to the draft policy are currently being made.
29	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	A Joint Select Committee of parliament was convened in September 2008 to review the Green Paper on HIV&AIDS and to make recommendations to the Houses of Parliament. The 11 member committee had four settings between November 2008 and March 2009. A draft report was developed to inform the House of the issues deliberated and the recommendations.
30	Labour & Social Security	National Employment Policy	To promote full and productive employment for all groups (including the disabled) and employment free from discrimination base on sex, religion, race, colour or political extraction.	2	Initial Concept Paper drafted. The National Employment Report is currently being updated. The statistics from this document will be used to guide the preparation of the National Employment Policy.

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31	Labour & Social Security	National Hazardous Installation Policy	To set out types of sites deemed hazardous and the protocol for visiting and inspecting these locations to ensure that they are adhering to the various laws.	5	Consultations with the various stakeholders have halted pending the OSH Act. However, by mutual agreement with the partners, the process of consultation will re-commence June 2009.
	<i>National Security</i>	<i>No update received</i>			
32	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.	5	Draft Policy is being updated to address concerns such as effects of large coastal developments on the foreshore.
33	Office of the Prime Minister	National Policy and Strategy on Environmental Management Systems	To establish and the framework within which Environmental Management Systems will be adopted across all sectors of society.	5	Draft Policy approved as a Green Paper by Cabinet in 2001. Further comments on the Policy were sought from the NEPA. Discussions are to be held with the relevant stakeholders regarding actions and revised timelines in the Strategy.
34	Office of the Prime Minister	Policy on Environmental Stewardship of Government	For the public service to lead conservation and efficiency measures by example	5	

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		Operations			
35	Office of the Prime Minister	Towards a Watershed Policy for Jamaica	To provide guidelines for watershed management and funding	5	
36	Office of the Prime Minister	Biosafety Policy	Institutional framework for Biosafety in Jamaica	5	
37	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.	4	
38	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	5	Policy approved by Cabinet in June 2008 for tabling as a Green Paper in the Houses of Parliament.
39	Office of the Prime Minister	Policy Towards Dolphin Conservation	Dolphin conservation and dolphin attractions management	5	
40	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.	4	This is a joint Policy (that is, a combination of the Coral Reef Protection and Preservation Policy/ Conservation of Sea Grass, draft 1997 and the Mangrove and Coastal Wetlands Protection Policy draft 1998)
41	Office of the Prime Minister	Mariculture Policy	To establish guidelines for mariculture.	4	
42	Office of the Prime Minister	Policy on Homelessness in Jamaica	To provide a framework which addresses the management of the homeless in Jamaica, and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of Agencies/stakeholders.		
43	Office of the Prime	Telecommunications	The purpose of the policy is to foster the	5	This draft policy document

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	Minister	Policy	development of the telecommunications industry while protecting the interest of the public through: promotion of fair and open competition in the provision of specified services and telecommunications equipment ; the promotion of access to specified services; effective regulation of the industry; promotion of the interest of customers, purchasers and other users; and the promotion of universal access to telecommunications services to all persons in Jamaica.		has been the subject of national public consultations and has evolved into an Information and Communication Technologies Policy. The public comments are being analyzed for inclusion in the draft policy, which should be submitted to Cabinet shortly.
44	Tourism	Water Leisure Sports (Marine) Policy	To streamline and integrate the management of motorized and non-motorized water based leisure sports in marine recreational areas.	1	
45	Tourism	Water Leisure (River) Policy	To streamline and integrate the management of river based water sports activities in rivers designated for recreational use.	1	
46	Tourism	Tourism Export Incentives	To promote and increase investments in the tourism sector	4	
47	Tourism	Tourist Industry Pension Scheme	To secure improvements in work force efficiency and welfare	4	
48	Transport & Works	Port Security Policy for Jamaica	To facilitate the seamless integration of port security regulations (air and sea) in accordance with the International Maritime Organization Conventions and the Chicago Convention which governs international aviation; to recommend that operationally the Port Security Corps should have primary responsibility for the security at the air and seaports islandwide.	2	The matter is on hold.
49	Transport and Works	Right of Way Policy (ROW)	To provide an enabling environment and the necessary infrastructure to ensure the orderly	4	

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			and efficient use of the ROW 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.		
50	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 Jamaican's by 2025	4	.
	Youth, Culture & Sports	<i>No update received</i>			
51	Cabinet Office	Data Sharing and Pricing Policy	The primary objective 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 timely decision-making.	2	
52	Cabinet Office	Decentralization Policy	The policy seeks to create the framework for the decentralization of public services where appropriate.	2	

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