

FACTSHEET

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

The **Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA)**, which falls under the ambit of the Cabinet Office, is mandated to:

1. Advise the Prime Minister and the National Security Council on security, intelligence and defence matters;
2. Provide coordination across the country's security operations;
3. Act as principal channel for communication between the government and the intelligence community on issues that concern the community as a whole.

Vision for National Security

“To protect the people of Jamaica and ensure their peace, safety and freedom, so that together we can build a prosperous and progressive society, founded on justice, democracy, human rights and respect for human dignity.”

The Office of the National Security Advisor was formed on December 1, 2016 by a decision of Cabinet. The office has a chief executive who is the National Security Advisor who is supported by a small dedicated staff with a focus on strategic security initiatives, major national security developments and on the impact of regional and international security considerations for Jamaica.

The work of the office is inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral in scope, which has caused it to be located within the Office of the Cabinet.

The form and structure of the ONSA is tailored to suit Jamaica's security and environment, in light of the current security threats and economic realities, and will improve Jamaica's capacity to identify and prioritize threats to national security, and support strategic policy development.

The head of ONSA reports to the Prime Minister and provides analysis and recommendations:

1. Current and perceived threats to national security and public order and safety
2. Strategic operations on national security in strategic and crisis situations
3. Implementation and updates on national security policy
4. Ethical and legal issues across security communities including cyber security.
5. Recovery from emergencies.

Prioritization of threats to Jamaica

| | HIGH IMPACT | LOW IMPACT |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| HIGH PROBABILITY | Tier 1: Clear and present danger | Tier 3: Persistent problems |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transnational organised crime • Gangs and domestic organised crime • Facilitators who launder the proceeds of crime • Corruption of elected and public officials • Serious delays and other failings of the justice system • Political tribalism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low economic growth • High rates of unemployment • Increasing disparity in wealth, education, social services • Possible loss of credibility with key international partners |
| LOW PROBABILITY | Tier 2: Major potential threats | Tier 4: Possible risks that require monitoring |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International drug cartels and narco terrorists • Terrorism and its impact on industry • Energy and resource security, climate change, natural hazards, biodiversity loss | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security • Water security • Deportees |

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