

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA POLICY REGISTER

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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 assist policy development and implementation.

While 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 and Mining	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Minerals Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 19 March 2020	The Policy will create the framework to attract investments in the industrial and metallic mineral sectors, including prospecting for gold and copper, as well as exploitation of Jamaica's limestone potential.
National Seed Policy and Plan - White Paper No. 1/19 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on the 23 July 2019	The goal of the Policy is to establish a sustainable seed system that ensures a consistent and reliable supply of clean, affordable and accessible seed in support of agricultural production, productivity, food security and biodiversity.
National Plant Health Policy - Ministry Paper No. 4/11 dated 25 January 2011 - Ministry Paper No. 62/14 dated 29 April 2014 (for Implementation Plan)	The Policy seeks to address the gaps and failures in the current plant health system in the light of the requirements of international treaties and agreements of which Jamaica is signatory and food safety and phytosanitary standards of major trading partners.
Food Safety Policy and Implementation Plan - Ministry Paper No. 107/13 dated 10 September 2013	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.
National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan - Ministry Paper No. 40/13 dated 8 May 2013	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 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.

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Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	
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.
National Sports Policy	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. 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. To develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sports generally. To influence the development of strategies and programmes for the coordinated development of Sport.
National Policy on Gender Equality - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 22 & 24 November 2011	To mainstream gender, within a human rights-based framework, in all state institutions and their apparatuses, in partnership with private sector, non-governmental and civil society organizations, to ensure that females and males have equal access to opportunities, resources, and rewards in order to eliminate discrimination based on gender and to promote sustainable human development.

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Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Watersheds Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 21 March 2024	To facilitate effective management of the island's critical watershed areas.
Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 16 March 2023	To guide Jamaica's approach to addressing climate change.
Emissions Policy Framework for Jamaica - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 16 March 2023	To address the management of emissions from the following sources: • industrial processes including power generation; • land, air and sea transportation; • waste disposal and treatment; • land-use and biomass burning; • agricultural by-products; and • residential and commercial sources.
National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 28 February 2023.	To give strategic direction to Jamaica's housing sector through an enabling framework within which access to affordable, safe and legal housing solutions for all Jamaicans will be achieved by 2030.
National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 12 October 2021	To ensure the management of hazardous wastes within Jamaica.
Biosafety Policy for Jamaica - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 15 and 17 September 2021	To regulate living modified organisms within Jamaica's jurisdiction.

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Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Policy on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) - Ministry Paper No. 61/19 and White Paper No. 4/19 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 10 September 2019	To support the implementation of Environmental Management Systems in the public and private sectors.
National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan - Ministry Paper No. 35/19 tabled on 2 July 2019	To provide universal access to potable water to all Jamaicans by 2030.
Forestry Policy - White Paper No. 1/17 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 9 March 2017	The goals of the Policy are presented under three broad headings: 1. Governance of the forestry sector; 2. The conservation and protection of forest ecological systems; and 3. Incorporation of socio-economic considerations into forest management.
Construction Policy - White Paper No. 2 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 12 May 2015	The Policy seeks to address the anomalies that have hampered the growth of the nation's construction. It addresses issues such as: 1. Safety and security; 2. Quality of inputs and outputs; 3. Environmental factors including climate change; 4. Research and development; 5. The registration of professionals and enterprises; 6. The refinement of procurement rules and guidelines; and 7. The development of skill levels within the construction industry

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Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Orchid Policy (2014) - Ministry Paper No. 02/14 dated February 2014	To guide the local trade in orchids and protect endemic and endangered species.
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 Land Policy (1997)	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. The Policy also aims to compliment socioeconomic development initiatives of the country. It challenges and seeks to remove inefficient, onerous and outdated legal, administrative, management and other barriers that affect the planning, use, control, development, protection and conservation of Jamaica's physical resources.
Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (November 1997)	To support the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional system of protected areas.
Policy Framework and Procedures Manual for the Privatisation of Government Assets	To guide the privatisation of public assets.
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).

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Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
The National Youth Policy (2017 to 2030) - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 14 November 2017	This Policy aims to provide the guiding principles and a framework for enhancing youth development. It sets out a mechanism to create an environment that will optimize the potential of young Jamaican to adequately adapt to and cope with the various environmental and social challenges.
Education: The Way Upward - Ministry Paper No. 6 dated 16 February 2001	This Policy 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 is 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 aims 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 curriculum by being certified as literate through the National Grade Four Literacy Test.
National Policy on Children (1997)	This Policy aims to: • ensure the right of every child to life and the attainment of the highest health standard for children; • guarantee protection from all forms of maltreatment and special care for the disabled children and children without families; • ensure protection from interference with privacy and special protection in times of civil disturbances or war; • recognise children as whole human beings having an inalienable right to participate in society's affairs within their intellectual and emotional capacities; • ensure special care, education and training for all children with disabilities to enable them to realise their fullest potential; • facilitate the involvement of children in all aspects of civil society in keeping with the child's evolving capacities; and • ensure the recognition of the child's identity with a view to promoting his/her participation in civil society.

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Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Natural Disaster Risk Financing Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 27 June 2023	To reduce the fiscal impact of natural disasters through the adoption of risk layering strategies combining risk retention and transfer instruments.
National Population and Sustainable Development Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 6 December 2022	To influence population parameters – fertility, mortality, and migration – to meet the sustainable development imperatives of the country.
National Policy on International Migration and Development - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 6 June 2017	The overall objective of the National Policy and Plan of Action is to contribute to socio-economic development by integrating international migration into development planning at the national and sectoral levels. The Policy will forge a common understanding of the migration and development nexus. A number of positive impacts have been identified, which underscore the potential of migration to contribute to development. It is designed to: • better utilize international migration flows to improve critical economic development indicators and outcomes; • improve the quality of life of migrants and citizens through: (i) direct assistance to targeted sectors; and (ii) overall knowledge, skills and cultural exchanges; • foster collaborative efforts that seek to create a more defined foreign policy position on issues dealing with border protection and management; • guide actions and establish protocols and mechanisms for the definitive steps to be taken by the National Working Group on International Migration and Development and the International Migration and Development Monitoring Board; • introduce, rationalize and repeal migration related legislation; • improve collaboration and dialogue among MDAs to ensure inter-institutional policy coherence; and • facilitate stronger partnerships with non-state actors through the utilization of participatory approaches to national development.

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Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Reform of the Public Sector Pension System	To provide a framework for reform of the Public Sector Pension System.
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 will guide public officers and all stakeholders and give direction for the further development of the procurement system.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Diaspora Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 8 November 2022	To provide a framework for formalising a robust partnership between Jamaica and its Diaspora.
National Foreign Trade Policy and Action Plan - Ministry Paper No. 62/18 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 3 July 2018	To firmly place foreign trade as a national priority, promote the mainstreaming of foreign trade via a “whole-of-government” approach, and recognize and promote the pivotal role of the private sector and public/private collaboration in foreign trade.
Ocean and Coastal Zone Management Policy - Ministry Paper No. 14/02 dated 24 July 2002	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.

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Ministry of Health and Wellness	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 15 December 2020	To create a sustainable environment that will contribute to reduction in child morbidity and mortality and improvement in child health nutrition.
National HIV/AIDS Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 20 and 22 July 2005	• 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.
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.
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
National Investment Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 6 December 2022	To provide the framework to align the efforts of all the entities involved in the attraction and facilitation of investments from both local and international sources.
National Craft Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 26 November 2019	The National Craft Policy is aimed primarily at developing the institutional structure of the craft sector for its continued growth and development; strengthening linkages between craft and the tourism sector; as well as creating a suitable framework for addressing the needs of craft producers, traders, artisans etc.
National Quality Policy - Ministry Paper No. 23/19 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 21 May 2019	To create an enabling environment which facilitates the production and export of quality goods and services through the establishment and use of the National Quality Infrastructure to ensure compliance with global market requirements.
Updated Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship Policy - Ministry Paper No. 66/18 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 3 July 2018	The Policy refocuses on the development of the micro, small and mediums sized enterprises and refines the programmatic areas of business development support and capacity building, an enabling business environment, improving financing to the sector, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship along with cross cutting issues.
Special Economic Zones Policy - Ministry Paper No. 116/15 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 24 July 2015	To provide a framework for Special Economic Zones in Jamaica where globally competitive firms will thrive, driving growth and development for all in a logistics-centred Jamaican economy.
Motor Vehicle Policy	This Policy provides for the importation & sale of motor vehicles, inspection and regulations of the sale of motor vehicles on the domestic market.

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Ministry of Justice	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Restorative Justice Policy	Restorative Justice is a process whereby all the parties with a stake in a particular offence come together to resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offence. This is a different way of thinking about crime and conflict. It involves the victim, offender and community. The Policy has a multi-tiered approach and allows for six (6) referral points from the formal justice system to the restorative programme.
National Child Diversion Policy - White Paper No. 4 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 29 September 2015	The Policy establishes a framework for dealing with children in conflict with the law throughout the criminal justice system and seeks to ensure that detention of a child as punishment for anti-social behaviour becomes a measure of last resort.
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
Revised National Policy for Senior Citizens - Tabled in the House of Representatives on 6 October 2021, and in the Senate on 8 October 2021	To re-examine the current Policy given the faster changes in the population, the main international and regional agreements, and the emerging position in the research on ageing.
National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS - Ministry Paper No.13 /2013 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 5 February 2013	The Policy is a framework for action by government, employers and workers to deal effectively with HIV and AIDS at the workplace. It seeks to facilitate the development of a working environment that protects the rights of workers regardless of their HIV status. It is premised on the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) ten (10) key principles on HIV/AIDS and the Workplace, as enunciated by the 2001 ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work.
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.

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Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
The Ministry currently has no national policies.	

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Ministry of Local Government and Community Development			
Policies that Currently Guide Operations			Purpose
National Solid Waste Management Policy			The Policy covers the following issues in relation to solid waste management: • 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
Local Government Reform Policy (2003) - Ministry Paper No. 7 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 14 February 2003			The Policy 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. 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: • Participatory • Autonomy • Accountability • Developmental • Empowerment The Policy provisions cover 5 main areas: • 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. • Initiation of 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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Ministry of National Security	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Public Officers Protection Systems (POPS) Policy (2021) - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 6 October 2021	To establish an efficient system to provide graduated levels of security to public officials (or their spouses) in response to threats perceived, received or detected, as consequence of the nature of the duties performed, to support the business continuity of government. Ultimately, the POPS will improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which public officials are protected and modernize the Government's approach in providing these services to ensure continuity of critical public institutions and systems.
National Security Policy (2013) - Ministry Paper No. 63 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 29 April 2014	This is an overarching policy, coordinating the activities of Government around the issues of National Security.

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Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy and Guidelines for Public Facilities, Specifically for Schools and Hospitals - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 27 June 2023	The Policy demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to implementing durable energy-efficient measures that can result in substantial cost savings for educational and healthcare facilities.
Electric Vehicle Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 20 June 2023	The Policy supports the promotion of the deployment of electric vehicles to contribute the reduction of vehicle emissions, decarbonisation of electricity generation, deployment of recharging infrastructure and sustainable re-use of batteries.
National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 10 February 2022	The Policy aims to propel productivity and improve competitiveness of the country's industry structures.
National Energy Policy 2009-2030 - Ministry Paper No. 124 - tabled in the House of Representatives on 8 December 2009; and in the Senate on 11 December 2009	This Policy seeks to, among other things: • manage the 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.
National Transport Policy (2007)	The Policy serves 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.
National Road Safety Policy (2004)	The Policy 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.

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Ministry of Tourism	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
Tourism Networks Policy and Strategy - Ministry Paper No. 32/20 and White Paper No. 1/20 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 24 June 2020	The Policy and Strategy are designed to enable the tourism sector to facilitate growth in the economy through key Networks that provide a foundation for coordinated achievement and growth. The Policy and Strategy document will present a framework for expanding the activities of the Linkages Programme, with the build-out of five Network areas, namely: 1) Knowledge; 2) Gastronomy; 3) Health and Wellness; 4) Shopping; and 5) Sports and Entertainment.
National Community Tourism Policy and Strategy - Ministry Paper No. 40/15 and White Paper No. 1/15 tabled in the Houses of Parliament 14 April 2015	The Policy seeks to: • facilitate an internationally competitive, robust and inclusive community tourism sub-sector; • support local communities, entrepreneurs and non-governmental organisations to develop export market ready, sustainable community tourism experiences; • promote community tourism that is consistent with, and does not compromise national policies for resource protection, cultural identity and community governance; and • support community tourism that creates the conditions to advance national policies and general social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for local communities.

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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.
National Identification System (NIDS) - Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 8 November 2016	The overall objective of the NIDS is to: • guarantee that each citizen or person ordinarily resident in Jamaica will be issued with a lifetime unique national identification number (NIN); • establish a reliable database of Jamaican citizens and other individuals ordinarily resident in Jamaica, with a NIN as the primary key/identifier of a person in the system: ○ issue each citizen or person ordinarily resident with a multi-purpose identification card; ○ establish an effective and convenient system of identification verification and authentication thereby reducing the possibility of persons having multiple identities; ○ improve the governance and management of national, social, economic and security programmes; and ○ strengthen immigration and border control arrangements.

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Office of the Cabinet	
Policies that Currently Guide Operations	Purpose
The Ministry currently has no national policies.	