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JAMAICA CANNABIS INDUSTRY START DELAYED

In response to numerous queries, the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) has announced that it will not be accepting applications starting, April 4th as initially indicated. “The transition to a new Government has caused some delays in our getting the regulations that had been developed approved”, confirmed CLA Chairman, Dr. Andre Gordon. The Chairman confirmed that while Minister with portfolio responsibility – the Hon. Karl Samuda – has seen the draft regulations, a meeting needs to be held with the Minister of Justice who has to review and approve them for the industry to be able to commence operations. With both Ministers just having taken office, it should be understandable that it has taken time to get matters such as these addressed, he said.

The Authority had hoped that, at a minimum, it would have been able to release the application forms, eligibility criteria and price structure to potential licensees under Jamaica’s legal cannabis industry. These, however, have to be the subject of Ministerial approval and must await the meeting which, they expect will be able to take place shortly. The CLA therefore expects that before the end of the month, applications will start being reviewed.

For further information, contact: Cannabis Licensing Authority Secretariat – secretariat@cla.org.jm

“It is unfortunate that we weren’t able to start as we had hoped,” stated portfolio Minister, the Hon. Karl Samuda, “but we must take the time necessary to ensure that the regulations are so written to ensure that the industry is structured to benefit Jamaicans, and grow legitimate small enterprises across the country, while ensuring that Jamaica remains compliant with its international obligations.”

In a press release in February, In addition to announcing an April 4 start date to the industry, the Cannabis Licensing Authority had indicated that eleven types of licenses across five main categories will be made available to interested persons – cultivator, transportation, processing, retailing, and R&D – ensuring coverage over the entire value chain for the Jamaican ganja industry. They had also noted that once the interim regulations have been agreed, the Authority will still continue its consultations with the hosting of a series of town-hall meetings islandwide, where it hopes to gather additional information to refine the licensing regime and build- out the full enforcement and monitoring framework that will underpin the emergence of Jamaica’s new legal ganja industry.

The Authority requested that interested persons email them at secretariat@cla.org.jm, to be added to their database of potential applicants that are kept updated on any developments on the regulations and the applications process being formulated for the industry.

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**Cannabis
Licensing
Authority**
Jamaica

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Notes to Editors:

About the Cannabis Licensing Authority: The CLA, which was created by the Dangerous Drug Act, has powers to make and oversee the implementation of regulations for licences, permits and other authorisations for the cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and transportation of ganja, for medicinal, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

About Jamaica's UN Drug Treaty Obligation: Parties to the 1961 Convention undertake to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution and stocks of, trade in and use and possession of the controlled drugs so that they are used exclusively for medical and scientific purposes. The production and distribution of controlled substances must be licensed and supervised.

Interviews: Interviews with Hyacinth Lightbourne, Chairman of the CLA, and other designated Board spokespersons will be available on request

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