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KINGSTON, JAMAICA



**Cannabis
Licensing
Authority**
Jamaica

Building an Industry;
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Cannabis Licensing Authority Hosts Inventory Management Workshop for Traditional Ganja Farmers in Accompong

In line with its principle to ensure traditional ganja farmers are included in the local legal ganja industry, the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) engaged 35 persons from the Accompong Maroon Community in St. Elizabeth in an Inventory Management Workshop. The participants are part of the Alternative Development Programme (ADP) pilot project in the Community. The August 22 Workshop was the third in the series organised by the Authority to ensure compliance of operators in the legal ganja industry with local and international regulations relating to the tracking and tracing of cannabis for medical, therapeutic and scientific purposes.

The farmers, who are now cultivating ganja for medical, therapeutic and scientific purposes, were exposed to industry-specific insight into Jamaica's international obligations and regulatory requirements. Additionally, participants were introduced to ganja plant inventory management, from startup material to cultivation, harvesting, disposal and sale, as well as control mechanisms and reporting procedures for the legal cannabis industry.

Highlighting that the session is one of mutual exchange between the CLA and the cultivators, Director of Enforcement and Monitoring at the CLA, Faith Graham, said proper inventory management is important to ensure that the CLA can track and trace ganja within the legal framework as is required by law. Echoing the sentiments of Chief Executive Officer at the CLA, Lincoln Allen, Graham declared that "The CLA wants the ADP to work, so we have to ensure compliance. The success of the ADP is very important for Accompong and for Jamaica."

The Alternative Development Programme, which is led by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries' and supported by the CLA, seeks to transition ganja farmers from the illicit trade to the legal ganja industry for medical, therapeutic and scientific purposes. According to Director of Special Projects at the CLA, Anthony Watson, the Jamaican version of the ADP is unique. Unlike its counterparts worldwide, the Jamaican ADP does not substitute the illicit crop with another crop but substitutes the illegal market with the legal market. Watson added that the programme "is a way of ensuring that those who were instrumental in establishing the Jamaican ganja brand will benefit from Jamaica's burgeoning legal ganja industry."

Opening the session, Colonel of the Accompong Maroons, Ferron Williams, expressed gratitude for the continued support of the CLA and expressed that "the CLA coming to Accompong with a full team shows

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its commitment to the success of the ADP.” Colonel Williams says the Community and himself are dedicated to the success of the project, adding that, “The Maroons will not fail.”

Workshop participants, Shaniece Whyte and Rohan DeRoue expressed that being able to go through the inventory management processes step by step with the CLA team ensures that the persons working in the Accompong Pilot Project are aware of the requirements and reasons for reporting within the legal framework, as well as the importance of the matter. DeRoue added that he was, “Happy for the guidance of the CLA in keeping the project on track.”

Each participant received foundation packages with resource material to assist in executing the skills taught at the workshop. The workshop culminated with the presentation of Certificates of Participation to all participants. The CLA will host a second workshop in Accompong for other persons working in the pilot project.

###END###

Notes to Editors:

About the Cannabis Licensing Authority: The CLA, which was created by the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) 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 medical, 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: Available on request

Images: Appended to email with captions

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