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KINGSTON, JAMAICA



Building an Industry;
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Jamaica Facilitates Transhipment of Cannabis from SVG

Jamaica has authorised its first legal transhipment of ganja through Jamaica. The Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) authorised the transhipment of a consignment of cannabis through Jamaica from fellow Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member state, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This means that Jamaica served as a point for transferring cannabis from one vessel to another to facilitate the journey to its final destination.

This transhipment from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Germany sets the stage for Jamaica to become a hub for the transhipment of cannabis for medical purposes.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently announced its export of cannabis to Europe after receiving an import permit from the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices to legally export cannabis to Germany.

Interim Chief Executive Officer at the CLA, Daenia Ashpole, says that the CLA has issued a total of 113 authorisations for export to local companies in the cannabis industry, and 60 per cent of those export authorisations were issued in 2021. She says, in advance of the promulgation of regulations for import, export, transit, and transhipment of cannabis, the CLA has put in place interim measures that facilitate the legal trans-border trade of cannabis.

"The CLA has been facilitating local export of medical cannabis since 2018, so facilitating the transhipment of cannabis from another country is just another service we can offer, and this will be further strengthened on the promulgation of the regulations for import, export, transit, and transhipment," Ashpole added.

Chairman of the CLA's Board of Directors, LeVaughn Flynn, says this approval to tranship cannabis through Jamaica aligns with the CLA's vision to strengthen stakeholder collaboration and drive economic activity. He says that "the CLA has been coalescing other government and private sector agencies in preparation for the regulations which will promote economic momentum."

"We have been working with the Civil Aviation Authority, Montego Bay Jamaica Airport Ltd., Norman Manley International Airport Ltd., the Jamaica Constabulary Force - Narcotics Division, Airport Police and Canine Division, Jamaica Customs Agency, AJAS Aviation Services, and the Plant Quarantine Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to craft standard operating procedures for the management of import and export of cannabis so that when the regulations are promulgated the processes will already be in place from our end," Flynn added.

Since November 2018, the CLA has authorised local companies to export ganja and hemp buds, seeds, oil/resin, and tinctures. These Authorisations have been destined for Canada, Australia, Israel, Zimbabwe, the Cayman Islands, USA, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, and England.

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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 enforce regulations for licences, permits and 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 Single 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: n/a

Website: www.cla.org.jm

Social Media: Facebook: facebook.com/TheCannabisLicensingAuthority

Twitter: twitter.com/cla_jamaica

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