Welcome, each and every one of our readers, to this inaugural issue of NIA’s quarterly newsletter ‘Integrity Matters’. We are launching this newsletter in response to members and friends of NIA, who want to know more about what we have been doing, beyond hearing news releases and viewing TV reports of presentations.

In this and future newsletters, we shall be providing snippets of NIA’s wide-ranging activities over each quarter: in town and country, amongst the youth, students and senior citizens; with the ‘grassroots’ and professional groups; with church organizations and service clubs; in communities and institutions; outside Jamaica - in the Caribbean and wider afield.

Our purpose is to bring us closer together in the various branches of our common cause; to help more Jamaicans ‘do the right thing’, to strengthen integrity and combat corruption. We welcome your feedback and most of all your involvement in making Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

Enjoy your read!
Well, quite a lot actually. National Integrity Action (NIA) got busy with a number of activities over the April – June quarter of 2017. Some were solo efforts, while others took place in collaboration with other organizations. NIA representatives were also invited to several speaking engagements. Let’s mention a few…

Wah Gwaan? What’s Been Happening?

- Dialogue with Hon. Bruce Golding & Dr. Damien King
- Regional Investigative Journalism Training
- CARIMAC/NIA Investigative Journalism Training
- Communications Strategies Training
- YWCJ Integrity Ambassadors’ Graduation
- Optimist International Caribbean District Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Harbour View Optimist Club Recycling Project
NIA-COMET II Community Journalism Training: Journalists with Integrity!

National Integrity Action (NIA) partnered with USAID COMET II for a Community Journalism Training course entitled: “How to Become a Journalist with Integrity and Impact” in April 2017. The 34 participants journalists had already excelled in previous training programmes sponsored or facilitated by NIA and USAID COMET II, which provided them with a strong foundation for this project. Residents from seven parishes were trained as Community Journalists.

Global Reporters for the Caribbean, led by investigative journalist Zahra Burton, conducted the training sessions, with the support of presenters from the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA), Panos Caribbean, and Nationwide News Network. Tressa West, Legal Research Assistant from NIA’s Advice Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) team helped guide the trainee journalists in their discussions, covering print, broadcast and online media.

Impact: Several media houses are interested in publishing the community journalists’ stories, once completed. NIA is also considering using them in furtherance of its own work. NIA wants to amplify and increase the number of citizens’ voices who are willing to publicly hold people in authority to account. NIA expects to read, see and hear exciting reports in the future!

Participants in the Community Journalism Training

CARIMAC/NIA Weekend Seminar and Boot Camp on Investigative Journalism: Senior Journalists Take a Deeper Look.

This three-day weekend seminar, in collaboration with the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) on the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus, targeted senior journalists who have been practicing for five years or more. The group got their teeth into some important sessions headed by local and overseas facilitators, including Jamaican journalists Franklin McKnight and Zahra Burton; Media and Communications Specialist, Lecturer and Commentator

NIA member, Ricardo Burke expressing is experience as an advocate in his community.
Claude Robinson; Mark Beckford, Assistant Professor in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film at Howard University and journalist with the Washington Post; and Senior Lecturer at CARIMAC Dr. Canute James.

**Impact:** Journalists updated themselves on techniques of investigative journalism, ethical considerations in the information gathering process, the Access to Information Act, and the right to privacy. Important tools going forward!

**Boot Camp on Investigative Journalism: Junior Journalists Get Their Feet Wet!**

The Boot Camp targeted junior journalists in the field for five years or less. The Boot Camp was an intensive three-day seminar running from 9 am to 5 pm during the period June 29 to July 1. The journalists attended eleven sessions, delving into different aspects of investigative journalism. Pitching the Story, Censorship and Withholding Information, Investigating the Government, Health Sector and Business were among the topics up for discussion. Veteran journalist Franklin McKnight was joined by Ben Brodie, former Financial Times contributor and lecturer Dr. Canute James, former print journalist Tyrone Reid, Howard University’s Mark Beckford and Danielle Douglas-Gabriel, also a senior reporter with the Washington Post. Participants were enthusiastic about the presentations, which stimulated lively discussion and were highly interactive.

**Impact:** Junior journalists had a superb introduction to investigative journalism from the experts - both its opportunities and its pitfalls. NIA looks forward to seeing more probing stories in the coming months and years!
Communication Strategies and Public Speaking Workshop: Young NIA Members Energized for Advocacy

The European Union (EU) has provided funding for the project “Combatting Corruption in Jamaica: Improving Governance and the Justice System.” The overall objective of the project is to improve the quality of life of Jamaican citizens by advocating for greater transparency, accountability and integrity in the governance process. The aim of the project is the strengthening of the various entities involved in the advocacy, investigation and prosecution of corruption-related issues, with a focus on three areas - capacity building, awareness and sensitization, along with advocacy and monitoring.

Impact: Young NIA members are increasingly confident and committed to advocacy, in their communities and beyond. NIA has every expectation that they will “step up their game” as a result of this workshop!

Optimist International Caribbean District Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Focus on Optimism

NIA’s first engagement with the hearing disabled community, with funding from the Transparency International IMPACT project, took place on May 13, 2017 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica in Kingston, Jamaica. NIA collaborated with the Optimist International Caribbean District on the staging of the 2017 Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, open to students with a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, and those who can sign and/or speak their presentation. Students from four (4) Jamaican schools serving the deaf community competed for tertiary education scholarships offered by Optimist International.
From the 11 contestants, there were two winners in the Junior Category (Primary School) and three in the Senior Category (High School).

The theme of the contest was “What the World Gains From Optimism.” The competitors described their challenges, hopes and dreams, with one student stating simply that his goal was to be able to go to high school. Judge Antoinette Aiken commended the students, their parents, teachers, the audience and sponsors for their inspiring support for strengthening communication within the deaf community.

Impact: This was a valuable opportunity for NIA to expand its already extensive engagement with youth to those in the hearing disabled community. It is hoped that this engagement will continue.

NIA Dialogue with IAM on “Tertiary Funding Education”: Let’s Do More Than Just Vent!

NIA hosted a Dialogue with the executive members of the Integrity Action Movement (IAM) - a youth club affiliate located on the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus - the Jamaica Union for Tertiary Students and Jamaica Youth Ambassadors.

Funding tertiary education has been a burning issue for many students on the UWI, University of Technology and Edna Manley College campuses. NIA saw the need to deepen the dialogue on funding and at the same time to provide the information needed to strengthen students’ voices on the issue at the national level. Former Prime Minister of Jamaica Bruce Golding, Executive Director of CaPRI Dr. Damien King and NIA’s Executive Director Professor Trevor Munroe addressed the students. Mr. Golding and Professor Munroe encouraged the thirteen student leaders to do their research and work on a position paper. Dr. King explained that taking out a student loan was not such a bad deal, after all.

Impact: Student leaders came away better informed, with a clearer perspective on the issue. NIA expects that they will “do their homework” and present their views in an organized fashion to the “powers that be.”
NIA Orientation and Planning Workshop – Justices of the Peace: An Important Engagement with Citizens of Integrity

NIA was invited to partner with the Ministry of Justice on its series of Justice of the Peace (JP) Training Seminars. Professor Trevor Munroe and Dr. Patrece Charles had been delivering a series of keynote addresses at these seminars, and following up on this NIA invited individuals from the JP cohort to join the organization’s membership. The JPs were happy to accept!

The close to 9,000 JPs, who are essentially volunteer lay magistrates, have enormous responsibility as citizens of “unquestionable integrity” and are also usually already involved in advocacy and community strengthening activities.

At NIA’s highly focused Orientation Workshop on May 20, lessons learned and recommendations made included the need to ensure the accountability of all JPs; the need for mentorship among JPs; the desire to increase awareness of critical national issues and to find ways to develop more meaningful outreach to community members.

Impact: NIA got some new members! This workshop underlined the importance of NIA partnerships with Jamaicans who are on the “frontlines” of the anti-corruption fight. We expect this new partnership to help refocus Justices of the Peace on their key role as upholders of integrity and look forward to further training sessions with this group.

10,000 Men and Their Families March in West Kingston: Working Together for Change

On April 2, 2017 NIA supported the West Kingston staging of the 10,000 Men and their Families March, the last in the series of activities by the West Kingston Ministers Fraternal, in partnership with the Spanish Town Revival Secretarat, spearheaded by Bishop Rohan Edwards of Lighthouse Assembly. Deputy Executive Director Dr. Patrece Charles represented NIA on the platform along with members of the movement.

Over 3,000 persons attended the event, which began with a walk through sections of Tivoli Gardens and Denham Town. The message that resonated was the need for community involvement in the peace and safety of the community. Bishop Rohan Edwards spoke to the need for the church and the community to stand up and get involved in building a safer Jamaica. He welcomed partnerships such as the one with NIA, which he believes will transform Jamaica, with all sectors working for the good of the country.

Residents of West Kingston marching for social change in Jamaica.
Dr. Charles spoke to the need for respect for the laws of the land and for greater protection of the vulnerable, especially women and children. There was music in the form of a gospel concert, and Mayor of Kingston Delroy Williams brought greetings.

**Impact:** Faith-based organizations have enormous influence in communities such as those that have been targeted by Bishop Rohan Edwards and his colleagues. We expect his continuous working with partners such as NIA to bear fruit and to gradually create a more lawful and orderly society.

**Ewarton JBI Alumina Community Council Benevolent Society General Meeting: NIA Explains the Importance of Advocacy for Transparency in a Small Rural Community**

The Ewarton JBI Alumina Community Council Benevolent Society is a rural community association in the parish of St Catherine. These are individuals from communities directly affected by the operations of the bauxite and alumina complex of Windalco. These include farmers’ groups, citizens’ associations, churches, youths and retired public servants, among others. Benevolent Society members also include, most importantly, representatives from the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Windalco, leaders of community organisations and other agencies such as the Social Development Commission (SDC), National Water Commission (NWC), Rural Agricultural Development Agency and the Jamaica 4-H Clubs.

NIA Executive Director Professor Trevor Munroe was invited to address the group’s General Meeting on May 30, 2017 on the topic: “The Issue of corruption in the public sphere: How as a community we can assist in the fight against corruption.” The Society’s Vice President Hopeton Henry gave concrete examples pointing to the reality of corrupt practices in the community. Professor Munroe’s presentation on advocacy and the need for an organized, coherent voice sparked an intense discussion. Many participants said they would like to receive NIA’s advocacy training and completed membership application forms. NIA recognizes that this kind of interaction with smaller rural groups is an important part of its mandate and needs to be a sustained effort.

**Impact:** This session will empower many concerned citizens in this small rural community, impacted by a major industrial plant, to tackle instances of corruption at the local level and to advocate for a transparent processes. The citizens will receive more NIA training as they are keenly engaged on the issue.
Chapelton Town Hall Meeting: Who is Accountable for Disaster Preparedness and Management? – NIA Provides Answers

With European Union project funding, NIA collaborated with the Clarendon Parish Development Committee (CPDC) to host a Town Hall on June 14, 2017 under the theme “Disaster management and preparedness: Who is accountable?” Residents of the area felt the need to voice their concerns after heavy rainfall in the Parish, causing flooding and landslides. The Town Hall was endorsed by the National Association of Parish Development Committees and the Clarendon Municipal Corporation. Citizens had the opportunity to engage with a number of agencies, including the Ministry of Health, National Solid Waste Management Authority, National Works Agency, Jamaica Environment Trust, Rural Agricultural Development Authority, and Jamaica Public Service Company.

The aim of the meeting was to raise citizen awareness on local governance issues, as well as improve their capacity to demand transparency, accountability and integrity among the various stakeholders involved in disaster preparedness and emergency response (the issue of solid waste was high on the agenda).

Keynote speaker, Professor Munroe was not the only one to point out the need for citizens themselves to be prepared. Member of Parliament Pearnel Charles and Custos of Clarendon Hon. William Shagoury echoed the need for a proactive citizenry. The NIA head also reminded citizens to inform themselves on laws related to accountability on the part of local government entities.

Professor Munroe and Mayor Maragh identifies the flood prone areas in Clarendon.

Residents of Clarendon listen to the speaker attentively.

Professor Munroe conversing with the Mayor of Clarendon and representatives from the various public sectors.
**Impact:** Citizens came away armed with information that will help them prepare for future disasters; this is an area that is particularly vulnerable to climate change. They got the message that they should themselves take responsibility – and clean up their community.

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**Petersfield Sports & Community Club 32nd AGM – What is Sustainable Community Development?**

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Petersfield Sports & Community Club on June 24, 2017 in Westmoreland focused on sustainable community development. NIA Executive Director Professor Trevor Munroe was happy to accept an invitation to speak at the club, contributing to NIA’s aim of building networks among community and grass-roots organisations. Mathias Brown J.P., a community leader, also addressed the gathering.

Professor Munroe highlighted the importance of sustainable community development – in the case of Petersfield, its “Village Tourism” initiative, which provides economic opportunity, builds social cohesion and reduces violence. Now, Mr. Brown added, Petersfield needs an infusion of ideas and leadership from the youth.

**Impact:** The meeting gave positive reinforcement to citizens who are working hard to uplift and invigorate their community. They are in a building process, and NIA was happy to support them on their journey.
What have our NIA’s awesome partners been up to? Who are they?

NIA has long recognised that strategic partnerships are critical to achieving its overall mission of “building integrity” in Jamaica. Its 2016-2019 Programme has sought out organizations that would enhance the society’s capacity to strengthen transparency and accountability. To date sub-awards have been granted to Youth Crime of Watch Jamaica (YCWJ), the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS), the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CaPRI) and Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC). Let’s see what YCWJ, CaPRI and CVSS have been working on...

Integrity Ambassadors Graduation: “Train to Gain, Not Cheat to Beat”

NIA Sub-grantee, Youth Crime Watch of Jamaica (YCWJ) hosted a graduation on June 19, 2017 for 150 young people, who were trained as Integrity Ambassadors as a part of their School Intervention Programme (SIP). SIP has a four-fold objective of enhancing community cohesion, creating behaviour change, building communities and youth development.

The Integrity Ambassadors (IA) programme is a part of the SIP and is modelled on a concept developed by NIA out of a pilot implemented in three schools - St. Georges, Holy Trinity and St. Hugh’s High School in 2013.

Who are the Integrity Ambassadors? They are youths who are positive ‘influencers’ in their communities and schools. They strive to uphold ethical behaviours and to be of high moral and leadership ability. Young people from communities such as Flanker and Nannyville and schools like Clan Carthy High School and Spot Valley High have received 20 hours of intensive training, which NIA and YCWJ hope will enhance their effective voices to transmit important messages of integrity and responsibility.

“The biggest cause of failure is the fear of failure – or of being embarrassed,” said guest speaker and former U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Sue Cobb, who was instrumental in the founding of YCWJ in 2004. Ambassador Cobb declared that the most critical component in a nation’s wealth is its social capital – its people.
The vibrant ceremony, hosted by young social entrepreneurs Randy McLaren and Tishauna Mullings, included an exciting performance by the Jamaica Youth Theatre for the packed audience, which included Minister of State for National Security Senator Pearnel Charles and Chief Justice Zaila McCalla.

**Impact:** YCWJ’s Integrity Ambassadors are not shy. They are going out into their communities and schools to make a difference. Their friends and supporters at NIA know they will be a powerful force for integrity. We look forward to hearing reports from the field. As Integrity Ambassador Kimani Whyte from Jacques Road said, “Train to Gain, Not Cheat to Beat.”

**CVSS Training of Community Leaders**

The Council for Voluntary Social Services (CVSS) held a Community Leaders Training on June 8, 2017 at their headquarters at 2D Camp Road, in Kingston. CVSS is a sub-awardee under National Integrity Action’s Combatting Corruption and Strengthening Integrity in Jamaica (2016 – 2019) Programme which seeks to develop and support networks of key anti-corruption stakeholders.

The project is titled “Improving the Overall Quality of Education and Training, Building Capacity and Strengthening CBOs to be More Responsive to Anti-Corruption Efforts and Activities at the Community, Local and National Levels” in Jamaica.

The training sought to engage community/youth and leaders from selected CBOs, NGOs and PVOs to build capacity to further educate, train, mentor, promote, advocate, and sensitize community representatives in anti-corruption advocacy, activism, strategies, activities and practices at the community level. The trainer was Hopeton Morrison, who has experience in general management, organizational restructuring and leadership, strategy development, training, lecturing and curriculum development.

The training was first part of a two-part training with modules from CVSS’s training manual including understanding corruption and integrity, values, ethics, leadership and advocacy being covered, among others. There were 25 participants (5 males and 20 females) ranging from late teens to mid-sixties who were from CBOs and PVOs in Kingston, St. Catherine and St. Thomas. The training was highly interactive and engaged participants with multiple methods of instruction including group work, case studies, videos (including showing NIA videos) and fervent discussion.
Overall, the training was excellent, both in terms of the substance and the participation. NIA will consider these trainings as fruitful grounds to engage new members and integrity ambassadors.

And There’s More...

Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies Conference: The Challenges are Many, Notes Professor Munroe

NIA’s Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Patrece Charles attended the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies Conference (CCAICABC) on April 24, 2017, when Jamaica’s Contractor General was effectively hosting his colleagues from across the region.

The conference was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel under the theme “Today, Tomorrow, The Region and Beyond”.

On Day Two Dr. Charles accompanied the Executive Director to the conference workshop on corruption. Prof. Munroe gave a comprehensive presentation on “The Anti-Corruption Agenda – Governance Challenges, Jamaica’s Experience,” which was aired on local news channel (CVM) for the following three days. Professor Munroe spoke on the Anti-Corruption Agenda. In order to accomplish a reduction in corruption, he noted, a substantial anti-corruption agenda should be adopted.

This strategy should include partnerships between civil society organisations and governments; robust codes of conduct for public officials; the re-socialisation of young people; ethics training at all levels; international cooperation, cross-border exchange of information and mutual legal assistance; anti-corruption legislation, effective anti-corruption institution building and robust law enforcement. However, there are serious impediments in the form of governance practices, both locally, regionally and globally, that undermine such efforts, observed the NIA chief.

UWI Faculty of Law’s 3rd Annual Symposium on Law, Governance and Society: Balancing Rights with the Need to Protect Others.

NIA was a sponsor of the University of the West Indies (UWI,) Mona Faculty of Law’s 3rd Annual Symposium on Law, Governance and Society entitled “Security and Justice: Global Priorities” held at the Melià Braco Village, from June 9-11, 2017. Lawyers of the private bars, Judiciary and investigators from Jamaica, Trinidad, the USA and the United Kingdom focused on a range of topics affecting the developing world. NIA’s Executive Director chaired one of the sessions; the Legal Advisor, Lenworth Burke and Legal Research Assistant, Tressa West who attended all six (6) sessions of the seminar.
Upcoming Activities

- **September 16**: JEF International Coastal Clean Up Day

- **Save the Date - Integrity Gathering December 9**: NIA Anniversary & International Anti-Corruption Day

- **CAPRI**: Anti-Corruption Innovations - High-Level Meeting: Report Launch & Stakeholder Consultations.

- **WROC**: First Training for Entrepreneurship in Job Placement Programme

- **CVSS**: Training of Community Leaders

- **CVSS**: Graduation Ceremony for Trained Community Leaders & Key Actors
National Integrity Action (NIA) was registered as a not-for-profit organisation in March 2011 with the objective of combatting corruption in Jamaica on a non-partisan basis. In 2015 NIA achieved the goal of becoming the Jamaica Chapter of Transparency International. The members of the Board of Directors are:

- Mr. Martin Henry (Chairman)
- Professor Trevor Munroe C.D, Executive Director (ex-officio)
- Mr. Danny Roberts C.D
- Professor Rosalea Hamilton
- Mr. Dennis Chung
- Dr. K’adamawe K’nlfe
- Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown Q.C
- Ms. Fae Ellington C.D

The establishment of NIA grew out of the necessity to raise levels of national integrity and to combat corruption more effectively in Jamaica. The perception of Jamaicans and of the international community is that corruption is unacceptably high in our country, and that the corrupt must be deterred, detected and punished.

While maintaining its presence as an effective civil society actor, NIA is now engaged in the process of building the core of a social movement for integrity. This process involves accepting members and partnering with diverse organisations to strengthen good governance in Jamaica. On this basis, NIA is building public engagement and demand for:

- New legislation to strengthen transparency and accountability in governance;
- Enforcement of the law against the corrupt;
- Ensuring that anti-corruption agencies function effectively;
- Stronger institutional partnerships among churches, youth and communities to build and sustain the integrity movement
- Forging strong ties with national and international partners to achieve more meaningful results in building a corruption-free Jamaica

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