NIA
National Integrity Action

Integrity Matters
National Integrity Action’s Quarterly Newsletter
January - March 2018
Upcoming Activities

NIA & Partners

July 9-13, 2018 - Cyber Techniques Training Course for JCF Investigators - St Catherine

July 19, 2018 - Professor Munroe, Executive Director is invited to present to Monthly Meeting of the Kiwanis Club on “The role of the NIA in lobbying for the strengthening and creation of anti-corruption mechanism” - Kingston

July 25, 2018 - Professor Munroe is invited to speak at The UWI Conference themed- Governance for Tomorrow: “Innovation, Politics, Policy and Sustainable Development” - St James

July 28, 2018 - CVSS Training of Key Actors - Linstead St. Catherine

July 28, 2018 - Professor Munroe’s presentation at the Mico 143rd Batch Reunion - Kingston
National Integrity Action hosted the Launch of Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2017 on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at its New Kingston Offices. Present were some twenty-five (25) invited guests - which included members of government, the parliamentary opposition, government departments and agencies, private sector, civil society organisations, community-based organisations and the media.

Mr. Martin Henry, Chairman of the NIA Board of Directors, extended a warm welcome to all stakeholders to NIA’s office for this momentous occasion and highlighted the importance of the findings of the CPI 2017. Professor Munroe, Executive Director, proceeded with the official statement. In his presentation, he pointed out the fact that the CPI 2016 results revealed that after improvement in the previous year (2015), Jamaica fell in both score and rank at the end of 2016. NIA in its statement of January 25, 2017 identified the reasons for the rise in 2015 and the fall in 2016. To resume upward movement, NIA then committed itself to “intensifying its role in sensitising the authorities to the critical importance of strengthening integrity, transparency and accountability in Jamaica’s governance; in building citizen awareness of the costs of corruption and in urging the public to demand that the authorities pursue the corrupt in a manner consistent with Government’s own assessment that corruption, is a tier-1 threat, a “clear and present danger” to Jamaica’s national security and economic prosperity.” On that premise, Professor Munroe was quite pleased to announce Jamaica’s improvement in score (from 39 to 44 on a scale of 0 to 100) and a jump upwards by fifteen (15) places (from 83 of 176 countries in 2016 to 68 of 180 countries in 2017).

From significantly below-the-average scores in both the Americas and Globally in 2016, Jamaica’s 2017 score is now on par with the Americas and marginally above the Global average. In reviewing the historical record, this performance is the best in score and rank over the last ten years, with the possible exception of 2015. Professor Munroe’s summation was cautionary in emphasizing that the task now, therefore, is to bring all hands on deck to prevent regression, to sustain this gain, to build on this advance and to develop momentum in the combat of corruption and the strengthening of integrity.
LAUNCH OF POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION

The Executive Director of National Integrity Action (NIA) accepted the invitation from the Electoral Commission of Jamaica to attend the Official Launch of Political Parties Registration on Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

The event marked a milestone, for which NIA had been campaigning, in the strengthening of the good governance framework in Jamaica and more particularly, the transition of political parties from being private bodies into becoming public entities, thereby allowing statutory regulation. The programme included welcome and opening remarks by Selected Commissioner, The Honourable Karl Harrison, CD and Chairman’s remarks by The Honourable Mrs. Dorothy Pine-McLarty, OJ. In both presentations – and especially that of Chairman Pine-McLarty – the long journey was recounted from initial discussions in 2002 to the Political Party Registration Act in 2014 to the actual commencement of Party Registration on January 2, 2018.

The Chairman acknowledged with gratitude the many organizations and entities which were consulted and made submissions in the process of developing the legislation and accompanying regulations. NIA was singled out for special mention, having regard to the consistency of its advocacy on this matter. The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister, and Dr. Peter Phillips, Leader of the Opposition also brought greetings.

LAUNCH OF JUDICIAL SENTENCING & CONDUCT GUIDELINES

On the invitation of the Chief Justice, the Executive Director of NIA attended the launch of a number of Judiciary-related manuals at the Terra Nova Hotel on Friday, January 19, 2018. These included documents long advocated for by NIA, in particular, Sentencing Guidelines for Supreme Court and Parish Judges as well as Judicial Conduct Guidelines.

The function was moderated by the Honourable Miss Justice Hilary Phillips, Judge of the Court of Appeal and was attended by Supreme Court Judges, Parish Court Judges, and Prosecutors from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, along with other officials from the Justice Sector and from Civil Society. Remarks were made by the High Commissioner of Canada to Jamaica and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Organization in Jamaica. The main addresses were given by the Chief Justice Honourable Zaila McCalla; the President of the Court of Appeal, the Honourable Dennis Morrison; and the Honourable Delroy Chuck QC, Minister of Justice.
INTEGRITY CLUB
FACILITATORS’ TRAINING

In 2013 National Integrity Action (NIA) partnered with the Jamaica Civil Society Coalition to pilot the establishment of Integrity Clubs in three corporate area schools: Holy Trinity High, St. Hugh’s High and St. George’s College. To re-establish and expand the clubs, National Integrity Action is partnering with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI) to engage mainly secondary schools across the island. Schools at the primary level have also expressed an interest in the programme and will therefore take part in the training.

NIA hosted the first of the Integrity Club Facilitators training over a two-day period on February 10 and February 11, 2018 at the office of NIA in Kingston. Seven (7) teachers from Spanish Town High School, Seaward Primary and Junior High, Iona High School and Aabuthnott Gallimore High School were in attendance. National Integrity Action was represented by Executive Director, Professor Trevor Munroe; Jamie-Ann Chevannes, Youth Outreach Officer and Kevon Campbell; Integrity Club Training Consultant.

Before concluding the training, the participants agreed upon a timeline for the establishment of the Integrity Clubs, which is to be done by the end of February. The intention is for training of Integrity Ambassadors is to be completed by March 31 and the clubs are to become operational before the end of the summer term. Preparation for the upcoming coming Christmas term should take place during this period as well. Reports are to be sent to NIA at the end of each term, which would incorporate their progress, challenges being faced and support needed going forward.
For the second consecutive year National Integrity Action (NIA) partnered with the Mary Seacole Hall on the campus of the University of the West Indies Mona and Running Start to host a one-day conference entitled “Elect Her”.

The event took place at the Lecture Theatre at the Faculty of Law on the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies on March 11, 2018. The hosting of the conference has become a hallmark event for Mary Seacole Hall as this would be the seventh staging of “Elect Her” under the theme, “#CampusWomenWin”.

The conference was aimed at encouraging young women to put themselves forward for positions of leadership and train them on how to effectively run a campaign for student government. It is the belief of the organisers that once women become engaged in student governance at the tertiary level, it increases the likelihood that they will be more open to and, in fact, become involved in national politics upon graduation.

For this event, NIA utilised resources from our USAID-supported cooperative agreement and our Transparency International IMPACT programme. The conference was well-supported with one hundred and eighteen (118) students attending from the University of the West Indies, University of Technology, Jamaica National Youth Parliament, Jamaica Youth Ambassador Program, Forward Step Foundation, Belmont Academy, Camperdown High, Integrity Action Movement, Jamaica Union of Tertiary Students, and Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA).
National Integrity Action (NIA) hosted a Youth Membership Induction/Orientation on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Mary Seacole Hall’s Senior Common Room (SCR) on the campus of the University of the West Indies, Mona. The Induction Orientation is the first of its kind, as NIA has previously amended the criteria for youth members. As such, these students would have had to participate in a specified number of NIA or Integrity Action Movement activities and the activity would be open to only youth/student applicants.

Youth/students being inducted were enrolled in the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, University of Technology, The MICO University, International University of the Caribbean and Church Teachers’ College. There were thirty nine (39) students in attendance.

National Integrity Action (NIA) partnered with Integrity Action Movement (IAM), its affiliate youth club on the UWI, Mona Campus for the fifth installation of the “Conversation” series. This first occasion for the 2017/2018 academic year was held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at the Faculty of Science and Technology in Chemistry Room 6. The meeting commenced at approximately 3:10 pm and ended at 5:50pm with approximately 70 students in attendance. The guest speaker was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, the Hon. Floyd Green, MP.

Youth Members receiving guidance from Jamie-Ann Chevannes, NIA’s Youth Outreach Officer, during the session for developing their action plans for advocacy.

The Conversation Series was envisioned as a means by which to expose students and encourage engagement with notable personalities from varying sectors/industries in Jamaica. National Integrity Action was represented at the meeting by the Youth Outreach Officer, Ms. Jamie-Ann Chevannes. The members of the Integrity Action Movement Executive were also present and the meeting was chaired/moderated by the Director of Logistics and Events, Mr. Malyck Malcolm. The guest speaker was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, the Hon. Floyd Green, MP.
National Integrity Action (NIA) partnered with the Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society (CPDCBS) to host a Town Hall meeting at the St. Gabriel’s Anglican Church Hall in May Pen on March 14, 2018. The Town Hall was held under the theme ‘Catching the Big Fish: Involving the Community’ and was endorsed by the National Association of Parish Development Committees (NAPDEC) and the Clarendon Municipal Corporation. This was facilitated under NIA’s European Union-supported project. The Town Hall had a turnout of 256 participants; this met NIA’s target, in furtherance of our objective of raising levels of public awareness about these laws and their relevance on issues of governance and corruption. This also produced the opportunity for engaging communities to increase, simultaneously, their effectiveness in Jamaica’s fight against corruption.

**Findings from the LAPOP 2016/17 Survey**

1. 50% decrease in Jamaicans justifying taking bribes since 2006
2. The level of trust in major government anti-corruption agencies increased in 2017 from 46 to 59 points
3. 47% Jamaican report that they have heard of NIA
4. 82% are very or somewhat satisfied with NIA’s work
The Yutes4Change Foundation (Y4C) collaborated with National Integrity Action to host a four-day workshop for under-served youths within the community of Gregory Park, St. Catherine. The workshop is the second in a two-part series aimed at developing the skillsets of youth within the community. The first workshop focused on young people between the ages of 12 and 16 in an attempt to bridge a noted gap in certain skill sets. This second workshop sought to do the same whilst primarily targeting the more mature youth between the ages of 17 to 29, who will be or are actively seeking employment. The workshop took place at the NIA-sponsored Y4C Homework and Integrity Centre in Gregory Park from February 6 to 9, 2018 under the theme “Job Readiness with Integrity.” Twelve youth- ten (10) females and two (2) males participated.

On Wednesday February 28, 2018 residents of Race Course and adjoining communities in Clarendon welcomed the Charge d’Affairs of the United States Embassy, Acting Mission Director for USAID, Member of Parliament for the area, Acting ACP Steve McGregor and Charles Ross of the Community Renewal Programme at the PIOJ to launch the Race Course Community Resource Centre (CRC). This CRC is the tenth being established in targeted communities across the island under Phase II of the Community Empowerment and Transformation Project (COMET II). National Integrity Action has partnered with COMET II to provide training and capacity development, especially in governance and advocacy building to the members of the management committee of the CRC. Support and partnership is also ongoing with the Clarendon Parish Development Committee and the Youth Information Centre, who offer programmes and activities out of the centre to benefit members of the community.

The Office of the Political Ombudsman convened a Round Table Consultation on Political Tribalism and its elimination, which was held on January 16, 2018 at the Ombudsman’s Office. The consultation was framed by section seven (s7) of the Agreement and Declaration on Political Conduct, which states that “The Parties… commit themselves to removing any structures and resisting the development of any behavioural, cultural, social or organizational practices, which reinforce political tribalism”. Participants attending the consultation included community leaders, public officials, academics, political party officials and civil society.

Dr. Patrece Charles, Deputy Executive Director of NIA making her presentation on Work Ethics and Integrity at the Workshop.
NIA-MOCA Signing Ceremony

National Integrity Action (NIA) as part of its mandate to build integrity, strengthen governance and combat corruption, staged a press conference to announce the signing of a sub-award agreement with the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA). The press conference was held at the offices of NIA at 2 Holborn Road, Kingston 5 on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 11:00 am. The agreement signed will provide funding to the ‘MOCA Development Project’ that aims to build capacity within MOCA and support its public awareness campaign. The sub-award is a component of NIA’s Cooperative Agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and becomes NIA’s fifth sub-awardee under this agreement.

The research is reviewing the methodology and data used by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Revenue Administration - Gap Analysis Program (RA-GAP) during the FY 2014/15 to calculate the General Consumption Tax (GCT) tax gap. Several stakeholder meetings have been held with the Tax Policy Unit at the Ministry of Finance and data has been requested from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the Customs Agency to access information not publicly available. Data received from Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) is currently under review. Case studies and other descriptive parts of the research report are progressing well and the tax efficiency report is expected to be launched by May 2018.

Meanwhile, research has been initiated to assess Jamaica’s open data readiness and related policy support initiatives. The current research will revisit the open data policy guidelines that were provided by CaPRI to the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) in 2014 and will follow-up to see how close the government has adhered to the recommendations following the launch of a government data portal in June 2016. It will also review any existing assessments of open data readiness in Jamaica and update, improve and expand such assessments as appropriate. The objectives of this research is primarily to determine an open data readiness and implementation plan for Jamaica to enable greater transparency, accountability and improved decision-making. Data collection is currently underway with a survey administered to acquire information from key data holders in government, as well as key data users including civil society, academia, private sector and media.
The Council for Voluntary Social Services (CVSS)

“The Council for Voluntary Social Services (CVSS) continued its training of key actors and community leaders during the quarter. A total of forty-eight (48) participants were trained at two locations in Clarendon and St. Catherine with participants drawn from those two parishes as well as Manchester and St. Elizabeth. All 48 persons were trained as key actors; of these thirty (30) were male and eighteen (18) were female. To date, the total number of persons trained is six hundred and four (604). Of this amount, three hundred and eighty-five (385) have been trained as key actors and two hundred and nineteen (219) as community leaders with 397 being female and 207 being males.

The objectives under its Sports for Life (SFL), for the reporting period were to continue capacity-building programmes, behavioural modification sessions and roll-out the sports programme. To further these objectives a partnership was forged with the Jamaica Basketball Association (JaBA) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in February to support JBA’s Under 17 youth development programme. The MOU was signed at the official press launch of the 2017-18 National Basketball League (NBL) and will see the CBBY project supporting JaBA's behavioural modification initiatives for Under 17 players from the community of Majesty Gardens.

Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)

“The Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fathers’ United for Change in September 2017, out of which the collaboration arose to facilitate public speaking training for men. The training aimed to encourage young men from the community of Trench Town to speak up against violence and corruption. The workshop, which took place over two consecutive weekends, was held at the local Church of the Latter-Day Saints in the Lyndhurst-Greenwich community. Young men between the ages of thirteen (13) and twenty-five (25) were given practical skills in communicating effectively.

Training of Trainers Session in Jamaica 4-H Clubs Centre, Rosehall, St. Catherine

Youth Crime Watch of Jamaica (YCWJ)

“Community Buil’ Back with Yute” (CBBY)

During the first quarter of 2018, Youth Crime Watch of Jamaica (YCWJ) undertook activities under all four components of its project

YCWJ Engaging Students at Maldon High School on Peace Day - March 6, 2018
National Integrity Action (NIA) was registered as a not-for-profit organisation in March 2011 with the objective of combating 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. Dennis Chung (Chairman)
- Professor Trevor Munroe C.D, Executive Director (Ex-Officio)
- Mr. Danny Roberts C.D
- Professor Rosalea Hamilton
- Mr. Martin Henry
- Ms. Kemesha Kelly
- Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown Q.C
- Ms. Fae Ellington C.D
- Dr. Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts
- Dr. Lynden Rose, JP
- Mr. Lenworth Burke (Corporate Secretary)

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.