

NIA

National Integrity Action

Strategy 2024-2026 “Building Integrity; Holding Power to Account”

Who We Are

National Integrity Action was registered as a not-for-profit company in March, 2011 with the objective of combatting corruption in Jamaica on a non-partisan basis. In 2015, we achieved the goal of becoming the ‘National Chapter’ in Jamaica of Transparency International, the international NGO leading the global combat of corruption.

NIA’s Board of Directors comprises:

- Ms. Fae A. Ellington CD, MA (Chair)
- Professor Trevor Munroe CD, D.Phil. (Founding Director)
- Ms. Danielle S. Archer (Principal Director)
- Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown CD, KC
- Dr. Lynden Rose JP
- Mr. Ricardo Burke
- Mrs. Esther Tyson CD
- Ms. Christina Williams

NIA was launched on UN International Corruption Day, December 9, 2011, at the Mona Visitors Lodge, University of the West Indies. Consistent with its non-partisan character, the then Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Hon. Andrew Holness, MP was keynote speaker at the launch and the Opposition Spokesman on Finance, Peter Phillips, MP made a presentation on behalf of the then Leader of the Opposition, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller.

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. Towards this end NIA has been established to enhance public probity on an all-round basis and build public engagement as well as demand for:

- Greater transparency and accountability in governance;
- Enforcement of the law against the corrupt;
- Effective operation of the anti-corruption agencies; and
- Strong ties with national and international partners to achieve more meaningful results in building a corruption-free Jamaica.

Support for NIA’s founding and work-programme has come primarily from a range of International Donor Partners including the FCDO (formerly DFID, UK), the USAID, the and the European Union. NIA also has the support of a limited group of local private sector entities, including Continental Bakeries, Grace Kennedy and the Lasco Group of Companies, among others.

Over the years, NIA has engaged in intense advocacy to engage the Jamaican public and the diaspora around:

- main-streaming the issue of corruption and the combat of corruption;
- supporting election campaign finance disclosure;
- advocating for the establishment of the Integrity Commission;
- upholding the provisions of Jamaica's Political Code of Conduct particularly in relation to non-intimidation;
- improving all areas of accountability and transparency in governance; among others.

Vision

A Jamaica where government, businesses, civil society and the people manifest integrity in their conduct, are held accountable and apply proper sanctions for corrupt activities

Mission

To combat corruption and build integrity in Jamaica through the persistent promotion of transparency, accountability in the conduct of government, businesses and the wider society.

Mandate

NIA has accepted the mandate to combat corruption and build integrity in Jamaica on a non-partisan basis for the public benefit.

The five pillars of NIA's current strategy are:

- A. Legislative Advocacy**
- B. Good Governance Advocacy**
- C. Public Engagement and Awareness Building**
- D. Strengthening External Relations**
- E. Achieving Operational Sustainability**

A. Legislative Advocacy

NIA is supporting and advocating for specific measures to strengthen Jamaica's anti-corruption regime. This includes enacting:

- Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWO)
- Enhanced Security Measures Act (ESMA)
- Impeachment and/or Recall Legislation
- Job Descriptions and a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament, along with other approaches to improving Parliamentary Oversight.
- The Bribery Act
- As well as contributing to the Constitutional Reform process that is underway.

We are also advocating for amendments to strengthen the:

- Integrity Commission Act
- Protected Disclosures Act
- Campaign Finance Legislation/Regulations

While continuing to call for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act.

Under this strategic pillar, we also seek to build professional will and technical capacity, through joint training seminars with state anti-corruption institutions such as the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA), etc.

B. Good Governance Advocacy

This pillar captures a range of advocacy in a number of areas – some predetermined, and others assessed and selected as issues arise – that may not necessarily rise to the legislative level. These advocacy goals will be directed through various channels, including:

- Submissions to Parliamentary Committees;
- Multimedia engagement;
- Lobbying;
- Partnerships with Community Based Organisations and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including the National Umbrella Groups for Churches as well as the Crime Monitoring Oversight Committee (CMOC);
- Collaboration with government bodies such as the Social Development Commission (SDC), the Restorative Justice Unit in the Ministry of Justice, etc.

C. Public Engagement and Awareness Building

- Sustain and expand Integrity Clubs
- Re-engage student, youth and community organizations
- Seek regular media program
- Support groups established to benefit the disabled, or otherwise marginalised

D. Strengthening External Relations

Under this pillar, NIA aims to sustain and strengthen our relationship with and contribution to Transparency International (TI), its various organs (e.g. the International Council) and our fellow chapters, particularly in the Caribbean region. Additionally, NIA will maintain and strengthen our relations with IDPs operating in the Jamaica.

E. Achieving Operational Sustainability

This pillar speaks to the internal operational activities that are necessary to sustain and grow the work of NIA:

- Sustain & expand funding from local private sector and individuals.
- Ongoing consideration and submission of proposals in response to ‘calls’ from IDPs and international private foundations
- Strengthening internal audit and other financial controls
- Attracting and retaining excellent team members at the board and staff levels.