

"FLA... Regulating with purpose."

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FLA supports conference to increase the understanding of the new Firearms Act 2022

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 - Kingston, Jamaica: Following the passage of the new Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act, 2022, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) will host a Hybrid 2-Days Criminal Investigation Branch Conference at the National Police College of Jamaica in St. Catherine. The Conference will be held on December 1-2, 2022 starting at 9:00 AM on both days under the theme “Understanding and Navigating the new Firearms Act, 2022 – Investigative and Prosecutorial Approaches.”

Key to the new Firearms Act, 2022, which came into operation on November 1, 2022, was the establishment of tougher penalties for individuals with illegal firearms and those with licensed firearms without appropriate authorization. These stringent sanctions include a term of imprisonment of 15-25 years for the possession of prohibited weapons, life imprisonment for trafficking, stockpiling and manufacturing in illegal firearms, and life imprisonment for dealing in firearms or ammunition without authorization.

“The enforcement of the new Firearms Act demonstrates the government’s motive to deal with the issue of illegal and unauthorized firearms in Jamaica. Understanding the Act will be critical in its enforcement and compliance; as such, the FLA lauds the JCF for their efforts to bring to the forefront a greater level of understanding of the new Act,” commented Mr Shane Dalling, CEO of the Firearm Licensing Authority.

Following the 2022 Act, a Gun Amnesty ran from Saturday, November 5, 2022 through Saturday, November 19, 2022 to allow individuals in breach of these measures to turn in illegal and unauthorized firearms and ammunition without the fear of prosecution. A total of 101 firearms and 3,000 rounds of ammunition were surrendered under the two-week Gun Amnesty.

Since the official passage of the new Firearms Act, 2022 the Ministry of National Security and its agencies, the FLA and JCF, have been involved in a national campaign to educate the public about the new measures and encourage compliance with the authorities.

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