

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GENDER, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THE REVISION OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

INTRODUCTION

- 1.0 Members are being asked to note the following updates on the revision of the 2003 National Culture Policy by the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

BACKGROUND

- 2.0 The National Culture Policy was crafted in 2003 with a vision of elaborating the unique cultural manifestations and distinctive style that are quintessentially Jamaican thereby bolstering the self- confidence and cultural identity of the Jamaican people. It forecasted the actualization of the tremendous potential of the nation and its people for national development and global cultural impact.
- 2.1 However, more than a decade later, national and global demands and changes in culture in the have minimized the policy's ability to realize its vision and core objectives.
- 2.2 The rationale then is to produce a revised policy with specific and measurable goals needed to advance the socio- economic development of all aspects of culture including culture and education; culture and tourism; culture and trade; cultural and creative industries; and culture and heritage preservation and development.
- 2.3 An inter-ministerial/inter-agency approach has therefore been taken to ensure that there is collaboration among all stakeholders in addressing the dynamic convergences that occur with culture as a critical component of national development.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 3.1 To date, a concept paper for the revision of the Culture Policy has been drafted and is to be submitted to Cabinet for approval. It should be noted that stakeholder consultations have been taking place since 2012. The consultation process will be completed during this Financial Year 2016/2017 and engages key stakeholders, particularly targeting Ministries and Agencies whose collaborations are critical to the timely development of culture; civil society, the private sector, community groups, as well as practitioners of culture, cultural and creative industries.
- 3.2 A Green paper will then be crafted to reflect the views ascertained during the island wide consultation sessions.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

- 3.3 A multi-disciplinary National Steering Committee comprising just over forty (40) individuals has been formed to provide oversight of the revision process. Responsibilities include providing guidance for consultations, liaising with key functionaries involved in the revision process such as named Consultants and staff managing the project and assisting in the review of reports and final revised Culture Policy.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

- 4.0 The Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport made an application to UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) to facilitate the revision process of the Culture Policy and was one of six projects approved by the IFCD. The Ministry was awarded a grant of **US\$60,000.00** to review the Policy and raise awareness about the relevance, value and benefits of the Policy.

CONCLUSION

- 5.0 The Government of Jamaica sees this as an opportunity for Jamaica to broaden the frame of the Policy, thereby, crafting a document that will represent a contemporarily relevant outline of the Government's actions, strategies and measures needed to encourage and enforce the advancement of culture. The successful revision and implementation of a National Culture Policy will facilitate an improved awareness of the significance of a Culture within a social, economic and environmental framework, and establish functional and collaborative approaches to the sustainable development of culture.

Honourable Olivia Grange C.D., M.P.

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

July 8, 2016