



Customs News in Review

Thursday: June 30, 2022

Jamaica Customs and Financial Investigations Division Sign MOU



The Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) continues its thrust to stem illicit trading activities, through the establishment and sustenance of strategic partnerships and agreements with local and international entities.

On Tuesday, June 07, 2022, the CEO/Commissioner of Customs, Mrs. Velma Ricketts Walker, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) along with the Chief Technical Director of the Financial Investigations Division (FID), Mr. Selvin Hay, to strengthen the partnership between both entities in the anti-money laundering framework.

The FID and the JCA have had a longstanding working relationship that has been beneficial to the protection of Jamaica's borders through the interception and prosecution of criminals in relation to money laundering, in keeping with the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and other associated legislation.

The signing of this MOU will therefore enable more efficient fulfillment of the mandates of both entities, as its objectives are: to ensure an increased and tactical exchange of information, access to confidential documents, agency-related areas, and training and technical support.

The joint use of intelligence will assist with monitoring the movement and patterns of criminals, including to detect, investigate and prosecute breaches of any applicable laws (including, but not limited to money laundering, Customs offences and financial crimes) and to identify, restrain and forfeit property obtained from unlawful means, as well as to obtain pecuniary penalty orders in respect of benefits received from criminal conduct.

According to the Commissioner, Mrs. Ricketts Walker, agreements such as these have proven to be effective, noting that, since the last fiscal year (2021-2022) to date (June 06), “the JCA has investigated more than sixty-two (62) financial cases and assisted with significant seizures in monies...to include almost a million US dollars,” she highlighted.

The Jamaica Customs Agency will therefore continue its commitment in partnering with local and international stakeholders, in its thrust to ensure that legitimate trade is facilitated, even as the relevant enforcement mechanisms are established and firmly implemented.

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