



6th Latin American and 1st Caribbean Conference on Drug Policy

**Demystifying the Changes and
Debunking the Myths: Examination of
the Jamaican Experience**

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Demystifying the Changes: What are the Changes?

- ✱ The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Acts (DDA), 2015.
- ✱ Expungement of Records for persons who had charges for less than 2 ounces of Cannabis (ganja).
- ✱ Recognition of the Religious Rights of the Rastafarians.

Demystifying the Changes: What are the Changes?

✿ Cultivator's Licence:

- Tier 1: Cultivate up to 1 acre (4,047 square metres) of land with ganja for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes; Annual Fee – **US\$2,000**
- Tier 2: Cultivate between 1 and 5 acres (4,047 – 20, 235 square metres) of land with ganja for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes; **US\$,3,000 per acres**
- Tier 3: Cultivate over 5 acres (20,235 square metres) of land with ganja for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

Demystifying the Changes: What are the Changes?

✿ Processing Licence:

- Tier 1: Process ganja for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes, including the manufacturing of ganja based products, in a space of up to 200 square metres; **US\$3,500**
- Tier 2: Process ganja for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes, including the manufacturing of ganja based products, in a space of over 200 square metres. **US\$10,000**

Demystifying the Changes: What are the Changes?

- ✿ **Transport Licence:** Transport ganja between two licensed premises in an approved motor vehicle; **US\$10,000** first vehicle and **US\$1,000** for each additional vehicle
- ✿ **Retail Licence:**
 - Pharmacy or Dispensary: Sell ganja products for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes;
 - Herb House: Sell ganja products for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes, with a space for immediate consumption by consumers; **US\$2,500**
 - Therapeutic: Provide therapeutic or spa services utilising ganja products; **US\$2,500**

Demystifying the Changes: What are the Changes?

✿ Research and Development Licence:

- Experimental: Undertakes all activities involved in the assessment, study, research, development and testing of products derived from all or any part of the cannabis plant, including the analytical services for own use; **US\$5,000**
- Analytical Services: Provide commercial services exclusively for the determination of any or all of the constituents, characteristics, quality or safety parameters of cannabis or cannabis products by accepted and/or accredited methods. **US\$5,000**

Demystifying the Changes: What are the Changes?

- ✿ Possession cultivation of ganja for religious purposes as a sacrament in adherence to the Rastafarian faith (Section 7D (6));
- ✿ Permit can be granted for special celebration within the Rastafarian faith or group for use of more than the authorized amount (Section 7D (8)).

Demystifying the Changes: What have NOT Changed?

- The attitude and campaign of agencies such as the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) [NCDA-Ganja Brochure.pdf](#)
- Attitude of medical practitioners towards the medical use of cannabis.
- Lack of recognition for traditional/naturopathic practitioners.
- The status of traditional ganja growers, as being legitimate contributors to Sustainable Development, especially at the community level.
- Access to resources (e.g. financial and land)

Debunking the Myths: About Decriminalization

- Having a Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) would have made regulating the industry easier.
- The recognition of the religious rights of Rastafarians, have now brought the fore conversation about other traditional groups such as the Maroons and their cultural and traditional rights to cannabis.
- UNGASS 2016 would have resulted in a clear path to full legalization and international markets.

Debunking the Myths: About Decriminalization

- There is a readily accessible market in the USA, Canada and Europe for the traditional ganja farmers.
- No clear developmental approach (outside of the collection of taxes) “Still No Greenlight For Ganja” – Min. Karl Samuda, Industry, Commerce vs. “Cannabis-Infused Experiences Coming” – Min. Ed. Barlett, Tourism

Why Forward – A Sustainable Development Approach

- ✱ International Recognition of the Cultural and Traditional Rights to use products such as Cannabis.
- ✱ Recognition of traditional/herbal medical practitioners.
- ✱ Growers of Cannabis Crops should be viewed as key drivers of Sustainable Development.
- ✱ Greater Community involvement – An industry driven by the Local/Traditional Growers who had been significantly persecuted.
- ✱ Removal of barriers to entry (e.g. Amnesty from the initial Licensing fees for Traditional growers of Cannabis)

THANK YOU

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