



## Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control

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### **The JCTC Congratulates Government on passage of tobacco regulation.**

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control (JCTC) is most pleased to extend congratulations to the Government of Jamaica and in particular, the Ministry of Health over the welcome news that on June 25<sup>th</sup>, The Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulations - 2013 was enacted to support establishment of smoke free public spaces and the placement of graphic health warnings on cigarette packs have been enacted.

These measures constitute a strong signal of Jamaica's intention to be compliant with the Framework Convention of Tobacco Control, which Jamaica ratified in 2005. Data obtained from a recent Public Opinion Poll undertaken by the JCTC shows that an overwhelming portion of Jamaican citizens are in full support of the establishment of smoke free public spaces and workplaces. The government can be reassured of the support of civil society and key groups to ensure that this regulation will not only reduce tobacco consumption but also save lives of smokers and passive smokers.

We take this opportunity to say a special word of thanks and commendation to Hon Minister Fenton Ferguson and his team at the health ministry, who have been unstinting in their drive and determination to make this a reality, under less than ideal circumstances, and in an environment of strong tobacco company interference, to see Jamaica move into the ranks of countries who have enacted tobacco control laws. This is seen as part of the thrust to counteract the challenges that the non communicable diseases bring to the health services, thereby improving the quality of life for the citizens of Jamaica

We at the JCTC pledge our support to the Ministry of Health in any way we can to help with implementation activities and further sensitization of key groups and the ongoing work to enact other key aspect of the Convention.

Knox Hagley, CD, DSc (Hon), FRCP, FRCPE, FACP, FACC, FFPH  
Chairman

#### Member Organizations:

Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica • Caribbean College of Family Physicians, Jamaica Chapter  
Caribbean Public Health Association • Diabetes Association of Jamaica • Jamaica Cancer Society • Jamaica Dental Association  
Nurses Association of Jamaica • The Heart Foundation of Jamaica • The Medical Association of Jamaica