



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

**Ministry of National Security urges public compliance with Firearms and Imitation
Firearms Regulations**

The Ministry of National Security wishes to remind the public of the restrictions imposed by section 40 of *The Customs Act*, and the list of goods not to be imported into Jamaica except in accordance with the conditions outlined in *The Customs (import Prohibition) (Miscellaneous Goods) (No.2) Order* published in 2010.

In relation to imitation firearms in particular, authorisation may only be obtained from the Minister under very specific circumstances. These include use in theatrical performances and recreational activities such as the operation of paintball facilities.

The public is also being reminded of the recently enacted Firearm (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act, 2022 in which, any firearm for which no authorisation is granted, is considered a prohibited weapon. Under section 5 of the Act, the mere possession of a prohibited weapon attracts a penalty of *imprisonment for such term, of not less than 15 years nor more than 25 years as the court considers appropriate*, upon conviction.

The legislation also criminalizes the use or possession of a firearm or imitation firearm in certain circumstances under section 14, such as using the imitation firearm to commit or aid in the commission of a felony. This offence carries a penalty of *not less than twenty years more than twenty-five years as the court considers appropriate*, upon conviction. Furthermore, any person found to be in possession of any firearm or imitation firearm, must be able to provide proof of being authorised to be in possession of the item.

The Ministry is therefore in full support of decisive action by the police, to remove these items, especially when found in the possession of vulnerable groups such as our children in school.

The problem of illegal firearms and imitation firearms demands a joined-up response involving multi-stakeholders across various sectors. To this end, efforts have been made to develop clear guidelines to address the possession and use of firearms in school, as well as to enhance the capacity of our educators and other critical stakeholders, to detect and prevent these items from being taken into the learning environment.

We also continue to implement targeted programmes to complement the school curricula and facilitate meaningful engagement of our youth, through visual arts, music, sports and technology.



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The Ministry remains committed to strengthening the regulatory framework governing firearms, to include imitation firearms. We urge citizens to continue reporting any sightings to the police, as we work jointly towards sustainable peace, public safety and citizen security.

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