



THE HEART FOUNDATION OF JAMAICA

Founded in 1971 by the Lions Club of Kingston

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For Immediate Release

The HFJ Congratulates Government on passage of tobacco regulation.

The Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) wishes to congratulate the Government of Jamaica and in particular, the Ministry of Health on the enactment of the long awaited Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulations-2013 which among other things will support the establishment of smoke free public spaces and the placement of graphic health warnings on cigarette packs.

These measures constitute a strong signal of Jamaica's intention to be compliant with the Framework Convention of Tobacco Control, which the country ratified in 2005. 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. Key among them is the 66.5% of our youth who are currently exposed to second hand smoke.

We take this opportunity to commend Hon. Dr. Minister Fenton Ferguson and his team at the Ministry of Health, for their drive and commitment to make this Regulation a reality, whilst operating in an environment of strong tobacco industry interference. This bold step 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 as well as reducing our public health bill.

We at the HFJ pledge our support to the Ministry of Health to help in any way we can with implementation activities and further sensitization of key groups. We are very happy that this first step has finally been taken to implement the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and pledge our support for the ongoing work to enact other key aspects of the Convention.

Deborah Chen
Executive Director, Heart Foundation of Jamaica
President The InterAmerican Heart Foundation
Vice President Elect World Heart Federation

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