Improving Local Governance in Jamaica

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Strengthening Accountability through Fiscal Transparency Practices & 2nd Co-creation Meeting: Citizen Participation Toolkit
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
September 6-7, 2017
NIA’s Vision, Mission, Activities

NIA was launched as a not-for-profit, non-partisan civil society organisation (CSO) in December, 2011 with support from UKDFID, USAID and Jamaican partners.

Vision
A Jamaica where government, businesses, civil society and the people manifest integrity in their conduct, are held accountable and apply proper sanctions for corrupt activities.

Mission
To combat corruption and build integrity in Jamaica through the persistent promotion of transparency, accountability in the conduct of government, businesses and the wider society.

Activities: Public awareness building through media products, Town Hall presentations, legislation advocacy, partnership building - Transparency Internationals (TI), training seminars and membership recruitment
Jamaica’s Democracy is at Risk

According to the *Latin American Popular Opinion Project (LAPOP)* survey report published in the *2014 Political Culture of Democracy in Jamaica and in the Americas* which tracked democratic governance across 10 years from 2004 to 2014
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance
Declining Community Engagement

Attendance at Meetings of Religious Organization

- 2014: 48.0
- 2012: 48.7
- 2010: 48.5
- 2008: 57.1
- 2006: 64.6

Community Participation Index

- 2014: 28.6
- 2012: 28.6
- 2010: 27.9
- 2008: 34.4
- 2006: 36.9

Attendance at Meetings of Parent Association

- 2014: 24.2
- 2012: 23.7
- 2010: 22.8
- 2008: 27.2
- 2006: 29.3

Attendance at Meetings of Community Improvement Association

- 2014: 13.3
- 2012: 13.0
- 2010: 12.4
- 2008: 17.1
- 2006: 15.5

Source: AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2006-2014; v.JAM14ts_v2_temp
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Negative Social/Political Activism

- Vigilante Justice
- Illegal Protest
- Attempts to Overthrow Government

Average

Source: AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2006-2014; v.JAM14ts_v2_temp
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Declining Voter Turn-Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of General Election</th>
<th>Total # of Voters</th>
<th>% Voters</th>
<th>Total # of Non-voters</th>
<th>% Non-voters</th>
<th># Electors on Voter’s List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>870,663</td>
<td>47.72%</td>
<td>953,747</td>
<td>52.28%</td>
<td>1,824,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>876,310</td>
<td>53.17%</td>
<td>771,726</td>
<td>46.83%</td>
<td>1,648,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>821,325</td>
<td>61.38%</td>
<td>516,821</td>
<td>38.62%</td>
<td>1,338,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>768,282</td>
<td>59.02%</td>
<td>533,356</td>
<td>40.98%</td>
<td>1,301,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>771,068</td>
<td>65.22%</td>
<td>411,224</td>
<td>34.78%</td>
<td>1,182,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>675,296</td>
<td>67.36%</td>
<td>327,275</td>
<td>32.64%</td>
<td>1,002,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>845,485</td>
<td>78.38%</td>
<td>233,275</td>
<td>21.62%</td>
<td>1,078,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>26,543</td>
<td>2.68%</td>
<td>964,043</td>
<td>97.32%</td>
<td>990,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>860,746</td>
<td>86.91%</td>
<td>129,671</td>
<td>13.09%</td>
<td>990,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>742,149</td>
<td>85.21%</td>
<td>128,823</td>
<td>14.79%</td>
<td>870,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>447,771</td>
<td>73.93%</td>
<td>157,891</td>
<td>26.07%</td>
<td>605,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>446,815</td>
<td>82.24%</td>
<td>96,492</td>
<td>17.76%</td>
<td>543,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>580,517</td>
<td>72.88%</td>
<td>216,023</td>
<td>27.12%</td>
<td>796,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>564,071</td>
<td>66.09%</td>
<td>289,468</td>
<td>33.91%</td>
<td>853,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>495,680</td>
<td>65.11%</td>
<td>265,558</td>
<td>34.89%</td>
<td>761,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>477,107</td>
<td>65.16%</td>
<td>255,110</td>
<td>34.84%</td>
<td>732,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>389,109</td>
<td>58.68%</td>
<td>273,960</td>
<td>41.32%</td>
<td>663,069</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOW VOTER TURNOUT

- **UTech, Jamaica Survey (2016)**
  - 60% or respondents who **did NOT vote** in the last general election. They explained why:
    - 74% reported: *I just wasn't interested in the election or in voting /just could not be bothered*
    - 72% reported: *There is too much corruption in government; I have no confidence in the system*
    - 64% reported: *Two main political parties are the same; no real choice*
    - 59% reported: *I have no confidence in the Electoral Process*
    - 54% reported: *Political and economic system is controlled by a few rich people and benefits them and not the majority of Jamaicans*
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance
Low Degree of System Support

Costa Rica: 62.3
Nicaragua: 61.9
Canada: 60.1
Ecuador: 59.6
Uruguay: 58.4
Argentina: 58.3
El Salvador: 58.3
Panama: 53.0
Honduras: 52.5
Trinidad & Tobago: 52.3
Mexico: 52.2
Bolivia: 50.7
Chile: 50.5
United States: 49.9
Dominican Republic: 49.7
Belize: 49.5
Colombia: 49.5
Guatemala: 49.0
Guyana: 47.1
Peru: 45.2
Paraguay: 43.0
Jamaica: 42.5
Haiti: 42.3
Venezuela: 42.3
Brazil: 37.6
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance
Declining Trust and Confidence
[ between 2012 and 2014 on scale of 0 to 100 (LAPOP 2014)]

- In Political Parties - from 40.1 to 28.1
- In Parliament - from 45.9 to 31.9
- In Justice System - from 52.6 to 41.1
- In Elections - from 49.6 to 37.2
- In Police - from 48 to 38.3
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Lowest Trust in Local Government

- Jamaica
- Peru
- Brazil
- Haiti
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Dominican Republic
- Belize
- Guatemala
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Chile
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua
- Honduras
- Paraguay
- Mexico
- Venezuela
- Uruguay
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- United States
- Bolivia
- Argentina
- Guyana
- Guatemala
- Panama
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Belize
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Haiti
- Brazil
- Peru
- Jamaica

Trust in Local Government (regional averages)

Trust in Local Government (2014)

95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source:
AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2014; v.GM14ts_0912
Overcoming Governance Deficit: Improving Citizen Participation

- Building people’s sense of their power to influence governments, socio-political events - 74% “not much you can do to influence governments”; 64% “no difference which party wins elections (LAPOP, 2010; UTech, Ja survey, 2016).
  - Advocacy Training Workshops

- Strengthening civil society organizations in combatting a culture of lawlessness. Example: Integrity Clubs in secondary schools & tertiary institutions; Youth Ambassador programme... executed through Youth Crime Watch Jamaica and other sub-awardees
  - In June 2017, 120 youth ambassadors were graduated from a 20 hrs training programme using NIA’s Integrity Ambassadors Manual
In 2013, NIA partnered with other organizations to undertake a series of town hall meetings to raise public awareness and to secure thousands of signatures for a PETITION urging action on local governance reform.
Overcoming Governance Deficit: Town Hall Meeting

- Mayor of Kingston, Senator Angela Brown Burke (centre); is in conversation with Parish Manager, Social Development Commission (SDC), Sandra Goulbourne (left); and Parish Development Committee Chairman, Joseph Cox; during the Conference of Community Development Committees (CDCs) on Feb 27, 2014 where community leaders call for the urgent passage of the Local Governance Act. Representatives from Kingston and St. Andrew CDC signed a copy of the petition at the conference held at the St. Andrew Parish Church Hall.
“We strongly urge our representatives in Parliament to review and pass the Act forthwith.”
The Town Hall meetings & petition speeded up action by Parliament to pass the **Local Governance Act 2016**

In January 2016, three (3) strategic Acts pivotal to the Local Government reform process were passed:

*Local Governance Act*
*Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Act*
*Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act*

According to Minister of Justice, Mark Golding, the Acts will “give Local Government the modern legislative tools that are needed for optimal responsiveness to communities and citizens.”
Overcoming Governance Deficit: Civic Responsibility & Advocacy Workshops
Overcoming Governance Deficit: Participatory Budgeting

Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act, s. 4:
“Prior to submitting any strategic plan and budget to the Minister for approval...the relevant Local Authority shall ensure that the public is given an opportunity to consider and give feedback on a draft of the strategic plan and budget to be submitted.”
Concluding Remarks

- Much more work is needed to improve citizen participation.

- Initiatives, such as the town hall meetings and petitions, not only contributed to strengthening governance institutions but also to enhancing NIA credibility amongst the people.

- 47% of Jamaican people have heard of NIA...Of these 82% are 'very' or 'somewhat' satisfied with their work. *(Preliminary unpublished findings LAPOP, 2017)*
Thank You!