



# MEDIA INVITATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BMCLA hosts its first Application Clinic to help persons interested in applying.**

**January 8, 2021, Bridgetown, Barbados** – The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) the island’s regulator for the medicinal cannabis industry, just completed its first application clinic today, which was geared to assist small farmers/entrepreneurs through the application process.

With applications scheduled to be available on January 18, 2021, the two virtual sessions spoke specifically for potential licensees interested in applying for the Cultivation Tier 1, the Processor Tier 1 and the Transport categories of licenses.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. Shantal Munro- Knight explained, “The objective for us at the BMCLA was to provide guidance to persons attending the application clinic to have current and concise information related to the process to be followed. We also provided documents which applicants should become familiar with and we walked through the on-line application form and the additional documentation which would be necessary.”


“It is part of our effort to allow for equal participation from every level of person who wants to be involved in the industry directly. We chose those specific categories of licenses – Cultivator – Tier 1 which is no more than an acre, the Processor – Tier 1 which is no more than 200 square metres and Transport Licenses, because we wanted to ensure that the average person who is interested in getting involved in the industry are as informed and unencumbered as possible,” she added.

She reiterated that the other ways the BMCLA was looking to assist all levels of participation is by having license fees paid in three installments over the five year period. Additionally, the license fees will be inclusive of other costs like security checks, ongoing costs for track and trace, and other administrative costs over the five year duration of the license.



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Additionally, Dr. Munro- Knight while lauding some members who in attending the clinic agreed to collaborate, she urged others to follow their example and advised Barbadians to think collectively about entering the industry noting that “if five or more average Barbadians can come together and pool together their financing or product to get into the industry and build as entrepreneurs in whatever category of license – absolutely yes its accessible!”.

-End-

**Note to Editors:**

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**About the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority:**

The BMCLA, which was established via the *Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019*, regulates the handling of the medicinal cannabis industry. The BMCLA is responsible for developing policies, procedures and guidelines to establish the medicinal cannabis industry and to ensure the medicinal cannabis is available to patients in a safe and efficient manner.

The BMCLA is responsible for the issuance of licences for cultivation, processing, distribution, sale, transportation, import and export, laboratory as well as the research and development of cannabis for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

For more information on the BMCLA, visit:

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