

ICPSD to be transformed into Executive Agency

Cabinet has given the go-ahead for a diagnostic study that will pave the way for the modernisation of the Ministry of National Security and its immigration arm.

In keeping with government of Jamaica 2010 vision, the Ministry will become a policy centred entity whilst the Immigration Citizenship and Passport Services Division (ICPSD) will be transformed into an Executive Agency.

Executive Agencies are profit and performance-centred government operations, operating almost like private companies but providing public services.

Information Minister, Senator Burchell Whiteman said that the passport division, already a net earner for the ministry and a source of positive net revenue for the government, would be able to do even more effective work. The division provides services locally and internationally for Jamaicans abroad.

The contract for the diagnostic phase was awarded to the United Kingdom-based Atos Consulting Limited, at a cost of US\$694,935, which is grant funded.

The National Security Ministry is a multi-functional entity, overseeing policy, operations, regulatory and policing functions.

The ICPSD, which has a central role in Jamaica's security and border control system, will have its operations reviewed, and the most appropriate financing and performing plans will be determined.

Taken from Jamaica Observer News—"Ministry of National Security to become policy unit only"

Friday, March 18, 2005

CDA's Audit Committee

The Audit Committee for Child Development Agency (CDA) was formally commissioned on February 10, 2005 at the Office of the Prime Minister. The establishment of this committee is in accordance with Section 33 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act in which the Minister of Finance requires that each public body appoint an Audit Committee.



The members of the Audit Committee for CDA were selected and the composition is in keeping with Section 14.1.2 of the Financial Instructions to Executive Agencies.

The Appointment Panel, which consisted of Miss Mary Anderson— CEO for CDA, Miss Kirby Clarke and Mr. Robert Martin—representatives for the Cabinet and Financial Secretaries respectively, appointed Miss Lilyclaire Bellamy, as Chairman for the committee. Miss Bellamy is a Legal Officer and represents the interests of Ministry of Health.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE POLICY COORDINATION DIVISION

Executive Agencies Monitoring Unit

presents

FACT SHEET # 13

This issue features: -

- 1 *Audit Committee Policy— Comparative Study*
- 2 *ICPSD to be transformed into Executive Agency*
- 3 *CDA's Audit Committee*

Audit Committee Policy - Comparative Study

The Audit Committee Policy came into effect November 2004. The policy document will be used to guide the operations of audit committees of all Ministries, departments and agencies. A review of the policy document revealed some inconsistencies with the Financial Instructions to Executive Agencies. (See table on opposite page.)

The provisions in the Financial Instructions will prevail over the Audit Committee Policy wherever a conflict may arise. Differences have been identified in the areas of Composition, Appointment, Reporting Responsibilities and Annual Report. This is due to the fact that before the effectuation of the policy, audit committees were already operating in Executive Agencies with a particular blend and balance as regards equity of representation and transparency.

Sections of the Instructions as reported in the table relating to Reporting Responsibilities, Annual Report and Dismissal will be amended to reflect the relevant changes as needed.

	FIEA	AUDIT COMMITTEE POLICY
COMPOSITION:	Instruction states “no more than eight (8) members.”	The policy states that the maximum number of persons should be “no more than 7.”
APPOINTMENT:	Members are appointed for a maximum of three years, in the first instance. No member should be allowed to serve for a period exceeding five years.	Committee members shall serve for a minimum of two and a maximum of four years.
REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES:	Instruction should be amended to include the submission of a report to the CEO within two weeks after the audit committee’s meeting. The submission of an exception report to the Financial Secretary will have to be included as well.	
ANNUAL REPORT:	In the list of persons who receive the annual report, the CIA should now be included.	
	The FIEA states that the annual report prepared by the committee should be submitted no later than six months after the end of the financial year.	The policy states that the report should be submitted within four months of the end of the financial year.
DISMISSAL:	Given any of the possible conditions for dismissal, the Instructions on amendment should refer to the involvement of the Audit Commission in the dismissal process.	Should be stated in the policy that justification for failure of that member to attend three consecutive meetings must first be considered, before such member is disqualified from the committee.