



National Land Agency (NLA) has direct responsibility for the land administration functions on behalf of the Government of Jamaica. Since becoming an executive agency NLA in its endeavour to improve the quality of service offered to the public, has implemented an electronic property search service—eLandjamaica, which provides land titling, land valuation, surveying and mapping services on-line.

eLandjamaica, a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development was launched in January 2003. This service allows users to access information so that they can view and print copies of Land Valuation reports and Certificates of Title as well as other data from the databases of Land Titles and Land Valuation departments.

In this electronic service, two search levels have been incorporated .

A. **Free Basic Search** which yields NLA's Valuation Number for a specific parcel of land. This number can be used to

search for the associated Volume and Folio numbers; and

B. **Advanced Property Search** allows users to view and print copies of titles and valuation reports at a cost.

The implementation of eLandjamaica is a key element for NLA as it serves to reduce fraudulent activities especially regarding transactions affecting the Certificates of Titles and the resulting loss of revenue. It is hoped that eLandjamaica will have a significant impact in terms of reducing administrative costs and processing time, once the service is in full gear.

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Information on & about Executive Agencies

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Audit Committee Workshop

The Public Expenditure Policy Coordination (PXPC) Division of the Ministry of Finance & Planning on December 3, 2003, hosted a workshop entitled “The Role of Audit Committees in Central Government,” at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

The workshop began with the welcome from the Deputy Financial Secretary of PXPC Division, Mr. Robert Martin. Miss Kirby Clarke from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary gave the opening remarks.

Guest speaker was Mr. George Roper, Senior Director from Financial Services Commission who spoke on the topic “The Role of Audit Committees.” Mr. Roper also headed the exercise discussion on “Analyzing Financial Statements.” The other case study presented was “Reviewing Audit Reports,” discussion led by Miss Marcel Holder of PXPC Division who also spoke on the

topics “Developing an Audit Committee Charter” and “Evaluating an Audit Plan.”

This workshop provided government officers with information about the practice of audit committees. The first workshop which was held in November 2002, focused chiefly on the need for and purpose of audit committees. The intent of this second workshop was to have a more practical approach and thus, was more interactive allowing participants to assess, examine, discern and probe the exercise material given to them.

The draft copy of the Audit Committee Policy was also presented to the group. This policy is intended to become the standard document on the operation of audit committees for Ministries, Departments and Agencies. It will address issues such as the composition, terms of service, resignation and dismissal from the audit committee.

An Audit Committee Commission is being proposed as part of the new policy. The Commission’s primary role will be to monitor the performance of Audit Committees and determine their level of effectiveness.

Investing Surplus Cash



Section 4.6 of the Financial Instructions to Executive Agencies states that executive agencies are permitted to invest cash surplus to their daily requirements. This surplus cash must only be invested in the Executive Agency Investment Fund operated and controlled by the Accountant General who will pay interest on credit balances. The Accountant General will be the one who determines the terms of the investment, the rate of interest and the method of calculating the amounts payable.

All interest earned on investment must be accounted for and based on the agency’s financial regime classification, must remit the requisite amount to the Consolidated Fund. For example, all model ‘B’ executive agencies must remit 50% of their interest earnings to the Consolidated Fund.