

MOFPS Insider

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

January 2025 || Volume 4 || Issue 01

**CIVIL SERVICE WEEK
ISLANDWIDE CHURCH
SERVICE**

MOFPS

**NHF EXCELS
AT PUBLIC BODIES'
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
AWARDS**

**TAJ HOSTS
10TH ANNIVERSARY
TAX FORUM**

**SECOND SUCCESSFUL
STAGING OF THE
AT YOUR SERVICE
EXPO**





Prepared by the Corporate Communication
and Public Relations Branch

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So much to
CELEBRATE!



Editorial

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) has made significant strides towards enhancing and maintaining Jamaica's fiscal sustainability through sound planning and quality service delivery. As we look to 2025, the MOFPS remains committed to achieving its human capital and infrastructural development objectives. This is evident through strategic partnerships between the MOFPS and international entities like the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation geared at improving Jamaica's road infrastructure and targeting projects that will stimulate investment opportunities in the island.

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) through the MOFPS is committed to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability which is evident through the hosting of the Public Bodies' Corporate Governance Awards in partnership with the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica. The Ministry understands that a public service that is equipped with the skills and resources to chart Jamaica's path forward is imperative to the country's overall development. Through initiatives like the Fiscal Research Institute and the launch of the FINSAC Commission Archives the Ministry has reaffirmed its commitment to edifying Jamaicans on the country's economic history to prevent the repeat of past mistakes. The Ministry also understands the important role Audit Committees' play in promoting good financial management practices and this is underscored annually through our Audit Committees' Conference.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider**, we highlight the 2024 Civil Service Week activities, MOFPS At Your Service Expo and Service Excellence Awards. We also bring highlights from Tax Administration Jamaica's 10th anniversary Tax Forum and the GOJ's securitisation of the Norman Manley International Airport as well as highlights from the Ministry's internal events.

If you wish to share feedback on this publication, please send an email to mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm.



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NHF EXCELS AT PUBLIC BODIES' CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AWARDS



Sacha Vacianna Riley (left), Executive Director, Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica presents the prestigious Greta Bogues Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance to the beaming team at the National Health Fund during the Public Bodies' Corporate Governance Awards held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Monday, December 9, 2024

The National Health Fund (NHF) excelled at the Corporate Governance Awards copping several awards across different categories including the prestigious Greta Bogues Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance during the Public Bodies' Corporate Governance Awards held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

The Finance Minister's Award for Board Composition, Functions and Structure was copped by the Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ) which also emerged as the first runner up for the

Greta Bogues Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance followed by the National Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of Jamaica.

The awards ceremony, which was hosted by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) in collaboration with the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), recognised public bodies that have established and maintained high standards of corporate governance across different areas. It was held under the theme, 'Fuelling Change for Global Impact.'

Hon. Zavia Mayne, MP, State Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in his remarks underscored the importance of good corporate governance in upholding efficiency and integrity in any organisation.

“Corporate Governance is the bedrock upon which integrity and efficiency of any organisation is built. It involves the system of policies, procedures and frameworks that ensure accountability and transparency within the organisation. When corporate governance is practiced diligently it empowers individuals to understand their roles and responsibilities and equips them with the necessary tools to perform effectively. Good governance is not just an internal organisation matter, it is a critical factor in our national development,” said Minister Mayne.

Meanwhile, Sacha Vacianna Riley, Executive Director at the PSOJ, emphasised the importance of corporate governance in strengthening Jamaica’s institutional framework.

“This year’s theme challenges us to recognise that excellence in governance is not just about national progress. It is about positioning Jamaica as a beacon of best practices on the global stage. Over these 6 years, our awards program has emerged as a driving force for progress and integrity. We have witnessed public bodies not only embrace higher standards but actively pursue excellence in their governance practices,” highlighted Vacianna Riley.

A total number of three (3) awards were presented across each category in the areas of Special Awards and Dedicated Awards. Everton Anderson, Chief Executive Officer at the NHF said the team is elated to have won the Greta Bogues Award noting that the recognition reflects the NHF’s hard work in enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness in upholding good corporate governance practices.

“For us at the NHF, winning the Greta Bogues Award symbolises a profound acknowledgement of the team’s hard work. At the NHF, promoting good corporate governance practices begins with strong leadership from our board and management team, which sets the tone for the entire organisation. We emphasise active engagement, provide clear guidance, utilise monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure adherence to high standards,” noted Anderson.

Notably, the NHF emerged the winner of the Carlene O’Connor Award in Corporate Governance Policies, Procedures and Practices, the Financial Secretary’s Award for Risk Measurement and Internal Controls and the award for Best Website. NHF also took the second-place spot for Best Annual Report and third place for the Ann Marie Rhoden Award for Compliance and Disclosure of Information.

In the category of Risk Measurement and Internal Controls, the Port Authority of Jamaica and the Factories Corporation of Jamaica Ltd. copped the second and third place titles, respectively.

With respect to the category of Board Composition, Functions and Structure, the second and third place winners of the Finance Minister’s Award were the National Solid Waste Management Authority and Petrojam Limited, respectively.

Also, under the dedicated awards category, walking away with the second and third place spots for the Carlene O’Connor Award for Corporate Governance Policies, Procedures and Practices were the Jamaica Bauxite Mining and the National Solid Waste Management Authority, respectively.

The Ann Marie Rhoden Award for Compliance and Disclosure of Information saw the National Export-Import Bank of Jamaica and the National Solid Waste Management Authority copping the first and second place spots, respectively.

The title of Most Outstanding Chairman was awarded to Lyttleton Shirley of FCJ.

The first place spot for Best Annual Report went to the National Export-Import Bank of Jamaica and Petrojam Limited took third place. Runner's up for Best Website were the National Housing Trust and Petrojam in second and third place, respectively.

Most Improved Public Body saw the Tourism Enhancement Fund, the National Solid Waste Management Authority and the Port Authority of Jamaica copping the first, second and third place spots in this category, respectively.

The Public Bodies' Corporate Governance Awards is applicable to those Public Bodies which are governed by the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act and the Corporate Governance Framework for Public Bodies.

Highlights





STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Press Release Dated: Thursday, October 3, 2024

This statement is in response to a media story today.

The multi-billion Stocks and Securities Limited (“SSL”) fraud, which dates back to at least 2010, and which only came to light in January 2023, was a punch to the gut for all Jamaicans. The magnitude of the fraud, its duration and the fact that the victims included several elderly Jamaicans, as well as a beloved icon, shocked the nation. I shared and still share those emotions.

As such, the policy has been to (i) leave no stone unturned, (ii) get international help and (iii) follow the evidence wherever it may lead. I have repeated this policy mandate several times, including in my 2023 and 2024 budget presentations and in statements issued to the press and uploaded to my social media accounts.

Consistent with this policy, in January 2023, within days of the allegations of the fraud, I wrote to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the British High Commission and requested their assistance in identifying international forensic auditors who could assist with an investigation. They kindly obliged and the GOJ, through the Financial Investigations Division (“FID”), engaged KROLL Associates UK (“KROLL”), a multinational firm of forensic auditors who have considerable global experience. It was important to me that we engaged an international firm that has no connection in Jamaica and one with deep expertise because of the complexity of the matter, the volume of transactions, the number of accounts and the time span of the fraud.

The KROLL team worked with the support of the FID and the Financial Services Commission (“FSC”), utilized technology, data analytics and forensic expertise to produce a comprehensive and independent report of its findings which was delivered to the FID in November 2023.

The collaboration between the Jamaican investigative authorities and KROLL allowed the FID to report to Jamaicans in September 2023, by way of press release, about the expansion in the “scope and size of the probe”. **Resulting from the collaboration with KROLL, the FID was able to again report to Jamaicans in December 2023, also by**

press release, that “there are over 200 affected accounts and a staggering amount exceeding US\$30 million [J\$4.7 billion] attributable to fraud and other irregularities related to clients’ funds”. This was up from the estimated 40 affected accounts and J\$2 billion that was initially reported in January 2023. The GOJ’s engagement of KROLL has therefore greatly assisted the investigation process in identifying other fraudulent schemes and affected accounts at SSL.

Furthermore, the FID reported in December 2023 that they had submitted a file on their findings in the SSL investigation to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) for a ruling. At the time the FID stated that “prosecutors ...are reviewing the evidential material with a view to discerning the possible charges.”

I have been informed that, since that time, the FID and ODPP have met on several occasions, including within the last month in regards to the review of the comprehensive and voluminous SSL investigative file. Among other things, the ODPP has recommended that the FID collect three further statements, the process of which has already commenced.

I understand the frustration and the desire for tangible results. I share these feelings too.

However, I ask the public to reflect on the fact that there can be no better demonstration of transparency in this matter than our decision to procure the services of an international forensics audit firm to support an independent and thorough investigation as we have done.

And there can be no better indication of the importance attached to this investigation than the fact that, despite the complexity of this matter with 200 affected accounts and despite the timeline of the fraud that spanned more than a decade, the investigative bodies were able to submit a file to the ODPP in December 2023 for an investigation that began in January 2023. I cannot think of a precedent for this level of efficiency among similarly complex financial frauds of the past.

Finally, we must remember that the ODPP is a constitutionally independent office with great expertise and experience. I appeal with the public to continue to exercise patience as the independent constitutional authority carries out a diligent and meticulous review of the SSL investigative file so that culpable persons may be held to account.

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NORMAN MANLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITISATION

Press Release Dated: Monday, October 7, 2024

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is pleased to announce that it has secured US\$480 million in the Government of Jamaica's first structured securitisation transaction in international capital markets. The transaction involved the securitisation of the portion of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) revenue that is due to the GOJ.

Securitisation of the NMIA revenue was achieved through the issue of a US\$480 million, 12-year bond in the international capital markets by Kingston Airport Revenue Finance Ltd (the "Issuer"). Kingston Airport Revenue Finance Ltd. (also referred to as KingAir) is a special purpose vehicle held in trust in the Cayman Islands, whose actions are limited to the terms of its debt, and which dissolves after it repays its debt.

The GOJ granted Kingston Airport Revenue Finance Ltd. its rights to 52.33% of the revenue generated by the Norman Manley International Airport (the "KingAir RevShare") in exchange for the US\$480 million that was raised through the bond issue.

The bond issuance was highly successful, with applications totalling US\$2.3 billion, representing an oversubscription of over

five times of the US\$440 million initially sought. The offer was upsized to US\$480 million in response to this robust demand.

The Notes will bear a fixed coupon of 6.75% for 12 years and are rated BB and Ba1 by Standard & Poor's Global Ratings and Moody's Rating Agency respectively, one notch above each Agency's sovereign rating for Jamaica. Additionally, the Notes are the sole obligation of the Issuer, Kingston Airport Revenue Finance Limited, and there is no recourse to the Government of Jamaica. In other words, the Notes do not represent debt obligations of the Government of Jamaica or any of its agencies.

Kingston Airport Revenue Finance Ltd will also annually distribute to the Government of Jamaica any surplus it achieves above established benchmarks. Once the bond is repaid, the full amount of the KingAir RevShare will return to the Government of Jamaica.

The Government of Jamaica is pleased with the appetite demonstrated by the investor community in investing in Jamaican assets. The GOJ looks forward to now being able to accelerate critical investments in domestic infrastructure, while at the same time reducing the national debt burden, even in the context of the adverse travel advisory and hurricane induced growth shock and the anticipated flat growth this year, for the benefit of all Jamaicans.



The Planning Institute of Jamaica's Growth Inducement Programme Inclusive Growth Index Framework (IGIF)



Ground-breaking, ingenious and transformative are some of the words that have been used to describe the Planning Institute of Jamaica's Inclusive Growth Index Framework (IGIF). The tool provides decision-makers with a panoramic view of the economy anchored by seven development pillars which are: Environmental Quality, Health, Human Capital, Poverty Reduction, Safety and Security, Wealth, and Equity and Equality. The IGIF complements traditional measures of economic growth such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), offering a more nuanced, inclusive and sustainable approach to assessing and targeting growth.

The Inclusive Growth Index Framework (IGIF) comprises a composite index and a supporting operational framework. It offers two analytical profiles: IGI(J) with 44 Jamaica-specific outcome indicators and IGI(X) with 22 indicators comparing 10 CARICOM countries, including Jamaica. Using advanced econometric tools, it examines development relationships within the seven pillars, revealing trade-offs and synergies critical for crafting inclusive growth strategies. It integrates an IT framework to enhance data processing, analysis, and report generation.

The IGIF is designed to foster collaboration among policymakers, stakeholders, and government entities, supporting Jamaica's journey toward sustainable development and equitable growth.

This dynamic tool is a significant leap forward in aligning economic progress with inclusivity and resilience, making it an essential resource for national and regional decision-making.



Get up to speed quickly on the many actions to keep the momentum towards an improved quality of life for all Jamaicans.

Follow the **Let's talk Goals** series of videos and articles that provide up-to-date explanations on the policies and planning activities that are advancing Jamaica's development.

Let's Talk Goals

» Join Us «

Thursdays 8:00PM, Saturdays 6:30PM starting October 31, 2024
Flow 105/113 and Digi Play 13
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Second Successful Staging of the **AT YOUR SERVICE EXPO**



Members of the public and private sector, secondary school students and other members of the public are fully immersed in the games and activities that took place during the At Your Service Expo at the AC Hotels by Marriott on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Friday, October 11, 2024

Several members of the public and private sector including secondary students and civil society groups congregated at the AC Hotel in Kingston for the second staging of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's (MOFPS) At Your Service Expo on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

The expo, which forms part of activities for Customer Service Week, is geared at showcasing the different services offered by the Ministry's Divisions, Departments and Agencies in one place and allows members of the public to do business directly with these entities.



Shanice Morris, Acting Director of Customer Service at the Ministry reiterated the Ministry's commitment to making service excellence not simply a goal but a foundation that is constantly being improved.

"Service excellence means going beyond expectations, anticipating needs and delivering quality service with care and precision. Excellence in service starts with a mindset, a commitment to consistency, compassion and continuous improvement and that is what we practice here at the Ministry," she highlighted.

She further noted that the At Your Service Expo is also geared at fostering learning and providing accessible services to customers in one place.

Meanwhile, Germain Williams, a member of the public, emphasised that the expo is important for small business owners who want to know more about the services offered by government and how their businesses can benefit from those services.

"My experience at the expo has been great, the registration process was very smooth and I learnt many things I did not know. I love the atmosphere and I also love how the students were invited and included because they are the future. The information being shared today is beneficial to both the students and the general public," he shared.

Divisions, departments and agencies present at the expo were the Pensions Administration Division, Employee Relations Branch, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Students' Loan Bureau, Human Resource Management and Development Branch, Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission, Strategic Workforce, Planning and Improvement Branch, Jamaica Stock Exchange, Public Procurement Commission, Jamaica Customs Agency, Accountant General's Department, Development Bank of Jamaica Limited, Economic Management Division, Financial Investigations Division, Public Enterprise Division, Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation, Revenue Appeals Division, Tax Administration Jamaica and Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

Several students from secondary schools across Jamaica were also present and had the chance to learn about the public sector's many facets and the critical role it plays in national development. Interactive games, giveaways and short presentations from each of the participating entities kept attendees engaged throughout the day. The event also featured two Outside Broadcasts on EDGE FM and RJR94 FM, which amplified the experience and ensured that the expo's educational impact reached an even wider audience.

This dynamic environment fostered collaboration and feedback between the Ministry and its stakeholders as the MOFPS continues to prioritise customer satisfaction.

International Customer Service Week 2024 was observed from Monday, October 7 – Friday, October 11, 2024, under the theme 'Above and Beyond.' The week's activities culminated with a Service Excellence Award for MOFPS staff at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.



Highlights



MOFPS SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Staff Awardees from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) are smiles following the MOFPS Service Excellence Awards at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service celebrated MOFPS staff who exemplify service excellence during its annual Service Excellence Awards held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday, October 10, 2024. The awards ceremony formed part of activities for Customer Service Week 2024 that was observed under the theme, *'Above and Beyond.'*

The Strategic Human Resource Division emerged the winners of the Financial Secretary's Award for Customer Satisfaction while the Public Expenditure Policy and Coordination Division copped the Minister of Finance's Award for Service Delivery. Andrew Taylor, Technical and Client Support Officer defended the Customer Service Champion Award, while Jordan Earle, GOJEP Technical Support Officer copped the coveted Customer Service Leader of the Year Award.

Employees who successfully completed training was also awarded.



Highlights


MOFPS SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS



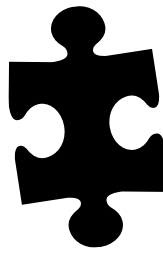


Revenue Protection Department


A department of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service



The RPD is a creature of statute, as per the Revenue Administration Act (RAA), and is mandated to inter alia institute programmes for the detection of fraud against the laws relating to revenue.



In **March 2020**, staff and functions of the Public Accountability Inspectorate (PAI) joined with those of the RPD. On **April 1, 2023**, there was a formal merger of the RPD and the PAI. The PAI's functions are described under the Financial Audit and Administration (FAA) Act Instructions.



RPD conducts :
Investigations of allegations of bribery, fraud and corruption in the Revenue Service; Background checks on potential employees of Government entities; Performance audits; Facility surveys and inspections; Joint/ post audit customs inspections.

LAUNCH OF THE FINSAC COMMISSION ARCHIVES

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service launched the publication of the FINSAC Commission Archives at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday, October 17, 2024. The archives provide an opportunity for stakeholders, researchers and members of the public to access valuable insights from various perspectives that add to the public understanding of that period.





Building A Better Public Service

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In partnership with ministries, departments and agencies, the Transformation Implementation Unit has made significant strides in building a better public service. These include:


- 1** The rollout of broadband infrastructure which connects over 700 entities to fibre-fast internet
- 2** Implementation of an integrated HR and payroll system to 70 entities which provides seamless processing of HR and payroll data for approximately 80,000 employees
- 3** Rationalisation of 41 public bodies through merger, closure and integration into parent ministry, saving the Government over J\$2 billion
- 4** Modernisation of the CPFSA's ICT infrastructure which has enabled the Agency to work more efficiently and effectively
- 5** A new compensation system for the public sector which reduced 185 salary scales into 16 bands. This has made compensation simpler, more transparent and fairer.




You can learn more about the Government's plan for transforming the public sector by visiting publicsectortransformation.gov.jm.

Get the latest updates on social media

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VISIBILITY CEREMONY BETWEEN GOJ AND WORLD BANK

The Government of Jamaica and the World Bank signed a loan agreement for USD 12 million to support the Kingston Waterfront Improvement Project that is geared at revitalising Downtown Kingston. The Visibility Ceremony was held at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Friday, October 18, 2024.



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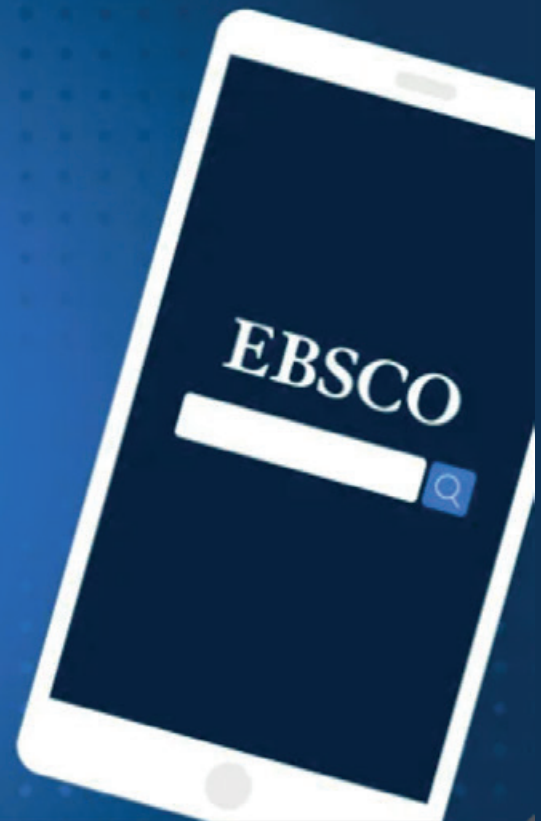
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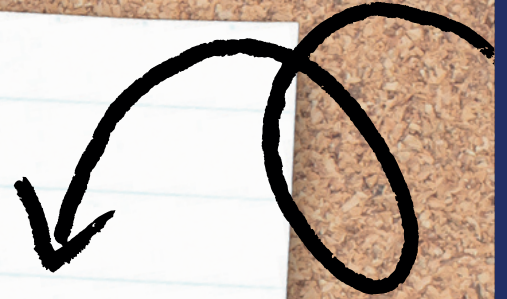
“A Centre of Excellence and Quality Information”

MOFPS AND UWI LAUNCH FISCAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Department of Economics and other partners launched the Fiscal Research Centre at the University on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. The centre is geared at advancing knowledge and expertise in public finance and public policy.



ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S
DEPARTMENT



Reminder!

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must be submitted by
January 31st, 2025



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FINANCE MINISTER SAYS GOVERNMENT TO LEVERAGE AI TO IMPROVE AUDITING PRACTICES

Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service delivers opening remarks during the GOJ Audit Committees' Conference at Summit Kingston on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Friday, November 8, 2024

Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service says the government will be leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to improve and enhance audit committees in Jamaica. She was delivering remarks during the Government of Jamaica's 2024 Audit Committees' Conference at the Summit Kingston on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

According to Minister Williams, to further elevate the impact of audit committee members, the government will accelerate its deployment of technology in auditing by leveraging AI to improve efficiency, accuracy and insights into the financial and operational landscape.

"AI can be used to be predictive; it can identify trends and patterns in financial data that will signal potential risks or fraud. It can also be used to identify unusual transactions or deviations from established financial patterns and flagging them for review before they lead to significant issues," said Minister Williams.

She further explained that "AI tools can help to model various financial scenarios based on historical data and market trends allowing audit committees to

better understand potential risks and impact on future financial health."

In her remarks, Minister Williams also commended the work of auditors and underscored the important role they play in identifying potential risks associated with their organisations and their link to the medium-term socio-economic policy framework.

Keynote speaker at the event, Richard Chambers, CIA, CRMA, CFE, the founder and Chief Practice Leader of Richard F. Chambers and Associates addressed regulatory and emerging risks that may not be familiar to audit committees.

He said, "The kind of risks that audit committees are expected to have is a greater sense of things like risk management itself, cybersecurity and new areas like technical and technology risks that a lot of audit committees are not equipped to understand."

"A lot of audit committee members came from an era where technology risks were not so critical so they have to force their way of thinking to recognise what these technology risks can do like cybersecurity and more recently AI," he added.

In the meantime, Wayne Robertson, Permanent

Secretary in the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, who offered remarks on behalf of Audrey Sewell, OJ, CD, JP, Cabinet Secretary, outlined the government's role in improving the operations of auditors.

"The role and efforts of the government in continuing to bolster the foundation upon which audit committees operate should be commended. Evidence of this is by increasing the regulatory framework and providing policies and procedures."

He further noted, "The government has demonstrated its commitment to transparency and accountability, and we note the various changes to the legislative and policy framework".

The conference, which was held under the theme,

'Navigating the Future: Audit Committees as Guardians of Trust in Tomorrow's World' comes on the heels of the 2023 amendment to Section 33 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The amendment officially grants the Cabinet Secretary the authority to appoint audit committee members.

Present at the event was Darlene Morrison, CD, Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service who offered remarks. Other presenters included Stuart Hylton, Director, Assurance and Compliance Services, Symptai Consulting Limited Services, Rory Ebanks, Director, Information Security Advisor, Symptai Consulting Limited Services, David Hall, Managing Director, DC Consultants and Associates and David Mullings, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Blue Mahoe Holdings.



STATIN Co-Hosts Regional Data Ethics, Governance, and Quality Capacity Building Workshop

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), and the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) recently hosted a Capacity Building Workshop on Data Ethics, Governance, and Quality in a Changing Data Ecosystem for the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The goal of the workshop was to ensure that Caribbean SIDS are equipped to modernize their statistical systems and address the emerging challenges posed by an increasingly complex and rapidly changing data ecosystem. The workshop included key sessions on Data Governance and Stewardship in the Changing National Data Ecosystem, Modernizing Legislation for Official Statistics to Remain Relevant, Quality Assurance and Novel Data Sources, and Modern Statistical Production Architecture in the Caribbean Context.

With the combined efforts of UNSD, CARICOM, ECLAC, and STATIN, the workshop fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing among senior statisticians and experts in the region. Participants engaged in interactive breakout sessions and group discussions, which provided a platform to share experiences, challenges, and solutions related to their own national contexts. The workshop concluded with a panel discussion summarizing key insights, recommendations and proposing the way forward.

Workshop Highlights





TAJ HOSTS 10TH ANNIVERSARY TAX FORUM

Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) hosted its 10th Anniversary Tax Forum geared at commemorating its 10th anniversary under the theme 'TAJ's Enhanced Role in Nation Building' held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The forum featured remarks from Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) and Darlene Morrison, CD, Financial Secretary within the MOFPS.



2024 TOP CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE YEAR

SET TO INNOVATE, ELEVATE, CELEBRATE



Andre Allen (right), Manager for Computer Services, Jamaica Information Service copped the Civil Servant of the Year Award in the Managerial Category, Barbara Williams Riley (2nd right), Field Supervisor, Statistical Institute of Jamaica copped the Mid Managerial Award and Jeron Bonsfeather (2nd left), Psychiatric Nursing Aide, Ministry of Health and Wellness won in the Technical Support Category. Veronica Miller Richards (left), Regional Health Records Administrator, Ministry of Health and Wellness copped the People's Choice Award during the FHCCU/CSW Civil Servants of the Year and People's Choice Awards at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel on Friday, November 15, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Friday, November 15, 2024

Three (3) exceptional civil servants were awarded for their outstanding contribution to the public sector during the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union (FHCCU) Civil Servants of the Year and People's Choice Awards held at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel on Friday, November 15, 2024.

Andre Allen, Manager for Computer Services at the Jamaica Information Service copped the Civil Servant of the Year Award in the Managerial Category while Barbara Williams Riley, Field Supervisor at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica came out on top in the Mid-Managerial Category and Jeron Bonsfeather, Psychiatric Nursing Aide at the Ministry of Health and Wellness in the Technical Support Category.

Veronica Miller Richards, Regional Health Records Administrator at the Ministry of Health and Wellness won the coveted People's Choice Awards with 11,551 votes. The top civil servants were nominated by their peers across the public sector.

Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service in her remarks emphasised the significance of this prestigious event in recognising and affirming these outstanding members of the public sector.

"Our civil servants embody the values of integrity, empathy, professionalism and a profound commitment to service. They form part of the backbone of our Jamaican society ensuring that our public service functions smoothly, equitably and with the interest of every Jamaican at heart. It is through this dedication that together as a country we become more powerful in the face of modern challenges making it possible for us to keep moving ahead with hope and determination," said Minister Williams.

Hon. Audrey Sewell, OJ, CD, JP, Cabinet Secretary underscored the significant contributions made by civil servants daily in driving transformation, stating that "Public sector workers are the cornerstone of elevation, transformation and nation building. You are the innovators to develop solutions, the leaders to inspire action and the workers to implement change... the contributions of public servants must be recognised because just as a single drop of water can cause ripples across an entire pool, so can employees, regardless of the size of their task or job."

Michelle Tracey, Assistant General Manager, Marketing, Communications and Member Experience at the FHCCU stated that the Co-operative Credit Union is a proud partner of this initiative.

"Our public servants are true stalwarts having paved the way for a brighter tomorrow, one act of service at a time. At the FHCCU we are proud to stand by you and to celebrate the invaluable role you play in advancing our nation. Let us renew our commitment to lift each other up, to work together

and to remember that when we serve with love there is no limit to what we can achieve," she highlighted. Nominees from the Managerial category include Diana Kellier from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Yvette Thomas-Sleem from the Office of the Children's Advocate and Arlene Bennett-McLeod from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Nominees from the Mid-Manual category included Veronica Miller Richards from the Ministry of Health and Wellness along with Kerry-Ann Wilson and Cindy Archat both from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

The Technical Support Category nominees comprised, Paulette Lewis from the Ministry of Education and Youth, Dennis Brown, from the Ministry of National Security and Jennifer Edwards from the Institute of Jamaica.

Jeffrey Azan, Business Consultant and Motivational Speaker delivered the Keynote address. The awards ceremony is a prelude to the upcoming Civil Service Week activities scheduled to take place from November 17 -23, 2024 under the theme, *'Innovate, Elevate, Celebrate: Advancing a Nation'*.

In his reply on behalf of the nominees, Andre Allen, Manager for Computer Services at the Jamaica Information Service and the Civil Servant of the Year in the Managerial Category said he is humbled and inspired by the awards.

"It is a humbling and inspiring moment that we can stand here today not just as individuals but as representatives of the collective effort and support of the public service. Together through our dedication, creativity and teamwork we can contribute to something far greater and create a flood of progress, innovation and transformation for our beloved country," expressed Allen.

The week's activities will include a Church Service, the Jamaica Civil Service Association Secondary School Debate Competition, exposition and health fair, the Jamaica Civil Service Long Service Awards Ceremony, interactive in-house sessions across ministries and an After-Work Lyne. The week of activities will culminate with an Island-wide Church Service.

Highlights

2024 TOP CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE YEAR



Civil Service Week

ISLANDWIDE CHURCH SERVICE

The Civil Service Week Island wide main church service was held at the Kingston Open Bible Church on Sunday, November 17, 2024.



JCSA SECONDARY SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION

The Jamaica Civil Service Association held its Civil Service Week Secondary School Debate competition at the JACISERA Park on Monday, November 18, 2024. Champion College emerged the first-place winners in the competition, followed by Mannings High School in second place. Glenmuir High School secured the third-place spot in the competition.



CAMPION COLLEGE



MANNINGS HIGH SCHOOL



GLENMUIR HIGH SCHOOL



Civil Service Week

EXPOSITION AND HEALTH FAIR

The Civil Service Week Exposition and Health Fair was held at Emancipation Park on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.



Jamaica Civil Service

LONG SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual Jamaica Civil Service Long Service Awards ceremony is geared at celebrating and recognising civil servants for their dedicated years of service in central government. It was held at King's House on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.



Jamaica Civil Service

AFTER-WORK LYME

The Civil Service Week After-Work Lyme forms part of the Civil Service Week activities and was held at NHT Club Overtime on Friday, November 22, 2024.



THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

Alicia Bish

Meet Alicia Bish, Deputy Financial Secretary in the Public Enterprise Division at the Ministry of Finance and The Public Service. Ms Bish has been employed to the public service for over 19 years.

Here are some things about her:

1. If you could change something about Jamaica what would it be? Why?

The first thing I would seek to change is the structural factors that are essential for Jamaica's progress as a nation. I believe the preservation of strong social values is crucial to ensuring sustainable economic growth which includes prioritising education and community-building as this can create more inclusive development, thus ensuring progress benefits all and strengthens Jamaica's social fabric.

2. What is your favourite way to spend a day off?

I love unwinding and immersing myself in a good movie or series. It's the perfect way for me to relax and recharge.

3. If money were no object what would you do?

I would love to travel the world, exploring new cultures, and experiences that broaden my horizon. I would also find ways to give back- getting involved in charity.

4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

The portfolio is extensive, providing exposure to a wide array of sectors and disciplines. Additionally, it offers valuable opportunities to impact key factors that are vital for the growth and development of public bodies and Jamaica as a whole.

5. Top 3 lessons you would teach your younger self:

- Enjoy and document every moment, cherishing the experiences that shape your journey.
- Embrace your unique journey, focusing on your own growth and experiences rather than comparing yourself to others. Step out of your comfort zone.
- You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated.

MINISTRY MATTERS

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PAY COURTESY CALL TO MOFPS



Natacha Marzolf (left), Inter-American Development Bank Group's Country Representative in Jamaica paid a courtesy call to the Hon. Fayval Williams (center), MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Darlene Morrison (right), CD, Financial Secretary in the Ministry on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

EUROPEAN UNION AMBASSADOR PAY COURTESY CALL TO MOFPS



Her Excellency, Dr. Erja Askola (center), European Union Ambassador to Jamaica paid a courtesy call to the Hon. Fayval Williams (left), MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service and the Hon. Zavia Mayne (right), MP, State Minister in the Ministry on Wednesday, November 27, 2024.



MOFPS

Pinktober Highlights

Staff at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service wore pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Friday, October 25, 2024.





Shakiel Rochester Shorter
Host

FINANCE MATTERS

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's flagship programme, Finance Matters, is a current affairs programme that is set to demystify the economics and fiscal policies and initiatives implemented by the Government to empower Jamaicans as we chart a path to Jamaica's economic prosperity. The feature is produced by the MOFPS and is broadcast on all local TV channels.



► **EPISODE 1**
Reverse Income Tax Credit
Bevon Sinclair



► **EPISODE 2**
Jamaica's removal from
FAFT's grey list
Keenan Falconer



► **EPISODE 3**
New advancements in pension
David King



► **EPISODE 4**
TOOL Programme
Edison Galbraith



► **EPISODE 5**
TIU Transforming
the Public Sector
Maria Thompson Walters



► **EPISODE 6**
New Threshold increases
Kedon Dennis



► **EPISODE 7**
Jamaica's SDGs Progress
Latoya Clarke



► **EPISODE 8**
The Jamaica Stock
Exchange
Dr. Marlene Street Forrest



► **EPISODE 9**
Deloree Stample Chambers
The Revenue Appeals Division



► **EPISODE 10**
Season Recap

Customer Service APPRECIATION DAY

The MOFPS recognised Customer Service Appreciation Day on Thursday, December 12, 2024. On the day, visiting customers at the Ministry's headquarters were engaged in different activities.



FARMERS' MARKET

The MOFPS Farmers' Market happens every last Friday of each month.

