



The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

in collaboration with



The Ministry of Finance & the Public Service

# Public Bodies' Corporate Governance *Awards*

"Supporting Good Corporate Governance  
Practices in the Public Sector"

The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MFPS) has established the annual **Public Bodies Corporate Governance Awards for public bodies**. These awards will be applicable to those Public Bodies which are governed by the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act (PBMAA) and the Corporate Governance Framework for Public Bodies (CGF).

## **Award Objectives**

- ◆ To promote awareness and adherence to the principles of good corporate governance.
- ◆ To encourage improvements in the standard of corporate governance disclosure.
- ◆ To recognise Public Bodies that have established and maintained high standards of corporate governance disclosures and practices.

## **A. Eligibility for Entry**

All Public Bodies governed by the (PBMAA), namely:

- ◆ Statutory Bodies or Authorities (with body corporate status)
- ◆ Government Owned Companies

## **B. Award Evaluation**

The Event will cover **three (3) special awards** and **four (4) category awards**; the latter will determine the **top 5** from which the winner will be selected based on a different adjudication procedure. A questionnaire has been developed in order to elicit responses in relation to the categories. The completed questionnaire will be evaluated by the judging panel using the evaluation scheme which is based on the assignment of 100 points, as allocated among the 4 categories as noted below:

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Scores</b>
Board composition, functions & structure	<b>25%</b>
Corporate governance policies, procedures and practices	<b>30%</b>
Compliance and disclosure of information	<b>20%</b>
Risk Measurement and Internal Controls	<b>25%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **C. Award Categories**

- **BEST OVERALL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AWARD**

- **SPECIAL AWARDS** as noted hereunder:

- ◆ Best Annual Report Award
- ◆ Most Improved Public Body
- ◆ Best Website Award

- **FOUR (4) DEDICATED CATEGORY AWARDS:**

- 1. BOARD COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS & STRUCTURE**

This award aims to identify good corporate governance practices articulated in the CGF especially in relation to the separation of roles of the CEO and Board Chair, Board diversity, competency of Board members, establishment of Board Committees, and conduct of orientation and training of Board members as well as board evaluation.

- 2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES**

This award seeks to assess the extent to which specific recommended corporate governance policies, procedures and practices in relation to the operation of the Board have been implemented. These include Board Charter, Corporate Social Responsibility policy, appraisal of the CEO and availability of preparatory documents for board meetings.

- 3. COMPLIANCE AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

This award will examine whether the Public Body has been compliant with the statutory requirements of the PBMAA, inclusive of the development of Corporate Plans, Annual Reports and the contents therein.

- 3. RISK MEASUREMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS**

This award will assess whether the Public Body has appropriate internal control policies and systems such as a Risk Management Policy and Internal Audit functions.

## **D. Entry Procedures**

Each Public Body will receive the relevant questionnaire (application form) for completion by the week commencing the **9<sup>th</sup> of November 2020**. Questionnaires must be completed and returned to the PSOJ by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, December 2020** at **4:00p.m.** together with two (2) copies of the annual report for the **financial year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. **NO ENTRY FEE IS**

## REQUIRED.

### **E. Review & Judging Procedures**

The awards review and judging panel will comprise representatives from the PSOJ Corporate Governance Committee, the MoFPS and other independent private sector leaders in the field of corporate governance.

For all categories, there will be two levels of review:

#### ***I. Quality Review***

An assessment will be done on the quality and standard of presentation and disclosure of corporate governance information in annual reports. Where relevant, other publicly available information may also be taken into account, for example the Public Body website. The emphasis will be on voluntary disclosures that exceed the minimum statutory and regulatory requirements.

#### ***II. Compliance Review***

A check will be conducted on compliance with the mandatory corporate governance disclosure requirements under the PBMAA, CGF and the Companies Act where applicable.

After completion of the above review, the judging panel will shortlist the top five (5) candidates for interviews starting **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, January 2021** to determine the final winners. The interviews will assist in clarifying areas of ambiguity and substantiate documents submitted. At least one(1) Officer who signed the submitted application form must also attend the interview. The weighting of the final score will be then allocated as: **Application (40%), Interview (25%), Annual Report (20%) and Website (15%).**

### **F. Judging Criteria**

The judging criteria for the main categories include the following:

- ◆ Overall presentation.
- ◆ Promptness of reporting.
- ◆ Quality of disclosure in relation to the following information:
  - ◆ Corporate governance statement and practices.
  - ◆ Board structure and functioning including board composition and diversity.
  - ◆ Remuneration policy and details of directors' and senior management's

remuneration packages.

- ◆ Internal controls and risk management
- ◆ Corporate social responsibility.
- ◆ Conflict of interest and connected transactions and relationships.
- ◆ Other disclosures relating to, e.g., board committees, internal audit, shareholder communications and investor relations.
- ◆ Ease of identifying compliance information.

The judges will also take into account other publicly- available information that reflects on the standard of particular Public Bodies' corporate governance. The decision of the judges will be final. In the event that the judges are unable to find entries of sufficient merit, they may, at their discretion, withhold some awards.

## **G. Award Ceremony**

- ◆ The Awards Ceremony should be attended by all applicants and other guests and will be held in February 2021.
- ◆ Media representatives will be invited to cover the Awards Ceremony as a part of the public relations arrangement.

### **Notification:**

Enquiries in relation to the Public Bodies Corporate Governance Awards 2020 should be directed to:

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*Chairman, PSOJ Corporate Governance Committee*

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