

# Eighth Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti- Corruption Bodies (CCAICACB)

“Controlling Corruption – Preventative Mechanisms Work  
Better Than Reactive Measures”

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# The Integrity Commission of Jamaica Country Report 2022

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The Integrity Commission of Jamaica came into operation on February 22, 2018. The Commission, legislatively, represented the amalgamation of three legacy entities namely:

- The Office of the Contractor General;
- The Commission for the Prevention of Corruption; and
- The Integrity (Members of Parliament) Commission.

The Integrity Commission, in its current construct, represents a new dispensation in Jamaica's Anti-Corruption efforts.

- In contrast to the prior pieces of legislation which established the predecessor agencies, the Integrity Commission Act (ICA), in addition to the reactive measures, specifically mandates the Commission, as a component of its functions, to engage in preventative anti-corruption work.
- These functions are reflected in Section 6 of the Integrity Commission Act.

# Principal Objects of the Integrity Commission Act

Section 3 of the Integrity Commission Act provides that the principal objects of the Act are to:

- Further, encourage and promote propriety and integrity among persons exercising public functions in Jamaica.
- Promote and strengthen measures for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption.
- Ensure that government contracts are awarded, varied, renewed or terminated impartially, on merit and in a financially prudent manner.
- Enhance public confidence that acts of corruption and impropriety will be investigated and dealt with in a manner which achieves transparency, accountability and fairness.

- Central to the new anti-corruption dispensation and befitting of the theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the CCAICACB is the focus which the Integrity Commission Act, 2017, places on preventative measures/mechanisms as functions of the Commission, as per Section 6 of the Act.

# Section 6 Functions of the Commission

- (a) Investigate alleged or suspected acts of corruption and instances of non-compliance with the provisions of this Act;
- (b) Prosecute acts of corruption and offences committed under this Act;
- (c) Take necessary and effective measures for the prevention and detection of corruption within public bodies;

# Section 6 Functions

- (d) Examine the practices and procedures of public bodies and make recommendations, in relation to the revision of those practices and procedures, which in the opinion of the Commission may reduce the likelihood or the occurrence of acts of corruption;
- (e) Receive complaints in relation to alleged or suspected acts of corruption and non-compliance with the provisions of this Act;



# Section 6 Functions

- (f) Monitor and where necessary investigate the award, implementation and termination of government contracts;
- (g) Prepare codes of conduct and other advisory material relating to corruption and guide public bodies in respect of matters within the purview of this Act;
- (h) Monitor current legislative and administrative practices in the fight against corruption;

# Section 6 Functions

(i) Advise the Minister on the adoption of international best practices relating to the prevention of corruption;

(j) Co-ordinate the implementation of an anti-corruption strategy;

(k) Collaborate or co-operate with other persons or bodies, whether in Jamaica or outside of Jamaica, duly authorized to prevent, combat and investigate acts of corruption, so as to implement an integrated approach to the eradication of corruption;

# Section 6 Functions

- (l) Advise the Minister on such legislative reform as the Commission considers necessary to reduce the likelihood or the occurrence of acts of corruption;
- (m) Compile and publish statistics relating to the investigation, prosecution and conviction of offences relating to acts of corruption;

# Section 6 Functions

- (n) Determine the extent of financial loss and such other losses to public bodies, private individuals and organizations, including losses sustained by the private sector, as a result of acts of corruption; and
- (o) Adopt and strengthen mechanisms for educating the public in matters relating to corruption.

# Section 6 Functions

- The majority of the IC Section 6 functions are related to preventative activities/measures and fall within the remit of the Commission's Corruption Prevention, Stakeholder Engagement and Anti-Corruption Strategy Division.

# Approach to Highlights/Challenges

- In keeping with the Legislative provisions governing the Commission, particulars of its current annual operations, inclusive of achievements and challenges will be tabled in its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on or before June 30, 2022.
- Accordingly, this Jamaica Country Report will, therefore, place emphasis on publicly available information which will not preempt the Commission's Statutory 2021/2022 Annual Reporting obligations.

# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- The Commission, in its 2020/2021 Annual Report indicated that *“Substantial strides were made in laying the groundwork to fully operationalize the Commission, and several significant strategic work initiatives were embarked upon.”*
- Amongst the key activities and highlights of the referenced period were the following:

# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- The swearing-in into office of all 4 substantive members of the Commission's Statutory Executive Team.
- The transitioning of the Commission's staff away from the legacy positions that they had been holding in the former Commission of the Contractor General, the Parliament Integrity Commission and the Corruption Prevention Commission, into substantive Integrity Commission staff positions.



# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- The restructuring of the Commission's organization, from its previously approved 132- staff member structure to a an expanded staff complement of 176.
- The restructuring resulted in the creation of a new operation Division, namely the Corruption Prevention, Stakeholder Engagement and Anti-Corruption Strategy Division (June 2021); and
- The revamping or strengthening of all of the Commission's other divisions and units.

# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- The Commission was lawfully designated as the ‘Authority’, under law, to operationalize and administer the Protected Disclosures Act, otherwise called ‘The Whistleblowing Act’. The Commission’s Information and Complaints Division will discharge these responsibilities for and on behalf of the Commission.

# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- As at March 31, 2021, a seventy-four percent (74%) increase was achieved regarding the number of statutory declarations received for December 31, 2020.
- The marked increase could be attributed to the targeted public relations campaign, the partnership and relationship building initiative and the Zero Tolerance Policy, which were implemented by the Information and Complaints Division during the period.

# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- Commencement of the Statutory Declaration Public Relations Campaign organised by the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) in January 2021. The following products were created under the PR Campaign:
  - Time Signal Announcements;
  - Thirty (30) Second Public Service Announcement;
  - Placement of Advertisements on the Integrity Commission's and JIS Websites;
  - Print Media Advertisement;
  - Get the Facts Interview; and
  - Instructional Videos.

# 2020/2021 Groundwork

- Further and better particulars of the Commission's work during the preceding 12 month period can be reviewed in its 2020/2021 Annual Report which is available via the following url:  
[www.integrity.gov.jm/annual-reports](http://www.integrity.gov.jm/annual-reports)

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- The Integrity Commission continued to build upon the foundation laid in the 2020/2021 period and full particulars of same will be documented in its upcoming 2021/2022 Annual Report.
- Detailed hereunder are certain key activities which underscore the work of the Commission within the past 12 months.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Appearance before the Section 73D Oversight Committee of the Houses of Parliament:
  - November 2021
  - October 2021
- The Commission used the opportunity to place on the record its formal position regarding the Section 53 “Gag Clause” as well as proposed amendments to the Third Schedule (Statutory Declaration Form) of the Act.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Formal Submission by the IC to the Joint Select Committee of the Houses of Parliament (February 2022) regarding the following :
  - Amendments to the Integrity Commission Act, 2017 and other key pieces of Legislation;
  - The Protected Disclosures Act



# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Successful execution of International Anti-Corruption Day Commemorative Activities December 2021 - <https://integrity.gov.jm/iacd-2021>
  - Activities included print publication in the main local newspapers;
  - Airing of jingle during a two week period contemporaneous to December 9 on multiple radio stations; and
  - Airing of video jingle on December 9.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Use of Mainstream Media and Social Media Platforms to aid in Public Sensitization to drive awareness and compliance regarding the submission of Statutory Declarations for the intake period ending March 31, 2022.
- Launch of the IC's Twitter Policy and the use of the Social Media platform as a means of sensitizing and educating the public on the work of the Commission, and anti-corruption and good governance news, developments and standards.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Formal signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the following entities:
  - Financial Investigations Division (FID) – December 2021
  - The Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) – March 2022
  - Collaborative efforts are underway to establish similar MOUs with the Attorney General's Chambers, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Jamaica Customs, Tax Administration, the Revenue Protection Division and the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Assisted in the development of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Offences, Points to Prove and Authorities Handbook 2021.
- Convening of stakeholder engagement sessions with Civil Society and Private Sector Umbrella groups as well as other key public body groups with the intent of forming strategic partnerships.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- The Corruption Prevention, Stakeholder Engagement and Anti-Corruption Division continued its efforts through formal means to engage and invite numerous public bodies to participate in its Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Workshops.
- The referenced Workshop Series has been met with great enthusiasm and the subsequent training of numerous public bodies during the period under review.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Delivery of Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Workshop Modules/Training for the Cabinet of Jamaica and the Shadow Cabinet.
- Delivery of Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Modules/Training to Jamaica's three Gaming Commissions, namely:
  - The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission (BGLC),
  - The Jamaica Racing Commission (JRC); and
  - The Casino Gaming Commission (CGC)

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Continued work towards the development of Jamaica's 1<sup>st</sup> National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the integration of same as a deliverable under Jamaica's National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- The IC's Investigation Division continued its work and submitted numerous investigative reports to the Houses of Parliament for tabling in accordance with the legislation.
- Particulars of published Reports of Investigation are available through the following url:  
<https://integrity.gov.jm/investigation-reports?page=1>



# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Additionally, published Special Reports which were generated by the Commission during the period under review is available on its website and may be accessed via the following url: <https://integrity.gov.jm/special-reports>

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- Despite the numerous achievements of the Commission, the past year was not without its challenges.
- The Commission continued to face challenges regarding the recruitment and onboarding of staff to fill the numerous vacancies associated with the revised organisation structure. This challenge was primarily driven by the physical office space available to the Commission.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- In this regard, the Commission formalised a Turn-Key Lease Agreement for a new additional office location to accommodate the restructured organization and operational requirements.
  - Build-out of the office facility commenced in late 2021 and is far advanced.
  - As at May 2022, the Information and Complaints Division relocated to the new office facility.
  - The Commission is scheduled to fully occupy the new office facility within the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Financial Year.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- The new office space which is comprised of approximately 25,000 sq. ft. allows the Commission to operate from a combined office space of 38,000 sq ft across its two locations.
- The foregoing is a doubling of the 19, 000 sq. ft. space previously occupied by the Commission and will allow it to recruit its approved staff complement of 176 officers.

# 2021/2022 Highlights

- The Commission's new office space allows it to resolve a major drawback which it had faced given that its then two (2) existing offices, located at Oxford Road and Barbados Avenue in the New Kingston area, were physically inadequate for the revised staff structure.

Thank You