



JAMAICA ACCOUNTABILITY METER PORTAL

Strengthening Public Stewardship and Accountability in Government

Value-Adding Role of Civil Society in the PFM Value Chain

June 22, 2023 – Kingston, Jamaica



This project is co-funded by the European Union

Presentation



- JAMP Timeline
 The journey from 2015 to today's tools
- The triggers for engagement
 The environment that created possibilities
- Tangible benefits

 Mutually strengthening of objectives



Citizens are the linchpin. We are the owners of the resources and assets SAIs protect.

We are the financiers of public administration.

We are the employers of all the public officials – in the Government and the Parliament.

JAMP TIMELINE

Part One

Introduction

Background

1.1 The National Housing Trust (NHT) was established in 1976 through an amendment to the National Insurance Act. The Trust subsequently gained its own charter in 1979, when Section VII of the National Insurance Scheme Act was repealed to make way for the National Housing Trust Act. The core THE AUGD REPORT follows, and in the housing sector." The key performance areas of the NHT include mortgage creation, mortgage collection, contributions collections, housing starts and completions. NHT's mission is to: "to be effective stewards, caring for our contributors as we deliver housing solutions, build communities, refund contributions, and influence the market to make housing more affordable."

Functions of NHT

- 1.2 Section 4 of the Act states, 'The functions of the Trust shall be
 - (a) to add to and improve the existing supply of housing by-
 - promoting housing projects to such extent as may from time to time be approved by the Minister.
 - making available to such contributors as may be prescribed, in such manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, loans to assist in the purchase, building, maintenance, repair or improvement of houses; and
 - iii. encouraging and stimulating improved methods of production of houses;
 - (b) to enhance the usefulness of the funds of the Trust by promoting greater efficiency in the housing sector."

Background - promulgation of the NHT Act

1.3 During the deliberations in the promulgation of the NHT Act in 1979, assurance was given that the National Housing Trust funds would not be used to support the Budget to the detriment of the operation of the Trust.

"I would like to assure the Member that there is no intention to direct the investments of the Trust in this manner. The Trust intends to keep its obligation to pay a reasonable bonus to its contributors. We have pointed out that this would be related to the earnings of the Trust which would in turn be related to the general economic conditions. For these reasons the investments of the Trust will be directed to meet these obligations." To emphasize the point, the Minister went on to state that "The Member from South

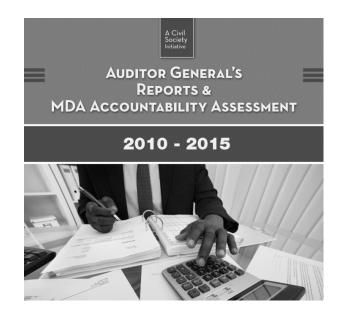
BREACH OF PUBLIC TRUST

Public company invests \$180Million (USD \$1.15M) in questionable land deal



SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Research to answer key questions about Jamaica's accountability framework



2014

2016

QUESTIONS



- Who are the players in the stakeholder accountability framework?
- What happens to the AG's report after submission to the Parliament?
- Who is empowered to hold public officials responsible for breaches?
- What sanctions are available?
- What can citizens and CSOs do?

Auditor General's Scrapbook

Auditor-General's report tabled in House; financial irregularities, losses shown

The report of the Anditor-General for the financial year ended March 31, 1995, was tabled in the House last orthogonal for the financial year ended March 31, 1995, was tabled in the House last orthogonal for the financial year ended March 31, 1995, was tabled in the House last ordered with the transactions of the various departments of Government for that financial year but also refers to transactions of previous years and of the current financial year.

Its sanctures show certain service personnel, and has asked financial irresularities and loss for stricter control of personal years of the total mass of the total mass of the forest personnel and by each solid property than the property of the total mass of the forest personnel agreed deal of year, but the report states that money.

The Auditor-General show or 150 units, 160 units, 16

Auditor-General

FROM THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT (12)

national accounts

1984

NO ACCOUNTS EVER FROM REGIONAL

the Ministry's Accounts", reports the Audi-tor General in his 1976 Report—with refer ence to the Ministry of Health

HOSPITAL BOARDS

The accounts of Regional Boards which are required by the Hospitals Management Schemes to be submitted and audited annually have not been unce the inception of the Boards Impection of Regional Hospitals disclosed many unsains

PARISH ACCOUNTS

Parish Council signed the balance sheet on July 13, 1964 — that is three and a

Private-sector groups that they have had to travel back and sanctions for JDIP br Auditor General's office, it is evident that this travelling would have been speeded up if the Auditor General's expended up if the Auditor General's expended up if the Auditor General's expended staff were large enough to give stead at fair were large enough to give

sector representatives on the Partnership for

Transformation, are appalled by the contents of the Auditor General's 'Special Audit Report of the Jamaica

Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP)."

Grim conditions at Bellevue

THE Auditor General's report on Bellevue Hospital has revealed that grim conditions exist at that institution. There were suggestions of neglect, demoralization and possi-



Neglect, demoralization.

petty corruption cited

Canadian Farm Work Programme audit Auditor Gen. discovers unsatisfactory features

1990

the his audit, electrofice cognitions of all Labour. The report said, too, that and US\$736,143 (J\$5.1, million) and US\$28,120 (J\$182,240) were depended in the programme's bank account in Canada and the USA, after the audit was conducted.

emove mentally ill persons from recharging 39 fire extinguishers, but only 18 could be found. Mr. Leslie said the missing extinguishers were at the Kenneth Royes n 1972. Otl Centre which is also under

on the operations of the hospital. Simple transportation of meals now broken, walls were dirty and had to be administered by a cart or . office furniture was inadeq patients had to walk great dis- The-security of the premises tances to get their food.

The report mentioned thatdiet poorly lit and the pigpen had pans used to convey food were in a no lights. Although there wa

At the Kenneth Royes Ce "The kitchen and general buildings were poorly mainta Roofs leaked, window panes also inadequate. The entrance

PAGE THREE for Staff Reporter

statements are

General in his

2011

IVE POWERFUL private-sector bodies want "appropriate sanctions" to be imposed on offi-

1978

According to the private-sector groups, "Given the **Bonus Breaches And Gracious** t revenue, totalling 8597.843. signed contracts were seen. A number of cases were also noted in which there was no indication that after perturated periods. Which there was no indication that any vental or ourselves and our production of the complete and our production our production of the complete and our production of the complete and our production our production of the complete and our production our production of the complete and our production our product

Auditor General's report reveals

Ministries guilty of poor financial control Gratuities 2016 ditor General

has resulted in continuing un- tion and Audit Act required Ac- ments contin satisfactory control in many counting Officers to submit to the responding to my quer ministries and departments of Ministry of Finance and the Audiministries and departments of Ministry of Finance and the Australia of Covernment, the Auditor General by July 31, after the long outstanding advances person of properly accounted for. Interest tabled in the House of Representatives on the House of Representatives of Representatives on the House of Representatives of Representatives on the House of Representatives of Representati

nancial instructions and sion of appropriation accounts, he of errors and other specified procedures said that the Financial Administra-

2001

after protracted periods. any rental or purchase payments irregularities and other in-

Other highlights of the report Share this Story: G+1 0



Money for Consolidated Fund 'detoured' to buy cars

Edmond Campbell/Senior Staff Reporter

Auditor General Pamela Monrae Ellis had been combing through the accounts of government ministries and agencies and has tabled her report to the nation's Parliament. Here is some of what she has uncovered.

HE MINISTRY of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) has used funds set aside in its Calendar Deposit Account, which should have been sent to the Consolidated Fund at the end of the financial year, to purchase five motor vehicles,

"This was in breach of Section 24L of the FAA Act, which requires the accounting officer to surrender unspent funds at the end of the financial year to the Consolidated Fund," declared Monroe Ellis, in her annual report tabled, last week, in

In March 2015 and March 2017, the MEGJC and its predecessor, the Ministry of



Auditor General's Report Confirms Grave Irregularities In Police Vehicle Maintenance

Share this Story: G y f Recommend 0









Shameful! - Ministry Of Labour **And Social Security Pays Out** More Than \$200m In **Unapproved Travel Allowances**

Auditor general concerned about NWA's quality assurance

Finance ministry frustrates AG probe regarding KCT terminal

Careless NWC wasting billions

CARELESSNESS BY the National Water tion of the layout and design, as well Commission (NWC) is causing the already additional work. debt-burdened state entity to spend millions of

"NWC indicated that the variation w

entity. Following a review o oncerns, the ministry withdress recommendation and did provide another entity

Monroe Ellis has recomn that the ministry should ensure critical information is provided

Investigation unearths poor governance practices at NIF

Auditor general blasts INSPORTS

Real sweetheart deal!

Auditor General uncovers high level of non-performing loans at

tor general slams UDC for questionable decisions in Oceana Hotel sale



JAMP TIMELINE

IDEATION PROCESS

Design and development and obtaining stakeholder buy-in.



PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

Obtain crucial support and seed funding from the PSOJ



2018

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT

EU provide support to the PSOJ/JAMP partnership for 42 months for start up.



2019

JAMP Objectives & Outcomes

Project Goal

To increase the quantity, quality and distribution of public goods and services, through the reduction of waste, loss, fraud and corruption in the stewardship of funds and assets



Strengthen

Accountability mechanisms of Government



Educate

Public on PFM & the mechanics of our accountability framework





Stimulate

Public engagement in Jamaica's governance in particular the Parliamentary process.

Early TRIGGERS

What contributed to the decision to engage Jamaica's Supreme Audit Institution?



Early TRIGGERS

What contributed to the decision to engage Jamaica's Supreme Audit Institution?



Collaboration

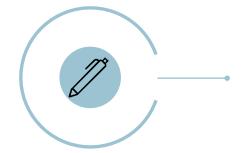
BENEFITS

Adding Value To The Public Financial Management



Create a Listening Audience

- Amplifies SAI Findings
- Increase awareness and understanding



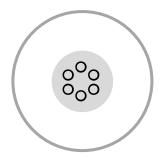
Identify Audit Issues

- Procurement Tracker
- JAMP Research
- Citizen confidence



Advocate for & Monitor Recommendations

- Increase the SAI's value for money
- Improve accountability



Enhance Credibility

Disarm the threats to SAI reports

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Live tweeting during PAC



Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal @jamp_jamaica · Jun 15, 2021

JAMP PAC Scoop!

Public Accounts Committee now reviewing Auditor General's @AuGDJa 2020 Performance report on the @ksamcorp

Check out today's "DID YOU KNOW???"

You deserve the answer. TWEET @MayorWilliamsJA and @LocalGovJa #accountabilityja





Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal @jamp_jamaica · Feb 1, 2022 WHAT WE LEARNT TODAY!

The Government's Auditor @AuGDJa relies on information from the public to assist in their audit focus and there's good news Jamaica...wi proud cyan dun . This is how we #mindwibusinessja

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT

Nutrition Products Ltd - Feb 1, 2022

Auditor General Opening Comments
"This audit was commissioned based on comments received from our website."

Auditor General's Annual Report tabled this month reported that there has been a surge in whistleblowing activities. In 2020/2021 34 reports were received from the public, compared to 6 in the previous year. Well Done Jamaica!

jampja.org | jamp@jampja.org

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Joint effort – animated video on the SAI's work





Petition to parliament for the Tabling of PAC Annual Reports

IMPROVE PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT! Send your letter to your MP calling for his or her **CONCRETE ACTIONS** to improve their monitoring of public funds. Letters are sent every day! Add your voice and let it be heard! Dear MP **Enter Your Details:** I write to you as my representative in Parliament, out of a deep concern about First Name: * the stewardship of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. The Auditor General's annual reports including the most recent for 2019/20, Last Name continue to reveal an appalling level of financial mismanagement, as well as abuse of very basic procurement rules by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Your Email: * What is equally appalling, is the discovery that the annual reports of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Public Administration Your MP * and Appropriations Committee (PAAC), that provides our MPs with Andrew M Holness recommendations on how the Government can reduce the continuous losses of public funds, have not been put on the House's Agenda for our Send Letter representatives to discuss and decide on a plan of action for the last FIFTEEN (15) YEARS or more. This is unacceptable: On September 15, 2020, you took an oath to "conscientiously and impartially discharge [your] responsibilities to the people of Jamaica". One core responsibility is to make every effort to identify where waste and corruption is occurring, to plug the leakages and ensure public officials are held to account. Yet we continue to lose an estimated 96 BILLION JA DOLLARS EVERY YEAR to crime and corruption!!! With the added economic and social crisis of COVID-19 among other problems we face as a country, we simply must act now to move the needle on corruption.

JAMP Digital Tools

ACCOUNT A METER

This an accountability tool that highlights and tracks Government's response to breaches of public policy and regulations



MP TRACKER

This tool gives citizens easy access to Parliamentarians and assesses their compliance with relevant laws and policies.



ATI TOOL

Ever had a governance question for Government and can't wait on the media to ask? This tool makes it easy for you to do.







NATIONAL BUDGET TOOL

This tool simplifies the National Budget, allowing citizens to understand where public funds come from and where they go.



PROCUREMENT TRACKER

This houses a 14 year-old contract database that allows the user to track the flow of funds to the private sector.



LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

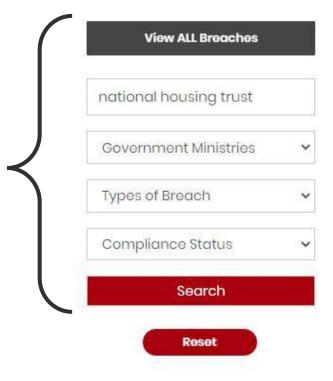
This tool monitors the passage of legislation related to accountability and educates the public on how Parliament works.







ACCOUNT-A-METER



Found 4 Results.





[2015 - 2018] NHT – \$180 Million Expended for Entertainment Facility Unsuitable for Housing Development

Breach in: Resource Management | No Comments

 The audit sought to determine the level of due diligence undertaken by NHT, prior to investments and land acquisitions. In December 2012, the NHT Board approved the purchase of...





[2015 - 2015] NHT – OPM Left Ignorant of the Board's Investment Decisions

Breach in: Governance | No Comments

Decision No. 17 of the Cabinet approved an Accountability Framework that required Permanent Secretaries to obtain copies of Board Minutes from all public bodies, under their portfolio. The Auditor General...

read more



[2015 - Ongoing] NHT – Spent \$1.07 Billion for Incorrect Property Acquired from NHDC (Now HAJ)

Breach in: Resource Management | No Comments



NHT - \$180 MILLION EXPENDED FOR ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY UNSUITABLE FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

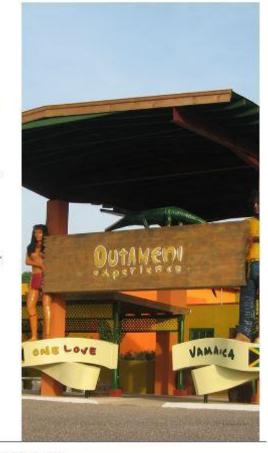
No Comments





Auditor General's Findings

- 1. The audit sought to determine the level of due diligence undertaken by NHT, prior to investments and land acquisitions. In December 2012, the NHT Board approved the purchase of a loan of \$180 million from a Merchant Bank in exchange for the Outameni Experience property owned by Orange Valley Holdings Ltd. A January 2013 technical report to the Board indicated that "the property does not appear to facilitate the NHT's mandate for affordable housing solutions and is more suited for recreational/ heritage type facility." The sale was finalised on May 27, 2013 and the Auditor General found no evidence to support that the Board's decision was based on their being clear on how the property would be used. It was therefore not clear how the NHT could explain the investment.
- Since the date of the transfer of the title, NHT assumed full responsibility for the ongoing operational costs which at the time of the report totaled \$28,098,686.00. The NHT had not received approval from the Ministry of Finance prior to spending \$13,262,091 to hire a new Park Manager and six former Outameni employees, as is required.



Permanent Secretary (current): Audrey Sewell

Breach Category: Resource Management

Permanent Secretary (at breach): Onika Miller

Breach Type: Lack of Evidence to Support Decisions

Status: Full Compliance Last Assessed: April 13, 2018

Year Reported: 2015 Year Resolved: 2018

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. In keeping with its responsibility under Section 6 of the Public Bodies Management and Accountability (PBMA) Act, the Board should take the necessary steps to enhance its due diligence process undertaken prior to investments and acquisition of land so as to maximise return on investment and ensure that all properties acquired are suitable for housing development. This due diligence should include an appraisal of all investment opportunities to determine, at a minimum, the cash flow impact and the expected rate of return on the investment.
- The Board should also ensure that there is a robust records management system to provide evidence of the due diligence undertaken.
- NHT's Board should instruct management to develop an action plan for all properties that deemed unsuitable for affordable housing development.

JAMP UPDATE

- The then Prime Minister, Portia Simpspon-Miller in response to public demand (including a protest by the Emancipation Statue), changed the members of the Board who had not already resigned and retained four of the existing members.
- 2. The new board has established a Properties Evaluation sub-committee of the Board and issued instructions to fully examine options for the sale, lease or any viable alternative. Based on the recommendations of the sub-committee, the Board decided to divest the property. Since 2015, the Trust has spent \$40.6M on salaries and allowances, \$29.3M on security and invested \$2.781M on advertisement costs since 2015. The property still remains in the possession and upkeep of the Trust without a buyer.



Most Recent Breaches

MOE - \$21,663,190.95 overpayments to early childhood practitioners no longer in the system

March I 2019 I No Comments

View Breach »

MOE - Approx \$224.6 Million in value was associated with poor procurement practices.

February 28, 2019 | No Comments

View Breach »

MOE – \$32.6 million Uninterrupted Power Supply unused by the Ministry 2 years after purchase

February 28, 2019 | No Comments

View Breach »

SERHA – \$1.3 Billion owed to creditors in breach of the Financial Administration and Audit Act

February 28, 2019 | No Comments

View Breach »

SERHA – \$112.7 million spent in breach of procurement guidelines

February 28, 2019 | No Comments

View Breach »

See More Recent Breaches



Rest of details can be found below in link "See ATI Response"

- 1. Total spent up to August 31, 2019 on the Outameni property = \$290.2Million
- 2. The NHT has received approval from the Ministry of Finance for the terms of engagement/payment for the staff now responsible for maintaining property and ensure value for eventual sale.

NOTE: Though the NHT is not yet successful in selling the property, it has been making all reasonable effort to do so. As it is the market that determines the offer and sale, JAMP considers the NHT to be in compliance for having done all that was required of the new Board.

ATI Responses



Ref. No: 1/09-04-19 - Application requesting access to documentation to substantiate cost incurred on the Orange Grove/Outameni property

Give some feedback...



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Reports

- Auditor General's Department Performance Audit Report National Housing Trust
- AG Summary of Findings (2015)



Newspaper Articles

- Tired of being shafted by the Government" says the citizen
- Auditor General's comments on OPM's poor oversight of NHT Board
- Civil Society suspends their support in Partnership for Jamaica over Outameni purchase
- Former board member says NHT Board "was more or less a free-for-all"
- NHT Chairman Easton Douglas claims "I have done nothing wrong" and refuses to resign
- NHT's failed attempts to divest the property
- Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica President calls for the removal of the NHT Board
- The Public Accounts Committee hearing with new Board Chair Dr. Carlton Davis



Videos







Most Recent Breaches

MOE – \$21,663,190.95 overpayments to early childhood practitioners no longer in the system

March 1, 2019 | No Comments

View Breach »

MOE - Approx \$224.6 Million in value was associated with poor procurement practices.

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Permanent Secretary
Audrey Sewell CD, JP
Office of the Prime Minister,
1 Devon Road,
Kingston 10,
Jamaica
876-928-1590



The Most Hon. Andrew Holness ON, MP Office of the Prime Minister, 1 Devon Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica (876) 927-9941 View profile in MP Tracker



Board Chairman National Housing Trust (NHT) Lennox Channer 4 Park Blvd, Kingston 5, Jamaica



Managing Director National Housing Trust (NHT) Martin Miller 4 Park Blvd, Kingston 5, Jamaica



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Be the First to Give Feedback!

B I U S \= \= 99 ↔ % () [+]





Most Recent Breaches

MOT – \$477K in excess expenditure for employee compensation

June 4, 2020 | No Comments

View Breach »

Pharmacy Council of Jamaica – Unreconciled Bank Accounts

May 27, 2020 | No Comments

View Breach »

Pharmacy Council – Assets Register Not Maintained for 3 years.

May 21, 2020 | No Comments

View Breach »

MSET - Poor Management of Fleet Vehicles

May 21, 2020 | No Comments

View Breach »

MSET - \$44.4 Million paid out without formal lease agreements

May 20, 2020 | No Comments

View Breach »

See More Recent Breaches

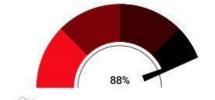




OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (OPM)



Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)









2022 RJR GLEANER GROUP AWARDS

The Auditor General won the PLATINUM AWARD



Jamaica Gleaner @JamaicaGleaner - 47m

The Platinum Award goes to Mrs Pamela Monroe Ellis, for her relentless leadership of the Auditor-General's Department in 2021 especially in the context of added challenges and intense public scrutiny. #RGHonours



JAMP won the PUBLIC SERVICE SPECIAL AWARD



Jamaica Gleaner @JamaicaGleaner - 1h

Receiving the Special Award for Public Service is @jamp_jamaica, for its fact-based initiatives to improve public accountability through outreach, advocacy, and transparent monitoring. Collecting the award is Ms. Jeanette Calder, Executive Director. #RGHonours



Digital Advocacy - Next Steps





Sectoral Commitment Tracker

Track commitments made by Ministers of Government and their fulfilment status



Compliance Alert Tool

Developing a corporate governance checklist to create an early warning system for budding governance issues

