



REPORT OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL
ON THE
FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH, 2015





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TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL
AND NOT TO ANY OFFICER BY NAME
AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE
QUOTED:-

December 22, 2015

*The Honourable Speaker
House of Representatives
Gordon House
81 Duke Street
Kingston
Jamaica*

Dear Sir,

Pursuant to the provision of Section 122(2) of the Jamaica Constitution, I have the honour to submit my report on the results of my examination of the accounts of the Island for the year ended 31st March 2015 for tabling in the House of Representatives.

Yours faithfully,

*Pamela Monroe Ellis (Mrs.)
Auditor General*

HEAD 5300: MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE

FOOD STORAGE & PREVENTIONS OF INFESTATION DIVISION (FSPID)

- 6.2.24 The Food Storage and Preventions of Infestation Division (FSPID) is a department of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce and is mandated to carry out the Government's programmes of surveillance and regulation of the food industry to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food/feed entering commerce.
- 6.2.25 During our audit we examined whether FSPID had systems in place to:
- Ensure that inspections are carried out efficiently and effectively.
 - Ensure that efficient and effective systems are in place to certify entities
 - Manage the disposal of spoilt or infested goods confiscated from entities that have breached the food safety requirements.

KEY FINDINGS

- 6.2.26 **We were advised by FSPID that budgetary constraints impacted its ability to undertake major activities such as inspection of food storage facilities and follow-up visits to facilities in the instances where infractions were identified during FSPID's inspections.** FSPID issues certificates that are valid for one year, and is required to carry out routine inspections during the course of the year to monitor whether food storage practices continue to be safe. However, we noted that entities were revisited mainly on or before the expiration of their certificates rather than throughout the year. In fact, FSPID did not meet its targeted number of inspections for the 2014/2015 period, with an underperformance of as high as 1,061 less inspection than target, in the third quarter.
- 6.2.27 In instances where FSPID has indentified infractions to food storage facilities such as failure to implement rodents control programmes, FSPID's inspectors are required to revisit the premises within seven days to a maximum of 21 days to verify that corrective measures were implemented. However, we noted FSPID did not revisit the facilities in specified time and instead follow-up was done between 14 and 242 days.
- 6.2.28 **We found that FSPID has insufficient information on the number of food storage entities in the island and this could result in inadequate coverage.** FSPID does not have a master list of all food storage entities operating island wide. Therefore we could not assess whether FSPID's inspection coverage captured a significant portion of

the population of food storage entities or sufficiently addressed the high risk areas. Further, we saw no evidence of collaboration with other agencies of government which could provide information on the relevant businesses.