



# ANNUAL REPORT

AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

2024

Report of The Auditor General on the Financial Transactions and Financial Statements of the Government of Jamaica for the Financial Year Ended March 31, 2024, and Performance Report of the Auditor General's Department.



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

AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
40 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD  
P.O. BOX 455  
KINGSTON 10  
JAMAICA

Tel. No.: 926-8309/926-5963/926-5846  
Fax Number: 968-4690

**Email: [audgen@auditorgeneral.gov.jm](mailto:audgen@auditorgeneral.gov.jm).**

**December 30, 2024**

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

Dear Madam,

Pursuant to the provision of Section 122 (2) of the Jamaican 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 for tabling in the House of Representatives.

The report is a compendium of the performance of the Auditor General's Department for the period December 2023-November 2024 and all audits conducted up to November 2024.

Yours faithfully,

**Pamela Monroe Ellis (Ms.), JP, F.C.A., F.C.C.A.  
Auditor General**

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
<p><b>3.2.63.</b> The delays in the completion of the project activities increase the risk of the project not achieving its intended objectives within the agreed timeline. This also increases the risk of the project losing grant funding which would result in reliance being placed on the Consolidated Fund to complete the outstanding activities.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>3.2.64.</b> Considering the IWEco Project is intrinsically aligned to Outcome #13-Sustainable Management and use of Environmental Natural Resources the NDP Vision 2030 and UN SDG Number #15 - Life on Land, it is important that NEPA review the Project monitoring and evaluating system with the aim of implementing strategies that will ensure the agreed targets are completed within the stipulated timeframe and mitigate the risk of the Project losing grant funding.</p> <p><b>3.2.65.</b> Subsequent to the audit, the Project completed 4 of the 6 rescope activities. NEPA advised that for one (1) activity, the available timeline based on the disbursement of funds (August 2024) would not have allowed for the completion of the activity. The sixth activity, which is the audit of the second phase of the Project, has not commenced, as the Draft Financial Statements for the 2023 and 2024 Financial Years were not received.</p>	

#### HEAD 20000: MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE – FOUNDATIONS FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH PROJECT (FCGP) 2024

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>	
<p><b>3.2.66.</b> During the period I conducted the audit of the Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Project (FCGP) financial statements for the period ended July 31, 2024.</p> <p><b>Project Overview</b></p> <p><b>3.2.67.</b> The Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Project (FCGP) is funded by a loan of US\$50 Million from the World Bank (IBRD). The Loan was designated to be disbursed over a six-year period, September 3, 2014, to June 30, 2020. However, the Project received an extension to May 2022 to facilitate the completion of the outstanding deliverables. After this extension, approval was granted for additional financing (AF) of US\$15 Million, comprising a US\$10 Million loan from the World Bank and US\$5 Million from the GOJ Consolidated Fund, resulting in the completion date being extended to March 2024. The period April 2024 to July 2024 was used as the close out period to administer final payments relating to the project.</p>	

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
<p><b>3.2.68.</b> The project development objective (PDO) is to strengthen the business environment in Jamaica for private sector investment. The primary project beneficiaries are private firms operating in Jamaica. Both existing and new firms will benefit from streamlined business regulations that save costs and decrease incentives for rent-seeking. Large foreign and domestic investors will benefit from appropriate preparation for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), divestments, and other strategic investments that help bring deals to market.</p> <p><b>3.2.69.</b> The outcome of this project is fundamentally linked to Goal Three (3) and Outcome Seven (7), a stable Micro-economy of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030, and by extension Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number nine (9) and eleven (11)- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and Sustainable Cities and Communities, respectively.</p> <p><b>Main Findings</b></p> <p><b>3.2.70.</b> The audit identified a general improvement in PIOJ’s management and oversight of the accounting function exemplified by the controls implemented and the timely updating of the accounting records. There was general compliance with the significant terms and conditions of the loan agreements and the expenditure incurred represented transactions of the Project.</p> <p><b>Status of Project Indicators</b></p> <p><b>3.2.71.</b> For the period under review, the FCGP planned to achieve 23 intermediate Indicator under four main Project Development Objective Indicators (PDOI). At the close of the Project July 31, 2024, fourteen indicators were successfully attained, with seven exceeding requirements. For the remaining nine, five were at various stages of partial completion and four were classified as in-progress. Also, at the reporting period, the Project expended \$54.764 million, or 98% of the \$55.88 million combined loan facility.</p> <p><b>3.2.72.</b> PIOJ indicated that they faced several challenges that delayed the completion of the four indicators that were classified as in-progress at the end of the reporting period. These included reluctance from some firms to engage in the debt resolution processes offered through the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency (OSI) due to the cultural stigma associated with bankruptcy. The FCGP also reported challenges in the procurement process that caused delays in developing or upgrading government-to-business (G2B) platforms, and a preference for in-person building permit applications to agencies such as Municipal Corporations over online submissions through the Jamaica Development Application Portal (JDAP), which was supported by the project.</p>	

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>3.2.73.</b> Management was encouraged to expedite their efforts to complete the work in progress activities and achieve the stated project objectives.</p> <p><b>3.2.74.</b> The PIOJ accepted our recommendation and indicated that the Project implementation will continue through funding from GoJ counterpart financing. As such, the four (4) in-progress indicator results are expected to be improved and mostly attained by March 31, 2025.</p>	

#### HEAD 20000: MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE – PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION (PPC)

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	
<p><b>3.2.75.</b> The audit of the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) for the period ended Mach 31, 2024 revealed that the accounting records were maintained in all material respect in keeping with the GoJ established laws, and guidelines and the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the PPC's financial position as at March 31, 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IPSAS. Notwithstanding, PPC was advised to take urgent steps to strengthen the controls over the Commission's ICT infrastructure and equipment to mitigate the risks identified.</p> <p><b>3.2.76.</b> Management has since taken steps to strengthen the relevant controls.</p>	

#### HEAD 20000: MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE – JAMAICA CUSTOMS AGENCY (JCA)

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
<b>INFORMATION &amp; COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY</b>	
<p><b>3.2.77.</b> During the period, I conducted the audits of the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 financial Statements. The audit revealed that the accounting records were maintained in all material respects in keeping with the GoJ established laws, and guidelines. The financial statements gave a true and fair view of the JCA's financial position as at March 31, 2020 and 2021 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IPSAS.</p>	