



An Editor's Reflection

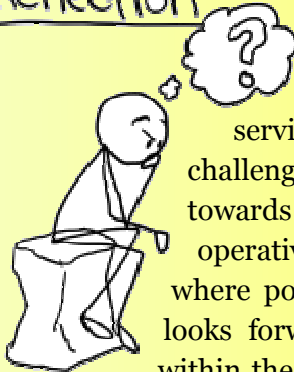


FRANCINE BLACKWOOD
EDITOR

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Reflection



The end of another year and the Co-operative and Friendly Societies Movements remain dedicated towards the development of Jamaica through provision of products and services and charitable means. In the midst of a challenging landscape, these entities remain resolute towards their goals; with the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies providing assistance where possible. It is against this, that the Department looks forward to these Movements continue resilience within the year 2014; as these entities are imperative to the growth and development of the Nation.

The Department, having received the responsibility of the Charities Act also anticipates new experiences which will no doubt contribute to our growth as regulators. As we move forward in this new year, let us reminisce on the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle..."

CHARITIES ACT



On December, 2013 the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Friendly Societies was designated the Authority for charities as provided for within the Charitable Organisations (Tax Harmonisation) (Miscellaneous Provision) Act which was passed by parliament in May, 2013. The Act which is a vital aspect of the Extended Fund Facility between Jamaica and the International Monetary Fund seeks to regulate all persons and organisations established to carry out charitable means. The legislation will therefore register, regulate and administer all charities desirous of tax relief.

The legislation which harmonised the various tax statutes which previously provided for tax exemption for Charities has standardized the definitions for the terms "approved charitable organisation" and "charitable purposes" for tax use and has resulted in amendments to the Customs Act, the General Consumption Act, the Income Tax Act, the Property Tax Act, the Stamp Duty Act, and the Transfer Tax Act.

Jamaica Creative Co-operative Society Ltd.

With a membership of twenty-one (21) persons the Jamaica Creative Co-operative Society Limited seeks to redefine the Art and Craft Sector by supporting the work of Jamaican artisan and craft persons by pooling members' resources to provide quality authentic craft items and services both locally and internationally.

Deemed Creative JA, the Society's activities were enhance through assistance of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund under its REDI Programme which made possible the establishment of a website (www.creativeJamaicas.com) as a means of marketing and promoting members' goods and services.

Affiliated with a number of organisations to include Micro and Small Business Owners (Connect), JBDC, Country Style Community

Tourism Network and MSME Alliance, to name a few, JccA continues to promote members' products through several means to include appearances at expos and media broadcast. The Society while not free of challenges continues to reach for its goal of being the "premier of authentic Jamaican items".

If you are looking for a wide variety of authentic Jamaican gifts and souvenirs, Jamaica Creative Co-operative Society Limited is a one stop shop located at Shop 28, Bankhouse Mall, Super Plus Centre, Mandeville. Contact Mrs. Maxine Donovan (569-6664).

Treasurer Beach Women Group Benevolent Society

"To promote the advancement of women and the Treasure Beach community as a whole, through education, income producing projects, and awareness of women's health and women's issues" is the mission statement of the Treasure Beach Women's Group (TBWG) Benevolent Society. Registered in September, 2000; the Society through various collaborations has facilitated it mandate through various community projects to include:-

- ✚ Hosting of Health Clinics and wellness seminars.
- ✚ Facilitating of ongoing literacy classes to community members.
- ✚ Facilitating of community computer classes.
- ✚ Facilitating of Craft Workshops in collaboration with Treasure Hunt Craft Shop
- ✚ Hosting of Annual Youth arts camp.
- ✚ Hosting of Annual Walk -A-Thon . The proceeds donated to charities each year (e.g. Jamaica HIV/Aids Society, Treasure Beach Ambulance Fund, Summer Camp, etc).



- ✚ Coordinating and participating in Beach Clean-up
- ✚ Hosting of Annual Children Christmas Party for Children of Treasurer Beach and Our Lady of Hope Children Homes Manchester.

The Society through its efforts has significantly contributed to the development, empowerment, skills base, knowledge and experience of person and groups, thus enabling them to undertake initiatives of their own to combat social, economic, political and environmental problems. Continuing on this road of success, the Society aims to "create a business incubator, theatre group, more income producing projects, further literacy initiatives and personal development workshops". Any assistance that can be forthcoming from interested parties would be appreciated. The Treasure Beach Women's Group (TBWG) may be contacted at 876-965-3878.

Iron Shore Citizens Association and Neighbourhood Watch Benevolent Society



Notwithstanding; Jamaica being classified as a "high crime Society", there are a number of entities that are geared at changing this outlook by positively contributing to the Nation's development and fight against crime. Ironshore Citizens Association and Neighborhood Watch located in the parish of St. James is one such entity.

The Citizens, through assistance in the form of donations received from the Community Safety Department and members contribution, have embarked on a major bushing projects geared at transforming a Lot into a Nature Park. The Lot previously served as a crime haven that contributed to robbers evading police and a hangout for armed "thugs" who preyed on innocent victims. Since the initiative where clearing was facilitated, monitoring of area by the police is made easier.

The Society's mandate which extends beyond the refurbishing of a Nature Park, entails charitable plans such as; an Annual Walk-A-Thon for breast cancer support / awareness and proceeds to benefit the Cornwall Regional Hospital Oncology Unit. The Society welcomes the assistant of all interested parties in this worthy cause.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE:

Co-operative global arena

During the period November 1-5, 2013, The International Co-operative Alliance Conference was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa. ICA's Global Conference and General Assembly was convened under the theme "A Co-operative Decade in Action" and facilitated the attendance of 88 Nations to include Mr. Errol Gallimore, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Jamaica).

The Conference which aimed to take Co-operatives to a position of being the preferred model and as a result the fastest growing form of enterprise by 2020 facilitated a number of workshops dealing with areas such as; food security and sustainable supply chains, access to

community and the Power of communication to name a few.



COOPERATION

F.A.Q.

How to recover Return Tax by Co-operatives and Societies Registered under the Friendly Societies Act.

- ACQUIRE AND COMPLETE MR1 FORM FROM TAX OFFICE
- ACQUIRE TAX CERTIFICATE FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (NCB, SCOTIA, ETC.)
- SUBMIT MR1, TAX CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION (FIRST TIME FILING) TO TAX ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.



Sudoku

Fun Corner

...the old way or with a new twist!!!

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“What is the difference
between an obstacle and an
opportunity? Our attitude
toward it. Every
opportunity has a difficulty,
and every difficulty has an
opportunity.”

J. Sidlow Baxter

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