



Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies

Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC)



DCFS Spotlight

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VOLUME 1

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Registrar's Message

It is with great pleasure that the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS) presents to its valued stakeholders and partners our Newsletter for 2021/2022. The DCFS remained focused on being the premier regulator for the different Societies we regulate through the creation of an enabling environment that promotes compliance thereby positioning them as sustainable and vibrant socio-economic entities.

For the Financial Year 2021/2022, the DCFS continued to accelerate its programme of work to improve our quality management systems and improve the ease of doing business with us. With the onset of COVID-19, the Department is aware that many entities were faced with challenges in satisfying their obligations as set out in the different

legislation under which they're registered. The Department is committed to an open-door policy and welcomes all entities to engage us in dialogue where they are having challenges. We stand ready to partner with all entities.

WHAT'S NEW AT DCFS

The Department is pleased to have spearheaded **Amendments to the Friendly and Co-operative Societies Acts Regulations, 2021** to facilitate hybrid and virtual-only meetings. This was achieved via relevant stakeholder consultations and close partnership with the MIIC Legal Department. In order for Societies to have virtual only or hybrid meetings in keeping with the amendments, they need to amend their Rules with the requisite approval from the Registrar.

ON-BOARD TO THE DIGITAL HIGHWAY

"HASSLE FREE REGISTRATION"

DCFS

Going Digital

- ✓ Reducing processing time
- ✓ Improving ease of business facilitation
- ✓ Global Access 24/7

REGISTER NOW!



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

fhi360
THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

DCFS HAS GONE DIGITAL

The Charities Authority obtained a grant of \$19.4 million from USAID through its FHi 360 Local Partner Development Project to design and build out an online registration system and capture vital information on the regulated entities. This will enable the Authority to have greater control over the information submitted by the various registered entities thereby ensuring a more timely assessment of each organization and by extension faster processing of applications. Online Registration & Management

System (ORMS) is currently facilitating registration for RCOs, however, as time progresses the other entities will be able to apply online. The online registration system was officially launched on April 14, 2022, at Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.



RISK-BASED SUPERVISION FOR CHARITIES SECTOR

The Department of Co-operative and Friendly Societies (DCFS) has adopted a Risk-Based Supervisory Framework for assessing risk exposure in the Charities Sector. The framework is geared towards assisting DCFS to better understand and evaluate different levels of risks & vulnerabilities across the charities' landscape. The framework is guided by the National Risk Assessment which forms the basis of the implementation of a Risk-Based Supervisory Framework for the NPO Sector.

The NRA report found that the threat of money laundering and Terrorist Financing in Jamaica is low and there is no evidence that the NPO sector is faced with immediate or present threats. However, the report notes that the sector required a risk-based framework to strengthen the governance of the sector. The risk-based approach implemented by the Department will facilitate coordinated interventions to

reduce risk vulnerabilities.

A Risk-Based framework is important because it ensures that DCFS can effectively monitor and assess entities, using established risk criteria. Once areas of vulnerabilities are identified in the NPO Sector, the DCFS will take the necessary steps to remedy the vulnerabilities flagged through an enrichment and support programme.

The enrichment and outreach plan is built on three major pillars to include: Sector Outreach, Regulatory Interventions, and DCFS realignment. The enrichment and support programmes underpinning the risk-based framework is aimed at strengthening the governance and operational management of charitable organizations.



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SOCIETY FEATURE

The Essex Valley Farmers Benevolent Society is a flagship Benevolent Society registered with the Department consisting of Farmers from the bread basket parish of St. Elizabeth. The primary mandate is to mobilize the development of the agricultural sector in the Essex Valley community and environs through unlocking project funding and other enabling developmental support. The primary objective of the Benevolent Society is to identify solutions to issues that affect the agricultural sector in the environs such as yearly drought-like conditions during the dry season which has adversely affected their agricultural activity. Additionally, the Benevolent Society work assists its members and the wider community to:

1. Facilitate the provision of amenities to include water supply to the Essex Valley and its environs over the long term, with the assistance of government and other relevant stakeholders.
2. Assist in the provision of extension services to farmers within the Essex Valley and its environs via collaboration with stakeholders.
3. Make representation to the relevant authorities on behalf of the Essex Valley geared towards addressing priority community concerns, especially road rehabilitation.
4. Co-operate and associate with other Community-Based Organizations, such as the PMOs and the CDC groups, that have similar aims and objectives.
5. Facilitate skills training and education activities for the Essex Valley and its environs.
6. Foster and maintain a sense of civic and social responsibility aimed at promoting harmony and goodwill among members of Essex Valley.



Special General Meeting of the Essex Valley Benevolent Society.



Members of the Interim Committee of Management participating in membership processing and planning meetings for the Special General Meeting.



Farmers of Essex Valley Farmers Benevolent viewing crops produced from the irrigation project.

In the Spotlight

Employee: Mrs. Cheryl Reynolds



Cheryl is a soft-spoken and God-fearing woman who has given over 10 years of service to the Department of Co-operative and Friendly Societies. She currently holds the position of

Executive Secretary to the Registrar of the Department.

Mrs. Reynolds has distinguished herself as a committed and professional member of staff as she

expresses her love for her job; "I love everything about my job. I would rather say what I love least about my job, which is I truly dislike minute taking" noted Mrs. Reynolds. She hopes that the Department will continue to grow from strength to strength and that there will be continued transparency and equity in the transition of all DCFS staff into available positions whether vacant or acting. Outside of work, Mrs. Reynolds enjoys creative cooking and traveling.

Her guiding principle in life is "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path."

FUN CORNER

There are 3 English words hidden in this picture. If you are able to find them meant you are not OLD yet.

