



Ministry of Industry Investment & Commerce

Jamaica's **Business** Ministry

Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies, Charities Authority

DCFS In the Spotlight

Volume 2

April 2022 - March 23

REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

The Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS) is pleased to distribute its newsletter for the 2022–2023 fiscal year to its esteemed partners and stakeholders. With the adoption of the Charities Regulations, 2022, which went into effect on December 8, 2022, provides guidelines for the proper operations of charitable organizations as well as to provide a mechanism to protect the charitable sector from being used for money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and proliferation financing. The DCFS has now adopted the recommendations on International Standards on Combatting Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and has informed the NPOs accordingly.

The DCFS remains resolute in its efforts to continue ensuring compliance and best practices.

With the passage of the amendments to the Co-operative Societies and the Friendly Societies Regulations, triggered by the COVID Pandemic which allowed registered societies to honour their statutory obligation of convening their Annual General Meetings (AGM) through various modalities (hybrid/ virtual), the DCFS during the year provided technical guidance through amendments to Rules, development of guidelines thus ensuring that this activity was seamlessly undertaken by the societies. The Department will continue to provide effective, efficient and robust oversight to all the regulated entities, and we look forward to continuing to facilitate the registration of new entities.



WHAT'S NEW AT DCFS?

OUR ONLINE REGISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ORMS) NOW OPERATIONAL

Under FHI 30 Local Partner Development (LPD) Project, an initiative funded by USAID, the Department successfully launched its' Online Registration and Management System (ORMS) in April 2022. This has significantly improved the efficiency of the registration for all entities seeking registration under the Charities Act. Applications for Charitable status are currently being processed via this system as part of efforts to improve the ease of doing business.

As the Charities Authority, the DCFS recognizes that a paper-based registration

system discourages Jamaican, particularly those in the Diaspora, who cannot physically visit our offices to do business thus, with our ORMS we have made the registration of Charities more accessible and easier for anyone, regardless of location. In the near future, the system will facilitate the registration of all entities, namely Co-operative Societies, Industrial and Provident Societies, Friendly Societies, Specially Authorized Societies, Benevolent Societies and Agricultural Loan Societies & Approved Organizations.



Representative from DCFS and FHI 360 at the launch of DCFS's Online Registration and Management System

RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Department continues to strengthen its Risk Management strategies by regularly appraising its entities for risks and vulnerabilities.

DCFS continues to collaborate with BOJ in the delivery of technical assistance to the Department in order to improve our Risk-Based Supervisory Framework for the Charities Sector. As a result of that partnership, a work plan was developed that has led to the acceleration of the Risk Assessments of RCOs. The hard efforts of all parties concerned, as well as the dedication of the DCFS staff, have resulted in risk assessments being done on the great majority of RCOs.

The Risk-Based Supervisory Framework intends to optimize data collection from registered charities and conduct risk assessments for each entity. Additionally, the framework is intended to aid DCFS in better understanding and evaluating various levels of risks and vulnerabilities within the Charities' ecosystem. The Risk Based Framework as created will enable the Regulator to utilize a risk criteria matrix to analyze vulnerabilities in the industry and respond appropriately through a developed Enrichment and Outreach Support Plan – Sector Outreach, Regulatory Interventions and DCFS realignment.

CONVENING OF ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

WITHIN THE CREDIT UNION ARM OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR



Since the passage of the Amendments to the Co-operative Societies Regulations and the Friendly Societies Regulations to allow Co-operatives and Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act to convene electronic meetings, we are pleased to report that of the twenty-five (25) Credit Unions, registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, twenty-four (24) have utilized this medium satisfactorily. This speaks volumes to the readiness of the Credit Unions to embrace changes that are strategic and beneficial to the development of the sector and its members. Approximately 80% of the Producers and Services Arm of the Co-operative Movement and by enlarge the Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act Rules have been updated to allow registered Societies to host electronic meetings.



Empowering Visionaries:

The Story of Superior Craft and More Co-operative Society Limited

Established as a beacon of empowerment and inclusivity, Superior Craft and More Co-operative Society Limited stands as a testament to the resilience and capability of visually impaired individuals. Registered with the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies on October 29, 2015, this exceptional cooperative boasts a membership of twelve individuals, all visually impaired.

Mission and Objectives: The core mission of the Society revolves around elevating the economic welfare of its members. Through strategic utilization of funds and concerted efforts, the Society aims to promote and market the products and services crafted by its members, both locally and internationally. Furthermore, the Society is committed to capacity building through comprehensive skills training, employment opportunities, and access to essential services and resources. These endeavors are meticulously designed to foster independence in various aspects of life, including work, travel, communication, and daily living skills, thus breaking down the barriers imposed by sight loss and empowering individuals to navigate the world with confidence and safety.

Partnerships and Support: The Cooperative's endeavors have been buoyed by the generous support of various entities and individuals. Notable contributors include the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, the FosRich Company Limited, and the Australian Embassy, whose contributions have facilitated the acquisition of essential equipment, materials, and training opportunities.

Additionally, monetary contributions from esteemed figures such as The Rt. Hon. PJ Patterson and COK Sodality Co-operative Credit Union Limited have further bolstered the Society's initiatives.

Services and Offerings: At the heart of its operations lies the craftsmanship of wicker furniture and other exquisite craft products. From intricately designed chairs to bespoke decor items, the Society's offerings exemplify unparalleled skill and artistry. Moreover, the Society is dedicated to ongoing innovation and adaptation, ensuring its products remain competitive in the market while maintaining the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship.

Location and Contact Information: Situated at 111 ½ Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, within the premises of the Society for the Blind, the Cooperative's office serves as a hub of creativity and collaboration. For inquiries and orders, individuals can reach out via telephone or WhatsApp at 876-779-4715 or 876-541-2856.





Employee : **Marissa Laing**

***M-arvellous, A-mazing, R-esponsive, I-ntelligent,
S-weet soul, S-elfless, A-rticulate***



These are just a few of the adjectives that describe Marissa Laing; A phenomenal individual who is the epitome of a great co-worker and a team player.

Marissa Laing joined the Department in September 2003 as the Manager of the ICT Unit. This quiet, pleasant, respectful and modest woman has devoted her skills and knowledge to address matters within her portfolio to meet the objectives of the Department.

Over the years she has matured and increased her knowledge of the Department's operations and mandate and has applied herself in such a way that significantly adds value to our achievements.

She was and continues to be our main driver in the implementation of our Online Registration and Monitoring System, (ORMS) as well as being a staple in our ISO Quality Management Project.

Her commitment and dedication to her job is unquestionable; she is not daunted by challenges and always finds a way to get things done even if it means going beyond the call of duty. Whenever she is called, she will answer.

She is loved by her immediate supervisees and the entire staff and is always willing to provide hands-on assistance to those individuals who are challenged in navigating technology. There is no question or concern posed to her that she considers foolish, instead, she will listen, seek clarity and in a gentle tone, oftentimes say "Oki doo"; an affirmation that she understood the issue at hand.

Marissa is a God-fearing individual and sees life as a journey that must be lived meaningfully and with a purpose. Her guiding principle is "Love thy neighbor as thyself" and 1st Corinthians 13 is one of her favorite Bible Scriptures.

The last of four children to Mr. and Mrs. Laing, she is a lover of nature and enjoys reading.



FUN CORNER

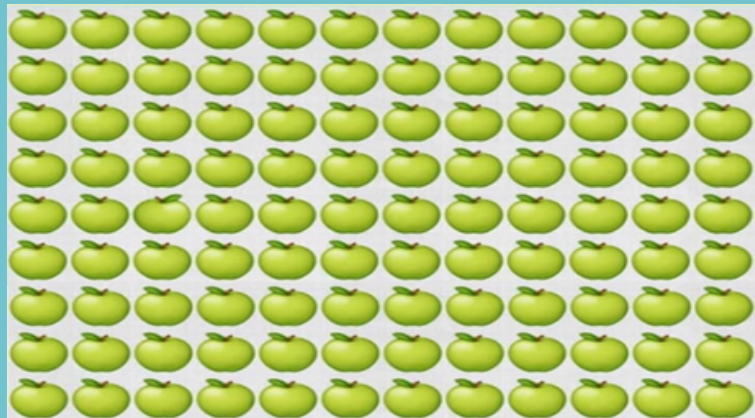
COOPERATION

- CONNECTION
- AGREEMENT
- UNION
- ALLIANCE
- COLLABORATION
- ASSISTANCE
- HELPLESSNESS
- COMPLIANCE
- CAMARADERIE
- PARTNERSHIP



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Spot the odd one out if you are a Genius



Find twelve (12) differences

