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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Investment Toolkit for the Jamaican Diaspora which was collaboratively produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Jamaica mission, and the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) to coincide with the Government’s efforts to effectively and sustainably engage its diaspora.

For two years (2013-2015), IOM and the GoJ vigorously engaged in a project called “Mapping Jamaica's Diaspora” that aimed to, among other things, gather information regarding the needs, concerns, skills and interests of diaspora members in contributing to the development of the country. Following an assessment of the information obtained, the GoJ has tailored its engagement initiatives to address the expressed needs and interests of the diaspora, whilst aligning same with the development priorities of the country. Hence, the birth of this three-part Investment Toolkit.

As the name suggests, the Investment Toolkit for the Jamaican Diaspora is an easy to use, non-exhaustive guide for potential investors of the diaspora, seeking information regarding the investment climate in Jamaica and how to maneuver the business startup terrain.

You have successfully made it past our checkpoint (book one), Government of Jamaica Priority Areas For Investment, where you learnt of investment opportunities in Jamaica and the incentives available should you decide to invest in any of our cited priority sectors.

Now, we welcome you onto our ‘Investment Tour Bus’ – Investment Support Services. Book two contours a map that will thoroughly explain the necessity of selecting the best entities in the initial stage of business startup, and reference the specific characteristics an investor must take into account when making decisions to invest. You will also find in book two a network of Government support institutions that should be included in the startup process of your business. Once you have conformed to the path outlined in this book, you will successfully arrive at the final leg of your three-part tour; that is, starting your business.

In book three, A Guide to Investing in Jamaica, you will be given detailed guidance regarding setting up your business or investing in Jamaica. By following the steps presented, you will successfully be opening the doors to your business. But first, let’s delve into instalment two – Guidance on Investment and Business Startup!
Starting a new business might not always be an easy process as it involves many different steps. Generally, it is best to know about these steps in advance to avoid obstacles that are often costly and time wasting. Pre-business start-up activities are therefore of utmost importance. They allow you to gather as much information as possible about the correct steps to take before indulging your all into starting a business.

**THIRD PARTY CONSULTATIONS**

Business Consulting Services

Seeking professional advice before starting your business is an important and often overlooked step. Through business consulting services, you can find expertise, real business insight and practical solutions based on the Jamaican environment. Consultants will work directly with you to identify the most critical steps and help you with getting them executed. Working with consultants will also assist you in understanding the early stages of forming your business/venture, and will allow you to focus on the vital elements and long term business vision/goals of your enterprise.

In Jamaica, there are many consultants who will implement business solutions and strategic relationships that will take your business to the next level. However, to ensure that you are employing the services of an accredited company or individual for consultancy DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE:

- Choose at least three (3) companies or individuals based on their profiles and suitability to your needs;
- Check the references provided by the company/consultant;
- Seek your own references from companies they have listed as current or previous clients;
- Check with other investors from your community for referrals of proven reputable entities.

For a list of business consultants in Jamaica, you may visit the website of Jamaica Yellow Pages’ Jamaica Business Directory at the link: http://www.jmyello.com/category/Consultants

Note however, before making your decision, it is recommended that you see below information on the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) – a government agency that typically implements work through more than thirty (30) certified business consulting firms.

Research Entities

Research is always a necessary pre-business activity; it is your most useful tool. It is by way of research that important information regarding the market and the feasibility of your product(s) service(s) will be revealed. Conducting thorough research can also reveal hidden factors or points that you may not have taken into consideration; at which point, contrary to popular
opinion, intensive research may be saving rather than costing you money. If it is your intent to set up a large business or a medium, small and micro enterprise (MSME), and you are uncertain about the research process, then you may solicit the service of a business consultant or a market researcher. However, if it is that you do possess the skills of research, and are confident in your ability to conduct a sound study, then you may employ one or more of the many data collection tools available at a cost or for free. An example of such tool is survey monkey.

To ensure that you are employing the services of an accredited company or individual(s) to conduct a market research, DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE:

- Choose at least three (3) companies or freelancers based on their profiles and suitability to your needs;
- Check the references provided by the company or individual(s);
- Seek your own references from companies they have listed as current or previous clients;
- Check with other investors from your community for referrals of proven reputable entities.

For a list of businesses that offer research services in Jamaica, visit the website of Jamaica Yellow Pages’ Jamaica Business Directory at: http://www.jmyello.com/category/Market_research

An Attorney-At-Law

You may be wondering why it is necessary to get an attorney during the pre-startup phase of your business. However, if it is that you are deciding to purchase land or establishments, or if you are considering acquiring your business through a lease, these are legal arrangements between you (the investor) and the vendor, that will best conclude with the use of an attorney. Having an attorney can put you at a greater advantage during negotiations and can secure you from fraud and spuriousities. The attorney will be your legal security.

To ensure that you are obtaining the services of a qualified and reputable attorney in Jamaica, DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE. Check the General Legal Council of Jamaica’s website for a current list of lawyers who are entitled to practice in Jamaica with regard to accounting compliance http://www.generallegalcouncil.org/

Accounting Firms

Your need for accounting services as you are starting your business is going to be quite different from your needs once the business has grown and matured financially. An accountant can be hired from as early as writing a business plan for your business. They would be able to use accounting software to add financial projections and other report to it. An accountant can also give you assistance and advice with selecting your
any company’s legal structure and help you choose the most suitable one. Any accountant you contract should be able to provide a range of services to support you through the early stages. When starting up, an accountant should be able to help you with the following:

• Business licenses
• Incorporation filings
• System implementations
• Policies and procedures
• Financial planning

The accountant will also be able to help with financial business processes when the business starts to grow which will allow you to focus on your core business.

To ensure you are using a qualified, reputable accountant in Jamaica, DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE

• Consult the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica’s (ICAJ) website: https://www.icaj.org/ for a current list of chartered accountants with regard to accounting compliance;
• Choose at least three (3) companies based on their profiles and suitability for your needs;
• Check the references provided by the company or individual(s);
• Seek your own references from companies they have listed as current or previous clients;
• Check with other investors from your community for referrals of proven reputable entities.

Engineering Firms

When starting a business, depending on the nature of the venture, you will need the expertise and advice of an engineer. There are many different types of engineers; therefore you will need to do some research regarding the type of engineer that will best suit your needs. Let’s take for example that you have decided to construct a building for the establishment from which you want to conduct your business. You want to make sure the establishment is built with the correct standards and following the correct policies and procedures. As such, you will need to hire a civil engineer
consultant to guide you or take control of said aspects of the project for you, which includes developing appropriate building sketches and blueprints. Furthermore, in case where you may simply want the estimated financial projections of the project, an engineer whom has the requisite skills and expertise may be best to provide you with such details.

The Jamaica Institution of Engineers (JIE) can provide you with a list of its members and their respective disciplines, whether it be civil, electrical, chemical, mechanical, or industrial. In addition to consulting the JIE (http://www.jiejamaica.org/) for a list of qualified and reputable engineers, you should also:

- Choose at least three (3) companies based on their profiles and suitability for your needs;
- Check the references provided by the company or individual(s);
- Seek your own references from companies they have listed as current or previous clients;
- Check with other investors from your community for referrals of proven reputable entities.

Security Services

There are various security companies located in Jamaica and they offer a wide variety of products and services to ensure the safety of your business. The main security services offered, but are not limited to, include the following:

- Manned guarding
- Electronic security
- Vehicle tracking
- Panic alarm systems
- Burglar alarm systems
- Armed response
- Armed/unarmed security guards.

For further information, please visit the Private Security Regulation Authority’s website: www.psra.gov.jm/. A list of registered security companies can also be downloaded at the following web link: http://www.psra.gov.jm/downloads/registered_companies.pdf
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT ENTITIES

Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO)

JAMPRO is advisably the best entity to connect with when looking to invest in Jamaica and/or to start a business. JAMPRO works closely with local and global entrepreneurs seeking to tap into the many investment and trade opportunities in Jamaica. In facilitating both local and foreign direct investment, JAMPRO guides investors through the necessary processes and offers support in partnership with key government agencies and ministries, even after their investments are operational. Businesses depend on JAMPRO for a range of technical and advisory support mainly for export readiness and competitiveness.

Below are the specific services offered by the Corporation:

• **Export and Market Development Value-added Services**
  - Exporter registration
  - Capacity building training
  - Export readiness assessment
  - Business plan revision
  - Market access and market intelligence
  - Facilitation of select trade show participation
  - Inward/outward trade mission coordination and execution
  - Business linkages and match-making
  - Facilitate access to technical assistance/donor support programmes
  - Services go global export of services certification
  - Film production advisory and facilitation services
  - Directory of registered exporters and suppliers
  - Buyer recruitment

• **Investment Promotion Value-added Services**
  - Market research
  - Human capital market evaluation
  - Industry data-collection and benchmarking
  - Customized investor itineraries
  - Real estate/Facilities search
  - Investor matching; joint venture partnerships
  - Facilitation of applications for various incentives and licenses and waivers
  - Linkages with suppliers, contractors and various service providers
  - Facilitation of permits and approvals- work, building etc.
  - Identification of sources for Technical and Financial assistance
  - Response to general requests for information
  - Conducting client visits
  - Intervention on behalf of clients and problem-solving
  - Familiarization Tours
Source of this information and for more details, you may visit JAMPRO’s website: www.jamaicatradeandinvest.org

Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC)

The JBDC has been established as one of the premier business support organizations in Jamaica, mandated to develop the MSME sector. It is highly respected by clients and funding institutions alike for their high performance levels and success stories. One of the JBDC’s primary goals is to ensure MSME clients generate economic impact by:

- Establishing and formalizing businesses,
- Creating and retaining jobs,
- Increasing sales, and
- Increasing access to capital.

The agency offers various business development services through its four units, free of cost or at subsidized rates.

1. Business Advisory Services Unit – Products & Services offered by this unit include:
   a. Advisory Services
      i. Information Dissemination
      ii. General Consultation
      iii. Operations Audit and Assessments
      iv. Viability Assessments
   b. Hand-Holding Support
      i. Business Monitoring Programme
      ii. Business Mentoring
      iii. Strategic Planning
      iv. Business Modeling
      v. Financial Assessments and Modeling
      vi. Management and Governance Support
   c. Training & Capacity Building
   d. Consultation
   e. Tutorials
      i. Start Your Own Business
      ii. Strategies for Business Growth
      iii. Managing Your Cash Flow
      iv. Financing Your Small Business
      v. Frequently asked start-up questions
      vi. Business Start-Up checklist
      vii. Agencies that support small businesses in Jamaica – Industry Listing
The Business Advisory Services offices are located at the Head Office: 14 Camp Road, Kingston, and in the parishes of St. James, Westmoreland, Manchester and St. Ann, Jamaica.

2. Technical Services Unit – The aim of this unit is to strengthen the global competitiveness of the MSME players primarily in Agro-Processing, Fashion and Apparel, Gift and Craft, Visual Communications, Engineering and Food Services, by utilizing several methodologies including:
   - Design counselling
   - Product development
   - Production engineering solutions
   - Training, and other technical support

This Unit is located at the JBDC Incubator and Resource Centre at 10a of the Garmex Free Zone, 76 Marcus Garvey Drive, Kingston

3. Marketing Unit – With an aim to expand and improve marketing support for MSMEs in the productive sector, The Marketing Unit of the JBDC offers the following services:

   a. Market Access Support/Facilitation
      - Producer market exposure
      - Events marketing
      - Digital/electronic marketing
      - Ecommerce
      - Distribution
      - Pop-up stores
      - Tradeshow participation
      - Linkages

   b. Marketing Consultation & Training
   c. Product screening, testing and development support

This Unit is located at the JBDC’s Head Office: 14 Camp Road, Kingston, Jamaica.
4. Research and Project Management Unit (RPMU) – The Unit’s aim is to respond to local, regional and global needs of large, medium-sized, small and micro enterprises in the areas of research development and project management, which includes:

- Research Consultancy
- Research-process Outsourcing
- Feasibility studies (planning and execution)
- Market research (consumer and client surveys)
- Employee satisfaction and engagement surveys
- Impact assessment and evaluation
- Tracer studies
- Baseline surveys and needs assessment
- Focus Group Design and Administration
- Online questionnaire (survey) hosting, fielding and sampling
- Data entry and analysis

This Unit is located at the Head Office: 14 Camp Road, Kingston, Jamaica.

*Information regarding the JBDC, which includes the above, can be found on its website at: www.jbdc.net*

**Municipal Corporations**

Jamaica's local government system represents a second tier governance of 13 local authorities or Municipal Corporations (formerly known as Parish Councils) for 14 parishes – Kingston and St Andrew is amalgamated and administered by the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation (KSAC). The Municipal Corporations are comprised of elected members and bear the responsibility of administering local affairs ranging from public health to fire, water and building regulatory services. The following roles however are of special interest to investors looking to start a business in Jamaica. The Municipal Corporation:

- Serves as the local planning authority for the regulating and approving of building and subdivisions, as well as advertisement signs.
- Provides and/or revokes business licenses for places of amusement, hotels, motels, and lodgings houses; as well as barbers, hairdressers and butchers.
- Coordinates disaster preparedness activities and the management of emergencies.
- Coordinates inter-agency collaboration among non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs) and government agencies that operate in the respective parishes, and are engaged in the delivery of local service or local development.

It is important to note that the roles, responsibilities and services of Municipal Corporations may vary across parishes. As such, it is necessary that you engage the Municipal Corporation that governs the parish in which you seek to invest.
Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ)

The BSJ is a statutory body established by The Standards Act of 1969 to promote and encourage standardization in relation to commodities, processes, and practices. However, over the years, its role has expanded to include the provision of services in relation to conformity assessment (certification, inspection and testing, and calibration) and metrology. See below details on the Bureau's functions:

- **Registration and Compliance** – The BSJ conducts inspections and investigations at establishments in the marketplace and at the ports of entry under its Standards Compliance/Import Monitoring Programme.

- **Metrology**, which is the science of measurement, plays a key role in industry, international trade and in everyday life. The Bureau provides metrology services through a number of laboratories to various sectors including health, telecommunications, security, construction, food and beverage, and mining.

- Tests are available, for mechanical and civil engineering, chemistry, electrical and electronics, non metallic and furnishing as well as microbiology so as to ensure standards are met.

- **Standard Development** – The BSJ is responsible for facilitating the timely development, promulgation, promotion and implementation of standards (and technical regulations) for goods, services, processes and practices.

- **Training and Development** – The BSJ offers tailored training courses, seminars and workshops for the common needs of various groups and individuals within the private and public sectors, such as manufacturers and processors, technicians, specialists and administrators.

- **Product Certification and Management Systems** – The National Certification Body of Jamaica is a unit within the BSJ that is committed to promoting environmental management systems and a culture of quality throughout Jamaica and the Caribbean. The BSJ's product certification process essentially concerns validating that a certain product has passed performance and quality assurance tests or conforms to requirements stipulated in the relevant standards.

- **Research and Education in Standardization** – The BSJ fosters awareness among industry, NGOs, academia and the wider public on the organization's role in facilitating trade, protecting consumers and enhancing business competitiveness. Tests are also undertaken to facilitate the development of standards and other requirements to which commodities, services, practices and processes must comply.
Should you decide to engage in the productive or manufacturing sectors of Jamaica, you will need to interact with the BSJ to ensure familiarity and compliance with the standards you will be subjected to. For further information, you may visit the BSJ’s office at 6 Winchester Road, Kingston 10, or visit the Bureau’s website at http://www.bsj.org.jm/.

The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

RADA is a statutory body under Jamaica’s Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF). It is the country’s chief agricultural extension and rural development agency that exists to enhance the development of farming through an effective, efficient and sustainable extension service. If you are investing in the agricultural industry or if your investment will impact the agricultural sector in any form, then RADA is the agency to contact. An office can be found in all fourteen (14) parishes of the country.

Source of this information and more details can be found at: https://www.rada.gov.jm/

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)

NEPA was established in April 2001 as an executive agency under the Executive Agencies Act. NEPA’s mission is to promote sustainable development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica. The seven (7) core functions of the agency are:

- **Conservation & Protection (Natural Resources Management)** – The management of species, habitats, and ecosystems; protected, watershed, coastal and marine areas management; wild fauna and flora protection, rescue and relocation
- **Environmental Management** – Pollution prevention and control; monitoring and assessment; incident investigation and reporting
- **Spatial Planning** – Development of a strategic framework for orderly and progressive development of the rural and urban areas of the archipelago and the territorial waters, the preparation of development orders and Spatial and development plans.
- **Compliance & Enforcement** – Monitoring for compliance with planning and environmental requirements
- **Application Management**
- **Public Education and Outreach**
- **Policy and Research/ Programme Development**

Source of this information and more details can be found at: http://nepa.gov.jm/
GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES RELATED TO INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries’ Investment Unit

The focus of MICAF’s Investment Unit is to foster investment opportunities in Jamaica. At the heart of its mandate is the provision of technical support in the formulation of policies and the creation of implementation strategies and programmes, which maximizes the benefits of existing investment opportunities within the country. Other government agencies that are under the supervision of the Investment Unit include:

- JAMPRO
- Factories Corporation of Jamaica
- Jamaica International Financial Services Authority
- The Agro Investment Corporation
- Micro Investment Development Agency (MIDA)

The Agro Investment Corporation was established as an advisory and management company to facilitate agricultural investment within the Agriculture and Fisheries divisions of the Ministry. The corporation covers the investment chain from the identification of opportunities through feasibility studies, due diligence and business planning to fundraising, project management, business performance monitoring and technical support. The Agro Investment Corporation’s aim is to undertake agricultural development for economic gain.

MIDA, an investment corporation within MICAF, is a limited liability company established to assist the Government of Jamaica in the development of the micro enterprise sector. The mandate of MIDA is to promote sustainable growth through the provision of financing and financial services. The company’s mission is to build a revolving pool of startup capital and cheap credit funds to assist new and existing MSMEs to create wealth and generate employment within the sector and to act as fund managers for the Government of Jamaica credit funds earmarked for on-lending to MSMEs.

Source of this information and for more details, visit the MICAF’s website at: www.miic.gov.jm

Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)

Following a change in political administration in 2016, the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) was created in March of said year. The MEGJC is charged with drafting the blueprint to drive economic growth and sustainable development in Jamaica by way of visionary leadership, appropriate legislation, innovative policies and coordinated implementation. In addition to investments, the Ministry has responsibility for six (6) critical portfolio areas. They are:

- Land
- Environment
- Climate Change
Potential investors are welcomed to engage the Investment Unit of the Ministry at its office: The Towers, 25 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5 or visit its website at http://megjc.gov.jm/#1/ for more information.
DEVELOPMENTS

Land Developments

Development is “the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under the land, or the making of any material change of use of any building or land.” (Section 5 (2) TCPA). NEPA in conjunction with the Municipal Corporation of each parish regulates the types of development to be undertaken throughout the island. The principal pieces of legislation used to assess development applications are the Parish Councils’ Building Act, the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA), the Town and Country Planning (Development Orders), and the Local Improvements Act. Another important document used is the Development & Investment Manual, 2007.

The development of lands is further guided by the assertions below:

• No permission or consent will be given to develop land when the proposed land use will not be to the advantage of the district in which it is to be located or in contravention of the Restrictive Covenant that is placed on the title.

• No development will be permitted in any area if such development is contrary to the current development policy of the government or zoning regulations.

• The developer or his agent should consult with the Local Planning Authority (Municipal Corporation) before starting any detailed design work. You can submit an Enquiry or Outline Application to the Municipal Corporation. The Municipal Corporation can guide you on how to submit this or a detailed application.

• Where an area falls between two parishes, the Local Planning Authority is the agency or body appointed by the Minister to assess these applications. One such example is Negril which falls between Hanover and Westmoreland which is overseen by the Negril Green Island Area Local Planning Authority.

• Under the TCPA, any material change of use of any building or land requires planning permission. For example, if you have a residential house in a gated community and want to change it to a commercial building (such as a villa, bed & breakfast, shop or plaza) you need to submit plans to the Municipal Corporation.

• All applications for development must be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authorities (that is, the respective Municipal Corporation within the parish you wish to establish your entity) before construction commences.

• No application should be submitted directly to NEPA unless it is an application for environmental permit or under the Beach Control Act.

• If an applicant is aggrieved by the decision handed down by the Local Planning Authority, s/he can appeal to the Minister within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt of the letter.

In order to carry out development activities in Jamaica, a combination of all or any of the following permissions may be requested by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs):
1. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):**

EIA refers to an examination, analysis and assessment of planned activities with a view to ensuring environmentally sound and sustainable development. The EIA examines both the beneficial and adverse environmental consequences of a proposed development project, and should be viewed as an integral part of the business planning process. Findings of the study should be taken into account in the business’ design and the recommendations from the assessment implemented should the venture be approved. NEPA determines whether or not an EIA is required based on screening of an application for a permit or license and the conducting of relevant site visit(s).

**Types of Environmental applications includes:**

- A permit to undertake any construction or development of a prescribed nature anywhere in Jamaica and its Territorial Sea under the NRCA (Permits & Licences) Regulations, 1996.

- A licence for the handling of sewage or trade effluent and poisonous or harmful substances to be discharged into the environment.

- A Beach Licence if you intend to use the foreshore and floor of the sea.

- An Air Pollutant Discharge Licence

- Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste

NEPA’s Environmental Permit & Licence Applications Process

Applicant defines Project

Applicant submits Application and Project Information Form to NEPA which assesses application for completeness.

NEPA returns incomplete application to applicant.

NEPA screens application and determines if an EIA is required. (NEPA conducts site visit if necessary). If NO EIA is required.

NEPA advises applicant that EIA is required, requests draft ToR.

Applicant prepares & submits draft ToR and publishes first public notice.

NEPA and relevant stakeholders review draft ToR and advises applicant if it is acceptable.

Application is reviewed by NEPA’s Internal & Technical Review Committee.

NEPA informs applicant of relevant comments on EIA.

NEPA, relevant Agencies and stakeholders review & comment on EIA.

Applicant prepares & submits EIA (3 hard copies + digital copy) based on approved ToR and publishes second public notice.

Technical Review Committee’s recommendations are presented to NEPA’s Board.

Permit Granted by NEPA Board.

Optional Appeal to Minister.

Permit Denied by NEPA’s Board.

Applicant implements project according to terms & conditions of approval.

NEPA monitors Compliance.

- EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
- ToR – Terms of Reference

Produced by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) November 2002
2. **Planning Approval:**

Planning applications are submitted to the LPAs in the respective municipal corporation in the parish you wish to develop.

During the application process, it is essential that you consider planning issues that may be applicable to your development interest. These include zoning, lot size, parking, traffic flow, access (ingress and egress) and the level of infrastructure. There are six types of planning applications:

a) The detailed planning application  
b) An outline planning application:

An applicant may choose to submit illustrative drawings representing his/her proposal and apply for Outline Planning Permission in that it saves the applicant the expense of having detailed and expensive plans drawn up, in advance of the applicant even being aware whether it is even possible to build on the land.

When granted, outline planning permission is planning permission. The applicant must satisfy all the other statutory reserved matters before proceeding with construction. In other words, full planning details will need to be submitted in advance of commencement of construction.
c) Change of Use – This is required when an intended development is contrary to the zoning in the Development Order, if the area is covered by a Development Order.

d) Retention of Structure – This is required if a building is constructed without the requisite building approvals.

e) Continuance of Use – If an activity is already in operation within an area contrary to the Development Order and has not received permission for a change of use, then continuance of use is required.

f) Determination – This is applicable if you are unsure that the proposed activity will require planning permission.

3. **Subdivision Approval** - Subdivision is the act of dividing a lot, tract or parcel of land into smaller plots for the purposes of sale, development or other new uses.

4. **Building Application** – These applications are concerned with the structural integrity of the proposed buildings/structures and are dealt with by the respective local authority in each parish under the relevant Building Acts.


**Development Orders**

The TCPA, 1957 (as amended) empowers the Town & Country Planning Authority to prepare, in conjunction with the LPA, legal documents called Development Orders for specific areas across Jamaica or for the entire island. The aim of these documents is to regulate and control the use of land. More specifically, development orders:

1. Give directions as to how one may obtain planning permission for development within the areas to which the Orders apply.
2. Include a development plan showing a proposed land-use strategy for special areas such as parish capitals, scenic areas, road side parks etc.
3. Restrict development to those areas where major services either exist or are planned to be implemented.


**Purchasing/Leasing Private-Owned Land**

There are no restrictions on foreign ownership of property in Jamaica. Similar to practices across the world, the first step in purchasing property is to make an offer. Upon acceptance by the vendor, a land survey and title search is conducted to confirm that there are no other claims or conflicting interests registered against the property. Once fully satisfied, the buyer is advised to lodge a caveat on the property to prohibit
any other interest from being registered against the property, until transfer has been completed.

There are two kinds of land titles in Jamaica. A common-law title is a certificate of ownership used for unregistered lands. However, this is not a full title to the land. Nonetheless, a common-law title can be upgraded to a registered title. This registered title is both legal and official. The Registration of Titles Act stipulates that the original must be retained at the Office of Land and Titles, while a duplicate is provided to the proprietor.

The Agreement for Sale is then prepared, normally by the vendor’s lawyer. Both parties usually sign it in the presence of an attorney –at -law. The transaction becomes official and binding upon signing the agreement. At the same time, the buyer will be required to pay a deposit of about 10% - 20% of the selling price, depending on what has been agreed upon, and to pay his share of the stamp duty on the transaction. It is normal for payment to be made in several instalments.

It is important to note that foreign currency remittance for purchasing real estate is prohibited without the approval of the Bank of Jamaica. Consent from the Exchange Control Department of the Bank of Jamaica is required prior to engaging in purchase agreements.

After signing the sale agreement, an application should be submitted to the Office of the Registrar of Titles, and government duties paid. Documents on conveyance of land must be stamped within 30 days of signing, to avoid substantial penalties. The transfer of the deed signals the completion of the sale. The whole process of registering a property can take around 1-2 months to complete. However if a mortgage is involved, the completion can last up to three months or more from the date of signing.


**Purchasing/Leasing Government-Owned Land**

Should you (a prospective purchaser) identify Government-owned land that you wish to purchase, then an application expressing interest in acquiring said land should be forwarded to the Commissioner of Lands by way of a letter. The letter should state:

- The name and location of the property
- The size of the property
- The proposed use

A Business Plan setting out proposals for the use of the property, financing and other related details is also required for properties where a commercial venture (agriculture or industry) will be undertaken.

If the land applied for is available for sale or lease the following procedure is followed:
• The Commissioner of Lands requests a valuation from the Commissioner of Land Valuation and information in respect of the suitability of the land from agencies such as National Environmental and Planning Agency (NEPA), National Works Agency (NWA), etc. to ensure that the land will be developed in conformity with the permitted use:

• The Commissioner of Lands will forward to the Minister with responsibility for Land, Environment, Climate Change and Investment portfolios of MEGJC for his/her recommendations;

• The National Land Divestment Committee, which was established by the Minister, is required to review the recommendations and to advise the Minister before he/she makes a final decision to divest the land:

• The Minister decides the sale price and may stipulate certain terms and conditions, considering the reports from the Commissioner of Lands and the National Land Divestment Committee. The Minister is free to consult with whomever he/she wishes to arrive at the best decision. The Cabinet is also consulted depending on the value, size and type of use proposed for the land.

• The Ministry transmits the Minister’s decision to the Commissioner of Lands;

• Once all the terms and conditions have been agreed to, a formal Sale Agreement is prepared for signature of the parties.

Source:http://www.moa.gov.jm/I%20Want%20To/buy_lease.php

Utility Companies

In Jamaica, depending on where you want to have your business, it is wise to engage utility companies to ensure that the relevant services are accessible in the area you wish to develop. It is also wise to target utility companies to get an estimate of the cost to obtain their services beforehand so that you can consider the costs during the structuring phase of your business financial plan. There are three main utility sectors in Jamaica:

1. Telecommunications
2. Electricity
3. Water and Sewerage

The main providers of telecommunication services are Flow and Digicel. As it pertains to electricity the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) is the dominant competitor within the field and the National Water Commission (NWC) leads the water and sewage sector.
JAMAICA CUSTOMS AGENCY’S (JCA) IMPORT POLICY & REGULATIONS

Your consideration to invest in Jamaica may require you to import items into the country. However, in order to do this, an import license is necessary. Some items that require an import license for export to Jamaica include: milk powder, refined sugar, plants or parts thereof for perfume or pharmaceutical purposes, gum-resins, vegetable saps and extracts, certain chemicals, motor vehicles and parts, arms and ammunition, and certain toys. The Trade Board, which falls under the MICAF, is responsible for granting licenses, which must be obtained before an item can be sold.

The documents required for the importation of goods are:
1. A supplier invoice;
2. Certificate of origin;
3. Bill of lading;
4. Airway bill; and,
5. Other shipping documents to include:
   i. A declaration of value and an import license, if necessary. Certain products may also require a sanitary or phytosanitary certification.
   ii. A Tax Compliance Certificate, a Business Registration Number, and a Taxpayer Registration Number, if necessary.

Upon arrival of the goods in Jamaica, the documents are submitted to the Customs authorities and the relevant duties paid before the goods are cleared.

Source: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Jamaica-Import-Requirements-and-Documentation

Strict regulations govern the importation of drugs and pharmaceuticals for safety, efficacy and quality. The Food and Drug Act requires all drugs distributed or sold in Jamaica to be assessed and registered. Clinical tests of drug uses and side effects are reviewed with special attention paid to stability under high temperatures and humidity typical of the tropics. Typically, a drug will not be admitted for use in Jamaica until it has been safely used in the country of origin for a period of more than one year.

Source: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Jamaica-Trade-Barriers

The Customs Agency executes its role to protect our borders. Should you attempt to bring certain goods into the country without the required permits or licenses, Customs has the authority to confiscate them, as well as to impose fines, as this represents a breach of Customs regulations. Below is a list of some items that require permits/licenses and the agencies from which they can be obtained:

- Meat - Obtain a certificate from the MICAF
- Ground provisions, fruits and vegetables - Obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate from the MICAF
• Drugs - Obtain a PSD Certificate from the Ministry of Health
• Firearms - Obtain a Permit/Licence to Import from the Police/ Commissioner of Customs/Trade Board
• Used Tyres - Obtain a Certificate from the BSJ
• Radios (two-way) - Obtain a Permit from the Post Master General

The following items however are forbidden by law from entering the country:

• Indecent and obscene prints
• Coin-base or counterfeit coin of any country.
• All publications of de Laurence Scott and Company of Chicago in the United States of America relating to divination, magic, cultism or supernatural arts.
• All publications of the Red Star Publishing Company of Chicago in the United States of America relating to divination, magic, cultism or supernatural arts.

For further information regarding these prohibitions, kindly visit the Jamaica Customs Agency's website: https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/prohibited-items, and for a list of restricted items, you can download same here: https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/sites/default/files/docs/Restriction%20Items.pdf

Duties, Taxes and Fees on Imports

In order to protect local producers, significant import duties remain on certain agricultural products (such as chicken and vegetables) and consumer goods. See below for details regarding the duties, taxes and fees collected by Customs on imported items:

• Import Duty/Customs Duty – This is the duty payable on imported goods. The rates of duty are published in the Jamaica Customs Tariff

• Stamp Duty - Postage stamps amounting to the value of JM $5 must be affixed to receipts with a Cost Insurance and Freight (C.I.F.) value of JM $5,500 and less. For receipts with values above this range, JM $100 worth of stamps must be affixed.

• Additional Stamp Duty (ASD) - Additional stamp duty is payable on certain items e.g., chicken and most chicken parts, pork and some pork products, beef and some beef products; some aluminium products, alcoholic beverages, and cigarettes.

• General Consumption Tax (GCT) and Special Consumption Tax (SCT) – The General Consumption Tax Act provides for two main types of taxes. These are GCT and SCT. GCT is paid on goods and services except those items that are zero-rated and those that are exempt from GCT. SCT is payable on a few items. These are alcoholic beverages, most tobacco products and some petroleum products. Most items attract only GCT, while some attract both GCT and SCT. Most imported items in commercial quantity are subject to a 21.5% GCT.
• **Standard Compliance Fee (SCF)** – This is a fee of 0.3% collected on behalf of the BSJ that is calculated on the CIF value.
• **Customs Administrative Fee (CAF)** – The Customs Administrative Fee is payable on the processing of documents, the examination of goods and on specific imported commodities.
• **Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF)** –
  Cost: This is the total cost of the goods abroad including ex-factory price, commission, mark-up and inland freight but excluding sales tax and interest. The cost of the goods is sometimes expressed as Free on Board (FOB) or Free on Air (FoA).

  **Insurance:** This is the insurance charge payable to transport goods to Jamaica and ensures some measure of compensation in the event of a loss or damage to the goods. If you have not paid any insurance charges when freighting your goods however, do note that an insurance charge is still applicable for valuation purposes. For goods arriving by sea, the insurance charge is 1.5% of the total Cost and Freight. This means, that should your goods cost US $100 and the freight charge is US $50, then C&F would be (US $100 + US $50 = US $150) x 1.5% = US$152.25. For shipments arriving by air the insurance applicable is 1% of the total Cost and Freight.

  **Freight:** This is the amount of money paid or payable to the shipping agent or airline(s) responsible for transporting the products to Jamaica. This charge includes inland freight, packaging and handling charges.

• **Environmental Levy** - 0.5% of the CIF value of all imports

Do note: All goods with a CIF value of more than US$5000 must be cleared by a licensed Customs Broker.

*For further information please visit the Jamaica Customs Agency’s website: [https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/duties-taxes-0](https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/duties-taxes-0)*

**Tools of Trade**

Tools of Trade are defined as instruments, tools, equipment, devices and machinery used in the normal course and scope of a person’s profession, trade or occupation. Returning Residents may import these items, either new or used, free of customs duty, with the exception of applicable fees provided that the Returning Residents Unit of the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) is satisfied that:

• The individual is qualified to use them
• The tools are of the type and quantity consistent with their profession, trade or occupation
• The tools are not being imported for sale or commercial exchange

If it is that the tools are intended to establish a business that will require the employment of additional labour, any additional equipment that is required
will not be classified as tools of trade and as such, is dutiable. Assistance in determining whether the intended items for importation comply with the definition of tools of trade may be sought from the JCA through our Embassies, High Commissions and Consulate Generals or the Diaspora Affairs Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Such requests for assistance should be accompanied by documentary evidence including:

- Notarized certificate or diploma, from a recognized educational, training institution or professional body.
- Reference from a former employer or customer attesting to experience in the designated field
- Copies of professional or business directories in which the service offered is listed
- Details of the items. In the case of used equipment, an inventory of the items along with a professional valuation of their current condition;
- Value should be provided, except in the case of equipment less than one year old, where the original invoice from the supplier can be provided. Used equipment are those owned and in use for a period of six (6) months or more.
- A certified invoice is required for new equipment. The determination of compliance is conveyed in writing, including an indication of the duty payable, if the items do not qualify for duty exemption. The definitive assessment of the items however, can be made only on the clearance of the items. A concession for tools of trade may be granted to each qualified individual within a family.

**Eligibility and Requirements for Returning Resident Status**

In order for Citizens to qualify for Returning Resident status and benefit from concessions on personal and household effects and tools of trade, the following requirements must be met:

- Be a Jamaican national who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years
- Have been resident overseas for the last three (3) consecutive years
- Be returning to Jamaica to reside permanently
- Non-Jamaican whose spouse is a Jamaican Returning Resident
- A Jamaican who wishes to return home but had renounced his or her Jamaican citizenship and can provide proof of previous Jamaican status.

Do note that should you wish to permanently return home to Jamaica and then invest in a business, you would be considered a Returning Resident. This concession granted to Returning Residents is a one-time only benefit. Persons who return after migrating multiple times are not eligible for Returning Resident status.
**Returning Students**

Returning Students are those who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and who have studied abroad for more than one (1) year, but less than three (3) consecutive years and are returning to Jamaica to reside permanently. Eligibility to receive concessions as a Returning Resident is determined by the JCA. This must be sought after arrival in Jamaica, and before beginning the process of clearance of personal and household effects and tools of trade.

The importation of items should be done within six (6) months after the arrival of the Returning Resident. It is necessary to attend an interview at the Returning Residents Unit of the JCA at its Head Office in Kingston or Montego Bay. The following documents must be presented at the interview:

- Valid Jamaican passport. If recently issued, an expired passport must also be presented.
- Valid non-Jamaican passport, which should be endorsed with an Unconditional Landing Stamp by the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (Immigration Section) unless a Jamaican passport is available for presentation.
- Documentary evidence to substantiate residence outside of Jamaica for at least the last three (3) consecutive years.
- Short visits to Jamaica for vacation do not affect eligibility;
- Documentary evidence to substantiate intention to re-establish permanent residence in Jamaica.
- In the case of students, a letter from the university, college or educational institution attended, confirming the duration of the course of study or time spent at the institution.
- The Unaccompanied Baggage Declaration Form (C27) (obtainable at the airport/seaport on arrival in Jamaica);
- Taxpayer Registration Number Card
- Validated Bill of Lading or Airway Bill

**Source:** http://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/
WORK PERMIT

A Work Permit is a document (card) bearing a number and photograph that is issued to an expatriate which authorizes that individual to work in Jamaica according to its stipulations for a specified period of time. The Work Permit Section of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) is responsible for the administration of the Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Citizens (Employment) Act and the Caribbean Community Free Movement of Skilled Persons Act. Persons seeking to obtain a work permit are required to make an application to this Ministry through their prospective employer, contractor (individuals), JAMPRO (investors) or through legal representation.


Eligibility for Work Permit or Exemption

1. Work Permit Exemption
The Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Citizens (Employment) Exemptions regulations 1964 lists the different categories of persons who are eligible to receive exemptions from the requirements of work permits. The request for an exemption is usually made by way of a letter from the relevant organization addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, providing details such as the full name of the applicant, his/her nationality, period for which exemption is being sought and an explanation of duties to be performed by the applicant.

2. Marriage Exemption
Persons who are eligible for Marriage Exemption under Part I of the Schedule of the Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Citizen (employment) Exemption Regulations, are those have wedded a Jamaican national.

i. How to obtain a Marriage Exemption Certificate
   • A processing fee of JM $15,000 is to be paid (using the Ministry Payment voucher), at any branch of the National Commercial Bank of Jamaica submitted on attendance. The vouchers can be obtained at the Work Permit Department or any Regional/Parish Office island wide.
   • Both husband and wife must visit the Ministry of Labour, with the following documents:
     o Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate of Jamaican Spouse (original and certified copy).
     o Marriage Certificate (original and certified copy).
     o Passport of both husband and wife.
     o Affidavit signed by both husband and wife stating that they share a common matrimonial home in Jamaica. This must be certified by a Justice of the peace.
     o Two certified passport size photographs of husband or wife (expatriate).
     o One certified passport size photograph of husband or wife (Jamaican).
ii. Conditions for marriage exemptions

- Expatriate males are issued an Exemption Certificate which is valid for three (3) years, after which the process of renewal must begin.
- Expatriate females are issued a Letter of Exemption which is unrestricted.
- Marriages should exceed one month before spouses visit the MLSS for processing. Processing and delivery is done the same day attended.
- The Certificate along with the passport of the non-Jamaican is to be taken to the Immigration Authorities for the passport to be endorsed.

iii. Marriage Exemption Certificate renewal

Both parties must visit the MLSS at least one (1) month before the certificate’s expiry date and should take along the following documents:

- Exemption Certificate previously issued
- Passports
- Declaration duly signed by both parties and certified by a Justice of Peace or Notary Public

Source of information and for additional information visit the MLSS’ website: http://www.mlss.gov.jm/pub/index.php?artid=37
LICENSING OF TOURISM ENTITIES

If you are interested in investing in a tourism entity, take note that all tourism entities are required to be in possession of a Tourist Board Licence as per Sections 22 and 23A the Jamaica Tourist Board Act (1955). The Tourism Product Development Company Limited provides secretariat services to the Ministry of Tourism for the processing of licences for all tourism entities in the island. You will therefore need a license to operate as stipulated by the entities listed below:

Accommodations Sector (Indefinite Licence)
• Hotel
• Resort Cottage (which includes: Apartments, Guest Houses and Villas)
• Bed and Breakfast (policy under review)

Other Sectors
• Attractions (3 year licence granted to new tourism entities and thereafter if renewed during the required period)
• Water Sports – (One year renewable licence)
• Domestic Tour Operator – (One year renewable licence)
• Car Rentals – (One year renewable licence)
• Contract Carriage – (One year renewable licence)
• Bike Rental – (One year renewable licence)
• Craft Traders – (One year renewable licence)
• Travel Halts – No Licence issued but an approval for an indefinite period
• Places of Interest – No Licence issued but an approval for an indefinite period
• Travel Agencies are required to be in possession of a licence as per the Travel Agency Act (1956)
• Operators of Tourist (Duty Free) Shops are required to obtain a licence under the Tourist (Duty-Free) Shopping System Act (1974). Letter requesting a “No Objection” for the operation of the Duty-Free Shop is to be sent to the representative of the Jamaica Tourist Board.

Once the requisite documents are in place then the Jamaica Tourist Board will contact the relevant Tourism Product Development Company Ltd regional office to make arrangements for a Product Quality Assessment of the facility to be conducted.

For further information visit the Tourism Product Development Company Ltd at the following website: http://www.tpdco.org/license-application/
LEGAL STRUCTURES FOR COMPLIANCE

Conversion and Transfer Policies

Jamaica has no restrictions on holding funds or on transferring funds associated with an investment, as the country liberalized its foreign exchange market in 1991. However, foreign exchange transactions must be conducted through authorized foreign exchange dealers, cambios, and bureaux de change at market-determined rates. Foreign exchange is generally available, but companies tend to acquire large amounts of foreign exchange over a three to four-day period. There are currently no plans to change the policies affecting investment remittances and there is no delay period currently in effect for repatriating investment returns. There is no legal parallel market (tiered system) for foreign exchange following liberalization and there are no limitations on the inflow or outflow of funds for any transaction. Recently surveyed U.S. companies indicated no problems or delays in accessing foreign exchange or remitting investment returns.

Expropriation and Compensation

Property rights are protected under Section 18 of the Jamaican Constitution. Expropriation of land may take place under the Land Acquisition Act, which provides for compensation based on market value. Expropriation can take place before compensation is paid, but interest for the period between the expropriation and the compensation settlement must be paid. According to the law, the purpose of any expropriation must be transparent, and compensation for expropriated property must be adequate.

Jamaica has signed bilateral agreements for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments with several countries, including the United States. The Embassy is not aware of any litigation between the Jamaican Government and any private individual or company based on expropriation or on compensation for expropriation, but there were cases involving commercial disputes between government-owned enterprises and private investors. There are currently no laws that force local ownership.

Source of information: https://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/othr/ics/2011/157299.htm

Labour Laws

In the Commonwealth Caribbean, including Jamaica, labour laws in industrial
relations have relied heavily on legislative initiatives. These laws generally covered:

- Trade union recognition
- Establishment of collective bargaining apparatus
- Encourage good industrial relations practices
- Mechanism for statutory arbitration.

**Labour laws in Jamaica may be divided into three broad categories:**

- *Employment Law* is based largely upon the common law concept of the contract of employment. The Employment (Termination and Redundancy) Payments Act (ETRP) 1974 (Jamaica) covers the separation payment whenever an employee is being made redundant or terminated.

- *Industrial Relations* Law is characterized by the principle of voluntarism. The Trade Union Act, 1919 (amended 1938), Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act (LRIDA), 1975 provides legislative framework for recognition, industrial dispute resolution and statutory arbitration. The Trade Union Act (1919) is the piece of Jamaican labour legislation solely devoted to the entrenchment of a trade union movement.

The LRIDA Act provides for:

- **The Registration of Trade Unions:** Within 30 days of its formation, the union must apply to the registrar of trade unions for registration. Penalties are prescribed for failure to comply with this requirement and for continued membership in the unregistered union.

- **Membership** for people over 16, except that persons between 16 and 18 years old cannot hold offices such as Treasurer, Trustee or Committee Member.

- **Filing of audited statements** on or before August 1 of each year file.

- **Peaceful Picketing:** Persons acting on behalf of a union may, “in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute” may picket the employers’ premises peacefully, but they may not intimidate or to block entry or exit or to breach the peace.

- **Prohibition of Certain Practices** such as the use of violence or intimidation, following people from place to place, hide tools, etc.

- **Industrial Safety Law** - In Jamaica, there are no comprehensive industrial safety laws in place. Jamaica is however drafting legislations for a comprehensive Health & Safety Act.

*Source of information: [http://www.jtug.info/labour-laws.html](http://www.jtug.info/labour-laws.html)*

**Employment and Labour**

Jamaica is a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which governs international issues related to labour and worker rights. There are several local laws that address employer-employee relations and ensure harmony in the labour market.
• **Minimum Wage** – Minimum wage is subject to annual review by the Government of Jamaica.

• **Maternity Leave** – Generally, female staff members are entitled to two months paid maternity leave.

• **Work Permits** – Expatriates are required to secure a work permit from MLSS in order to engage in any gainful business venture or employment. JAMPRO works closely with MLSS to facilitate the processing of work permit applications for foreign investors.

• **Holiday with Pay Act (1973)** - Staff members are entitled to sick leave and vacation leave after working continuously for a period of 110 days, but less than 220 days, to earn leave at a rate of one (1) day for every 22 days worked. After working 220 days in a year of employment, the worker is entitled to ten (10) working days of vacation. This is not inclusive of public holidays.


### Dispute Resolution

The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) was incorporated in July 1994 to increase cooperation in the management and resolution of disputes involving businesses, the police, courts, social service agencies and the people, through the controlled process of mediation.

Peace and Justice Centres have been established in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Mary, Manchester, Hanover, St. Catherine, St. Ann, Portland, Trelawny and Clarendon with four locations in St. James. Trained mediators are also located in St. Thomas, Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth. These centres and mediators offer mediation services and support the work of the police, courts, CBOs, and schools in reducing crime and violence in Jamaica.


### The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)

FATCA is a developmental step in the efforts of the United States to combat tax evasion by U.S. persons holding accounts and other financial assets offshore. Under FATCA, certain U.S. taxpayers holding financial assets outside the country are legally required to report these assets to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Notably also, certain foreign financial institutions report directly to the IRS, information about financial accounts held by U.S. taxpayers within their jurisdictions.

AVOIDING POTENTIAL PITFALLS

Success is the aim of all investors. However, in order to survive the business startup process in Jamaica, it is essential that the following suggestions be considered so that you may avoid potential pitfalls.

• Do careful due diligence on professionals and or firms you wish to engage for services
• Pay a reputable firm to carry out a good market research before launching out to invest your money in a business venture
• Knowledge is power; seek as much relevant information as possible from the government authorities
• Be aware that not all websites possess current information. Confirm information directly with the office.
• Get the information from a senior person in the organization and in writing where possible
• Secure the services of an attorney-at-law when conducting transactions with legal connotations (such as land/property and large asset purchases) even if you are being given a receipt.
• Before any money is spent acquiring land for development or on preparing plans and drawings, seek professional guidance in respect of the zoning regulations relating to the specified area where the development is proposed.
• Do not try to ‘outsmart’ the system. It may cost you more in the end
• Working through a licensed Customs Broker in Jamaica will be beneficial as they are equipped with the knowledge and experience with the processes and documentation needed to import goods. This will allow your process to be done more speedily and to avoid any costly mistakes. Contact the Jamaica Customs Agency for recommendations to Custom Brokers who can import goods on your behalf. The website for Jamaica Customs Agency is [https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/](https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/).
• Contact the National Education Trust if you wish to invest in education
• Contact the Health for Life & Wellness Foundation Limited if you wish invest in Jamaica’s health sector
• Be familiar with general business and planning terms.
Acronyms

BSJ - Bureau of Standard Jamaica
CIF – Cost Insurance and Freight
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
FATCA – Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act
GCT – General Consumption Tax
JAMPRO – Jamaica Promotions Corporation
JBDC – Jamaica Business Development Corporation
JIE – Jamaica Institution of Engineers
KSAC – Kingston and St Andrew Corporation
LPA – Local Planning Authority
LRIDA – Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act
MEGJC – Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
MICAF – Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture & Fisheries
MIDA – Micro Investment Development Agency
MLSS – Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MSME – Medium Small and Micro Enterprises
NEPA – National Environment and Planning Agency
RADA – Rural Agricultural Development Authority
SCF – Standards Compliance Fee
SCT – Special Consumption Tax
TCPA – Town and Country Planning Act
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