

REPORT ON

WORLD BANK FOUNDATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH PROJECT

The main objectives of this project is to provide technical assistance and implementation support to address the critical business regulation and procedural issues that constrains firm entry, operation and expansion, competition and trade and logistics. In this regard JAMPRO working as the Secretariat of the National Competitiveness Council will be providing the following assistance roles:

- technical assistance to help streamline the construction permitting process and the implementation of the AMANDA permitting system.
- training and public outreach to increase the new use of the new institutions related to access to finance
- legal and regulatory development for the new Special Economic ZONE (SEZ)
- technical assistance to support regulatory reform related to the legal framework for the Port Community System (PCS)
- technical assistance to build the capacity of the Fair Trading Commission (FTC)

Funding for this initiative is valued as US\$3.1 million at current exchange rates. This venture is significant to the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) given its objective which is to promote competitiveness in the business environment. In addition, the successful implementation of this project should attract both domestic and foreign investment to the country which is expected to enhance the country's ability to grow.

Role of the PSOJ and Policy Position on the Nature and Scope of the Project

In the implementation of this project new regulations and policies will be constructed to guide the various element of the project. The PSOJ will therefore need to be proactive so that the needs and welfare of its members are protected.

There is a significant observation coming from the second meeting held on Friday, 12 2014. This concerns the ongoing roll-out of the ANANDA system for which members of the construction sector has made it known that they do not have the funds to purchase the machines necessary to make use of the system. To make the matter worse it was reported that the majority of the individuals who are required to use the system do not have the capacity to do so. This then creates the need for the PSOJ to meet with its members who are in this sector and to have dialogue so that they can make full use of the new technologies which is expected to improve their efficiency and reduce their cost.