
CLOSING REMARKS
20th ANNUAL SHIRLEY PLAYFAIR LECTURE
December 1, 2022
David Miller, Executive Director
FAIR TRADING COMMISSION

Ladies and Gentlemen, today's lecture was enlightening and interesting and I think Mr. Mahfood articulated that there is plenty potential and several opportunities for manufacturers and exporters, and there are positive signs that Jamaica's economy is likely to grow through manufacturing. We thank everyone for attending and participating today.

In past lectures we have discussed sectors like banking and finance, energy and electricity, telecoms and institutional issues such as the legal framework for Jamaica's competition law and the Fair Trading Commission's (FTC) role in assessing mergers and acquisitions. Today we heard about adjusting our behaviour to develop and grow our country.

Given the importance of the tradeable sector to the economy and the critical role of competition in economic development this discourse is timely. Exploring the challenges and opportunities for recovery and growth must be at the forefront of our minds. The business sector and policymakers must work together to navigate the impact, for the benefit of our economy.

We must work together to support our manufacturing sector to obtain raw materials at the lowest possible cost. We must work together to improve and get lower prices for facilities such as warehousing, shipping services and port services; and we must work together to encourage investing and exporting.

Thank you to our presenter, Mr. Mahfood, for sharing your knowledge and experience with us, several instances of change in behaviour that affected or is affecting your company and other manufacturers. Also, for sharing several initiatives that have worked.

Having touched on several operational issues, we hope you are amenable to further discussion on these issues as we continue to seek to identify more solutions.

Notably, this is the third occasion that we have had the President of the Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA) as our guest presenter, and we will continue our partnership with the JMEA to build a competition culture through business enterprises.

Thank you to the leadership of our portfolio Ministry through Minister Hill, Minister Dunn, and Permanent Secretary Bennet-Templer who spoke of the Ministry's focus, several positive developments that are being experienced and initiatives that are in train from the Ministry and its Agencies.

Thank you to our audience today including our colleagues from CARICOM Member States. You all contribute to the work that we do.

A special thank you to our technical team, who are also our Staff members. The quality of our Staff is very high and diverse in the tasks that we undertake, from core competition work to competition advocacy, public education, and staging events such as this Lecture. Also, to the Commissioners for your efforts and your commitment to the Fair Trading Commission as we continue our work in assessing markets and influencing behavioural change for the betterment of businesses and consumers.

We look forward to your joining us for the 21st Shirley Playfair Lecture. Thank you and have a blessed day.