
WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
20th ANNUAL SHIRLEY PLAYFAIR LECTURE

December 1, 2022

David Miller, Executive Director

FAIR TRADING COMMISSION

Welcome to the 20th Annual Shirley Playfair Lecture, which was started in 2000 to commemorate the life and work on competition law of the Fair Trading Commission's first Chairperson, Mrs. Shirley Playfair. Mrs. Playfair was a passionate advocate for the proper functioning of markets, and she worked assiduously in creating the foundation and structure for the enforcement of competition law in Jamaica.

Welcome to our Deputy Chairman, Mr. Robert Collie, who will carry us through the event and moderate the Q&A session. Also, to our Commissioners and Staff and the Commissioners of the Consumer Affairs Commission.

We also welcome Mrs. Sancia Bennett-Templar, Permanent Secretary of our parent Ministry, the Ministry of Industry Investment & Commerce.

We extend apologies on behalf of our Chairman, Mr. Donovan White, who is unavoidably absent today.

Welcome Dr. Peter-John Gordon, past Chairman of the Fair Trading Commission (FTC), members of the private sector who are with us and we also welcome our guests who have joined us online.

Welcome, Mr. John Mahfood, President of the Jamaica Manufacturers & Exporters Association, who will present this year's lecture.

Each year the FTC seeks to highlight some aspect of competition law and uses the Shirley Playfair lecture as a medium through which to educate the Jamaican stakeholders – policymakers, the legal fraternity, the business community, and the Jamaican consumers. This year we are discussing disruptions in supply chains and how the disruptions have affected business and consumer choices.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia/Ukraine war have disrupted the global supply chains. These disruptions have impacted Jamaica negatively through a shortage of supply of raw materials and finished goods and higher freight and other shipping costs as well as fewer choices and higher prices to consumers. These disruptions have affected the state of competition in several sectors. It has affected the ability of firms to produce and distribute efficiently. It has affected the ability of firms to compete effectively.

How do we improve this situation? What do we as the business Ministry need to do to facilitate the business community towards addressing the situation for the benefit of all?

Mr. Mahfood will be speaking more about this.

I now hand over to Permanent Secretary Bennett-Templar to bring remarks from the Ministry.

Thank you.