

MINISTRY PAPER No. /32 /2015

**Annual Report of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)
Financial Year 2014/2015**

The attention of the Honourable House is invited to the 2014/2015 Annual Performance Report and the Audited Financial Statements of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), which are hereby presented in accordance with the requirements of Section 13 of the Second Schedule of the Office of Utilities Regulation Act.

Under the Act, the OUR is responsible for regulating the provision of utility services in the areas of electricity, telecommunications, and water and sewage. The objectives of the OUR are to ensure that consumers of utility services enjoy an acceptable quality of service at a reasonable cost; establish and maintain transparent, consistent and objective rules for the regulation of service providers; promote the long-term efficient provision of utility services for national development, consistent with Government policy; work with other related agencies in the promotion of a sustainable environment; provide an avenue of appeal for consumers in their relationship with the utility service providers; and act independently and impartially.

In the year under review, major activities of the OUR included (a) reconsideration of the National Water Commission (NWC) 2013 Tariff Determination, and the issuance of a Reconsideration Notice which, *inter alia*, extended the K-Factor Programme for fifteen years to 2032 to facilitate continued funding, from the anticipated cash flow stream, of capital intensive programmes for efficiency improvement, rehabilitation, and expansion; (b) development and promulgation of Number Portability Rules and management of the procurement process for the Number Portability Administrator; (c) installation of a local Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and connection of all major service providers; (d) determination of the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) 2014 Tariff Review Application for the period 2014 to 2019, which entailed a modest reduction in real terms; and (e) issuance of three licences for a total of 80 Megawatts (MW) of electricity generation capacity using renewable energy sources.

In the opinion of the auditors, Smith and Associates, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the OUR as at 31st March 2015.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
5th October 2015