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OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATIONRegulating Utilities for the Benefit of All

New electricity regulations, which aim to digitise, modernise and transform the electrical inspection process, were approved by the House of Representatives during its sitting on Tuesday, October 27.

Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Daryl Vaz, who piloted the Regulations, noted that it also seeks to increase regulatory efficiency in relation to electricians.

Vaz pointed out that through the passage of the Regulations, the Government “will facilitate the modernisation and efficiency of the electricity sector; increase compliance and industry safety; and improve Jamaica’s competitiveness in doing business in the global sphere”.

He noted that the Regulations is being adopted pursuant to section 55(1) of the Electricity Act, 2015, which provides for the privatisation of electrical inspection functions that were previously only conducted by the Government.

The Act also provides for the establishment of a Government Electrical Regulator (GER), which is designated the regulator for the work that is done by licensed inspectors and registered electricians in relation to installations, wiring or other work.

The Regulations speak to the role of the GER as well as other stakeholders involved in the electrical inspection process.

Among other things, the Regulations also establishes the licensing, registration and enrolment processes; addresses matters concerning compliance with specifications, requirements for electrical work, notification of completion of electrical work and notification to the owner of the premises to apply for inspection of the electrical work; and deals with complaints and investigations.

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