

THE COMPLIANCE COMMISSION

NOTICE

Section 43 of the Financial Transactions Reporting Act, 2000 (the Act) requires that financial institutions named in Section 3 which are supervised by the Compliance Commission (the Commission) submit to an annual on-site examination for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Act and other anti-money laundering laws and regulations.

The Commission has extended the deadline for completion of the first on-site examination by its constituent financial institutions such as lawyers, accountants, real estate brokers/ developers, cooperative societies etc. from 31st October, 2002 to 31st July 2003.

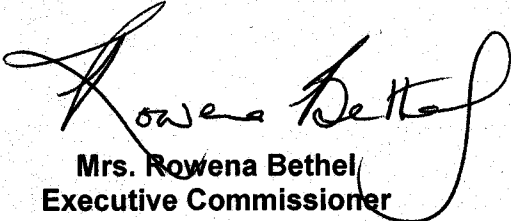
Thereafter the examination year will be 1st August to 31st July of the following year.

The actual timing of the examination is left to the discretion of the financial institution who will make the necessary arrangements with a licensed public accountant that has been duly appointed by the Commission to conduct such examination.

All licensed accountants may apply to the Commission for the appointment. The accountants must obtain the examination form from the Commission and on completion return the form to the Commission. The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) has issued a set of professional practice notes for its members, on the conduct of the examination.

The on-site examination is not an audit of the business activities of the financial institution, it is an agreed procedures exercise by means of a report of factual findings designed to test whether obligations imposed by the Financial Transactions Reporting Act are being complied with.

Any follow-up visits arising out of the annual on-site examination will be carried out by the Commission's Inspection Unit.



**Mrs. Rowena Bethel/
Executive Commissioner**