



Any reply or subsequent reference to this communication should be addressed to the Contractor-General and the following reference quoted:-

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MEDIA RELEASE

CONTRACTOR-GENERAL WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING CONSULTATION ON NEW GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING MEASURES

Kingston, December 20, 2007 – Contractor General, Greg Christie, has today written to Prime Minister, the Honourable Bruce Golding, to express his Office’s concerns regarding recent media reports that the Cabinet has approved new Government contracting measures. No details of the measures have been provided to the Commission of the Contractor General.

Mr. Christie has asked that the Commission, having regard to its statutory mandates under the Contractor General Act, be consulted on the matter before the measures are formally implemented. The full text of the Contractor General’s letter to the Prime Minister is as follows:

“December 20, 2007

The Honourable Bruce Golding, M.P.
Prime Minister of Jamaica
Office of the Prime Minister
1 Devon Road
Kingston 10

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Media Reports – Cabinet Approval of New Measures Regarding Alleged Relaxation of Government Procurement Procedures and Guidelines

I write with reference to stories which have been reported in the media during the past 24 hours which would suggest that the Cabinet has approved, *inter alia*, new measures to (a) increase the threshold for the endorsement of Government contracts by the National Contracts Commission and (b) accredit a select number of un-named Public Bodies to award contracts internally.



We do not make any assertions about the veracity of the subject reports. However, should the reports indeed prove to be true, we would be grateful if the Commission of the Contractor General is afforded with the opportunity to be consulted on the matter before the referenced new measures are formally implemented.

As you would appreciate, the Commission, having regard to its statutory mandates, would be concerned about the matter.

Firstly, we would want to receive a full understanding of exactly what has been proposed or approved. Most importantly, however, we would want to be satisfied that adequate systems, procedures and checks and balances are in place to prevent against any abuse by Public Bodies and Officers of the minimum standards of merit, impartiality and propriety which, by virtue of Section 4 (1) of the Contractor General Act, must guide the award of all Government contracts and the associated expenditure of the taxpayer's money.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurance of my highest considerations.

Very respectfully yours,

Greg Christie (Signed)

Greg Christie
Contractor General

Copy: Dr. The Hon. Carlton Davies, OJ, CD, Cabinet Secretary
The Hon. Shirley Tyndall, OJ, CD, Chair, National Contracts Commission"

- END -

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