



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**

### **OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR GENERAL COMMENCES PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY INTO THE AWARD OF CERTAIN JUTC CONTRACTS**

**Kingston, July 9, 2008** – The Office of the Contractor-General (OCG) has taken a decision to commence a preliminary enquiry into the procurement practices of the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited (JUTC) particularly as they relate to the award of certain contracts.

The OCG will enquire into the circumstances of the award of the following contracts, among others:

- (1) Contracts which may have been awarded by JUTC to Simber Productions Limited. Simber Productions Limited is a corporate entity in which Mr. Douglas Chambers, the former Chair of the JUTC, is listed as the majority shareholder.
- (2) Any other contracts which may have been awarded by the JUTC to any Director of the JUTC or to any entity in which a JUTC Director is or was a Director, a Partner a Shareholder and/or an Associate;
- (3) A contract which was endorsed on May 21, 2008 by the National Contracts Commission (NCC) in favour of Protection and Security Limited, in the sum of \$124,265,472.00, for the provision of security services for all JUTC locations for two (2) years, from 2008 to 2010. The



NCC's Contractor Registration Records lists Mr. Dennis Morgan, the current Chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Authority, as a principal and the Chief Executive Officer of Protection and Security Limited.

- (4) Contracts which have been awarded by JUTC to Cool Petroleum Limited for the supply of lubricants, diesel, fuels and/or oils.

Section 4 (1) of the Contractor General Act mandates a Contractor General to monitor, *inter alia*, the award of Government contracts to ensure that they are awarded impartially and on merit and in circumstances which do not involve impropriety and irregularity.

Section 15 (1) of the Contractor General Act gives a Contractor General a discretionary power to conduct an investigation, *inter alia*, into the award of any Government contract.

Section 16 of the Contractor General Act provides that "an investigation may be undertaken by a Contractor General on his own initiative or as a result of representations made to him, if in his opinion such an investigation is warranted".

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