



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

No. :

TELEPHONE No.:876-929-8560/6466

FAX No. : 876-929-2476

E-mail: communications@ocg.gov.jm

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL

PIOJ Building

16 Oxford Road

P.O. BOX 540

KINGSTON 5

JAMAICA, W.I

MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR GENERAL CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION INTO CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE JAMAICA URBAN TRANSIT COMPANY (JUTC)

Kingston, November 26, 2008 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has concluded its Special Investigation into the recent procurement practices of the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited (JUTC), particularly as they relate to the award of certain contracts.

The OCG's Investigation was commenced on July 8, 2008 and was prompted by allegations which had appeared in the July 6, 2008 edition of the Sunday Herald Newspaper which alluded, among other things, to the award of a contract by the JUTC to a company in which the late Chairman of the JUTC, Mr. Douglas Chambers, was said to be "*a major player*".

Some of the allegations inferred impropriety, a lack of transparency, cronyism, and a breach of the Government Procurement Guidelines, in the JUTC's award of contracts.

The OCG's Investigation has focused primarily upon certain contracts that were allegedly awarded by the JUTC to Simber Productions Limited, a company in which Mr. Douglas Chambers was the majority shareholder, Protection and Security Limited and Cool Petroleum Limited.

As is required by Section 20 (1) of the Contractor General Act, copies of the OCG's 104 page Report of Investigation into the matter have today been despatched by the Contractor General to the Hon. Mike Henry, MP, the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Bindley Sangster, the Acting Managing Director of the JUTC, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Works.



In the exercise of the discretionary powers that are reserved to a Contractor General by Section 28 (2) of the Contractor General Act, as well as in keeping with the mandatory requirements of Section 21 of the Act, the Contractor General has also today formally conveyed copies of the Report to the Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Honourable President of the Senate.

Section 28 (3) of the Contractor General Act requires the Speaker and the President to have the Reports tabled in both Houses of Parliament *‘as soon as possible’*.

The Contractor General, in compliance with the obligations that are imposed upon him by Section 21 of the Contractor General Act, has also despatched copies of the Investigation Report to the Attorney General and to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Section 21 of the Contractor General Act provides as follows:

“If a Contractor General finds, during the course of his investigations or on the conclusion thereof that there is evidence of a breach of duty or misconduct or criminal offence on the part of an officer or member of a Public Body, he shall refer the matter to the person or persons competent to take such disciplinary or other proceeding as may be appropriate against that officer or member and in all such cases shall lay a special report before Parliament”.

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Contact: Dale Austin, Communications Officer
Communications Department
Office of the Contractor-General
E-mail: communications@ocg.gov.jm
Tel: (876) 929-8560