



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 TO COMMENCE FORMAL INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND IRREGULARITY INVOLVING GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA CONTRACTS AWARDED TO MABEY AND JOHNSON LIMITED

Kingston; January 7, 2009 - The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) will commence a formal Investigation into allegations of corruption and irregularity that are related to certain Government of Jamaica bridge building contracts that were awarded to the British firm of Mabey and Johnson Limited. The decision to commence the formal Investigation follows upon two (2) specified events.

First, on November 26, 2008, certain oral representations were made to the OCG by representatives of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), the Serious Fraud Office of the United Kingdom and the British High Commission, in a meeting which was convened at the Office of the Contractor General at the request of the JCF.

The second event was the receipt of copies of certain documents which were formally conveyed by the JCF to the Contractor General under cover of a letter which was dated December 30, 2008. The JCF letter, which was received by the OCG on January 6, 2009, was signed by Mr. Leslie Green, the Assistant Commissioner of Police having responsibility for Serious and Organized Crimes.

ACP Green, in his letter to Contractor General, Greg Christie, has advised that he will “await the outcome of your investigations (i.e. the OCG’s investigations) and any recommendations and/or directions made by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), before taking any further action, as the allegations clearly relate to Government Contracts”.



“In light of the serious nature and gravity of the documentation which the OCG has received from the JCF, we believe that this is a matter which warrants a formal Investigation by the OCG,” Mr. Christie said.

The OCG’s Investigation will be directed primarily at determining, *inter alia*, (a) the precise role, if any, that was played by certain persons of interest, viz. one Mr. Joseph Hibbert and one Mr. Deryck A. Gibson, in the facilitation, procurement, award, implementation, execution and/or variation of the referenced contracts and, (b) the merits of the allegations which have been made that certain specified, questionable payments, totalling several million United States dollars in value, were made or transferred by Mabey and Johnson to certain specified persons and/or into certain bank accounts, in relation to the said contracts. The documentation that the OCG has received from the JCF would suggest that several of the alleged referenced payments were made to, for the benefit of, and/or on the account of, the said Mr. Joseph Hibbert between 1993 and 2003.

Upon the conclusion of its Investigation, copies of the OCG’s Report of Investigation into the matter will be formally conveyed to the Parliament of Jamaica and other appropriate State Authorities in accordance with the provisions of the Contractor General Act.

Section 15 (1) of the Contractor General Act empowers a Contractor General, “if he considers it necessary or desirable”, to conduct an investigation, *inter alia*, into the award of any Government contract. Additionally, Section 16 of the Act specifically provides that “an investigation pursuant to Section 15 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 investigation is warranted”.

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