



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 Investigation into Government Contract Awards Associated with the Olympic Athletes Homecoming Week of Celebrations

Kingston; October 23, 2008 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has commenced an Investigation into the award of certain Government contracts that were associated with the recent Olympic Athletes Homecoming Week of Celebrations which took place between October 3 and 10, 2008.

The decision to commence the Investigation was taken by the OCG against the background of a Cabinet Decision, dated August 25, 2008, which has exempted “*Artistic and cultural products and services – works of art, performance services and other cultural and creative products/services*” from the Government Procurement Procedures, effective as at September 22, 2008.

Notice of the commencement of the OCG’s Investigation was formally conveyed yesterday, October 22, 2008, by Contractor General, Greg Christie, to the Minister of Information, Culture, Youth & Sports, the Hon. Olivia Babsy Grange, and to the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth & Sports (MICYS), Mrs. Faith Innerarity.

The OCG has requested the Ministry to provide the following preliminary information, in spreadsheet format, in respect of every contract of JA\$100,000 in value and above that was awarded by it in connection with the Week of Celebrations:



1. The date of the award of the contract;
2. A brief description of the contract;
3. The full name and address of the person or entity to whom the contract was awarded;
4. The award value of the contract;
5. The total amount which has been paid under the contract;
6. A brief description of the procurement method that was employed;
7. The number of tenders or quotes that were invited;
8. The number of tenders or quotes that were received;
9. The Ministry's justification for making the award to the contractor in question;
10. Whether the approval of the Ministry's Procurement Committee was received;
11. Whether the approval of the Ministry's Accountable Officers and/or Accounting Officer was received.

A global total of the respective values of all contracts awarded, together with the aggregated payments that have been made there-under, must also be provided to the OCG. The documentation is required to be submitted to the OCG no later than 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

The OCG has also placed the MICYS upon notice that all verification and supporting documentation that is related to the referenced contract awards, inclusive of files, quotations, invoices, receipts, meeting minutes, written authorizations, correspondence, etc., should be assembled by the MICYS in readiness for examination, review and audit by an OCG Investigation Team.

According to the Contractor General, "the Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth & Sports is a Public Body that is now licensed to jettison the standing Government procurement procedures when undertaking certain procurements. This Investigation is therefore directed at ensuring that there is probity, transparency and accountability in the Ministry's awarding of contracts. As such, the Investigation must in no way diminish, or detract from, the stellar accomplishments of our Nation's Athletes in the recent Summer Beijing Olympic Games."

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