



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 LAUNCHES 2009 CALENDAR YEAR AUDIT PROGRAMME COMMENCING WITH AUDIT OF THE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT AWARD PRACTICES OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE**

**Kingston; January 9, 2009** - The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) will next week commence a formal Audit of the contract award and procurement practices of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC). The Audit will also embrace the Ministry's licence and permit issue procedures.

The Ministry will be the first Public Body, among several others, which will be subjected to the referenced Audit, either on a selective or random basis, as a part of the OCG's 2009 Calendar Year Audit Programme.

The Hon. Karl Samuda, the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, and Mr. Reginald Budhan, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, were formally advised of the Audit by Contractor General, Greg Christie, by way of a letter, which was dated today, January 9, 2009. The Contractor General's letter was copied to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary.

The Audit, which will cover the period January 1, 2008 to December 9, 2008, will be conducted as a part of the OCG's strategic programme to ensure that there is full compliance on the part of all Procuring Public Bodies with the requirements, *inter alia*, of the 1983 Contractor General Act and the Government Procurement Procedures Handbook (GPPH).



A high level OCG Team, which will be headed by the OCG's Director of Non-Construction Contracts, Licences and Permits, will conduct the Audit. Other Audit Team members will include the OCG's Inspector with Responsibility for Quarterly Contract Reports and Audits, the OCG's Special Projects Coordinator and one of two of the OCG's Senior Inspectors.

The OCG's 2009 Calendar Year Audit Programme will be comprehensively complemented by the second phase of the OCG's Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Report Regime which will also be shortly implemented.

On May 16, 2008, all Ministers of Government, the Cabinet Secretary, the Financial Secretary and all Accounting and/or Principal Officers of the country's 190 Procuring Public Bodies, were formally notified by the Contractor General that effective with their 2008 3rd Quarter QCA Reports, the OCG will begin to conduct formal compliance assessments on all QCA Reports which are submitted to it.

The Contractor General had said then that the new initiative will see the OCG utilizing a comprehensive suite of computer-aided assessment criteria, and techniques, to grade each Public Body's QCA Reports.

Allocated grades will depend upon the level of compliance with the procurement procedures that the assessment has revealed. Following each assessment and grading exercise, certain formal remedial actions will then be implemented by the OCG to ensure that any non-compliant Public Body will become compliant.

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