



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**

**MINISTER TUFTON'S STATEMENT THAT THE OCG ISSUED A DIRECTIVE CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF FERTILIZER IS FALSE**

**Kingston; February 19, 2009** – In a news story which was carried in the Media yesterday, the Agriculture Minister, Dr. Christopher Tufton, was quoted as stating that “A directive from the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) to open up the procurement process for imported fertilizer has delayed the importation of the product by the Government”.

The OCG wishes to categorically state that the assertions of the Minister are false and are entirely without merit and foundation. No officer of the OCG has had any communication or discussion whatsoever with any officer, official or Minister of the Government of Jamaica regarding the procurement of fertilizer or fertilizer imports.

In a discussion which the Contractor General had last night with Minister Tufton, following separate discussions between the Minister and the Contractor General with the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, it was unequivocally confirmed that the statement which was made by the Minister was false, unfounded and misleading.

Minister Tufton, last night, gave the Contractor General his assurances that he would issue a statement to the Media this morning retracting his allegations and publicly apologizing to the Contractor General.

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