



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

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**JAMAICA, W.I.**

**VERY URGENT**

October 4, 2006

Mr. Desmond Richards  
Managing Editor  
The Sunday Herald  
17 Norwood Avenue  
Kingston 5

Dear Sir:

I write with reference to certain statements which have been made by your regular columnist, Mr. Garnett Roper, on the editorial page of your publication of October 1, 2006. Mr. Roper's statements were published in an article which was entitled, "Scrap the Office of the Contractor General".

Mr. Roper, it seems, has concocted, in his article, a cocktail of falsehoods, injurious innuendoes and unsubstantiated allegations against the Office of the Contractor-General (OCG) and myself.

Because I am a public servant, I believe that it is in the interest of the public that I should respond promptly to those of his charges which are likely to invite suspicion or questions, particularly if they are left unaddressed. I trust, therefore, that you will publish my entire letter in no less of a prominent manner than that in which Mr. Roper's has appeared.

**Emoluments of the Contractor-General**

Mr. Roper has asserted that "Care was ... taken to amply reward the holder of [the] Office [of the Contractor-General]. He stated that "The present office bearer, for example, lives in rented premises at a cost of more than US\$3,000 per month, or approximately ... J\$2.6M per annum". He then queried "the procurement process by which the contractors that provide ... [the] residences were selected". Finally, he declared that "the Contractor General's independence is also secured by a wonderful emolument package".

For the avoidance of doubt, I should like to clarify that the gross emoluments of the Contractor-General is presently J\$4,855,608. It is composed of a Basic Salary of \$3,000,000 pa, Housing Allowance of \$960,000 pa, Entertainment Allowance of \$60,000 pa, Security Allowance of \$21,000 pa, Library Allowance of \$120,000 pa, Leave Passage of \$216,900 pa and a Motor Vehicle Up-Keep Allowance of \$477,708 pa.

Contrary to what Mr. Roper has inferred, neither the Government of Jamaica nor the OCG provides me with, pays for, or has procured for me, any housing or living accommodations.

The costs of my personal and family accommodations, together with all associated utility and other expenses, are borne solely by my wife and I. These expenses are met from our incomes and our personal assets ... not from Government or OCG funds. The same is also true of the motor vehicles which we drive. They are not owned by the Government or by the OCG. They were purchased by me, they are owned by me and they are 100% maintained by my wife and I.



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With regard to what Mr. Roper has characterized as my “personal body guard service” which, he says, is “slightly smaller than ... four”, and which he has inferred has been privately contracted, I must categorically state that, contrary to what he has suggested, no contract has been ever awarded by the Government of Jamaica or by the OCG for “the procurement” of any security service for me.

I accepted His Excellency’s offer of appointment as Contractor-General of Jamaica with full knowledge of the foregoing emoluments, with humility, with a sense of pride and with honor and privilege. I did so with a considered willingness and desire to serve my country. In light of my decision to accept the offer, my wife and I consciously repatriated to Jamaica, from Florida, knowing full well and accepting that we would be doing so at great personal, family and financial sacrifice and, above all, at substantial personal risk.

### **Reports of the Contractor General**

Mr. Roper has accused me of publishing “the findings” of OCG Reports in the newspaper, via “full-page news advertisements”. He has also questioned “the procurement process through which the CG went to determine which media house to use for the publication”.

I wish to categorically state that since I have assumed office as the Contractor General on December 1, 2005, other than advertisements for vacant positions in the OCG, no advertisements of any kind whatsoever have ever been taken out by me or by the OCG in any newspaper. Further, no full page advertisements of any kind has ever been taken out by the OCG or by me during the same time period.

If Mr. Roper chooses to persist in his reckless and malicious falsehoods, he will clearly be obliged to forthwith substantiate his allegations by producing copies of the alleged advertisements.

### **Discharge of the Functions of the Contractor General**

Mr. Roper has alleged that “... the CG has often taken extreme positions and used inflammatory and pejorative language from which he has had to retreat, and which appear unsupported by the evidence adduced”.

This is another irresponsible and inaccurate statement which is incapable of any credible substantiation.

Mr. Roper, Sir, owes a duty to your readers not to disseminate falsehoods or patently injurious statements which he cannot substantiate. Indeed, as a “Man of the Cloth”, Mr. Roper has an even higher duty. Among his guiding lights should be the ideals of honesty, truth, integrity and fairness. However, his article, quite regrettably, has disclosed an alarming deficit of these values. While one is left to ask what would have motivated a man who claims to be a Minister of Religion to descend into such a dark abyss, it is nevertheless clear that his startling actions are matched only in astonishment by his curious call for the abandonment of the OCG.

Finally, I would wish to record that despite attacks such as these, the OCG will fearlessly continue to do what is right. It will discharge its statutory mandates and functions, forthrightly and impartially, within the bounds of the law. There can be no other way about this. The OCG’s Officers and myself have taken a solemn oath to do these things, to serve only the interests of the People of Jamaica and to faithfully uphold the laws of our country.

Yours respectfully,

Greg Christie (Signed)

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Greg Christie  
Contractor General