



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

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July 23, 2008

Mr. Garfield Grandison
Editor-in-Chief
The Gleaner Company Limited
7 North Street
Kingston

Dear Mr. Grandison:

Re: Gleaner Editorial – “This is all disingenuous, Minister Mullings”

I write to clarify a matter of some public importance which was discussed in your Editorial today and which is of concern to the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) and to me.

Having alluded to the Contractor General's Report of Investigation into the Procurement of Contracts for the 4M Light Bulb Distribution Project, your Editorial asserts, *inter alia*, that you are disturbed “that information from the Cubans that several thousand of the bulbs never arrived in Jamaica appeared to have been suppressed”.

You then concluded your Editorial with the remark that “Christie may not have been privy to the information, so he may find it useful to provide an addendum to the document (i.e. the OCG's Report of Investigation) – in the interest of fairness”.

We wish to make the following clear:

- (a) In conformance with the requirements of the Contractor General Act and the mandates of the Contractor General under the Act, the Terms of Reference of the OCG's Investigation into the 4M Light Bulb Distribution Project were strictly confined to matters which were associated with the award of contracts under the Project. The OCG's Investigation did not in any way seek to enquire into, nor did it enquire into, the issue of whether the bulbs which were ear-marked for the Project were all accounted for.
- (b) The OCG's Report of Investigation did not discuss or comment upon this matter and, most importantly, no Finding or Conclusion was made in the OCG's Report regarding same.
- (c) Contrary to the inferences which were made in your Editorial, it is the Auditor General's Report, and not the Contractor General's Report, which addressed the issue of the “Accounting for the Bulbs”. The matter was comprehensively addressed on page 3 of the Auditor General's Report and also on page 13 of the Report where, in the “Summary of Conclusions”, it clearly states that among the “summary of the major inadequacies identified” was the “apparent shortage of 167,380 bulbs”.



- (d) The OCG was never privy to and is not now privy to the information which is alleged to have recently surfaced regarding the alleged whereabouts of the subject bulbs.
- (e) Media Reports have suggested that the referenced information came to the attention of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy in or about January 2008. In this regard, it is critically instructive to note that there was no mention of this information in the Permanent Secretary's November 16, 2007 or December 11, 2007 written responses to those of the formal Requisitions of the Contractor General which were directed to her.

We trust that this information has assisted in clarifying for your readers not just the comments which were made in your Editorial but also the non-involvement of the OCG in this matter.

Very respectfully yours,

Greg Christie (Signed)

Greg Christie
Contractor General