



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

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KINGSTON 5

JAMAICA, W.I

July 13, 2009

The Editor
The Gleaner Company Limited
7 North Street
Kingston

Dear Editor:

Re: The Sunday Gleaner Editorial entitled: “Mr. Hibbert should stand aside”

I should be grateful if you would permit me to clarify an issue of some import which was raised in your Editorial of Sunday, July 12, 2009.

In your Editorial, which was entitled “Mr. Hibbert should stand aside”, you have called upon the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), and the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, to “consider” launching an Investigation into the allegations of corruption which are associated with certain bridge building contracts which the Government of Jamaica has awarded to the British firm, Mabey and Johnson Limited.

I must respectfully advise that the OCG has, in fact, already launched such an Investigation. Public notice of same was given on January 7, 2009, via an official OCG Media Release. Indeed, the announcement regarding the OCG’s Investigation was the subject of the Gleaner’s lead front page story on January 8, 2009 and its Editorial on January 9, 2009.

I must also assure your readers and the public at large that the referenced Investigation is not only progressing satisfactorily but is far advanced.

Sworn statements have already been collected from Mr. Joseph Hibbert, MP, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Works and from Mr. Deryck A. Gibson of Deryck A. Gibson Limited, the local agents of Mabey and Johnson.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Works has also complied with the formal requisitions of the OCG by furnishing relevant and extensive particulars and documentation concerning the Government of Jamaica contracts which were awarded to Mabey and Johnson.



Additionally, information and documentation from the British Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and Mabey and Johnson, regarding the subject allegations, have been secured by the OCG through the JCF's Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Serious Crimes, Mr. Les Green.

As was indicated in the OCG's January 7, 2009 Media Release, once the OCG's Special Investigation into the matter is concluded, copies of the Report of Investigation will be formally conveyed by me to the Parliament of Jamaica and to other relevant State authorities, in compliance with the statutory obligations which are imposed upon a Contractor General by the Contractor General Act.

Yours respectfully,

Greg Christie (Signed)

Greg Christie
Contractor General