



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 CONCLUDES SPECIAL INVESTIGATION INTO AWARD OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CONSULTANCY CONTRACT TO AUBYN HILL

Kingston; September 13, 2010 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has concluded its Special Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the alleged award of a multi-million dollar consultancy contract to Mr. Aubyn Hill and/or his company, Corporate Strategies Ltd., by the Sugar Company of Jamaica (SCJ), a Government of Jamaica Public Body.

The decision to commence the Investigation was taken by Contractor General, Greg Christie, on October 16, 2009, after certain allegations about the alleged contract were initially aired over the electronic media on October 15, 2009 and on Friday, October 16, 2009 in an article which was entitled “\$27M for Aubyn Hill”, and which was pre-posted on the website of the *Sunday Herald* newspaper.

The allegations raised critical questions and concerns for the OCG, particularly because of reports that approximately \$27 Million had already been paid out under the contract since 2008 July and the fact that Mr. Aubyn Hill was also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the SCJ Holdings Ltd., which then held the Government of Jamaica’s (GOJ’s) assets which were being divested.

Consequently, on October 16, 2009, the OCG issued a Media Release in which its decision to commence a formal Investigation into the allegations was publicly announced.

The OCG’s Media Release advised that the Special Investigation would seek to determine, among other things, whether the alleged contract was awarded impartially and on merit and in circumstances which



did not involve impropriety or irregularity and whether, having regard to the fact that Mr. Hill was also the Chairman of SCJ Holdings Ltd., if the disclosure and conflict of interest provisions of the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act or any other law were in any way violated.

In keeping with the requirements of the Contractor General Act, copies of the OCG's Special Report of Investigation, into the matter, were today sent by the Contractor General to eight (8) State Authorities.

Pursuant to Sections 20 (1) and Section 20 (2) of the Act, copies of the Report were conveyed to Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries, Mr. Aubyn Hill, the Chief Executive Officer, SCJ Holdings Ltd., and Mr. Donovan Stanberry, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Section 24 (3) of the Contractor General Act provides that there is nothing which “... *shall prevent disclosure by any person of information furnished to him pursuant to section 20*” of the Act.

In keeping with the requirements of Section 21 of the Act, the Contractor General has also formally despatched copies of the Report to the Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable President of the Senate, and the Clerk to the Houses. Section 28 (3) of the Act requires the Speaker and the President to have the Report tabled in both Houses of Parliament ‘*as soon as possible*’.

In compliance with the obligations that are imposed upon him by Section 21 of the Contractor General Act, the Contractor General has also conveyed copies of the Investigation Report to the Learned Director of Public Prosecutions and the Honourable Attorney General. Section 21 of the Contractor General Act provides as follows:

“If a Contractor General finds, during the course of his investigations or on the conclusion thereof that there is evidence of a breach of duty or misconduct or criminal offence on the part of an officer or member of a Public Body, he shall refer the matter to the person or persons competent to take



such disciplinary or other proceeding as may be appropriate against that officer or member and in all such cases shall lay a special report before Parliament”.

The OCG’s 148 page Special Report of Investigation will be published on the OCG’s website at www.ocg.gov.jm, but only after the Report has been formally tabled in **both** Houses of Parliament.

The OCG wishes to caution that where Reports of its Special Investigation find their way into the Media prior to the tabling of the said Reports in the Houses of Parliament and the formal posting of same on the OCG’s official website, care should be taken to disassociate any such publications from the OCG.

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