



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 TO COMMENCE SYSTEMATIC MONITORING OF GOVERNMENT LICENCES**

**Kingston; May 15, 2009** - The Office of the Contractor-General (OCG) has formally written to the Cabinet Secretary, the Financial Secretary, all Permanent Secretaries and the Principal and Accounting Officers of over 190 Public Bodies, to advise them of its intention to commence the systematic monitoring of the grant, issue, suspension and revocation of all prescribed Government licences.

A 'Prescribed Licence' is defined by Section 2 of the Contractor-General Act as "any licence, certificate, quota, permit or warrant issued or granted pursuant to any enactment by a public body or an officer thereof".

The Contractor General is empowered by Section 4 (1) (b) of the Contractor General Act to "monitor the grant, issue, suspension or revocation of any prescribed licence, with a view to ensuring that the circumstances of such grant, issue, suspension or revocation do not involve impropriety or irregularity and, where appropriate, to examine whether such licence is used in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof".

The formal Notice was issued by Contractor General, Greg Christie, under cover of letter which was dated May 7, 2009. The Notice, which was copied to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Bruce Golding, all Ministers of Government and the Solicitor General, requires every Public Body to provide to the OCG, by June 18, 2009, brief but specified particulars regarding its licensing activities, if any.



Once this foundation information is received and analyzed by the Contractor General, an appropriate programme will be developed and implemented, by the OCG, for the systematic monitoring of all applicable Government licences to ensure that the requirements of the law are fully adhered to by the relevant licensing and permitting authorities.

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