



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

No. :

TELEPHONE No. : 929-8560/6466

FAX No. : 929-7335

E-mail: general@ocg.gov.jm

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL
17 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD
P.O. Box 540
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA, W.I.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL

Kingston, November 8, 2006 - The Office of the Contractor General has taken note of certain statements which were reportedly attributed to Dr. The Hon. Vincent Lawrence, the former Executive Chairman of the UDC, yesterday, while he was making his presentation before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament as it continued its hearings into the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project.

Some of these statements have questioned the credibility of the OCG's Report of Investigation into the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project while others have questioned the OCG's knowledge of the Government's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines.

The Office of the Contractor General is unperturbed by the alleged statements and will not be intimidated or influenced by any threats of legal or other adverse action which are made against it. The reported statements and threats are baseless, lacking in merit, and are devoid of any credible or sustainable foundation.

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The OCG wishes to state categorically that it stands firmly and unconditionally behind those of its findings and conclusions which are set out in its Report of Investigation into the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project, specifically as they relate to the UDC's conditional engagement of Jentech Consultants Ltd. on the Sandals Whitehouse Project.

The OCG is confident about the veracity and credibility of these findings and conclusions. It is also satisfied that it is possessed with adequate documentary evidence to fully support, substantiate and defend its stated positions.

The OCG has documented and taken special note of the several conflicting and unsubstantiated statements which the UDC has made, during the past 16 weeks, in its attempt to absolve itself from responsibility for its flagrant breaches of the Government's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines in its conditional engagement of consultants on the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project.

As an independent, anti-corruption Commission of Parliament, the OCG is fully committed to the diligent and lawful discharge of those of its responsibilities and obligations which are mandated by the Contractor General Act.

The OCG has discharged and will continue to discharge those responsibilities fairly and impartially, but forthrightly and fearlessly, in the interest of the people and taxpayers of Jamaica.

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Contact: Claudia Williams
Communications Officer
Office of the Contractor-General
Tel: (876) 929-6460
Pvt: (876) 968-8061
E-mail: cwilliams@ocg.gov.jm