



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

UDC TO REQUEST TERMINATION OF BASHCO CONTRACT - OCG COMMENDS UDC

Kingston; October 20, 2011 – The Urban Development Corporation (UDC) has advised the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) that it is taking steps to request the termination of its pending sale agreement in respect of its property at 35 West Parade, Kingston, in order “to comply with the divestment process”.

The UDC’s notification to the OCG, which was dated October 19, 2011, was written in response to an OCG recommendation of October 13, 2011 for the UDC to “immediately terminate the arrangement with Bashco Trading Company Limited, and advertise the property in keeping with the strictures and requirements of the Government of Jamaica Privatization Policy and Procedures”.

The OCG wishes to publicly commend the UDC and, in particular, its Board Chairman, Mr. Wayne Chen, for the principled and contrite stand which the company has taken.

“The UDC has demonstrated that it is at least prepared to be held accountable for its admitted breaches of the rules and to implement the requisite corrective measures which will ensure probity in its handling of the matter in the interest of the country’s taxpayers”, said Contractor General, Greg Christie.

The willingness of the UDC to heed the considered recommendations of the OCG comes in stark contrast to the conduct of the relevant Public Bodies which were involved in the recent Jamalco Divestment, Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Divestment and LNG Tender Process matters. These Public Bodies, and their governing officers, had, at the outset, chosen to summarily ignore the considered recommendations of the OCG to regularize the contracting process and to place same under the supervision of the OCG.

The OCG has consistently encouraged Public Bodies which have breached the contracting guidelines and laws to move with expedition to proactively correct the process rather than to persist in the breach.

“The precedent that the UDC has set in its efforts to remedy its transgressions, augers well for the establishment of good governance best practices in public contracting in Jamaica. It is something that should be emulated by all Public Bodies, for in the final analysis the work of the OCG should not be about forcing Public Bodies into compliance with the relevant laws, but rather at securing their voluntary compliance with the said laws in the interest of the people and taxpayers of Jamaica”, said Mr. Christie.

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