



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

No. :

TELEPHONE No.:876-929-8560/6466

FAX No. : 876-929-2476

E-mail: communications@ocg.gov.jm

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL

PIOJ Building

16 Oxford Road

P.O. BOX 540

KINGSTON 5

JAMAICA, W.I

MEDIA RELEASE

OCG to Commence Special Procurement-Related Training Presentations to Permanent Secretaries and Public Body Accountable Officers

Kingston; March 12, 2012 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) will, in March 2012, commence the delivery of a series of **Special Procurement-Related Training Presentations** to the country's Permanent Secretaries as well as to the Accountable Officers of the roughly 200 Public Bodies which fall within the purview of the OCG's contract monitoring and investigation jurisdiction.

The Presentations, which will be geared, among other things, towards sensitizing Permanent Secretaries and their Accountable Officers to their respective roles and responsibilities in the Jamaica Public Sector procurement process, and highlighting and correcting deficiencies in Public Body procurement practices, will commence with Presentations to key Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government, some of which will soon be undertaking major procurements or procurements of a strategic nature.

The first round of Presentations will also target a number of Public Bodies which have exhibited weaknesses of one type or the other in their procurement practices.

Although the OCG is not charged with the responsibility of conducting procurement-related training within the Jamaica Public Sector, the OCG believes that its assistance in providing such training is one way in which a greater understanding of and compliance with the Government's Procurement Process can be readily achieved. The OCG is also hopeful that its targeted interventions will assist Public Bodies to execute their procurements in a more timely, efficient and cost-effective manner.

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining, and their respective portfolio Public Bodies, are the Public Bodies which will be scheduled to receive the first round of OCG Presentations during the month of March.

The referenced Ministries have already received formal communications from the OCG advising them of the intended Presentations.

The content of the specially designed Presentations will be far reaching and will include coverage of the following topics:



- Overview of the OCG, its role, functions and powers;
- Overview of the National Contracts Commission (NCC), its role and its functions;
- Overview of the Inspectorate Division of the OCG;
- Deficiencies observed by OCG Inspectors during the administration and application of the Government's Procurement Procedures by Public Bodies;
- Deficiencies observed in the administration of contracts by Public Bodies;
- Instances of non-compliance with the Procurement Procedures identified on the part of Public Bodies;
- Deficiencies observed in Public Body Internal Procurement Processes;
- The role of the Accounting and Accountable Officers;
- Shortcomings on the part of Accounting and Accountable Officers;
- Applicable Legislation Governing Public Body Accounting and Accountable Officers and Board Members;
- Key Recommendations, including appropriate Corrective and Remedial Measures to be implemented by Accounting and Accountable Officers.

In each instance, the Presentations will be conducted by a team of at least five (5) OCG Officers. Prior to the scheduled date of the Presentation, each Ministry will be required to submit to the OCG a listing of all of its portfolio Departments and Agencies, as well as a listing of the names and the respective positions of the officers who will be attending the Presentation.

The OCG will also incorporate into each Presentation, any procurement-related matter or concern which any Ministry or its Portfolio Public Bodies may wish to have addressed during the Presentation. Consequently, Ministries have been or will be invited to inform the OCG, in writing, of all such matters, by no later than five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of the Presentation.

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Contact: The Communications Department, Office of the Contractor General of Jamaica
C/o Craig Beresford, Senior Director of Monitoring Operations, Corporate Communications and Special Projects
E-mail: communications@ocg.gov.jm. Tel: 876-929-8560; Direct: 876-926-0034; Mobile: 876-564-1806