



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

Contractor General Signs CDN\$40,000 OCG Institutional Strengthening Agreement with the Canadian Government

Kingston, Jamaica; May 3, 2012 – Contractor General, Greg Christie, has signed a CDN\$40,000 Agreement with the Government of Canada, acting through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), for the “Institutional Strengthening of the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) through Technology”.

The Agreement, which was signed by the Contractor General on Monday of this week, acknowledges the integral and indispensable role that the OCG has been playing in fighting corruption in public contracting in Jamaica, as the primary justification for the CDN\$40,000 contribution grant.

The OCG, which was formally approached by CIDA to apply for the grant, will utilize the funds to enhance its information technology systems and capabilities.

The OCG has been increasingly relying upon information technology (IT) to enhance its capabilities to more effectively and efficiently discharge its Government contract and investigation mandates under the Contractor General Act.

Although it has only twelve (12) Inspectors, and three (3) Special Investigators, the OCG’s jurisdictional mandate covers the activities of roughly 200 ministries, agencies, departments and statutory corporations of Government which, together, issue more than 600 different categories of licences and permits, and award in excess of 11,000 construction, goods, services and asset divestment Government contracts, each year, valuing an estimated \$110 billion.

The CDN\$40,000 contribution grant will be paid out of CIDA’s Democracy & Governance Fund.

A November 2011 Don Anderson-Market Research Services Poll, which was conducted in 180 communities island-wide, ranked the OCG, from among Jamaica's seven (7) major law-enforcement and anti-corruption agencies, as having earned the highest level of public satisfaction in the fight against corruption in the island.

The other six national agencies, all of which were ranked in the National Integrity Action Limited (NIAL) commissioned Poll, were the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the



Corruption Prevention Commission, the Office of the Auditor General, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Parliamentary Integrity Commission and the Office of the Commissioner of Customs.

The OCG will use the CIDA funds to procure and install, by August 15, 2012, the following principal items of IT equipment:

1. A new multifunction/copier/printer unit to replace the existing unit which supports a user group of approximately 40% of the OCG's 60 person staff complement;
2. Five (5) new laptop computers which will replace some of the existing OCG laptop inventory;
3. Ten (10) Client Access Licences (CAL) to support the OCG's ongoing project to convert the OCG's Registry to a paperless one;
4. One (1) new Network Server with support software and 60 Back-Up Tape Cartridges.

The OCG, which is an Independent Anti-Corruption Parliamentary Commission, is currently vested with the exclusive statutory authority under the law to monitor and to investigate the award and termination of all Government of Jamaica contracts, licenses and permits, with a view **“to ensuring”** impartiality, merit, propriety and the absence of irregularity in the Jamaica public sector procurement, contract award and licensing processes.

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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