



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 Commences Enquiry into Procurement of Bookmarkers by the Ministry of Education

Kingston, Jamaica; August 10, 2012 – Acting under the powers that are invested in it by the Contractor General Act, the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has this morning written to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ms. Grace McLean, to formally requisition the particulars of the MOE's alleged procurement of bookmarkers upon which a photograph of the Minister of Education, the Hon. Ronald Thwaites, was reportedly superimposed over an impression of the Jamaican flag.

The OCG's decision comes on the heels of public complaints which have been issued by the Parliamentary Opposition regarding the matter, and follows an RJR news report this morning which has alleged that the MOE Permanent Secretary has refused to disclose the costs at which the souvenirs were procured, as well as the identity of the printing contractor to whom the contract was awarded.

Included among the particulars which have been formally requisitioned from the MOE, are the following:

- (a) The tender procedures which were utilized by the MOE to execute the procurement;
- (b) The persons at the MOE who were involved in the development, approval and/or issue of the relevant tender and procurement instructions;
- (c) The printing instructions and the printing template that were issued by the MOE to the contractor or contractors who were invited to tender for the award of the contract;
- (d) The identity of the contractor or contractors who were invited to tender for the award of the referenced contract; and
- (e) The value of the contract that was awarded by the MOE.

The OCG's letter, which was copied to the Minister of Education, the Hon. Ronald Thwaites, requires that the Permanent Secretary must fully comply with the terms of the OCG's Requisitions by 12:00 noon on Friday, August 17, 2012.



One of the key foundation pillars of Good Governance in Government, by which the OCG has always been guided, is not just transparency in the affairs of Government, but that Public Accounting and Accountable Officers are trustees of the Taxpayers money and must, therefore, at all times, be held accountable to the Taxpayers whose interest they serve.

Upon the conclusion of its Enquiry, the OCG will, in short order, submit a formal report of its Findings to the Parliament of Jamaica.

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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