



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

OCG Spalding Market Investigation Update

Kingston; June 17, 2013 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has noted that several persons and groups have raised concerns regarding the dispatch with which the Office has been proceeding with its Investigation concerning Minister Richard Azan, and his involvement and/or association with the construction of certain wooden shops at the Spalding Market.

The OCG wishes to assure the public that it has been working assiduously to complete the referenced Report, while simultaneously pursuing a number of other investigations and contract monitoring activities, concerning matters which are pertinent to the discharge of its mandate.

The Contractor General, given his prosecutorial background, has made certain important changes to the approach and methodology of OCG Statutory Investigations, specifically; the OCG has now instituted Section 18 Judicial Proceedings which requires the attendance and examination of witnesses in a quasi-court setting.

As it concerns the Spalding Market Investigation, the OCG has, over the last two (2) months, undertaken in excess of twelve (12) field interviews and statement collection sessions, conducted approximately seventeen (17) Section 18 Judicial Hearings, multiple site visits and sequestered several pieces of pertinent documentary evidence, along with the issuance of numerous requisitions.

From the OCG's vantage, the Spalding Market Investigation, which is far advanced, has mushroomed into several issues of governance, accountability and fiduciary matters, which requires detailed examination before any conclusions can be drawn.

Whilst the OCG strives for a speedy conclusion of this and other matters, it is very important that the greatest level of diligence be exercised and fairness is afforded to all parties concerned. The OCG will continue to discharge its lawful mandates in the interest of the People and Tax Payers of Jamaica.

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