



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

No. :

TELEPHONE No. : 929-8560/6466

FAX No. : 929-7335

E-mail: general@ocg.gov.jm

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL
17 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD
P.O. Box 540
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA, W.I.

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTRACTOR-GENERAL CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION INTO SANDALS WHITEHOUSE HOTEL PROJECT – SUBMITS REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

Contractor-General, Greg Christie, has announced that his Office has just concluded a formal investigation into the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project and has submitted a 73 page report on its findings to Parliament.

The investigation, which was commenced in earnest, in January 2006 and concluded in mid-June 2006, was initiated at the instance of the Contractor-General following allegations of impropriety and corruption which were made about the project in Parliament and in the media.

“The primary aim of the investigation was to ascertain whether there was compliance with applicable Government procurement procedures, whether relevant contracts were awarded impartially, competitively and on merit, and to determine what were the circumstances behind the alleged overruns in cost and in time in the implementation of the project’s contracts”, the Contractor-General said.

...more



Under the Contractor-General Act, the Contractor-General is required to inform the principal officers of any Public Bodies concerned, and the Ministers of Government having responsibility therefor, of the results of his investigation.

Accordingly, copies of the Investigation Report were submitted under cover of letter, dated July 12, 2006, to Ms. Marjorie Campbell, the President and CEO of the Urban Development Corporation (UDC); Mr. Aubyn Hill, the Chairman of the National Investment Bank of Jamaica (NIBJ); the Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Mrs. Portia Simpson, Minister with portfolio responsibility for the UDC; and the Minister of Finance and Planning, the Hon. Mr. Omar Davies, Minister with portfolio responsibility for the NIBJ.

But, in a statement which was released by the Office of the Contractor-General this morning, the Contractor-General expressed the view that the national interest demanded that the Report should be made public.

“In the interest of ensuring public scrutiny and transparency of our findings, I have also yesterday conveyed copies of the Report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate. In keeping with the requirements of Section 28 (3) of the Contractor-General Act, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate are obliged to have the Report tabled before both Houses Parliament ‘as soon as possible’”, Mr. Christie said.

...more



3

The Contractor-General has also advised that once the Investigation Report is tabled in Parliament, it will be posted in full on the Office of the Contractor-General's website at www.ocg.gov.jm.

- end -

Contact:

Andrea Hoo Fung
Communications Officer
Office of the Contractor-General
17 Knutsford Boulevard
Kingston 5

Telephone: 929-6460/6

Date: 13th July, 2006