



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

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL
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No. :

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September 6, 2006

Urban Development Corporation (UDC)
12 Ocean Boulevard, Kingston Mall
Kingston

Attention: Mrs. Marjorie Campbell, President & Chief Executive Officer

Dear Sirs:

Re: Contractor General's Report – Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project

I write in respect of the captioned matter and, in particular, with reference to your Statement which is published on page A16 of the Gleaner newspaper of even date.

In the 6th paragraph of your Statement, you have made the following assertion in respect of the Consultants who were engaged on the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project.

“They were rehired prior to the publishing of the guidelines for public sector procurement in October 2000”.

As we hold copies of authentic UDC documents which materially challenge the veracity of your assertion, we must advise that we are extremely disturbed at the grave import of that which you have communicated to the public and to the taxpayers of Jamaica by way of your Statement.

As an example, and as you must know, we possess evidence which unequivocally confirms that Jentech Consultants Limited, Nevalco Consultants Limited, Environmental Solutions Limited, Hospitality Purveyors Inc. (HPI), Smith Warner International and Goldson Barrett Johnson, were all *offered* engagements as project Consultants, by the UDC, by way of letters which were dated *October 24, 2001*.

As you will undoubtedly accept, October 24, 2001 is (a) more than one year following after the date upon which you have asserted that the Consultants were “rehired”, (b) exactly one year after the issue of the MOFP's October 24, 2000 Interim NCC Guidelines for Public Sector Procurement, and (c) at least two (2) months after the Government's Procurement Procedures Handbook (GPPH), *dated May 30, 2001*, was reportedly issued. Despite this, none of the project's consultancy contracts which required competitive tendering and/or endorsement by the NCC and the cabinet, prior to award, were so qualified.

Having regard to the gravity of this matter and what appears to be a concerted and continuing effort on the part of the UDC to change its story and to deliberately mislead the public on the matter of its procurement activities as they relate to the Sandals Whitehouse Hotel Project, I have decided to copy this letter to the Most Honourable Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament of Jamaica and the Auditor General.

Also, in view of your Statement to the Gleaner and further to the powers which are reserved to me under the Contractor General Act, I would respectfully request that you provide to us, within five (5) business days of the date of this letter, documentary evidence to establish that which you have asserted in respect of *every* Consultant which was “rehired” or engaged by the UDC (and/or by the Ackendown Newtown Development Company) on the project.



(2)

I should also like to direct your attention to a separate matter, one which has to do with another statement which you have made in the Gleaner to the effect that "the relevant sector committee", viz. the UDC Sector Committee, was established "in August 2001".

Although we might hazard a guess as to the origin of your assertion, we must nonetheless advise you that it is not an accurate one. In a letter which was dated February 27, 2006 and which was written by the OCG to Mr. Desmond Hayle, the Chairman of the Sandals Whitehouse Forensic Audit Team, a typographical error expressed that the UDC Sector Committee was established on "11th August, 2002" as opposed to "11th August 2000", the date upon which the NCC officially launched its UDC Sector Committee. We do not know if this bears any relation to the date which you have published in the Gleaner, viz. "August 2001".

Be that as it may, it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MOFP), by way of its Circular #15, dated October 24, 2000, advised all Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments of the establishment of the UDC as one of five NCC Sector Committees.

Further, we can reliably assert, as you yourselves should have been able to, that the NCC's UDC Sector Committee commenced its effective operations several months prior to August 2001. In support of our contention, we have enclosed, herewith, a copy of a letter which is dated January 15, 2001 and which was signed by Dr. Vincent Lawrence, the UDC's then Executive Chairman, in his then added capacity as "Chairman – UDC Sector Committee". The letter is self-explanatory.

Very respectfully yours,

Greg Christie (Signed)

Greg Christie
Contractor General

Copies: The Most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, O.N., M.P., Prime Minister
Senator The Honourable Syringa Marshall-Burnett, CD, President of the Senate
The Honourable Michael Peart, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mr. Audley Shaw, M.P., Chairman – Public Accounts Committee of Parliament
Mr. Adrian Strachan, Auditor General
Mr. Desmond Hayle, Chairman of the Sandals Whitehouse Forensic Audit Team
Mrs. Patricia Sinclair-McCalla, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Enclosure