



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 WRITES TO EDITOR OF THE SUNDAY HERALD TO CLARIFY STATEMENTS MADE IN ARTICLE ENTITLED “CHIN’S CONSTRUCTION GETS MILLIONS IN CONTRACTS”

Kingston; January 11, 2010 – The Office of the Contractor General has today written to the Editor of the Sunday Herald Newspaper to clarify certain statements which were made in its publication of January 10, 2010 in an article which was captioned “Chin’s Construction Gets Millions in Contracts”. The full text of the OCG’s letter to the Sunday Herald is reproduced hereunder for the benefit of the Media.

“January 11, 2010

The Editor
The Sunday Herald
17 Norwood Avenue
Kingston 5

Dear Editor:

Re: January 10, 2010 Sunday Herald Article – “Chin’s Construction Gets Millions in Contracts”

Your article in the captioned regard makes reference, among other things, to the particulars of a number of Government contracts which were purportedly awarded to a Government contractor, “*Chin’s Construction*”. The article, which was attributed to your Mr. Durrant Pate, Senior Staff Reporter, specifically states as follows:

*“The contracts in question do not require endorsement from the National Contracts Commission (NCC) because they value less than \$10 million. As a result, they are not listed in the monthly list of contracts endorsed by the NCC, **therefore escaping public attention**”.* (OCG’s emphasis).

Contrary to your assertions, however, contracts which fall beneath the NCC’s current endorsement threshold of \$10 Million are, in point of fact, routinely placed in the public domain by the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) in much the same way as NCC contract endorsements are.



The particulars of non-NCC endorsed contract awards are required to be reported to the OCG via the OCG's Quarterly Contracts Award (QCA) reporting regime, within one (1) month of the ending of each quarter, by the country's 190-plus Procuring Public Bodies.

Once received and verified for upload purposes by the OCG, the electronic copies of the actual Microsoft Excel QCA Reports are then uploaded to the OCG's official website at www.ocg.gov.jm, where they then become freely available for public scrutiny.

The particulars of all such contract awards have been in the public domain on a continuously updated basis for the past three (3) years and that fact has been routinely communicated to the local Media fraternity via official OCG Media Releases. The last such Media Release was issued by the OCG on November 5, 2009 and can be reviewed on the OCG's website for confirmation as to its content.

You may recall that the OCG's QCA Report regime was conceived and implemented in May 2006 by the Contractor General as a major plank of his strategic plan to secure a marked improvement in probity, accountability and transparency in the Government contract award process.

As at January 4, 2010, the QCA particulars of 32,739 Government contracts which were awarded between May 1, 2006 and September 30, 2009, and which range from \$250,000 to \$10 Million in value, were logged into the OCG's QCA Report system and published on the OCG's website.

Indeed, commencing in October 2009, the entire OCG QCA Database, which is updated weekly, became available for download from the OCG's website, free of cost, in the form of a portable and searchable Microsoft Excel electronic spreadsheet.

The OCG believes that it is imperative that the inaccurate inference which your Mr. Durrant Pate has made is promptly corrected so that the readers of the Sunday Herald, the members of the public and the taxpayers of Jamaica, for whose ultimate benefit the OCG's QCA Reporting regime was designed, are not misled into believing that the referenced information is not publicly and freely available.

Indeed, the OCG is highly surprised and disappointed at Mr. Pate's public inferences since on Wednesday last, he telephoned the writer hereof and advised that he was interested in securing information concerning Government contracts which had been awarded to a "Mr. Rodney Chin's" company, "*Chin's Construction*".

Mr. Pate conveyed that he had encountered difficulty in accessing the required information on the OCG's website, whereupon a member of the OCG's Information Technology Team was directed to telephone Mr. Pate at a telephone number which he, Mr. Pate, had provided, to advise him as to how he could search the OCG's QCA On-Line Database to extract information concerning contracts, beneath the NCC's endorsement threshold, which had been awarded to "*Chin's Construction*".

In the circumstances, and while the OCG wishes to disassociate itself from any of the substantive conclusions which Mr. Pate may have drawn regarding the data which he has secured from the OCG's QCA Database regarding Chin's Construction, the OCG, nonetheless, remains bewildered that Mr. Pate



could have inferred to your newspaper's readers that the very information which he had extracted from the OCG's website was not in the public domain.

Sincerely,

Craig Beresford (Signed)

Craig Beresford

Senior Director of Monitoring Operations, Corporate Communications and Special Projects

For and on behalf of the Contractor General"

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