



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTRACTOR GENERAL PUBLISHES PARTICULARS OF PARLIAMENTARY EXEMPTION MOTIONS REGARDING GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS – INTENDS TO MONITOR AND/OR INVESTIGATE CONTRACT AWARDS

Kingston, May 3, 2007 – As a part of its ongoing efforts to ensure probity and transparency in the award of Government contracts to Parliamentarians, the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has placed on its website the particulars of the Parliamentary Exemption Motions which have been approved in favour of Parliamentarians who have entered, or who intend to enter, into contracts with the Government.

To view a summary of the contract Exemption Motions which have been approved by Parliament in the current Parliamentary Term, commencing October 2002, interested persons should go to the OCG's website at www.ocg.gov.jm and click on the link "Contracts entered into by Parliamentarians".

In keeping with its previously announced strategic objectives, the OCG intends to monitor and/or to investigate the subject contracts to ensure that they are (or were) awarded in full compliance with applicable laws and Government policies and procurement procedures.

The contract Exemption Motion particulars, which are now listed on the OCG's website, were disclosed to the OCG by Parliament in direct response to an initiative which was undertaken last year by Contractor General, Greg Christie.

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On January 12, 2006, Mr. Christie had written to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House to propose that Parliament should establish effective mechanisms to ensure that whenever a Parliamentarian sought an exemption, under Section 41 of the Constitution, to enter into a contract with the Government, the relevant information would be conveyed to the OCG.

By way of letter, which was dated April 20, 2007, Parliament disclosed to the Contractor General the names of four (4) Parliamentarians whose Exemption Motions were adopted by the House of Representatives on March 20, 2007, after the Motions were deliberated upon and recommended for approval by Parliament's recently established Ethics Committee.

The four (4) Parliamentarians are:

(1) The Hon. Mr. K. D. Knight, M.P., Q.C., who is a partner in the law firm of Knight, Junor and Samuels "which has entered into a contract with the Financial Sector Adjustment Company Ltd. for the purchase of part of the premises located at 4 Duke Street to carry out the business of a law firm which may from time to time provide services to government entities".

(2) The Hon. Mr. John Junor, M.P., who is a partner in the law firm of Knight, Junor and Samuels "which has entered into a contract with the Financial Sector Adjustment Company Ltd. for the purchase of part of the premises located at 4 Duke Street to carry out the business of a law firm which may from time to time provide services to government entities".

(3) The Hon. Mr. Pearnel Charles, M.P., who is a director of St. Thomas Farms Limited which has entered into a contract with "the Sugar Company, a company owned by the GOJ, to lease to that company lands at Pera in the parish of St. Thomas for growing sugar cane".

(4) The Hon. Mr. Errol Ennis, M.P., who is a director of Petagaye Development Company Limited, "which is currently in the process of selling some lands to the GOJ in connection with the third leg of the North Coast Highway".

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An additional Motion, made on behalf of Mr. Junor, which was deliberated upon by the Ethics Committee, was deferred for “further deliberations”. The Motion relates to “... a contract with the Government of Jamaica for the purchase of (a residential) property at 28 Dewsbury Avenue, Kingston 6”.

Also disclosed to the Contractor General was a Motion which was approved by the Senate on October 27, 2006, in favour of Senator Col. Trevor McMillan. Senator Col. McMillan is a director of Security Advisory and Management Company Ltd. (SAMS Ltd.) “... which, as at the 13th of October 2006, entered into contracts with Air Jamaica and the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica Ltd., to provide management and security consulting services”.

In an earlier communication from the Clerk of the Houses of Parliament, dated May 31, 2006, the OCG was advised that Parliament had previously approved eight (8) Exemption Motions, between September 2003 and July 2005, in favour of Senators Dwight Nelson, Shirley Williams, Noel Sloley, Kern Spencer and Professor Trevor Monroe and Members of Parliament Dr. Paul Robertson, Clifford Warmington and Dr. Patrick Harrison. However, no contract details were provided by Parliament in respect of these Exemptions.

Section 41 of the Constitution of Jamaica requires a Parliamentarian to vacate his seat if he or any firm in which he is a partner, manager or director, becomes a party to a Government contract. However, every Parliamentarian is entitled to seek an exemption, from Parliament, from the application of Section 41.

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