

From: Greg Christie [gchristie@ocg.gov.jm]  
To: OCG Communications Department  
Cc: STAFF; 'Munroe, Trevor Dr. - BClub'; 'Paula Llewellyn'  
Subject: Important Media Notification from the Contractor General Regarding a Matter of Public Interest  
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2010 10:54:15 AM

Dear Members of the Media:

Good morning to you.

I am taking the liberty of doing something this morning which I have never done before.

I have decided to bring to your attention a breaking news story, regarding the conviction of the Former Sierra Leone Minister of Health and Sanitation, Mr. SHEIKU TEJAN KOROMA, on corruption charges which are related to Government procurement and contracting issues. The story was sent to me a few minutes ago by my colleagues at the Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Commission.

The news story, which I am sure, will speak eloquently for itself, should be reflected upon by all of us who have a role to play in rescuing our fair country from the scourge of corruption which is now literally strangling Jamaica to death.

It should encourage you to focus upon, and give deep thought to, similar issues with which we are currently faced here in Jamaica, particularly as they relate to matters which have to do with Public Procurement and Government Contracting and the abuse of office on the part of those in whom the Jamaican Taxpayer has reposed his/her confidence.

The news story will speak about how other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth hold their Public Officers accountable ... and, more importantly, for what!

It will also speak to the fact that no one, including even Ministers of Government, are considered to be above the law.

The story will speak to the fact of the fearlessness and forthrightness with which those who are entrusted with the responsibility to lead the State's anti-corruption, law-enforcement and prosecutorial institutions get their jobs done ... without fuddling, without making excuses, and without fear and without favour.

Finally, it will also speak to certain issues which relate to law enforcement and the administration of justice and the unbelievable expedition with which matters, such as corruption offences, which are deemed to be gravely inimical to the Public Interest, are dealt with in other Jurisdictions which are demonstrably serious about tackling corruption.

Please note that the referenced news story, together with a background story, can be found at <http://www.sierraexpressmedia.com/archives/6426> and <http://www.sierraexpressmedia.com/archives/2417>

Please accept my appreciation and kind regards.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Christie  
Contractor General

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.**

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2010 09:02 AM  
**To:** [info@anticorruption.gov.sl](mailto:info@anticorruption.gov.sl)  
**Subject:** [FWD: FORMER HEALTH AND SANITATION MINISTER CONVICTED]

**FORMER HEALTH AND SANITATION MINISTER CONVICTED**

Sheiku Tejan Koroma, former Minister of Health and Sanitation was today convicted by the High Court presided over by Justice Mary M Sey of offences of:

- *Abuse of Office contrary to section Section 42(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008*
- *Abuse of Position contrary to section Section 43 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008*
- *Wilfully failing to comply with laws and procedures and guidelines relating to procurement, tendering of contracts and management of funds, contrary to section 48 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008*

Mr. Koroma was indicted in November 2009 by the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Prosecution had alleged that Mr Tejan-Koroma without reference to any law or procedure abused his office and his position by overturning the decision of the Evaluation Committee and the Procurement Committee in failing award of a contract to supply the Ministry of Health Laboratory reagents to the most responsive bidder following a call for bids to be

submitted in October 2008. It further alleged that the conduct of the Minister led to inordinate delay in the award of the contract causing grave consequences for the bidder and the Ministry. The Anti-Corruption Commission further alleged that the Minister also failed to carry out the ruling of the Independent Procurement Review Committee when ordered by them to award the contract to the most responsive bidder, following the bidder's complaint to that body.

In delivering judgment, the Honourable Justice Mary Sey stated that she could not accept the submission of the Defence and did not find the Accused a truthful witness. The judge found it hard to believe that an intelligent man and a minister would simply sign, without reading, anything put before him. She was satisfied that he knew he was doing something wrong when he imposed his will on the procurement process against the advice of members of his staff. He did it anyway because he was a Minister - abusing his office.

The Accused was sentenced to a term of 5 years imprisonment on all counts to run concurrently or in the alternative to a fine of Le50,000,000/00 for each of the three counts to be paid immediately .

The Accused was represented by C.F Edwards Esq and H. G. Ngeavo whilst Glenna Thompson represented the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Speaking after the conviction, ACC Commissioner, Abdul Tejan-Cole welcomed the judgment and noted that it was further evidence that there were no sacred cows in the fight against corruption. He emphasized the Commission will remain focused on its mandate of leading the fight against corruption in partnership through public education, prevention, detection, and compliance for the benefit of all citizens.