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MEDIA RELEASE

OCG LAUNCHES GROUNDBREAKING INTERNET INFORMATION DATABASE PORTAL COVERING OVER 600 PRESCRIBED GOVERNMENT LICENCES

Kingston, Jamaica; November 30, 2009 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has successfully developed and launched a comprehensive Internet Database Portal which contains information on 198 Public Bodies and more than 600 different kinds of Prescribed Government Licences.

The Database, which was designed as a central electronic repository for the storage of information on Government of Jamaica Public Body Prescribed Licences, will be utilized by the OCG in its soon to be commenced systematic monitoring of the licensing activities of the country's Public Bodies.

Government entities and members of the public and media fraternity, who are interested in obtaining information and guidance on Government licensing processes and requirements, will be allowed free and unlimited access to the new OCG Database.

The Database, which is located on the OCG's official website at www.ocg.gov.jm, is currently available for use. Searches of the system are easily executed by selecting, from a drop down list, either the name of a listed Public Body or the name of a specified Prescribed Licence, or both.

The successful development of the Database by the OCG's Inspectorate and Information Technology personnel is a groundbreaking one for the OCG. It marks the first time in the 26 year existence of the OCG that deliberate and decisive steps have been taken by the organization to position itself to monitor the licensing activities of Public Bodies and, in so doing, to effectively discharge one of its principal but outstanding mandates under the Contractor General Act.



Unknown to most persons, in addition to monitoring and investigating Government contracts, a Contractor General is also expressly mandated by Section 4 (1) (b) of the Contractor General Act “*to monitor the grant, issue, suspension or revocation of any prescribed licence ...*”. The Act defines a ‘*Prescribed Licence*’ as “*any licence, certificate, quota, permit or warrant issued or granted pursuant to any enactment by a public body or an officer thereof*”. However, despite the clear provisions of the Contractor General Act, the OCG has never fully discharged its licensing monitoring mandate.

In commenting upon the launch of the OCG Database, which is called “PLID” or Prescribed Licence Information Database, Contractor General, Greg Christie lauded the unprecedented efforts of his staff.

“The in-house design and development of this unique facility, within pre-existing budgetary and resource allocations, speaks in definitive terms to the unparalleled competence and commitment of the OCG’s staff. It represents another major mile-stone in the realization of the OCG’s strategic objectives to not only push the limits of the OCG’s productivity and efficiency levels, but to be held accountable to the People and Taxpayers of Jamaica for the effective delivery of the organization’s statutory mandates”.

The OCG’s Prescribed Licence Information Database (PLID) has its genesis in a formal Requisition of the Contractor General, dated May 7, 2009. At that time, 195 Public Bodies were required to submit full particulars of their licensing processes and requirements to the OCG. The requisitioned information, together with other pertinent data that was retrieved by the OCG from the Internet, was, over a 5-month period, painstakingly analyzed, collated and then inputted into the PLID to form the system’s Database.

Now that the OCG’s PLID has been formally launched, every Public Body will be required to verify, update and maintain, on an ongoing basis, the accuracy of the information which is contained in the Database. Formal notification of the development and launch of the OCG’s PLID, to all relevant Public Bodies and to several State officials, inclusive of all Ministers of Government and Parliamentarians, is currently being undertaken by way of letter, dated November 27, 2009, from the Contractor General.

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