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## Media Statement

**Note:** Please attribute the statement below to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) as a Government Department.

Subsequent to it coming to light in May 2022 that a company owned by former officials of the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) was appointed as a subcontractor in a contract awarded by the Department, the OCJ initiated a process to review all its Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes. This is being done to ensure that ways are found to enhance the OCJ's technical capacity to further strengthen internal controls in the area of SCM.

Further to this, the OCJ is conducting a review of active contracts by the Department for any impropriety, particularly within the Information Communications Technology (ICT) space.

The OCJ takes seriously its fiduciary duty to manage and protect state resources entrusted to it. To this end, the OCJ bears the responsibility to ensure that, where a perception of wrongdoing or actual wrongdoing is established in a procurement process, that such wrongdoing is readily identified and the OCJ will seek legal counsel to determine the best way forward guided by the applicable government prescripts.

Accordingly, the Department is taking a prudent approach to releasing specific details on its ongoing review of contracts so as not to jeopardise any future legal processes or investigations that may ensue.

The OCJ approximates its internal review process to be completed within the next three months. At this point, the Department will publicly communicate the outcome of the process and advise on any further action, legal or otherwise.

The OCJ appreciates the public interest generated by the perception of impropriety in the usage of public funds and is prepared to account fully and transparently to the public on these matters in due course.



**Ends.**

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***Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice***

