



OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION

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TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS RELEASE

Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulation, Mr. J. Paul Morgan has announced his intention to demit office no later than the end of May 2008.

Mr. Morgan who was first appointed Director General in December 2002, convened meetings with the Senior Management team and the staff of the OUR in February this year to inform them of his decision.

At the meetings he noted that his predecessor the first Director General Mr. Winston C. Hay had guided the organization through to its Fifth anniversary, and that he Mr. Morgan having provided stewardship for the ensuing five years, now felt it time to step aside.

The Director General also noted that he had written to the Prime Minister advising him of his intention.

The Director General, who is also Chairman of the Office, is appointed by the Governor General, while the other members of the Office (the Deputy Directors General) are appointed by the Prime Minister.

Once the letter of resignation is received by the Governor General it becomes effective immediately.

Mr. Morgan served as Deputy Director General from 1997 to 2002. Prior to that he was a member of the OUR Preparation Unit.

It was under his watch that the OUR cemented its independence and served as a model for utility regulators in the region and internationally.

He is a foundation member of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) and has served that body in many capacities including Chairman.

During his tenure as Director General, Mr. Morgan became Jamaica's representative to the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO), eventually being elected Chairman, a position he will relinquish at the end of his tenure with OUR.

Mr. Morgan was the first Jamaican to be elected Chairman of the CTO. It was under his leadership that the CTO Forum and Annual Council Meeting last September were convened in Jamaica for the first time.

Jamaica and the OUR came in for high praise from several of the 36 nations that attended those meetings.

In the international arena, Mr. Morgan has also represented Jamaica at the International Telecommunications Union, where he is well respected for his leadership in the regulatory environment. He has also shared his knowledge and experience at numerous seminars, workshops and conferences worldwide.

Since 2002, Mr. Morgan has presided over a host of landmark regulatory decisions in the Water and Sewage, Electricity and Telecommunications Sectors.

It was during this period that private water providers were brought on board to serve specified geographic areas. This was part of the drive to achieve the Government's policy of Universal Access to Potable Water by the year 2010.

Mr. Morgan also managed the implementation of the first tariff regime for the privatized Jamaica Public Service Company.

The Director General was a strong advocate of empowering consumers through knowledge and regulatory mechanisms such as the Guaranteed Standards. Mr. Morgan insisted on a commensurate allocation of resources to consumer issues as which obtained for regulating the service providers.

The upshot of this was increased public education activities resulting in heightened consumer awareness of the OUR and its mandate.

Under the OUR Act, a Deputy Director General would act as Chairman of the Office in the absence of a Director General being appointed.

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