



**AUDITOR GENERAL'S**  
DEPARTMENT OF JAMAICA

# Compliance Audit Report

## HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF INITIATIVE AUDIT

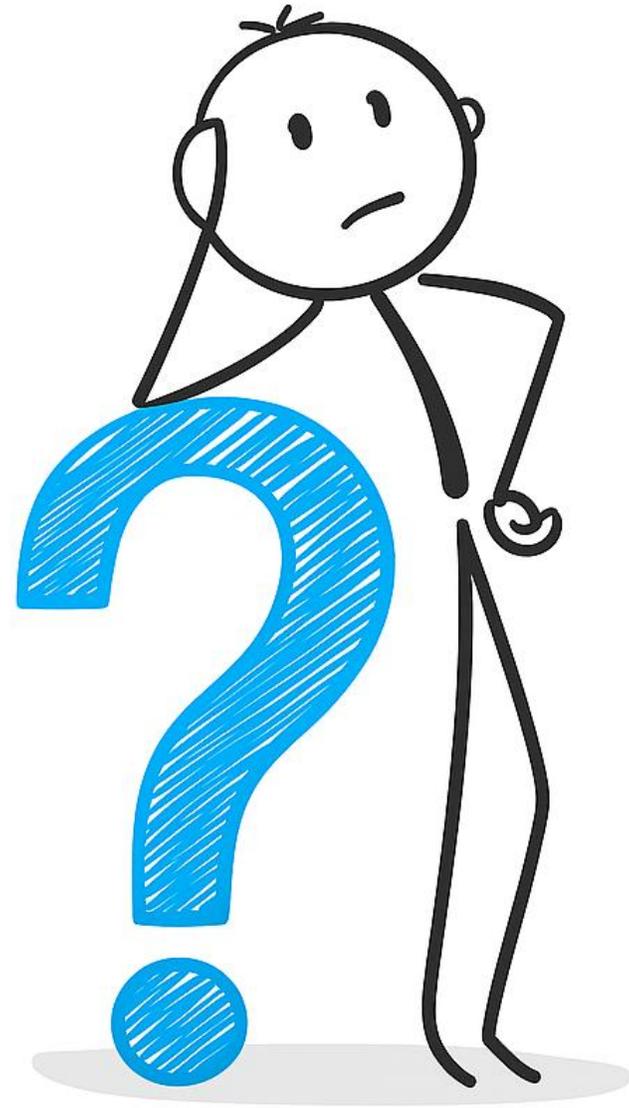
GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT  
ACTIVITIES AND RECEIPT &  
DISTRIBUTION OF STARLINK DEVICES

(February 2026)

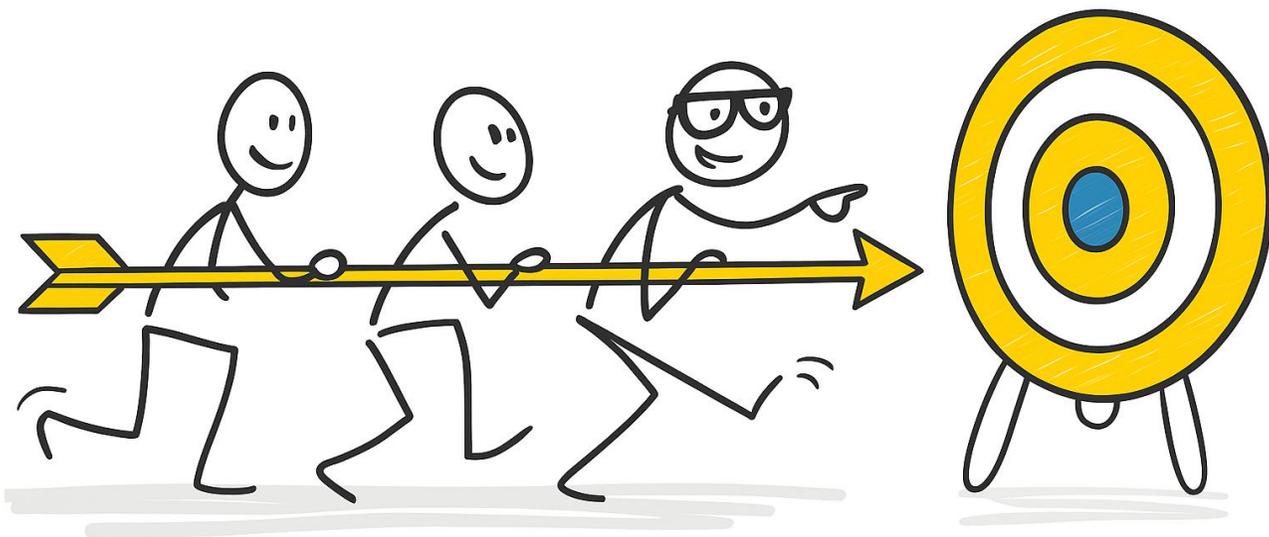


# Why do Real Time Audits?

Disaster relief operations face challenges such as rapid decision-making, unstable conditions, multi-agency coordination, and risks of resource misallocation, all of which can strain governance systems and heighten the public's demand for transparency.



# Real Time Audits



Real-time audit helps address these issues by verifying whether emergency procurement and operational processes remained compliant and properly documented. It also evaluates the adequacy of governance and coordination mechanisms.



# Hurricane Melissa Relief Initiative Audit Reports – Audit Scope

- The Hurricane Melissa Relief Initiative Audit Reports will address the areas of
  1. Governance and Oversight
  2. Information Technology (IT)
  3. Financial Management,
  4. Procurement
  5. Relief Distribution controls.



# Hurricane Melissa Relief Initiatives Contracts

As at January 30, 2026, MOFPS reported that 39 public entities had awarded 420 contracts valued at approximately \$11.13 billion in relation to the Hurricane Melissa Relief Initiatives.





Governance and oversight of the National Disaster Fund

governance  
analytics

Inventory management processes and controls

Receipt and distribution of Starlink devices

INVENTORY

Focus Areas for This Report

# Key Findings

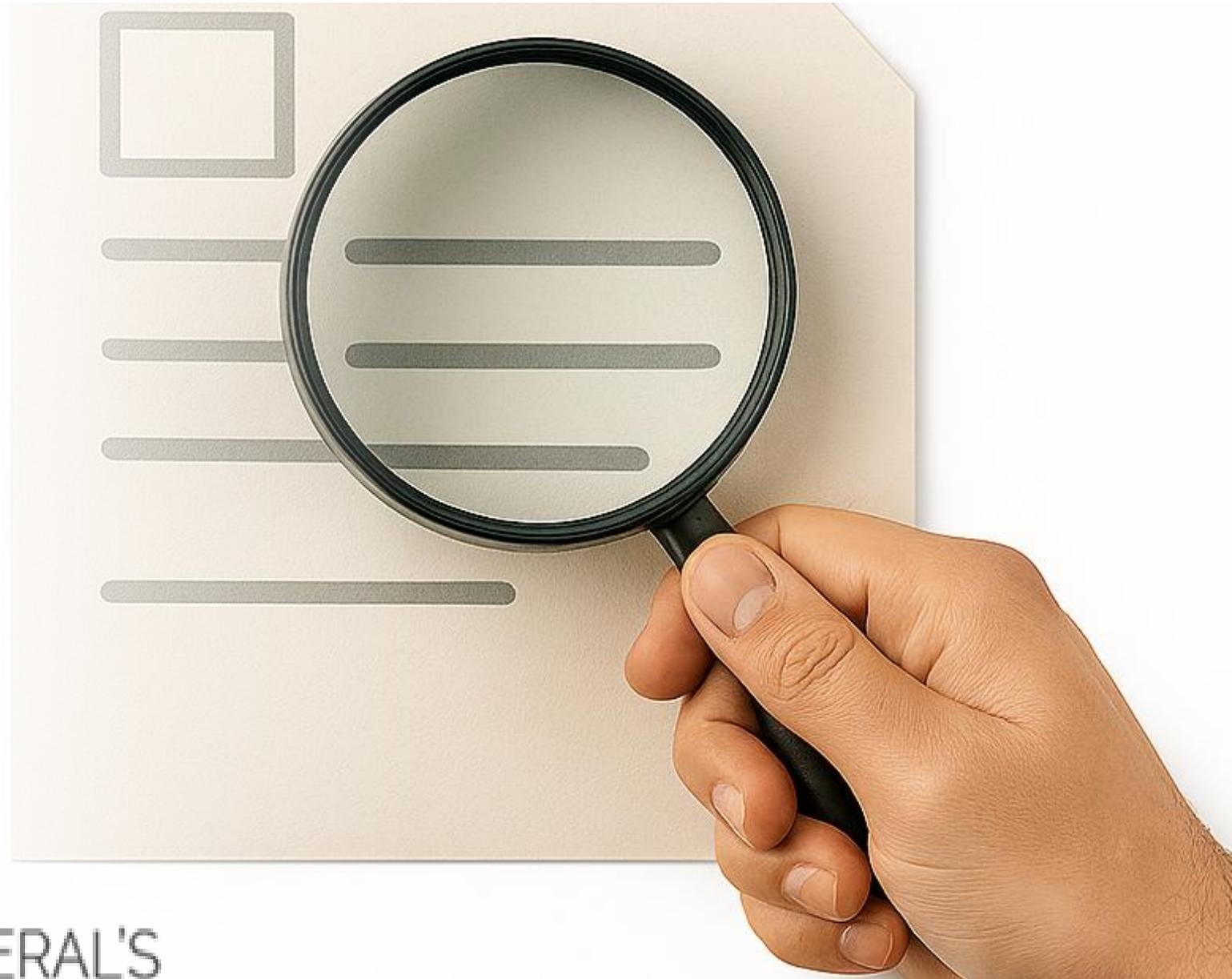
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There was no legislated oversight of the National Disaster Fund, as the National Disaster Fund Committee (NDFC) only met twice since its appointment in 2020 and its tenure expired September 2023.



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In the absence of an appointed Committee, the Financial Secretary proceeded to approve ODPEM's \$350 million withdrawal from the National Disaster Fund.



ODPEM failed to upload the awarded emergency contracts to the GOJEP platform within the mandated one-month period.



The procurement of 200 Starlink devices costing \$12.12 million was initiated by ministerial instruction rather than by ODPEM's Director General, in breach of the Public Procurement Act 2015.



ODPEM began preparing the required procurement documents five days after the Starlink devices were delivered to the Office of the Commissioner of Police on November 14, 2025



## Starlink Devices Procurement and Distribution Summary

Category	Details
Total Procured	200
Distributed	120 – As at January 6, 2026
Distribution Verified	41 verified (all unused; in storage)
Devices put to use	None – As at January 23, 2026
Unissued / In Storage	80 – As at January 6, 2026

Food items, tarpaulin, and water purchased at a total cost of \$59.6 million were not recorded in ODPEM's inventory or stores records.



# Recommendations



Appointment of the National Disaster Fund Committee to ensure full compliance with the DRM Act



ODPEM should publish all procurement activities as required under the Public Procurement Act



Improve Inventory Management System and finalizing and implementing the inventory management Standard Operating Procedures

# Recommendations



ODPEM must ensure that all Starlink devices are properly recorded in the inventory management system



ODPEM should review the current starlink device assignments to verify their appropriateness and alignment with operational needs



Procurement activities are to be strictly initiated and approved by the Head of the Entity, in accordance with statutory requirements, to safeguard transparency and accountability.





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“A better Country through effective audit scrutiny”