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MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR GENERAL REGISTERS UNPRECEDENTED 100% QCA REPORT COMPLIANCE RATE FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE QUARTER

Kingston, Jamaica; May 4, 2010 – The rigidly enforced Zero Tolerance Policy of the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), which was first introduced in October 2006 to combat Public Bodies who refused to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, has succeeded in producing an unprecedented and record 100% compliance rate for the fifth consecutive quarter running.

All 197 Public Bodies, whose contract award activities are currently being monitored by the OCG, were declared fully compliant in filing their 2010 1st Quarter Contract Award (QCA) Reports to the OCG by the stipulated deadline date of May 3, 2010. At the outset, when the Zero Tolerance Policy was first introduced, the compliance rate was a mere 13%.

QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OCG, in arrears, within one month after the ending of each quarter. An additional one (1) business day grace period is allowed for filings.

The OCG's Zero Tolerance Policy dictates that a failure, on the part of any Public Body, to comply with the OCG's QCA Requisition, results in the automatic referral of the head of the delinquent Public Body to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It is instructive to record that absolutely no exceptions to the application of this Policy have ever been allowed by the Contractor General in the three and one-half years that the Policy has been in force.



The OCG's QCA Report forms are designed in a simple spreadsheet format and are specially structured to force the disclosure of the material particulars of contracts which have been awarded by Public Bodies which fall beneath the National Contracts Commission (NCC) pre-October 2008 and post-September 2008 contract endorsement thresholds of \$4 Million and \$10 Million, respectively.

The QCA Report forms are also designed to disclose whether and to what extent a Procuring Public Body has breached the Government's Procurement Procedures.

The QCA Report regime was conceived and implemented in May 2006 by Contractor General, Greg Christie, as a major plank of his strategic plan to secure a marked improvement in probity, accountability and transparency in the Jamaica Government contract award process.

In terms of improved transparency, the initiative has enabled the OCG to obtain and to make public the particulars of the Government contract awards that are reported on QCA forms.

Currently, the QCA particulars of 37,173 Government contracts, valuing \$42.14 Billion, which were awarded between May 1, 2006 and March 31, 2010, and which range from \$250,000 to \$10 Million in value, can be freely examined and scrutinized by any member of the public on the OCG's website at www.ocg.gov.jm.

The entire OCG QCA database, which is updated weekly, is also available for download from the OCG's website, free of cost, in the form of a searchable and portable Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

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