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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL REFERS ELEVEN DELINQUENT PUBLIC BODIES TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

**Kingston, September 17, 2007** – In keeping with the terms of its Zero Tolerance policy, the Office of the Contractor General (OC-G) has today formally referred eleven (11) Public Bodies to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) because of their failure to submit their 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Contract Award (QCA) Reports on time. The Reports were required to be submitted to the OC-G by July 31, 2007.

Any person who, without lawful justification or excuse, fails to comply with a lawful requisition of a Contractor General, commits a criminal offence under Section 29 of the 1983 Contractor General Act.

This is the third time in less than six (6) months that the OC-G has been forced to initiate criminal prosecution proceedings against Public Bodies which have ignored its requisitions. So far this year, the OC-G has referred 62 delinquent Public Bodies to the DPP.

On March 21, 2007, 45 Public Bodies were referred for failing to submit their 2006 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter QCA Reports on time. On May 29, 2007, another 32 Public Bodies, inclusive of 19 repeat offenders, were referred for their failure to submit their 2007 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter QCA Reports before the prescribed deadline.

QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OC-G, in arrears, within one month after the ending of each quarter. The QCA Report regime was conceived and initiated in May 2006 by Contractor General Greg Christie to assure probity and transparency in the Government procurement and contract award process.



QCA Reports are specially structured to force the disclosure of the material particulars of certain contracts which have been awarded by Public Bodies. They are also designed to disclose whether and to what extent a Procuring Public Body has breached the Government's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines.

Completed QCA Reports for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters of 2006, and for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters of 2007, for roughly 180 Procuring Public Bodies, are now freely available for public inspection on the OCG's website at [www.ocg.gov.jm](http://www.ocg.gov.jm). (Please click on the 'Public Body Contracts under \$4 Million' link).

In the interest of public transparency, the names of the eleven (11) Public Bodies which were referred today to the DPP are listed below in alphabetical order. Seven (7) of them are classified as 'Repeat Offenders' by virtue of the fact that they have been previously referred to the DPP.

1. Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Commission
2. Bureau of Women's Affairs
3. Department of Cooperative and Friendly Societies
4. Electricity Division, MITEC (REPEAT OFFENDER)
5. Ministry of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce (REPEAT OFFENDER)
6. Ministry of Local Government and Environment (REPEAT OFFENDER)
7. National Works Agency (NWA) (DOUBLE REPEAT OFFENDER)
8. Rural Electrification Programme (REPEAT OFFENDER)
9. St. Catherine Parish Council (DOUBLE REPEAT OFFENDER)
10. Toll Authority of Jamaica (REPEAT OFFENDER)
11. University Council of Jamaica

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