



Any reply or subsequent reference to this communication should be addressed to the Contractor-General and the following reference quoted:-

No. :

TELEPHONE No. : 929-8560/6466

FAX No. : 929-7335

E-mail: communications@ocg.gov.jm

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL
17 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD
P.O. Box 540
KINGSTON 5
Jamaica, W.I.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DPP TO PROSECUTE 17 PUBLIC BODIES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH A
LAWFUL REQUISITION OF THE CONTRACTOR GENERAL – CONTRACTOR
GENERAL URGES PERSONS TO COMPLY WITH OCG REQUISITIONS**

Kingston, February 19, 2008 – The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has formally written to the Contractor General to confirm that 17 Public Bodies will be prosecuted for their failure to comply with a lawful requisition of the Office of the Contractor General (OCG).

In the letter, which was dated February 14, 2008, the Office of the DPP advised that the decision was made upon the conclusion of its examination of files which were sent to it by Contractor General, Greg Christie, in respect of certain Public Bodies which had failed to submit their 4th Quarter 2006, 1st Quarter 2007 and 2nd Quarter 2007 Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Reports, within the prescribed time limits.

A 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. The offence is punishable upon summary conviction by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Accounting and/or Principal Officers of the affected Public Bodies are liable to be held responsible for the subject violations. The subject Public Bodies, are among more than 180 Public Bodies which were formally warned for prosecution in an October 30, 2006 OCG Communication. The Warning was directed to the Cabinet Secretary, the Financial Secretary, all Permanent Secretaries and all Accounting and/or Principal Officers of Public Bodies. It was also copied to the then Prime Minister, all Ministers of Government, the Auditor General, the Solicitor General and the DPP.



The delinquent Public Bodies which the DPP has advised will be prosecuted are as follows:

1. Bellevue Hospital (2 violations)
2. Clarendon Parish Council
3. Electricity Authority
4. Electricity Division (MITEC)
5. G.C. Foster College of Physical Education (2 violations)
6. Jamaica Business Development Centre
7. Jamaica Racing Commission (2 violations)
8. Jamaica Railway Corporation (2 violations)
9. Ministry of Local Government & Environment
10. National Works Agency (3 violations)
11. Portland Parish Council (2 violations)
12. Portmore Municipal Council
13. Social Development Commission
14. St. Catherine Parish Council (2 violations)
15. St. Elizabeth Parish Council
16. St. Thomas Parish Council
17. Toll Authority of Jamaica (2 violations)

“To the best of our knowledge, these prosecutions will be the first which will be commenced by the DPP under Section 29 of the 1983 Contractor General Act. The DPP’s decision has confirmed our long held view that Public Officers, Public Bodies and even private citizens, who choose to ignore the lawful requisitions of the OCG, or who fail to meet the OCG’s set deadlines for the submission of requested information, commit a criminal offence. We therefore think that it is timely to warn those persons who are still inclined to disregard the lawful demands of the OCG that if they do so, they will be acting at their own peril and at the risk of inheriting a criminal record”, the Contractor General said.

- END -

Contact: Communications Department
Office of the Contractor-General
C/o Craig Beresford, Director, Non-Construction Contracts, Licences and Permits
E-mail: communications@ocg.gov.jm
Tel: (876) 929-6460