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MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL RECORDS HIGHEST RATE OF PUBLIC BODY COMPLIANCE EVER – REFERS FOUR (4) PUBLIC BODIES TO THE DPP

Kingston, August 20, 2008 – The rigidly enforced Zero Tolerance Policy of the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), which was implemented in October 2006 to combat Public Bodies and Public Officials who were refusing to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, has now succeeded in producing a record compliance rate of 98%.

Of the country's 191 Procuring Public Bodies that are routinely required to submit Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Reports to the OCG, all but 4 submitted their 2008 2nd Quarter Reports on or before the July 31, 2008 deadline date, or on or before August 4, 2008, the ending of the OCG's 1 work day grace period.

The record 98% compliance rate stands in stark contrast to the 13% rate which was registered in October 2006 when as many as 166 of 191 Public Bodies ignored the OCG's QCA deadline submission date.

The 4 delinquent Public Bodies which failed to submit their 2008 2nd Quarter QCA Reports on time are:

- (1) The Attorney General's Department
- (2) The Ministry of Agriculture
- (3) The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)
- (4) The Office of the Children's Advocate

The Attorney General's Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and the NSWMA are repeat delinquent offenders.



In keeping with the terms of its Zero Tolerance Policy, the OCG has today referred all 4 Public Bodies to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

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.

QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OC-G, in arrears, within one month after the ending of each quarter. They 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 complied with the Government's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines.

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