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MEDIA RELEASE

OCG REGISTERS RECORD 100% QCA REPORT COMPLIANCE RATE FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE QUARTER – CONTRACTOR GENERAL CHALLENGES PUBLIC OFFICERS

Kingston, Jamaica; August 9, 2010 – The rigidly enforced Zero Tolerance Policy of the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), which was introduced to combat Public Bodies who refused to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, regarding the submission of Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Reports, has succeeded in producing an unprecedented 100% compliance rate for the sixth consecutive quarter.

All 197 Public Bodies, whose contract award activities are currently being monitored by the OCG, were declared fully compliant in filing their 2010 2nd Quarter QCA Reports to the OCG by the stipulated deadline date of August 4, 2010.

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.

When the Policy was first introduced in October 2006, the QCA report compliance rate was a mere 13%. Since then, no exceptions to the application of the Policy have ever been allowed by Contractor General, Greg Christie, who, while commending the country's Permanent Secretaries and Chief Accountable Officers for their ground-breaking efforts, has also now issued a new challenge to them.

"I would like to take this opportunity to publicly commend our Permanent Secretaries and the Chief Accountable Officers of the country's 197 Procuring Public Bodies for the outstanding diligence which they have exhibited over the past six (6) quarters. They have consistently complied with the reporting



requirements of the OCG and, in so doing, have helped to lay the foundation for a new culture of discipline and professionalism in Public Sector procurement management and compliance in Jamaica”.

“In 2009, a record 11,800 reported Government contracts, each exceeding \$275,000 in value and totalling more than \$88 Billion, were awarded or recommended for award by Public Bodies. It is now up to our Permanent Secretaries and senior Public Servants to ensure that, in their administration of the contract award process going forward, the same level of discipline and professionalism is scrupulously brought to bear to eliminate corruption, nepotism, impropriety and irregularity from public contracting in Jamaica”.

“With the perception of corruption in the Jamaica Public Sector now at an all-time high, and the taxpayers’ money under serious threat, no stone must be left unturned in the effort, which must now commence in earnest, to restore probity, integrity and public confidence in the Government of Jamaica contracting process”, Mr. Christie said.

The OCG’s QCA Report regime was conceived and implemented in May 2006 by the Contractor General as a major plank of his strategic plan to secure a marked improvement in probity, accountability and transparency in the public contracting process.

Currently, the QCA particulars of 40,682 Government contracts, valuing \$46.5 Billion, which were awarded between May 1, 2006 and June 30, 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.

Particulars of the Recommendations for the award of Government contracts which value in excess of \$10 Million and which have been endorsed by the National Contracts Commission (NCC), can also be freely examined on the OCG’s website.

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