



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

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CONTRACTOR GENERAL CONCLUDES SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO CONTRACT AWARD PRACTICES OF PETCOM AND NSWMA – SUBMITS REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT**

Kingston, January 4, 2007 - Contractor-General, Greg Christie, has announced that his Office has concluded special investigations into the procurement practices of the Petroleum Company of Jamaica (PETCOM) and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

The investigation into the procurement practices of PETCOM was initiated by the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) in September of last year, after allegations were made in the media that the Chairperson of the PETCOM Board, Ms. Barbara Clarke, had an interest in Elegant Traders Ltd., a company which was reported to have been awarded contracts by PETCOM.

The NSWMA investigation, on the other hand, was commenced in May 2006 as a follow-up to the OCG's 2005 investigation into the procurement practices of the NSWMA. A further investigation was also conducted by the OCG into allegations that were publicly made last year, that contracts, in excess of JA\$40 million in value, had been awarded by the NSWMA without the approval of its Board of Directors.

"In accordance with the requirements of the Contractor-General Act, I have today submitted copies of the PETCOM and NSWMA Investigation Reports to the principal officers of the two organizations and to the respective Ministers of Government who have portfolio responsibility therefor, namely the Minister of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce, the Hon. Phillip Paulwell, and the Minister of Local Government and Environment, the Hon. Dean Peart", Mr. Christie said.

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“In light of the gravity of some of our findings and our consequential recommendations, and in the public interest, I have also formally conveyed copies of both Investigation Reports to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate”, the Contractor General said.

Section 28 (3) of the Contractor General Act requires the Speaker and the President to have the Reports laid on the Tables of both Houses of Parliament ‘as soon as possible’.

The Contractor General has confirmed that once the PETCOM and NSWMA Reports are tabled in Parliament, they will be published in full on the OCG’s website at <http://www.ocg.gov.jm>

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