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MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL REGISTERS UNPRECEDENTED 100% REPORT COMPLIANCE RATE – CONTRACTOR GENERAL COMMENDS PUBLIC BODY HEADS

Kingston, Jamaica; May 26, 2009; – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has, for the first time, registered an unprecedented 100% compliance rate on the part of the country’s 191 procuring Public Bodies in submitting their Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Reports to the OCG on time.

All Public Bodies were fully compliant in filing their 2009 1st Quarter QCA Reports by the stipulated deadline of May 1, 2009, in keeping with the requirements of the OCG’s Zero Tolerance Policy.

The OCG’s Zero Tolerance Policy was first implemented by Contractor General, Greg Christie, in October 2006, to combat the then refusal by Public Bodies to comply with the requisitions of the OCG. At the time of its introduction, the Public Body QCA submission compliance rate was 13%.

Since the implementation of the Policy, the OCG has rigidly enforced its terms by consistently referring non-compliant Public Bodies to the Director of Public Prosecutions for prosecution.

And the Contractor General has commended Public Sector Heads and Permanent Secretaries for the deliberate efforts which they have made to positively respond to the requisitions of the OCG.

“I am extremely grateful to the country’s senior public servants. They have diligently supported the sustained efforts of the OCG to bring a new and unprecedented level of discipline and accountability to the Government procurement process. I trust that they will be assured of our appreciation since we will



continue to rely upon them to ensure that the OCG, itself, complies with its own responsibilities under the law”, Mr. Christie said.

In outlining the case for the implementation of the OCG’s Zero Tolerance Policy against delinquent Public Bodies, the Contractor General had argued that the public interest and the rule of law demanded that they should be held accountable.

He said that had Public Bodies continued to unlawfully refuse to provide the OCG with critical information regarding their award of Government contracts, then the whole purpose of having a Commission of the Contractor General, as a part of the country’s anti-corruption institutional framework, would be defeated.

QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OCG, in arrears, within one month after the ending of each quarter. The Reports are specifically 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.

The QCA Report regime was conceived and initiated in May 2006 by the Contractor General to assure probity and transparency in the Government contract award process. Most importantly, the initiative has enabled the OCG to routinely publish the particulars of all of the contracts which are reported on QCA forms on the OCG’s website.

Currently, the particulars of some 26,500 Government contracts, ranging from \$250,000 to \$10 Million in value, and totaling more than \$27.7 Billion, can be freely scrutinized by any member of the public. Particulars regarding recommendations for the award of Government contracts which have been endorsed by the National Contracts Commission, and which value in excess of \$4 Million, are also available for scrutiny on the OCG’s website.

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