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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**OCG Secures Dramatic Culture Shift in Public Body Compliance and Discipline in Jamaica – Registers 100% Report Compliance Rate for the Tenth Consecutive Quarter**

**Kingston, Jamaica; August 3, 2011** – The Office of the Contractor General’s Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Report regime, which is backed by a rigidly enforced Zero Tolerance Policy, has produced a dramatic culture shift in Public Body regulatory compliance and discipline in Jamaica.

The Zero Tolerance Policy, which was first introduced in October 2006, by Contractor General Greg Christie, to combat Public Body Heads who were refusing to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, has now succeeded in producing an unprecedented and record 100% compliance rate for the tenth consecutive quarter running.

By contrast, prior to the introduction of the Policy, the compliance rate for the filing of QCA Reports, by the country’s almost 200 Public Bodies, was never higher than 13%.

In the instant case, all 194 Public Bodies, whose contract award activities are currently being monitored by the OCG, were declared fully compliant in filing their 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter QCA Reports, to the OCG, by the stipulated deadline date of today, August 3, 2011. QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OCG by all Public Bodies within one month of the ending of each calendar year quarter.

The OCG’s Zero Tolerance Policy dictates that a failure or refusal, 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 for criminal prosecution under Section 29 (b) of the Contractor General Act. No exception to the application of the Policy has ever been allowed by the Contractor General in the almost five (5) years that the Policy has been in force.

The OCG’s QCA Report form is designed in a simple spreadsheet format and is specifically structured to force the disclosure of the material particulars of contracts which have been awarded by Public Bodies beneath the National Contracts Commission (NCC) contract endorsement value threshold of \$10 million.

The Report form is also designed to disclose whether and to what extent a Procuring Public Body has breached the Government’s Procurement Procedures, or is engaged in ‘contract splintering’.



The QCA Report regime was conceived and implemented by the Contractor General just five (5) months after he was appointed into office on November 30, 2005, as a major plank of his strategic plan to significantly reduce corruption in public procurement in Jamaica, and to secure a marked improvement in probity, competition, accountability and transparency in the Government's contract award processes.

The key particulars of all the contracts that are reported via the Regime, going back to May 2006, are now available for public scrutiny on the OCG's website, at [www.ocg.gov.jm](http://www.ocg.gov.jm), in the form of a continuously updated, searchable, downloadable and portable Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Also available, on the OCG's website, for public scrutiny, is a separate spreadsheet which is updated monthly, and which provides the key particulars of all recommendations for Government contract awards that have been endorsed by the NCC since June 2001.

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