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MEDIA RELEASE

The Office of the Contractor General and Partners Visit Juvenile Correctional Centres in Recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day 2017

Kingston; December 08, 2017 – In recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day 2017, the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) in partnership with the Ministry of National Security (MNS), the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA), the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) and the Revenue Protection Division (RPD), visited and interacted with the youth housed at the Metcalfe and South Camp Juvenile Correctional Centres in Kingston, on December 8, 2017.

These visits marked the culmination of the Office of the Contractor General's Social Intervention and Youth Anti-Corruption Awareness Programme activities for 2017. The day's proceedings included contributions from the named entities, as well as the youth social intervention agency, Children First, which "*uses creative participatory and developmental approaches in providing life changing programmes for children and adolescents*". Care packages for the youth were handed over to representatives from all four (4) Juvenile Centres, as part of the day's activities.

The OCG has, over the last two years, engaged youth across the length and breadth of Jamaica on the matters of Anti-Corruption and integrity. However, the OCG considered that the most 'at risk' youth cohort, which should be targeted for intervention as it relates to the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Agenda, are youth who have been institutionalized at Juvenile Remand and Correctional facilities. The decision was therefore taken to partner with other stakeholder groups for this initiative, in recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day, which is observed annually on December 9th.

It is to be noted that the initiative, though culminating on December 8th, commenced on November 21, 2017, where the OCG and its partner agencies visited the Rio Cobre and Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centres, in Spanish Town, St. Catherine and Bamboo, St. Ann, respectively.

It is the firm belief of the OCG and its partners, that a day such as this symbolizes unity in the fight against the institutions of corruption and major organized crime and as such, warrants our most ardent attention and participation. The youth, as tomorrow's leaders, will one day be responsible for the quality of life we live and the management of our country. Consequently, in an effort to redirect our path as a nation, from corruption and violence, toward a more favourable future for generations to come, we have committed to spreading the Anti-Corruption message to our youth.



As OCG and its partners continue to fulfill our obligations to the people of Jamaica, in keeping with the provisions of our respective mandates, it is recognized that if we are to succeed in the fight against corruption, greater partnership amongst all stakeholders is imperative. We are grateful to all stakeholders and hope to maintain the robust Anti-Corruption youth intervention campaign, with a view to creating an alliance against corruption.

With the continued support of its partners, the OCG, once again pledges to play its part in ensuring the realization of Jamaica's National Development Plan - Vision 2030.

The OCG utilizes this opportunity to share this year's activities, including this very important day, made accessible at <http://www.ocg.gov.jm/ocg/page/social-intervention-and-youth-awareness-programme-2017>.

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