



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

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CORRECTION – OCG Registers Unprecedented 100% QCA Report Submission Compliance Rate for Thirteen Consecutive Quarters**

**Kingston, Jamaica; May 7, 2012** – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG), in its Media Release of May 3, 2012, had announced that it had achieved a 100% compliance rate for thirteen consecutive quarters in that all 194 Public Bodies, whose contract award activities were being monitored by the OCG, had been declared fully compliant in filing their 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Contract Award (QCA) Reports, to the OCG, by the stipulated deadline date.

However, the OCG has, this morning, discovered that the **Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries** was, in fact, delinquent in not submitting its QCA Report to the OCG by the stipulated deadline date of Tuesday, May 1, 2012, nor has it, to date, submitted the required QCA Report.

The fact of the Ministry's delinquency was overlooked by the OCG due to an internal OCG logging error which had inadvertently logged the QCA Report of the "Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries – Agricultural Credit Board" as the QCA Report of the "Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries". In the circumstances, the OCG's Media Release, which reported that the OCG had attained a 100% compliance rate for the relevant quarter, was inaccurate and the OCG now wishes to bring this fact to the public's attention. The OCG also wishes to apologize for its error.

The rigidly enforced Zero Tolerance Policy of the OCG, which was first introduced in October 2006 to combat Public Bodies which were refusing to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, had previously succeeded in producing a record 100% QCA compliance rate for twelve consecutive quarters.

The Policy calls for the mandatory referral of delinquent Public Bodies to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for criminal prosecution for failure to comply with a lawful requisition of a Contractor General, contrary to Section 29 (b) (ii) of the Contractor General Act. No exception to the application of the Policy has ever been allowed by the Contractor General in the more than five (5) years that the Policy has been in force.

In the circumstances, and in keeping with the terms of the said Policy, the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries will now be referred to the DPP who will decide how she will proceed in the matter.

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