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MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR GENERAL REGISTERS UNPRECEDENTED 100% REPORT COMPLIANCE RATE FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE QUARTER RUNNING

Kingston, Jamaica; November 5, 2009 – The rigidly enforced Zero Tolerance Policy of the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), which was first introduced in October 2006 to combat Public Bodies who were refusing to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, has again succeeded in producing an unprecedented and record 100% compliance rate for the **third** consecutive quarter running.

All 193 Public Bodies, whose contract award activities are currently being monitored by the OCG, were declared fully compliant in filing their 2009 3rd Quarter Contract Award (QCA) Reports to the OCG by the stipulated deadline date of November 3, 2009.

QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OCG, in arrears, within one month after the ending of each quarter. Where the month ends on a weekend or on a public holiday, QCA Reports must be filed by the next business day. An additional one (1) day grace period is also provided by the OCG.

The OCG's Zero Tolerance Policy dictates that a failure, 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.

It is instructive to record that no exceptions to the application of this Policy have ever been allowed by the Contractor General in the three (3) years that the Policy has been in force.



The OCG's QCA Report forms are designed in a simple spreadsheet format and 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 implemented in May 2006 by Contractor General, Greg Christie, as a major plank of his strategic plan to secure a marked improvement in probity, accountability and transparency in the Government contract award process.

In terms of improved transparency, the initiative has enabled the OCG to obtain and to make public the particulars of the Government contract awards that are reported on QCA forms.

Currently, the QCA particulars of 31,608 Government contracts which were awarded between May 1, 2006 and September 30, 2009, and which range from \$250,000 to \$10 Million in value, can be freely examined and scrutinized by any member of the public on the OCG's website at www.ocg.gov.jm.

The entire OCG QCA database, which is updated weekly, is also now available for download from the OCG's website, free of cost, in the form of a searchable and portable Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

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