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MEDIA RELEASE

CONTRACTOR GENERAL REFERS THREE (3) PUBLIC BODIES TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Kingston, November 18, 2008 – In keeping with the terms of its Zero Tolerance Policy, the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has today formally referred 3 Public Bodies to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on account of their failure to submit their 2008 3rd Quarter Contract Award (QCA) Reports within the prescribed time limits. The 3 delinquent Public Bodies are:

- (1) The Attorney General's Department
- (2) The Devon House Development Commission
- (3) The Hanover Parish Council

Both the Attorney General's Department and the Hanover Parish Council are repeat delinquent offenders. The Attorney General's Department has been referred to the DPP on 2 previous occasions.

The 2008 3rd Quarter QCA Reports were required to be filed with the OCG on or before the specified October 31, 2008 deadline date or, in lieu thereof, by November 3, 2008, the ending of the OCG's recently introduced 1 work day grace period.

Any person who, without lawful justification or excuse, fails to comply with a lawful requisition of a Contractor General, commits a criminal offence under Section 29 of the 1983 Contractor General Act.



QCA Reports are required to be filed with the OC-G, in arrears, within one month after the ending of each quarter. They are specially 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 complied with the Government's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines.

With only 3 of the country's 191 Procuring Public Bodies failing to submit their QCA Reports on time, the OCG has now recorded its highest rate of Public Body compliance ever at 98.4%.

The record compliance rate of 98.4% contrasts sharply with the 13% rate which was registered in October 2006, when the OCG's Zero Tolerance Policy was first introduced and when as many as 166 of 191 Public Bodies had ignored the directives of the OCG to furnish it with their contract award information.

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