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MEDIA RELEASE

OCG Registers Unprecedented 100% QCA Report Submission Compliance Rate for the Eleventh Consecutive Quarter

Kingston, Jamaica; November 1, 2011– 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 which were refusing to comply with the lawful requisitions of the OCG, has succeeded once more in producing another record 100% compliance rate, but this time for the eleventh consecutive quarter running.

All 194 Public Bodies, whose contract award activities are currently being monitored by the OCG, were declared fully compliant in filing their 2011 3rd Quarter Contract Award (QCA) Reports to the OCG by the stipulated deadline date of today, November 1, 2011.

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 this Policy has ever been allowed by the Contractor General in the five (5) years that the Policy has been in force. Before the institution of the Policy, the highest compliance rate that was recorded was 13%.

QCA Report forms are designed in a simple spreadsheet format and are specifically structured to force the disclosure of the material particulars of small contracts which have been awarded by Public Bodies. Larger contracts – those above \$10 million in value – must be endorsed by the National Contracts Commission before they can be awarded. The QCA Report forms are also designed to disclose whether and to what extent a Procuring Public Body has breached the Government's Procurement Procedures.

The OCG's QCA Report regime was conceived, designed 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 and transparency in the Government's small contracts award process.

Today, the regime has allowed the OCG to make public, on its website, the award particulars of over 55,000 contracts that have so far been awarded by the country's Public Bodies since May 1, 2006. The contracts, which range in value from \$250,000 to \$10 million, have an aggregated value of more than \$66 billion.

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