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MEDIA RELEASE

The Perception of Corruption in Jamaica Remains Unchanged – Transparency International Scores Jamaica at 3.3 out of 10 in its 2011 CPI Rankings

Kingston; December 1, 2011; The perception of the depth of corruption in Jamaica, as measured by Transparency International (TI), the global anti-corruption watchdog, indicates that nothing has changed over the past year which would lead the international community to accept that corruption is being effectively fought by the Jamaican State.

In its 2011 Global Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Rankings, which were released late last night, TI scored Jamaica at a CPI of 3.3 out of a possible 10, with a country ranking of 86 out of 182 countries. In 2010, the country's CPI score was also 3.3, while it was ranked 87 out of 178 countries.

In the past ten (10) years, Jamaica has never scored higher than 4.0 on TI's CPI, where a score of 10 is perceived to be least corrupt and 1 as most corrupt. **(See Table below).**

The CPI ranks countries according to their perceived levels of public-sector corruption. The 2011 index draws on different assessments and business opinion surveys that are carried out by independent reputable institutions. The surveys and assessments that are used to compile the index include questions which relate to the bribery of public officials, kickbacks in public procurement, embezzlement of public funds, and questions that probe the strength and effectiveness of public-sector anti-corruption efforts.

“It should now be abundantly clear to all Jamaicans that unless they demand monumental changes in the country's existing moral, ethical and legal anti-corruption codes, and in its approach to the con-joint issues of transparency, accountability and good governance in the administration of the affairs of the Jamaican State, ten (10) years from now we will still be at the same place, talking about the same things”, said Contractor General, Greg Christie.

“The time has long passed for those who aspire to lead the Jamaican State to go beyond making mere lip-service statements about their intention to fight corruption. They must publicly state in lucid and specific terms, the practical step-changes that they are prepared to take to effectively bring an end to corruption in Jamaica, and the respective time-frames within which these steps will be implemented. The question of what is in the best interest of Jamaica, as opposed to what is politically expedient, must be the common thread that defines all such proposed anti-corruption measures”, said Mr. Christie.



Several germane remedial recommendations, in the foregoing regard, have already been formally presented by the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) to the Prime Minister and to the Leader of the Opposition for their consideration and implementation.

TI, in its Report, was moved to state that “Public-sector governance that puts the interests of its citizens first is a responsibility that is not restricted to any border. Governments must act accordingly. For their part, citizens need to continue demanding better performance from their leaders”.

Transparency International Annual Corruption Perceptions Index – Jamaica Rankings				
Year	CPI Score	Country Rank	Total Countries Ranked	Independent Surveys Used
2011	3.3	86	182	7
2010	3.3	87	178	5
2009	3.0	99	180	5
2008	3.1	96	180	5
2007	3.3	84	180	5
2006	3.7	61	163	5
2005	3.6	64	159	6
2004	3.3	74	145	6
2003	3.8	57	133	5
2002	4.0	45	102	3

Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were the only countries in the English-Speaking Caribbean that were ranked lower than Jamaica in TI’s 2011 Rankings. Trinidad received a CPI score of 3.2 and a country ranking of 91, whereas Guyana was scored at 2.5 with a country ranking of 134.

Barbados, the Bahamas, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica, were all scored significantly higher than Jamaica at CPI rankings of 7.8, 7.3, 7.0, 5.8 and 5.2 respectively.

New Zealand was ranked as the least corrupt country with a CPI score of 9.5, while North Korea and Somalia were both ranked at the other end of the 182 country scale with a CPI score of 1.0.

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