



Address by Mr. Kenneth Gordon  
Chairman, Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago  
at Meeting to discuss the **Final Report on the Examination of the Practices and  
Procedures of the Arima Borough Corporation**  
at the Arima Town Hall  
Wednesday January 16, 2013

**His Worship The Mayor Alderman Ghassan Youseph**

**Mr. Ronald Bobb, CEO of the Arima Borough Corporation**

**Mr. Amroodeen Ali, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) from the Ministry of Local  
Government**

**Mrs. Sharman Ottley, Auditor General**

**Representatives from the Arima Borough Corporation**

**My fellow Commissioners**

**Members of the Media**

Thank you for joining us this morning. We welcome you to the meeting to discuss the final report on the Examination of the Arima Borough Corporation. Your cooperation is necessary to help the Commission fulfil its mandate “to examine the practices and procedures of public bodies, in order to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices” and to “instruct, advise and assist the heads of public bodies of changes in procedures which may be necessary to reduce the occurrence of corrupt practices.” Sections 5 (1) (g) and (h)

In November 2011, we announced that the Commission proposed to implement a programme to examine the practices and procedures of Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises in a drive to improve ethical conduct among Ministries, State Corporations and agencies.

We have since followed through with that plan and started examination of the Arima Borough Corporation in 2012. Until now this function of the Commission had never been addressed and the Commission is of the view that this exercise is very important. We are hopeful that it will be a productive exercise since it is designed to improve Governance and Accountability amongst selected Public Bodies.

The initiative was launched following discussions with the Chief Executive Officer of the Arima Borough Corporation, Ronald Bobb, in April 2012 and meeting between the Commission and several agencies with the responsibility for oversight of public bodies including the Ministry of Finance (Corporation Sole), the Auditor General's Department and the Ministry of Local Government.

The Commission believes *“integrity measures are vital ingredients of good governance and hopes its new initiative will ensure that public resources are effectively, efficiently and properly used.”*

We have therefore made a number of recommendations for the Chief Executive Officer to implement internal controls that strengthen the corporate governance at the Corporation. Our recommendations are designed to improve the effectiveness of the Council, ensure adherence to the Policies and Procedures and to improve its financial reporting by reviewing the Corporation's Accounting system. The Commission recommends the following:

- policies and procedures to govern critical operations of the Corporation must be developed, approved, implemented and enforced;
- employees should continuously trained in the smart and best practices of their functions (especially given the high turnover in key positions);

- the timely preparation and submission of financial reports
- independent reviews and audits of the operations must be conducted on an on-going basis;
- the Comptroller of Accounts should be consulted on the utilisation of an electronic Accounting System at the Corporation;
- the compliance culture of the Corporation must be strengthened through the implementation and enforcement of a Code of Ethics for all employees.

The Chief Executive Officer has formally accepted all recommendations made in this report and the implementation dates have been finalised. The Commission will follow up on the implementation of the recommendations in 2013.

Commissioner Seunarine Jokhoo who is the head of the Compliance Sub-Committee and the Director of Compliance, Mrs. Leigh-Ann Benjamin-Campbell will elaborate more on the findings and recommendations.

The Director and her team have been working closely with the management of the Arima Borough Corporation for many weeks and have generated a report that details the examination findings and provides a comprehensive implementation

schedule for recommendations. Mrs. Benjamin-Campbell will make a presentation shortly to outline the steps we propose.

We hope that this presentation will open a discussion as we look forward to working with you to strengthen the governance and oversight of the Arima Borough Corporation.

**January 16, 2013**