



Address By

**Dr. Eric St. Cyr**

Chairman, Integrity Commission of  
Trinidad and Tobago

on the occasion of the  
Launch of the Primary and Secondary  
Schools Competition

A Better Tomorrow:  
Do the right thing always

at the  
Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts) Auditorium  
National Academy for the Performing Arts.

Tuesday September 27, 2011

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you this morning as we assemble to inaugurate this competition that we have called “A Better Tomorrow: Do The Right Thing Always.”

This competition is a device to promote ethical behaviour and trust - Do Right Champions – among the young people of our nation. We look forward to the creative production of a variety of media – Short Stories, Poems, Cartoons and Scenarios - on the theme of Integrity and ethics.

This morning we are honoured to have amongst us the Minister of Education Dr. Tim Gopeesingh; the Secretary for Education, Youth Affairs and Sport with the Tobago House Assembly, Mr. Whitney Alfred and so many students, teachers, education administrators, parents and well-wishers. Representatives of the Parent-Teacher Association and the Teachers’ Union are especially welcome.

Your attendance and interest in the launch and promotion of this competition - which has as its theme ‘doing what is right always’ - is much appreciated.

Building a nation is an on-going process, it takes time, it takes a persisting effort, it renews itself at every occasion. Our concern at the Integrity Commission is to take our Mission of ‘doing the right thing always’ into the consideration of those at the very beginning of their education life...at a time when social life is being formed in the classroom...when the ethos of morality is communicated.

We want to keep our nation on the right track. Uprightness and rectitude exalt a nation...and that is the objective of the Integrity Commission.

It is easy to go off track...greed is a corrupting influence. Corruption remains a barrier to development and growth of individuals and groups in our society. That is why we need to be assured of the Integrity of those who hold public office in this nation. We want to ensure that those of you in our schools follow the basic principles of social and personal integrity.

In 1987 the Government of the day – both in the House of Representative and in the Senate -- in an examination of the Constitution, determined that we should have an Integrity Commission. In 2000 the Integrity In Public Life Act was modified, strengthened and widened.

Today the Integrity in Public Life Act seeks to get all Persons In Public Life to commit to conventions on Integrity.

This is what we do?

- We ensure that principles of ethics and accountability become the foundation for persons in public life.
- We receive declarations from persons in public life
- We supervise and monitor standards of ethical conduct
- We investigate complaints of conduct, practices and procedures that are dishonest or corrupt.
- And more importantly, our focus in this competition is to carry out a programme of public education to foster an understanding of Standards of Integrity.

We have recognized that some people stray off the straight and narrow way. We want to work with you as you build this nation.

There are times when we face serious decisions where we have to say ‘no this is wrong’, because something is wrong. I want to encourage all students, all teachers, all parents to do the right thing always. Integrity is something that makes you do what is right even when there is no one watching you.

Why is it necessary to ‘do the right thing always’, and why have we chosen to do this competition among our young people?

I am of the view that our young people learn in different ways. They come into our schools with different backgrounds and levels of preparedness. This competition, we hope, will focus attention so that students and teachers develop the right attitude towards themselves –

- attitudes of self-confidence,
- attitudes of self-respect,
- attitudes of responsibility, and
- attitudes of courage to do the right thing.

That is our goal at the Integrity Commission. We want to be a catalyst for change.

We trust that this competition will help us all:

- To be decent.

- To be fair.
- To do the right thing.
- To have a better tomorrow.

I thank you.



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