

Integrity Commission Launches LEADtt WHERE ARE YOU IN RELATION TO THE LINE?

The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago has launched a series of Awareness Seminars to help Persons in Public Life and those exercising public functions to better understand the impact that ethics, leading and living above the moral line can have on the individual and on the organizations.

The *Leading From Above The Line* philosophy, as presented by Dr. Theodore Ferguson, an educator and consultant, is being introduced to demonstrate how meaningful change and transformation within the person is necessary before transformation and change can occur in the home, organization and society.

Justice Sebastian Ventour, Deputy Chairman of the Integrity Commission emphasized that the Commission supports the philosophy of “*leading from above the line*” and believes that “public officials must first act in a way that demonstrates honesty, trustworthiness and integrity in order to elicit the best in their subordinates.”

The inaugural awareness seminar was held for the Board and senior managers of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, T&TEC, at the Hyatt Regency in Port-of-Spain on April 17. A further nineteen seminars are scheduled to “preserve and promote the Integrity of public officials and institutions.”

Justice Ventour was high in praise for Chairperson Sushilla Ramkissoon-Mark, General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook, and the 17-member team of officials from TTEC for embracing the Commission’s vision and for being part of the launch of LEADtt. He expressed the view that all public organisations will demonstrate, as T & TEC did, responsiveness to the Integrity Commission's call to participate.

The Commission is of the view that the “*Leading From Above The Line*” philosophy will have a positive and tremendous impact on the lives of Public Servants, Public Service Managers and further that the Integrity Awareness Seminars will be a suitable forerunner for the introduction of Codes of Ethic and Ethic Audits in all public organisations.

The Commission’s collaboration with “*Leading From Above the Line-TT*” is not new. Dr. Ferguson, as part of the Commission's “*Do Right Champions*” campaign shared information on the philosophy with school administrators, supervisors and principals of the Ministry of Education in September 2013. Additionally, the Commission's Management has participated in several of Dr. Ferguson's conversations on leadership.

The Integrity Commission is mandated in the Integrity in Public Life Act, to “preserve and promote the integrity of public officials and institutions.” These seminars will serve as vehicles through which the Commission hopes to further fulfill its legal mandate.