

NEWS RELEASE

March 13, 2011

INTEGRITY COMMISSION SETS MAY DEADLINE

The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to remind members of State Enterprises, Regional Corporations, Statutory Boards and others who are required to file declarations as part of the Integrity in Public Life Act that the deadline for the submission of declarations for the year ending December 31, 2010 is May 31, 2011.

Declarations of Income, Assets and Liabilities and Statements of Registrable Interests may be hand-delivered (or forwarded by registered mail) to the Integrity Commission, Fourth Floor, UTC Financial Centre, Independence Square, Port of Spain. Declaration forms in electronic format will not be accepted.

All persons in public life – as mandated by the Integrity In Public Life Act and its Amendments - are required to declare (on a prescribed form), on an annual basis, their income, assets and liabilities – along with that of their spouse and dependent children. The Statement of Registrable interests contains information relating to the following:

- Particulars of any directorships held in any company or other corporate body
- Particulars of any contract made with the State
- The name or description of any company, partnership or association in which the person is an investor
- A concise description of any trust to which the person is a beneficiary or trustee
- Beneficial interest held in any land
- Any fund to which the person contributes
- Particulars of any political, trade or professional association to which the person belongs
- Particulars relating to sources of income; and
- Any other substantial interest whether of a pecuniary nature or not, which he considers may appear to raise a material conflict between his private interests and his public duty.

The Commission provides consultative facilities in a confidential environment to assist declarants to comply with statutory obligations.

The Integrity Commission was established by an Act of Parliament in 1987 (Integrity in Public Life Act 8 of 1987) with responsibility to preserve and promote the integrity of persons in public life and as well as those exercising public functions.

Persons in public life, as defined by the legislation include:

- Members of the House of Representatives
- Ministers of Government
- Senators
- Members of the Tobago House of Assembly
- Members of Municipalities
- Members of Local Government Authorities
- Members of the Boards of all Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises in which the State has a controlling interest
- Permanent Secretaries and Chief Technical Officers

Where a person in public life fails to submit a completed declaration of income, assets and liabilities and a statement of registrable interests within the prescribed period, the Integrity Commission is required to publish this fact in the Gazette and in at least one daily newspaper. The Commission may make an ex-parte application to the High Court to secure compliance. Failure to comply with the directive of the Court is an offence and a person in public life is liable on conviction to a fine of \$150,000.

At the Integrity Commission we seek to ensure that those who serve the nation do so with integrity, dignity and respect so that public resources are used fairly and for the benefit of all people of the nation. Integrity means making the correct choice when faced between right and wrong. It encompasses adherence to ethics and morals, and is linked with honesty. At the Integrity Commission the key message of principle is “*do the right thing always.*”

Communications & Public Relations