

NEWS RELEASE.

21st January 2013

STATEMENT BY THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION

The Integrity Commission notes the Prime Minister's statement in the Sunday newspapers which refers to "an appearance of perception of bias by the Integrity Commission." It views this statement with regret. Such comment is not consistent with the facts.

It must be emphasized that it is not, nor has it ever been, the Commission's practice to announce any of the matters which are under investigation by the Commission. When public reference was made to the TOP investigation in an earlier report this was in response to false allegations which had been made by a complainant and which it was necessary to correct. The Prime Minister refers to "stony silence on this \$310 million transaction, which leaves a lot to be desired and some may say reeks of an appearance of perception of bias by the Commission." (Sunday Guardian Page 1- 20th January 2013) Such statement is both unfortunate and unwarranted.

It would be contrary to the Commission's guidelines and established practice to announce other investigations which may be underway.

As a preliminary step in considering the implications which arise from the Prime Minister's statement, the Commission has advised His Excellency the President of its concerns. His Excellency, President Maxwell Richards has reminded the Commission that it was appointed to office by him. He has also advised that the Commission continues to enjoy his full confidence and support.