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For immediate release

INTEGRITY CLUBS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Six schools in pilot project

A pilot project to introduce Integrity Clubs in secondary schools will be launched at the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business on September 13th 2018. As a forerunner to the launch, a three-day training programme for 'Integrity Ambassadors' will be held at the St. George's College, Barataria on August 28 - 30. A workshop for teachers is scheduled for August 29. Persons between the ages of 16 - 25 interested in serving as 'Integrity Ambassadors' are invited to submit a resume and personal statement of no more than 400 words no later than Friday August 17 to admin@transparency.org.tt

The targeted schools for the Pilot Project include Speyside Secondary in Tobago and in Trinidad - St. George's College; Williamsville Secondary School; Queens Royal College; Bon Air Secondary School and St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando. Principals of the pilot schools including officials of the Ministry of Education and the Tobago Division of Education are in support of the Integrity Club initiative.

A steering committee that includes representatives of the Integrity Commission, the National Parent-Teacher Association and the local branch of Transparency International is working to oversee the introduction of the Pilot Project in selected Secondary Schools. The goals of the pilot are to test and refine the I-Clubs before their widespread introduction into secondary schools and to demonstrate the value and benefit of the programme to students and teachers

Integrity Clubs seek to instil integrity and ethical conduct to counter some of the problems and ethical challenges being experienced in our secondary schools. These challenges include: disrespect for authority, indiscipline, bullying, fighting, poor anger management and conflict resolution. Integrity Clubs are designed to help instil in students and teachers the core values of respect, fairness, compassion, integrity, honesty and responsibility. The pilot study will provide information to determine the most effective structure for implementing Integrity Clubs. The Integrity Club activities will involve students, teachers, the school staff including the Maintenance-Training, Security, School Meal suppliers' and parents in reflecting and acting on issues of integrity.

Integrity Clubs exist in schools in Jamaica, India and in countries on the African continent. Moreover, variations of I-Clubs (sometimes called Character Clubs) are established in primary and secondary schools worldwide.

The Ministry of Education, the Tobago Division of Education, the UNESCO schools project, the Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools and the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association, are all supportive of the initiative. The Ministry of National Security and British Embassy have expressed interest and support for the project.

It is anticipated that the Integrity Clubs - I-Clubs - will have unintended consequences such as promoting students' self-worth and dignity, positively affecting the academic performance of students, creating a positive school culture, reducing unhealthy, deviant behaviours, improving teacher morale, fostering of patriotism and civility as well as favourably affecting the academic performance of students. Moreover, the I-Clubs will hopefully become incubators for future leaders whose formative years would have been spent immersed in the concept of integrity, anti-corruption and good governance.



Martin Farrell
Integrity Clubs – Steering Committee Chairman
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