



Address by Justice Zainool Hosein

Chairman, Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago

Launch of

British High Commission's UK Anticorruption Plan

Level 14, Tower D, International Waterfront Centre

1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain

Thursday 22nd January, 2015

1:00 P.M.

At a courtesy visit on the 10th December, 2014 by Mr. Charles Moore, Chargé d' Affaires for the U.K. to the Offices of the Integrity Commission, informal discussions were held as to how the U.K. could assist the Integrity Commission in its work and *inter alia*, the prevention of corruption of persons in public life in general and to preserve and promote the integrity of public officials and institutions.

At the time it would appear that the U.K. had its own Anti-Corruption Plan but there was an embargo preventing it from being transmitted. The embargo having been lifted at 11 a.m. on the 18th December, 2014 it was decided that there would be a formal handing over of the Plan today and to which we now cordially welcome Mr. Moore and his team from the UK High Commission and the representatives from the Canadian High Commission and the Embassy of the United States of America. We also welcome everyone present and especially the Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Director of the Police Complaints Authority, The Chairman of the Transparency Institute of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Hart and Mr. Long of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Mr. Raymond of the Joint Consultative Council and Ms Jennifer Khan of the Central Tenders Board.

Having had sight of the UK Anti-Corruption Plan we noticed in the Foreword that the British Prime Minister, Mr. David Cameron, set out "the golden thread of conditions which allow countries to thrive: the Rule of Law; the absence of conflict; the presence of strong property rights and institutions and the absence of corruption." The Foreword also draws attention to fact that the UK has a strong track record of tackling corruption "with the level of corruption in the UK far lower than the majority of other countries around the world". It is an enviable status clearly worthy of emulation.

That status has been achieved because of the "whole government approach to combating corruption" and the actions (there are some 61 of them) that have been and are being taken.

A number of organisations have defined corruption in varying ways. Transparency International – the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. The World Bank defines a corrupt practice as "offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party."

The strategies for the reduction of corruption in the UK Plan may be described as the 4 P's:

P: Pursue - that is strengthening the ability to investigate, prosecute with better coordination of agencies: Under this head is included dealing with laundering of corrupt funds and the return of stolen assets.

P: Prevent - under this head are included measures to strengthen the integrity in key institutions, eg. the police and the financial sector.

P: Protect - under this are included publication of threats from corruption; and making data open involving risk assessments – the courts, prisons and the financial sector

P: Prepare - includes working with overseas partners to reduce the impact of international bribery and corruption on the UK and UK business.

The plan will be carefully studied and we look forward to collaboration with the UK's National Crime Agency which straddles all sectors of government and those aspects which would assist our functions under our IPLA would be considered for application here.

Finally, we wish to thank Mr. Charles Moore, Chargé d'Affaires, of the UK High Commission for meeting with us, who responded to our appeal for help by making this valuable document available to us.