



Address by
Justice Sebastian Ventour, Deputy Chairman
INTEGRITY COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
THE LAUNCH OF THE INTEGRITY AWARENESS SEMINARS:
LEADTT
HYATT REGENCY
April 17th 2014.

Good Morning ladies and gentlemen.

Among the statutory functions of the Integrity Commission is the carrying out of programmes to educate the public about the standards of integrity. In other words, it is about the transformation of our society.

At the Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, we believe that meaningful change and transformation within oneself is necessary before transformation and change can occur in our public bodies and institutions. If you think about it, the change we must see in society is really the summation of the changes within all of us individuals who comprise the society. This is what led us to the “*Leading From Above the Line*” philosophy.

The *Leading From Above The Line* philosophy, as presented by Dr. Theo Ferguson, shows the impact that ethics, and /living above the moral line can have on the individual and on the organizational and national culture at the macro level. The Commission supports this philosophy 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.

Today we launch a series of Integrity Awareness Seminars. These seminars provide a platform for the Commission to begin the discussion of issues such as, Governance, Ethics, Values, Principles, Accountability and Responsibility. In the medium to long term, the Commission anticipates that it will see the benefits of this intervention in the form of outcomes such as the development of Codes of Conduct in some organizations, the successful adoption of the Trinidad and Tobago Corporate Governance Code in others and the implementation of transparent policies and procedures in all.

The Commission's collaboration with *Leading From Above the Line-TT* is not new. Dr. Ferguson worked with the Ministry of Education in September 2013 as part of the Commission's "Do Right Champions" campaign and the Commission's Management has participated in several of Dr. Ferguson's Conversations on Leadership series. We have personally experienced the benefits and by all reports, the initiative with Officials from the Ministry of Education was a resounding success.

Ladies and gentlemen, 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 we fulfill our legal mandate. Our collaboration with *Leading From Above The Line-TT* will involve the holding of at least 20 seminars in 2014. The intention is to have these conducted throughout a wide cross section of Public Bodies and Public Institutions including Tobago.

One certain outcome of this exercise will be the promotion and raising of the awareness of Integrity among Persons in Public Life and Persons Exercising Public Functions.

We thank the Chairwoman and the CEO of TTEC for understanding and embracing the Commission's vision and for being part of today's launch. We trust that their enthusiasm to contribute to making Trinidad and Tobago corruption-free is emulated by the other Public Bodies and expect similar responsiveness to the Integrity Commission's call to participate.

Ladies and Gentleman, it is with great pleasure that I launch the Integrity Awareness Seminars: the collaboration between the Integrity Commission and *Leading From Above The Line-TT* called **LEAD-TT**.

April 17th 2014