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PORT OF SPAIN

News Release:

Public Service Announcement

The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, as part of its programme of Public Education intended to foster an understanding of Standards of Integrity as mandated by the Integrity in Public Life Act, engaged the services of the Government Information Services (GISL) to produce a series of Public Service Announcements (PSA) on the theme of Integrity.

The video announcement, as broadcast on the GISL's programme last evening, led to a complaint by Mr. Watson Duke, President of the Public Service Association. The video depicts two young men explaining the challenges of obtaining prompt service at an office. One character, on exiting an office explains he could not obtain prompt service but his "application is on file and under review..." The second character asks "do you see me standing up in any line in any government office anywhere ...none of that...pass some money." The first character objects and admonishes the other character to 'do the right thing always'. He adds: "You talking bribery...and bribery corrupts...how you expect things in this country to get better if we feeding the corruption? How could people to do the right thing if we rewarding them for doing the wrong thing?"

The PSA President explained that the video "reinforces negative values."

(The text of the video announcement is attached on the following page).

The PSA team was invited to meet with the Commission's Registrar and team where they were shown the video. As a measure of co-operation with the Public Service Association the Registrar agreed to withdraw that video. The Union's team was invited to meet further with the Commission's representatives in the event they have additional ideas and suggestions as the Commission rolls out its Public Awareness outreach on the theme of Integrity and 'Do The Right Thing Always.'

April 8th 2014

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFICE - DAY

A car is parked on the side of the road outside. A MAN sits in the driver's seat, listening to the radio. A second man exits the building and enters the passenger seat. He seems exasperated.

MAN 1

You get through?

MAN 2

Get through with what? Man...it takes a year and a day for anything to happen in these places...at least the application on file and under review...

MAN 1

Boss, I done tell you already, it have a fella you could pay a little something on the side and matters fix... You will get through, quick quick...

MAN 2

Yeah right...

MAN 1

Serious...you see me standing up in any line in a Government office?

Pass a money, boy...

MAN 2

Well no wonder my thing taking so long...people like you making it hard for the system to work...

MAN 1

What system you talking about?

MAN 2

The system...the way it's supposed to work if we doing what we supposed to do.

2.

MAN 1

You gonna start preaching again...

MAN 2

Listen to me nah man, we pay taxes to the gov't, the gov't pays the public servants and they serve us...the people.

MAN 1

You eh see how how slow all them public servants does work?

MAN 2

Don't come with that...and in any case why would I want to work hard when the people to the left and right of me getting more money than me under the counter?

MAN 1

Money talks boy!

MAN 2

You talking bribery...and bribery corrupts...how you expect things in this country to get better if we feeding the corruption? How we could expect people to do the right thing if we rewarding them for doing the wrong thing?

MAN 1

alright nah..you don't have to get on so...

MAN 2

Just do the right thing nah man...