



**Excerpts from an address by Justice Melville Baird (Ret.), Chairman of the Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago at the launch of a pilot project for the introduction of Integrity Clubs in Secondary Schools at the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business on September 28, 2018.**

Justice Melville Baird, Chairman of the Integrity Commission described the School Integrity Club as a unit within a school population consisting of teachers and students, striving towards the common goal of providing for students a non-academic and pragmatic approach to the attainment of positive attitudes and values.

At the time Justice Baird was addressing an audience which included the Minister of Education, Mr. Anthony Garcia and the High Commissioner of Canada, Ms. Carls Hogan Rufelds at the official launch of the School Integrity Club Pilot Project which was held at the Arthur Lok School of Global Business.

Justice Baird stated that six pilot schools had been selected from across the country and an integrity club had been established in each of them. He indicated that from amongst the students of each of the pilot schools, five school ambassadors had been selected. Justice Baird had high praise for the school ambassadors.

He informed his audience that the school ambassadors had been selected by the Principals and Deans of their respective schools for their exemplary and outstanding conduct and their high moral standing. He expressed the view that the school ambassadors were inspired by their lofty desire to preside over the upliftment of the ethical standards of their fellow students and simultaneously to inveigh against the corrosiveness of corruption. He described the school ambassadors as “stars of the first magnitude” of their schools and he considered that they were worthy of the title “ambassadors”.

Justice Baird was of the opinion that Integrity was fundamentally a state of mind and therefore it formed the subject of a deliberate choice that one made for oneself; that choice was the veneration of moral, ethical and spiritual values and principles. He said “when these values have been thoroughly ingrained in the mind of young students; when they grow up with these values uppermost in their mind; when ‘integrity’ becomes a word freighted with positive meaning and significance; when the word ‘corruption’ conjures up in their mind revulsion, disgust and contempt, then we would be well on our way to establishing that elusive society that is free from corruption and rich in morals and ethics”.

He closed his address by declaring that we must not fail these children because “it is these children who will ultimately save Trinidad and Tobago from moral implosion”.

October 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.