

A Message to Persons in Public Life: 1,350 EX PARTE APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE HIGH COURT

Friday 27 May, 2022: The 17th Integrity Commission (“the Commission”) has adopted “**a zero-tolerance approach**” in 2021 in respect of persons in public life who have failed to file their **outstanding** declarations of income, assets and liabilities and statements of registrable interests.

As of May 26, 2022, the Commission has made ex parte applications to the High Court for orders concerning **1,350 outstanding** declarations of Income, Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Registrable for the period of 2014-2020. These orders direct persons to comply with the provisions of the Act and file their outstanding declarations of income, assets and liabilities and statements of registrable interests and include an assessed cost which may vary from **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) to FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000)**, depending on the number of declarations of income, assets and liabilities and statements of registrable interests outstanding.

The Commission is continuously preparing ex parte applications requesting the High Court to order persons in public life who have failed to file their declarations of income, assets and liabilities and statements of registrable interests.

Persons in Public Life are advised that should if they fail to file their outstanding declarations of income, assets and liabilities, and statements of registrable interests and their names have been published in the newspapers as well as in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette, they would be subject to applications for **Ex parte Orders** from the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago directing them to do so, including the requirement to pay **costs**.

To avoid this course of action, Persons in Public life are required to comply with sections 11 and 14 of the Act and file all **outstanding** declarations of income, assets and liabilities and statements of registrable interests **without further delay**.

Failure to comply with the High Court Order would result in the Commission initiating criminal prosecution under section 21 (1) of the Act against non-compliant persons in public life

Persons who require assistance with respect to their filing requirements are asked to call the Commission’s Office at 623-8305, 624-4736, 625-2393, 625-2392 Extensions 340 or 335 to make an appointment to complete their declaration forms and visit the Commission’s social media platform for updates.

The Commission remains resolute, focussed and committed to carrying out its functions thoroughly, efficiently, fairly and within the time frame as stipulated by the Act.

The Commission looks forward to the full cooperation of Persons in Public Life as we continue to implement measures to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act.