INTEGRITY COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Integrity Commission to write to Chairman of Parliamentary Committees and House Speaker regarding actions of former Minister responsible for Works

March 5, 2024

The Integrity Commission, during its regular monthly meeting held on Monday, March 4, discussed the recent statements that were made by the former Minister responsible for Works, regarding withholding funds from an Opposition Councillor.

During the meeting, the following decisions were made:

Communication with the Integrity Commission Parliament Oversight Committee and the Joint Select Committee for the Review of the Integrity Commission Act:

The Integrity Commission will write to the Chairman of the Integrity Commission Parliament Oversight Committee and the Joint Select Committee for the Review of the Integrity Commission Act. The letter will express the Commission's stance that the former Minister should not continue to be a member of the Committees.

This recommendation is made, among other things, in light of the preamble of the Act which states that the Act is "to Promote and enhance standards of ethical conduct for Parliamentarians, Public Officials and other persons..."

The Commission notes that the former Minister's actions fall well short of standards and conduct that are becoming of a Minister and Parliamentarian.

Commissioners: The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Seymour Panton, OJ, CD (Chairman); Mrs. Pamela Monroe Ellis, FCCA, CA; The Hon. Justice (Ret'd) Lloyd Hibbert, CD; Mr. Eric Crawford, CD; Mr. H. Wayne Powell, OD, JP

Communication with the Speaker of the House:

The Integrity Commission will also write to the Speaker of the House, suggesting that the Ethics Committee addresses the matter. This step is seen as essential to ensure that the issue is appropriately handled within the parliamentary framework.

Exploration of Further Steps:

The Integrity Commission, in line with its functions and mandate, as outlined in the Integrity Commission Act, also had discussions on additional steps that may be taken to address the situation. These deliberations were aimed at upholding the Commission's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and good governance within the Government.

END

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