



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

The Integrity Commission joins with all similar organizations around the globe in acknowledging and celebrating International Anti-Corruption Day, Monday, 9 December 2019.

In Jamaica, the Integrity Commission is a relatively new body that is charged with the responsibility of “promoting and strengthening the measures for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption”. The five members of the Commission have been working feverishly within certain legislative and administrative constraints to discharge the mandate. The Commission is now happily at a stage where it is in the process of recruiting the senior personnel necessary for the purpose. It is anticipated that this recruitment will be completed within the next three months.

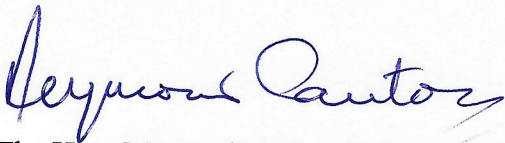
In the meantime, the Commission continues to function with the legacy staff that it received from the three organizations that were merged to create the Commission. The Commission is pleased at this time to place on record its appreciation of the work being done by these staff members.

The matter of corruption ought not to be viewed as one only for the Integrity Commission. It ought to be seen by all as something that concerns every citizen. As a result, the Commission seeks the cooperation of all sectors of the society, public as well as private. Corruption does not involve only the question of false statutory declarations by parliamentarians and other public officials. It involves false declarations on customs forms, the accepting of gifts by public officials for work that they are already in receipt of compensation from public funds. It involves over or under invoicing, fraudulent billing in respect of public works, and the employment of unqualified persons to do public tasks with the use of public funds.

The Commission hereby calls on all public officials whether in the employ of Central Government or Local Government to desist from doing acts that are inimical to the welfare of the state, such as authorizing payment for work not done or not done properly, or authorizing the construction of buildings in breach of regulations. The Commission also demands the cooperation of accounting and other senior officials in respect of all investigations being conducted by the Commission. Failure to cooperate will result in prosecution of those responsible.

The Integrity Commission gives the assurance that it takes its responsibility seriously, and will do all that it can, within the bounds of the law, to promote and strengthen the measures necessary to deal with all acts of corruption by whomsoever committed.

Dated this 6th day of December 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seymour Panton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Hon. Mr. Justice (Ret'd) Seymour Panton, OJ, CD
Chairman