



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Integrity Commission alarmed by misrepresentations made in the House of Representatives by Government MP Everalld Warmington about Audits of the Commission

The Integrity Commission notes with alarm comments made by Government Member of Parliament (MP) Everalld Warmington during yesterday's sitting of the Standing Finance Committee of the House of Representatives. The MP falsely claimed that the financial and accounting affairs of the Commission have not been audited for years, and that no audit report had been submitted by the Commission to Parliament.

"We haven't seen an audit of that department (the Integrity Commission) tabled in this House, but they are spending taxpayers' money," Mr. Warmington told the House.

In addressing the Finance Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, Mr. Warmington further stated as follows:

"I am saying Minister that we (must) get an audit report from that department before the next financial year. There is no way that we are going to approve another \$2 billion for a department that has not been audited for years. OK. So, I expect that the audit be laid here before March next year."

The Minister of Finance, in turn, responded as follows:

"I don't think any reasonable person could object to your requirements. These are public funds. And I have no reason to expect that that's a difficult proposition."

The Commission wishes to set the record straight as follows:

- (1) Contrary to the statements that were made by Mr. Warmington, the accounting and financial affairs of the Integrity Commission have been audited every year in its six (6) years of existence. The audits, in each case, have been conducted by an independent external auditor whose appointment has been approved, in writing, by the Minister of Finance himself.
- (2) Further, and contrary to the statements that were made by Mr. Warmington, the Audited Financial Statements of the Commission have been formally submitted to and tabled in Parliament, in each of those six (6) years, as a part of the Commission's Annual Reports.

- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, the Annual Audits of the Commission have been conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Section 20(1) of the ICA, which provides that “the Commission shall keep proper accounts of its receipts, payments, assets and liabilities, and such accounts shall be audited annually by an auditor appointed each year by the Commission **with the approval of the Minister (of Finance).**”
- (4) Section 20(1) of the ICA further provides that the statements of accounts so audited shall form part of the Annual Report of the Commission which, in turn, is required to be submitted to Parliament within three (3) months of the ending of each Fiscal Year.
- (5) In respect of the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2024, the Commission’s Annual Report, inclusive of the audited and signed Financial Statements for that Fiscal Year, was submitted to Parliament on June 26, 2024. The Report was formally tabled in the House of Representatives on July 9, 2024.
- (6) Ironically, the Integrity Commission Parliament Oversight Committee, of which Mr. Warmington is a member, met with the Commission for several hours yesterday morning. One of the stated purposes of the meeting was to review the 2023/2024 Annual Report of the Commission, inclusive of the Commission’s Audited Financial Statements for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year. The Audited Financial Statements appear in the last 31 pages of the Annual Report.
- (7) The letter which approved the appointment of an Independent External Auditor to audit the accounts and financial affairs of the Integrity Commission for Fiscal Year 2023/2024, was signed by the Minister of Finance, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, on April 24, 2024.

The Integrity Commission remains concerned that there are Parliamentarians who continue to exhibit a clear lack of knowledge, or understanding, of the very laws that they are elected to write. It is also obvious that some Parliamentarians do not read the Reports of the Integrity Commission that are routinely tabled in the House of Representatives.

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