



PRESS RELEASE

“Uniting against Corruption”

International Anti-Corruption Day

December 9th 2016

The Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission (the Commission) joins with our International partners; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in celebrating this annual event designated the 9th December-International Anti-Corruption Day 2016. This day seeks to raise awareness of corruption and its destructive impact on society. It is paramount that all residents of the TCI unite in combating and preventing corruption, not just today but every day. Corruption attacks the foundation of democratic institutions by distorting electoral processes, perverting the rule of law and creating bureaucratic quagmires whose only reason for existing is for the soliciting of bribes. Economic development is stunted because foreign direct investment is discouraged and small businesses within the country often find it impossible to overcome the "start-up costs" required because of corruption.

Internationally, the 2016 joint international campaign focuses on corruption as one of the biggest impediments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Executive Director of the UNODC states that “Corruption is a direct threat to infrastructure investment. It does not discriminate and impacts rich and poor countries alike; but it is the vulnerable and the weak who suffer most. If we do not unite to successfully eliminate corruption, we risk economic growth being slowed and prosperity muzzled. Corruption also corrodes much needed credibility and trust in the rule of law and criminal justice systems and wastes valuable resources.” Hence, it is imperative globally and locally, that Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the media and citizens around the world continuously join forces to fight this crime.

Within the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), we at the Commission embrace the local theme of “Uniting against Corruption”; for TCI to grow, develop and become the beacon that we can be. The Director of the Integrity Commission stated in 2012 that "it is incumbent upon all of us, politicians, government officials, civil servants, business leaders, civil societies and all the citizens and residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands **TO SAY NO TO CORRUPTION AND TAKE A STAND AGAINST IT.** Now in 2016, we are echoing the same message as we will continue our relentless pursuit of a corruption free Turks and Caicos Islands and trust your continued support to realise this vision". We challenge each and every citizen and resident within