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PRESS RELEASE:

Campaign Expenditure Rules under the Political Activities Ordinance for the General election 2021

The Integrity Commission of the Turks and Caicos hereby Notifies the General Public that:

Under the Constitutional Mandate of the Integrity Commission, with the upcoming General Election, the Commission hereby reminds persons that under the Political Activities Ordinance there are Qualifying Expenses associated with Campaign Expenditure.

The Qualifying Expenses and the exclusions to them, fall under Schedule 4 of the Political Activities Ordinance found on page 90 of the Ordinance. (see below):

SCHEDULE 4

(Section 40, 47 and 70)

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE: QUALIFYING EXPENSES

PART I

QUALIFYING EXPENSES

Expenses qualifying where incurred for election purposes

1. For the purposes of the definition of "campaign expenditure " in section 40, the expenses falling within this Part are expenses incurred in respect of any of the matters set out in the following list.

LIST OF MATTERS

(1) Party political broadcasts—

expenses in respect of such broadcasts include agency fees, design costs and other costs in connection with preparing or producing such broadcasts.

(2) Advertising of any nature (whatever the medium used)—

expenses in respect of such advertising include agency fees, design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing, distributing or otherwise disseminating such advertising or anything incorporating such advertising and intended to be distributed for the purpose of disseminating it.

(3) Unsolicited material addressed to electors (whether addressed to them by name or intended for delivery to households within any particular area or areas)—

expenses in respect of such material include design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing or distributing such material (including the cost of postage).

(4) A manifesto or other document setting out the party's policies—

expenses in respect of such a document to include design costs and other costs in connection with preparing or producing or distributing or otherwise disseminating any such document.

(5) Market research or canvassing conducted for the purpose of ascertaining polling intentions.

(6) The provision of services or facilities in connection with press conferences or other dealings with the media.

(7) Transport (by any means) of persons to any place or places with a view to obtaining publicity in connection with an election campaign—

expenses in respect of the transport of such persons include the costs of hiring a particular means of transport for the whole or part of the period during which the election campaign is being conducted.

(8) Rallies and other events, including public meetings (but not annual or other party conferences) organised so as to obtain publicity in connection with an election campaign or for other purposes connected with an election campaign—

expenses in respect of such events include costs incurred in connection with the attendance of persons at such events, the hire of premises for the purposes of such events or the provision of goods, services or facilities at them.

(9) Temporary election staff—

expenses in respect of persons employed or otherwise engaged by a party to carry out functions wholly or mainly related to an election.

Exclusions

2. Nothing in paragraph 1 is to be taken as extending to—

- (a) expenses in respect of newsletters or similar publications issued by or on behalf of the party with a view to giving electors in a particular electoral area information about the opinions or activities of, or other personal information relating to, their elected representatives or existing or prospective candidates;
- (b) expenses incurred in respect of unsolicited material addressed to party members;

- (c) expenses in respect of property, services or facilities so far as those expenses fall to be met out of public funds;

- (d) expenses incurred in respect of the remuneration or allowances payable to a member of the staff of the party (not being a person within paragraph 1(9)); or

- (e) expenses incurred in respect of an individual who is not a candidate by way of travelling expenses (by any means of transport) or in providing for his accommodation or other personal needs to the extent that the expenses are paid by the individual from his own resources and are not reimbursed to him.

The Commission also takes this time to remind the General Public, that **Treating, is a Criminal Offence, under Section 70 of the Elections Ordinance.** The Elections Ordinance rests under the supervision of the Supervisor of Elections, not the Integrity Commission.

The Commission may be contacted through deputydirector@integritycommission.tc (338-3335) or publicedu@integritycommission.tc (338-3340).

Sincerely,

Paul Martin
Director