31 October, 2016

**Press Release**

**Deadline for registration of Independent Candidates**

The Integrity Commission wishes to remind the general public and in particular, those persons wishing to apply to register with the Commission as Independent Candidates for the December 15, 2016 General Election, that pursuant to the election proclamation on 27 October, 2016 by His Excellency the Governor, **the last day to so register is Wednesday, 2 November 2016.** This deadline has not been affected by the change of the Election Day to 15 December, 2016. The Commission’s offices in Providenciales and Grand Turk will however open until 6:30pm on 2 November 2016 to attend to persons applying to be registered.

Please be reminded again that every application to be registered shall be accompanied with a donation report and a campaign expenditure return of any donation received and campaign expenditure incurred during the 365 days prior to the date of the application to be registered.

In May 2016, the Commission issued a press release on the amendments to the Political Activities Ordinance to require the registration of Independent Candidates, among other things. Since then, the Commission, through its executive officers, has invited and engaged the potential Independent Candidates in two well attended information-sharing sessions in the month of August and this October. In these sessions, the Commission also distributed information packs to the candidates on registration and other requirements of the Ordinance. In addition, the Commission held several radio talk show sessions this October, to inform the public on election matters, including registration of Independent Candidates.

The Commission therefore hopes that the persons wishing to apply for registration do not have to wait until the last minute, having had the opportunity to do so since 15 March 2016, when the requirement for registration of Independent Candidates came into force.

Eugene Otuonye

Director

For further information please contact the Integrity Commission, during office hours at: **9461941(**direct, Grand Turk**);** **9417847(**direct, Providenciales), **3833331**(Director); **3383335** (Deputy Director);

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