

Zimbra

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Integrity in public Life Bill 2018

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Subject : Integrity in public Life Bill 2018**To :** parliamentbarbados@caribsurf.com

Good afternoon

We are not sure if all of the following suggestions/recommendations fall into the category of integrity in public life, but we believe they all apply to good governance of the country's affairs. Where they are not appropriate for the subject above, please steer them to where they can be duly considered.

1) This applies to the back end of the subject, but we wish to suggest that unless there is accountability and the appropriate penalties attached to any breaches of the provisions of the legislation, it will not have the desired effect and it will eventually fall into disuse, like so many of our other disregarded laws. Some people will not obey the law unless they know for sure that they will pay one way or another for not doing so. These people influence others, and eventually the law is useless for all practical purposes. The penalties not only have to be there, but they have to be enforced—we are very poor and somewhat selective at law enforcement.

2) Government's legal matters should be handled—and be able to be handled—by in-house Government lawyers. Politicians should not be allowed to outsource this work based on their own personal preferences. Where they ignore or circumvent this rule, they should be severely censured without fear or favor—no partisan approach on this.

3) ALL contracts should be awarded based on a transparent and open evaluation process with the applicable criteria available for scrutiny by the general public.

4) Elected MP's should not interfere or be allowed to interfere in the day to day running of Government departments outside of the avenues provided by the appropriate processes set up for their input. This applies to areas such as promotions, transfers etc. and any other internal activities.

The general public is already saying among themselves that eventually it will be back to business as usual with special treatment for The Boys (and The Girls). I hope that we can be proven wrong this time, and that a real change in our culture is about to happen.



Sam & Waple Lewis
