

MEN'S EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT ASSOCIATION (MESA)

STRONGER MEN, STRONGER FAMILIES, A STRONGER NATION
Registered Charity No: 692

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August 24, 2018

The Clerk of Parliament Parliament Parliament Building Bridgetown BARBADOS.

Integrity in Public Life Bill, 2018

Dear Sir,

On behalf of The Men's Educational Support Association (MESA) I am to submit the following:

QUERIES

- 1. What is the definition for a person in 'public life'?
- 2. How would one know what has been declared by the individual, if the submitted-envelope has been sealed?
- 3. How would one be able to determine whether there is an *honest* declaration by the 'Public Official', if the envelope is sealed?
- 4. For how long would the submitted-information be kept in custody?
- 5. Would there be any possibility of the confidential information being disclosed after the individual is no longer a 'public official'?
- 6. Will the Bill address insider-training?
- 7. Will there be a penalty for collusion by a public official?
- 8. Will protection be given to a person who turns State witness?
- 9. Will the Commission function with quasi-judicial powers or full powers?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A 'post' should be created for someone to oversee the submitted-information.
 This person, under oath should be sworn to secrecy. Should that person be in breach of that confidential information, then he/she should be heavily fined and imprisoned.
 - (Without having a knowledge of what the Public Official has declared, then the exercise would only be cosmetic, or would just be a formality).
- 2. Having examined the submitted-information, there should be a *secret* and uninformed investigation to determine whether the declaration made has been an *honest* one.
- 3. There should be a specified time element for which this submitted-information is kept.
- 4. There should be no disclosure of the Public Official's submitted-information after the individual is no longer a public official or in 'public life'.
- 5. Should it be discovered that the Public Official had submitted false information or is found guilty of corruption, then the punishment should be compatible with the *findings*. There should be no discrimination.
- 6. Protection should be given, in every way possible, to a person who turns State witness.

Respectfully yours,

Grantley L. Osbourne

Chairman MESA