



24 May, 2016

Press Release

Political Activities (Amendment) Ordinance, Registration of Parties and Potential Independent Candidates.

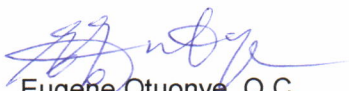
The Political Activities Ordinance is the principal law that regulates the registration and financial activities of political parties and independent candidates, including donations to and expenditure by them. As part of its mandate to implement this Ordinance, the Integrity Commission wishes to remind the general public that the House of Assembly has amended the Political Activities Ordinance with effect from March 15, 2016.

By this amendment, an individual who intends to contest elections in Turks and Caicos Islands as an Independent Candidate may now apply to be registered as such with the Integrity Commission. Where a political party, not yet registered, intends to field candidates in the elections, the requirement for it to register with the Integrity Commission still applies. However, with effect from March 15, 2016, any application for registration by an individual or any political party, not yet registered, shall be made no later than 5 days from the date of the election proclamation. Furthermore, on the date of any application for registration, an applicant, whether individual or unregistered political party, must file with the Commission, a report of all donations received and all expenditure incurred by such an applicant during the 365 days prior to the date of the application.

Meanwhile, the Commission can confirm that the People Progressive Party (PPP) was removed from the Commission's Register of registered parties and ceased to be a registered party with effect from February 26, 2016 for failure to comply with its reporting and notification obligations under the Ordinance. Accordingly, to date, there are three (3) registered political parties in the Commission's Register of Parties, namely: Progressive National Party (PNP); Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) and Progressive Democratic Alliance (PDA).

Eugene Otuonye, Q.C., Director of the Integrity Commission stated that:

"As a follow up to this press release, plans are underway for a series of public education engagements with the political parties, their officers and potential independent candidates. The objective of these engagements, among other things, will be to refresh and deepen their understanding of and commitment to comply with the requirements of the Ordinance, which are designed to ensure transparency, integrity and level-playing field in the democratic process in general, and the upcoming elections in particular".



Eugene Otuonye, Q.C.
Director

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