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NIA Statement on the Appointment of Greg Christie as Executive Director of the Integrity Commission and Related Matters

In statements made last year, on May 1 and on September 6, NIA - in support of the International Monetary Fund's Board recommendation of April 2019 - urged permanent appointments to be made to the Directorate of the Integrity Commission so that it "can properly execute its investigative and prosecutorial functions." We are happy to see that this process is apparently underway and has led to the appointment of Mr. Greg Christie as Executive Director, whilst appreciating fully the service of Col. Daniel Pryce during his tenure as Acting Executive Director.

Mr. Christie in his tenure as Contractor General assisted in raising corruption issues to national prominence and, subsequent to demitting office, performed admirably as a consultant to NIA between 2013 and 2014. His performance contributed to the very positive assessments at the time, and subsequently, of NIA's work by our International Development Partners.

We look forward to the prompt and permanent filling, based on merit, of the remaining acting positions at the Integrity Commission, following on a suitably transparent process.

In the context of this process we hope for renewed impetus to deal with outstanding matters facing the Commission. **Amongst these, we once again insist that the public be informed on what action is being taken in relation to the Petrojam investigation report.** Additionally, we welcome the announcement on February 11, 2020 by House Leader Hon. Karl Samuda, of members of the House of Representatives to a Joint Select Committee to review the Integrity Commission Act. We anticipate that the Senate shall in short order announce the names of its appointees. **One aspect of the urgency to review the Act relates to the provision in Section 60(3) of the Law, that the requirements relating to the publication of the "summary of the statutory declarations made by the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition" [Section 42(3)b] be reviewed "within two years of the appointed day," that is by February 18, 2020.** The Joint Select Committee also needs to consider the recommendations for amending the Act made by the Commission itself in their First Annual Report, including Section 53(3), to make the Commission's investigative work more transparent, whilst avoiding the risk of reputational damage.

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