

Anti-Corruption Training provided to Public Officers in Trinidad and Tobago by Public Agencies

Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) recognizes that it is the right of its citizens to live in a society free from corruption. Additionally, the GORTT acknowledges that it has a responsibility to not only ensure that corruption within the public sector is identified and punished, but also prevented. As part of the prevention strategies, several government ministries and agencies have implemented anti-corruption and related training for public officials at varying levels of service. The GORTT, through these Ministries and Agencies, have signed Memoranda of Understanding with foreign governments and agencies to facilitate the training of officers in relation to the fight against corruption in specific areas.

I. Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau (ACIB) under the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS)

Duties and Responsibilities of the ACIB include:

1. To investigate reports of corruption tactfully, diligently, and in a professional manner;
2. To collect and preserve the integrity of evidence for presentation in Court;
3. To provide sound advice to members of the public reporting matters which are not considered acts of corruption and considered to be of a civil nature;
4. To deliver lectures, seminars, exhibitions to members of the public and private sectors;
5. To provide training to police officers relative to corruption and related offences;
6. To provide manpower to assist in Patrols and other duties as detailed by the A.C.P Anti-Crime Operations and other Executive Officers;
7. To perform uniform duties as determined by the exigencies of the Service;
8. Treat all information with the strictest confidence;
9. To identify and implement training needs for staff development by obtaining training in investigative techniques for all members of staff;

10. To develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Bureau by identifying a commonality in procedures of the Bureau's business in tandem with the TTPS;
11. To encourage 'camaraderie' among staff. Various social events were conducted in promoting social interactions and relationship among staff.

The police officers at the Bureau receive specialist training both locally and abroad via seminars and conferences. While training for the ACIB is not specific to Anti-Corruption, there is a mixture of areas that has Anti- Corruption components.

Date	Training Programme	Facilitator
29/03/2017	Value of Countering Financing Terrorism	Arthur Lok Jack
28/3/2017-29/3/2017	Case Management	IATF Headquarters
3-11/4/2017	Fraudulent Document Recognition	Police Training Academy
15/11/21	Forensic Accounting	UN through the IFBI
October 2021	Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Benchmark Training	Commonwealth Secretariat Via Criminal Justice Unit TT AGLA

II. Office of the Procurement Regulator (OPR)

The OPR has conducted both training for both public officers external to its Office and internal training programs aimed at enhancing the quality of procurement practice and practitioners in Trinidad and Tobago.

- **Training for all public officer**

Pursuant to **section 13(1)(b) of the Procurement Act**, the OPR is mandated to set training standards, competence levels and certification requirements to promote best practices in procurement.

In November 2020, the OPR developed and published its trainings and certification standards which seek to develop the skills, acquisition of knowledge and specialised skills, professionalism and the further development of public procurement within Trinidad and Tobago. The implementation of the Standards is aimed to enhance the quantity and quality of public procurement practitioners who possess a deep and overall practical and theoretical knowledge which in turn will lead to more efficient public bodies, which implement high quality and effective procurement procedures and practices thereby contributing to accountability, transparency and good governance.

In accordance with the Procurement Act and the attendant Regulations the OPR published its **General Guidelines-Ethical Code of Conduct for Public Bodies and Public Officers** and **Ethical Code of Conduct for Suppliers and Contractors** and in July, 2020 the OPR hosted online training webinars for suppliers and contractors and public bodies/public officers in the respective Guidelines.

- **Internal training**

Additionally, internal stakeholders were exposed to training meant to foster lawfulness and geared towards preventing corruption through collaborative training sessions facilitated by the Global Judicial Integrity Network, The Caribbean Court of Justice and the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago. These training sessions were focused on building capacity and raising awareness particularly among internal stakeholders, in anticipation of the OPR conducting its quasi-judicial function, that is, the administration of challenge proceedings, which will act as a fundamental aspect of the country's anti-corruption efforts in the area of public procurement.

III. Public Service Academy under the Ministry of Public Administration

The Ministry of Public Administration is responsible for overall administration of the public service in Trinidad and Tobago. The Public Service Academy (PSA) which falls under the remit of the Ministry is responsible for providing training to public officers aimed at equipping them with the relevant tools to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively. The Academy trains an average 1500 public officers annually via skills development workshops, however this number has been impacted by the pandemic.

Regarding Anti-Corruption training, the PSA itself does not facilitate specific Anti-Corruption training but has factored in several issues that affect overall prevention of corruption. In relation to Integrity and Corruption, the PSA offers workshops with modules addressing these areas:

- Ethics (for all levels of the officers in the Public Service)
- Procurement
- Accounting Procedures in Public Service
- Internal Auditing

Specific training in the area of Integrity and Anti-Corruption are offered by international donor organisations in Malaysia, Singapore, India, Japan and China through the Technical Cooperation programme. Annually, an average of three (3) offers related to integrity and anti-corruption are received from these agencies but the number of officers trained varies from 2 – 4 officers per year based on the merit of the application and the availability of spaces. Some of the specific offers include:

Training Programme	# of Persons	Period
Singapore's Anti-Corruption Strategies	1	June 29 – July 03
	1	June 27 – July 10, 2016
	1	May 29 – June 02, 2017
Transparency & Good Practices in Public Sector Management	2	September 21 – 25, 2015
Better Governance – Managing Corruption, Programme for Heads of Investigation	1	February 20 – March 02, 2012
Promoting Integrity and Combatting Corruption		October 31 – November 18, 2016
Trust in Governance: Promoting, Ethics, Integrity and Professional Standards in Public Service		

Training Programme	# of Persons	Period
Executive Certificate for Strategic Management of Anti-Corruption Programme	2 nominations	August 10 – 21, 2015
	1 nomination	August 08 – 19, 2016
	2 nominations	July 05 – 09, 2021

The PSA also facilitates ad hoc training courses offered by international donor agencies in the areas of Fraud Detection and Prevention. It should be noted that while public officers may apply for these ad hoc offerings, the PSA has no control over their selection to participate – this right is reserved by the Sponsoring Agency. Also, the PSA offers centralised training opportunities where specific target groups are identified.

Prepared by:
International Law and Human Rights Unit
Office of the Attorney General and
Ministry of Legal Affairs

