

**INTEGRITY COMMISSION
OF GUYANA**

BACKGROUND

The Integrity Commission was established on the 24th September, 1997 and the Act provides for the appointment of a Chairman, not less than two (2) nor more than four (4) other members, a Secretary/Chief Executive Officer to oversee the day to day work of the Commission and other officers for the proper performance of the Commission.

The Chairman of the Commission shall be a person who is or who was or who is qualified to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court or any other fit and proper person and the other members appearing to the President as having experience and show capacity in law, public administration, social service, finance or accountancy or any other discipline.

The Chairman and other members are appointed by the President after consultation with the Minority Leader and they can either be full time or part time.



- The names of the chairman and other members upon the establishment of the Commission and any change in membership shall be published in the Gazette and in a daily newspaper. The Commission is also a body corporate.
- The Commission held statutory meetings on a monthly basis or upon the availability of the members since they are from Religious Background.
- The Commission has an Annual Budget and receives a monthly subvention from the Ministry of Finance through the Office of the President.
- The Commission presently has no members since it came to an end on the 28th May, 2012 but has a functioning Secretariat with staff that carries out the work of the Commission within its limits as is required by the Act.
- An Annual Report and a Financial Statement for the Commission are prepared at the end of each year and are sent to the President and Audit Office respectively.



VISSION, MISSION/OBJECTIVE

- **The Commission's Vision is**
“Improved public confidence in the integrity of holders of public office.”
- **The Commissions Mission is**
“Securing the integrity of persons in public life.”
- **The Commissions Objective is**
“Secure the integrity of persons in public life through their compliance with the provisions of the Integrity Commission Act No. 20 of 1997.”
- **The Secretariat Objective is**
“Ensure the proper performance of the functions of the Commission.”



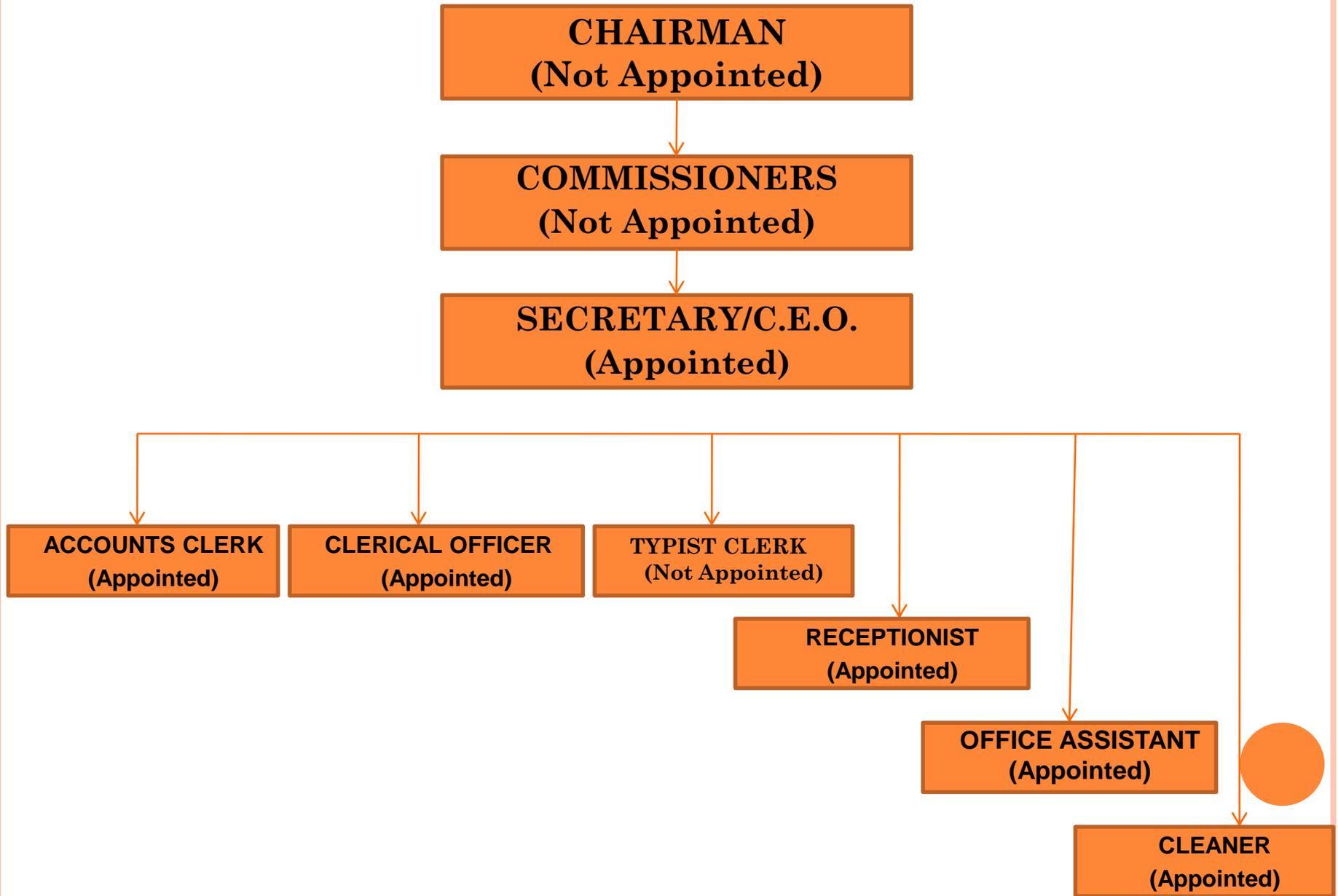
FUNCTIONS

- The Commission shall perform the functions conferred on it by the Act.
- The Commission have the power to do anything to facilitate the proper performance of its function.
- The Commission is an autonomous body, i.e. it is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority in the exercise and discharge of its function.
- Statutory meetings to be kept on a monthly basis.
- In the absence of the Chairman, the other members choose among themselves a Chairman for that statutory meeting as provided by Section 9 (2).
- The Commission regulate its own procedure and rules for that procedure.

CONT'D.

- Employed a suitable Secretary and other staff for the proper functions of the Commission.
- Public Officers as per Schedule 1 of the Act declare their Assets and Liabilities each year on or before 30th June to the Commission.
- The Commission or the President receive, examine and retain all declaration and documents filed.
- Request further information from Public Officers if required.
- Sent reminders and place notices in the media for default Public Officers.
- Prepare and Submit the Commission's Presidential Report and Financial Statements on an annual basis. 

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOCATION FROM 2008 TO 2013

YEARS - CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT (GUY\$)

2008 - 12,000,000

2009 - 14,000,000

2010 - 17,954,000

2011 - 19,427,000

2012 - 17,921,000

2013 - 16,497,000

YEARS - CAPITAL BUDGET AMOUNT (GUY\$)

2009 - 900,000

2010 - 1,545,000

2011 - 600,000

2013 - 686,000



DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- Promptly compliance of submission of names of declarants by Public Offices as per Schedule 1 on a year basis,
- Promptly compliance and non compliance of submission of declarations by Public Officer as per Schedule 1 on a yearly basis,
- Submission of updated information of declarants by Public Offices and relatives e.g. deceased declarants, names of new declarants, declarants that have demit office due to retired, dismissed, resigned, etc.,
- Without an appointed Chairman and Commissioners, actions cannot be taken against defaulters as set out in the Section 19 of the Commission's Act nor any investigative capacity other than the Secretariat requesting additional documents to support information stated in a declaration form by a Public Officer.



CONT'D

- Non Compliance of requested additional documentations from some Public Officers to support information filled in their declaration forms.
- Without an appointed Chairman and Commissioners, the reviewing of the Commission Act is on hold since their input/recommendations are also needed. There were some recommendations from the former Commissioners and myself that were submit to the Attorney General Chamber for consideration during the reviewing of the Commission's Act.
- Without an appointed Chairman and Commissioners, the Commission's inventory on declaring Public Officers cannot be revised since it have positions that are not on Schedule 1 of the Act and needs to be taken off the inventory.



CONT'D

- Filling of information in the Declaration Forms from January to December and not as at June 30 of each year as required by the Act.



FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST ROUND



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest at the Integrity Commission.

All staff including the past Commissioners appointed in 2009 signed a secrecy document upon their appointment at the Commission. This is to ensure confidentiality of public officers information and one of the reason why the appointment of the Commissioners are chosen from religious background. Their private work or interest does not hamper the work or the interest of the Commission. All staff and past members of Commission adhere to the Code of Conduct especially Schedule II of the Integrity Commission Act.

The staff of the Commission are in no position to influence any public officers and only a few staff have access to Public Officers declaration forms.



SYSTEMS REQUIRING GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO REPORT ACTS OF CORRUPTION

- The Commission's Act under Section 28 (1) (3) provides for the reporting Acts of Corruption. Acts of Corruption can also be reported to the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Revenue Authority, the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Audit Office of Guyana, the Attorney General Chamber and the Integrity Commission also works along with these offices.
- A public awareness poster on reporting Acts of Corruption was sent to all Public Offices that is on the Commission's inventory.
- With regards to the investigative capacity, the Commission Act under Section 30 provides for this.
- Upon my appointment from February, 2008 to present, the Commission received one (1) letter of complaint but upon reviewing it, it was not related to any public officers in our inventory but to a public office. This nature was corresponded to the relevant person and was directed to the specific agency.



OVERSIGHTS BODIES

- The oversight bodies of Guyana are public offices that relates to the Integrity Commission in that they are also declaring agencies to the Commission such as the Supreme Court of Justice, the Ombudsman (not in function at present), the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General . Each year upon the request by the Commission, these oversight bodies submit public officers names as per Schedule 1 of the Commission Act and those public officers declare their assets and liabilities to the Commission with the exception of a few.



CONCLUSION

In concluding, Act No 20 of 1997 provides for the establishment of an Integrity Commission which to date is functioning adequately.

At present there is no appointed Chairman nor Commissioners but a functioning Secretariat with staff that adequately carries out the functions as set out in the said Act.



THANK YOU

