

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### RESOLUTION

**Mr. David J. H. Thompson: St. John**

**WHEREAS** there should be a bond of trust between the people of Barbados and their government and that leadership, honesty, openness, accountability, objectivity, integrity and selflessness should be at the centre of that relationship:

**AND WHEREAS** in recent years that bond of trust has been broken by allegations of lack of accountability and a seeming reduction in the high standards of propriety for which our country has been known:

**AND WHEREAS** to facilitate accountability and eradicate corruption there should be the requirement for the declaration of assets by Ministers of Government and public officials:

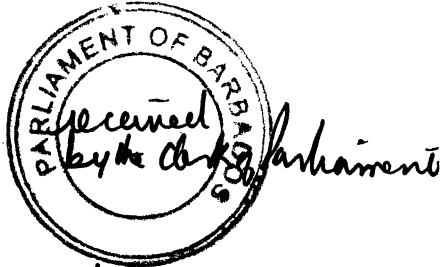
**AND WHEREAS** there is a need for:

1. Integrity legislation and a Code of Ethics and Standards in Public Life which establish that Ministers and public officials including Directors of Companies in which the Crown holds an interest should behave according to the highest standards of constitutional and personal conduct; that set out the relationship between Ministers and public servants; that draw a line between the resources used for Ministerial duties and party and constituency roles; that ensure that no conflict arises or appears to arise between Ministers' public duties and their private financial or other interests; and that require Ministers and members of Boards of Statutory Corporations and Directors of Companies in which Crown has an interest to declare their assets upon appointment.
2. Freedom of Information legislation that makes public bodies more accountable to the public and protects personal privacy by giving the public a right of access to records and giving individuals a right of access to, and a right to request correction of, personal information about themselves and prevents the unauthorized collection, use or disclosure of personal information by public bodies.
3. Amendment to the Defamation Act providing for greater scope for the expression of opinions about persons in public life and to usher in a new era of accountability in Barbados.



**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House gives support without delay to the drafting and circulation of the necessary Bills to give effect to Integrity legislation, Freedom of Information legislation and an Amendment to the Defamation Act.

*[Handwritten signature]*



*on the 2007-11-26 at 2:00pm*

*Pedro F. Eastmond*