

Geno urges MPs to maintain code

m THE Leadership Code is a guide for moral and ethical conduct by leaders, Chief Ombudsman Ila Geno told parliamentarians yesterday.

Mr Geno said leaders could choose to either maintain the high standards expected of them by the people or they might choose to ignore these for which the Leadership Code would then hold them accountable for their actions or omission.

He told the newly elected members with the exception of a few oldtime parliamentarians that ignorance of the law was no excuse in breaking the law so it was important that all leaders knew what their responsibilities were under the nation's laws.

Mr Geno was making a presentation during the induction programme for Parliament at the State Function room yesterday. He also outlined the dos and don'ts. They include;

- PROTECT your integrity and the integrity of the government at all times;

- AVOID conflict of interest in your dealings whether private or public;

- DO NOT demean your office or position;

- DO NOT allow your official or personal integrity to be called into question;

- DO not endanger respect for and confidence in the integrity of



Mr Geno

government;

- DO NOT use your official position for personal gain;

- DO NOT do anything that might be expected to give rise to doubt in the public

mind as to whether you are carrying out your duties as a leader.

- ENSURE that your spouse and children and any other person for whom you are responsible, conduct themselves appropriately;

- PUBLICLY disassociate yourself from any activity or enterprise of your associates if they conduct themselves inappropriately;

- FILL and submit your annual statements honestly and accurately;

- A LEADER must give a statement of his/her financial affairs every 12 months to the Ombudsman Commission. This statement must be full, accurate and complete;

- DO NOT ask for or accept unauthorised benefits;

- A LEADER must not ask for or receive any benefits that are not authorised by law;

- HE MUST not accept any loan, gift or other benefit or advantage other than a normal loan from a financial institution unless he first obtains approval from the Ombudsman Commission.

Women call on their MP