

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ELECTORAL COMMISSION



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ON BEHALF OF:**

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- 2. Ms. A. AGNES BLAIZE
*COMMISSONER***
- 3. Ms. Lorna Simon
*Supervisor of Elections***
- 4. The Administrative Management & Staff
*Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission***

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As the general public is aware, the General Elections held in Antigua and Barbuda on the 12th March 2009 were marred by the late opening of polls in six constituencies namely (1) St. John's Rural West, (2) St. Peter (3) St. George (4) St. Mary's North, (5) St. John's Rural North and St. John's Rural South. As a result, there have been strident calls for the resignation of the entire Electoral Commission and management staff, made partly by persons who are oblivious of the facts surrounding these unfortunate incidents, and partly by persons who for one reason or another wish to make scapegoats of and point fingers at the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC).

1.2 This Comprehensive statement has been prepared by the Chairman with inputs by Ms. Agnes Blaize, the only remaining Commissioner legally appointed, Ms. Lorna Simon, Supervisor of Elections and Chief Elections Officer, Ms. Samantha Leacock, Data Processing Manager, and Public Relations Consultant, Mr. Colin James.

- 1.3 With the General Elections approaching, it became clear that immediately prior to and subsequent to the elections, misinformation was being deliberately fed to the general public in general and to the party faithful in particular. This misinformation and general propaganda was systematically disseminated on political platforms and in news conferences held by both main political parties, but most notably by officers of the United Progressive Party (UPP), the Chairman of which persisted in making false and malicious statements aimed at members of ABEC, the Supervisor of Elections, and other senior and junior administrative staff.
- 1.4 Not surprisingly, therefore, the unfortunate situation at the polls occurred, not only in a highly charged political atmosphere, but at a time when the Commission, its servants and agents were openly accused (without any evidence credible or otherwise) of attempting to adversely influence the coming General Elections by padding voters lists with certain supporters of the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) by registering persons not qualified to vote under the provisions of the Representation of the People Acts 17 of 2001 and 11 of 2002.

- 1.5 In light of these scurrilous allegations and the resulting hysteria among certain sections of the public, I have decided not to simply make an oral public statement, but to set out in some detail, the extent of the task and challenges facing ABEC in the weeks leading up to the Elections, the meticulous preparation in respect thereof, and the unexpected and unavoidable breakdown of equipment which resulted in the late opening of the poll in some six constituencies. The Commission has also decided to record its position in writing for the widest possible publication.

2. **THE FACTS**

- 2.1 Shortly before the 2004 polls (some two weeks or so) a number of questions were raised by certain members of the public concerning the legal proper established boundaries between areas in the constituencies of St. George, St. Peter and All Saints West. As a result, as time progressed it became increasingly clear that persons had for a protracted period been registered in constituencies other than the one in which they resided, mainly due to the fact that these boundaries consisted of imaginary lines, across which communities and housing developments had intruded. Due perhaps to the imminent general elections of 2004, no objections were

ever made by either of the political parties or candidates in respect of these anomalies, and the elections proceeded on lists that were clearly invalid, in that hundreds of voters in some 12 constituencies voted in the wrong constituencies, which could have resulted in these elections being declared null and void, had there been challenges in most of these constituencies. There being none, the elections were deemed to be a tremendous success, in spite of the existing gross and patent irregularities

2.2 This untenable situation was left unattended, and persons continued to be registered in incorrect constituencies, and concern continued to mount within certain constituencies (particularly in St. Mary's North). Notwithstanding the fact that we were not the Antigua and Barbuda Boundaries Commission, and there being no Boundaries Commission in place, ABEC felt duty bound to raise this troubling issue publicly, thereby informing all stake holders, and the general public, of the incorrect delineation of boundaries within the relevant constituencies.

2.3 In this regard in about the month of January 2007, the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) together with the CEO/Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Lorna Simon, directed their collective

attention to the continuing issue of the ongoing cross constituency registration, and on Ms. Simon's advice engaged the services of Mr. Rendell O'Neal, an experienced surveyor, and one of the most knowledgeable persons with regard to establishing the correct boundaries of each and every constituency within the state of Antigua and Barbuda, as a Consultant to the Commission.

- 2.4 Following on Mr. O'Neal's engagement and acting on his advice, the Commission engaged in a series of field visits together with the Consultant to identify those boundaries that were creating difficulties, and to draw these areas to the attention of all the political stake holders, so that the problems could be addressed in a timely manner. On conclusion of these visits, it became clear to the Commission, that a Boundaries Commission needed be appointed by the Hon. Prime Minister, as a matter of the utmost urgency, so that the boundaries anomalies could be immediately rectified, and the Commission afforded enough time to regularize and rationalize its electoral lists, consequent upon any changes that may have been recommended by the Boundaries Commission, and passed by the House of Representatives.

2.5 I am sure that members of the media, and the general public will recall the intense efforts made by ABEC to inform the general public of its findings, following the field visits and our informing the public and media of the measures that would need to be taken to rectify the existing illegal situation. ABEC did so by holding a public forum at the Multipurpose Centre in February 2007, attended by all stake holders, including candidates, government ministers, and party officials. ABEC's Chairman, Deputy Chairman, individual commissioners and the PRO were all interviewed frequently on various radio programs, talk shows, and television programs, dealing with this long outstanding situation as well as other electoral matters.

2.6 **Suffice it to say that notwithstanding all of the above no attempt was made to set up the Boundaries Commission until on or about the month of July or August 2007.** The Boundaries Commission as it was first constituted had as its Chairman Senator Lionel Gomes, and Mr. Hugh Marshall Snr., as an appointee of the Leader of the Opposition.

Unfortunately Senator Gomes took seriously ill and had to journey abroad for medical attention, and for reasons unknown to ABEC, Mr. Hugh Marshall Snr., never took up his position, and was replaced by Mr.

Hilroy Humphreys, who was appointed on the 8th November, 2007. The Boundaries Commission completed its work and forwarded its report to the Speaker on the 30th June 2008.

- 2.7 Having in its possession the report of the Boundaries Commission, the resulting resolution was never adopted by the House of Representatives until the 17th September, 2008 (see Statutory Instrument No. 50/08) some 2½ months or eighty (80) days after receipt of the report. The resulting Order adopting the report was further delayed and was belatedly gazetted on the 11th December, 2008 with a copy of the report being delivered to me the third week in December 2008. **Astonishingly, therefore, the House of Representatives took just shy of six months or some 170 days to attend to this most important matter giving the Commission a scant 2½ months or 75 days to complete the boundaries transfers and prepare for General Elections which were subsequently held on the 12th March 2009.**

3. PROCESSING & ISSUING OF LOST, STOLEN & DEFACED ID CARDS

- 3.1 The second factor which contributed to the overwhelming of the Commission's resources, both personnel, and equipment, was ABEC's

effort to provide each and every elector who had lost cards or had them stolen or defaced with replacement cards, so that no one would be disenfranchised.

3.2 The media, and the political parties and candidates, are well aware of the repeated collective efforts of ABEC, to encourage first time registered voters to collect their ID Cards from the various registration units in their constituency. We heightened our efforts in this regard once we had purchased our own card printing machine, and had printed all outstanding current cards by September 2008, these would have included cards that had been printed as far back as the post Elections in 2004, and which remained uncollected.

3.3 While persons unfamiliar with the Electoral process may consider that there was nothing wrong with ABEC's acting as a depository or safety deposit box for persons ID Cards, this ought not to happen. The fact is that these cards are taken to and from the Registration Units by the various Registration Officers so that they can be readily available to the General Public. However, walking around with thousands of ID cards on a daily basis, by registration officers presented a daily risk and danger that

these cards by dint of accident, theft, or design, could fall into the wrong hands. For this reason Electoral ID cards must be placed into the hands of individual electors as soon as possible after printing.

3.4 Notwithstanding the above, the issue of the non collection of first time and current cards was not a major contributing factor to the Commission's difficulties leading up to the Poll. **The problem lay in the processing and printing of the 2471 cards reported as lost up to a March 8th deadline, and a further 698 cards reported lost between the 9th – 12th March, election day.**

3.5 It must be said that the Commission, being knowledgeable of Caribbean people, and cognizant of the proclivity of Antiguan and Barbudans to wait until the last minute to attend to important matters, and noting that we were getting no assistance from the political parties, increased its public relations effort in respect of this aspect of ABECs operations, and our PRO Mr. Colin James together with all of us at the Commission, whenever we appeared on the media, persistently stressed the need for persons to collect completed cards and to report lost, stolen and defaced cards to the Commission in a timely manner.

3.6 Notwithstanding the fast approaching General Elections the request for replacement cards remained a trickle even though many more persons had begun to apply to be registered as electors. Following the announcement of the date for elections, there commenced a rush to report lost, stolen, or defaced cards, at this time the election was upon us, and consequently the Commission deemed it necessary to introduce a cut-off date upon which a person could report a lost or stolen card, of forty-eight (48) hours prior to polling day. This announcement caused a storm of protest from the ALP and the UPP but more particularly from the UPP, and it was strongly suggested by both parties that reports of lost, stolen and defaced cards should be accepted, and a special ID card provided for the entire period even up to and including Election Day at whatever time. Cognizant of the Commission's duty to enfranchise as many people as was humanly possible, ABEC reacting to the various representations took a long and close second look at its previous decision, and amended that decision to read as follows:

- (i) that the cut off date for the reporting of lost, stolen, and defaced cards would be Friday the 6th March, 2009

at 6:00pm and the cut off date for collection of those cards would be Tuesday, 10th March at 6:00 pm.

- (ii) cards for first time Registrants should be collected at the Registration Units up to March 11th at 6:00 pm. **This, the Commission was advised by the Supervisor of Elections and had no reason not to accept, would be more than enough time to complete ALL preparations for commencement of General Elections at 6:00 am on Thursday, 12 March, 2009.** This information was immediately imparted to the public, and electors were urged to report lost cards and collect them as soon as possible.

3.7 Following publication of the above information, I received from the Chairman of the UPP correspondence dated the 27th February 2009, and captioned “Issuing of Temporary Voter Identification Cards”. It must be noted that several weeks before, at a meeting between the Commission and the UPP, at which Chairman Symister was present, as was the Hon. Prime Minister, the matter of the 48 hours cut off period was extensively discussed. This letter therefore (a copy of which is appended and marked “A”) which was copied to the Hon. Prime Minister seemed to me to have been disingenuous.

3.8 Notwithstanding, I personally replied to the Chairman, by letter dated the 3rd March 2009, and copied to the Hon. Prime Minister. In my letter I wrote inter alia as follows:

“As you are probably aware, the staff of the Commission is presently grappling with the hundreds of electors who are now reporting or collecting lost cards, most of which were lost several months and even years ago (indeed as far back as 2004). As a result, the Commission’s human resources are being stretched to the limit, with staff members working until well after midnight, and on some cases up to 4:00 am. **In these circumstances the Commission has had to review its previous policy to ensure that CHAOS on polling day does not occur.** (our emphasis) the letter also went on to **“seek your party’s cooperation and the candidates in disseminating the information with regard to the issuing and collection of ID cards”**. (A copy of ABEC’s letter is appended herewith and marked “B”.)

3.9 Most unfortunately, not only did we not receive the cooperation as sought, Chairman Leon “Chaku” Symister while chairing a political rally at Justice Square on the night of Tuesday, 10th March 2009 instead exhorted the several thousand persons that they should not bother with the

Commission, if they wanted their cards **“to go up to the Commission they, can’t stop you, they have to give you your card.”**

3.10 Not surprisingly this reckless, unfortunate and inciting statement had immediate effect, and on the following day, over 300 hundred persons descended on the Commission’s headquarters clogging the stairway and the administrative offices, and refusing to move. **While some of these persons were orderly, many others were aggressive, disorderly, and intimidatory, to such an extent that an extra police presence had to be called in.** In the face of all of this ID cards, as noted before continued to be printed, and distributed, up to the eve of the election notwithstanding the cut off dates, as directed by the Commission.

3.11 The matter however does not end there, at a meeting with the core group of the CARICOM observers on the 6th March, 2009, some 3-days after my letter to Mr. Symister, the group informed the Commission that senior officials of the UPP and ALP had complained that ABEC was holding cards at the Commission headquarters and refusing to distribute them. Explanations were given to the group by the Commissioners and our letters in this regard disclosed to them, which they read and found the

contents to be “**clear and precise**”. The Observers however suggested that notwithstanding the above we again communicate with the parties. In this regard and acting on our instructions, a letter dated 7th March, 2009 was dispatched to the Chairman of both parties by our Legal Counsel Mrs. E. Patricia Simon-Forde, the letter is explanatory. A copy of the letter is appended and marked “C”.

3.12 We have gone to great lengths to bring these facts to the media and the public to indicate the consistent pressure to produce voter ID cards placed on the Commission by leading figures of the political parties even after being warned of the possibility of “**Electoral chaos on Election Day**”.

3.13 In order to more fully apprise everyone of the intense effort put out by the Commission’s staff, and the inherent difficulties they faced, a report compiled by Commissioner Agnes Blaize is appended herewith and entitled. “**Report related to 5000 replaced Voter ID cards printed between November 2008 and March 12 2009 “The effect on the system**”. A copy of this report is appended hereto and marked “D”.

4. **THE UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTION OFFENCES AND PADDING OF VOTERS LISTS.**

- 4.1 During the immediate months leading up to the General Election, during and even post election, the Chairman of the UPP has persistently accused ABEC, the Supervisor of Elections and its entire staff, of a variety of electoral malpractices, including but limited to the inclusion of persons on the voters list that were not qualified to be registered, the padding of electoral lists, all in favour of the ALP. He continued to do so by way of press conferences, platform speeches, and other public statements, one of the last being an interview on ABS, at the swearing in of the Cabinet, when he again made these accusations when dealing with matters unrelated to the registration of voters. It is important to note that Mr. Symister has only been able to refer to a single registration of an elector, whom he claims was incorrectly transferred to the constituency of St. Peter while residing in another constituency. In fact this was never the case and that elector's name was put on list C, to be subjected to claims and objections and was not placed directly onto the revised register as claimed. The matter was investigated and it was concluded that the

Supervisor's actions was based on commonsense, was legally proper, and dealt with a good in good faith. The Supervisor's letter in this regard to the Registration Officer is appended and marked "E".

- 4.2 The only other reason given in support of the UPP's complaint was that non-nationals who had failed to apply for and pay for extensions to stay in Antigua were allowed by the immigration department to pay up the arrears of payments owed and to regularize their stay in Antigua and Barbuda. These persons were given special receipts, which they used as evidence to support legal residence for a continued period of three (3) years thereby enabling them to register to vote. This information was relayed to me while in the United States by Mr. Symister at the end of August, 2008, at which time I was totally unaware of this illegal practice. Upon my return to Antigua and at the very first meeting of the Commission, I raised the issue as an agenda item, and advised the Commission that this practice was illegal and had to cease immediately. I gave the Commission the benefit of my legal knowledge and discussed the matter at length with the Commission's Legal Counsel. Consequent upon this, I convinced the Commission of the illegality and danger of this exercise, and a formal decision was taken to discontinue the practice. I

accordingly prepared and drafted a media release which was signed by our Public Relations Consultant dated the 22nd October, 2008, and distributed to the media and political parties. A copy of the said release is appended hereto and marked “F”. The practice ceased immediately thereafter.

4.3 This matter however did not end there as further inquiries clearly indicated, that this practice had commenced as far back as prior to the 2004 General Elections, and was a decision taken by the McClin Matthias Commission which included Deputy Chairman Bruce Goodwin, Commissioner Nathaniel “Paddy” James, Bishop Ewing Dorsett and Winston Gomes and appears to have been taken after consultations with leading officials in both the ALP and UPP. Indeed my investigations have disclosed that, at some of these discussions Col. Clyde Walker (Ret.) was consulted and after consultations advised the Commission with regard to the issuing of the receipt in question in order to prove continuous residence. An actual form was presented to the then Commission to be used in support of this type of registration but was never used on the advise of the former Attorney General, the Hon. Gertel Thom. Thereafter an ordinary receipt was issued by the Immigration

Department and accepted by the Registration Officer. A copy of the form is appended herewith and marked “K”. While it is accepted that the present Chairman of the ALP and UPP were not parties to those discussions, it is ironical that the charges leveled against the present Commission was in respect of a practice developed by the former Commission in conjunction with both political parties. **It is also most important that the present Commission continues to be pilloried by the Chairman and others in the UPP, when that party through its leadership was itself involved in the consultations in this regard, and had at best agreed, or at worst condoned the decision to register non nationals by presentation of a receipt of paid up arrears.** Not surprisingly however, the strident and sustained verbal attacks in this regard, set off a chain reaction, resulting in mostly uninformed public debate and malicious and unwarranted attacks on the Commission.

- 4.4 In this regard, I am reminded of the words of a former Chairman of the UPP Mr. Vincent (Tubby) Derrick, who has aptly posited as follows: **“there is a politics of noise and a politics of knowledge, in Antigua and Barbuda, unfortunately, the politics of noise is more influential than the politics of knowledge”**, to this quotation must be added the

politics of ignorance. In the circumstances, ABEC feels obliged to put all of the true facts before the Antigua people.

5. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AND THE DUTIES OF THE SCRUTINEERS

5.1 Section 9(1) of the Registration Regulations of the Antigua and Barbuda Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2002 No. 11 of 2002 provides for the appointment of scrutineers and states in this regard as follows:

Section 9(1) Every political party that is represented in the House of Representatives shall be entitled to nominate not more than two scrutineers in connection with any registration exercise pursuant to Section 18(1) of the Act in every registration unit in each constituency.

(2) Every independent member of the House of Representatives shall be entitled to nominate not more than two scrutineers in connection with any registration exercise in every registration unit in the constituency which he represents.

- (3) Each political party or independent member, as the case may be, shall appoint its scrutineers and shall within three days after appointing inform the Chief Registration Officer in writing of the names of the persons whom it has appointed.
- (4) Each political party referred to in such regulation (2) may **appoint not more than two scrutineers to monitor registration voting of each place where continuous registration is designated to take place pursuant to regulation 28.**

Section 10 **The duty of each scrutineer is to monitor the registration procedures in the Registration Unit for which he is appointed.**

In all of the above sections the regulations have been amended **to substitute the word ‘examine’ for the word “monitor”.**

5.2 It is blindingly obvious that the conjoint provisions of Section 9 and 10 of the Regulations (**Section 10 sets out the duties of the scrutineers**), and **provides for the appointment of scrutineers. They are the agents of the political parties in Parliament and not the agents of the**

Commission, they are appointed by the political parties, and paid from the public purse. The primary if not sole purpose is to assist the registration officers in ensuring that persons who apply to register as voters, are qualified to do so under the provision of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act Nos. 17 of 2001 and 11 of 2002. They are also given and expected to pass on to their respective political parties all information gathered by the Registration Office on a daily basis. They are also entitled to, and expected to accompany the Registration Officer to verify the residences of applicants who are unknown to Registration Officers, and scrutineers alike. These scrutineers are expected to provide the information necessary to their political parties to enable them to utilise their legal rights under the sections provided for claims and particularly objections.

- 5.3 It is abundantly clear that the provisions of Section 9 and 10 of the Regulations as stated above, make the political parties a legal and vital part of the process, and provides wide authority to the parties through their scrutineers, to ensure that only legally qualified persons are registered as electors and consequently lists compiled by the Commission

after scrutiny and subjection to the process of claims and objections are “clean”. **The Chairmen, political leaders and party officials of the parties, and the candidates cannot absolve themselves from blame, in allowing, to use their own words, “hundreds of persons” to get on to the voters list who are ineligible, either by virtue of a lack of qualification or residence.**

5.4 Further it does not lie in the mouth of Mr. Symister and certain candidates within the respective parties to question the accuracy of lists **where for an entire term of 5 years, neither party has lodged a single claim or objection, particularly objections in respect of the thousands of registrants during this period, save for objections made at the last minute in December, 2008 by St. John’s Rural West and being a mere 16 in number.**

5.5 I have personally, as have other members of the Commission, consistently drawn the political parties attention to the duty the Act bestows upon them, and have attempted to impress upon them the fact that they are a vital part of the process, this has been to no avail. These persons however

find more comfort in finger pointing and empty rhetoric, which adds little or nothing to this important democratic process.

5.6 **I have previously on a number of occasions indicated to the media and the public that the political parties and their candidates are oblivious to the duties that the Representation of the People (Amendment) Acts requires of them; ignorant of the relevant sections of the Acts which governs the whole electoral process; and appear to be unconcerned with whether persons applying to be registered are qualified to do so.** The media however appears not to consider this important and has never highlighted this aspect. It has preferred to cover other inaccurate and irrelevant utterances by so called electoral experts, designed mainly to embarrass the Commission, and in fact serves to mislead the general public. The most recent gaffe by a recent candidate serves to highlight this issue.

5.7 On Wednesday, 25th March, 2009, the UPP candidate for St. John City West in the General Elections, called in to the program “Voice of the People”. The candidate appeared to be explaining the fact that he and his campaigners had failed to find and identify some 900 persons who appeared on the voters list and whom they could not find. Some 400 of

them he said turned up to the polls on Election Day. He proceeded to bemoan the fact, that ABEC had failed to publish the provisional October list as prescribed by law and instead had published the same shortly before the Christmas holidays. Consequently, “they” had no real opportunity to scrutinize the list prior to the General Elections and to find these persons.

5.8 Further he opined that the law required the Registration Officers to participate in the verification process, hinting that they had not done so. Luckily I happened to be driving to lunch when the candidate made these startling, astonishing, and completely false statements, were made. The PRO of ABEC was able to step in and publish a press release indicating the truth of the matter. (a copy of the media statement is appended hereto and marked “G”). The release is self explanatory.

5.9 What the Commission finds most amazing, is that this candidate by his own admission had waited until the very last moment to scrutinize the December 2008 list, and to ensure its accuracy, when the opportunity was given to him, his campaign group, and his party to peruse all registrations on a monthly basis, and to locate, identify, and to verify each and every new registrant, and to object to that person if he or she did not qualify.

Instead he was attempting to do so at the eleventh hour, in the face of imminent General Elections. It must be emphasized that this candidate is not alone, as many if not all of the candidates were similarly guilty in this regard.

5.10 It is important for the general public to note the views expressed by Dame Billie Miller, Chief of Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) Observer Group and His Excellency Ambassador Albert Ramdin, two most experienced persons in respect of electoral matters, and the holding of General Elections. Dame Miller at the press conference held prior to her departure, and in speaking to the delays of the opening of the poll in six (6) constituencies inter alia had this to say.

“all stake holders including political parties are culpable – not just the Electoral Commission.” Other relevant statements by the Head of Mission at the aforesaid press conference are reproduced in an article written by Lynroy Samuel Jr. in the March 24th issue of the Daily Observer, are as follows:

“at a press conference the day after the General Elections, Dame Billie (Miller) endorsed the

action of the Electoral Commission which has blamed the delays mainly on the issuing of 5,000 replacement voter ID cards too close to Election Day. Sir Gerald Watt QC has said the options were to issue the cards or to disenfranchise the voters by holding on to the cards. **Dame Billie said that while the breakdown took place on Election Day the problem began long before. She reasoned that if political parties and electors had used the continuous registration process to ensure such things as a clean voters list, that people were registered, and cards were in order, the inordinate delays wouldn't have occurred. Dame Miller also agreed with the Commission's decision to err on the side of not disenfranchising those persons who had lost their cards was the correct one.**

5.11 Not surprisingly both Mr. Symister and Mr. Lester Bird have voiced their disagreement with the above assessment and Mr. Symister continues to hold this Commission blameworthy and to absolve himself and his party from all blame. Once again, the politics of noise, has been preferred over the politics of knowledge.

6. **WAS THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION PREPARED?**

6.1 In replying to this question the Commission deems it necessary to chronicle the various steps necessary to be taken consequent upon the Prime Minister's announcement of General Elections and the issuing of the writ of election by Her Excellency the Governor General. In this regard we append a checklist of all those things that needed to be done prior to the poll. The press, and the public must be made to understand that prior to an election the electoral office must function and continue to carry out its mandate of continuous registration, preparation and publication of all statutory lists, and printing of ID cards both current and replacement. Preparation for a General Elections are superimposed upon these continuing functions.

6.2 Commencing from the beginning of polling day, a stream of misinformation has been spewed out on the radio waves. Among the falsehoods circulated were that the ballots in respect of the six (6) constituencies were not printed and ready, there was no available electoral ink, electoral poll officials were not in place, and there were no registers available to commence the poll. **I wish to state emphatically that the**

only electoral paraphernalia or equipment not ready and available were the register for elections in those six (6) constituencies also referred to as the photo register. In fact the ballots which were printed, and audited by PriceWaterHouseCoopers and shrink-wrapped were all completed on Tuesday 10th March at the Electoral Commission, ink together with containers were in our possession and stored months before March 2009. Although our PRO Mr. Colin James continually assured the media that there was no shortage of these items, they continued to publish the fabrication, that the ballots were not printed and that there was no available electoral ink.

6.3 Further a complete set of new ballot boxes were sourced, purchased, and stored at headquarters, as were the blank ballot papers months before together with the validity ballot seals. The final equipment to arrive were the voting booths, which were sourced in St. Lucia and arrived on island as early as 15th February 2009.

6.4 Training and grading of electoral officials i.e. Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, and poll clerks were completed on the 6th day of March 2009. Presiding Officers were presented with all equipment

necessary for opening the poll, (other than certain registers) on the afternoon and evening of the Tuesday, the 11 March, 2009.

6.5 Finally, all buildings to be used as polling divisions and stations in the 17 constituencies, 151 in all, were identified and secured several weeks and in some cases months before the election (with one or two exceptions), and were all prepared for the day of the poll at 6:00 am on the 12th March 2009. All that remained to be completed was the printing of the photo register which conventionally is the last task to be completed and which could reasonably be expected to have been completed at or before 3:00am on Thursday the 12 March. As a result of the above the Commission maintains that for all intents and purposes it was ready for the poll on the 12th March.

7. THE PRINTER MALFUNCTION AND EVENTS LEADING TO LATE OPENING OF POLLS

7.1 Immediately after the late opening of the polls and the affected constituencies, as Chairman I issued a short statement to the press, apologizing for the lateness of the poll both to the candidates and especially the voters who had spent long periods in line waiting for the

commencement of voting. I also explained that the sole reason as I understood it at the time for the inordinate delay was caused by the late printing of the photo register for the six (6) constituencies caused solely by a printer malfunction of our newest and fastest printer, which slowed down printing dramatically.

7.2 It is important to note that the Data Processing Manager had to print 151 Photo Registers individually and separately. Each register was assigned to a specific Polling Station in the respective constituencies and could not be used in another station. In other words, the Register for Polling district “A” in a constituency could not be used in Polling District “B” in the same constituency. **The constituencies, therefore which were affected by the late opening, were those which were mostly affected by the boundaries transfer. It is important to note that in the constituencies where there were little or no boundary transfers, those Registers were printed on time and resulted in the early opening of 11 of the 17 constituencies.**

7.3 It must be noted that Polling District “B” in St. John’s Rural West constituency opened the latest. That was because there had to be late verification of several people who were transferred from St. John’s Rural

South, and as a consequence, that Register (Polling District “B” in St. John’s Rural West) was the last to be printed. It could be wrongly interpreted that because the Register for Elections was published on February 27, 2009, that the Photo Register could be simply duplicated by the press of a button on a photocopier.

7.4 However, this could not be done. The master Register for Elections in fact had to be broken down into 151 polling stations to accurately indicate where someone should vote. Each of the Photo Registers had to be printed at least **four (4) times** for copies to be available for the Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, Party Agents and/or candidates as is the practice.

7.5 **This should make it clearer as to the meticulous exercise that had to be carried out to ensure the printing of the registers was done professionally. It has to be admitted that once the registers become available in the affected constituencies the entire process proceeded smoothly with no further glitches or difficulties.**

7.6 Following the events on polling day, and in order to ascertain exactly what went wrong I requested a report from our Data Processing Manager, Ms. Samantha Leacock, her report dated Tuesday 17th March is appended hereto and marked “H” Her report is captioned **“Report concerning the late publication of Photo Register for Elections” and is self explanatory.**

7.7 Prior to the purchase of a brand new Hewlett Packard 4515N printer, printing was done by 2 older HP900N printers, which printers without an upgrade, were able to print on only one side of documents/papers. Realizing that greatly increased printing would be needed both in respect of registers to reflect hundreds of boundary transfers, and an increased quantity of ballots, Ms. Leacock sought permission from our Financial Comptroller Mrs. Rosita Francis to purchase a new printer. Further to the above, two Duplexes were purchased, the purpose of which was to enable the older printers to literally double their capacity. Incidentally, the capacity of the new and improved printer was sixty two pages per minute while the other two were initially 45 pages per minute and were upgraded to sixty five pages per minute. All told it was expected that printing would proceed at one hundred and ninety two pages per minute.

7.8 **The Commission is advised and verily believes that but for the malfunction of the new printer, completion of printing the photo registers was expected to be completed at or about 4:00 am on the 12th March give or take thirty minutes. Indeed up to the period of the malfunction, three of the largest constituencies amongst others had been completed.**

7.9 The Commission is aware of the suggestions that the Commission should have printed the ballots and the Photo Register earlier. This would have been quite impossible, in that the register had to be continually amended as boundary transfers continued to take place, and until the final figure of voters in a constituency is established, ballots cannot be printed. Further, in elections, ballots that are printed and left hanging around or even stored, could present a serious security risk, by dint of some of these ballots falling into the wrong hands.

8. **THE FINANCES OF ABEC AND THE FINANCING OF THE ELECTION**

- 8.1 Mindful of the many questions circulating in the wake of the General Elections, viz why did not the Commission employ more people to assist in the identification of voters in the cross boundary transfers? Why couldn't the Commission purchase even more printers for the Commission and keep them in reserve? etc. The simple answer to those question is money and time.
- 8.2 From the very inception the Electoral Commission has been treated by government and the Ministry of Finance as just another government department which is contrary to law. Shortly after my assuming the chairmanship of ABEC on 1st October 2005, and while familiarizing myself with the Representation of the People (Amendment) Acts Nos. 17 of 2001 and 11 of 2002, I came upon the following provision in Section 7(4) of No. 17 of 2001 which reads as follows:

“The Commission shall prepare its general budget proposal and submit them to the minister who shall seek the approval of Parliament of the budget as proposed by the Commission”.

8.3 This section of the law clearly envisages that the Commission's budget was to be submitted to the Minister responsible for the Commission (that being the Hon. Prime Minister at the relevant time) who would place the budget before Parliament as a separate entity to the annual budget. This budget would be debated during the budget debate, but once it was passed the Commission would have its own imprest or account from which it could draw down on its funds as approved, in order to conduct its business. Instead the Commission must submit vouchers to the Treasury as does any government department, and then join the line at the Treasury, whose officials will release the funds if and when they are good and ready. Indeed it must be noted that Mr. David Matthias, Budget Director at the Ministry of Finance has had to come to our assistance on many occasions in order to access funds for vital matters pertaining to the operation of the Commission. The Commission is beholden to him.

8.4 In or about mid 2005, the Commission as a body met with the Hon. Prime Minister by appointment. Present were Dr. Errol Cort, Minister of Finance and the Attorney General, Hon. Justin Simon QC. A number of important matters were discussed, most importantly the whole question of financing of the Commission. All present agreed that the interpretation of

Section 7(4) was that the Commission should control its own funds once its budget had been presented and passed. Steps were to be taken by Finance to work out a mechanism to facilitate this. During the ensuing three years, on a number of occasions the Prime Minister and I discussed the importance of this budgetary matter, and I am of the view that he genuinely wished the Commission to be properly financed. However the fact is that nothing happened in this regard, and whenever money was needed we stood in line at the Treasury, like any one else waiting for the Treasury to attend to matters of urgency, with its usual alacrity or lack of it. On the 15th May, 2008 the projected budget for General Elections was forwarded to the Budget Director Ministry of Finance in the sum of \$710,000.00. **On 25th July 2008, the sum of \$150,000 by Special warrant was approved and released thus enabling the Commission to purchase, ballot boxes, ballot papers and seals. No other funds were released to enable the Commission to prepare for the elections until the 30th January 2009, when the Supervisor of Elections and the Financial Comptroller visited the Ministry of Finance and pleaded for the release of the balance of the funds, as a result of which the sum of \$417,000.00 was set up by imprest warrant some three weeks before the**

elections were called, the total released was \$562,000.00 some \$188,000.00 less than had been budgeted and requested.

- 8.5 It must be made clear that the Commission is not seeking here to point fingers neither are we seeking to find excuses, however, political parties, candidates and the general public must be made aware of the difficulties and financial constraints under which the Commission has operated to date; and the Commission cannot be expected to equip itself and operate at its optimum without the resources necessary to do so.

9. THE CALLS FOR RESIGNATION

- 9.1 Following the elections there has been a number of calls for the mass resignations of not only the Commissioners of ABEC, but also the Supervisor of Elections, and in some extreme cases all administrative employees both senior and junior of the Commission. The calls of resignation commenced with the resignation of Commissioner Bishop Ewing Dorsett, a Commissioner whose term of office was due to expire on the 4th April, 2009, and who had indicated to me, and to others, that he would not be willing to be re-appointed. I personally do not wish to

question either the bona fides of the Commissioner's resignation or his reasons for so doing, indeed resignation is a matter for one's own conscience. The decision to resign however must be viewed in context.

- 9.2 The first news of Bishop Dorsett's resignation came to my attention and to the attention of the Commission in the late hours of the 12th March, and early hours of the 13th March, during which time he informed the media that he intended to resign. There followed a spate of media appearances on radio and otherwise, at which times the Commissioner gave varying reasons for his resignation. It must be noted that on the night in question, Bishop Dorsett spent a number of hours in the presence of Commissioner Blaize, our Public Relations Consultant, Mr. Colin James and I, during this time he was aware as we were that, the lengthy delay in the opening of some polls, was due primarily to the 'malfunction of "the new printer"' and contributed to by the necessity to process the hundreds of replacement cards so as not to disenfranchise a large and significant number of electors, **and that all other preparations for the elections were firmly in place.** Up to this time we were not made aware of any other concerns held by the Commissioner.

9.3 What is curious however, is that following upon his eventual resignation, Bishop Dorsett has stressed on a number of occasions **“that the Commission was not to be blamed for the delay, it (having) been assured that everything was in place and the Supervisor (was) ready”**. That being the case, it is difficult to understand the Commissioner’s position, as it would appear that he was taking this course of action, even though neither he, nor the Commission was at fault. Further, Bishop Dorsett’s “knee jerk” action was taken even before the preliminary position as espoused by Ambassador Albert Ramdin and Dame Billie Miller at the press conference of the OAS Observer Team, herein before referred, and which was most favourable to ABEC, and critical of the political parties. Further the decision to resign was taken before reports of any of the Observer Groups have been completed and circulated, and have found ABEC to be culpable.

9.4 I wish to make my position in this matter clear. The facts at my disposal do not disclose, any negligence gross or otherwise by me as Chairman or any other member of the then Commission as constituted. The Commission has not been shown to have failed to prepare itself for the General Elections even under the most trying circumstances. I am

fortified in my position in view of the comments of Dame Billie Miller and the contents of the report of the Antigua Christian Council/United Evangelical Association Observer Group.

- 9.5 In the circumstances I flatly reject the calls for resignation by Ex Commissioner Bishop Dorsett, the Chairman of the UPP, and Ambassador Bruce Goodwin. I sincerely believe that the resignation of Bishop Dorsett was premature, and that the calls by Chairman Symister are intended to deflect rising criticism of him and his party for its inability and/or failure to properly monitor the electoral registration process and reflects the need of a certain element of its members and supporters to blame the Commission for the UPP's own shortcomings, and its lack of proper preparation in respect of the past General Elections. A copy of Bishop Ewing Dorsett's resignation letter is appended herewith and marked "T". As for Ambassador Goodwin, I personally consider his strident and bellicose intervention in this matter as an Ambassador in the diplomatic service, to be inappropriate, and he himself to be out of order. In any event he has been unable to provide any credible evidence of negligence, wrong doing, or incompetence by the Commission as a whole,

or any individual Commissioner, and seems to believe that bombast will always trump truth and fact.

9.6 While the Commission can understand and appreciate the genuinely strong emotions and feelings engendered by the unfortunate late opening of some polls, it cannot allow itself to be unduly swayed, or hounded, by the excessively loud, uninformed, and irresponsible chatter cluttering the airwaves, the content of which adds nothing to the issue, and is in fact little more than political clap trap.

9.7 The Commission is of the view, that apart from empty and unsubstantiated accusations of incompetence, fraud, and negligence, not one person has been able to identify any incompetent, and or fraudulent act by the Commission as a whole or by any individual Commissioner. While the Commission is saddened by the events of March 12, 2009 and understands the emotion and embarrassment felt by the general public, this in itself cannot be looked at in isolation, and cannot of itself be placed at the feet of the Commission as policy makers.

9.8 **Indeed the facts are that apart from the late opening of the polls which the Commission does not condone, it has to be admitted, that the rest of the election process went smoothly and almost flawlessly, as noted by Dame Billie Miller.** The Commissioner also wishes to point to the following facts:

- (1) apart from the constituencies in which there was the late printing of the photo registers, all other polling stations opened on time.
- (2) all persons who wished to exercise their franchise were able to do so in the affected constituencies by being in the line at 6:00 pm (OAS Observer Group).
- (3) the late opening of the polls did not favour one party over another (OAS Observer Group).
- (4) the General Election other than the late start was concluded professionally and courteously by the

various election officers, and this was noted by the overseas Observers.

- (5) the elections were seen and deemed to be free and fair by various Observer Groups, who have spoken to date.

9.9 The Commission is aware that certain candidates have expressed and are expressing the view, that the late start at the polls adversely affected their chances of winning their seats. The Commission flatly rejects these suggestions, and in support of its position appends to this report the official breakdown of results which show **the average percentage of the vote to be 81.2%. Further perusal shows that there was absolutely no appreciable difference in the percentage of the poll in the affected areas, when compared with the percentage of turnout in those other constituencies in which there were no delays.** A copy of the breakdown is appended to this statement and marked “J”.

9.10 As the media and public would have heard the Hon. Prime Minister has indicated that he intends to mount an inquiry into the events of the 12th March General Elections. The Commission welcomes such an inquiry and will cooperate fully. We however would hope that the terms of

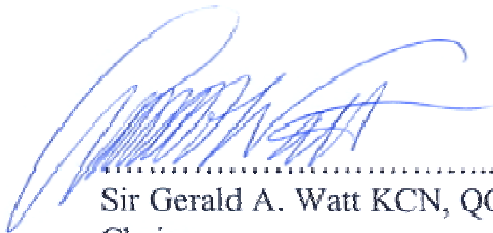
reference of any such inquiry will be wide enough to enable the inquiry to look at the entire electoral system, including inter alia the entire system of registration, the Commission's staffing, headquarters, financing, and the Identification Card process. We would also prefer that the inquiry be chaired by someone with international status and experience in Electoral affairs.

9.11 Finally, the Commission wishes to express its support and gratitude to the Supervisor of Elections and its entire staff, senior and otherwise, together with its Public Relations Consultant for the tremendous effort put in by all to manage the past General Elections as well as they did, in spite of the tremendous challenges which the Commission faced.

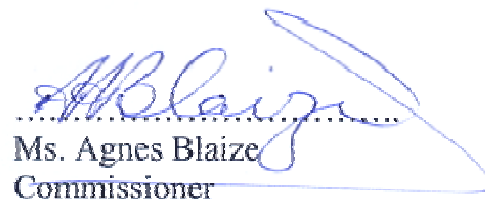
9.12 I trust that this comprehensive statement together with its documentary support, will serve to apprise the media, and through it the general public of the state of events leading up to the General Elections of 12th March, 2009. I feel certain that persons reading the statement fairly, objectively and without political bias will be in a position to fully understand the events as they unfolded, and will be in a position to draw accurate and informed conclusions, as to the actions

of the Commission. The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission
as then constituted asks for no more.

Dated the ... *22nd* day of ... *April* 2009



.....
Sir Gerald A. Watt KCN, QC
Chairman



.....
Ms. Agnes Blaize
Commissioner



MAR - 3 2009

**United Progressive Party (U.P.)
2009 Election Command Center**

Nevis Street, St. John's, Antigua

Tel#: 562-7972

562-7979

Email: info@uppantigua.com

February 27, 2009

Sir Gerald Watt, Q.C.
Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, Antigua
Antigua & Barbuda

Issuing of Temporary Voter Identification Cards

Dear Sir:

I have been directed by the United Progressive Party to inquire as to the ABEC's position regarding the issuing of temporary voter identification card. It is the party's understanding, that the public has been informed that no **Temporary Voter Identification Card** will be issued later than Tuesday March 10, 2009.

Cognizant that an elector will not be allowed to vote unless he or she has a Voter Identification Card, it is critical that the party be informed officially if the information in the public, in this regard is accurate.

The Party would appreciate if the Commission could kindly inform us in writing no later than Tuesday March 3, 2009 of its position.

Additionally, the party to date, has not received any communication regarding its request for a new Polling District in the constituency of St. Peter

Respectfully yours,

Chakir Symister, Chairman

c. Hon. Baldwin Spencer, Political Leader



THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ELECTORAL COMMISSION

DAVID SHOUL BUILDING, QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY, P.O. BOX 664, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA
Tel: (268) 562-4195/6/8, Fax: (268) 562-4331, E-Mail: eleccom@icandw.ag, Website - <http://www.sbec.gov.ag>

Chairman:

Deputy Chairman:

Sir Gerald A. Watt, KCN, QC

Mr. Nathaniel James, OM

Members:

Ms. Agnes Blaize

Bishop Ewing Dorsett

Mr. Winston Gomes

EC 16/4

March 3, 2009

His Excellency

Ambassador Leon "Chaku" Symister Esq.

Chairman

United Progressive Party (UPP)

2009 Election Command Centre

Nevis Street

St. John's

Dear Sir,

Re: Issuing of Temporary Voter Identification Cards

I acknowledge receipt of yours of the 27th February, 2009 in respect of the above captioned subject.

Several weeks ago (indeed months) at a previous meeting of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), the Commission had made a decision that identification cards, and special ID cards would only be issued up to 48 hours before Polling Day.

This policy was introduced as a result of the experience in the last General Elections when the Supervisor of Elections was literally chained to her desk, signing last minute Special ID cards on behalf of persons coming to report lost cards at the very last moment. This impacted negatively on the movements of the Supervisor who was unable to police and monitor the Elections on the ground, and had great difficulty in attending to matters immediately before the Poll.

As you are probably aware, the Staff of the Commission, is presently grappling with the hundreds of electors who are now reporting or collecting lost cards, most of which were lost several months and even years ago (indeed as far back as 2004).

His Excellency
Page 2
March 3, 2009

As a result, the Commission's human resources are stretched to the limit, with staff members working until well after midnight and in some cases up to 4:00 am. In these circumstances the Commission has had to review its previous policy to ensure that chaos on polling day does not occur.

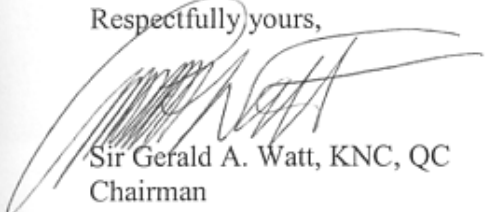
In the premises the Commission wishes to inform the political parties and independent candidates that all reports of lost, damaged or defaced cards must be reported to the Commission's Head Office not later than 6:00 pm on Friday 6th March 2009. All cards including Special ID cards must be collected at the Commission Head Office not later than 6:00 pm on Tuesday the 10th March 2009.

With regard to your request for a new polling division in the Constituency of St. Peter, we are happy to inform you that this has been already done, and there has been created a new polling division (polling division "C") which consists of the electors in that area South of Industrial Drive, Gunthropes and parts of Lightfoot and as appears in the Register for Elections for St. Peter. A copy of the Polling District is herein enclosed.

The Commission seeks your party's cooperation and the candidates in disseminating the information with regard to the issuing of ID cards.

Grateful for your cooperation.

Respectfully yours,



Sir Gerald A. Watt, KNC, QC
Chairman

cc: Hon. Baldwin Spencer
Supervisor of Elections
All Commissioners

Enc. 1



Register for Elections
POLLING DISTRICT LIST

CONSTITUENCY OF St. Peter

POLLING DISTRICT C

ON THE NORTH FROM THE JUNCTION OF THE SIR SYDNEY WALLING HIGHWAY AND INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, WHICH IS LOCATED WEST OF PAYNTERS POND AND GOING IN A EASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE SAID HIGHWAY, PASSING SOUTH OF THE SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM TO THE VERNON'S JUNCTION WHICH LEAD TO PARHAM TOWN.
ON THE SOUTH FROM THAT POINT ON FEVER GRASS DRIVE WHERE THE STREAM CROSSES THE SAID ROAD, THEN IN A EASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG FEVER GRASS DRIVE WHERE IT MEETS THE MAIN ROAD WHICH LEADS TO SEA VIEW FARM, CONTINUING ALONG THE FENCE LINE IN THE SAME DIRECTION TO THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT "MOUNT JOY."
ON THE EAST FROM THE VERNON'S JUNCTION WHICH LEADS TO PARHAM TOWN AND CONTINUING IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION TO THE POINT WHERE IT MEETS THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY AT "MOUNT JOY." ON THE WEST FROM THE JUNCTION OF THE SIR SYDNEY WALLING HIGHWAY AND INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, THEN IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG INDUSTRIAL DRIVE AND TAMARIND TREE DRIVE AND PASSING WEST OF THE WEST-MOST FACTORY DAM, THEN ALONG THE STREAM TO THE POINT ON FEVER GRASS DRIVE WHERE THE SAID STREAM CROSSES THE ROAD, WHICH IS COMMONLY CALLED "BAY VIEW ROAD."

E. PATRICIA SIMON-FORDE

B.A. (Econ) (Hons) (U.W.I.) LLB (Hons) (U.W.I.)
BARRISTER-AT-LAW & SOLICITOR
NOTARY PUBLIC

APPENDIX C

My Reference:

Your Reference:

Chambers:
23 High Street
P.O. Box 1692
St. John's, Antigua
West Indies

7th March, 2009

Ambassador Leon Symister
C/o UPP Command Centre
Nevis Street
St. John's
Antigua

Mr. Lester Bird
Chairman ALP
ALP Headquarters
Nevis Street
St. John's
Antigua

The Honourable Gaston Brown
C/o ALP Headquarters
Nevis Street
St. John's
Antigua



Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the Chairman of the Electoral Commission and its members to communicate with you as regards the following.

At a meeting of the Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) held yesterday, with a core group from the Caricom Observer group, we were informed that you and or your party or political leader had expressed concerns with regard to the cut off period for the collection of replacement cards, that have been reported lost.

We wish to reiterate that the Commission is holding no current cards in respect of all those voters newly registered/ and other voters who have never collected their cards. These cards are at the Registration Units in the 17 Constituencies and can be collected up to 6:00 pm on Wednesday 11th March, 2009.

The cards that are being issued at the Commission's Headquarters are replacements cards that have been reported lost, defaced or destroyed. These are the cards to which the cut off period applies, as issued by the Public Relation Officer, on the 4th March, 2009.

The Commission has also been informed by the Observers of a concern expressed by you to the effect that large blocks of voters are being transferred from one constituency, to another. The Commission is most concerned at this allegation and is calling upon you to provide it with any information, evidence, or instances in support of these allegations, so that this matter can be investigated immediately.

We would wish to have this information, (which is presumably immediately available in light of your complaints), upon receipt of which the Commission will immediately launch a full investigation.

The Commission looks forward to your cooperation and a speedy reply in light of the gravity of the allegations.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Simon-Forde', written in a cursive, flowing style.

.....
E. Patricia Simon-Forde

c.c. The Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Baldwin Spencer,
The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Steadroy Benjamin,
The Chairman ABEC, Sir Gerald Watt Q.C,
The supervisor of Elections, Ms. Lorna Simon,
The Public Relations Officer, Mr. Colin James.

Report Related to 5000+ Replacement Voter I.D. Cards Printed Between November 2008 and March 12th, 2009: The Effect on the System and Staff.

This Report serves to give a synopsis of the effect of printing more than 5000 Replacement I.D. cards on a System already stressed with meeting the deadlines set for General Elections, based on the transfer of persons between constituencies (due to constituency boundary alterations), as well as transferring persons between polling districts within some constituencies.

It is important to note that for the 2004 General Elections, all Data Processing, Ballot Preparation, sequencing of work done in managing the elections, management of Registers of Electors, and reporting in all areas on the Poll was carried out by the Personnel of the Elections Office of Jamaica (E.O.J.) to the exclusion of local staff in certain areas. (In fact it would be fair to say that the 2004 General Elections were carried out by the staff of E.O.J. and that the 2009 General Elections represent the first time our ABEC staff would be managing a General Election exercise). When ABEC'S Data Processing Manager attempted to observe some of the above-mentioned operations being carried out by the E.O.J. staff, she was asked to leave the area. Yet the data processing system that presently operates was created and installed by the E.O.J. under the direction of Mr. Walker. Her ingenuity, tenacity, forbearance, concern and commitment to the importance of this work; the persons she works with; and the persons affected (i.e. the Nation of Antigua/Barbuda); are some of the factors responsible for the "superhuman" efforts exerted in addressing all that needed to be addressed by Ms. Samantha Leacock (Data Processing Manager) in the use of a Data Processing System for which minimal training was provided by the E.O.J. staff. Additionally, the Supervisor of the Data Entry Staff (Ms. Karen Manwarren) exhibited decorum, professional management capability, patience, forbearance and endurance in liaising with the different Registration Officers in the field and Data Entry Clerks in transferring this myriad information into the system to be utilized by the Data Processing Manager, within the short time allotted for this exercise. She then turned her attention and that of the Data Entry Clerks to facilitating the considerable "ground work" necessary to search out files from 2004 to obtain information necessary from Registration Record Cards (RRC) for each person who reported a lost voter I.D. card so that the information may be plugged into the system to retrieve the necessary documents to print the replacement Voter I.D. card. (Over 5000 RRC forms had to be retrieved in this manner to facilitate the persons reporting lost Voter I.D. cards.

The Staff of the Data Processing Unit of ABEC consists of four (4) data entry clerks, including the Supervisor; the Data Processing Manager and a Systems Technician – **a total of six (6) persons.** To prepare the List for Elections and printing same in the required amounts, with all the changes required based on the recent alterations in the Constituency Boundaries, necessitated all members of staff working late into the night and the early hours of the morning, including week-ends. Additional staff from other sections of the office was also utilized.

2.

On top of all of this came the deluge of applications for Replacement of Voter I. D. cards. Between November 2008 and February 15th 2009 **a total of 2, 529 replacement cards** were printed. Between February 16th, 2009 (the day after the P.M. announced the date of National Elections) and March 8th, 2009 (March 6th was the date set as dead-line for reporting lost cards), **a total of 2, 471 cards were printed.** Because of the deluge of persons descending on ABEC'S premises after the dead-line date, and the concern of the Data Entry and Data Processing staff that no one be disenfranchised, **another 698 cards were printed between March 9th – 12th, 2009.** Of these newly printed cards, approximately 100 + were not collected. **These figures do not, obviously, include the total number of lost Voter I.D. cards reported.** Our staff must be highly commended!! **The Data Processing Manager never left the building between March 11th and the night of March 12th except briefly to vote.**

This also obtained for other Senior Staff personnel, some of whom did not even get an opportunity to leave the building to cast their vote on March 12th.

During all this activity related to replacement of lost voter I.D. cards, other duties were required of the Data Processing Manager (who has the responsibility for printing each of these replacement voter I.D. cards); that is: Assisting PricewaterhouseCoopers with the Ballot Printing Exercise between March 8th and March 11th **(The printing of the Ballots could only commence at this time since the new printer ordered for this exercise only arrived in Antigua on Friday March 6th 2009);** printing the separate Photo Registers to be used in **each of the 150 polling districts, bearing in mind the alphabetical breakdown in each area; and then printing the required 'Legal' Register** to be used along with the Photo Registers in each Polling District. This is the sequence required for the printing of these documents to be used during the poll.

The malfunctioning of the New Printer, which was being used for the first time, was not anticipated. This was the instrument obtained to help augment the capacity of the other two (older) printers. With this malfunction occurring about 12:30 A.M. and the Photo Register of the five (5) constituencies where boundary issues existed yet to be completed, only the two older printers were available to complete this work. The capacity of the new printer would have been able to complete all the work necessary at this time within 1 1/2 – 2 hours.

It is clear that the staff of ABEC did all that was humanly possible, given the circumstances; and they should be commended for carrying out yeoman's service (given their small number) rather than being castigated, maligned and threatened as was done by many of the persons who through their own carelessness did not visualize that their Voter I.D. Card is as important as their Driver's License or Bank ATM card.

Signed:

AABlaize
Ms. A. Agnes Blaize
Commissioner



The Antigua and Barbuda
ELECTORAL COMMISSION
QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY
P.O. Box 664
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, W.I.

December 3, 2008

Our Ref: EC 16/4 Vol. 2

Mrs. Coralita Shadrach
Registration Officer
Constituency of St. Peter
Parham

Dear Mrs. Shadrach,

I refer to our conversation today concerning the transfer of electors, as well as to a Minute dated February 22, 1008 to all Registration Officers on the matter of transfers, among other things (copy enclosed for ease of reference).


I reiterate my instruction in the Minute referred to above i.e. an elector can apply for a transfer either in the Constituency in which he/she was registered or the Constituency in which they reside. If the application for the transfer is made in the latter case, the particulars obtained will be Nos. 1-5 **ONLY** of the Transfer Form. The Receipt is issued to the elector and the form is placed in the folder provided at the Commission's Office.

The Registration Officer of the Constituency concerned will process the transfer according to the law. On publication of the LIST C, the information as to whether or not the elector is resident in the new Constituency can be verified, or it can be done after the application for transfer is made.

You are hereby directed to follow the instructions which have been issued by the Commission.

Please be guided accordingly.

Yours faithfully,


Lorna Simon (Miss)
Supervisor of Elections

✓ cc. Gerald A. Watt, KCN, QC
Chairman, Electoral Commission

Scrutineers - ALP, UPP



THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ELECTORAL COMMISSION
DAVID SHOUL BUILDING, QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA
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Chairman: Sir Gerald A. Watt, KCN, QC
Blaize
Deputy Chairman: Mr. Nathaniel James, OM

Members: Ms. Agnes
Bishop Ewing Dorsett
Mr. Winston Gomes

MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2009

Clarification of inaccurate statements made on Voice of the People

The Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) would like to correct certain inaccurate statements made by a caller who was a candidate in the March 12 general elections on OBSERVER Radio's Voice of the People programme on Wednesday, 25 March, 2009.

1. Preliminary List

The caller incorrectly stated: "there was a confusion as to the temporary register of elections which was supposed to have been published at the end of October. When it actually came out, I don't think it really came out until December, about the middle of December which was in the heart of the Holiday season... (then) there was no date stated, I know for a fact that down in (St John's) City West there was no date stated as to when the objections were to be put in."

For the record, the Commission would like to state that the Preliminary List, which included persons, registered up to August 31, 2008, was printed by October 13, 2008 and published by October 31, 2008 according to law. Objections can only be made on Preliminary List published in April and October separate and apart to objections which can be made on the Supplementary List published by the 15 of each month.

The Commission would also like to state that political parties should not wait until the Supplementary List is posted to begin to prepare to make objections because each scrutineer receives a daily record sheet of who applies to be registered including their names, address and occupation so that there can be checks and verification immediately upon registration.

It should also be noted that all Registration Officers carry out residency verification accompanied by scrutineers when necessary.

2. Transfers List – List C

The caller inferred that the **List of Transfers – List C** was not made available for scrutiny. He said: "the accuracy of the Transfer List as well as another issue. Nobody seems to have an accurate account of those people who were transferred. We couldn't find 900 people but 400 of that 900 turned up on Election Day."

The Commission would like to state that since 2004 the List of Transfers has been published in June and December of each year. This List of Transfers is comprised of all the transfers requested by electors for the period specified and published monthly on a List C in each constituency. Scrutineers are also given a copy of the List C as well as the List of Transfers which they can pass on to the candidates.

The Elections Office has also provided each candidate with a list of the all the Transfers between 2004 and 2008.

The Commission hopes that the aforesaid will serve to correct any misconceptions that the caller may have erroneously conveyed.

Signed by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colin James', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colin James
Public Relations Consultant
Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission

□
The Antigua and Barbuda
ELECTORAL COMMISSION
 QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY
 P.O. Box 664
 ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, W.I.

22 October, 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

**CLARIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION AND
RIGHT TO VOTE**

It has been brought to the attention of the Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) that some persons who do not satisfy the residential qualification to register as an elector have been applying to be registered, and presenting a receipt from the Immigration Department indicating that they are currently entitled to reside in Antigua and Barbuda, having paid up any arrears that they have owed having failed as a result of having to apply for an extension of stay previously granted by the Immigration Department.

The Commission wishes to inform the general public that qualification for Registration and the Right to Vote is governed by Section 16 of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2001.

Section 16 subsection (7) states as follows:

"In calculating for the purpose of this Act any period of residence in Antigua and Barbuda account shall not be taken –
 (a) of any period during which a person was not **lawfully resident** (emphasis supplied) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Commission is firmly, of the view that the paying of arrears and bringing one's immigration status into conformity with the law, cannot retroactively make the period during which the said person had overstayed, residence as contemplated by Section 16 (7).

The matter is however put beyond doubt by the provisions of the Immigration & Passport Act Cap 208 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 (Revised) and particularly Section 14 (6) & (7) which states as follows:

14 (6) "Any person who shall remain in Antigua and Barbuda after the **EXPIRATION** or **CANCELLATION** (emphasis supplied) of any permit shall be deemed to have landed in Antigua and Barbuda contrary to the provisions of this section.

□
The Antigua and Barbuda
ELECTORAL COMMISSION
QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY
P.O. Box 664
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, W.I.

And...

14 (7) "Any person who lands in Antigua and Barbuda in contravention of this Section shall be guilty of an offence against this Act."

The aforementioned is for the information and guidance of prospective registrants and for the information of persons who have been wrongly advising persons of their eligibility to register.

The Registration Officers will not be accepting any such receipts. Persons are therefore advised to provide passports duly stamped as proof of their lawful residence in the State of Antigua and Barbuda.

Signed by,



Colin James
Public Relations Consultant
9+

Report concerning the late Publication of Photo Register for Elections

The following serves as my report about the surrounding events that lead up to the Election Day Controversy.

The Photo Register for Elections was a necessity and its lateness was as a result of various factors. The Photo Register was a necessity as the Commission learned of allegations that various political parties intended to print duplicate or imitate Voter ID Cards to those distributed by the Electoral Commission. The Photo coupled with the Register for Elections eliminated any fraudulent play as the details of this register must match those from the **Electoral Commission's In-House System** which may not be duplicated though it may be imitated. The Photo Register is one facet that **must** match the elector ID card details.

The "**Effecting Boundaries Legislation**" caused many changes to be impacted on the Register for Elections. These changes caused the constituencies of St. George and St Peter; St John Rural South and St John Rural West; and St. Mary North to under go many revisions due to the elector address as reflected by the new boundaries.

Secondly, the issuance and printing of lost cards also contributed to this situation as well. There were abnormal reports of lost cards between the time periods leading up to March 12th 2009. Lost cards have been continuously attended to since September 2008, so a backlog situation has never occurred. All reported lost cards were printed in a timely manner as long as the elector record sheet – **RRC document** – was retrieved. As you will recall, this was due to the malfunction with the system that was not fully rectified until August 2008 when I visited the Electoral Office of Jamaica to troubleshoot and resolve the inherent problems. The ID card printing machine though successful at retrieving the elector demographic information failed to display the elector photograph, signature or thumbprint images for printing. However, a work-around was developed and so printing was once more facilitated.

Leading up to the preparation of the Register for Elections, those deceased and requested transfers were applied to the registers for February 25th 2009; this register represented the eligible electors who may 'vote' on Election Day of March 12th 2009. On further inspection, revisions were impacted to various constituencies based on electors' addresses as specified by the **Boundaries Legislation**. These revisions were numerous – approximately twenty-five (25) revisions and completed on March 4th 2009. These revisions were necessary as they allowed for the grouping of electors to the various polling stations based on Constituency, Poll Division Number and Surname. These groupings were further needed in the ballot printing process which commenced from Sunday 8th March 2009 from 7:30 am and culminated Tuesday 10th March 2009 at approximately 9 pm.

Lost cards again were printed on the evening of March 10th 2009. The lost cards leading up the March 8th deadline totaled **2471**; while those lost cards during March 9th – 12th totaled **698**.

Wednesday 11th March 2009, the Photo Register for Elections commenced printing with the following Constituencies: **Barbuda, St John City West, St John City East, St John City South** which was successfully completed by 5pm. Some lost cards were again printed and then the printing of the Photo Register for Elections resumed from 6pm for **St John Rural East, All Saints East & St Luke's, All Saints West, and St Paul** being completed by 2 am Thursday morning 12th March 2009. **St Mary South, St Phillip North, St Phillip South**, and portions of **St John Rural South** was completed by Thursday morning 12th March 2009. During this time period leading up to the 4 am deadline, one of the printers in use suffered a hardware malfunction that caused the printing to be relied upon by two printers. What must further be taken into account is that these printers are the very same printers that mere hours earlier underwent the printing of approximately 56,000 ballots.

It must be pointed out that out of the **three (3)** printers utilized for the printing process, **two (2)** of them are over **six (6) years** old and one was new and recently acquired.

Support staff included Mr. Bernard Andrew, Mr. Daniel Martin and myself, Samantha Leacock. During the Ballot printing process all three listed staff assisted in the printing, compiling and packaging of the ballots which ran from Sunday morning to Tuesday evening. The Ballot printing process commenced from 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning paused at 5 a.m. Monday morning; then resumed 9 a.m. the same morning again breaking at 5:15 am Tuesday morning resuming again at 9 am of the same morning and finally concluding Tuesday evening at 9 p.m. Price Waterhouse & Coopers agents that supervised the whole process changed shifts every six (6) hours; while electoral staff worked throughout the time periods.

The Photo Register printing was undertaken by Mr. Andrew and myself. However, at approximately 12:30 am Thursday morning 12th March 2009, I found myself alone having to compile, print and staple the registers to be distributed until Ms. Valerie Gonsalves-Barrieiro arrived at 1:30 am and gave assistance in collating and sorting the printed registers. Her assistance was an added facet to the process despite the hindrance with one of the printers malfunctioning so late into the printing process.

It is, therefore, my submission that the election preparatory processes were hindered mainly by the time constraint placed upon the Commission. These were made worse by the effecting provisions of the New Boundaries legislation, which further required that the electors be re-distributed in various constituencies. The time constraint may be deduced from the period of the ballot printing coupled with lost cards printing; minimal time to print the required lists immediately following this period to meet the polling day deadline during which no consideration or time to consider approaching the Commission for an extension was allowed. Thus late registers were issued versus none at all.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Leacock', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ms. Samantha. Leacock
**Data Processing Manager,
Electoral Commission**

The Way of The Cross Ministries

Bishop Ewing I.O. Dorsett Sr.

Evangelist, Inspirational Speaker, Radio/TV Minister



16th March 2009

Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda
Prime Minister's Office
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, Antigua

Dear Sir,

I wish to use this medium to formally announce my resignation from the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission. This in light of what could be best described as gross failure to live up to the reasonable expectations of the people of the nation on Election Day (12th March, 2009).

Up to the night before, the commission told the people of the nation that everything was in place for the smooth and timely management of the elections. To my utter surprise and shame things did not work out, as I believed it would.

Sir, I have been distressed at the failure of the commission to foresee the eventual outcome and put forth the necessary efforts to avoid the embarrassment.

Let me use this opportunity to thank you profoundly for the confidence you expressed in me in selecting me to be a member of the commission. I trust that my time and efforts have had a positive impact on our nation.

Yours Respectfully,

Ewing I.O. Dorsett Sr. (Bishop)
The Way of the Cross Ministries

C.C. Her Excellency Dame Louise Lake Tack, GG
C.C. Sir. Gerald Watt QC, Chairman ABEC

BREAKDOWN OF RESULTS OF 2009 GENERAL ELECTIONS

No	Constituency	ALP	BPM	Indep.	OND	UPP	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes Cast	No. of Electors	Percentage Turnout
1	St. John's City West	1365				1118	17	2500	3035	82.37
2	St. John's City East	645				826	14	1485	1855	80.05
3	St. John's City South	816			10	631	14	1471	1849	79.56
4	St. John's Rural West	1753				2259	9	4021	4996	80.48
5	St. John's Rural South	1383				1299	8	2690	3523	76.35
6	St. John's Rural East	1939			76	1843	9	3867	4823	80.18
7	St. John's Rural North	1356				1462	9	2827	3577	79.03
8	St. Mary's North	1757		21		1736	17	3531	4536	77.84
9	S. Mary's South	737			12	1056	8	1813	2176	83.32
10	All Saints East & St. Luke	905			21	1827	8	2761	3457	79.87
11	All Saints West	1195		53		1804	19	3071	3874	79.27
12	St. George	1483				1985	20	3488	4414	79.02
13	St. Peter	1588				923	5	2516	3082	81.64
14	St. Philip North	824				589	27	1440	1693	85.06
15	St. Philip South	311				662	6	979	1160	84.40
16	St.Paul	1127		121		1219	6	2473	3049	81.11
17	Barbuda	473	474				5	952	1084	87.82
Average Turnout										81.02

**COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS
IMMIGRATION STATUS
FOR
ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

1. Surname Telephone Number
2. Other Name(s)
3. Address
4. When did you arrive in Antigua?
5. What is your Nationality?
6. Do you have a Passport?
7. Passport # Date of issue Expiry Date Country
8. Indicate the last date you have applied for an extension
9. Number of Work Permits applied for
10. Are you employed?
11. Name and address of employer
12. Have you ever been convicted of any criminal offence in Antigua or any other country?

I declare that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

.....
Applicant

.....
**Chief Immigration Officer
Certified**

Mr. Simon



Page 1.

Let me explain the different types of Temporary residence and the non-nationals who are eligible to register as a voter in Antigua and Barbuda.

If you are a Commonwealth/Caricom Citizen and you have resided in Antigua and Barbuda for 3 years or more and are 18 years or older, you are eligible to register and vote.

There are 54 Countries in the Commonwealth, I need not go through them at this time, but you would know the Country of your birth, if it is a Commonwealth country or not.

However, if you are from a Caricom Country, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Kitts/Nevis, and you have been residing in Antigua and Barbuda for three (3) years or more and are 18 years or over, you are eligible to register and vote.

1) Prior to January 1, 1999 when the Police were responsible for the administration of Immigration, all Temporary and Permanent residence issued by them to any Commonwealth/Caricom Citizen have been validated by *Sect. 17F of the Immigration and Passport Act (Amendment) No.2 Act 2002*, you are therefore eligible to register and vote if you are still the holder of that Temporary Residence/Permanent Residence.

2) If you are the holder of a Temporary Residence Certificate stamped in your passport as a result of a Cabinet decision 8th November, 2000 which states, that Commonwealth/Caricom citizens who are employed by the Government of Antigua/ Barbuda should be granted Temporary Residence, and you are the recipient of such a Temporary Residence and you have resided in

Page 2.

Antigua and Barbuda for 3 years or more, you are eligible to register and vote. However, if you are the holder of such a Temporary Residence and you have not resided in Antigua/Barbuda for 3 years or more, you are not eligible to register or vote.

3) If you are the holder of a Temporary Residence Certificate because you are married to an Antiguan citizen, and you have lived in Antigua and Barbuda for 3 years or more you are eligible to register and vote providing you are a commonwealth/Caricom citizen over 18 years or over. If you have not lived here for 3 years or more you cannot register or vote, notwithstanding the fact that you hold Temporary Residence status.

4) If you are a holder of a Temporary Residence/Permanent Residence authorized by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda and you are a Commonwealth/Caricom citizen 18 years and over and you have resided in Antigua and Barbuda for 3 years or more, you are eligible to register and vote. If however, you have not lived here for 3 years or more, notwithstanding the fact, that you hold a Temporary Residence authorized by Cabinet, you cannot register nor vote.

5) If you are the holder of a Temporary Residence Certificate issued recently under the Amendment to the Immigration and Passport Act in 2002 and you have resided in Antigua and Barbuda for 3 years or more and you have paid \$300.00 for it, and it is stamped into your passport, authorized by the Hon. Minister of Immigration, and you are a Commonwealth/Caricom citizen 18 years and over you are eligible to register and vote.

Page 3.

- 6) A Commonwealth/Caricom citizen does not have to have a Temporary or Permanent Residence Stamped in his/her passport to make him/her eligible to register or vote. If you have lived here for 3 years or more, once the date of arrival in Antigua and Barbuda is shown in your passport stamped by Immigration authorities at a Port of Entry; you may still go to register, and the Registration Clerk will examine your passport, and having satisfied themselves that you are a Commonwealth/Caricom citizen 18 years and over you will be eligible to register and vote.
- 7) Non-Commonwealth/Caricom citizens resident in Antigua and Barbuda i.e. Syrians, Lebanese, Dominican Republic, Haitians, U.S.A. must be a citizen by registration holding an Antiguan passport for you to be eligible to register and vote.

I repeat, you must be a naturalized Citizen of Antigua/Barbuda holding an Antigua and Barbuda passport to be eligible to register and vote.

It therefore means that if you are the holder of Temporary Residence/ Permanent Residence status and have resided in Antigua/Barbuda for 3 years or more you cannot register because you cannot vote.

8) Amnesty

What is Amnesty?

Amnesty is given to those non-nationals who have been delinquent for a long period and have not gone into Immigration to have their status regularized, to be lawfully residing in Antigua/Barbuda

Page 4.

When Government announced Amnesty, it is for a specific period, in fact, it's going on right now.

Non-Nationals who are delinquent, would come into Immigration where they are interviewed, documented, and those delinquent years or months would be waived, they don't pay for those delinquent years, but those years are still credited to them, when and if they have resided in Antigua/Barbuda for seven (7) consecutive years, when they would be eligible for citizenship.

Now those Commonwealth/Caricom citizens who have been granted Amnesty, and have been resident in Antigua/Barbuda for 3 years or more and are 18 years and over are eligible to register and vote. So those of you Commonwealth/Caricom citizens who have been interviewed and documented for Amnesty, please return to Immigration Headquarters with your passport to have a sticker put in it; this will show the

Registration Officer that you have been granted Amnesty and have resided in Antigua/Barbuda for 3 years or more which make you eligible to register and Vote.

Non-Commonwealth/Caricom citizens who have received Amnesty, and have completed seven (7) years residence in Antigua/Barbuda should go into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and apply for citizenship; your amnesty file will be made available to the Ministry with a report that you have resided here for seven (7) consecutive years or more.

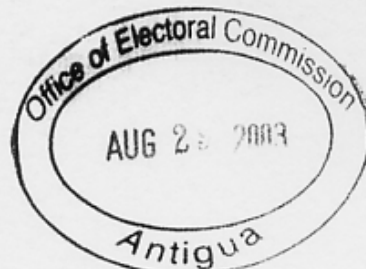
Chwallen ^{LS.}
Chief Immigration Officer

E. PATRICIA SIMON-FORDE

B.A. (Econ) (Hons) (U.W.I.) LL.B (Hons) (U.W.I.)
BARRISTER-AT-LAW & SOLICITOR
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Reference: EPSF/ch

Your Reference:



Chambers:
23 High Street
P.O. Box 1692
St. John's, Antigua
West Indies

20th August, 2003

Mr. McClin Mathias
Chairman
Electoral Commission
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's

Dear Sir,

BY FACSIMILIE

I write to record my displeasure with a news item aired on Observer Radio yesterday afternoon, in relation to the registration of individuals as electors, under the Representation of People (Amend.) Act, 2001, who had been granted amnesty by the Immigration Department.

As I recall on or about the eve of the commencement of the re-registration, at the invitation of the Commission I attended a meeting with Lt. Clyde Walker, the Chief Immigration Officer. On my delayed arrival to the meeting, to the best of my knowledge, all members of the Commission were present with the Chief Immigration Officer. A paper handout, outlining the various forms of residency currently available to non-belongers in Antigua and Barbuda, was given to me. When the discussion focused on the grant of amnesty to non-residents, after the Chief Immigration Officer outlined the end result of such a grant, I categorically and unequivocally informed, all present, that the effect of granting amnesty to these individuals, would in essence, amount to bringing the Commonwealth individuals with such a grant, under the Representation of the People (Amend.) Act, 2001, as being entitled to register as an elector, provided their residence amounted to 3 years, at the relevant qualifying date. I indicated that this could not be correct, since without such a grant they would not be so entitled. The response of the Chief Immigration Officer, then, was that he had never thought of the amnesty having an effect on the re-registration process. But, to him, these such persons would be "lawfully" resident in the Country. I proceeded to raise further questions as to the documentation of the grant, the determination of the grant and the like. I left the meeting after the presentation by the Chief Immigration Officer had ended.

2

A few days later, on the television programme "Justice", a very large panel including members of the Commission, I heard the Chief Immigration Officer in response to questions, state categorically that any Commonwealth person who had been granted amnesty, and satisfied the 3 years criteria, should present himself or herself to the Immigration Department, for the necessary documentation, as they were entitled to be registered as an elector. I was of the opinion that that was the Immigration's Department's position, which was in no way connected to the Commission.

An opinion on this matter, was never requested of me, as was the case in other instances, and outside of the situations outlined above, the issue of amnesty as it impacted on the ability of Commonwealth citizens to register, was never discussed. Bearing in mind also within the next few days the re-registration exercise had commenced and all manner of problems, glitches, man made and otherwise surfaced for the first 10 - 14 days, I can only suggest that that resulted in the sidelining of the amnesty matter, especially since it was not raised by anyone contentiously. There were many matters of great concern and personal attacks which had to be handled within this period.

It is interesting to note, in June, 2003 during the training exercise, for the trainers, on the law relating to eligibility of Commonwealth citizens to re-register as electors, amnesty was never a consideration, although it was raised, I presented the law to them as being resident lawfully for 3 years, prior to the qualifying date. To this end, I ensured, through relevant supporting documentation, with copy of a passport of the Commonwealth of Dominica, how they could ascertain a person's lawful presence in the State, through valid extensions of the Immigration Department duly stamped, or annual work permits. This was the only identifiable way for these persons to come within the law.

At a later date, in a meeting I presented copies to the Commission of this particular passport, along with copies of naturalization and citizenship certificates, as per the earlier presentation.

To then hear members of the Commission, without consultation, on the public airwaves indicating "foul play" and "manipulation" with respect to the registration of persons not entitled, was indeed insulting, belittling and demeaning professionally.

The manipulator was not identified, but since the discussion went so far, incorrectly to identify, that I had not raised it or discussed it, that made it even more difficult to comprehend. I repeat once more, that the Chief Immigration Officer was the only person who I had heard initially state that individuals with amnesty could re-register, yet he was deemed a professional.

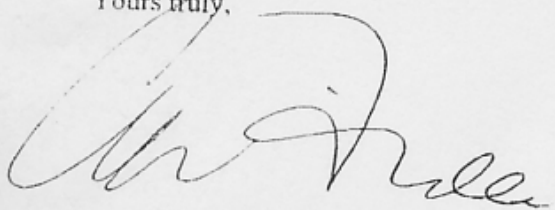
-3-

As always the human psyche is such, that when faced with dilemmas the apparent reaction is to create scapegoats. To date, there is no member of the Commission who could indicate that I conveyed to them that an individual with a grant of amnesty would be entitled to re-register, since I had stated unequivocally that such a person could not be within the ambit of the law, further there was no request for an opinion on this matter which has not been delivered.

Finally, I must re emphasise my disappointment with the turn on this issue in the public, since it is apparent that this was an attack on my reputation. Further, it is obvious that when the saints go marching in, I would definitely not be in the number. In the circumstances, I would be grateful if you would raise this as a matter of urgency with your fellow Commissioners.

Accordingly, I await your response.

Yours truly,



.....
E. Patricia Simon-Forde

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2009

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	TIME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1	16.2.09	Contact Special Trainers	√	CEO
	19.2.09.	Issue of Writ of Election and selection and appointment of Returning Officers	√	Governor-General/Commission
2	20.2.09	Arrange administration of oath to Returning Officers	√	CEO
3	23.2.09	Arrange training of Returning Officers and Special Trainers	√	CEO
4	2 - 6.3.09	Training of Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks/Evaluate	√	Returning Officers and Special Trainers
5	9.3.09	Select and Gazette names of officers	√	CEO
6	9.3.09	Confirm no. of buses needed and obtain names and telephone numbers of Drivers from Transport Board		ACEO
7	9.3.09	Finalize loan of cell phones from LIME (Cable & Wireless)	√	ACEO
8	10.3.09	Finalize route for transportation of Ballot Boxes and advise Police		ACEO
9	16.2.09	Check on extra phone lines from APUA	√	ACEO
10	2.3.09	Send out reminders for election agents (not later than 7 days after writ is issued), polling agents(not later than 3 days before poll) and counting agents at least 2 days before poll	√	CEO
11	3 - 9.3.09	Briefing of Agents (polling and counting, including candidates)		ROs
12	5.3.09	Prepare handouts for Observers	√	CEO / ACEO
13	6 - 10.03.09	Inspection of polling stations – All Constituencies		Field Administrator
14	6 - 10.03.09	Meeting with Observer Teams		

15	6 to 10.3.09	Prepare Accreditation Badges		DPM
16	9.3.09	Finalize all Polling/Counting Agents		ROs
17	7 - 9. 3.09	Returning Officers to administer oath to Presiding Officers/Poll Clerks; also meet Polling/Counting Agents/ Candidates and administer oath		ROs
18	10.3.09	Briefing of Media Representatives and Observers		Commission
19	7 – 9.3.09	Printing of Ballots supervised by PricewaterhouseCoopers	PM onwards	DPM
	9.3.09	Returning Officer Barbuda to collect supplies for Barbuda	AM	ACEO
20	11.3.09	Distribution of Election Supplies (including cell phones) to Presiding Officers at the Commission's Office		ACEO
	1	St. John's City West - For all Stations	8:00 – 8.30 am	
	2	St. John's City East	8:30 – 9:00 am	
	3	St. John's City South	9:00 – 9:30 am	
	4	St. John's Rural West	9:30 - 10:00 am	
	5	St. John's Rural South	10:00 – 10:30 am	
	6	St. John's Rural North	10:30 – 11:00 am	
	7	St. John's Rural East	11:00 – 11:30 am	
	8	St. Mary's North	11:30 – 12:00 noon	
	9	St. Mary's South	12:00 noon – 12:30	
	10	All Saints East & St. Luke	12:30 – 1:00 pm	
	11	All Saints West	1:00 – 1:30 PM	

	12	St. George	1:30 – 2:00 pm	
	13	St. Peter	2:00 – 2:30 pm	
	14	St. Philip North	2:30 – 3:00 pm	
	15	St. Philip South	3:00 – 3:30 pm	
	16	St. Paul	3:30 – 4:00 pm	
21	11.3.09	Returning Officers/ Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks to set up Polling Stations	Between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm	
22	11.3.09	Returning Officers to collect special items from the Supervisor of Elections and the Commission	7:15 pm	
23	12.3.09	Polls Open –All Election Officers at location on time	5:15 am	
24	12.3.09	Close of Polls and preparation of packets by Presiding Officers	6:00 pm	
25	12.3.09	Transportation of boxes to Counting Stations	6:15 – 7:30 pm	
26	12.3.09	Counting of votes (all Constituencies)	Between 7:00 pm onwards	
27	12.3.09	Declaration of Results by Returning Officers		ROs
28	12.3.09	Transmission of Results to Commission		Returning Officers
29	12 - 13.3.09	Declaration of Results of Election		Chairman of the Commission
30	13.3.09	Return of Writ to Governor-General		ACEO

Supervisor of Elections /Chief Elections Officer (CEO)
 Assistant Chief Elections Officer (ACEO)
 Data Processing Manager (DPM)
 Returning Officer (RO)

**CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO BE DONE FOR
GENERAL ELECTION**

ANNEX 11

NO	DATE	ITEM	STATUS	TIME
1		DRAW UP POLLING STATIONS		
2		CONFIRM BUILDINGS TO BE USED AS POLLING STATIONS		
3		REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR ELECTION OFFICERS(check availability of officers used during general elections in 2004)		
4	8/08-10/08	CHECK ON STATUS OF MATERIALS FROM CODE AND ORDER ELECTORAL INK	Received 14.12.08	
5	Invoice recd. 16/12/08 Payment 13/1/09	CHECK ON STATUS OF VOTING SCREENS FROM WINERA, ST. LUCIA		
6		CHECK ON SUPPLIES OF POLL BOOKS, TALLY SHEETS SIGNS FOR POLLING STATIONS AND ORDER IF NECESSARY		
7	11.12.08	WRITE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CONCERNING SECURITY AT COMMISSION'S OFFICE DURING PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL ELECTION AND SECURITY AT POLLING STATIONS (SET UP MEETING)		
8		SELECT AND APPOINT ASSISTANT CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER (when Writ of Elections is issued by the Governor-General)		
9		TRAIN RETURNING OFFICERS, SELECT AND APPOINT		
10		SWEARING OF RETURNING OFFICERS		
11		PUBLISH WRIT OF ELECTION AND NOTICE OF ELECTION/INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS		
12		CONFIRM WITH CABLE AND WIRELESS AVAILABILITY AND DATE FOR COLLECTION OF CELL PHONES FOR RETURNING OFFICERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS		
13		PREPARATION OF LIST FOR ALLOCATION OF CELL PHONES		
14	19.12.08	WRITE TO TRANSPORT BOARD FOR USE OF (COASTER) BUSES AND DRIVERS TO COLLECT BALLOT BOXES AT CLOSE OF POLL FROM POLLING STATIONS TO COUNTING CENTRES, THEN TO OFFICE OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON QUEEN ELIZABETH		

		HIGHWAY AT CLOSE OF COUNT		
15				
16		<p>PUT TOGETHER VARIOUS FORMS NEEDED FOR ELECTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination forms (Form No. 3) • Consent to Nomination (Form No. 4) • Statement of persons nominated (Rule 17 of Election Rules) • Form of Notice of Election (Form 2) • Form of directions for guidance of voters • Form of declaration to be made by the companion of blind voter (Form 8) • Oath/Affirmation for Election Officers • Poll Books • Tally Sheets • Signs for Polling Stations 		
17		<p>PREPARE FORMS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NAMES OF POLLING/COUNTING AGENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and addresses of polling agents to be submitted not later than three (3) days before the poll (Section 37 {Amendment} Act 2001 and counting agents at least two (2) days before the day of the poll (Section 32 (2) {Amendment} Act 2002) • Request names of election agents from each candidate [to be submitted not later than seven (7) days after the writ is issued in accordance with Section 38 (1) of (Amendment) Act 2001] 		
18		TRAINING OF PRESIDING OFFICERS AND POLL CLERKS		
19		PLACEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICERS AND POLL CLERKS		
20		INSPECTION OF POLLING STATIONS (All Constituencies)		
21		<p>BRIEFING OF RETURNING OFFICERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize Polling Stations • Finalize Courier Routes 		
22	19.2.09	WRITE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL RE: ACCEPTANCE OF DEPOSITS FOLLOWING		

		CLOSE OF NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES, IF NECESSARY		
23		PUBLISH STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED AND LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE/NEWSPAPERS AS WELL AS ELECTION SYMBOLS, NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICERS/POLL CLERKS/TALLY CLERKS AND RATES OF PAY		
24	6.5.08	WRITE TO PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS TO REVIEW AND CERTIFY THE PROCESS OF PRINTING BALLOTS		
25		PRINT REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS {NOT LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER WRIT IS ISSUED}		
26		ENSURE IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR ALL ELECTORS ARE READY		
27	23.1.09	WRITE TO CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER FOR USE OF SCHOOLS AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR RELEASE OF OFFICERS APPOINTED AS RETURNING OFFICER(S), IF NECESSARY		
28		START ASSEMBLY OF BALLOT BOXES		
29		START PLACEMENT OF MATERIALS IN BALLOT BOXES		
30		SWEARING OF PRESIDING OFFICERS/POLL CLERKS BY RETURNING OFFICERS		
31		RETURNING OFFICERS MEETING WITH CANDIDATES/POLLING AGENTS AND ADMINISTER OATH		
32		ACCREDITATION OF OBSERVERS (INTERNATIONAL {DOMESTIC, IF ANY})		
33		BRIEFING OF OBSERVERS		
34		ADDRESS TO THE NATION PRIOR TO GENERAL ELECTIONS		
35		BRIEFING OF BUS DRIVERS AND ALLOCATION OF ROUTES		
36		DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION SUPPLIES (INCLUDING CELL PHONES) TO PRESIDING OFFICERS AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE:		
		ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST - all Polling Stations		
		ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST- all Polling Stations		
		ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH- all Polling Stations		

		ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST- all Polling Stations		
		ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH- all Polling Stations		
		ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH- all Polling Stations		
		ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST- all Polling Stations		
		ST. MARY'S NORTH- all Polling Stations		
		ST. MARY'S SOUTH- all Polling Stations		
		ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE- all Polling Stations		
		ALL SAINTS WEST- all Polling Stations		
		ST. GEORGE- all Polling Stations		
		ST. PETER- all Polling Stations		
		ST. PHILLIP NORTH- all Polling Stations		
		ST. PHILLIP SOUTH- all Polling Stations		
		ST. PAUL- all Polling Stations		
		RETURNING OFFICER BARBUDA TO COLLECT		
37		RETURNING OFFICERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS TO SET UP POLLING STATIONS		
38		RETURNING OFFICERS TO COLLECT SPECIAL ITEMS FROM THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS/ASSISTANT CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER		
39		DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS TO PRESIDING OFFICERS		
40		OPENING OF POLLS (OFFICERS TO BE IN PLACE)		5.15 a.m.
41		POLLS OPEN		6.00 a.m.
42		CLOSE OF POLLS		6.00 p.m.
43		COUNT BEGINS AND RELAYING OF RESULTS		
44		TRANSPORTATION OF BALLOTS BOXES TO THE OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION		
45		RETURN OF WRIT TO HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL		

Report on late opening of Polling Stations on Election Day -12th March, 2009

Issue of the Writ

The Writ of Election was issued on Thursday 19th February, 2009 and the Returning Officers who had been selected earlier were duly sworn by the Chief Magistrate on Friday 20th February, 2009. The Writ specified that 25th February, 2009 was the day appointed for the nomination of candidates while 12th March, 2009 was the day on which the poll would be taken. Notices of Election were duly posted throughout all seventeen (17) Constituencies.

Boundaries and Transfer of Electors

Prior to the publication of the Register, and in accordance with the Boundaries Commission Order, staff in the Registration Units began the arduous task of compiling the names of those electors affected by the changes occasioned by the alteration in boundaries. They had to go from house to house in the various Constituencies to verify in which Constituencies persons would be placed. For the most part, the staff of the two Constituencies which shared boundary lines worked together in the field. After the data was brought into the Office, it was typed and the staff worked tirelessly to obtain RRC numbers from the database so as to enable the Data Processing Manager to begin the transfer of electors into the correct Constituencies.

Publication of the Register of Elections

Section 24 (1) of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2001 mandates that the Register for Elections should be published not later than 7 days after the issue of the Writ of Election. As a consequence, the Register for Elections was published on 27th February, 2009.

Other activities in preparation of the Poll

In the meantime, other activities, not limited to the following, were being undertaken:

- Training and selection of workers
- Finalizing route for the transportation of ballot boxes
- Preparation of handouts for Observers (most numbers unknown until their arrival in Antigua)
- Prepare forms for accreditation of observers (local and international)
- Printing and issuing of ID cards
- Re-printing the Register for Elections when errors were drawn to our attention

Ballot Printing

This process commenced on Sunday 8th March, under the supervision of PricewaterhouseCoopers using three (3) printers – two (2) from 2003 and one sourced recently – all three would have enabled the printing on both sides of the paper which would have speeded up the process.

Following the printing of the Ballots, printing of the Photo Register commenced on Wednesday 11th March and it was during that process that the new printer developed problems, thus slowing down the process.

Printing/distribution of ID cards

It must be noted that the staff had been working throughout the night on several days printing and distributing cards and placating members of the public both upstairs and downstairs who had camped out and refused to leave the premises in the hope of collecting ID cards, despite the cut-off period of Tuesday 10th March, 2009 for the collection of cards. I do not think that anyone could have imagined that after announcing that Friday 6th March, 2009 would have been the last day for reporting replacement cards, that there would be so many persons at the office, waiting in extremely long lines. The problem was so serious that the distribution of cards was relocated to the basement of the building from Monday 9th March, 2009 in anticipation of the visit by International Observers beginning on that day, as members of the public had lined the step leading up to the office making it difficult for anyone to get upstairs. The help of senior personnel from some Registration Units was enlisted to cope with the arduous tasks in an effort to meet the opening of the poll. Printing of Accreditation Cards for the large number of International and National Observers also added to the strain on the staff, with Ministers of Religion from both the Antigua Christian Council (ACC) and the United Evangelical Association (UEA) (some of them very senior Pastors) waiting patiently to receive their cards for election day.

Distribution of Registers

With all of the above challenges, it proved difficult to complete all sixteen (16) Photo Registers (Barbuda being the first to be printed) and any other Register of Electors in five

(5) Constituencies in time for the 6.00 a.m. opening of the Polls. However, **it should be noted that twelve (12) Constituencies opened on schedule at 6.00 am.**

The turn of events have overshadowed the efforts of the entire staff who worked tirelessly over and above the call of duty and who, despite all the challenges and negativity, should be commended for the **positive aspects** of the electoral process.

Lorna Simon (Miss)
Supervisor of Elections

cc: Members, Electoral Commission

Chaku Symister comments re Electoral Commission

"I think that the entire Electoral Commission should resign immediately and top executives of the Elections Office should resign immediately and on their way out they should apologise to the people of Antigua for the chaos they created on Election Day.

"In terms of the Commission, our law requires that there will be a new re-registration of voters by the next election. We think for that exercise you need people who have the competence to run that office and to see that exercise take place with the minimum of challenges.

"I think yesterday (March 12) was a manifestation that the current Electoral Commission is totally incapable of seeing that happen.

"I'm very much aware that members of the Commission have a term of seven years and that's why I'm calling on them to do the right thing, the only thing, if indeed any confidence is to be restored in the Electoral Commission as an institution and the office that that entire group of people who run that office should resign.

"In terms of the Party, we have been indicating to the people of Antigua that there has been a problem with the list for some months. The same Electoral Commission and acknowledge that they have made a grave error in registering people who were not eligible to be registered.

"We were aware that those persons who were not eligible to be registered and facilitated by the Electoral Commission were our opponents. So we know that those seats we lost that it was a direct result of the incompetence of the Commission and in some cases sheer illegality of some persons in the office.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ANNEX V

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

2008, No. 50

Governor-General's Order giving effect to the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Report.

WHEREAS by section 65(4) of the Constitution, the Governor-General is required to make an Order in terms of the draft Order approved by a resolution of the House, giving effect to any recommendation submitted by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the said draft Order was approved by the House on 17th day of September, 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE, I LOUISE AGNETHA LAKE-TACK, Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General do hereby order as follows —

1. This Order may be cited as the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Order, 2008. Short title.
2. The Schedule to the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Order 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 4) is hereby revoked and replaced by the Schedule below. Revocation and replacement of S.I. 1984, No. 4
3. This order comes into force upon the next dissolution of Parliament. Commencement.

SCHEDULE**Name of Constituencies****Boundaries**

- 1. St. John's City West** — All that portion of the Parish of Saint John bounded as follows:—
- NORTH — The corner of Fort Road and Lower Fort Road and continuing westward on Lower Fort Road to the sea.
- SOUTH — by the junction of Newgate Street and Popeshead Street thence westward along Newgate Street to where it meets the drain by Barnes Funeral Home thence in a southerly direction along the said drain and continuing to the sea.
- EAST — by the junction of Lower Fort Road and Fort Road and continuing in a southerly direction along the said Fort Road entering into Popeshead Street, and continuing to the junction of Popeshead Street and Newgate Street.
- WEST — by the sea.
- 2. St. John's City East** — All that portion of the Parish of Saint John bounded as follows:—
- NORTH — by the junction of the public road lying to the north of the Oil Refinery at Friars Hill and the Friars Hill Road and running in a westerly direction until it meets the Marble Hill Road and continuing along Marble Hill Road in a southerly direction generally, then westerly to the junction of Marble Hill and Anchorage Roads.
- SOUTH — by the junction of Popeshead Street and Newgate Street and running in an easterly direction along the said Newgate Street where it ends at the junction of Newgate Street and Cross Street.
- EAST — by the junction of Newgate Street and Cross Street and continuing northwards along the said Cross Street, then along the Cemetery Road and

Name of ConstituenciesBoundaries

Friars Hill Road to the junction of the public road north of the Oil Refinery at Friars Hill and the Friars Hill Road.

WEST — by the junction of Marble Hill and Anchorage Roads and running in a southerly direction along Anchorage Road and continuing along Fort Road entering into Popeshead Street and continuing to the junction of Popeshead Street and Newgate Street.

3. St. John's City South — All that portion of the Parish of Saint John bounded as follows:—

NORTH — by the junction of the Old Parham Road and Independence Avenue then westward along Bishopgate Street where it meets at the junction of Bishopgate Street and Cross Street thence south to the junction of Cross Street and Newgate Street. It then continues westward along Newgate Street to where the said street meets the drain by Barnes Funeral Home thence in a southerly direction along the public road lying west of the drain and continuing to the sea.

SOUTH — from Fevergrass Drive and continuing westward along the All Saints Road to the junction of the All Saints and Bendals cross-road then turning right along the American Road directly opposite National Office of Disaster then westward along the public road to the point where it meets the southern boundary of Ottos Comprehensive School and from that point continuing southward along a road east of the National Bakery and west of the Baptist Church to Scotland Street, thence westward along the said Scotland Street to the point where it merges into Comacho's Avenue and continuing southwards on Comacho's Avenue to the point where it meets the All Saints Road at the Texaco Gas Station. Then continuing westwards along the said All Saints Road to the point where it meets the public thoroughfare which is situated north of the Public Market and south of the triangular portion of land then continuing along the said public road down to the sea.

EAST — by the junction of the Old Parham Road and Independence Avenue and continuing in a southerly direction

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along Independence Avenue to the junction of the Factory Road at the Cenataph, then in an easterly direction along the Factory Road to the point where it meets the road which is west of the Old Parliament Building extending in a southerly direction to the Queen Elizabeth Highway thence in an easterly direction to the junction of Factory and American Roads. Then continuing southward along the American Road to Scotts Hill Road then along the said road leading to the east of the Old Television Station Building. It then continues to the ridge of the Belmont Hill and southwards to a point where it meets the northern boundary of All Saints West at Fevergrass Drive.

WEST — by St. John's Harbour and the sea.

4. Saint John's Rural South— All that portion of the Parish of Saint John including the whole of Nut Grove, Golden Grove (West of the Valley Road), Kentish Village (eastside), Ottos Development, Ottos New Town, Radio Range and bounded as follows:—

NORTH — in part by the southern boundary of the Constituency of St. John's City South and continuing from that point where Camacho's Avenue meets All Saints Road, then in a northerly direction along the said Camacho's Avenue to the point where Scotland Street starts at the site of Antigua Plumbing and Hardware Store and proceeding along the said Scotland Street to a point on the said street which is located at the road east of the National Bakery and west of the Baptist Church, then in a northerly direction towards the boundary of Ottos Comprehensive School, and continuing along the said boundary fence in an easterly direction then along the public road to the point on the American Road directly opposite National Office Of Disaster.

SOUTH — from the junction of the Bendals and All Saints Roads, then continuing westward along the All Saint Road to the junction with De Souza Road and continuing along the said De Souza Road to the point where it meets the Valley Road then continuing southward along the said Valley Road to the boundary with the Parish of St. Mary at Creekside, then in

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- a westerly direction along the St. Mary's Parish boundary where it meets the eastern boundary of St. John's Rural West.
- EAST — by a portion of the southern boundary of the Constituency of St. John's City South from a point opposite National Office of Disaster which is located on the American Road and continuing southwards along said American Road to its junction with All Saints Road and Bendals Road.
- WEST — by the eastern boundary of St. John's Rural West.
- 5. St. John's Rural West** — All that portion of the Parish of Saint John including the whole Village of Five Island bounded as follows:—
- NORTH — by the junction of the public road west of the Public Market and the public thoroughfare which is situated north of the Public Market and continuing westward to the sea and further by St. John's Harbour and the sea at Hanson's Bay.
- SOUTH — from Hanson's Bay and continuing eastward along the Parish boundary of St. Mary's to the point where the Eastern boundary of St. John's Rural West meets the Parish boundary of St. Mary at Creckside.
- EAST — by the junction of the public road west of the Public Market and the public thoroughfare which is situated north of the Public Market and continuing in a southerly direction along the said public road onward into Kentish Road turning right into Gray's Crescent and proceeding along the Gray's Hill Road to Patrick Pearson's residence, bearing the following land particular Registration Section, Cooks Estate Block #54 1489B Parcel 248, and continuing southwards along Pearson's western boundary line and along parcel 647 thence along the Public Road which ends at the T Junction of the public road that leads to Cooks Mill then in a westerly direction to the point where it meets the road lying south of Cooks Mill then in a southerly direction to the Parish boundary of St. Mary.
- WEST — by the sea.

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6. St. John's Rural East — All that portion of the Parish of Saint John bounded as follows:—

NORTH — by the junction of the Friars Hill Road and Cedar Valley Road which leads into the Estate of Cedar Valley (hereinafter referred to as the Cedar Valley Road) and running in an easterly direction along the said road through Cedar Valley Estate to the point that is South of Mount Pleasant (elevation 442) then southward along the Cedar Valley Road then eastward to the point where it meets the main public road leading into New Winthorpes, Barnes Hill and Thibou's Estate.

SOUTH — from the Cenotaph in an easterly direction to the road west of the Old Parliament Building then in a southerly direction on the said road to where it meets the Queen Elizabeth Highway then easterly along the Queen Elizabeth Highway where it meets the Factory Road and continuing to the junction of the said road where it meets the Sir George Walter Highway and Sir Sydney Walling Highway at Tomlinson's.

EAST — by the junction of the Cedar Valley Road and the main public road leading into New Winthorpes, Barnes Hill and Thibou's Estates and running in a southerly direction towards Cassada Garden to the point where it meets the Old Parham Road then eastwards to the junction of the Old Parham Road and the Sir George Walter Highway and continuing in a southerly direction on the said road to the point where meets Sir Sydney Walling Highway and Factory Road at Tomlinson's.

WEST — by the junction of the public road leading into Cedar Valley Estate on the Friars Hill Road and continuing in a westerly direction then southerly along the said Friars Hill which forms part of the Constituency of St. John's City East to the point where it meets the eastern boundary of the Constituency of St. John's City South at Bishopgate Street and Cross Street then continuing along the eastern boundary of the said Constituency of St. John's City South to a point where it meets Independence Avenue and the Factory Road at the Cenotaph.

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7. St. John's Rural North — All that portion of the Parishes of Saint John and Saint George bounded as follows:—

NORTH — from a point on the High Water Mark at Fort Bay where an extended line from Lower Fort Road meets the sea and continuing northwards, then eastwards along the north shores of the island then in a southerly direction to a point south of Barnacle Point where an extended line meets the High Water Mark from the southern side of Runway 10 at Coolidge.

SOUTH — from the point where Lower Fort Road meets the sea and continuing eastwards along the said Lower Fort Road to its junction with Fort Road and thence northward along Anchorage Road to its junction with Marble Hill Road and continuing along the said Marble Hill Road to its junction with the public road lying to the north of the Oil Refinery and leading to the Friars Hill Road junction, then in a northerly direction along Friars Hill Road to its junction with Cedar Valley Road then in a easterly direction along the said Cedar Valley Road to a point situated south of Mount Pleasant, then in a northerly direction to the radar at Mount Pleasant then along the ridge to the point north of Parcel 943 Block 43-1896A Registration Section Hodges Bay and Thibous which divides Thibou's Estates, Lambert Development and Lambert Cemetery and continuing eastward passing north of the Lamberts Cemetery to a point on the Thibou's Road approximately 1200 ft north of the Sugar Mill at Thibou's Estate, then south along the Thibou's Road to the Sugar Mill at Thibou's Estate then in a south easterly direction to a point on the road located north of Scotland's residence and south of the Sugar Mill Hotel. It then continues eastwards to the Sir George Walter Highway then southwards through the entrance road of the Sir V.C Bird International Airport and easterly to the taxi stand and continuing to Runaway 10 at Barnacle Point.

EAST — by the sea.

WEST — by the sea.

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8. St. Mary's North — All that portion of the Parishes of St. Mary and St. John including the Villages of Ebenezer, Jennings, Yorks, Hermitage, Dunnings, Brown Hill, Bendals, Emanuel Village, Bath Lodge, Cashew Hill, (East and West), Brown's Avenue, Martin's Village, Golden Grove (East of the Valley Road) and bounded as follows: —

NORTH — from the point where the parish boundary of St. John enters the sea at Hanson's Bay and continuing eastwards along the said Parish boundary to a point on the Valley Road south of Creekside and continuing northwards along the said Valley Road where it meets De Souza Road to where it meets All Saint's Road opposite the Texaco Gas Station then eastwards along the All Saints Road to its junction with the public road that leads to the Moravian Headquarters at Cashew Hill.

SOUTH — by the northern boundary of Mary's South.

EAST — from the junction of All Saints Road and the public road leading to the Moravian Headquarters and along the said public road and continuing by an imaginary line in a southerly direction to the eastern boundary of the Moravian Headquarters and continuing along the said boundary to the south east corner, thence in a south easterly direction to the north western boundary of St Clair Estate and continuing along the said boundary of St Clair Estate in a southerly direction to the south western corner to Hamilton's Dam then to a point south of Mc. Nish Mountain where the parish boundaries of St Mary and St John meet.

WEST — from the point of the High Water mark near Hanson Bay where the Parish boundary of St. John meets the sea and continuing along the western shores of the island to a point at Mosquito Cove where Jennings Ghaut runs into the sea.

9. St. Mary's South — All that portion of the Parish of St. Mary including the villages of Bolans, Crabb Hill, Johnson's Point, Urlings and bounded as follows: —

NORTH — from Mosquito Cove where Jennings Ghaut enters the sea then in a easterly along the said Ghaut to the point

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where it meets the Valley Road, then passing on the public road west of the Jennings Primary School to a point where the parish boundaries of St. John and St. Mary meet at a point south of Mc. Nish Mountain.

SOUTH — from the sea west of the Old Sugar Mill at Morris Bay and also west of Callaloo Beach Hotel and continuing westwards along the southern coastline of the island to Johnson Point.

EAST — from the point where the Parish boundaries of St. John and St. Mary meet south of Mc. Nish Mountain then in a westerly direction to a point where the imaginary line runs in a southerly direction to the eastern boundary of South Coast Horizon to the sea at Morris Bay.

WEST — from Johnson's Point which is located immediately north of Pelican Island, the same being located near the southern shores of the island, then continuing northwards on the coast along the bays of Crabb Hill, Picarts, Ffryes, Valley Church and Lignumvitae Bay, commonly known as Jolly Beach to Mosquito Cove where Jennings Ghaut and the said Mosquito Cove meet.

10. All Saints East and Saint Luke

— All that portion of the Parishes of St. John and St. Mary including the villages of Mathews, Swetes, Bishops, John Huges, Sawcolts, Old Road and that section of All Saints east of the main public road leading to Tryells Roman Catholic Church, and bounded as follows:—

NORTH — from the point where the Parishes boundaries of St. John and St. Mary meet south of Mc. Nish Mountain then in a north easterly direction to Hamilton's Dam and in part by the southern boundary of All Saints West and also part of the eastern boundary of All Saints West ending at the bridge which lies on the Jonas Road on the way to Mount Joy.

SOUTH — from the eastern end of Carlisle Bay then in a north easterly direction passing east of Walling Dam then in an easterly direction to the village of Swetes at the stream south of the pond which ends at Shelly Ghaut.

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	EAST	—	from the bridge located on the main highway leading to All Saints Village from Mount Joy (north of Gores residence) then in a south easterly direction in an imaginary straight line to Big Duers then a southerly direction to the Parish boundary of St. Paul and continuing in a westerly direction along the said parish boundary to Delaps at Burke's Estate, thence in a south westerly direction passing just north of Tyrells Roman Catholic Church to the point on the Swetes main road to a bridge located at Shelly Ghaut which is immediately west of the Roman Catholic Burial Ground.
	WEST	—	The eastern boundary of St. Mary's South and continuing along the coastline in an easterly direction to Carlisle Bay.
11. All Saints West		—	All that portion of the Parishes of St. John, St. Mary and St. Peter including that part of All Saints, west of the main public road leading to Tyrells Roman Catholic Church and the villages of Sea View Farm, Freeman's Village, Clarke's Hill, Buckley's, St. Clare, Briggins, Bellevue Heights and All Saints road south side, bounded as follow:—
	NORTH	—	from the junction of All Saints Road and the public road leading to Moravian Headquarters and continuing eastwards along the All Saints Road to a point on the said road which leads to Fevergrass Drive and continuing along the public road which meet the Herbert's Main Road and continuing eastwards along the public road which lies north of the Bay View Housing Area to the Sea View Farm Main Road thence southeasterly along the south boundary line of Caribbean Relay Company at Lightfoot Estate to a point west of the public road at the Telephone Exchange Building at Mount Joy.
	SOUTH	—	from the junction of the Mathews Road and the public road leading to All Saints Church Rectory and continuing westwards to where the public road ends at parcels 11 & 12 Block 15-2185B Registration Section South Central location Matthews South then in a southerly direction along the eastern boundary of parcel 10 then in a westerly direction along the southern boundary of parcels 10

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		and 9 to a point where it meets the public road and continuing along the said public road to where it meets the main road which leads from Buckley's Village to Swetes Village then to the eastern end of Hamilton Dam.
	EAST	— from the point west of the public road west of the Telephone Exchange Building at Mount Joy and continuing in a southerly direction on the main highway to the village of All Saints and continuing pass the Texaco Gas Station to the point where it meets the road leading to the All Saints Church Rectory.
	WEST	— by the eastern boundary of St. Mary's North.
12. St. George	—	All that portion of the Parishes of St. George and St. John, including the villages New Winthorpes, Lamberts, Barnes Hill, Powell's, Potters, Pigotts, Osborne, Jonas, Carlisle, Paynters West and Scotts Hill (Eastside) and bounded as follows:—
	NORTH	— Part of the southern boundary of St. John's Rural North starting at the junction south of Mount Pleasant where the northern boundary of St. John Rural East & St. George meet and ending at Runaway 10 at Barnacle Point.
	SOUTH	— Part of the Eastern boundary of St. John's City South starting at the junction of Factory Road & American Road to Fevergrass Drive.
	EAST	— From Fevergrass Drive and continuing along the public road which meets the Herbert Main Road and continuing eastward along the public road which lies north of the Bay View Housing Area to a stream which lies on the said road then following the said stream to the extreme west Dam southeast of Potters Village then continuing in a north westerly direction to the public road lying west of parcel 547 and parcel 531 and continuing to Tamarind Drive then along Industrial Drive to Sir Sydney Walling Highway at Paynters Pond, then proceeding in a northerly direction along the public road that is located east of Paynters Estate House, commonly called the Sunny Side School, to the point where the said road meets the Old Parham Road

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and continuing eastwards along the said Old Parham Road to a point where the road leads to the Fitches Creek Estate House, then in a north easterly direction east of Piggots or Fitches Hill to the Bridge which is located on the St. George's Road northwest of St. George's Church then in an easterly direction to the sea north of St. George's Church at Winthorpes Foot Creek.

WEST — From the junction of American Road and Factory Road and continuing in an easterly direction along the said Factory Road to the point where it meets the Sir. George Walter and Sir. Sydney Walling Highway then continuing along the Sir George Walter Highway to where it meets the Old Parham Road at the Texaco Gas Station then westwards along the Old Parham Road then northwards along the Barnes Hill Road to the point where the old public road leads to Cedar Valley Estate then in a westerly direction along the said Cedar Valley Road then northwards to the point where the road continues westwards to the Cedar Valley Golf Club and to where the road leads to New Winthorpes at Mount Pleasant.

13. St. Peter

— All that portion of the Parishes of St. Peter, St. George and St. John, including Parham, Pares Village, Sugar Factory, Gunthorpes, Paynters East, Weirs, North Sound, Donavans and bounded as follows:—

NORTH — from a point at the sea north of St. George's Church in the area known as Winthorpes Foot Creek and continuing along the northern coast of the island to the point where the stream enters Farleys Bay which is located south of Mercers Creek.

SOUTH — in part by a portion of the northern boundary of All Saints West starting at the stream which lies on the public road north of the Bay View Housing Area and continuing to the public road west of the Telephone Exchange building at Mount Joy then in a southerly direction along the Jonas Road to the bridge north of (Gore's residence) on Jonas Road then in a north easterly direction to Big Duers then in part by a portion of the northern boundary of St.

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		Philips South to Collins Road via Potworks Dam Drive.
EAST	—	from Collins Road and the main road that leads to Mill Reef and continuing northwards along the Collins Road to the main road leading to Willikies and continuing to the sea at Farleys Bay which is located at Mercers Creek.
WEST	—	in part by the eastern boundary of St. George starting at the stream west of Bay View Housing Area and continuing northwards to Paynters Pond then to Winthorpes Creek.
14. St. Philip North	—	All that portion of the Parishes of Saint Philip, including the Villages of Seaton, Glanvilles, Willikies, Newfield and bounded as follows:—
NORTH	—	from the point where the stream enters the sea at Farley Bay and continuing along the High Water Mark eastwards to Brown's Bay.
SOUTH	—	from the junction of Collins Main Road and the main road leading to Mill Reef and continuing eastwards on the said road immediately north of the Methodist Mission House commonly referred to as Lyons Manse, thence by an imaginary straight line generally in an easterly direction to where it meets the sea at Pig Point.
EAST	—	by the sea.
WEST	—	by the eastern boundary of St. Peters.
15. St. Philips South	—	All that portion of the Parish of St. Philip including Mill Reef, Half Moon Bay, Montpelier, and the whole of the villages of Freetown, St. Philips, Christian Hill, Bethesda, Lyons and in part Picadilly, boundary as follows:—
NORTH	—	from a point at Big Duers and continuing eastward along the Potworks Dam Drive and the main road leading to Mill Reef and continuing eastwards on the said Mill Reef Road and stopping on the said road immediately north of the Methodist Mission House commonly called Lyons Manse thence by a imaginary straight

Name of ConstituenciesBoundaries

line generally in a easterly direction to where it meets Pig Point.

SOUTH — in part from a point immediately east of the Government Agriculture Station at Picadilly on the main public road leading to Mamora Bay and continuing along the said public road in an easterly direction to a point on the said road where the public road leads to Crawl Bay and from this point in an easterly direction to the sea at Mamora Bay south of Isaac Point.

EAST — by the sea.

WEST — from a point south of Big Duers thence in a southerly direction passing east of the ruins at Bodkins continuing southwards and west of the Savannah Dam at Picadilly to a point on the Mamora Bay Road immediately east of the Government Agricultural Station Building at Picadilly.

16. St. Paul — All that portion of the Parish of Saint Paul including the villages of Liberta, Table Hill Gordon, Falmouth, English Harbour, Cobbs Cross, Nelson's Dockyard and bounded as follows:—

NORTH — by the southern boundary of St. Philip South.

SOUTH — from the point south of Isaac Point at Mamora Bay and continuing along the southeast to Carlisle Bay.

EAST — by the western boundary of St. Philip South.

WEST — in part by the eastern and southern boundaries of All Saints East & St. Luke running in an easterly direction from Carlisle Bay to Big Duers.

17. Barbuda — the whole of the Island of Barbuda.

Made this 3rd day of December, 2008

Louise Lake-Tack,
Governor-General.

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