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FINAL REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION FOR THE  
GENERAL ELECTIONS IN GRENADA

JULY 8, 2008

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**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION FOR THE  
GENERAL ELECTIONS IN GRENADA  
JULY 8, 2008**

**Secretariat for Political Affairs**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On January 30, 2008, the Government of Grenada invited the Organization of American States to field an Electoral Observation Mission to observe the General Elections to be held on July 8, 2008 in Grenada. The Organization of American States responded positively to this request and arranged to observe elections on the island. This is the third such mission that the OAS has conducted in Grenada, since 1999.

Assistant Secretary-General Albert Ramdin served as Chief of Mission, assisted by Senior Specialist Steven Griner as Deputy Chief of Mission. The Mission comprised a technical component in addition to observation of polling. From March 31 to April 1, 2008 three officials of the OAS General Secretariat visited Grenada to analyze concerns raised by the National Democratic Congress about the electoral registry and offered preliminary recommendations based on their discussions with the Parliamentary Elections Office of Grenada.

During a short preliminary mission, from June 12 to 14, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin met with various electoral and political authorities to discuss preparations for the electoral process. The Assistant Secretary General signed on behalf of the General Secretariat an agreement with the Parliamentary Elections Office establishing the objectives and procedures for the observers' activities. Shortly before the elections, the OAS mission signed an agreement of privileges and immunities with the Government of Grenada and, subsequently, another agreement of electoral guarantees with the Parliamentary Elections Office of Grenada.

The OAS Mission to observe the General Elections in Grenada consisted of 38 observers from 15 different countries. Observers participated in a day of training, familiarizing themselves with their duties and with the electoral districts where they would be deployed. A core group of observers was present to observe the special voting of the police, which took place on July 4. For the General Elections on July 8, the mission deployed teams in all of Grenada's 15 constituencies, including the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and observed 100% of Grenada's 220 polling stations, visiting each at least once and often two or three times in the course of the day. Observers witnessed firsthand the electoral preparations, voting, the counting of ballots and the transmission of results. They also interviewed presiding officers, poll clerks, party agents, police officers and members of the public regarding the preparations for and the conduct of these elections.

The Mission's overall impressions of the electoral process in Grenada were extremely positive. Prior to the election, various political stakeholders expressed anxieties that Election Day arrangements would be chaotic due to inexperienced personnel. There were further concerns related to the late availability of the voters' list and that tension which could result from the charged campaign and perceived 'high stakes' in this election. Fortunately, however, these anxieties proved unfounded. The environment in which citizens voted was orderly and peaceful. There were no reported instances of unruly behavior or of intimidation of voters at polling sites or of any other serious irregularities. Police were present in all of the polling sites, effectively and discreetly maintaining security. Observers noted that, in many instances, police officers also contributed to the smooth running of the poll by helping Election Day workers organize lines and assisting elderly and physically challenged voters.

In all the cases observed, presiding officers, poll clerks and party agents were present at their assigned sites and followed procedures carefully in accordance with Grenada's Election Laws. Two party agents were typically present at each polling station and worked together harmoniously and with the electoral authorities. Sufficient electoral materials were available and

the necessary information for voters was made visible at the polling sites. 98% of polls opened promptly at 6 a.m. and, by 6:30 a.m., all were fully functional.

Presiding officers and poll clerks were generally well trained and instructed voters in an impartial manner on the procedures for voting. The secrecy of the vote was maintained. While lines to vote were long in the morning, by the afternoon the wait for most voters was minimal. Observers noted that most people identified their polling sites easily and the electoral authorities assisted those in doubt. Polls closed promptly at 5:00 p.m. and, similar to the opening, electoral officials followed the proper procedures carefully and efficiently. Preliminary results were available shortly after the close of the polls.

Final results declared by the Parliamentary Elections Office on July 9 gave the National Democratic Congress 11 seats and the New National Party 4 seats. The New National Party, which had governed for the past three terms of office, forms the new Opposition, while the leader of the National Democratic Congress, Mr. Tillman Thomas, was inaugurated as Prime Minister on July 9. Voter turnout in this election was extremely high, at over 80%.

This Mission, which deployed more personnel than previous OAS Electoral Observation Missions in Grenada, was able to achieve its objectives of providing both technical advice on preparations for the poll and objective analysis of the electoral process, with thorough coverage of the island's polling sites that promoted confidence among political actors and members of the public. While recognizing the positive climate surrounding the Grenadian electoral process, the Mission wishes to offer the new Government of Grenada a few important recommendations, which are detailed in the conclusion and recommendations section of the report.

The OAS Mission wishes to congratulate all those involved in the General Elections of 2008 in Grenada, including the Supervisor of Elections, the Parliamentary Elections Office, government officials, the Grenadian police force, participating political parties and candidates, members of civil society organizations, presiding officers, poll clerks and party agents and the many citizens of Grenada who offered members of this Mission their own perspectives on this crucial electoral exercise. OAS observers appreciated the courteous and helpful reception they were given and the high standard of civility displayed by people of Grenada in exercising their democratic rights. The Mission would also like to thank the Governments of Canada, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States for providing crucial financial support and observers for this mission; and the St George's University of Grenada and the University of the West Indies, whose students and staff members participated as election observers.

## **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

### **A. BACKGROUND AND NATURE OF MISSION**

In an exchange of correspondence beginning in January 2008, the Government of Grenada invited the Organization of American States to field an Electoral Observation Mission to observe the General Elections due to take place later that year. The OAS responded positively to this request and set in motion preparations for a mission that would incorporate both a technical component, involving analysis of the voter registration system in advance of the Elections, and a team of observers to witness the final days of campaigning, the Special Voting of police, the conduct of the poll for the General Elections, the counting of ballots, and the immediate post-election process. The OAS has fielded an Electoral Observation Mission in Grenada on two previous occasions, in 1999 and again in 2003.

Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin served as Chief of Mission, assisted by Senior Specialist Steven Griner as Deputy Chief of Mission. The technical component of the Mission comprised a visit by three members of the OAS Secretariat between March 31 and April 1, 2008, to analyze concerns raised by the National Democratic Congress about the electoral registry. The members of the delegation included Steven Griner from the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, and Felix Ortega and Richard Campbell of the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development. OAS Representative in Grenada, Francis McBarnette also participated in the meetings and consultations. This group spoke with the Parliamentary Elections Office about expediting preparations to produce the final voter list and of efforts to purge inaccuracies remaining in the list. Their preliminary recommendations of April 7, 2008, are attached as an appendix to this report.

During a short preliminary mission, from June 12 to 14, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin met and discussed preparations for the elections with political stakeholders including party leaders, the Governor- General, the Chief of the Grenadian Police Force, and the Supervisor of Elections. The Assistant Secretary General signed on behalf of the General Secretariat an agreement with the Parliamentary Elections Office establishing the objectives and procedures for the observers' activities. Shortly before the elections, the OAS mission signed an agreement of privileges and immunities with the Government of Grenada and, subsequently, another agreement of electoral guarantees with the Parliamentary Elections Office of Grenada.

On Election Day, the OAS Mission consisted of 38 observers from 15 countries. There were equal numbers of male and female observers. A smaller, core group, consisting of six teams of observers, was present to observe the special voting of the police, which took place on July 4. Observers participated in a day of training, familiarizing themselves with their duties and with the electoral districts where they would be deployed. For the General Elections on July 8, the mission deployed teams in all of Grenada's 15 constituencies, including the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and observed 100% of Grenada's 220 polling stations, visiting each at least once and often returning on more than one occasion to monitor progress. Observers recorded their general impressions of the polling stations and provided answers to specific questions for each polling station, such as "were all the necessary election materials present?", on special forms, samples of which are appended to this report. They spoke firsthand with Presiding Officers, Poll clerks, Returning Officers, police officers, party agents, and members of the public, building a comprehensive picture of the conduct of these Elections. Observers communicated their observations both verbally, in a Mission meeting immediately after the close of the poll, and in written form. The report that follows describes their findings and outlines the Mission's conclusions and recommendations.

The report begins with an overview of the political history of Grenada, the main political parties and other stakeholders, the voting procedure, and the legislative situation with regard to political financing. Chapter III then describes the Mission's observations before, during and after the Elections. Chapter IV presents the Mission's conclusions and recommendations. Appendices contain the financial statement and other documents relevant to the Mission's activities in Grenada.

## **CHAPTER II: POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION**

### **A. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

Three islands comprise Grenada: Grenada, and the smaller islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The total land area of the islands is 344 square kilometers and the population of the three islands consists of approximately 100,000 persons, around 50% of whom are under 30 years of age. The economy of the islands depends on tourism and strong performances in construction and light manufacturing, with the development of an offshore financial industry, have contributed to a recent growth in national output and foreign direct investment. More traditional forms of production include agriculture and the cultivation of spices – particularly nutmeg and cocoa – for export. These traditional industries were hit hard by Hurricanes Ivan (2004) and Emily (2005) and the debt incurred in the rebuilding process.

In 1650 the French first settled in Grenada, which up until that time had been inhabited by the Carib Indians. Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, France and Britain took possession of the island at different periods, until in 1783 the Treaty of Versailles awarded Grenada to Britain. Nevertheless, French influence remains: Catholicism is the predominant religion, African-French patois is still spoken by some and many geographical names have a French origin.

The granting of adult suffrage in 1951 marked the beginning of self-rule in Grenada. In this year Eric Gairy, a trade union leader, won his first election with the overwhelming support of the working classes. Gairy lost the elections in 1962, but he and his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) returned to power in the 1967 elections and ruled continuously for twelve years. In 1967, Grenada became an associated state within the British Commonwealth and achieved full independence in 1974.

On March 13, 1979, reacting to a situation of deteriorating governance and in Gairy's absence from the country, a small group from the New Jewel Movement (NJM) led by Maurice Bishop seized power and created the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). Bishop became Prime Minister and began to cultivate ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba. In 1983, a faction within the PRG placed Bishop under house arrest. A large crowd freed him, and he and his supporters took refuge in a nearby colonial fort. After a bloody battle that left more than 60 people dead, the army took control of the fort and executed Bishop and seven of his advisors, including some members of his cabinet. The Revolutionary Military Council assumed power. Five days later, at the request of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the United States landed military forces to assist in restoring order.

In December 1984 elections were held and the newly formed New National Party (NNP) assumed power. Herbert Blaize was named Prime Minister and led the Government until his death in December 1989. Ben Jones took over until the March 1990 elections transferred power to the National Democratic Congress (NDC). The NDC formed a coalition government with

Nicholas Braithwaite as Prime Minister. In 1995, the NNP, led by Keith Mitchell, regained power, winning eight of fifteen seats in the House of Representatives.

After the defection of two ministers of the Mitchell Government, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, eliminating the ruling Government's parliamentary majority, the Prime Minister dissolved parliament and called for new general elections to be held on January 18, 1999. In those elections the NNP returned to power, gaining all fifteen seats in the House of Representatives. The General Elections of 2003 were much more closely contested, with the NNP securing victory by the narrowest of margins, winning eight seats to the NNP's seven seats. On the eve of the 2008 General Elections the NNP had been in power for thirteen years and was seeking a historic fourth term in office, while the NDC was hoping to end its long sojourn in Opposition.

## **B. POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND ACTORS**

Grenada operates a parliamentary system of government on the Westminster model. The island has been, since 1974, an independent sovereign state, but remains a member of the British Commonwealth, and the Queen of Great Britain is the nominal Head of State; her representative in Grenada is the Governor-General. The legislature is bicameral, with a lower house, the 'House of Representatives', and an upper house, the Senate. The island has fifteen constituencies and these fifteen seats in the House of Representatives are contested in General Elections: members are elected by popular vote on a "first-past-the-post" basis, to serve five-year terms. The leader of the party securing the majority of seats in Parliament is named Prime Minister by the Governor-General. The leader of the party winning the next largest bloc of seats is named leader of the Opposition.

The thirteen members of the Senate are appointed politically. The Prime Minister recommends the appointment of seven senators of his or her own choosing, plus an additional three senators who are to be selected in consultation with "the organizations or interests which the Prime Minister considers the Senators should be elected to represent." These organizations and interests traditionally encompass agricultural and business groups as well as trade unions. The leader of the Opposition is entitled to nominate three Senators.

In accordance with the Representation of the People Act of 1993, the Governor-General appoints the Supervisor of Elections, who administers and supervises the conduct of the elections through the Parliamentary Elections Office. The Parliamentary Elections Office employs and deploys election officials. Each polling station is manned by a Presiding Officer and a Poll Clerk, who report to the Returning Officer for that constituency. Returning Officers are in turn responsible to the Supervisor of Elections, currently Ms Nadica McIntyre. All eligible Grenadian citizens over the age of eighteen are entitled to vote, as are Commonwealth citizens who have resided in Grenada for a period of at least twelve months immediately before the date of their registration as voters.

### **Political Parties**

There are five major political parties in Grenada, two of which, The National Democratic Congress and the New National Party, dominated this election, contesting all of the country's fifteen seats, while other parties contested only certain constituencies. In 2008, there were forty-seven candidates seeking election, of whom six were independents. Two of the independent candidates withdrew before Election Day.

### **The National Democratic Congress (NDC)**

Party color: yellow      Party symbol: heart

The National Democratic Congress, a liberal party, was founded in 1987. It won the 1990 election, with Nicholas Braithwaite becoming Prime Minister. It lost power to the New National Party in the 1995 election, which occurred shortly after Braithwaite's resignation. The NDC was thereafter in opposition for thirteen years. It failed to win any seats in the 1999 election, but only narrowly lost the 2003 election, in which it won 45.6% of the popular vote and seven of the fifteen seats. The party leader is Tillman Thomas; Peter David is the General Secretary. In 2008, the NDC campaigned on a "Wind of Change" platform, emphasizing the need its members perceived for a new style of governance and different spending priorities. Its slogans, "Vote NDC for love of country" and "Vote NDC on Liberation Day" reflected this agenda.

### **The New National Party (NNP)**

Party color: green      Party symbol: house

The New National Party is a conservative political party in Grenada. The party was founded in August 1984 through the merger of the Grenada National Party, led by Herbert Blaize, the National Democratic Party, led by George Brizan, and the Grenada Democratic Movement, led by Francis Alexis. Led by Blaize, the NNP won 14 out of 15 seats in the December 1984 general election, and Blaize became Prime Minister. Dr Keith Mitchell was elected as leader of the NNP in January 1989. In the 1990 general election, the NNP won two seats and was left in opposition. The party was victorious in the 1995 general election, winning eight out of 15 seats in the House of Representatives, and Mitchell became Prime Minister. After the NNP lost its majority due to the resignation of Raphael Fletcher, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in November 1998, an early election was called for January 1999, and the NNP won all 15 seats. The NNP narrowly won a third term in power in the November 2003 election, reduced to a one seat parliamentary majority. In 2008, the NNP campaigned with the slogan 'Let the Progress Continue', emphasizing the importance of the economy and of continued investment and development.

### **United Labour Platform: A Coalition between the People's Labour Movement (PLM) and the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP)**

Formerly called the Grenada Peoples Party, GULP was created in 1951 from a faction of the Manual and Mental Workers Union. With overwhelming support from the working class, GULP under its leader, Eric Gairy, won the 1951 elections in Grenada, the first elections after adult suffrage was granted. From 1950 to 1972, GULP won five of seven general elections held. GULP won one seat in 1984, four seats in 1990 and two seats in 1995. It won no seats in the 1999 election, but Michael Baptiste of the ruling New National Party defected to the GULP in June 2000, giving the party one seat in the House of Representatives. Gloria Payne Banfield was elected as GULP leader in February 2003, becoming Grenada's first female party leader. In the general election of 2003, the party won 3.2% of the popular vote and no seats.

In 1999, after the NDC failed to win any seats in the election, Francis Alexis dropped out of the NDC and formed his own party, the People's Labour Movement, on a labor platform. The PLM contested the 2003 election, winning 2.2% of the popular vote and no seats.

For the July 2008 election, the GULP formed a coalition with the People's Labour Movement: The United Labour Platform. The United Labour Platform in 2008 fielded 11 candidates for the 15 seats, netting 0.84% of the vote and winning no seats.

### **Good Old Democracy Party (GOD)**

Justin McBurnie, a journalist and part-time pastor, created the GOD, an overtly Christian party, which first participated in the 1995 elections. It has fielded a small number of candidates in each subsequent election, but has won only a handful of votes.

### **Civil Society**

The Watchdog Committee of Civil Society Organizations is composed of members of a variety of civil society groups in Grenada, including the Grenada Education and Development Program, the Grenada Trades Union Council, The Grenada National Organization of Women, the Grenada Community Development Agency and Inter-Agency Development Organization, the Grenada Human Rights Organization, the Conference of Churches in Grenada, the Grenada Bar Association, and the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

The Committee monitors the election campaign, receives and investigates complaints from the public, and endeavors to persuade all political parties to subscribe to and observe a Code of Conduct that aims to ensure standards of civility during the election period. This Code of Political Conduct is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Contribute to the holding of peaceful, free and fair elections.
- (ii) Foster continuing respect for internationally recognized human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- (iii) Foster and encourage people's participation in the electoral process and uphold their right to make political choices.
- (iv) Promote public education on acceptable political conduct.
- (v) Facilitate civil society and the public at large in setting up systems and taking initiatives for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the level of adherence to the Code of Political Conduct
- (vi) Encourage sanctions by the public and other entities for non-compliance to this Code of Political Conduct

The Watchdog Committee also sends a number of volunteers to observe polling on Election Day.

In 2008, the Watchdog Committee met once before and once after the election, with the OAS Mission. The Committee expressed frustration that the political Code of Conduct had not been signed by all parties in Grenada until one week before the election. The NNP objected to the wording of the Code and claimed that the Committee presenting it was factionalized, consisting predominantly of NDC supporters. This dispute was eventually resolved and the Code was signed. As the Committee affirmed, however, the dispute points to the need for Civil Society actors in the Grenadian political process to establish and develop a continuous, ongoing role in mediating between the public and politicians. This will enable them to be seen as "honest brokers," independent of party affiliation.

## **International Community**

In addition to the OAS Election Observation Mission, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) mounted a five person observer mission, under the leadership of Mrs. Versil Charles-Wright, Deputy Chief Election Officer of the Elections and Boundaries Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, with which the OAS Mission liaised.

## **C. VOTING PROCEDURE**

Each polling station is manned by a presiding officer and a poll clerk. These election officials report to a returning officer, responsible for the electoral district. Members of the police are present to secure each polling station, and a party agent for each candidate contesting the election is permitted to be present to witness the conduct of the poll in addition to accredited international observers.

Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Just before the opening of the poll, the presiding officer and poll clerk display the empty ballot box to all present, and then lock it. Each elector, upon entering the polling station, declares his or her name, which the poll clerk checks against the official list of electors for that station. If it appears, the poll clerk calls out the name of the elector as stated in the official list. The presiding officer then requires the elector's identity card or other acceptable form of identification.

If the voter does not have his or her card, the presiding officer will search the "polling station card" of the voter on file in the polling station. The polling station card has the voter's photograph, name, voter identification number and occupation. The presiding officer then compares the information from the polling station card with the voter registry. If the information corresponds, the voter is allowed to vote, unless a political party agent at the polling station requests that he or she take an oath as to the accuracy of the information

If the elector produces satisfactory identification, the poll clerk enters his or her name, address, and occupation in the poll book. The entries in the poll book are numbered consecutively. The ballots at the polling station are removed individually from the books in which they are bound and given to each voter upon arrival at the polling station. Before removing the ballot, the presiding officer writes the voter number and initials the counterfoil of the ballot. The presiding officer checks the elector's hand and, if satisfied that he or she has not already voted, issues a ballot, instructing the elector impartially on how to vote and how to fold the paper such that their vote remains secret. The presiding officer then initials the back of the ballot paper so it can be seen. Having made his or her pencil mark in the voting booth against the name of a candidate, the elector shows the presiding officer the initials on the folded ballot paper, dips his or her right index finger in the electoral ink, and casts the vote into the ballot box. The poll clerk records 'voted' against the name of each elector who has done so.

If at 5 p.m. there are any voters standing in line they are permitted to vote, but no one who arrives after 5 p.m. is permitted to vote. At the close of the poll, in the presence of the poll clerk and the candidates or their agents, the presiding officer counts the number of voters whose names appear in the poll book as having voted, counts the spoiled ballot papers (if any) and the unused ballot papers and checks this total against the number of ballots supplied by the returning officer, to ascertain that all ballot papers are accounted for. He or she then opens the ballot box and counts the votes for each candidate, giving full opportunity to those present to examine each ballot paper, and finally displaying the empty box.

The polling clerk keeps count on a tally sheet provided to the polling station. The number of used, spoiled and unused ballots should equal the total number of ballots supplied to the polling station. The results are recorded on a statement, one of which is sealed in a special envelope to be delivered to the returning officer of the constituency. The presiding officer retains a copy and places a third copy in the ballot box. The envelopes containing the ballots and the other materials from the polling station are placed in the ballot box which is then locked and sealed. The presiding officer, accompanied by a police officer, delivers the statement and the ballot box to the returning officer.

Immediately after receiving the statement, the returning officer transmits the results to the Supervisor of Elections. The results received on Election Day, and made public by the Supervisor of Elections, are preliminary results. On the day immediately following the elections, the returning and presiding officers open the ballot boxes and recount the ballots. The results recorded at this time are considered the official results.

#### **D. POLITICAL FINANCING**

The present political party and campaign financing regime in Grenada is private and characterized by an absence of regulations or restrictions on the amount parties can raise or spend for electoral purposes. There is no government funding, direct or indirect, and political parties and candidates are expected to raise their own campaign funds, which they do both locally and internationally from groups, individuals, and businesses. The Grenadian diaspora pumps funding into the political system, but the absence of disclosure rules or restrictions on foreign donations makes it difficult to know the amounts or sources of the funding.

Amounts spent on campaigning, especially on electronic media, have risen significantly in the past twenty years. One local observer in 2008 commented that “so many entertainers had been booked for party campaign events and fundraisers in the run-up to the elections that none would be left for the carnival”. While explicit vote-buying is publicly deplored and punishable under law, many Grenadians privately express the conviction that money routinely influences party affiliation on the island. The issue of creating more transparency, accountability, and regulation in campaign financing in Grenada, establishing caps on campaign spending, and the possibility of limited public financing for all parties and limited public airtime, to “level the playing field” between contestants, were raised at the last two elections. So far, however, no party has acted to create and implement legislation, or even a voluntary Code of Conduct regarding political funding.

### **CHAPTER III: MISSION ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVATIONS**

#### **A. PRE-ELECTION**

##### **Technical Component of the Mission and the Voter List**

From March 31 to April 1, 2008 three officials of the OAS General Secretariat visited Grenada to analyze concerns presented by the National Democratic Council about the electoral registry. This advance visit formed the technical component of the Electoral Observation Mission requested by the Government of Grenada for the 2008 General Elections.

The OAS Electoral Observation Missions in Grenada in 1999 recommended a system of continuous voter registration ‘to ensure that the voter registry is up-to-date and accurate.’ The Mission report further asserted that “by implementing a continuous registration system, those

voters who reach voting age before elections could be more easily included in the registry [and such a system] would facilitate the publication of an updated voter's list regardless of the date of elections." Lastly, the report concluded that if the civil registry were integrated with this system, it could "serve as a useful source of demographic information for social and economic policy and planning."

To assist in implementing this and other recommendations, the OAS General Secretariat initiated a long-term technical electoral assistance program with the Office of Parliamentary Elections and the Civil Registry, providing hardware, developing software and making available technical expertise that would automate both voter registration as well as the recording of births, deaths and marriages. The original objective of the program was to link the two lists to more quickly purge the names of deceased persons from the electoral registry as well as to facilitate the printing of birth and death certificates from a computer in one of the seven offices of the civil registry. While data has been entered in the civil and electoral registries on a continuous basis, the linkage between the two, and hence the full potential of the computerization has not been realized, due in part to legal impediments, since legislation is still needed to make computer-generated certificates legal documents. Nevertheless, the electronic storage of information has greatly enhanced the effectiveness and the accuracy of both the civil and electoral registries, since verifications can be done automatically, obviating the use of cumbersome paper files and logs.

Continuous voter registration was implemented in 2004 (interrupted by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and reinitiated in 2005), and by the time of the OAS visit at the end of March 2008 the electoral registry contained 64,551 entries, which represented all registrants through December 31, 2007. The Parliamentary Elections Office is supposed to provide updated lists on a quarterly basis and informed the OAS Technical Mission that another would be available by the end of April or the beginning of May. This new registry would contain all registered voters through March 31, 2008. A two-week claims and objections period would follow in which citizens could check their information at one of the fifteen constituency offices in the country.

The opposition National Democratic Congress submitted to the OAS Technical Mission lists from twelve constituencies of names that allegedly contained errors such as omissions, duplications, deceased persons and displacements. The number of names with possible irregularities received by the Mission totaled 884, or 1.39 percent of the electoral registry. (The Technical Mission was informed that the NDC had submitted lists from all fifteen constituencies to the Parliamentary Elections Office.) The majority of submissions received during the Claims and Objections period were claims – for example 65 persons in St Andrews West claimed to have been omitted from the list – and it is likely that the voters' list, which stood at 70,869, remained inflated by the names of Grenadians no longer resident on the island.

The OAS Technical Mission was informed that a version of the electoral registry, including all new entrants during the first quarter of 2008, organized by constituency, would be made available to political parties by late April or early May 2008 and that the addendum of newly registered electors from April 1, 2008 to the issuance of the Writ of Elections would be available for public scrutiny at least three weeks before Election Day. In its Preliminary Findings and Recommendations, which were issued on April 7, 2008, the Technical Mission commended the Parliamentary Elections Office for the professionalism and integrity with which it carried out its duties. The Mission urged the Supervisor of Elections and her technical staff to devote themselves full time in the run-up to the Elections to entering information and ensuring the accuracy of the voter registry, suggesting that the number of data entry and verification personnel be doubled until the voter registry was issued.

In practice, however, the final voter list did not appear until Friday July 4, 2008. This meant that parties and members of the public had a very short window before the General Elections of July 8 to scrutinize the list. As the Election Day observations in this report demonstrate, the number of Grenadian electors who had difficulty finding their polling station and voting there was very small and those in doubt were readily assisted by party agents and Returning Officers. The Mission considers that the system of continuous registration has done much to improve the accuracy of the voters' list and to encourage Grenadian electors to register and update their details. However, some of those interviewed by the Mission said that more should be done in future to ensure the timely appearance of the final voter list, several weeks in advance of Election Day.

### **Campaign and Rallies**

The 2008 General Election campaign in Grenada was closely contested, with a strong public perception that stakes were unusually high and that either party might claim a narrow victory. Memories of the small margin by which the NNP had retained office in 2003 increased awareness that every vote counted and the exceptionally high turnout on Election Day reflected the urgency and vigor with which the campaign was waged on both sides. Observers noted that the tone and content of campaign materials (especially newspaper, radio and television advertising) was often acrimonious, with much negative campaigning and "mud-slinging" at opponents. In an editorial of July 4, 2008, *The Grenada Advocate* claimed that politics on both sides had "sunk to nasty levels" in this election "from the disputes over party colors to the unprecedented levels of character assassination."<sup>1/</sup>

According to many Grenadians, accusations leveled at political rivals were hyperbolic, often tending to incite fear in the public. The NNP ran advertisements alluding to the radical political past of some NDC candidates and hinting that their election would bring a return to the violent politics of the revolution and its aftermath in the 1980s. The NDC meanwhile made comparisons between Keith Mitchell and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, claiming that democracy in Grenada had fallen victim to "creeping dictatorship".<sup>2/</sup>

A team consisting of 22 members of Grenadian civil society organizations, including NGOs and church groups, produced a Political Code of Conduct similar to that used in the 2003 election and intended to commit party signatories to standards of civility during the election campaign.

The Code, however, became itself a matter of inter-party controversy. The NNP, which at first refused to sign, claimed that the civil society group was biased toward the NDC and that the Code was thus the work of a political faction. The NNP submitted an amended version to the Grenada Conference of Churches and eventually subscribed to the Code of Conduct, which had previously been endorsed by the other Grenadian parties, on July 1, 2008.

Tensions between the NNP and the NDC rose toward the end of the campaign period, with a dispute over whether either party should be permitted to hold a campaign motorcade on the final Sunday (July 6) before the election. In the end, this dispute was amicably resolved, with both parties agreeing to cancel a proposed large-scale motorcade on that day. However, the uncertainty that lingered and the anxiety it provoked highlight the importance of rival parties agreeing to negotiate in advance over matters such as the campaign calendar of events and signing the Code to address disputes at an early stage.

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1. *Grenada Advocate*, July 4, 2008, p.8.

2. NDC Advertisement, *Grenadian Voice*, July 5, 2008, p.11.

Observers attended closing rallies by the NDC in Grenville, toward the east of the island, and by the NNP in St George's, in the south. Both rallies were well-attended, attracting several thousand supporters, and those present expressed their sentiments vocally, chanting support for the candidates and participating in vigorous criticism of the opposition. However, a peaceful atmosphere prevailed, with families enjoying picnics on the grass and dancing to live music, and no incidents of violence were reported or observed. An active police presence at both events helped to ensure order and observers noted that speakers for both parties' platforms urged the crowd to "love all Grenadians" and maintain a spirit of brotherhood on Election Day.

Attendees interviewed at the rallies identified some of the key issues in the election as unemployment, agriculture, the sale of land to foreign investors, corruption and crime, and leadership style. Personalities and established party loyalties appeared to count for more than specific manifesto pledges. However, both NNP and NDC supporters stressed that attracting the youth vote was an important factor in this election. The NNP platform, with its slogan "Let the Progress Continue," emphasized the fiscal achievements of the last three terms in government and the need for continuing investment and economic development. The NDC platform, with its slogan "Vote NDC on Liberation Day," focused on the need for change, particularly a desire to oust the Prime Minister, whom NDC supporters portrayed as unduly autocratic. At the NDC rally in Grenville, observers witnessed a performance by two young men carrying a model boat containing a puppet representing the Prime Minister. This puppet, like the Biblical Jonah, was symbolically thrown overboard, indicating that NDC voters would "overthrow" the current NNP leadership. Despite the violence implicit in this image, the performance was peaceful and the crowd, chanting 'bush bash' ['splish splash'], was good-humored. Some voters on both sides, however, expressed concern about the late appearance of the voter list and the tension that had developed between the NDC and NNP over the motorcades planned for the final weekend of the campaign but subsequently cancelled.

Prior to the election, the Mission met with the Watchdog Committee, which comprises members of various civil society organizations, and which undertakes monitoring of the election campaign and investigates complaints received from the public regarding violation of the Code of Political Conduct. Among the complaints it reported that it had received were complaints about: the removal of posters and banners; the defacing of walls and marking of roadways; slashing of vehicle tires; obstructing access for persons living in some communities; confronting individuals in a manner threatening victimization or discrimination for expressing their political preferences; bribery; false accusations and other examples of intolerant or offensive behavior toward persons of opposing political persuasions. The Watchdog Committee also received complaints from both sides of the party spectrum about speakers during the campaign deploying sexist rhetoric offensive to women, alluding in particular to the rival party's female candidates. There were also some specific complaints about a potentially misleading NNP television advertisement in which the NDC leader was apparently portrayed apologizing for his shortcomings, and about the perceived use of government resources for campaign activities.

The Watchdog Committee provides a vital service in collecting, investigating, and publicizing complaints about the conduct of the campaign. It expressed during discussion with the Mission that its activities in Grenada could usefully be expanded to include continuously monitoring the adherence of all political actors to agreed standards of civility and undertaking a wider, long-term educational and facilitative role in communicating between different stakeholders in the political process. The OAS Chief of Mission emphasized, though, that to assume this role, it is vital that civil society be seen as an "honest broker", objective and representative of cross-party interests.

### **Observation of Police Voting**

A core group of observers arrived in advance of the rest of the Mission to witness the Special Vote of the Police on July 4, 2008. This was the first election in Grenada in which the police have voted separately so that they could be free to work securing polling sites on Election Day. The polling sites for the Special Vote were different from those used for the General Election: most were police stations. Some parties expressed concern in advance about the locking mechanisms and security arrangements for special ballot boxes, which would be held for four days until the police votes could be mixed with those of other voters at Returning Offices. In practice, the special vote ran very smoothly and security arrangements proved more than sufficient.

Six teams of OAS observers, working in pairs, covered the Special Vote, operating in different constituencies and typically attending the opening of the poll in one location, observing voting in several other polling stations, and observing the close of poll and securing of the ballot box. A small team of CARICOM observers also monitored the Special Vote and liaised with OAS observers, reporting similar findings. The OAS Mission found that, on the whole, poll workers were well trained and the poll opened on time at 6 a.m. and proceeded efficiently, closing promptly at 5 p.m. The necessary materials were present, as were party agents, and the secrecy and security of the ballot were maintained. One incident was reported of a outdoor agent who was too near the polling station, having infringed the 100-yard limit, and a couple of polling stations were reported to be unduly cramped, while one (Grenville Police Station) was noisome with urine. But these were isolated problems, which did not materially affect the voting process.

Observers noted that some voters were unclear about voting procedure, particularly the correct way of marking, folding, and entering the ballot paper in the box. While presiding officers were impartial, professional and patient in handling inexperienced or nervous voters, observers felt that instruction was often minimal ('you make your mark on this side of the paper, between the lines' was a common summary). Observers also noted that the checking of voter identity by presiding officers varied— some voters presented ID cards, but these were not always requested or examined. When questioned, poll workers affirmed that they knew the individuals in question well, and party agents frequently corroborated this.

### **B. Election Day**

All observers completed a day of training to familiarize themselves with the electoral system of Grenada, the rules and norms governing Electoral Observation, and the districts that they would be monitoring. Additionally, observers were provided with important background material prior to their deployment to the island. Observers, working in pairs, were assigned to cover the polling stations in one of Grenada's fifteen constituencies. Since there were 38 observers, some constituencies were monitored by more than one team. On Election Day, July 8, 2008, the Mission visited 100% of Grenada's 134 voting centers and 220 polling stations, including those on Carriacou and Petite Martinique, visiting each at least once and often visiting a polling site more than once to compare morning and afternoon operations.

On the morning of Election Day, each observer team arrived at a selected polling station between 5 and 6 a.m. to observe the inspection and sealing of the ballot box, swearing in of election officials, and other opening procedures. Throughout the day, observers circulated to different polling stations in their constituencies. The teams then returned to the polling station where they had witnessed the opening, to observe the closing of the poll, the counting of the ballot, and transmission of preliminary results.

On special forms, the observers collected information about the opening and closing of the polls and the conduct of the voting. They obtained this information through firsthand observation and through interviews with the election officials, policemen, and voters at the polling stations. Observers delivered their completed forms and a short report to the Mission rapporteur; they also gave a verbal account of their impressions to the Mission immediately following the close of poll. From this testimony a strikingly consistent picture emerged of the conduct of polling across Grenada.

### **Observer Testimony**

Observers reported that the overwhelming majority of polling stations (98%) opened on time at 6 a.m. and that by 6.30 a.m., all were fully functional. The necessary electoral materials were present, voter lists were displayed outside the polling stations, and opening procedures were correctly followed. A party agent from the NNP and one from the NDC were present in all the polling stations observed; less frequently an agent from one of the other parties contesting the election was also present. Observers reported that party agents worked harmoniously with one another and with the election officers in a spirit of collegiality.

Although the atmosphere before the election was heated after a highly-charged campaign, and some commentators expressed anxieties that election day arrangements could be chaotic due to recent personnel changes in the Parliamentary Elections Office and the late availability of the voter list, Election Day proved very peaceful, with no reported instances of violence, intimidation, or disturbance of the polling process. Lines were long in the morning and voters at a few polling stations complained to observers that they had waited three or four hours to exercise their franchise, but both the public and the polling officials maintained exemplary patience and, by the early afternoon, lines in most places were minimal. Turnout in these elections was extremely high, at 80.3 percent, and a few polling stations had to call for extra supplies of poll books or ballots, but these were invariably provided by the Returning Officer with great speed and efficiency. A handful of voters had difficulty in finding the correct polling station, or determining whether they were registered to vote, but these individuals were promptly assisted and, with very few exceptions, Grenadians who wished to exercise their franchise were able to do so.

Polling stations were, on the whole, well laid out and fit for the purpose. A few, however, were cramped and some suffered from poor ventilation and a preponderance of insects. Other logistical problems sometimes experienced included poor lighting, rough floors, and an absence of toilet facilities. Among the stations that had one or more of these problems observers identified: DO1 and D07 in St Andrew North East; various locations in St Andrew South West and St George's South East, including a gazebo in the Botanical Gardens; N01, N03 and N05 in St Mark (particularly N01, a Cocoa Processing Station, where both election officials and observers suffered from an infestation of sandflies); H09 in St George's North East; and F01 in St David, where conditions were so cramped that party agents had an inappropriately close view of the voters' booth, though there was no evidence that they were exploiting this situation. In some locations, (for example, F11 in St David), people waiting to vote were lined up on the street and were subject to occasional solicitation from passing party loyalists, cruising by in cars: police were, however, alert to this and prevented it where possible. The elderly and disabled were typically assisted by police or other citizens to the front of the line, but many polling stations were unsuitable for wheelchair users and presented difficulties to the physically challenged. Signage directing voters to individual polling stations (generally alphabetically, by surname) was typically improvised on the day, handwritten, and difficult to read from afar. Likewise, not all polling stations were equipped with a publicly visible clock.

There was great variation across the island in the type of building used as a polling station and the number of voters registered there. While such variation is, to some extent, inevitable, some standardization and logistical reorganization could avoid the use of unduly cramped accommodation, and the imbalances whereby some stations handle as few as 50 voters, while others struggle to process 450. This, and the appointment of two poll clerks in the busiest locations, might help to speed up the process of voting in bottleneck polling stations.

Presiding Officers and poll clerks throughout Grenada were generally well trained and performed their duties scrupulously and efficiently, with commendable professionalism. The secrecy of the ballot was maintained. Presiding Officers instructed voters impartially and the proper voting procedures were followed. However, as with the police Special Vote, observers noted considerable variation in the manner in which election official checked voter identity, instructed voters, and handled anomalies, such as spoiled and rejected ballots. Some voters were asked for identification; some were not; and the level of scrutiny of ID was unpredictable.

The police were present securing all polling sites throughout Election Day and observers commended their exemplary attention to duty and their willingness often to go beyond the call of duty in helping election officials to organize voter lines and assisting elderly or physically challenged voters.

Like the opening, the closing of the poll was smooth and without incident. Correct procedures were generally followed. Anyone in line at 5 p.m. was permitted to vote and polling stations closed punctually on the hour. The counting of ballots was expeditious and preliminary results were transmitted to the Parliamentary Elections Office early on the evening of Election Day. Those who observed the mixing of the police Special Vote with the general vote reported that this went well, though, as noted in the pre-election observations above, police votes were technically distinguishable from general votes by the differing signature of the Presiding Officer.

In a few instances, inexperienced poll workers took time to master the counting procedures and observers noted some inconsistencies in the type (and hence number) of ballot papers rejected in different polling stations. For example, in some places, Presiding Officers regarded a cross placed on the party symbol as an infringement of the rules that dictate that the voter's mark should be placed within the lines beside the party symbol. Others judged that, since the voter's intention was clear, such ballots were admissible. Some voters made their mark as a tick, a squiggle, or even, in one instance, a smiling face, and Presiding Officers took differing attitudes to such peculiarities. In one station in St David's, an observer saw a stray ballot that had not been signed by the Presiding Officer being initialed during the count and one where the counterfoil had mistakenly not been removed before the ballot was cast, simply having the strip removed during the count and being included. In another station in St John's with a particularly rigorous Presiding Officer, 23 ballots were rejected for infringements in the placement or nature of the voter's mark that in other polling stations might well have been accepted. Observers stressed that the overall numbers of ballots affected were so small that the election result was not materially affected by the variation in these decisions, no particular party was favored, and party agents in each case concurred in the judgments made by the Presiding Officers.

Observers invited any individual voter who expressed dissatisfaction at a polling station to sign a formal sheet outlining their complaint; a few such complaints were received. One voter complained about the lack of facilities for elderly and physically challenged voters in F06 St David's. Another couple of formal complaints were received in Carriacou: one from an NDC candidate, who complained that the voter list had not arrived until the night before the election, preventing voters from checking their registration and polling site, and another from a man who maintained that a Presiding Officer had allowed an aunt, who is resident in the USA, to vote under the name of her grandmother. Although some voiced impatience with the long lines and

waiting times, most voters interviewed by observers expressed satisfaction with the electoral process.

OAS observers were welcomed everywhere with courtesy and friendliness by both election officials and members of the public. The Chief of Mission was pleased with the efficient manner in which the Supervisor of Elections, Returning Officers, and party officials remained in close contact with the OAS Mission throughout Election Day. This was helpful both to the Electoral Observation Mission, which had accurate information on developments as they arose, and to other stakeholders, who were able to check with the OAS Mission to relay news, confirm accurate, and occasionally rebut inaccurate information they had received on the ground.

### **C. POST-ELECTION PROCESS**

The final results of the General Elections in Grenada were declared by the Parliamentary Elections Office on July 9. The National Democratic Congress won 11 seats and the New National Party 4 seats. The leader of the National Democratic Congress, Mr. Tillman Thomas, was inaugurated as Prime Minister on July 9 and the leader of New National Party, Dr Keith Mitchell, became the new leader of the Opposition.

As is customary in Grenada, the day after the elections was a public holiday. The Chief of Mission held a Press Conference and issued a press release outlining the Mission's preliminary findings. A cordial atmosphere prevailed, with all parties accepting the decision of the electorate, and no incidents of violence or disturbance were witnessed by or reported to the Mission.

## **CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission congratulates the people of Grenada, the Supervisor of Elections and the Parliamentary Elections Office, party leaders, election officials, and members of the Grenadian police force, on the peaceful, orderly, and courteous conduct of the General Elections of July 8, 2008. The Mission's overall impression of the electoral process in Grenada is extremely positive. However, in the spirit of constructive engagement and as is customary in reports of this nature, it offers the following conclusions and recommendations:

### **A. CONCLUSIONS**

1. The late appearance of the voter list caused concern to many voters before the election. On 7 April, 2008, before the official close of the electoral registry, the OAS Mission issued a technical report based on concerns about the accuracy and timing of the registry. The report included recommendations to devote resources to the timely production of an accurate voter list at least three weeks before the General Elections. The Mission suggested doubling the number of data entry and verification personnel until the voter registry was issued. It also recommended that each political party should appoint a technical representative who should meet with the Supervisor of Elections or her technical staff at predetermined, regular meetings to ensure that concerns regarding the accuracy and timely production of the voter list were addressed on an immediate and continuous basis. Despite these concerns, the final voter list was not issued until Friday 4 July, 2008; party representatives and members of the public were thus afforded minimal opportunity to scrutinize it in advance of Election Day. In practice, the vast majority of electors found their polling sites without difficulty and those who could not, received ready assistance from the Presiding Officer, but there is room for improvement in future to produce an accurate and timely list.

2. The police Special Vote, practiced for the first time this election, went well and concerns voiced by parties about the security of special ballot boxes proved unfounded. However, the time allocated for the police vote (6 a.m. to 5 p.m.) was, in the view of the OAS Mission, excessive, as were the numbers of personnel associated with the police who were accorded a Special Vote. The fact that the Presiding Officers for the special ballot were different from the Presiding Officers for the ordinary ballot meant that police votes are theoretically identifiable, even when mixed with general ballot papers, by the different Presiding Officer signature appearing on the top of each ballot.
3. The OAS Mission applauds the work of the Parliamentary Elections Office which, despite recent changes of personnel, rose to the challenge of running a smooth election, in which turnout was exceptionally high. Polling stations were well equipped and on the rare occasions where something was needed, it was supplied with commendable speed. Returning Officers were highly responsive.
4. Polling Officials were well-trained, professional, and courteous. For the most part, the opening, conduct and closing of the poll ran smoothly. However, the Mission observed some variation in practice between the way that different presiding officers handled voter identification, instruction, and the determination of spoiled and rejected ballots: these processes could be streamlined and standardized.
5. Most polling stations were entirely fit for the purpose and well laid out. Some, however, were cramped, lacked proper ventilation and lighting, and were difficult to access for the elderly and physically challenged. Signage directing voters to a particular polling station on the basis of surname was often improvised on the day and hard to read from afar.
6. The distribution of voters among polling sites was often extremely uneven, with some polling stations handling as few as 50 voters and others as many as 450. While to some extent such variation is inevitable, some redistribution could help to reduce bottlenecks and waiting times at the busiest locations.
7. The tone of the election campaign was often acrimonious; with both major parties deploying advertisements that tended to raise public fears and portray political opponents in a harshly negative light. Last-minute debate about the staging of campaign events by rival parties also caused concern, although ultimately the issues were resolved. A political Code of Conduct drawn up by Civil Society, aimed at defusing conflict and encouraging dialogue, became itself a source of contention between parties and this contributed to a tense pre-election atmosphere.
8. Some of the complaints reported to Civil Society during the campaign related to offensive, sexist remarks about female candidates. Grenada, like many other nations, still faces challenges in achieving equal opportunities for women and men in politics.
9. The Mission also notes that election campaigning in Grenada, as elsewhere in the Caribbean, is becoming increasingly expensive, with increasing use of the media. The situation is propitious for parties to agree to rules on campaign financing and use of the media that promote fairness, transparency, and accountability.

## **B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. While, in practice, the vast majority of electors found their polling sites without difficulty, in the future every effort should be made to produce an accurate voter list at an earlier date, at least three weeks before Election Day.
2. Given the relatively small size of the police vote (around 900 persons), the number of hours allocated for the voting process (6 am to 5 pm) appeared excessive. A reduction to three or four hours for police voting would be more economical and efficient. Also, only serving police officers should be entitled to the Special Vote, not police cooks, drivers, or other administrative staff connected with the police force. Lastly, the Mission notes that, since the Presiding Officers were different for the Special Vote, and each ballot is signed by the Presiding Officer, police ballots were technically distinguishable in this election from ordinary ballots, even when mixed with the ballots cast on July 8. This anomaly should be corrected in future elections.
3. A greater degree of uniformity, consistency, and standardization of procedures across polling sites would be desirable. In particular, Presiding Officers should receive uniform training on how to handle voter identification, instruction, and the determination of spoiled and rejected ballots. A printed manual containing the protocol for poll workers to consult, particularly in anomalous situations, would be useful. Likewise, more public outreach programs to educate voters on electoral procedures might also be helpful.
4. A minority of polling stations that are currently too cramped, ill-ventilated, ill-lit or otherwise unsuitable for use requires improvement. The issue of access for elderly and physically challenged voters should also be revisited: some polling stations are exemplary in this regard, while others pose severe difficulties. Signage directing voters on Election Day should be clearly legible, preferably printed in advance. All polling stations need to be equipped with a clock that is easily visible. Some redistribution of voters across polling stations could help to reduce bottlenecks at polling stations that are currently over-tasked on Election Day.
5. The Parliamentary Elections Office could embrace a more visible, ongoing role in voter education and outreach to a variety of political stakeholders to promote the democratic process at all times, not merely in the election period. At present the Supervisor of Elections is required to combine this onerous post with many other duties. Heavier resourcing and staffing of the Parliamentary Elections Office in the months immediately preceding an election would facilitate its work. Creating new specialist positions within the Office, with specific oversight for Information Technology and Public Outreach could be of assistance. In particular, extending the opening hours of the Parliamentary Elections Office in the week preceding an election would be helpful. It would also provide more opportunities for voters uncertain of their registration to make contact.
6. We note that the role of political leaders and candidates in promoting a peaceful and constructive political environment in Grenada is critically important. We would like to see all parties in future, in collaboration with civil society, at an early stage agree on and sign an accord on conduct during the campaign to which they would be held accountable, and to address standards of campaign advertising and agree the calendar of campaign events in advance, to avoid conflict, tension, and uncertainty in the run-up to Election Day.
7. In the 2008 General Elections, the NNP fielded six women out of a total of fifteen candidates; the NDC fielded three female candidates. Only two female candidates were elected. Political

parties should actively consider and pursue mechanisms to recruit, train and finance women to be candidates for public office.

8. The OAS Mission urges all actors in the Grenadian political process to address the serious and potentially pernicious issue of campaign and political party financing. In particular, the OAS Mission suggests that political party leaders consider a cross-party accord on campaign financing and media access, which would promote transparency and accountability both in Grenada and across the region.
9. Civil society participation in the election process in Grenada has increased in recent years and civil society organizations have expressed to us a desire for ongoing assistance as they build capacity and train themselves to assume a broader ongoing role in monitoring and debating governance issues. The OAS Mission affirms its commitment to offering future assistance when so requested and urges all stakeholders to continue to work together to secure a peaceful, fair, and inclusive political process in Grenada.

**APPENDIXES**

APPENDIX I.

LETTER OF INVITATION



January 24, 2008

H. E. Hose Miguel Insulza  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States  
Washington DC  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Excellency,

I extend my personal best wishes for the year 2008 with the hope that it will be a successful and fulfilling year for you and the OAS family.

About a week ago I met with your representative here in Grenada, Mr. Francis Mc Barnette and in my discussion with him I expressed my interest in having you visit Grenada.

I therefore, on behalf of my Government extend an invitation to you to visit Grenada. During your visit I may make use of the opportunity to discuss some very important matters with you, namely:-

- Assistance with the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman
- Legislation on Integrity in Public Life
- Special consideration in the provision of Scholarships for Grenadian students
- Observer Mission for Grenada's General Elections

I wish to propose the dates of February 25 – 26, 2008. Please be kind enough to indicate whether these dates are convenient for you to include Grenada on your schedule.

Excellency, I await your response and I take this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Keith C. Mitchell  
**PRIME MINISTER**

MINISTERIAL COMPLEX, BOTANICAL GARDENS, TANTEEN, ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, W.I.  
TEL: (473) 440 2383; FAX: (473) 440 4116  
e-mail: pmoffice@gov.gd



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
1701 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009  
TELEPHONE (202) 265-2561  
FAX (202) 265-2468

January 30, 2008

His Excellency José Miguel Insulza  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States  
17<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Excellency,

I refer to our recent meeting at your office, at which time we discussed the preparations for General Elections in Grenada. I further wish to inform you that in a meeting with the Director of the Organization of American States (OAS) National Office in Grenada, Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, requested that the OAS be present when Grenada holds its General Elections.

While a date for the election in Grenada has not been announced, on behalf of the Government of Grenada, a request is being made for an OAS Electoral Observer Mission of the highest level, possibly headed by the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, to be in Grenada when Grenadians go to the polls.

Every effort is being made by the Mission to obtain the date of the election, which would be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary General.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes and renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antoine".

Denis G. Antoine  
Ambassador

**APPENDIX II.**

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE**

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

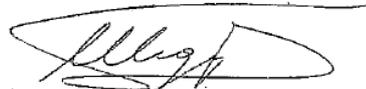
February 5, 2008

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to accept Your Excellency's invitation to make an official visit to Grenada on February 25 - 26, 2008. I have been looking forward to visiting your country for some time now. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you issues of regional and national interest, including the matters you mention in your letter such as an OAS Mission to observe Grenada's upcoming General Elections.

My office is working very closely with Ambassador Denis Antoine on the logistics for my visit and we hope to see him in Grenada as well.

Excellency, please be assured of my highest consideration.



José Miguel Insulza

His Excellency  
Keith C. Mitchell  
Prime Minister of Grenada  
Grenada, W.I.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

February 29, 2008

Excellency:

I wish to thank Your Excellency for the hospitality that you and the people of Grenada so graciously extended to me during my recent visit.

I must also congratulate you on how well Grenada has recovered from the devastation left by Hurricane Ivan. As you will recall, I visited the island right after the hurricane struck and witnessed first hand the extensive damage. The Government and people of Grenada are to be credited for pulling together to restore the country to its former beauty in record time.

Excellency, while in Grenada I had the opportunity to tour St. George's University (SGU) and to interact with the leadership of that institution. I was very impressed with the scope of their programs and the great effort they have made to provide scholarship opportunities for Grenadian and other Caribbean students. I will be relaying these sentiments to the Director of the Organization of American States' (OAS) Department of Human Development with the intent of signing a cooperation agreement with that University in the near future.

With regard to the areas for which you requested OAS assistance – more online training for working professionals, support in the creation of a Commission on Public Integrity and the establishment of an Office of the Ombudsman, the deployment of a technical mission to work with the staff of the Parliamentary Electoral Office in addressing any technical problems in advance of the elections, and the organization of a strong Observer Mission for the upcoming General Elections – I wish to assure you that my staff at Headquarters have already been instructed to begin working on these initiatives.

Excellency, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



José Miguel Insulza

His Excellency  
The Right Honorable Keith Mitchell  
Prime Minister of Grenada  
St. Georges, Grenada

cc: Ambassador Albert Ramdin, ASG, OAS  
Ambassador, Denis Antoine, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the OAS  
Frances McBarrette, OAS Country Representative, Grenada

**APPENDIX III.**

**AGREEMENT OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA**

**AND**

**THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN  
STATES**

**ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES  
OF THE 2008 GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS IN GRENADA**

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA  
AND  
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES  
OF THE GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS IN GRENADA**

The Parties to this Agreement, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "GS/OAS"); and the Government of Grenada (hereinafter referred to as the "Government"),

**WHEREAS**

On January 30, 2008, the Government of Grenada invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "OAS" or the "Organization") to observe the General Elections to be held on July 8, 2008 in Grenada.

The Secretary General of the OAS, informed the Government that he accepted the invitation to establish an Electoral Observer Mission (hereinafter referred to as the "OAS Observer Mission") for these elections, subject to obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the OAS Observer Mission in Grenada,

The OAS Observer Mission will be comprised of officials and/or persons contracted at GS/OAS headquarters, as well as other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Observer Mission.

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and its staff in Grenada are set out in the Charter of the Organization and in the Agreement Between the Government of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Establishment and the Functioning in St. George's of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Grenada signed by the parties in 1978.

NOW, THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GS/OAS HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I:  
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION

ARTICLE I

1.1 The privileges and immunities of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those accorded to the OAS, to the GS/OAS, to their organs, and to their staff.

ARTICLE II

2.1 The property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, located in any part of the territory of Grenada and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding; save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived in writing by the Secretary General of the OAS.

2.2 However, it is understood that said waiver of immunity by the Secretary General of the OAS shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

ARTICLE III

3.1 The premises occupied by the OAS Observer Mission shall be inviolable.

3.2 Moreover, the property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, in any part of the territory of Grenada and in possession of any person or entity, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

#### ARTICLE IV

4.1 The files of the OAS Observer Mission and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in the possession of any person or entity shall be inviolable wherever they are located.

#### ARTICLE V

5. The OAS Observer Mission shall be:

a) exempt from any internal taxation, it being understood, however, that they may not claim any type of tax exemption that is in fact remuneration for public services;

b) exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that they may import or export for their official use. It is understood, however, that the articles they import duty-free may be sold within Grenada only in accordance with conditions expressly agreed upon by the GS/OAS with the Government; and

c) exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, they may have currency of any type, carry their accounts in any foreign currency and transfer their funds in foreign currency.

#### CHAPTER II

#### MEMBERS OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION

#### ARTICLE VI

6.1 The members of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those persons who have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the authorities of Grenada.

## ARTICLE VII

**7.1 For the period during which the members of the OAS Observer Mission exercise their functions and during their trips to and from Grenada, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:**

**a) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;**

**b) The inviolability of all papers and documents;**

**c) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, telegraph, email, satellite or other means, and to receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages, and pouches;**

**d) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land;**

**e) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in Grenada;**

**f) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;**

**g) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and**

**h) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.**

#### ARTICLE VIII

8.1 The provisions contained in the preceding Article do not apply to nationals of Grenada working as local contract staff in the OAS Observer Mission, except in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions.

#### ARTICLE IX

9.1 The OAS Observer Mission may establish and operate in the territory of Grenada an independent radio communication system to provide an on-going communications link between the observers and the vehicles used by the members of the OAS Observer Mission with Mission offices and regional headquarters, such as the central office in St. George and between the latter and the headquarters of the GS/OAS in Washington, D.C., United States of America. The Government shall provide all the technical and administrative support necessary for this to be achieved.

#### CHAPTER III

#### COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES

#### ARTICLE X

10. The OAS Observer Mission shall cooperate with the relevant authorities of Grenada to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Similarly, the relevant authorities shall do whatever is possible to provide the cooperation requested of them by the OAS Observer Mission.

#### ARTICLE XI

Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the members of the OAS Observer Mission shall respect the laws and regulations existing in Grenada.

#### ARTICLE XII

12.1 The Government and the GS/OAS shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

- a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law
- b) Any disputes to which the OAS Observer Mission and/or any of its members may be parties with respect to matters in which they enjoy immunity.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

#### ARTICLE XIII

13.1 The privileges and immunities are granted to the members of the OAS Observer Mission in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the General Election Process of Grenada and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of Grenada.

The Secretary General of the OAS may waive the privileges and immunities of any of the members of the OAS Observer Mission in the event that he determines, in his sole discretion, that the exercise of those privileges and immunities may obstruct the course of justice and so long as the Secretary General determines that such waiver does not prejudice the interests of the OAS or of the GS/OAS.

## CHAPTER V

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### ARTICLE XIV

The Government recognizes the "Official Travel Document" issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of travel by the members of the OAS Observer Mission who possess this document.

14.2 The Government shall issue to each member of the OAS Observer Mission a visa to enter the country and to remain therein until the end of the OAS Observer Mission.

#### ARTICLE XV

15.1 The Government agrees to extend the privileges and immunities of the present Agreement to members of the OAS Observer Mission designated by the GS/OAS, who have been accredited by the authorities of Grenada.

#### ARTICLE XVI

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Government and of the GS/OAS.

#### ARTICLE XVII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the members of the OAS Observer Mission have completed mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
GRENADA



Denis G. Antoine  
Permanent Mission of Grenada  
To the Organization of American  
States

Place: Washington, D.C., U.S.A.  
Date: ..... July 3, 2008 .....

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES



Alfonso Quiñónez  
Executive Secretary for  
Integral Development, in charge of the  
General Secretariat of the  
Organization of American States

Place: Washington, D.C., U.S.A.  
Date: ..... July 3, 2008 .....

**APPENDIX IV.**

**AGREEMENT ON ELECTORAL GUARANTEES**

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN  
STATES

AND

THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE

ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS IN GRENADA

AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
AND  
THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE TO GRENADA  
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS OF JULY 8, 2008

The Parties, the Parliamentary Elections Office (hereinafter referred to as the "Elections Office") and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "General Secretariat");

**CONSIDERING:**

THAT on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 2008, the Government of Grenada (hereinafter referred to as "the Government"), through its Prime Minister, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary General") to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as "the Mission") to Grenada for the purpose of witnessing the general elections to be held on July 8, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the "General Elections");

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. 991 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;"

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

*The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.*

*Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise.; and*

THAT the Secretary General responded affirmatively to the Government's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the General Elections of 2008;

**WHEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**First: Guarantees**

a) The Elections Office guarantees the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections in 2008 until conclusion of the General Election process in Grenada, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of Grenada and the terms of this Agreement;

b) The Elections Office, on the day of and after the day of the elections, shall guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally and the General Election process is concluded;

c) The Elections Office shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place both before and during this process.

d) The Elections Office shall guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Elections Office shall permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communications utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the Elections Office shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process that are of interest to the Mission.

c) The Elections Office further guarantees the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout the national territory of Grenada. Upon request of the Mission, the Elections Office guarantees to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

**Second: Information**

a) The Elections Office will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the Elections Office such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the Elections Office shall promptly furnish all such information;

b) The Mission may inform the Elections Office about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request that the Elections Office provide any information regarding the measures which the Elections Office will take in relation to such irregularities, and the Elections Office shall promptly furnish all such information;

c) The Elections Office shall provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Elections Office shall provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and shall offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission;

**Third: General Provisions**

a) The Secretary General will designate a Chief of Mission, to represent the Mission and its members before the Elections Office and before the Government;

b) The GS/OAS will communicate to the leadership of the Elections Office the names of the persons who will comprise the Mission, who will be duly identified;

c) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate;

d) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the Elections Office a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the General Elections in Grenada;

e) The Elections Office will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

**Fourth: Privileges and Immunities**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS or the General Secretariat or that any of their organs may enjoy under the Charter of the Organization, the Agreement Between the Government of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Establishment and the Functioning in St. George's of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Grenada, signed by the parties in 1978, and the Agreement between the General Secretariat and the Government of Grenada on the Privileges and Immunities of the 2008 General Election Process in Grenada signed by the Parties on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, or under international law.

**Fifth: Resolution of controversies**

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to dispute resolution procedure mutually agreed to by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

**Sixth: Amendments**

Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

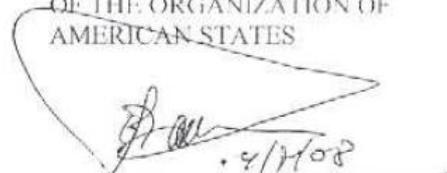
Seventh: Entry into Force; Termination

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date and upon the signature of duly authorized representatives of both Parties. This Agreement shall remain in force until the Mission has concluded its observation mission of the July 8, 2008 election.

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party with or without cause. Termination must be effected by means of no less than five days' written notice to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES



Ambassador Albert Ramdin  
Assistant Secretary General  
St. George, Grenada.

Date: 04.07.08

FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY  
ELECTIONS OFFICE  
OF GRENADA



Ms. Nadica McIntyre  
Supervisor of Elections  
St. George, Grenada

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

**APPENDIX V.**

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMPONENT OF THE MISSION**

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

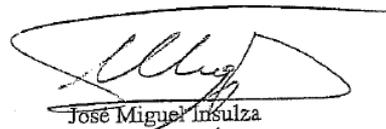
May 02, 2008

Excellency:

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Technical Mission of the Organization of American States concerning the preparations for general elections, constitutionally mandated to take place before March, 2009.

The visit by technical experts of the OAS General Secretariat responds to the January 24, 2008 request of Your Excellency's Government to observe the electoral process and address concerns related to the preparation of the electoral registry by the Parliamentary Elections Office.

As is customary, the OAS Mission will make this report available to the participating political parties, electoral authorities and general populace. I wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Prime Minister, to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.



José Miguel Insulza

His Excellency  
Ambassador Denis G. Antoine  
Permanent Representative of Grenada  
to the Organization of American States  
Washington D.C.

## **Technical Report**

### **Technical Mission Organization of American States**

#### **Preliminary Findings and Recommendations April 7, 2008**

From March 31 to April 1, 2008 three officials of the OAS General Secretariat visited Grenada to analyze concerns presented by the National Democratic Council about the electoral registry. This visit comprised a technical component of an electoral observation requested by the Government of Grenada for the general elections, not yet convened, but legally mandated no later than April 2009. The members of the delegation included Steven Griner from the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, Felix Ortega and Richard Campbell of the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development. OAS Representative in Grenada, Francis McBarnette also participated in the meetings and consultations.

#### **OAS Electoral Assistance and Observation in Grenada**

The OAS has observed two electoral processes in Grenada, the general elections of 1999 and 2003. The 1999 final report recommended a system of continuous voter registration “to ensure that the voter registry is up-to-date and accurate.” The Mission report further asserted that “by implementing a continuous registration system, those voters who reach voting age before elections could be more easily included in the registry [and such a system] would facilitate the publication of an updated voter’s list regardless of the date of elections.” Lastly, the report concluded that if the civil registry was integrated with this system, it could “serve as a useful source of demographic information for social and economic policy and planning.”

To assist in implementing this and other recommendations, the OAS General Secretariat initiated a long-term technical electoral assistance program with the Office of Parliamentary Elections and the Civil Registry, providing hardware, developing software and making available technical expertise that would automate both voter registration as well as the recording of births, deaths and marriages. The original objective of the program was to link the two lists to more quickly purge names of deceased persons from the electoral registry as well as print birth and death certificates from a computer in one of the seven offices of the civil registry. While data has been entered on the civil and electoral registries on a continuous basis, the linkage between the two, and hence the full potential of the computerization has not been realized, due in part to legal impediments since legislation is still needed to make computer-generated certificates legal documents. Nevertheless, the electronic storage of information has greatly enhanced the effectiveness and the accuracy of both the civil and electoral registries since verifications can be done automatically, obviating the use of cumbersome paper files and logs.

#### **Electoral Registry**

Since the implementation of continuous registration in 2004 (interrupted by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and reinitiated in 2005), the electoral registry contains 64,551 entries, which represent all registrants through December 31, 2007. The Parliamentary Elections Office provides updated lists on a quarterly basis and informed the OAS Technical Mission that another would be

available by the end of April or the beginning of May. This new registry will contain all registered voters through March 31, 2008. A two-week claims and objections period follows in which citizens are to check their information at one of the fifteen constituency offices in the country.

The opposition National Democratic Congress submitted to the OAS Technical Mission lists from twelve constituencies of names, which allegedly contain errors such as omissions, duplications, deceased persons and displacements.<sup>37</sup> The number of names with possible irregularities received by the Mission totals 884, or 1.39 percent of the electoral registry. (The Technical Mission was informed that the NDC has submitted list from all fifteen constituencies to the Parliamentary Elections Office.) The OAS Technical Mission does not have any evidence that these complaints have been registered through the claims-and-objections process.

### **Recommendations of the OAS Technical Mission:**

The Technical Mission constitutes an important component of a broader scoped OAS Electoral Observation Mission, which will deploy observers in the fifteen constituencies before and on Election Day. These observers will collect additional information on the electoral process, which will be included in a final report presented to the OAS Permanent Council upon conclusion of the elections.

The Technical Mission wishes to emphasize its role of an international observer during this electoral process. Under no circumstance does it seek to supplant the legally constituted electoral authorities and urges citizens and political parties alike to follow legal procedures to address its concerns regarding the preparations for national elections.

Nevertheless, as is customary for missions of this nature, the OAS Technical Mission wishes to offer the following recommendations to promote greater transparency and public confidence in the electoral process.

1. The Parliamentary Elections Office has qualified personnel who can manage the automated electoral registry and the OAS Technical Mission stands witness to the professionalism and integrity with which all the staff in this office carries out its duties. As elections approach, though, it is important that the Supervisor of Elections and her technical staff devote themselves full time to entering information and ensuring the accuracy of the voter registry. The Technical Mission believes that the number of data entry and verification personnel be doubled until the issuance of the final voter registry.
2. The Government of Grenada should ensure that the Parliamentary Elections Office has all of the resources needed to complete this and other tasks related to the preparation and organization of elections.
3. The OAS Technical Mission urges the electoral authorities and political party representatives to maintain open and fluid communications regarding the organization of the elections. Each political party should appoint a technical representative who should meet with the Supervisor of Elections or her technical staff at predetermined, regular meetings to ensure that concerns are addressed on an immediate and continuous basis.

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3. The constituencies include Carriacou and Petite Martinique, St. John, St. George South, North East St. George, South East St. George, St. David, St. Mark, St. Patrick East, St. Patrick West, St. Andrew North East, St. Andrew South East and St. Andrew South West.

4. The OAS Technical Mission is pleased that the version of the electoral registry, which will include all new entrants during the first quarter of 2008, will be made available by late April or early May. It is important that the list be organized by constituency and be made available to the political parties for the pre-established nominal fee.
5. Likewise, it is important that the addendum of newly registered electors from April 1, 2008 to the issuance of the Writ of Elections be available for public scrutiny at least three weeks before Election Day.
6. Upon making the consolidated list including the first quarter of 2008 available to the political parties and the public, it is incumbent upon all those involved -- the Parliamentary Elections Office, political parties and citizens -- to verify the accuracy of the list. Any perceived discrepancies, including omissions, duplications, displacements or deceased names should be made through the claims-and-objections process in the appropriate constituency office, following proper and legal procedures.
7. The OAS Technical Missions urges all citizens of Grenada to register to vote and to confirm their information on the electoral registries. Likewise, candidates from the fifteen constituencies of the country should inform their supporters about the process for registration and verification of the information through the claims and objections period.

#### **Post Electoral Process**

Immediate priority should be given to tasks directly related to the preparation of the expected general elections of the country. However, the Technical Mission wishes to make four specific recommendations to ensure quality control of the information in the civil and electoral registries and the realization of the full potential of the automated processes implemented.

1. With the participation of both parties, parliament should review the legal impediments of fulfilling realizing the potential of automated civil and electoral registries and introduce legislation to give legal validity to computer generated birth and death certificates. At the request of the Government of Grenada, the OAS provided some legal guidelines in 2006 and this document could serve as an important point of departure.
2. The Government of Grenada should make available to public servants working in the Civil Registry and the Parliamentary Elections Offices continuing education courses to improve their knowledge of information systems. It is important that both institutions develop a pool of personnel with the technical expertise to manage and address problems with the automated database. In addition, the Grenadian authorities should pursue efforts to modernize the operations of both the Civil and Electoral registry.
3. Both institutions should continue to review and improve the procedures for data entry and verification.
4. Given the complexity of the technology being implemented, the Supervisor of Elections should be considered a full time position, at least during the final year leading up to Elections.

The Technical Mission will continue to monitor the preparations for elections and offers its good offices to address any additional issues that the pertinent national authorities deem appropriate.

The members of the Technical Mission wish to thank the political, electoral and governmental authorities who provided their valuable insights on the electoral process of Grenada.

**FORMS COMPLETED BY OBSERVERS**

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION**

GRENADA

General Elections  
Tuesday, July 8, 2008

**OPENING OF THE POLLING CENTER/STATION**

NAME OF OBSERVER: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTITUENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING CENTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived \_\_\_\_\_ Departed \_\_\_\_\_ Total time of observation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of voters on the voter list \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ballots cast while observer was at the polling station \_\_\_\_\_

**I. OPENING**

1. Did the Presiding Officer ensure that all required signs and notices including Official List of Electors or part thereof, Notice of Poll, and Directions for Voting were placed outside the Polling Station prior to the Opening of the Poll?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did the Polling Station open at 6: 00 a.m.? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not at what time did it open? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did the presiding officer, poll clerks and agents make the declaration of secrecy before the opening of the poll?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Were all electoral officials present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, who was absent?

Presiding Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Poll Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate political party agents that were present.

NNP \_\_\_\_\_

NDC \_\_\_\_\_

GULP \_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_

6. Were procedures generally followed in opening the polling station?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION**

GRENADA

General Elections  
Tuesday, July 8, 2008

**OBSERVATION OF VOTING**

(One per polling station)

NAME OF OBSERVER: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTITUENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING CENTER/PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived \_\_\_\_\_ Departed \_\_\_\_\_ Total time of observation \_\_\_\_\_

7. Were all the electoral materials available? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not what materials were missing?

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| a. Ballot papers _____                      | b. Ink _____        |
| c. Copies of the register of electors _____ | d. Ballot box _____ |
| e. Poll Box _____                           | f. Other _____      |

8. Were the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, state who was absent and why? (use reverse side of form)

9. Was a police officer present at the polling station? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

10. Were party agents present at polling site? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, which party was not present? (use reverse side of form)

11. Was the secrecy of vote maintained? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, explain on reverse side.

12. Did the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks follow the proper voting procedures?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

13. Was the identity of the voters properly checked? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

14. Did the Presiding Officer and poll Clerks provide impartial instructions to the voter?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, explain on reverse side of form.

10. Did the observer notice any campaign materials (posters, stickers, photos) or activities within the polling station or any other campaigning on Election Day?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

11. Did the observer notice or receive any information about incidents and/or irregularities in or near the polling station? If so, explain on reverse side.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

12. Did the observer notice or receive any information about intimidation of voters?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

13. Were there other observers present (International/National)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Was proper assistance given to physically challenged Voters?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Not observed \_\_\_\_\_

15. What is your overall assessment of the voting process?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Good – No significant problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Minor problems – Not sufficient to affect outcome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Major problems – May affect results

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION**

GRENADA

General Elections  
Tuesday, July 8, 2008

**CLOSING OF THE POLLING CENTER/STATION**

(Same polling station observed during opening)

NAME OF OBSERVER: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTITUENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING CENTER/PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived \_\_\_\_\_ Departed \_\_\_\_\_ Total time of observation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of voters on the voter list \_\_\_\_\_ Number of ballots cast \_\_\_\_\_

15. Did the polling station close on time at 5:00 p.m.? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

16. Were there voters in line at 5:00 p.m.? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, were they allowed to vote? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

17. Were closing procedures followed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, explain on reverse side of form.

18. Were police officers present at the closure of the poll?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

19. Were agents of parties present in the polling station at the closing of the poll?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please add comments (including any incidents at the closure of the poll) on the reverse side of this form.

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION**

GRENADA

General Elections

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

**COUNTING OF THE POLL**

NAME OF OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTITUENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING CENTER/PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived \_\_\_\_\_ left \_\_\_\_\_ Total time of observation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of voters on the voter list \_\_\_\_\_ Number of ballots cast \_\_\_\_\_

20. Did the number of ballots match the number of votes recorded in the registry?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

21. Were party agents present to witness the closing and counting process?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

22. Were ballots objected to / disputed by any of the party agents present?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

23. Were counting procedures were followed?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, explain on reverse side.

24. Did the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks complete form "Statement of the Poll after counting the ballots?"

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

25. Were national observers able to observe the vote count? If not, explain on reverse side

26. Did the Presiding Officer publicly display the Statement of Poll:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

27. What is your overall assessment of the counting process:

\_\_\_\_\_ Good – No significant problems.

\_\_\_\_\_ Minor problems – Not sufficient to affect the outcome

\_\_\_\_\_ Major problems – May affect results



APPENDIX VII.

LIST OF OBSERVERS AND DEPLOYMENT ASSIGNMENTS



OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION  
GENERAL ELECTIONS IN GRENADA  
9-Jul-08  
DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE

	NAME	TITLE	NATIONALITY	CONSTITUENCY
1	Albert Ramdin	Chief of Mission	Suriname	G Town- St. George
2	Pablo Gutierrez	DECO Director	Chile	G Town- St. George
3	Ian Edwards	Press Liaison	Jamaica	G Town- St. George
4	Francis McBarnette	OAS Representative	Trinidad & Tobago	G Town- St. George
5	Steven Griner	Assistant Chief	USA	H St. George NE
6	Diasie Christopher-S.	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	H St. George NE
7	Wendy Martinez	General Coordinator	USA	J St. George NW
8	Geraldine Alcide	Observer	Canada	J St. George NW
9	Chris Healy	Logistics	USA	L St. George South
10	Candice Myers	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	L St. George South
11	Maryam Pandor	Observer	Barbados	K St. George SE
12	Rebeca Omana	DECO Specialist	Venezuela	K St. George SE
13	Yadira Soto	ASG Advisor	Colombia	B St. Andrew SE
14	Amanda Hicks	Observer	USA	B St. Andrew SE
15	Nadine Khoury	Observer	Canada	C St. Andrew SW
16	Cristina Gutierrez	Financial Officer	Bolivia	C St. Andrew SW
17	Indira Rampersad	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	D St. Andrew NE
18	Kimberly Crasswell	Observer	USA	D St. Andrew NE
19	Mark Kirton	Observer	Guyana	E St. Andrew NW
20	Tommy Lee	Observer	USA	E St. Andrew NW
21	Salvador Rodezno	Observer	Honduras	F St. David
22	Dominic Akpan	Observer	Nigeria	F St. David
23	Anne Marie Blackman	OAS Specialist	Barbados	M St. John
24	Jessica Mackie	Observer	Canada	M St. John
25	Melene Scipio	Observer	SVG	N St. Mark
26	Jolanta Mikiewicz	Observer	USA	N St. Mark
27	Grace-Anne Chrichlow	Observer	Barbados	P St. Patrick E
28	Paul Stable	Observer	USA	P St. Patrick E
29	Ruedi Trouchen	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	R St. Patrick W
30	Olanrewaju Omotoso	Observer	Nigeria	R St. Patrick W
31	Douglas Holland	Observer	Canada	F St. David
32	Sara Lodge	Rapporteur	United Kingdom	F St. David
33	Frank Sealy	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	H St. George NE
34	Lancelot Busby	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	H St. George NE
35	Sharan Singh	Observer	Trinidad & Tobago	A Carriacou & PM
36	Johanna Schraffl	OAS Specialist	Chile	A Carriacou & PM

## APPENDIX VIII.

### PRESS RELEASES AND POST-ELECTION REPORT

#### SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAS WRAPS UP OFFICIAL VISIT TO GRENADA February 26, 2008

St. Georges, Grenada, February 26, 2008 - Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) José Miguel Insulza wrapped up a two-day visit to the island of Grenada, after meeting Tuesday with Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada, and following preliminary talks with the supervisor of elections at the Parliamentary Elections Office. The Secretary General also held a press conference prior to departure.

The meeting with the Prime Minister focused on information technology/technical assistance to the Parliamentary Elections Office, preparations for a robust Electoral Observation Mission, support for the creation of a Commission of Public Integrity and an Ombudsman's Office in Grenada, and continued offers of on-line training for professionals. The Secretary General assured the Prime Minister that the OAS would respond quickly to his requests for support, within the limits of its resources.

On Monday, the Secretary General met with Governor General Sir Daniel Williams, as well as with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Leader and representatives of the Parliamentary Opposition Party and visited the Cabinet of Grenada during one of its regular sittings.

Insulza last visited Grenada in the summer of 2005. He also visited the island following Hurricane Ivan in November 2004 and had a chance to witness the destruction on the island on that occasion. "I distinctly remember the extensive destruction that I witnessed during my visit in 2004. The progress that has been made in restoring the country to its former self is impressive," the Secretary General remarked during the press conference. "This rapid recovery is a tribute to the valiant efforts of the people of Grenada; and it is something about which you should be extremely proud."

The Secretary General and his delegation leave Grenada to return to Washington D.C.

## **OAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS WITH GRENADA OFFICIALS, AHEAD OF JULY 8 ELECTIONS**

**June 16, 2008**

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, made an official visit to Grenada from June 12 to 14, to prepare the way for an OAS Electoral Observation Mission that will monitor the July 8 elections on the Caribbean island, at the invitation of that government.

The Assistant Secretary General's Grenada visit was a follow-up to an earlier visit to the island by Secretary General José Miguel Insulza.

During his visit, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin held meetings with a wide cross-section of political stakeholders in Grenada. A meeting was held with the Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Nadica McIntyre, to gauge the state of preparedness of the electoral authorities and to determine whether the OAS should provide additional assistance. The Organization had provided the technical expertise of Gonzalo Ramirez to assist in the preparation of the electoral list, which was scheduled to be issued June 16.

As well, Ambassador Ramdin made courtesy calls on Governor General Daniel Williams and on Prime Minister Keith Mitchell. He also took the opportunity to meet with all the political parties to hear their concerns and suggestions and to explain in detail the role of the proposed OAS Observer Mission. One political party had raised concerns about the leadership of the Observer Mission and in the course of a long and candid meeting these concerns were resolved.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin also met with members of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, representatives of the trade union movement, representatives of private sector organizations and the media.

The Assistant Secretary General, accompanied to all his meetings by the OAS Representative in Grenada Francis McBarnette and Wendy Martinez of the OAS Department of Political Affairs, participated on the last day of his visit in a workshop to acquaint the media with the electoral laws and other electoral issues.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL TO ATTEND CARICOM SUMMIT IN  
ANTIGUA; ALSO TO LEAD OBSERVATION MISSION FOR GRENADA'S JULY 8  
ELECTIONS  
June 30, 2008**

Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin leaves Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, headed to Antigua and Barbuda to represent the Organization of American States (OEA) at this week's summit of the heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The Assistant Secretary General will join Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, who is already in Antigua. They will attend the 29th annual conference of heads of government of CARICOM, which opens Tuesday and runs until July 4. The Caribbean leaders are scheduled to consider a packed agenda that includes the region's response to the food security question, soaring energy prices, the climate change challenge, tourism and the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Ambassador Ramdin noted that the upcoming meeting of CARICOM leaders is also important as it marks the 35th anniversary of the Caribbean Community.

On Thursday, the OAS Assistant Secretary General leaves for Grenada, where he will head up the hemispheric organization's electoral observation mission that will monitor the process culminating in the July 8 general elections.

Upon arrival in Grenada, Ramdin will observe the voting of the police on July 4, and will meet with a cross section of interests, including the leaders of the ruling New National Party (NPP) and the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) as well as with the Commissioner of Police, the churches and civil society, among others.

Ramdin renewed the call for all Grenadians to exercise their right to vote in an orderly, normal atmosphere, as they look toward the future of their country, in unity.

**OAS TEAM READY FOR OBSERVATION TASK, ON EVE OF GRENADA GENERAL  
ELECTION  
July 8, 2008**

St. George's, Grenada: The Organization of American States (OAS) team of election observers is ready to go as Grenadians prepare for Tuesday's general elections, Assistant Secretary General Albert R. Ramdin declared on the eve of the vote. He also appealed to the people of Grenada to vote peacefully and in an orderly manner.

This Electoral Observation Mission—the third time that the OAS is monitoring elections in Grenada—is the largest ever team of observers that the Organization has sent to a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country. It has been observing the entire process that will culminate in general elections on July 8.

The organization is set to deploy 17 teams on Election Day to cover all the 15 constituencies, including Carriacou and Petit Martinique. The OAS monitors will visit all polling stations once or twice on Election Day. “We will have 100 per cent coverage of the country, and this will give us an opportunity to receive first-hand information from our own observers and on that basis to make pronouncements on how elections went on the 8th of July,” said Ramdin, who is Chief of the OAS' Electoral Observation Mission in Grenada.

On Election Day, the OAS observers will be present for the opening and closing of polls, the voting itself as well as for the vote count and the transmission of the results. Ramdin expects the logistical and organizational elements of the election to flow smoothly on Tuesday, given the preparation of polling station workers, presiding officers and polling clerks, in addition to the active engagement of the party agents. “Overall, the administrative aspects of voting should be good and acceptable to international standards,” he added, noting that after the polls the hemispheric Organization will make recommendations as to how aspects of the preparation could be improved.

Ramdin described the stakes as very high for the two main political parties in the upcoming vote. Over the past few weeks in particular, the candidates of both sides have been running a very intense campaign—which he called “good for democracy and for the people's participation in the process of electing a new government.”

The OAS team numbers 37 international election observers, among them students from St. George's University in Grenada and from the University of the West Indies, as well as volunteers from the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States Embassy in Barbados.

On Monday, Chief of Mission Ramdin met with the UK High Commissioner and with the CARICOM electoral observation team, among others. The OAS Electoral Observation Mission also conducted final preparations that included training and final briefings for its team of international election observers.

**Organization of American States**  
**Electoral Observation Mission**  
**For the General Elections in Grenada**  
**July 8, 2008**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**July 9, 2008**

**OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION HOSTING PRESS CONFERENCE**

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, the Chief of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Grenada, is hosting a press conference today to discuss the Mission's conclusions regarding its coverage of the July 8 general elections.

On Election Day, the OAS Mission deployed 38 international monitors who visited every polling station in the country and observed the process from start to finish.

**WHAT:** Press Conference hosted by Chief of Mission for the OAS Electoral Observation in Grenada

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 9, 2008

**TIME:** 12:00 noon

**VENUE:** Conference Facility  
Spice Island Beach Resort  
Grand Anse, Grenada

*For further information, please contact:*

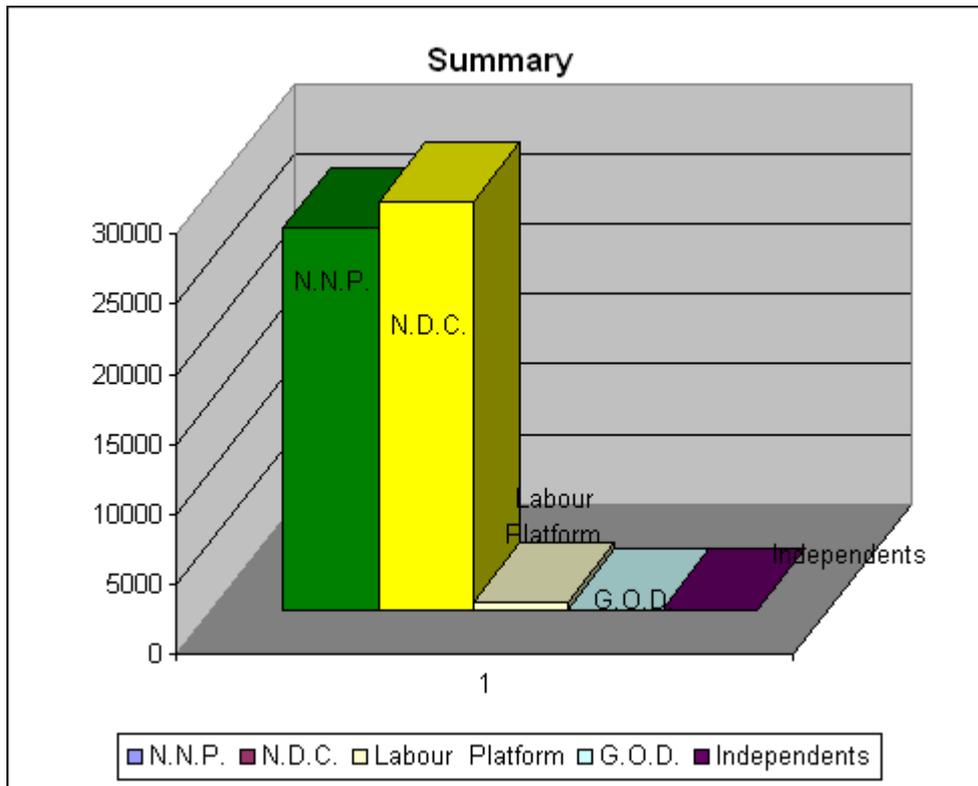
OAS EOM Office  
Spice Island Beach Resort  
Tel: 405-5344 or 439-8126

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OFFICIAL RESULTS

GRENADA GENERAL ELECTIONS 2008

PARTY	VOTES	% Of Votes Cast	% Of Votes Registered Voters
N.N.P.	27189	47.77	38.37
N.D.C.	29007	50.97	40.93
Labour Platform	478	0.84	0.67
G.O.D.	3	0.01	0.00
Independents	12	0.02	0.02
Rejected Ballots	222	0.39	0.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>56911</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>80.30</b>
Number of Registered Voters		<b>70869</b>	



**APPENDIX X.**

**ELECTORAL CALENDAR**

**Parliamentary Elections Office**  
**Work Plan – 2008 Elections**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Writs to be published in the Gazette and Grenadian Voice newspaper	5 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor	Yes	Information submitted to both institutions on 4 <sup>th</sup> June
The Returning Officers to publish further notices within the constituencies	5 <sup>th</sup> June	Returning Officers	yes	Done on time
Complete overseas purchases of election materials	18 <sup>th</sup> June	Senior Administrative Officer		
To continue the training of all election officials and media	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections/Senior Returning Officers/Legal Drafter/Assistant Supervisors		
Check polling Stations	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Returning Officers and Assistant Supervisors	yes	
To commence education programme for the general public	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections		
To confirm with the Grenada Trade Centre the use of the centre as headquarters for election day	6 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections	yes	
Acquire all forms necessary for the	17 <sup>th</sup> June	Senior Administrative		Some forms have been acquired

holding of General Elections		Officer		awaiting the remainder
Preparation of Police Voters List	7 <sup>th</sup> June	Returning Officers	yes	List prepared by 6 <sup>th</sup> June
Copy of Police Voters List to be supplied to the candidates	10 <sup>th</sup> June	Returning Officers		Candidates would be given the list on nomination day. On 11 <sup>th</sup> June copies of the list posted at all polling stations, Police Stations and headquarters
Provide Police with the list of all polling Stations	9 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections	yes	List provided on 10 <sup>th</sup> June
To distribute to the Returning Officers the 3 Forms necessary for nomination Day as well as the receipt books	17 <sup>th</sup> June	Assistant Supervisors		
Post Grant Of Poll in all Constituencies	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Returning Officers		
Complete verification of the Addendum to the Current List	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Assistant Supervisors		
Merge Current List as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2007 to Addendum as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2008	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Computer Operator		
Produce Current List as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2008 and the Addendum as at 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2008	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Computer Operator		

Publish both Lists in accordance with Section 19 (2) of the Act	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections		
Receipt of Claims and objections	27 <sup>th</sup> June	Assistant Supervisors		
Publication of final list	4 <sup>th</sup> July	Supervisor of Elections		
Preparation of Special Ballot Boxes	1 <sup>st</sup> July	Assistant Supervisors/Senior Administrative Officer		
Distribution of Special Ballot Boxes	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Assistant Supervisors		
Preparation and distribution of all ballot boxes	1 <sup>st</sup> July	Assistant Supervisors/Senior Administrative Officer		
To finalize cell phones and land phones for the Returning Officers and Presiding Officers	12 <sup>th</sup> June	Senior Administrative Officer		
To meet with all Returning Officers	17 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections		
To meet with all Special Presiding Officers	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Supervisor of Elections		
To prepare I.D. and T-Shirts for all election officials	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Senior Administrative Officer		
To meet with all election officials –	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Supervisor of Elections/Assistant		To issue credentials on

Trade Centre		Supervisors		this date
To set up Press centre at the Grenada Trade Centre	7 <sup>th</sup> July	Supervisor with Troy Garvey		
To return Writs to H.E. the Governor General				



GRENADA CONSITUENCY MAP

