

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF JAMAICA



REPORT TO PARLIAMENT
APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

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INTRODUCTION

This report fulfils the obligation of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) under the Electoral Commission (Interim) Act 2006 to present an annual report to Parliament. The current Annual Report covers the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

The membership of the Commission during this period was as follows:

Selected Commissioners: Prof. Emeritus the Honourable Errol Miller, Chairman; the Honourable Mrs. Dorothy Pine McLarty; Dr. Herbert Thompson; the Honourable Mr. Justice Clarence Walker

Nominated Commissioners of the Prime Minister: the Honourable Karl Samuda, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Senator Tom Tavares-Finson, Deputy President of the Senate

Nominated Commissioners of the Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Donald Buchanan; Mr. Peter Bunting, Member of Parliament

Director of Elections: Mr. Orrette Fisher

Following its standard practice, the Commission met on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, except for August where it met on the fourth Wednesday. The Commission did its work during the year through the following Committees:

1. *The Standing Administration and Finance Committee.* This Committee was chaired by Commissioner Dr. Herbert Thompson and is scheduled to meet on the second Wednesday of each month.
2. *The Standing Political Party Registration and Campaign Financing Committee.* This Committee was chaired by Commissioner, the Honourable Mrs. Pine-McLarty and is scheduled to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month.
3. *The Standing Legal Committee.* This Committee was chaired by Commissioner the Honourable Justice Clarence Walker and is also scheduled to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month.
4. *The Committee on Boundaries.* This Committee was chaired by Professor Errol Miller and met when required.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

During the year under review, the major activities of the Commission were as follows:

- the completion of the general review of boundaries and presentation of the report;
- the establishment of the Geographical Information Systems Department;
- publication of two Voters' Lists;
- legislative reforms;
- the holding of three By-Elections;
- participation of the Commission in regional and international fora and events.

PART I

Completion of General Review of Boundaries

As stated in the last Annual Report, the period of General Review of Boundaries began in March 2008 on general instructions to the Commission by the Standing Committee on Boundaries of the House of Representatives. These instructions were conveyed by letter to the Electoral Commission from the Speaker of the House.

Principles Guiding the General Review

Prior to the start of the exercise, Electoral the Commission had developed and agreed with all stakeholders the principles under which the boundaries review would be conducted, the details of which were included in the 2008/9 Commission Report to Parliament. Three adjustments were made to the Principles of Agreements. As a condition for those agreements to be accepted by the Commission without change, the first adjustment required the General Secretaries to also sign agreements reached by Parish Boundaries Advisory Committees, The second adjustment was that if no agreement was reached by the Parish Boundaries Committees, the Director of Elections would present a written proposal to be considered along with the Proposals from the political parties. The third adjustment was that the Selected Commissioners would hold formal hearings to receive oral presentations in support of the written proposals by the political parties and the Director of Elections. The adjusted Principles of Agreement is shown in Appendix 1.

Achievements at March 31, 2009

The level of achievement as detailed in the 2008/2009 Report are summarised below.

1. The Parish Boundary Advisory Committees of all fourteen parishes had agreed on the definitions and boundaries of polling divisions spread across the fourteen parishes and also on splits, mergers and the numbering of polling divisions in each constituency within each parish.

2. The Parish Boundary Advisory Committees had also resolved anomalies where such existed.
3. Agreements were reached on the definition and description of 6240 polling divisions across the country.
4. The mapping of polling divisions using GIS Technology had been completed in the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Ann, Kingston, St. Catherine, Hanover, St. James and Trelawny.
5. Digital maps had been produced for the twelve constituencies in St. Andrew, for the four constituencies in St. Ann, for two of the three constituencies in Kingston and for four of the nine constituencies in St. Catherine.
6. Digital maps had also been produced for the Electoral Divisions of 22 constituencies for which constituency maps had been produced.

Completion of the General Review

The Commission completed the General Review during the year under review by correcting breaches to the limits for the size of constituencies as specified by the Constitution. It also identified the parishes in which three constituencies should be added in order to increase the number of constituencies from 60 to 63 in accordance with directions by the Standing Committee on Boundaries of the House of Representatives.

1) Corrections of Breaches in St. Ann and St. Andrew

The Commission decided to use the November 30, 2008 Voters' List to determine whether any constituency was in breach of the constitutionally prescribed limits. North Eastern St. Ann was found to be in breach of the upper limit and North Eastern St. Andrew was found to be in breach of the lower limit. Following the principles outlined in Appendix 1, the Parish Boundaries Forums and Parish Boundaries Advisory Committees of St. Ann and St. Andrew met with a view to agreeing to the re-alignment of the constituency boundaries in their respective parishes. No agreement, however, was reached in either parish. Hence, in both instances, the matter was referred to the Director of Elections and the Nominated Commissioners for resolution.

In the case of St. Andrew, the Director and the Nominated Commissioners were able to arrive at an agreement.

In the case of St. Ann, Nominated Commissioners and the Director reached substantial but not total agreement. The areas of disagreement were, therefore, referred to the Selected Commissioners who made the final decision.

Having addressed the matter of breaches to the constitutionally prescribed limits the Commission then turned its attention to equalising the constituencies across parishes and to increasing the number of constituencies to 63.

2) Increasing the Number of Constituencies to 63

The Commission decided to use the May 31, 2009 Voters' List as the basis for equalizing the number of constituencies among parishes and for increasing the number to 63. Following the guidelines set out in the Constitution, the electorate quota was calculated using 63 constituencies as the denominator. The total number of electors in each parish was then divided by the electorate quota, and the resulting electorate quotient was used as the indicator for the number of constituencies each parish should have if there were 63 constituencies. The analysis clearly showed that the parish of St. Catherine deserved two additional constituencies and the parish of St. James one. It was also noted that the electorate quotient for Westmoreland was 3.54 while that for Kingston was 2.31. If the commonly used mathematical principle of using 0.5 as the point for rounding up or down to whole numbers, then the parish of Kingston should lose one constituency and the Parish of Westmoreland should gain one constituency. Given the drastic nature of the decision to remove and add constituencies between parishes, and the fact that Westmoreland only marginally qualified for an additional constituency, the Commission then reviewed the data over the last eight voters' list and found that in recent times there was a steady downward trend (from 3.60 to 3.54) in the electorate quotient for Westmoreland. While Kingston deserved to lose a constituency, it was questionable that Westmoreland should gain a constituency. The decision of the Commission, therefore, was to allow the status quo to remain between these two parishes.

The final decision, therefore, was to add two new constituencies to St. Catherine and one new constituency to St. James, while allowing the status quo to remain in the other twelve parishes.

St. James

The Parish Advisory and Boundaries Committee were unable to arrive at a decision at the local level. The Director of Elections and the Nominated Commissioners agreed on the composition of the new constituency except for the placement of two polling divisions. The Selected Commissioners held a hearing and handed down a final decision on November 18, 2009.

St. Catherine

The members of the Parish Forum Advisory Committee came to agreement, except in one fundamental area. The Committee agreed that one constituency should be added in the Portmore area and its composition was agreed on by all members of the Committee. The Committee also agreed that the second constituency should be allocated to the Spanish Town area. The matter of disagreement was that the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) wanted the division of Homestead (currently a part of St. Catherine Central) included; the People's National Party (PNP) wanted it excluded with the division of Bellevue (currently a part of St. Catherine West Central) included instead. All members of the St. Catherine Parish Boundaries Advisory Committee signed the Report, which included this major disagreement. The two General Secretaries abstained from signing the Report.

The matter was consequently referred to the Director of Elections and the Nominated Commissioners for resolution. At the meeting of the Director and the Nominated Commissioners, the Director presented his proposal for realignment of boundaries to add two new constituencies to the parish of St. Catherine. A decision could not be reached.

The matter was then referred to the Selected Commissioners. At the hearing held by the Selected Commissioners, the Nominated Commissioners of the JLP took the position that if the proposal put forward by their party was not accepted, then they would accept the Director's proposal in its entirety. The Nominated Commissioners of the PNP took the position that if the proposal of their party was not accepted, then they would accept the Director's proposal with the exclusion

of the Homestead Electoral Division and the substitution of the Bellevue Division instead. The Selected Commissioners handed down their decision on December 2, 1009. That decision accepted the Director's proposal in its entirety and, in addition, included eight polling divisions from the Bellevue Electoral Division.

The Commission submitted its report to the Standing Committee on Boundaries of the Parliament on January 17, 2010. The Standing Committee Boundaries invited the Commission to its meeting held on February 2, 2010. At that meeting the Chairman of the Commission presented the Commission's Report to the Committee and answered questions from the Members of the Committee. The Standing Committee accepted the Commission's Report on Boundaries and the Increase in the Number of Constituencies, without change.

Recommendations to Parliament

The Electoral Commission made the following recommendations to the Boundaries Committee of Parliament:

- 1) The existing constituency boundaries in the parishes of St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny, Hanover, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon and Kingston should remain unchanged;
- 2) The constituency boundaries in the parish of St. Andrew should be adjusted to correct the breach in the St. Andrew North Eastern constituency;
- 3) The constituency boundaries in the parish of St. Ann should be adjusted to correct the breach in the St. Ann North Eastern constituency;
- 4) One additional constituency be added to the parish of St. James increasing the number of constituencies in that parish from four to five;
- 5) Two additional constituencies be added to the parish of St. Catherine increasing the number of constituencies in that parish from nine to eleven.

Applying GIS Technology to the Demarcation of Boundaries

A temporary Geographical Information System (GIS) Unit was established in 2008/09 with the mandate to use GIS technology to map electoral boundaries inclusive of polling divisions, electoral divisions and constituencies. During the period under review, the department was able to complete the field work for the entire island. As of March 2010, draft maps have been prepared and printed for 49 of the 60 existing constituencies. Work is currently being done on the remaining eleven and is expected to be completed by May 31, 2010.

The completed parishes include St. Catherine and St. James. This has facilitated the preparation of draft maps for the three new constituencies in the Commission's recommendation to the Boundaries Committee of Parliament.

PART II

Publication of Voters' List

A. May 31, 2009 Voters' List

The May 31, 2009 Voters' List was published on June 20, 2009. This was because a By-Election was announced for the St. Catherine North Eastern constituency with Nomination Day set for May 28, 2009 and Election Day June 16, 2009. The delay in the publication of the Voters' List was to ensure compliance with the Representation of the People Act (ROPA) which stipulates that no voters list should be published between Nomination Day and Election Day.

A total of 44,141 new electors were added as result of the registration period (October 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009) and 3,824 electors were removed mainly because of death but because of duplication by virtue of new applications to be placed on the Voters' List.

The total number of electors on May 31, 2009 Voters' List was 1,483,221.

B. November 30, 2009 Voters' List

The list was published on November 30, 2009 as scheduled. A total of 40,530 new electors were added as a result of the registration period (April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009) and 3,755 removed mainly because of death but also because of duplications by virtue of new applications to be on the Voters' List.

The total number of electors on the November 30, 2009 Voters' List was 1,519,996.

PART III

Legal and Legislative Matters

Reports by the Commission to Parliament Not Yet Acted On

The following matters were raised in the 2008/9 report as being approved by Parliament but for which the appropriate legislation has not been produced by the Legislative Committee for amendment of the ROPA by Parliament. This situation remains unchanged and are as follows:

1. *The use of motor vehicles and regulations for the conveying of voters to the poll:* the Commission recommended that Sections 71-76 which deal with the above be deleted from the ROPA as they have become obsolete.
2. *The removal of mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines:* The Commission supported the amendment proposed by the Senate that the relevant sections of the ROPA, Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) Act and the Parish Councils Act be amended to remove the mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines so that consistency is maintained in how these matters are treated throughout the relevant pieces of legislation.

The Commission submitted to Parliament in 2007 the Report recommending the inclusion of the Electoral Commission in the Constitution. The Report has not yet been considered by the House.

Submission of Regulations to the Minister Responsible for Electoral Matters

In keeping with the Electoral Commission of Jamaica Interim Act, the following regulations were submitted to the Minister Responsible for Electoral Matters in 2007. These regulations have not yet been approved.

- i. Electoral Commission (Commissioners' retiring benefits) Regulations
- ii. Electoral Commission (Director of Elections' retiring benefits) Regulations
- iii. Electoral Commission (Employees' retiring benefits) Regulations
- iv. The Electoral Commission (Electoral Process) Regulations

Electoral Reform

During the year under review the Commission continued the work on electoral reform in the following areas:

i. Political party registration and campaign financing

The Commission decided to adopt a two stage approach on the matter of political party registration and campaign financing. It has decided first to address the matter of the registration and financing of political parties since this involves new legislation, then to address the matter of campaign financing since this involves the amendment of existing Legislation, Sections 53 to 61, of the Representation of the People Act.

The Draft Report on Political Party Registration and Financing had been prepared but up to March 31, 2010 was still being considered by the Nominated Commissioners.

ii. Printing and distribution of disaggregated Voters' Lists for election day

It has been agreed that following the distribution of the Official Voters' List to Candidates on Nomination Day, that Official List should be disaggregated as Police, Military, Election Day Workers and Civil Voters' List and be distributed to Candidates not later than three days prior to the Voting Day for the Police, Military and Election Day Workers. This matter is to be included in a report addressing the matter of amendment to the ROPA.

iii. Amendment to Section 20 of the ROPA: the postponement of elections

The Commission is still deliberating on the amendment of some parts of Section 20 of the ROPA dealing with the source of advice on which the Governor General should act in instances in which an election is announced but has to be postponed.

iv. Banning the use of digital devices that capture pictures in polling stations

The Commission is still considering legislation that would ban the use of digital and/or any other device that capture pictures from being used in polling stations. This is being considered in the context of violating the principle of the secrecy of the ballot.

v. *The consolidation of existing laws governing elections in Jamaica*

The draft document was sent to the Ministry of Local Government for comments and suggestions. To date the Commission has not had a response.

PART IV

By-Elections

Three By-Elections were administered by the Commission between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. Two were Parliamentary elections held in the constituencies of St. Catherine North Eastern and Clarendon North Western and one Parish Council election for the Cornwall Mountain Division of the Westmoreland Central constituency.

St. Catherine North Eastern

The By-Election was held to fill the vacancy created by the ruling of the courts that the incumbent was not eligible to be nominated for the 2007 Parliamentary election. A by-election was held as ordered by the Supreme Court.

Nomination Day	-	May 28, 2009
Election Day	-	June 16, 2009
Budget	-	\$24,520,050.00
Voters' List	-	The election was conducted on the November 30, 2008 Voters' List

Constituency Profile

- No. of electors on constituency voters' list - 18,984
- No. of polling divisions - 94
- No. of polling stations - 98
- No. of polling locations (clusters) - 38
 - Name of Returning Officer : Derrick Mais
 - Name of Assistant Returning Officer: Winsome Slack

Nomination Day

At the end of the nomination day, two candidates were duly nominated: Gregory Mair of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and Granville Valentine of the People's National Party (PNP). There were no reported incidents of disturbances.

Polling Day

The Elector Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS) was used in all 98 polling stations. All 98 polling stations opened on time.

Voter Turnout

The voter turnout for the by-election was 10,005 or 52.7 per cent of the 18,984 eligible electors polling their votes.

Election Results

The election was won by the JLP Candidate Gregory Mair who polled 6,326 of the votes cast. This is compared with 3,674 polled for the PNP candidate, Granville Valentine.

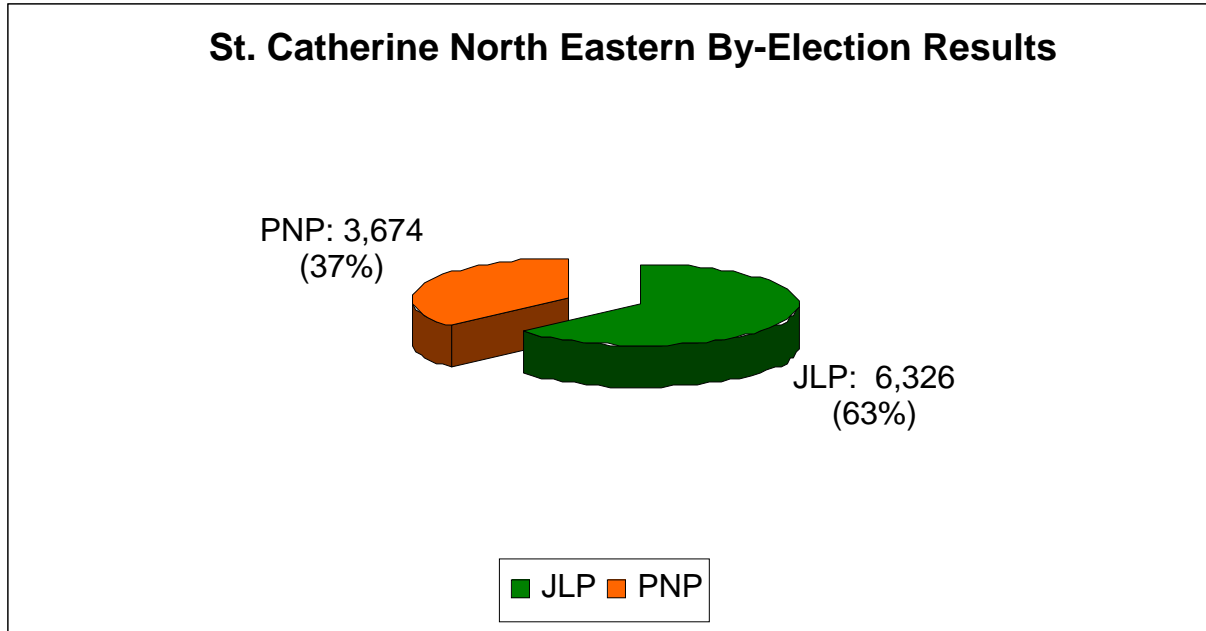


Figure 1

Constituted Authority

The Constituted Authority reported that no request was received from any candidate to investigate any infraction nor did the Director of Elections report any. The Constituted Authority, therefore, had no cause to take any action either on its own motion or on the request of any of the candidates.

Clarendon North Western

The By-Election was held to fill the vacancy created by the ruling of the Supreme Court that the incumbent was not eligible to be nominated for the 2007 Parliamentary election. A by-election was held as ordered by the Supreme Court.

Nomination Day	-	August 19, 2009
Election Day	-	September 4, 2009
Budget	-	\$15,874,800.00
Voters' List	-	The election was conducted on the May 31, 2009 Voters' List

Constituency Profile

- No. of Electors on constituency voters' list - 22,640
- No. of Polling Divisions - 104
- No. of Polling Stations - 105
- No. of Polling Locations (Clusters) - 55
 - Name of Returning Officer : Cecil Peters
 - Name of Assistant Returning Officer: Althea McLean Baker

Nomination Day

At the end of the Nomination Day, two candidates were duly nominated: Michael A. Stern of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and Eton C. Williams of the National Democratic Movement (NDM). The People's National Party (PNP) did not field a candidate.

Polling Day

The decision was made by the Director of Elections not to utilize the Elector Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS). All polling stations opened ahead of the 7:00 a.m. deadline.

Voter Turnout

The voter turnout for the by-election was 6,005 or 26.5 per cent of the 22,640 eligible electors polling their votes.

Election Results

The election was won by the JLP's Michael Stern who polled 5,574 votes (92.8%) compared to 401 (7.2%) by Eton Williams of the NDM.

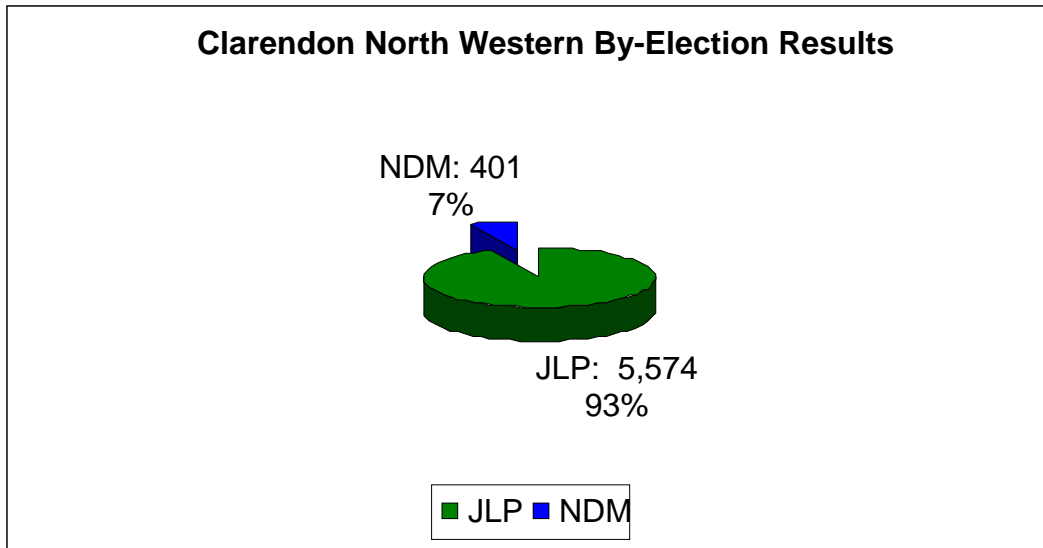


Figure 2

Constituted Authority

The Constituted Authority received no reports of infractions and had no cause to take action in relation to the by-election.

Cornwall Mountain Electoral Division

The By-Election was held to fill the vacancy created by the death of Councillor Michael Smith on May 7, 2009.

Nomination Day	-	June 22, 2009
Election Day	-	July 14, 2009
Budget	-	\$8,500,000.00
Voters' List	-	The election was conducted on the November 30, 2008 Voters' List

Electoral Division Profile

- No. of Electors on voters' list for Electoral Division - 6,976
- No. of Polling Divisions - 31
- No. of Polling Stations - 32
- No. of Polling Locations (Clusters) - 17
 - Name of Returning Officer : Irvine Green
 - Name of Assistant Returning Officer: Joyce Bernard

Nomination Day & Polling Day

At the end of the Nomination Day, two candidates were duly nominated: Keith Barnes of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and Bernard Vanriel of the People's National Party (PNP).

The voter turnout on election day was 4,062 or 58.2 per cent of 6,976 eligible voters.

The election was won by Bernard Vanriel of the PNP who received 2,106 or 51.8% of the votes cast compared to 1,927 or 48.2% received by Keith Barnes of the JLP.

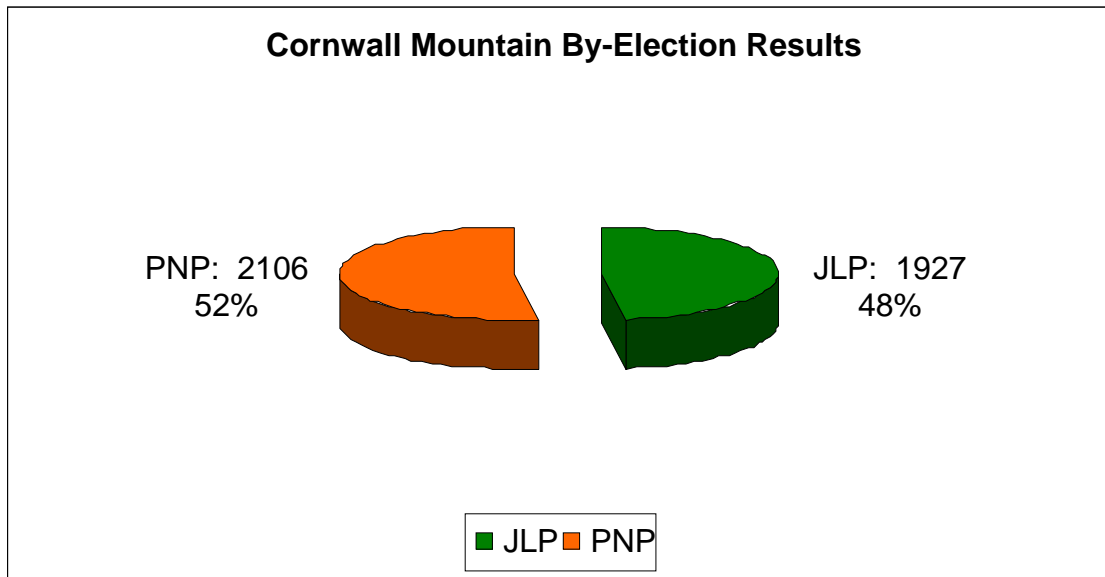


Figure 3

Constituted Authority

The Constituted Authority received no complaints and so took no action in relation to the conduct of the elections in the Cornwall Mountain Division of the Westmoreland Central constituency.

PART IV

Regional and International Activities of the ECJ

The members of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica are invited to participate in various observation missions, seminars and other electoral related symposiums from time to time. During the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, members participated in the following activities and events:

- **June 2009**

Commissioner Tom Tavares-Finson represented the ECJ at a one day conference hosted by the Organization of American States (OAS) in Caracas, Venezuela. The conference discussed the building of a reference framework of procedures for the management and control of electoral processes.

- **July 2009**

The Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica invited the ECJ to send two representatives to the conference of the Central America and the Caribbean Electoral Organisations Association (TICAL PROTOCOL) held from July 29 – August 1. Commissioners Tom Tavares-Finson Peter Bunting represented the ECJ.

The meeting focused on the question of quotas for women in Parliament.

- **OAS Acknowledgement**

The OAS indicated in a letter to the Commission that Jamaica was listed amongst the top five countries in the hemisphere in the application of technology to the electoral process. As a result a study would be made of the Jamaican system with a view to incorporating it in a publication documenting best practices in the use of technology in the hemisphere.

- **September 2009**

The Commission received an invitation to send a representative to the Second Inter American Seminar of OAS members in Mexico City from September 28 and October 2, 2009. Commissioner Tom Tavares-Finson represented the Commission.

The goal of the seminar was to promote the improvement of the organisation and administration of the electoral process and systems throughout the hemisphere. The two main areas of focus were:

- a) Relationship between the electoral authorities and political parties;
- b) The relationship between the electoral authorities and the media.

- **October 2009**

An invitation was sent to the Chairman of the ECJ to participate in a planning seminar on the formation of a network of Commonwealth Electoral Management Bodies. Due to previous commitment to give a Public Lecture in Jamaica the Chairman was unavailable. Commissioner Dorothy Pine-McLarty represented the Commission.

Mrs Pine-McLarty reported that the ECJ was one of nine Electoral Management Bodies invited to participate in the Seminar and the recommendations for the establishment of the Network would be submitted to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, scheduled for Trinidad and Tobago.

- **November 2009**

The annual meeting of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organisation (ACEO) conference was held in Barbados on November 5 and 6, 2009. During the meeting held in Jamaica in November 2008, the Chairman, Professor Errol Miller, was appointed Chairman of an interim Steering Committee aimed at reviving the ACEO. Jamaica was also asked to host the Secretariat. A delegation consisting of the Chairman, the Director of Elections, Orrette Fisher and Commissioner, Donald Buchanan attended the conference.

- **Observer Mission – Mozambique**

The Commission received an invitation to send a representative to be a part of a Commonwealth Secretariat Observation Mission to Mozambique. Commissioner Dorothy Pine McLarty was appointed to represent the Commission.

- **January 2010**

The Commission was invited to send two representatives to Costa Rica to observe their Presidential Election. A request was also received from the CARICOM Secretariat to send a representative to observe the parliamentary elections in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Commissioners Tom Tavares-Finson and Peter Bunting represented the Commission in Costa Rica and the Deputy Director of Elections, Earl Simpson, observed the elections in St. Kitts and Nevis.

- **February 2010**

Commonwealth Good Governance 2010:

The Commonwealth Secretariat has identified Jamaica as a member state with adherence to good governance. The Elections and Boundaries Department and Commonwealth Good Governance acknowledged exemplary adherence to best practice in national elections which is a critical component of democracy and underpins development and international reputation.

To this end, Jamaica was invited to post an organizational profile of the Electoral Commission in the Jamaica section of the Commonwealth Good Governance 2010 publication.

CONCLUSION

There were at least four major achievements of the Commission within the year April 2009 to March 2010 that must be mentioned. These can be listed briefly as follows:

1. *The conduct of incident free elections.* The three by-elections were contested in circumstances where the Voters' Lists were accepted by all as an accurate register of electors, all polling stations opened on time, the voting process proceeded almost flawlessly, all votes were counted, the results were known within three hours of the close of the polls and there were no complaints by Candidates of any infractions. Hopefully this will become the standard for all elections.
2. *The application of GIS Technology to the delineation of boundaries.* This included the mapping by geographical coordinates of all polling divisions in the fourteen parishes, the creation of electronic maps for electoral divisions and constituencies, the overlay of electoral and polling data on the electronic maps and the establishment of the GIS Unit within the Commission. While the mapping of polling divisions is a one-time exercise, it sets a new foundation for all future general reviews of boundaries. Further, with the creation of the GIS Unit the potential exists for the use of GIS information in numerous aspects of the work of the Commission related to voter registration, the conduct of elections and in the delineation of boundaries.
3. *The restructuring of the conduct of the general review of constituency boundaries.* This involved adherence to a set of previously agreed principles and processes, greater stakeholder involvement and participation through the Parish Boundaries Forums and Advisory Committees, a re-defined role for the Director of Elections and Returning Officers, a clearly defined system of conflict resolution, formal hearings by the Selected Members involving both written and oral presentations and the use of electronic maps in the decision-making processes. While on a few occasions, vigorous debate on a few matters flowed over into public media, and there was protestation in the House of Representatives on the part of a few when the Standing Committee on Boundaries sought the

approval of the Parliament, the recommendations made were widely accepted as objective and fair and withstood all challenges. Taking into consideration that this was the first time the restructure system was implemented, the Commission is committed to reviewing the principles and processes with the intention to further improve and perfect the same.

4. *The increasing regional and international recognition of the accomplishments of Jamaica with respect to its electoral system.* In the course of the year, this was manifested in recognition from the Organisation of American States and the Commonwealth Secretariat as well as through invitations to participate in numerous regional activities and events.

A stable democracy depends upon a trusted electoral system which enjoys the confidence of the vast majority of its stakeholders and actors. The work of the Commission is built upon foundation supported by four pillars:

- The participation of political representatives in the constituencies in the on-going processes of voter registration, the distribution of Voter ID cards, agreement of the location of polling stations and other such matters dealt with in the monthly meetings in each constituency between Returning Officers and representatives of the political parties.
- The dedicated, disciplined and detailed work done by the Director and staff of the Electoral Office in implementing the policies of the Commission and in carrying through all the necessary processes.
- The broker role played by the Nominated Commissioners in vigorously presenting the views of their respective political parties at the Commission and in carefully explaining and stoutly advocating the decisions made by the Commission within their respective political parties.
- The determination of the Selected Commissioners to preside over processes of the Commission in a principled, orderly and timely fashion.

During the year April 2009 and March 2010, the Commission worked to strengthen its foundations and construct the necessary superstructure in order to continue to build the electoral processes of Jamaica mindful of the sacrifices and achievements of those who went before and confident in the good sense and goodwill of the Jamaican people.

Appendix 1

Principles Employed in Conducting the Boundaries Review

1. That the Commission would apply Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to the exercise of defining polling divisions, electoral divisions and constituency boundaries and in the decision-making processes related to these matters.
2. That in each parish, a Parish Boundaries Forum would be established and would be comprised of all Members of Parliament, Councillors, Caretakers or Constituency Chairmen, Political Liaison Officers and chaired by a Senior Returning Officer of the Parish named by the Director of Elections.
3. That in each parish, there would be established a Parish Boundaries Committee comprising five members from each political party represented on the Forum and named by the General Secretary of the Party, and chaired by the Senior Returning Officer named by the Director of Elections.
4. That the Parish Forums and Advisory Committees would consider and seek to agree on the definition of polling divisions, splits, mergers and the resolution of anomalies.
5. That where constituencies in a parish are within the limits set by the Constitution but the Advisory Committee of the parish agrees and recommends changes that would result in greater equality in the number of electors in each constituency, then boundary adjustments would be made. Where there was no agreement, existing boundaries would remain.
6. That where constituencies in a parish were in breach of the constitutional limits, the Advisory Committees of those parishes would seek to agree on the realignment of boundaries in those parishes to correct the breaches. If the Advisory Committee reached a unanimous agreement, which was signed by all members, this agreement would be accepted by the Commission provided that agreement was also signed by the General Secretary of the respective political parties.

7. That if no agreement was reached by the Parish Boundaries Advisory Committee, then the matter would be referred to the Nominated Commissioners and the Director of Elections for resolution and at which point the Director would present a written Proposal to be considered alongside the written Proposals of both Parties.
8. That if the Nominated Commissioners and the Director could not resolve the disagreements, then the areas of disagreement would be referred to the Selected Commissioners for a final decision. In the process of making their decision, the Selected Commissioners would hold formal hearings at which the Nominated Commissioners and Director would put forward oral arguments in support of their written proposals.
9. That the Commission would make the decision to add constituencies based on the mathematical guidelines set out by the Constitution.
10. That the Commission would follow the same principles of agreement and conflict resolution for adding new constituencies to Parishes as employed in the case of resolving breaches.