



CARICOM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

NEVIS ISLAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

The CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission leaves Nevis today after a short period of observation of the pre-election day preparations and activities and the conduct of the poll of July 11, 2011. Of particular importance was the matter brought to the attention of the Court with regard to the names of several persons being expunged from the voters' list and the ruling of the Court in relation thereto.

We congratulate the people of Nevis on their commitment to the traditions of democracy demonstrated by the voter turnout and the patience, discipline and peaceful disposition displayed while waiting their turn to exercise their franchise. We note the passion expressed by the people in safeguarding the right to vote during our meetings with stakeholders and in discussions with ordinary citizens. We also commend the efforts made by the Electoral Authorities to organize this event and the performance of the polling officials who conducted the elections in an orderly and professional manner that facilitated the free expression of the will of the people.

With respect to the conduct of the poll and other electoral processes, we observed several short-comings. There are areas of concern which we believe will require serious and immediate attention. These we will document in the detailed report of the Mission. The major task which we believe lies ahead is to strengthen certain critical aspects of the process, not only to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in its management and administration, but also in enhancing the existing legislative framework. We believe that this will contribute to the continuing efforts of the people of Nevis to build on the

successes achieved in the area of electoral reform and in ensuring that the country's democracy is certain and enduring.

Charlestown, Nevis

12 July 2011