



THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**REPORT OF THE
ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BYE-ELECTION
IN THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF
ARIMA CENTRAL
HELD ON MONDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2021**

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**ELECTIONS &
BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION**
Partners in Democracy



REPORT

of the Elections and Boundaries Commission on the
Local Government Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Arima Central held on
Monday 25th January, 2021

GIVING

- (a) the number of votes polled for each candidate, by polling divisions;
- (b) the number of rejected ballots;
- (c) the number of names on the revised list of electors and on the list of special electors; and
- (d) any other information that the Commission has deemed fit to include.

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29th June, 2021

Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein
Minister of Rural Development & Local Government
Ministry of Rural Development & Local Government
Kent House
Long Circular Road
MARAVAL

Honourable Minister

Election Rule 108(6) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 2:01 (the Act) requires the Elections and Boundaries Commission (the Commission) to cause to be printed, after each election, a report giving:

- (a) the number of votes polled for each candidate by polling divisions;
- (b) the number of rejected ballots;
- (c) the number of names on the revised list of electors and on the list of special electors; and
- (d) any other information that it may deem fit to include,

Further, the said rule specifies that a copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Minister responsible for local government, as well as to the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council.

Acting in accordance with the said election rule 108(6), therefore, the Commission submits herewith its report on the Bye-Election in the Arima Borough Corporation held on Monday 25th January, 2021. The data in respect of (a) and (b) above are provided in **Appendix I**. A summary of the information contained in **Appendix I** is given in **Appendix II**, while the requirement at (c) is met in **Appendix III**. Other pertinent information deemed fit for inclusion in the report, in addition to what is contained in this text, can be found in **Appendices IV-IX** inclusive.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE OF THE ELECTION

By means of correspondence dated Wednesday 9th December 2020 from Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Commission was informed that the Honourable Prime Minister had agreed to Monday 25th January, 2021 as the date for the conduct of a Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Arima Central in the Arima Borough Corporation, consequent on the declaration by the said Corporation of a vacancy in the Electoral District. The vacancy arose as a consequence of the election of the then Councillor

for the electoral district as Member of Parliament for the constituency of D’Abadie/O’Meara in the 2020 Parliamentary Election.

The correspondence also indicated that Nomination Day had been fixed for Monday 4th January, 2021.

2. ELECTORAL REGISTRATION AND REVISED LIST OF ELECTORS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 30 of the Act, a nine-day period of electoral registration was conducted from 17th to 27th December, 2020.

While the time-span cited actually amounts to eleven (11) calendar days, the legal stipulation of nine (9) days was not exceeded. This is due to the fact that Christmas Day and Boxing Day (i.e. Friday 25th December, 2020 and Saturday 26th December, 2020), which fell within the period, had to be excluded in accordance with the provisions of section 159(1) of the Act.

During the period of the Electoral Registration, two (2) notifications of change of address were received. There were no new registrations.

The Preliminary List of Electors posted, as required, on the date of the commencement of the period of the Electoral Registration, reflected an electorate of four thousand, one hundred and forty-five (4,145). Changes made to this list on the completion of the exercise, by way of additions, resulted in an electorate of four thousand, one hundred and forty-seven (4,147) on the Revised List of Electors which was posted on 4th January, 2021. Since there were no adjustments to the Revised List, a Supplemental List was not required to be posted.

3. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

Ms. Daphne Moore was selected as the Returning Officer for the electoral district by the Commission, and the Writ of Election was duly prepared and delivered to Her Excellency, the President on Thursday 10th December, 2020 for signature.



Commissioner, Ms. Roslyn Khan Cummings, on behalf of the Commission, officially appointed Ms. Moore as Returning Officer, and presented her with the Writ of Election issued by Her Excellency the President on Sunday 13th December, 2020. The office of the Returning Officer was established at the La Horquetta Regional Complex, Marjorie Padmore Avenue, Phase 2, La Horquetta.

4. NOMINATION DAY PROCEEDINGS

On Nomination Day, 4th January, 2021, two (2) candidates were nominated by two (2) political parties. Pertinent information relating to the candidates nominated is provided in **Appendix VIII**.

The breakdown of the candidates nominated is provided in **Table 1** below, together with approved symbols.

TABLE 1
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES NOMINATED & PARTY AFFILIATIONS

NAME OF POLITICAL PARTY	ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION OF PARTY SYMBOL	PARTY SYMBOL	NO. OF CANDIDATES
People's National Movement	P.N.M.	An oval with a balisier flower inside, at the base the letters PNM and the words PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT		1
United National Congress	U.N.C.	Rising Sun over the Trinity Hills above the letters U.N.C.		1
TOTAL CANDIDATES NOMINATED				2

5. POLLING STATIONS AND STAFFING

Eight (8) polling stations were established for the purpose of the taking of the poll in the six (6) polling divisions in the electoral district.

A total of fifty-five (55) individuals received training in polling station and related poll-day activities. Of this number, fifty-three (53), comprising forty-five (45) females and eight (8) males, were assigned to work on poll-day. They were recruited to fill the positions of Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer, Poll Clerk, Officer-in-Charge of the Ballot Box, Information Officer, Roving Officer and Sanitization Officer.

6. COMMUNICATION

The Commission issued messages in various media, which satisfied legal requirements for publication; and undertook proactive communication which publicly shared accurate, timely information to increase voters' understanding of new processes and procedures, as well as messages which focused on protecting voter participation and inclusion.

In addition to the usual pre-election advertisements, the Commission produced television and radio advertisements aimed at addressing any concerns which the voting public may have had

about the electoral process during the COVID-19 pandemic. These advertisements provided information on the measures implemented by the Commission, aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and to safeguard the health and well-being of voters on poll-day.

7. PREPARATION FOR THE POLL/IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS ON ELECTION PROCESSES

As it did in the preparation for, and conduct of the 2020 Parliamentary Elections, the first election to be held during the pandemic, the Commission again strictly followed the protocols set out by the Ministry of Health. Consequently, changes were made, but not restricted to:

- ❖ the training programme for prospective poll-day staff;
- ❖ the layout of polling stations; and
- ❖ the means by which election-related documents were made available to the public and election officials.

In all of this, the use of technology proved to be an effective tool.

Further, strict adherence was observed with respect to physical distancing, the mandatory wearing of masks, the wearing of gloves where deemed necessary, the sanitization of the hands of both voters and polling station personnel and the frequent sanitization of equipment provided for use at polling stations.

8. CONDUCT OF THE POLL

Voting by Special Electors commenced as scheduled, on Monday 18th January, 2021 at the office of the Returning Officer, while similar activity began on Tuesday 19th January, 2021 at the Special Polling Stations established by the Commission for that purpose. All persons who turned up to vote were able to exercise their franchise without incident.

On poll-day, Monday 25th January, 2021, voting commenced as scheduled; and there were no incidents which negatively impacted the voting process. Election Day went as anticipated, and all persons wishing to exercise their franchise were able to do so in the stipulated time.

As is customary, members of the Commission were deployed in the Electoral District on Election Day in order to monitor operations at polling stations. The casting of ballots and the counting of votes were incident free. Generally, the Commission was satisfied that poll-day arrangements enabled the electorate to exercise their franchise freely and fairly.

9. ELECTION DOCUMENTS


All relevant election documents have been submitted to the Commission for storage and are being maintained in safe custody in accordance with the Act.


10. RESULTS OF THE POLL

The 2021 Local Government Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Arima Central was won by the United National Congress; their candidate having received seven hundred and sixty-four (764) votes or 52.47% of the valid votes polled. The candidate for the People's National Movement received six hundred and ninety-two (692) votes or 47.53% of the valid votes polled, as shown in **Appendix IV**.

The number of electors exercising their right to vote amounted to one thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine (1,459), representing 35.18% of the total number of eligible voters. The number of valid votes polled was one thousand, four hundred and fifty-six (1,456) or 99.79% and the number of ballots rejected was three (3) or 0.21%.

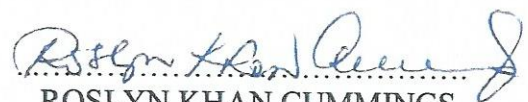
Yours faithfully


MARK RAMKERRYSINGH
CHAIRMAN


LEWIS W. CHARLES
MEMBER


NOEL KALICHARAN
MEMBER


DANIELLE CHOW
MEMBER


ROSLYN KHAN CUMMINGS
MEMBER

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Appendix I

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF ARIMA CENTRAL

POLLING STATION NUMBER	POLLING STATION ADDRESS	NO. OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE		NUMBER OF VALID VOTES CAST AT EACH POLLING STATION	NUMBER OF REJECTED BALLOTS AT EACH POLLING STATION	NUMBER OF NAMES ON THE REVISED LIST OF ELECTORS
		BERNARD, JULIET HILARY P.N.M.	GARCIA, SHELDON U.N.C.			
1975	UPPER MALABAR COMMUNITY CENTRE MALABAR ROAD, ARIMA	75	103	178	2	556
*1976-01	ARIMA NEW GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL BUENA VISTA BOULEVARD, ARIMA	74	83	157	0	384
1976-02	ARIMA NEW GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL BUENA VISTA BOULEVARD, ARIMA	79	67	146	0	414
1980	ARIMA NEW GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL BUENA VISTA BOULEVARD, ARIMA	81	172	253	0	639
1981	MALABAR R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL SUBERO STREET, MALABAR, ARIMA	66	162	228	1	598
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD		375	587	962	3	2,591

* Polling Station where the ballots of Special Electors were intermixed (Election Rule 93).

Appendix I

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF ARIMA CENTRAL

POLLING STATION NUMBER	POLLING STATION ADDRESS	NO. OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE		NUMBER OF VALID VOTES CAST AT EACH POLLING STATION	NUMBER OF REJECTED BALLOTS AT EACH POLLING STATION	NUMBER OF NAMES ON THE REVISED LIST OF ELECTORS
		BERNARD, JULIET HILARY P.N.M.	GARCIA, SHELDON U.N.C.			
	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	375	587	962	3	2,591
1982	ARIMA NEW GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL BUENA VISTA BOULEVARD, ARIMA	138	80	218	0	686
2041-01	ARIMA CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL ROBERT STREET, ARIMA	86	48	134	0	451
2041-02	ARIMA CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL ROBERT STREET, ARIMA	93	49	142	0	419
	TOTALS	692	764	1,456	3	4,147

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a Statement of the Poll showing the number of votes cast for each Candidate, and do on this 26th day of January, 2021 declare SHELDON GARCIA elected.

DAPHNE MOORE
Returning Officer
Electoral District of ARIMA CENTRAL

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021

APPENDIX II

(SUMMARY OF APPENDIX I)

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	ELECTORAL LIST	VALID VOTES POLLED	REJECTED BALLOTS	TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	CANDIDATES DECLARED ELECTED AND THEIR PARTY AFFILIATIONS
ARIMA CENTRAL	4,147	1,456	3	1,459	SHELDON GARCIA U.N.C.

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
APPENDIX III
NUMBER OF NAMES ON THE REVISED LIST OF ELECTORS AND
ON THE LIST OF SPECIAL ELECTORS

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NO. OF NAMES ON THE REVISED LIST OF ELECTORS	NO. OF NAMES ON THE LIST OF SPECIAL ELECTORS (Extracted from Revised List)
ARIMA CENTRAL	4,147	24

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
APPENDIX IV
ANALYSIS OF VOTES RECEIVED BY EACH POLITICAL PARTY AND REJECTED BALLOTS

	ELECTORAL DISTRICT	ELECTORATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST	REJECTED BALLOTS	VALID VOTES POLLED	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST AS AGAINST THE ELECTORATE	DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES CAST		
							P.N.M.		U.N.C.
							NO. OF VOTES	%	NO. OF VOTES
	ARIMA CENTRAL	4,147	1,459	3	1,456	35.18	692	47.53	764
									52.47

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
APPENDIX V
PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST IN THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF ARIMA CENTRAL

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	ELECTORATE	TOTAL NO. OF VOTES CAST	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST AS AGAINST THE ELECTORATE
ARIMA CENTRAL	4,147	1,459	35.18%

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021

APPENDIX VI

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF ELECTORS PER POLLING STATION AND
AVERAGE NUMBER OF VOTERS PER POLLING STATION**

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NO. OF ELECTORS	NO. OF POLLING STATIONS	AVERAGE NO. OF ELECTORS PER POLLING STATION	NO. OF ELECTORS WHO VOTED	AVERAGE NO. OF VOTERS PER POLLING STATION
ARIMA CENTRAL	4,147	8	518	1,459	182

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021



APPENDIX VII

RESULTS OF THE POLL IN THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE WINNER

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	PARTY AFFILIATION	NO. OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE	MAJORITY OF FIRST OVER SECOND
ARIMA CENTRAL				
GARCIA, SHELDON	U.N.C.	764	52.36	
BERNARD, JULIET HILARY	P.N.M.	692	47.43	
REJECTED BALLOTS		3	0.21	
TOTAL VOTES CAST		1,459	100.00	

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
APPENDIX VIII
NAMES, ADDRESSES, OCCUPATIONS AND PARTY AFFILIATIONS OF CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT

IN THE COLUMN HEADED "PARTY AFFILIATION" THE ABBREVIATIONS HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS
P.N.M. - PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT
U.N.C. - UNITED NATIONAL CONGRESS

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	CANDIDATE'S NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	PARTY AFFILIATION	SYMBOL
ARIMA CENTRAL	JULIET HILARY BERNARD	36B LOUBON STREET, ARIMA	DENTIST	P.N.M.	
	SHELDON GARCIA	17B MALABAR STREET, ARIMA	PRIVATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER	U.N.C.	

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ARIMA CORPORATION, 2021
APPENDIX IX
NAMES OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTION CLERK

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NAME OF RETURNING OFFICER	OCCUPATION	NAME OF ELECTION CLERK	OFFICIAL ADDRESS
ARIMA CENTRAL	DAPHNE MOORE	RETIRED AUDITOR I	JUDY A. BENICOURT	LA HORQUETTA REGIONAL COMPLEX MARJORIE PADMORE AVENUE, PHASE 2, LA HORQUETTA