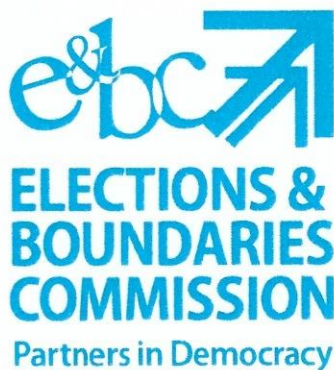




THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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





REPORT

of the Elections and Boundaries Commission on the
Local Government Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Cunupia 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 Chaguanas 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 Cunupia in the Chaguanas 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 Chaguanas East 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 there were no new registrations or requests for change of address.

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 eight thousand, three hundred and eleven (8,311). Changes made to this list on the completion of the exercise, by way of additions and deletions, resulted in an electorate of eight thousand, three hundred and eighteen (8,318) on the Revised List of Electors which was posted on 4th January, 2021. There were no adjustments to the Revised List, and consequently there was no need for the posting of a Supplemental List.

3. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

Ms. Theodora Phillip 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.



On behalf of the Commission, the Chairman officially appointed Ms. Phillip 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 Realistic Real Estate Limited, L.P. No. 250 Southern Main Road, Cunupia.

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

Fifteen (15) polling stations were established for the purpose of the taking of the poll in the twelve (12) polling divisions in the electoral district.

A total of one hundred and eight (108) individuals received training in polling station and related poll-day activities. Of this number, ninety-six (96), comprising eighty-five (85) females and eleven (11) 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 offices of the respective Returning Officers, 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

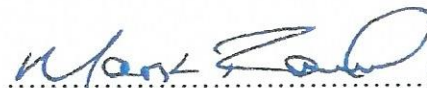
All relevant election documents have been submitted to the Commission for storage and are being maintained in safe custody in accordance with the Act.


10. RESULTS OF THE POLL

The 2021 Local Government Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Cunupia was won by the United National Congress; their candidate having received one thousand, two hundred and fifty-two (1,252) votes or **61.49%** of the valid votes polled. The candidate for the People's National Movement received seven hundred and eighty-four (784) votes or **38.51%** of the valid votes polled, as shown in **Appendix IV**.

The number of electors exercising their right to vote amounted to two thousand and forty-one (2,041), representing **24.54%** of the total number of eligible voters. The number of valid votes polled was two thousand and thirty-six (2,036) or **99.76%** and the number of ballots rejected was five (5) or **0.24%**.

Yours faithfully


MARK RAMKERRYSINGH
CHAIRMAN


LEWIS W. CHARLES
MEMBER


NOEL KALICHARAN
MEMBER


DANIELLE CHOW
MEMBER


ROSLYN KHAN CUMMINGS
MEMBER

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**BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS CORPORATION, 2021
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CUNUPIA**

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
		ALI, RASHEED P.N.M.	SUKDEO, RICHARD U.N.C.			
2705-01	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	35	47	82	0	483
2705-02	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	35	76	111	0	536
2715-01	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	20	80	100	1	507
2715-02	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	14	105	119	0	582
2716	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	31	71	102	0	606
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD		135	379	514	1	2,714

**BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS CORPORATION, 2021
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CUNUPIA**

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
		ALI, RASHEED P.N.M.	SUKDEO, RICHARD U.N.C.			
	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	135	379	514	1	2,714
*2718	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	73	73	146	1	386
2719	CUNUPIA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHIN CHIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	65	101	166	1	728
2770	JERNINGHAM GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	89	105	194	1	623
2771	JERNINGHAM GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	38	179	217	0	634
	TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	400	837	1,237	4	5,085

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

**BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS CORPORATION, 2021
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CUNUPIA**

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
		ALI, RASHEED P.N.M.	SUKDEO, RICHARD U.N.C.			
	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	400	837	1,237	4	5,085
2772	JERNINGHAM GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	97	70	167	0	674
2815	CUNUPIA SECONDARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	97	77	174	0	584
2816	CUNUPIA SECONDARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	51	73	124	0	523
2817-01	CUNUPIA SECONDARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	58	32	90	0	481
2817-02	CUNUPIA SECONDARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	48	41	89	0	473
	TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	751	1,130	1,881	4	7,820

**BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS CORPORATION, 2021
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CUNUPIA**

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
		ALI, RASHEED P.N.M.	SUKDEO, RICHARD U.N.C.			
2818	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	751	1,130	1,881	4	7,820
	CUNUPIA SECONDARY SCHOOL HASSARATH ROAD EXTENSION, CUNUPIA	33	122	155	1	498
	TOTALS	784	1,252	2,036	5	8,318

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 **RICHARD SUKDEO** elected.

THEODORA PHILLIP
Returning Officer
Electoral District of CUNUPIA

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS 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
CUNUPIA		8,318	2,036	5	2,041	RICHARD SUKDEO U.N.C.

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS 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)
CUNUPIA	8,318	35

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS 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	%
CUNUPIA		8,318	2,041	5	2,036	24.54	784	38.51	1,252	61.49

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

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	ELECTORATE	TOTAL NO. OF VOTES CAST	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST AS AGAINST THE ELECTORATE
CUNUPIA	8,318	2,041	24.54%

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS 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
CUNUPIA	8,318	15	555	2,041	136

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS 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
CUNUPIA				
SUKDEO, RICHARD	U.N.C.	1,252	61.34	
ALI, RASHEED	P.N.M.	784	38.42	
REJECTED BALLOTS		5	0.24	
TOTAL VOTES CAST		2,041	100.00	

BYE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CHAGUANAS 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
CUNUPIA	RASHEED ALI	L.P. NO. 315 SOUTHERN MAIN ROAD, CUNUPIA	BUSINESSMAN	P.N.M.	
	RICHARD SUKDEO	L.P. NO. 56 SOOGRIM STREET, ENDEAVOUR VILLAGE, CHAGUANAS	BUSINESSMAN	U.N.C.	

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

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NAME OF RETURNING OFFICER	OCCUPATION	NAME OF ELECTION CLERK	OFFICIAL ADDRESS
CUNUPIA	THEODORA PHILLIP	CLERK TYPIST	KUMARIE HANSLAL-ALI	REALISTIC REAL ESTATE SERVICES LIMITED L.P. NO. 250 SOUTHERN MAIN ROAD, CUNUPIA