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Elections and Boundaries Commission

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Elections & Boundaries
Commission
Partners in Democracy

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Champions

Photo by Roger Duncan

Team E&BC Scores BIG in Public Service Day Event

Team Elections and Boundaries Commission (E&BC) was in winner's row as they took the first prize for teams participating in the Public Service Day Event hosted by the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) on Saturday 21st June, 2014 at the Queen's Park Savannah. There was no stopping the Commission as it literally ran away with the "Shine with Pride" Award. The award was presented to the organization, which demonstrated the unity and pride of the Public Service.

The Commission was well represented on the day by staff from most of the Offices at Head Office and the Registration Area Offices throughout the country, and this set the tone for a fun-filled day which was enjoyed by everyone as they were able to re-unite with colleagues whom they haven't seen for a while and may have only communicated with by phone up until this time. When it was time for the 5K Run/Walk everyone in the team sang "We Ready" in unison with Bunji's song as it played in the background.

Off they went and throughout the course we could see members of staff encouraging their colleagues along the way to do well and finish the course. This indeed exemplified what real team spirit was all about. At the conclusion of the event when the winners were announced, Team E&BC proudly stood tall above all competition and the CHAMPIONS were given a chance to enjoy the moment as the D.J played 2014 Road March song, Ministry of the Road in their honour. The team, 'like all trinis, we liked ourselves' for the three minute duration which the song played as the spotlight was on us.

After the ceremony everyone returned to the Commission's tent still reveling in the moment and continued to congratulate each other on a job well done. One thing we know for sure, if it's nice, we'll do it twice and Team E&BC would definitely be back next year to defend our title. At the end everyone left with pleasant memories of a fantastic experience and promised to do it bigger and better again. Look out MPA!! Congratulations once again to Team E&BC.

See back page for more photos.

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Our Mission Statement

To promote and consolidate democracy through the registration of individuals in accordance with the law, the conduct of free and fair elections similarly circumscribed, and the implementation of public education plans and programmes to support these objectives.

Inspirational Quote

In any project the important factor is your belief. Without belief, there can be no successful outcome.

William James

E&BC Represented at International Conferences in Kenya

The Elections and Boundaries Commission led by its Chairman Dr. Norbert Masson and Senior Legal Officer, Mrs. Fern Narcis represented the Commission at the Third Biennial Conference of the Commonwealth Electoral Network (CEN) held in Nairobi, Kenya from, 23rd-24th June, 2014; and, the Eighth International Electoral Affairs Symposium organised by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) in Naivasha, Kenya from 25th-27th June, 2014.



Participants at the CEN Biennial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

The Third Biennial Conference of the Commonwealth Electoral Network (CEN) was facilitated by the Commonwealth Secretariat in association with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya. Its working theme was entitled 'Managing Elections in the 21st Century: Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Electoral Integrity'. The conference attracted senior election managers in the Commonwealth whilst offering important opportunities to promote various aspects of good electoral practice through peer learning and support.

In his opening remarks, Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma said he was confident that the conference marked another milestone in the collective efforts to promote all aspects of good electoral practice through peer learning and support, thus enhancing the democratic culture and service to citizens. He added that links nurtured and strengthened through CEN are a powerful practical illustration of Commonwealth connection as a great global good.

The subsequent Symposium in Naivasha, Kenya from 25th – 27th June, 2014 was highly interactive as participants were able to exchange views, experiences and best practices in electoral management and administration. Additionally, they gained first hand insights about different approaches and rationales on managing various challenges, such as, low voter turnout, electoral legitimacy and voter registration. The Symposium also encouraged relationship building and networking with participants from Electoral Management Bodies, International Institutions and Technology Partners.

... also Appointed to CEN Steering Committee



*Appointed to CEN Steering Committee
Chairman of the E&BC, Dr. Norbert Masson*

The Elections and Boundaries Commission was appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Electoral Network (CEN) Steering Committee in June 2014. The Commission's Chairman, Dr. Norbert Masson is one of the members of an eight-member committee that will serve for a two-year term.

The CEN is made up of Electoral Bodies of 54 Commonwealth Countries and was established at the 2010 Conference of Commonwealth Elections Bodies in Ghana. Among Its objectives are to facilitate experience sharing, creating support mechanisms, promoting good practices and to encourage opportunities for peer support across Commonwealth.

The Commission congratulates Dr. Masson on his appointment and wishes him the all the best in his new role.

Healthy Living- Know Your Numbers



Members of Staff at the Health Fair

E&BC Staff in Health Fair

On Tuesday 17th June, 2014, the Health Education Division of the Ministry of Health and Optometrist Today partnered with the Elections and Boundaries Commission to provide essential health care services for the commission's staff of its Head Office Branch.

Persons on the day were given the opportunity to 'Know their Numbers' as several tests were conducted on individuals. These include Diabetes, Cholesterol, Body Mass Index (BMI), Mental Health and Vision Screening. The Commission saw this initiative as an excellent opportunity for its employees, as health and wellness are valuable attributes to our very existence and the benefits that can be derived from a programme of this type would be useful to everyone.

Similar programmes will be scheduled in the coming months at the Commission's various Registration Area offices throughout the country in order to facilitate staff members who were unable to attend this session.



These two members of staff seen here as they get tested from the medical personnel for Blood Pressure, Diabetes and Cholesterol.



E&BC's Chairman, Dr. Norbert Masson listens attentively to the representative from Optometrist Today.



Secretary at E&BC Retires- Valerie Robinson

What were some of your key responsibilities?

Typing of Reports and Cabinet Notes, Assist in the preparation of Notices of Election and other confidential related documents.

What are some of your most memorable moments at the E&BC?

Besides enjoying the job and being successful at what I do, there were several memorable moments. One such was when the Commission had their excursions organized by Mr. Beckles (formerly of the Printing Section) organized. Before those excursions, there were also boat rides, fete matches against the Government Printery and other companies.

I would like to see those days return to the Elections and Boundaries Commission. Staff at the Commission is like a family, Even though we may not sleep here but the organisation is like a home and we all work together as a family.

Words of Advice to Staff

Things would not always go as planned but one has to remain positive, Keep your focus and give it your best at all times. Mrs. Robinson urged staff to continue to support any social initiatives of the organisation and if possible bring along their families to the event, as this will assist in harmonizing their relationship with colleagues.

Mrs. Valerie Robinson, Secretary, retired on 30th June, 2014, after thirty-nine (39) years of service at the Elections and Boundaries Commission. On behalf of the Commission, we would like to thank Mrs. Robinson for her invaluable contribution to the organization and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Prior to her proceeding on retirement, the Communications Unit conducted an interview with Mrs. Robinson.

When did you join the E&BC?

20th February, 1975

Post at Retirement:

Clerk Typist to the Deputy Chief Election Officer and Assistant Chief Election Officer

Retirement Plans?

I would start off by registering with the TTARP (Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retired Professionals). There are a lot of activities that I see myself getting involved with. I have already mentioned to my husband, "do not think that I'll be staying home and sitting around, there is so much to do when you're retired" (laugh). Then, there are my plans to attend, something which I have become delinquent with over time. I would also like to get involved in church activities in the future and spend more time with my grandchildren.





Chief Election Officer in ISO/TS 17582:2014 Training Workshop in Costa Rica

Chief Election Officer of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, Mr. Ramesh Nanan was in San Jose, Costa from 19-20 June, 2014 to attend a two (2) day training workshop for electoral organizations at all levels of the Government on the new International Electoral Standard ISO/TS 17582:2014: Quality Management Systems.

ISO/TS 17582:2014 specify requirements for a quality management system where an electoral organization:

- 1.** Demonstrates its ability to manage elections by secret ballot, which provide reliable, transparent, free and fair results that comply with electoral requirements;
- 2.** Within the established legal framework, aims to enhance the trust and confidence of citizens, candidates, political organizations, and other electoral interested parties through the effective implementation of the electoral quality management system, including processes for continual improvement.
- 3.** ISO/TS 17582:2014 applies to the election period, including pre-election and post-election activities or processes.
- 4.** ISO/TS 17582:2014 is applicable to all electoral bodies involved in any aspect of the electoral process, whether they are permanent organizations or temporary organizations established in support of a particular election period and;
- 5.** It is also applicable to elections at all levels of Government, whether Local, Regional or Parliamentary.

The objective of the two-day workshop was to promote awareness of ISO/TS 17582 among the electoral community, to provide practical knowledge on how to implement the standard, and to provide a forum for understanding how to create a practical electoral quality management system. In the past, the Commission has always demonstrated a fervent interest in the development of International Standard for Electoral Bodies, so participation at this workshop would have been highly beneficial to both the Commission and its Department.

Deputy Chief Election Officer in CARICOM Observer Electoral Mission

Deputy Chief Election Officer Ms. Lena Sahadeo was recently selected to be part of a CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Observer Electoral Mission in the Antigua and Barbuda Parliamentary Elections held on 12th June, 2014. The nine member delegation was led by Mr. Orrette Fisher (Chief Mission) and other members included, Ms. Lena Sahadeo, Ms. Pauline Welsh, Ms. Barette Woodye, Mr. Frank Smith, Mr. Ian Browne, Mr. Chester Humphrey, Mr. Henry George and Mr. Windgrove George.

The role of the mission as outlined by CARICOM was as follows:

To Observe

- The Electoral Process
- Preparations for Polling Day
- Casting of Votes
- Closure of the Polling Station
- The Counting of Ballots
- Preparation for the Statement of the Poll

To Collect

- Information on the result of the voting tables to assist in the quantitative verification of the results.
- Qualitative observations regarding the voting process, comportment of the electoral officials and political actors and on the overall electoral environment.

To Observe and Assess

- The outcome of the elections and the initial immediate impact on the social and political environment

Collaborate

- In the preparation of the report to be prepared by the Chief of Mission, through the submission of observation sheets, oral and written reports and findings on the day of election.



*Members of the CARICOM Observer Electoral Mission
Deputy Chief Election Officer, Ms. Lena Sahadeo is standing on the left.*



Ms. Sahadeo described the opportunity as a “tremendous experience” while working closely with her colleagues throughout the election process and was also high in praise of the poll day staff in the conduct of their duties.

A final report from the Chief Mission is expected to be forwarded to CARICOM. The Elections and Boundaries congratulate Ms. Sahadeo on her achievement.

Getting to Know You:

E&BC's Registration Officers

The Names and Faces of our Registration Officers:



Ms. Sabita Huggins
ARIMA
Office: 667-3544



Mr. Anthony James
CHAGUANAS
Office: 665-5281



Mrs. Annasha Baksh
COUVA
Office: 636-2441



Mrs. Lizanna Ali-Dial
DIEGO MARTIN
Office: 623-7027



Mr. Ravi Lochan
**MAYARO/
RIO CLARO**
Office: 665-5281



Ms. Julianna Singh
POINT FORTIN
Office: 648-2423



Ms. Judy Alexander
**PORT OF SPAIN &
LAVENTILLE**
Office: 623-5149



Ms. Junette Thompson
PRINCES TOWN
Office: 655-2381



Ms. Monica Phillip
**SANGRE
GRANDE**
Office: 668-3427



Mr. Kumar Rampersad
**SAN FERNANDO/
PENAL DEBE**
652-4732
Office: 668-3427



Ms. Leslie Ann D'abreu
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Mrs. Catherine Noel
TABAQUITE/TALPARO
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Ms. Pamela Ogiste
TOBAGO
Office: 639-2929




Mrs. Hyacinth Holder
TUNAPUNA
Office: 662-7137

Good Customer Service at E&BC

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Good customer service at the EBC

Story Created: Jun 20, 2014 at 7:56 PM ECT

(Story Updated: Jun 20, 2014 at 7:56 PM ECT)

A few weeks ago, on June 6 at 3 p.m., I telephoned the Elections and Boundaries Commission office to obtain information on an identification card that was applied for sometime in March.

I was surprised, and very pleased when my call was answered and I was transferred to a very nice, helpful gentleman who took his time to check through the files and indicated that it was already processed, etc.

He then transferred me to another nice person, a lady this time, who checked her records and confirmed that it was ready for collection at the relevant department.

We all tend to complain about the terrible service the various government offices provide—that is if they are working at all—so I wanted to take the time to praise the Elections and Boundaries Commission office staff for the pleasant and efficient service, which I always seem to get whenever I call that particular department.

Sorry I did not get your names so that I can thank you personally but, nevertheless, keep up the good work!

M Miller

Westmoorings

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[End the US currency monopoly](#)

Congratulations to our E&BC Team. Keep up the good work.

Integrity System Upgrade

During the period of 16th - 18th June, 2014, DeLaRue, the Security Company entrusted with the security of the National Identification Card, visited the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Commission) as part of its current service contract to upgrade the Commission's software. These services include upgrades to software for registration, boundaries and on Election Day.

The Registration upgrade will involve:

- **Production State Monitoring**, which displays and monitors the identification card at every state in production;
- **Self Service Registration**, via the Commission's website whereby a registration transaction can begin online;
- **Document Imaging Option**, where information on scanned documents can be retrieved such as birth certificates and transfer forms.

Additional upgrades have also been proposed to the boundaries Geographic Information System (GIS) Integration software, which is designed to pinpoint the exact location of a registrants' residence and display images of boundaries. Finally, upgrades to software to facilitate speedy tabulation and dissemination of election results and even results in real time.

All the service upgrades outlined above are still in the implementation phase but in the very near future, the Commission can look forward to a more efficient registration process, which will benefit registrants across the country.



Courtesy Call: Representatives from the DeLaRue (right), Marie Roberts and Edmond Bernosky made a courtesy call on the Chairman of the E&BC, Dr. Norbert Masson (centre). Standing at left is Mr. Ramesh Nanan, Chief Election Officer and Mrs. Nalini Ali, Database Administrator Ag.



E&BC Welcomes New HR Officer

Employee Profile

NAME: Ms. Angela Paul

TITLE: Human Resource Officer II (Ag.)

DEPARTMENT: Human Resource Management Unit

Start Date at E&BC: 19th May, 2014

Responsibilities: Management of the Terms and Conditions of Service or Public Officers, Contracted and Temporary Employees

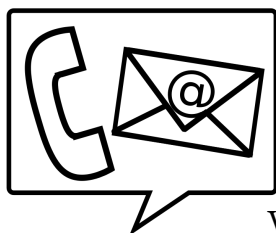
Previous

Work Experience: Clerk I, Clerk II, Accounting Assistant, Administrative Assistant, Human Resource Officer I, Human Resource Officer II and Administration Officer II

Years Experience: Thirty-four (34) years

Expectations: To have support of the Executive in the discharge of my duties.
To gain respect of all employees

First impression of the E&BC : The warmth of all the employees



The E-News is a quarterly publication of the Elections and Boundaries Commission

We would like to receive your comments and any questions that you have!

To have your event featured, call the Communications Unit at 625-5924 or 623-4622 ext. 258/274/283
Or email: ebc.pepru@gmail.com

Persons interested in contributing articles, please contact us.

We reserve the right to edit articles based on space constraints.

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Ms. Lena Sahadeo, Deputy Chief Election Officer
Mrs. Neisha Ali, Assistant Chief Election Officer
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PHOTOS PAGE- PUBLIC SERVICE DAY



Photos by Roger Duncan