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Attention All Editors

For Immediate Release

EBC meets with political parties as it starts its National Field Verification Exercise of Electors

The Board of Commissioners of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) led by Chairman, Mark Ramkerrysingh and Mrs. Fern Narcis-Scope, Chief Election Officer, met with representatives of major political entities in both Trinidad and Tobago, to sensitize and inform them about the EBC's upcoming National Field Verification exercise.

This Exercise will be conducted on both islands in the upcoming months and will allow the EBC to fulfil its legal mandate of providing a comprehensive update to the country's List of Electors. This List forms the foundation of election administration and is crucial to protecting the integrity of all elections. Importantly, it will ensure, as far as practicable, that each person whose name appears on the Electoral List is listed at his/her correct address within the respective polling divisions.

Chairman Ramkerrysingh indicated that whilst standard field verification forms part of the daily and routine work of the EBC there is also the occasional need for a national verification exercise, which is much larger in scope. The last such exercise was conducted in 2001. He also noted that this upcoming exercise will be critically important, as in election management it is often said, "...the outcome of any election is only as good as the credibility of its electoral list".

On Wednesday 3rd May, 2023, in separate meetings, the EBC met with representatives of those political entities who have contested elections in the last five years and have elected members in Parliament, Local Government and the Tobago House of Assembly. The discussions included details of the process, which would be utilized and provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and allay any potential fears and concerns related to this initiative that the political parties may have.

In the upcoming months the electorate will be visited by itinerant assistant registration officers (IAROs), seeking to verify the status of persons on the list of electors. The Chief Election Officer, Fern Narcis-Scope added that this exercise is not to be confused with the national census being undertaken by the Ministry of Planning and asks the public for its assistance and cooperation when met by IAROs engaged in this national field verification exercise. She added that the EBC will be providing the public with all the relevant the details about this initiative in sensitisation campaigns throughout the country before the start of the Exercise.

In the Fiscal Package for 2022/2023 the EBC received the funding for the execution of this National Field Verification Exercise.

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