



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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Attention All Editors

For Immediate Release

**EBC collaborates with Commonwealth to host workshop for regional election professionals**

The Elections and Boundaries Commission recently collaborated with the Commonwealth Secretariat, in hosting participants from the region of the Commonwealth Caribbean and the Americas for the Commonwealth Election Professionals (CEP) Training Initiative, under the theme, *Integrity and Transparency: the Keys to Electoral Confidence and Trust*.

The CEP Training Initiative was designed specifically for election administrators to examine issues impacting electoral integrity, transparency and inclusion, with the aim of enhancing confidence in the democratic process.

Opening the proceedings, Mark Ramkerrysingh, Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Elections and Boundaries Commission, said the workshop is of critical importance for the efficient functioning of electoral bodies, especially at a time when disinformation erodes public trust in democracy. He continued:

“Greater efficiency and transparency can blunt the impact of such misinformation on the electorate ... The issues of integrity, inclusion, transparency and leadership and efficiency and effectiveness, which are the themes of this training will lead to more rounded election professionals and, therefore, a strengthening of the election management body itself.”

Echoing the Chairman’s words, Linford Andrews, Head of the Commonwealth’s Electoral Support Section, said:

“This workshop serves as a valuable forum for the exchange of experience in delivering electoral processes in these exceptionally challenging times and the sharing of emerging good practice.”

He added the workshop was the latest in a series of efforts by the Commonwealth Secretariat to strengthen democracy and build trust in electoral processes in the Caribbean region.





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Fern Narcis-Scope, Chief Election Officer, Trinidad and Tobago in her key-note address to the participants referenced the themes of the workshop, which were Integrity, Inclusion, Transparency and Leadership and Efficiency and Effectiveness. She said:

“Indeed, the selected themes (for this workshop) represent the guiding principles, which set the standard for the operations of Election Management Bodies, shape the culture of our organisations and influence the decisions we make as we navigate the difficult waters of managing elections within often turbulent and politically-charged climates.”

The five-day workshop included a virtual panel that brought together the Chief Election Officers of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to share insights into the role of leadership in building and maintaining confidence in the electoral process.

The Commonwealth Election Professionals Training Initiative was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from March 20-24, 2023. The workshop brought together 21 election administrators from nine election management bodies to exchange experiences and lessons learned in enhancing electoral integrity and transparency in their jurisdictions.

The workshop in Trinidad and Tobago was the fourth to be held in the Caribbean and Americas region.





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Photo caption: Linford Andrews, Head of the Commonwealth's Electoral Support Section and Fern Narcis-Scope, Chief Election Officer, EBCTT (both seated Front Centre) with participants of the 2023 CEP Training Initiative

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