

**REPORT OF THE
ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
ON THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BYE-ELECTION
IN THE
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF DEBE SOUTH
HELD ON
MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2022**



REPORT

of the

Elections and Boundaries Commission

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Local Government Bye-Election
in the Electoral District of
Debe South

held on

Monday 7th February, 2022

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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31st May, 2022

The Honourable Faris Al-Rawi
Minister of Rural Development & Local Government
Ministry of Rural Development & Local Government
Kent House
Long Circular Road
Maraval

Honourable Minister

Report of the Elections and Boundaries Commission on the Local Government Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Debe South held on Monday 7th February, 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

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 Penal/Debe Regional Corporation.

Acting in accordance with the said election rule 108(6), therefore, the Commission submits herewith its report on the Local Government Bye-Election in the electoral district of Debe South which was held on Monday 7th February, 2022. 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.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE OF THE ELECTION

Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago informed the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Mark Ramkerrysingh via correspondence dated Monday 3rd January, 2022, that the Honourable Prime Minister had agreed to **Monday 7th February, 2022** as the date for the conduct of a Bye-Election in the Electoral District of *Debe South* in the *Penal/Debe Regional Corporation*, consequent on the declaration by the said Corporation of a vacancy in the Electoral District. The vacancy in the Electoral District arose as a result of the death of Mr. Purushottam Singh, the then Councillor for Debe South.

The correspondence also stated that *Nomination Day* had been fixed for **Monday 17th January, 2022**.

3. ISSUANCE OF WRIT OF ELECTION TO RETURNING OFFICER

On Tuesday 4th January, 2022, the Chairman of the Commission delivered the Writ of Election, issued by Her Excellency the President, to Ms. Ramawatee Rampersad Ganga Persad, the Returning Officer appointed by the Commission to conduct the poll. This activity was held at the Conference Room of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, Scott House, 134-138 Frederick Street, Port of Spain.

In his address to the newly appointed Returning Officer, the Chairman thanked her for accepting the appointment and stressed the significance of her role in the democratic process.

The Returning Officer was assisted in the execution of her duties by an Election Clerk appointed for this purpose by the Commission, as is provided for in Section 7 of the Act.

4. 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 7th to 15th January, 2022.

During the period of Electoral Registration, one (1) new registration was effected, while thirteen (13) notifications of change of address were received.

The Preliminary List of Electors posted, as required, on the date of the commencement of the period of Electoral Registration, reflected an electorate of seven thousand, one hundred and fifteen (7,115).

Changes made to this list, by way of additions and deletions, resulted in an electorate of seven thousand, one hundred and twenty-four (7,124) on the Revised List of Electors which was posted on 17th January, 2022.




There were no adjustments to the Revised List; therefore a Supplemental List was not required.

5. NOMINATION DAY PROCEEDINGS

On Nomination Day, 17th January, 2022, three (3) candidates were nominated to contest the election by three (3) political parties. There were no independent candidates contesting this election. 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 and their 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
Progressive Empowerment Party	P.E.P.	The symbol will have the initials "PEP" in capital letters with three (3) human-like figures under an umbrella and the words "Progressive Empowerment Party" extended from the first capital "P" to end under the third human-like figure on the right. The "E" in "PEP" MUST touch the first capital "P".		1
United National Congress	U.N.C.	Rising Sun over the Trinity Hills above the letters U.N.C.		1
TOTAL CANDIDATES NOMINATED				3

6. POLLING STATIONS AND STAFFING

Thirteen (13) polling stations were established for the purpose of the taking of the poll in the seven (7) polling divisions which constituted the Electoral District.

A total of one hundred and twenty-four (124) individuals received training in polling station and related poll day activities. Of this number, eighty-three (83), comprising sixty-five (65)

females and eighteen (18) 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 Clerk.

7. COMMUNICATION

In accordance with legislation, pre-election advertisements were published in the local newspaper and the Gazette as required and they were also posted on the Commission's website.

In addition, the Commission aired television and radio advertisements to address concerns which the voting public may have had about the electoral process during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included 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.

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

The Commission again stringently followed the protocols set out by the Ministry of Health in the preparation for, and conduct of, previous elections held during the Covid-19 pandemic, making adjustments as required. 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.

Additionally, the Returning Officer and her staff were asked to be fully vaccinated prior to being considered for employment with the Commission. The Commission also employed fully vaccinated persons as poll day staff as far as was practicable.

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.

9. CONDUCT OF THE POLL

On poll day, Monday 7th February, 2022, voting commenced as scheduled and there were no major 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.

Senior members of staff were deployed to the Electoral District in order to monitor operations at polling stations. They reported that 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.

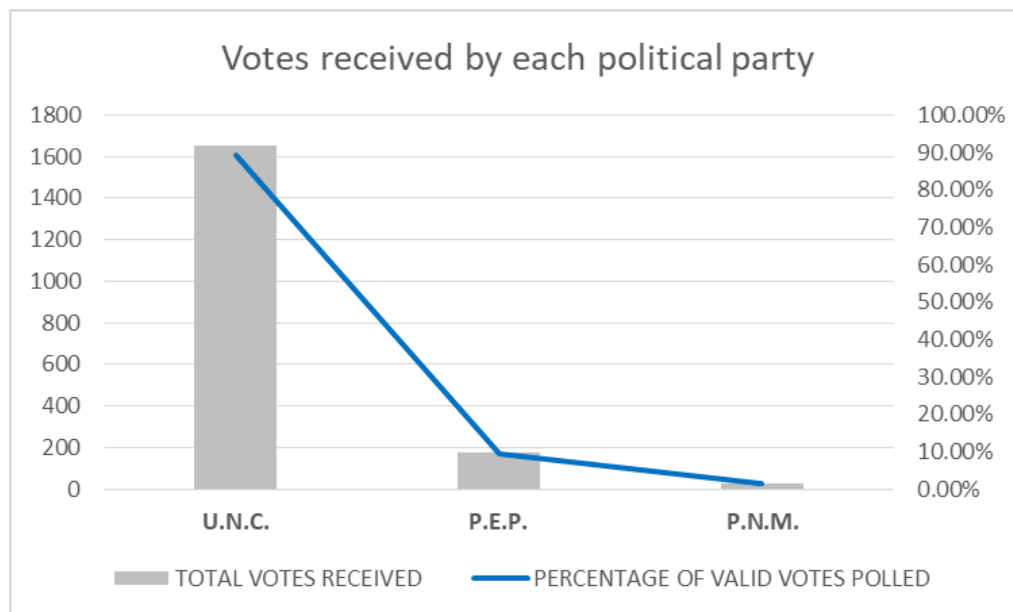
10. ELECTION DOCUMENTS

At the end of the voting and reporting election period, all relevant election documents were submitted to the Commission for storage and are being maintained in safe custody in accordance with the Act.

11. RESULTS OF THE POLL

The 2022 Local Government Bye-Election in the Electoral District of Debe South was won by the United National Congress; their candidate having received a total of one thousand, six hundred and fifty (1,650) votes or **89.19%** of the valid votes polled. The Progressive Empowerment Party received a total of one hundred and seventy-five (175) votes or **9.46%** of the valid votes polled while the People's National Movement received a total of twenty-five (25) votes of **1.35%** of the valid votes polled, as shown in **Appendix IV** and **Figure 1** below.

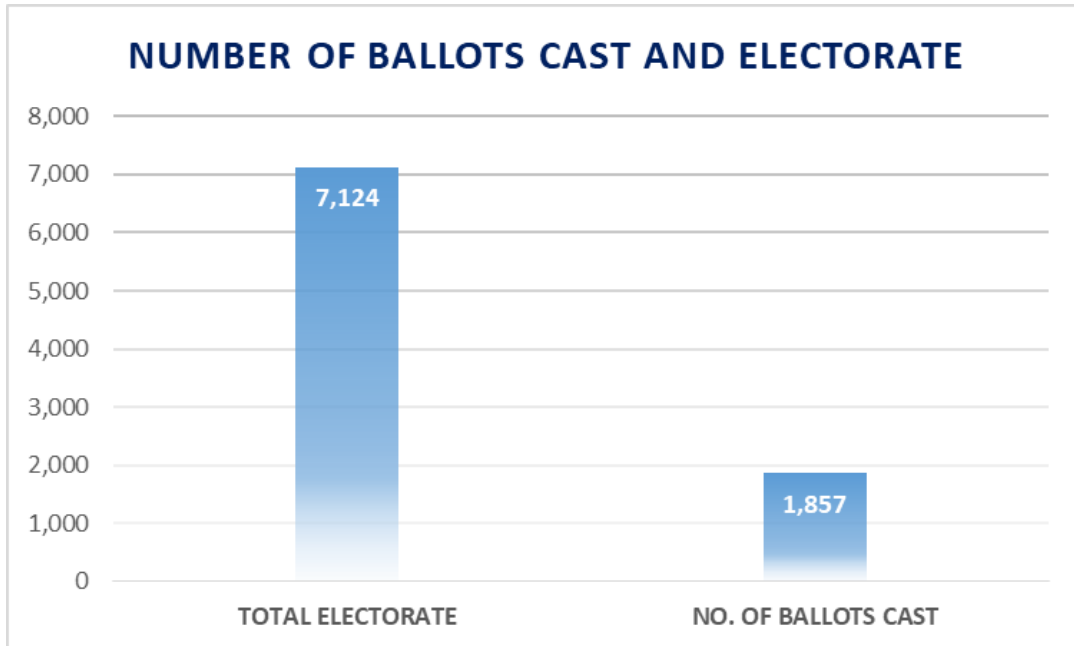
Figure 1: Votes received by each political party



There were no challenges to the results of the polls.

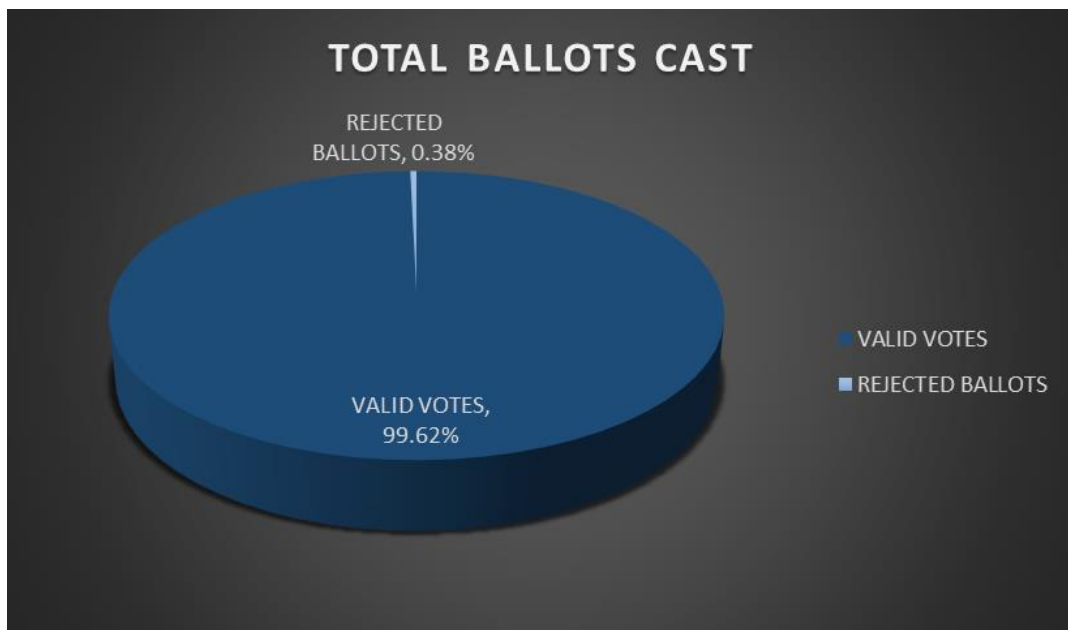
The number of electors exercising their right to vote amounted to one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-seven (**1,857**), representing **26.07%** of the total number of eligible voters, as shown in **Figure 2** below.

Figure 2: Number of Ballots Cast as against the Electorate

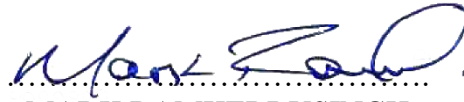


The number of valid votes polled was one thousand, eight hundred and fifty (**1,850**) or **99.62%** and seven (**7**) ballots were rejected or **0.38%**, as shown in **Figure 3** below.

Figure 3: Total ballots cast



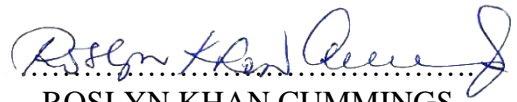
Yours faithfully



MARK RAMKERRYSINGH
CHAIRMAN



DANIELLE CHOW
MEMBER



ROSLYN KHAN CUMMINGS
MEMBER



GILLIAN MACINTYRE
MEMBER



WENDELL WALLACE
MEMBER

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ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

Appendix I

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF DEBE SOUTH

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
		SAMMY, LORENZO RODNEY P.E.P.	SEECHARAN, KHEMRAJ SUNIL U.N.C.	SOOKDEO, JUDY P.N.M.			
3720-01	PENAL GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, ABDOOL VILLAGE, PENAL	16	169	1	186	0	605
3720-02	PENAL GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, ABDOOL VILLAGE, PENAL	19	188	3	210	0	565
3736-01	DEBE PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 1 PERIWINKLE DRIVE, DEBE	18	115	2	135	2	615
3736-02	DEBE PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 1 PERIWINKLE DRIVE, DEBE	26	93	1	120	0	553
4215-01	SUCHIT TRACE HINDU PRIMARY SCHOOL RAILWAY LINE ROAD, SUCHIT TRACE, PENAL	4	152	1	157	1	615
4215-02	SUCHIT TRACE HINDU PRIMARY SCHOOL RAILWAY LINE ROAD, SUCHIT TRACE, PENAL	8	142	3	153	0	583
4220-01	PENAL GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, ABDOOL VILLAGE, PENAL	10	144	4	158	0	542
4220-02	PENAL GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, ABDOOL VILLAGE, PENAL	12	120	2	134	1	494
	TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	113	1,123	17	1,253	4	4,572

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022
Appendix I

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF DEBE SOUTH

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
		SAMMY, LORENZO RODNEY P.E.P.	SEECHARAN, KHEMRAJ SUNIL U.N.C.	SOOKDEO, JUDY P.N.M.			
	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	113	1,123	17	1,253	4	4,572
4225-01	PENAL PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, PENAL	7	124	1	132	1	500
4225-02	PENAL PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, PENAL	13	109	2	124	1	499
*4330-01	PENAL PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, PENAL	6	66	3	75	0	469
4330-02	PENAL PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL SAN FERNANDO-SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, PENAL	16	90	1	107	0	502
4335	TULSA TRACE HINDU PRIMARY SCHOOL TULSA TRACE, PENAL	20	138	1	159	1	582
	TOTALS	175	1,650	25	1,850	7	7,124

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

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 8th day of February, 2022 declare **KHEMRAJ SUNIL SEECHARAN** elected.

RAMAWATEE RAMPERSAD GANGA PERSAD
Returning Officer
Electoral District of DEBE SOUTH

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

Appendix II

SUMMARY OF APPENDIX I

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	ELECTORAL LIST	VALID VOTES POLLED	REJECTED BALLOTS	TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	CANDIDATE DECLARED ELECTED AND HIS/HER PARTY AFFILIATION	
DEBE SOUTH	7,124	1,850	7	1,857	KHEMRAJ SUNIL SEECHARAN	U.N.C.

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

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)
DEBE SOUTH	7,124	11

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

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 VALID VOTES CAST					
						P.E.P.		P.N.M.		U.N.C.	
						NO. OF VOTES	%	NO. OF VOTES	%	NO. OF VOTES	%
DEBE SOUTH	7,124	1,857	7	1,850	26.07	175	9.46	25	1.35	1,650	89.19

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

Appendix V

PERCENTAGE OF BALLOTS CAST IN THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	ELECTORATE	TOTAL NO. OF BALLOTS CAST	PERCENTAGE OF BALLOTS CAST AS AGAINST THE ELECTORATE
DEBE SOUTH	7,124	1,857	26.07%

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

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
DEBE SOUTH	7,124	13	548	1,857	143

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022

Appendix VII

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

ELECTORAL DISTRICT/ NAME OF CANDIDATE	PARTY AFFILIATION	NO. OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE	MAJORITY OF FIRST OVER SECOND
DEBE SOUTH				
SEECHARAN, KHEMRAJ SUNIL	U.N.C.	1,650	88.85	1,475
SAMMY, LORENZO RODNEY	P.E.P.	175	9.42	
SOOKDEO, JUDY	P.N.M.	25	1.35	
REJECTED BALLOTS		7	0.38	
TOTAL VOTES CAST		1,857	100.00	

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022
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.E.P. – PROGRESSIVE EMPOWERMENT PARTY

P.N.M. PEOPLE’S NATIONAL MOVEMENT

U.N.C. – UNITED NATIONAL CONGRESS

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	CANDIDATE'S NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	PARTY AFFILIATION	SYMBOL
DEBE SOUTH	LORENZO RODNEY SAMMY	NO. 88 SIPARIA-SAN FERNANDO-ERIN ROAD, DEBE	STUDENT	P.E.P.	
	KHEMRAJ SUNIL SEECHARAN	NO. 70 BOODOO TRACE, PENAL	INSURANCE AGENT/ FINANCIAL ADVISOR	U.N.C.	
	JUDY SOOKDEO	NO. 55 GANDHI VILLAGE, DEBE	SUPERVISOR	P.N.M.	

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE CORPORATION, 2022
Appendix IX

NAMES OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTION CLERK

<i>ELECTORAL DISTRICT</i>	NAME OF RETURNING OFFICER	OCCUPATION	NAME OF ELECTION CLERK	OFFICIAL ADDRESS
<i>DEBE SOUTH</i>	RAMAWATEE RAMPERSAD GANGA PERSAD	RETIRED PUBLIC OFFICER	SUVI GANGARAM-SONNY	NO. 172 SAN FERNANDO- SIPARIA-ERIN ROAD, DEBE