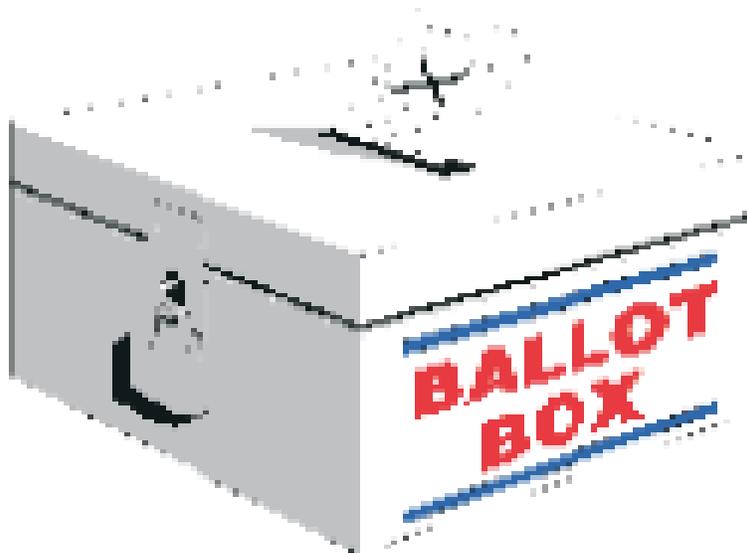


**REPORT
GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM**

HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 2008



Ruth A. Meighan
Chief Elections Officer (Ag.)
ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT
APRIL 3RD 2008

INTRODUCTION

On Monday January 7th 2008, the Prime Minister of Belize announced the date of the General Elections to be held on Thursday February 7th 2008 and also informed that the Referendum on the issue of an elected Senate was also scheduled to take place on that same day. The Prime Minister advised the Governor General to dissolve the National Assembly and nomination day was set for January 21st 2008. This announcement meant that two ballots were to be cast by voters if they so choose.

The two Election Management Bodies in Belize, which are entrusted with the responsibility to carry out vital functions as it relates to elections and are empowered by law to execute them to ensure free and fair elections, are the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) and the Elections and Boundaries Department. The Department is responsible for the day to day electoral management on behalf of the EBC.

These bodies are established and should operate in a manner that ensures the independent and impartial administration of elections. The EBD and the EBC must therefore be, and be seen to be, impartial and independent of government or other influences. This is a critical area, as the election administration machinery makes and implements important decisions that can influence the outcome of the elections.

The Elections and Boundaries Department (EBD) plays a vital role in the democracy of Belize. It operates within the realms of the Public Service and is thus guided by its rules, regulations policies and procedures. Additionally, the Department operates, by law, according to Legislations contained in the Substantive Laws of Belize, specifically the Representation of the People Act (ROPA). Interdepartmental policies and procedures also guide the functions of the Department.

The functions of the Department are: Electoral Administration; Boundary Redistricting; and Voter Education. Our objectives are to operate: a personalize electoral service; to strengthen public confidence in the electoral system; to increase the level of voter participation through voter education and to forge partnerships with stakeholders. The Department is therefore responsible for administrative provisions, elections, continuous registration, elections rules and adjustment of electoral records on redistricting.

ELECTION AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT'S PREPARATION

The Elections and Boundaries Department is responsible for:

- Ensuring that election officials and staff responsible for the administration of the election were well trained and act impartially and independently of any political interest;
- Ensuring that clear voting procedures were established and made known to the voting public;
- Ensuring that voters were informed and educated concerning the election processes, contesting political parties and candidates;
- Ensuring the registration of voters and updating electoral registers;

- Ensuring the secrecy of the vote;
- Ensuring the integrity of the ballot through appropriate measures to prevent unlawful and fraudulent voting; and
- Ensuring the integrity of the process for the collecting of the votes, transparent counting and tabulating.

Administratively, the department was ill-prepared for the upcoming General Elections. The Chief Elections Officer (CEO) was appointed, with effect from October 1st 2007. This appointment was within four (4) months of the Elections and as such, in addition to learning and familiarizing herself with the roles and functions of the Department, preparation had to come into full swing for the upcoming General Elections and Referendum. A staff retreat was held on October 5th 2007 under the theme: **“Building Team Spirit; Promoting Confidence and Accountability”**. The objective of the retreat was – To build capacity and strengthen employee participation to ensure organizational performance.

One of the first things done by the CEO upon assumption to duties, in preparing for the elections was the preparation of an election budget. Secondly, interviews were held for the employment of Temporary Staff to offer additional support at the Central Office and the District Offices. These officers were immediately posted at the different offices country-wide in order for them to be trained and prepared to deal with the expected work load nearer to the elections. This worked out quite well as most of the temporary staff showed maturity and they were also willing to learn and assist in whatever way possible to ensure readiness for the elections. Additionally the decision was made by the Director, Office of Governance to have other support staff from the Office of Governance. These officers were posted in early January of 2008 and included – (2) Senior Officers, (1) Secretary I and (1) Second Class Clerk.

The EBC’s role was somewhat down-played or almost non-existent and as such, the preparation for the Elections was done in isolation of that body and was organized and implemented by the Director, Office of Governance and her staff. The staff at the Department was guided or given directives by the Director on the whole aspect of electoral management leading up to the Election Day.

The first meeting with the EBC was held on January 4th 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the new CEO and also to share the Election Plan with the Commissioners. This included a tentative list of Returning Officers and Election Clerks, which was circulated to the Commissioners for their approval. This was met with objections by the United Democratic Party representatives requesting that sufficient time was given for them to review the list so as to enable them to make meaningful contribution to the appointment of the Returning Officers and Election Clerks. Also circulated was the list of Nomination Stations and a Breakdown of Polling Stations.

Thereafter, two other Commission meetings were held. The purpose of these meetings was to give updates to the Commission on the preparedness of the Department leading up to the General Elections. Unfortunately no minutes were prepared by the recording secretary for these meetings.

On the invitation of the Government of Belize, a team of Commonwealth Observers were in Belize to observe the elections. The Team met with Senior Officials at the EBD EBC on February 2nd 2008 and with members of the.

The following Statutory Instruments were signed:

S. I. No. 6 of 2008 – To dissolve the National Assembly with effect from Monday 7th January 2008

S. I. No 7 of 2008 – A Proclamation appointing a day for General Elections of Members of the House of Representatives to be held on February 7th 2008

S. I. No. 8 of 2008 – Referendum (Form of Ballot Paper) Regulations, 2008

S. I. No. 9 of 2008 – Representation of the People Registration (Amendment) rules, 2008 – Special provision was made with the addition of New Rule 40A—the dates for the making of objections and the holding of the Revision Court,

S. I. No 20 of 2008 – Representative of the People Election (Amendment) Rules, 2008 – Amendment of rule 22 and 29 to allow the Election Monitors to observe the election process.

S. I. No 24 of 2008 – Representation of the People Election (Amendment No. 2) Rules, 2008 – Amendment of Rule 19 [Relating to Voting by Proxy].

S. I. No. 44 of 2008 – Representation of the People Election (Amendment No. 3) Rules, 2008 – For the prohibition against use of mobile telephones and taking of photographs inside polling stations.

ELECTION PREPARATION

Around an election period, or leading up to an election, the public should be educated on the processes and procedures relating to the election. However, voter education was very limited. The Department however aired three advertisements on both radio and television stations leading up to the Elections. These advertisement, unfortunately were consumed by the other political ads, but we hoped that the viewing public were able to get a glimpse of what we were trying to share with them. Two of the areas of focus were on voter registration and boundary redistricting. Voters were also exposed to the voting process in order to dispel any confusion on voting day especially since the Referendum was also being held on the same day.

The staff of the EBD normally assists with the assessment of the Polling and Counting Stations to ensure their suitability for use on Election Day. This exercise was left for the Returning Officers and their Election Clerks. This in effect led to the Department having to incur additional expenses (not budgeted for) by having several of these Polling Stations repaired at the last minute. This could have been avoided if inspections were done well in advance and other areas identified for use on Election Day. Some of the expenses incurred as a result of this include: the installation of electrical supplies, which included purchasing electrical fixtures, repairs to the roof of one of the stations in Cayo South, cleaning of the grounds and buildings, providing toilet facilities and also rental of tables and chairs.

A request was submitted to the Ministry of Finance for the use of government vehicles for the General Elections. The Ministry of Finance assisted with some vehicles but these were far less

than what was required. As such, the Department had to rent several vehicles. This activity was also carried out by the Director, Office of Governance

A decision was made for the use of cellular phones by election workers to communicate with the EBD on Election Day. However, most of the Returning Officers, especially those appointed to work in the Rural Areas informed us that this system was not efficient. The problem with this was that some of the phones were non-functional in some areas. This of course affected the communication for the posting of data. The EBD however, worked as best as possible with the materials it had to ensure that the information was posted.

APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF ELECTION WORKERS

There are 31 Electoral Divisions and as such 31 Returning Officers and 47 Election Clerks were appointed. In some of the bigger divisions two (2) Election Clerks were appointed to work along with a Returning Officer. As has been the practice, these officers are appointed from among Senior Public Officers in the Public Service. (The list can be viewed at Appendix I). After the appointment of these officers, a presentation was made to these officers by the Director, Office of Governance on the conduct and management of elections. The electoral divisions were divided into 314 Polling Stations. (Appendix IV) These Polling Stations were managed by a Presiding Officer and two Poll Clerks.

Thereafter, a call was made to Public Officers who were willing to assist the Department with the training of Election Workers. Several officers volunteered and a one day training session was held. This was also facilitated by the Director, Office of Governance. Training of election workers took place country-wide. These training were conducted simultaneously in all the districts. In Belize City and Belmopan we were able to facilitate several trainings at a time to try to reach all officers appointed to work.

Total Public Officers appointed to work on Election Day was 1,648. This number includes: 31 Returning Officers, 47 Election Clerks, 314 Presiding Officers, 628 Poll Clerks and 628 Counting Clerks. The Election Workers are responsible for the conduct and management of the elections on Election Day.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Two new administrative tools were introduced by the Director, Office of Governance. These are: the Consecutive Number Forms to be use by the Presiding Officers at the Polling Stations and the Tally Sheet which was used in the counting Stations by all those who were allowed to be in the Station at the time of counting. These were introduced as a means to make the process more efficient and transparent and less cumbersome for the Election Workers.

BALLOTS AND SAMPLE BALLOTS

Legal Counsel prepared the referendum ballot for approval and thereafter request was made for the printing of ballots by Print Belize Limited. In preparation for the printing of the sample ballots and ballots for the elections, the Staff at the EBD had to work some long hours. This was

as a result of the rush of registration which took place in the month of January 2008. The Director, Office of Governance took on the exercise of liaising with Print Belize on the number of ballots to be printed and the related cost.

One of the requirements before submitting a requisition for the printing of the ballot papers is that due care is exercised in ensuring that the names of the candidates, occupation and addresses are precise on the Nomination Form. The Sample Ballots are issued first to the candidates. If any error is identified on the sample ballots, the candidates are then asked to communicate this information to us well in advance to avoid having the wrong information printed on the Ballots. We did have some request for changes from three (3) candidates, but this was after the ballots were already printed and we therefore could not make the changes requested.

While I would not want to cast any aspersion, I do need to state that at the time of the pick-up of the ballots from Print Belize Ltd., I did experience a little bit of difficulty. My understanding from the Director at the time was that the number of ballots requested was marked up by 12 % to ensure that we had enough ballots on Election Day. This seems to be the normal practice. However, in addition to the amount requested, there were an unaccounted number of ballots also printed to which I did not have access to and which Print Belize did not want to leave in my custody. The matter was however later resolved as it was agreed after much discussion that these extra ballots be destroyed. This was destroyed by burning under the supervision of Mrs. Josephine Tamai.

CHALLENGES

The Department was faced with many challenges leading up to the 2008 General Elections. First of all, there was no proper planning in place leading up to the elections. After the appointment of the CEO, efforts were made, to display critical attributes in the management of the elections such as: impartiality, efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism.

One of the first challenges was the lack of financial and other resources for the planning and execution of the Elections. A budget had to be immediately prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Finance for approval. This was all done with little experience and knowledge on election and the election process, by the CEO, and as such the budgeted amount was far less than what was required for the Elections. A copy of the Election Expenditure can be seen at Appendix V.

Voter registration and the preparation of the electoral list were also major challenges for the Department. This was proven to be most difficult for staff especially since there was such a high level of suspicion with the 'oversight role' of the Director, Office of Governance in the management of the electoral process. This led to even more suspicion with respect to registration of voters and the preparation of the electoral list to meet the deadlines prior to Election Day. This suspicion came mainly from the political parties, especially the major political parties and as such staff at the Divisional/District offices were often called upon to defend themselves against accusation of dishonesty.

In addition, the Elections and Boundaries staff felt excluded from all the preparation leading up to the elections. There were several complaints made to the Chief Elections Officer on the lack of involvement by the EBD staff in the process as they were usually very much involved. This was as a result of the role of the Director, Office of Governance and her 'hands-on' involvement in the entire electoral management. Unfortunately for the staff, the Chief Elections Officer was unable to intervene and this was quite demoralizing and confidence in the management of the Department became questionable.

Several aspects in the preparation for the election may have impacted on the Election Day itself. It is the view of the staff at the EBD that efficiency is an integral component of the overall credibility of an election. For the Public Officers, the process of appointment of Election Workers was confusing at most. The list of Presiding Officers and other workers were delayed and some officers did not know up to the day before the election where they would be working. This in itself impacted on whether the election workers would have been able to exercise their fundamental rights. The Proxy Register was not prepared and as such the Elections Workers experienced many difficulties in identifying those who were eligible to vote by Proxy. Some may even have been disenfranchised. For the Returning Officers, getting their officers together was almost impossible with the many changes that occurred due to the inefficiency of the process of appointment by the Department.

In spite of this, Public Officers were committed and very professional in carrying out their functions leading up to and on the Election Day itself. Officers were able to overcome some of the challenges faced insofar as logistical breakdowns and problems which could have led to chaos and the eventual breakdown in the system. Some of the factors which could have contributed to this was the lack of sufficient resources and, most importantly, adequate time to organize the election and train those responsible for its execution.

Training of election workers is extremely important for the execution of the process and also to ensure a free and fair election. However due to the inadequacy in the appointment of officers, many of our Public Officers who were working for the first time did not get proper training. Some did not get training at all. Notwithstanding, the officers manage and facilitated the electoral process efficiently.

Distribution of election supplies was disorganized, chaotic and frustrating at most, which led to extreme dissatisfaction for those officers who had to collect the supplies. One of the major challenges for the workers was in the issuing of the binders. Additionally, the elections workers were required to check the binders against the electoral role and adequate arrangements to facilitate this process were not made for this very important exercise. The Electoral List was also an issue for the Returning Officers. It is therefore imperative that proper arrangement is made well in advance to make this process more efficient.

Assignment of vehicles proved to be a major problem for the Department. The Department goes through this exercise at every election where a request is made to the Ministry of Finance to identify and assign vehicles to the EBD to be used by Election Workers. The demands by the political parties to ensure the security of transporting the ballot boxes from the Polling Stations to the Counting Stations meant that extra vehicles had to be provided. Ministry of Finance could

not come up with the amount of vehicles required therefore the decision had to be made to rent vehicles to make up the number needed. This of course was very costly.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND THE ELECTORAL LIST

Registration is continuous and all eligible persons can go into any of our Registration Office to register to vote at any time during normal working hours. However, at election time, only those persons whose names appear on the Voters List at Nomination Day can vote on Election Day. This in effect meant that some actions needed to be taken to ensure that no one was disenfranchised and all those who met the requirements were placed on the electoral list and would be able to cast their vote on February 7th 2008. S. I. No 9 was passed to facilitate this process.

The months leading up to the Election saw an increase in the amount of persons applying to be registered. That is, the months of November 2007 to January 2008 alone, the number of registration was 9,012. For the Department, this was rather challenging because the extension did not give us enough time to prepare and publish the electoral list. Staff had to work extended hours during this period and must be commended for a job well done. As at January 31st 2008, the number of registered voters was 156,993. This represents an increase in the electoral list of approximately 30,993 or 19.74% between the months of February 2003 to January 2008.

Additionally, early in the month of December 2007, the Department experienced some difficulties with the Data Base System and the printer that is used to print the Electoral List. On the advice of the Director, Office of Governance a consultant, Mr. Patrick Rogers was called in to assist us in identifying the problem and to get the system up and running. Mr. Rogers was one of the technicians who had developed and enhance the system to what it is today. As such it is on this premise that he was considered as the person with the knowledge and experience on the operation of the system. This was met with some suspicion by members of the media and the public. However, the problem was resolved and we were able to complete the data entry and have an electoral list ready for the elections.

ELECTION DAY

Election Day started without delay in all the Polling Stations from as early as 5:00a.m as well as for the staff of the EBD and for most of us ended the following day at approximately 6:30 p.m. The responsibilities vary and included receiving information and statistics on the amount of voter turnout hourly for posting on the website, responding to queries from the election workers as well as the general public and where possible provide administrative support to the election workers. The transportation of election workers posed a challenge for us initially and in some cases problems with the transparent boxes as well as ink spill were reported. However the Returning Officers along with the other election workers were able to overcome these little challenges and all went well at the end of the day. There have been unofficial reports, apparently non-consequential, on the behavior of some of the politicians at the Polling Stations. However the Returning Officers and their workers were professional in performing their duties and at the close of the polls, there were no reports of violence.

The Polling Stations were opened at 7:00 a.m. The first hourly count was communicated to Central Office at approximately 10:00 a.m. The decision was made that instead of every hour, the count will be submitted every two hours starting at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to facilitate the 12:30 news cast. Thereafter the count was to be submitted at 2:00p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., at the close of the polls.

Two different types of boxes were used on Election Day. In the Southern Districts because of the geographical proximity of some of the Polling Stations, the wooden boxes were used but were painted grey and white to differentiate which was to be use for the General Elections and which to be used for the Referendum. In Belize City and the other Districts, the transparent boxes were used for the Referendum and the grey wooden boxes were used for the General Elections. As mentioned earlier, the workers were challenged with the transparent boxes because it was difficult to assemble and in some cases they shattered quite easily. With the help of the divisional offices in the Districts we were able to overcome this challenge by providing the Polling Stations with the extra boxes.

There were reports of an elector voting in the name of another. One person was therefore disenfranchised as a result of this. There were also instances of general elections ballots placed in the referendum ballot boxes. This occurred at almost all polling stations even though the voting process advertisement was aired prior to Election Day. There were reports that individuals from the United States Embassy were posing as Observers and because of lack of proper training and preparation these people were allowed to enter into some of the Polling Stations. All in all the day progressed without any major problems.

At the end of the election, each Returning Officers handed over all elections materials which included marked copies of register of voters and other papers used at the polling station, ballot papers (used and unused) and other elections materials. These materials are sealed and will remain for one (1) year in the custody of the Chief Election Officer after which period it will be destroyed. (Section 35, Third Schedule of the ROPA).

ELECTION RESULTS

The Opposition, United Democratic Party (UDP) won 25 out of the 31 seats indicating the UDP was to form the new Government. The entire results can be seen at Appendix II. The posting of results on the Website and to the Media was somewhat challenging for the Department. There was an agreement with Netkom Solutions for the statistics to be posted live-time. However the person was pulled off the job early on the following morning and the numbers received were not tallying. The CEO along with some of the staff had to complete the final tally which was rather challenging because we had to do several amendments to the final count. This was rather embarrassing for the Department, but we finally got the figures right, after having to make many changes.

For the Referendum on an Elected Senate a total of 73,212 votes were cast which represents 46.63% of the total number of registered voters. 45,057 or 61.54% of the total votes cast voted

for 'Yes' for an Elected Senate and 26,793 or 36.60% voted 'No' for an Elected Senate. A copy of the Final Result on this can be seen at Appendix III.

POST ELECTIONS

There were commendations to Public Officers for managing and executing the elections with efficiency. There were some reports on the inaccuracy of the final figures posted, but other than that little has been said. Several meetings were held with the staff of the Department and with the Returning Officers and Election Clerk to conduct a post mortem on the election. The purpose/objective was to get a general feedback on the entire process which included preparation leading up to the election and on Election Day. Also important for us was to get recommendations for improvement where needed.

At the meeting held with the Staff of the Department, the following concerns were raised:

1. Poor communication from Central Office to the District/Divisional Offices. It was especially a concern when the dates for the Election and Nomination Day were announced and the Department was receiving new registrations. Information should have reached the offices informing them that legislation would have been passed to facilitate the dates.
2. Inadequate Resources. Even though the opening hours were extended to facilitate the general public, the offices had limited resources such as computer, printer and typewriter which were some of the major equipments needed around these times. The Officers had to therefore be scrambling around to request of our colleagues from some of the other sectors to barrow typewriters and other equipment to meet deadlines.
3. Voter Education. Because limited voter education was done prior to the elections, the public was limited on information. Voter education is a crucial matter for our department.
4. Pre-election Preparation. The appointment of Returning Officers and Election Clerks were not thought out properly. Also, the officers had no idea who was appointed to work for election and calls kept coming into the office but the officers were unable to respond to the queries.
5. Election Supplies. The offices had no idea on the amount of supplies issued to the election workers and cannot therefore give an account on the missing items. The supplies are normally distributed at the District Officers, especially the Southern Districts.
6. Staff was totally left out of the Process. The lack of involvement of the staff at the Divisional/District level was most obvious and was a major concern for all the Registering Officers especially.

The meeting with the Returning Officers and Election Clerks also raised some general concerns.

1. Appointment Election Workers and Preparation of List. It was the general consensus that the appointment of workers and the preparation of the list were inadequate.
2. Voting by Proxy. One above impacted on this and created a lot of confusion.

3. Distribution of Election Supplies. The process was chaotic, frustrating and needs to be streamlined.
4. Training of Election Workers. Was not planned and conducted properly and this created some problems for the officer on Election Day. Because late appointments were made some officers did not get the necessary training. It was especially difficult for the first time appointees. Training should therefore be planned well in advance.
5. Politicking within the 100 yards line. What can be done to ensure compliance by the political parties on Election Day?
6. Inadequate building used for Polling Stations. The week before the election the officers were out checking buildings assigned to be used as Polling Stations. Some of these building were found lacking.
7. Procedure for the issuing of Ballots. This exercise was also chaotic and drawn-out. Also, concerns were raised about the security of the ballots as most officers did not have a place to store the ballots prior to the Election Day.
8. Identification and Distribution of Vehicles to Returning Officers and Elections Clerks. The Returning Officers and Election Clerks were required to conduct a lot of businesses on behalf of the EBD in preparation for the Election. However, for those officers who are not assigned a GOV vehicle, it was difficult. Vehicles therefore need to be identified and assigned early to allow them to move around more easily.
9. Management Issues such as: - Transportation of Ballot Boxes to Counting Stations.
10. Identification of Observers by the Election Workers. A system must be put in place that will enable the Presiding Officers to easily identify the Election Observers.
11. Public Officers who submit Medical Certificates to be excused from election duties. What can be done to discourage officers from doing so?
12. Difficulty in finding accommodation for workers. This problem arose as a result of the late appointments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of the concerns raised, the following recommendations are made:

1. Stringent Policies to ensure compliance.
2. Develop a system for the identification and appointment of election of workers.
3. Proper Training of Election Workers well in advance of an election. This can be on-going and be included as part of the Ministry of the Public Service Training for Clerks.
4. Proper system in place for the distribution and collection of election supplies.
5. Review policy on when Binders are to be released.
6. Review policy on Proxy Voting.
7. Appropriate actions need to be taken against those Public Officers who refuses or find excuses for not working.
8. A policy on the use of Government Vehicles for an Election is established.

At the Department level:

1. Proper Planning and preparation well in advance.

2. Since voter education is one of our weaker areas, create a post of Training/Public Relation Officer for the Department
3. Employ more temporary staff during an election season.
4. Upgrade the system and equip the offices with the necessary equipment.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the conclusions drawn were that the election was generally free of any interference and this demonstrated the capacity within the Public Service to execute an election and to mobilize and actively participate to ensure efficiency. Suspicion at one point and perception of bias or alleged interference by the Department in the process were brought up. However any such actions would have had direct impact not only on the credibility of the Department and its staff, but on the outcome of the Elections. Both the EBD and the Election Workers were very professional and as such we were able to execute our duties in a free and fair manner. The credibility of the process hinged on the Election Day itself, which was considered to be successful.

The primary responsibility of the EBD is to ensure that the election is conducted in a professional and efficient manner. To ensure efficiency it is extremely important that the Elections and Boundaries Department is equipped with the necessary tools and resources (financial/human). Also important is for the Department to consider programmes to bring awareness of the role of the EBD and to build confidence in the Department. Evaluation methods should be put in place which will allow the public as well as our self to judge whether our efforts have been successful. As such, some of the concerns raised and the recommendations must be taken into consideration to make the process less burdensome on the staff and our fellow Public Officers.

Additionally, electoral management requires that a whole range of factors, beyond human and material resources should be taken into consideration when going into an election, including the condition of existing infrastructure, security conditions, the proximity of the polling stations, geographic location and the availability of key materials and supplies, well in advance of the Election Day. The Department has taken due notice of our shortcomings here.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Elections and Boundaries Commission and myself, I must express appreciation for the dedication shown by all of the staff of the Elections and Boundaries Department in carrying out their duties above and beyond the call, without objection to ensure that all eligible and potential voters were registered and the voters roll were ready for election day. Also, special thanks are extended to all the Elections Workers, especially, the Returning Officers and the Elections Clerks, the Commissioner of Police and Police Officers the Commander of the Belize Defense Force and the soldiers who were posted country-wide and contributed fully to the process to ensure an efficient execution of the election and also ensure that democracy was upheld. ***Democracy was in full swing on Election Day.***