



*Elections and Boundaries Commission
Old Land's Building
Market Square
City of Belmopan*

Tel: 501-822-0525

Email: elections@electbound.gov.bz

Website: www.elections.gov.bz

Chairman

Oscar Sabido Puga

Members

Philippa Griffith-Bailey

Orlando Espat

Alberto August

Martin Conrad Lewis

PRESS RELEASE

EBC Allocates Colours to Candidates applying Under the United Democratic Party to Contest the 12th March 2025 General Election

Belmopan, February 25, 2025

The Election and Boundaries Commission (“EBC”) met today after the receipt of the nomination forms of candidates who were nominated to contest the 12th March 2025 General Election. The meeting was to further determine the allocation of colours pursuant to Rule 15(4) of the Elections Rules, Schedule III of the Representation of People Act, Cap 9.

Based on the nomination forms received, a total of forty-one (41) candidates applied to contest for the United Democratic Party (UDP).

By Rule 15(4) of the Election Rules, the EBC is empowered, “*after consulting the political parties contesting the election ... [to] if it thinks fit, allocate different colours or symbols to different parties and shall publish in the Gazette, not less than seven days before any election, the colours or symbols which have been allocated to the different parties.*”

As it relates to the allocation of the traditional **red** colour to the **United Democratic Party (“UDP”)**, three options were put forward for consideration:

1. Assigning traditional UDP red to all 41 candidates applying under the UDP.

2. Assigning traditional UDP red only to the 25 candidates listed by Shyne Barrow.
3. Assigning traditional UDP red only to the 15 candidates listed by Tracy Panton.

Following discussions, the EBC voted on these options. By a majority vote of 4-1, the EBC voted on option 1 which is to allocate the traditional UDP red to all 41 candidates applying under the UDP banner.

This decision reflects the fact that, firstly, the leaders of each of the two factions maintain that they are the legitimate leaders of the UDP and that their candidates are legitimate UDP members. Secondly, the legal dispute over who is the rightful leader of the UDP remains unresolved and is set for trial on **March 31, 2025, after the general election of 12th March, 2025**. In a decision issued today, the High Court did not grant any order restraining Ms. Panton from holding herself out as the UDP or from using related UDP items including the party's name and symbols, reinforcing the need for the EBC's balanced and impartial stance.

The EBC is committed to ensuring a fair and impartial electoral process. Given that the courts have yet to determine the rightful leadership of the UDP, the EBC has taken this approach to maintain neutrality, absolute even-handedness and uphold electoral integrity.

The EBC will continue to monitor developments and act in accordance with its constitutional mandate to oversee free and fair elections.

END