

CAYMAN ISLANDS

DOMESTIC OBSERVER REPORT

2017 GENERAL ELECTION

APPOINTMENT

On the 11th May 2017, three individuals, Messrs. Renard Moxam, Jennison Nunez and Eldon Whittaker were appointed by the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Wesley Howell as Domestic Observers to observe the country's first election under Single Member Electoral District and One Man, One Vote in Grand Cayman.

The three appointees were invited to the Elections Office on Crewe Road on Monday 22nd May 2017, to review their terms of reference as Observers. They were asked to observe the General Elections procedures beginning with the dispatch of the Ballot Box to the polling stations commencing 5:00AM on Wednesday morning 24th May and visiting all 25 polling locations in the 19 Electoral Districts and the closing of the polls at 6:00PM.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As Observers, they were to see that the correct procedures, as prescribed by the Elections Law, were being followed by the Presiding Officer, Polling Clerks, Field Officers and Agents at the Polling stations with regards to the opening and closing of the polls, processing of voters and the security of the Ballot Box throughout the day.

OBSERVATIONS

They were pleased to report that the opening and closing of the polls and the processing of voters were carried out exactly as per the Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks and Field Officers Handbook. All the election workers knew their roles, duties and responsibilities carried out those duties cordially and expeditiously, no doubt due to the training by the Elections Office. The conduct of the voters were exemplary.


All polls in all Electoral Districts closed at 6:00PM and the Presiding Officers accounted for all their ballots and reconciled their records in sufficient time before the ballot count started at 7:00PM. Returning Officers provided tally sheets and called out the names of the candidates to whom a vote had been given, allowing those present to see the votes. There were no objections to the counts.

Whilst the election staff carried out their duties impeccably, there were a few incidents of the agents of the candidates not having their identification cards and not knowing which polling booth they were supposed to attend, but these hiccups were resolved very quickly.

The Domestic Observers would like to document concerns in regards to the tents that were being used as Polling Stations. The lighting in some of the tents was inadequate and at West Bay Central the tents were not fastened adequately and were flopping in the wind. When the gusts were strong, it appeared as if the tent could topple over.

Inadequate signage was observed for George Town Central at the George Town Town Hall and also for George Town North at the George Town Primary School. In addition, at the George Town Primary School, it was noticed that there was no field officer readily available at an important site access who could have helped direct voters to the polling stations.

The Domestic Observers would like to extend their congratulations to the Supervisor of Elections and all the Election staff for doing a masterful job leading up to and including the day of the election.



Renard Moxam



Jennison Nunez



Eldon Whittaker

29th May, 2017