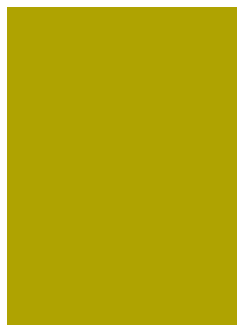
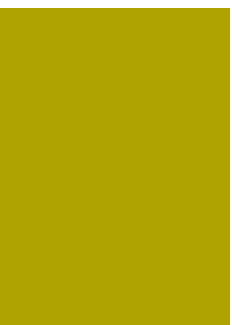


Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands & Mediterranean Region

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS 2011-2018



KEY RESULTS

With support from



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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BACKGROUND

Since 2010, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) has organised short term Election Observer Missions (EOMs) in a number of UK Overseas Territories. CPA UK provides the secretariat for the CPA BIMR and leads on the organisation of regional activities.

Our regular election observation activities began in 2011 when we ran our first EOM in the British Virgin Islands in partnership with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and thereafter our annual programme has included organising and supporting election observation and assessment missions. Our missions are conducted to the highest standards in partnership with regional and international organisations.

Our election observation methodology endorses and adheres to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which was endorsed by a broad range of organisations conducting international election observations at the United Nations in New York in 2005. The Declaration stresses such principles as the grounding of election observation in international human rights law, the need to establish minimum conditions for credible observation and the important role of citizen election observation.¹ CPA UK became a signatory to this Declaration in 2015.

CPA BIMR is committed to ensuring a professional approach based on observation of all aspects of the electoral process in accordance with international obligations, commitments and standards for democratic elections. Our methodology draws on best international practices, particularly those developed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the European Union (EU).

In 2015, with the aim of further incorporating such professional approaches, CPA UK commissioned and published an EOM Handbook to guide observers in our methodology so as to ensure the most rigorous approaches were undertaken.² This resource is reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure CPA BIMR remains at the forefront of methodological developments.

Election observation expresses the Commonwealth's interest in promoting democratic elections within its wider policy of support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights. It also serves to reinforce other key Commonwealth objectives, notably peace-making and peacebuilding. At the 2018 CHOGM, the Commonwealth reaffirmed this commitment to the principles of election observation and electoral reform as part of overall democratic strengthening agenda.

As well as strengthening election practices across the Commonwealth, CPA BIMR through CPA UK seeks to promote the principles and importance of election observation to parliamentarians and increase their awareness and skills as observers. As an intended outcome of our EOMs and CPA UK's EAMs, CPA UK has trained through workshops and practical experience nearly a hundred Commonwealth parliamentarians and electoral officials in election observation and associated human rights principles.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to review the work undertaken by CPA BIMR and to assess what progress that has been made within those UK Overseas Territories that have been recipients of EOMs over the last seven years. As shown, CPA BIMR has made enormous positive in-roads into electoral reform and has the potential to do so over coming years. CPA UK and BIMR continues to be at the forefront of building the capacity of parliamentarians and officials across the Commonwealth in the importance and value of election observation.

Although not directly covered in the scope of this report, CPA UK has also organised Election Assessment Missions and supported other Missions in the United Kingdom 2010, 2015 and 2017, Fiji 2014 and Kenya 2018. These Missions in particular have been developed and supported with the intention of strengthening parliamentarians understanding and knowledge of the electoral process.

The report will specifically focuses on the following Missions:

- **British Virgin Islands 2011 & 2015**
- **Turks and Caicos Islands 2012 & 2016**
- **Cayman Islands 2013 & 2017**
- **Montserrat 2014**
- **Anguilla 2015**

Our reports can be found on CPA UK's website here. www.uk-cpa.org/what-we-do/elections

ABOUT CPA BIMR

The British Islands and Mediterranean Region is one of nine regional groupings of the CPA. Its purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy within the Commonwealth.

By promoting close relations and cooperation between its branches and other CPA regions, the BIMR works to build informed parliamentary communities within the Region and across the Commonwealth. Two of its focal activity streams are **promoting gender equality** through the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network (BIMR CWP) and **strengthening democracy through EOMs**.

99
Number of
parliamentarians and
officials trained in
election observation
since 2010

1. <http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/history-items/documents/Declaration%20of%20Principles%20for%20International%20Election%20Observation.pdf>
2. https://www.uk-cpa.org/media/2159/cpa-uk-eom-handbook_print_final_update.pdf

THE PURPOSE OF OUR ELECTION WORK

- 1. To strengthen the democratic process through electoral reform.**
- 2. To promote the monitoring and implementation of election related human rights principles, standards, obligations and commitments.**
- 3. To train and support parliamentarians and officials in the process of election observation methodology.**

RESULTS OF OUR WORK

Cayman Islands

underwent constitutional reform of their electoral system creating greater equality of the vote

Anguilla undergoing legislative reform of their electoral system to create equal voting, campaign regulation and voter identification

British Virgin Islands worked to increase voter education amongst the electorate

Montserrat have established an Electoral Reform Commission to review and make recommendations on the current electoral system.

IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION OBSERVATION

Credible election observation involves a comprehensive, independent and impartial assessment of an electoral process to evaluate the extent to which it complies with international obligations, commitments and standards for democratic elections. Through this, it can promote transparency and accountability, deter fraud and enhance public confidence and participation in the electoral process. This in turn, can strengthen democratic institutions and reduce the potential for election-related violence, contributing to ensuring peace and stability.

OUR APPROACH

CPA BIMR utilises networks and partnerships cultivated across and beyond the Commonwealth to assist in running its missions. As a parliamentary organisation CPA BIMR brings together experienced parliamentarians, specialist NGOs and other related professionals to conduct high quality and comprehensive EOMs.

Once invited, CPA BIMR through its regional secretariat will deploy a Mission of varying composition and duration. The Mission once in-country will observe key electoral activities whilst meeting stakeholders such as electoral officials, political leaders and the electorate. Based on the jurisdictions commitments to human rights obligations and their existing legislative framework, the EOM will observe and then report on its findings producing recommendations. These are then left to jurisdictions to implement or disregard as they see fit. CPA BIMR will always be on hand to assist should further advice and support be requested.

WHAT WE OFFER

1. Parliamentarians

The participation of parliamentarians as observers is a key asset CPA UK brings to EOMs. Parliamentarians can offer credibility and visibility to missions. CPA UK sources parliamentarians from a cross-section of political and parliamentary backgrounds, all with some degree of election experience. This diversity and knowledge engenders a balanced and objective approach. Associated training, briefings and participation assists observers' professional development. For elections in the Caribbean, Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, observers are mainly sought from the BIMR and Caribbean and Americas region. Observers from legislatures of a similar size to the election setting provide relevant perspective and understanding.

2. Organisational efficiency

CPA UK has a successful record of planning and deploying EOMs, usually within relatively short timescales. Its secretariat of trained and experienced staff provide first-class management and organisational support throughout EOM projects.

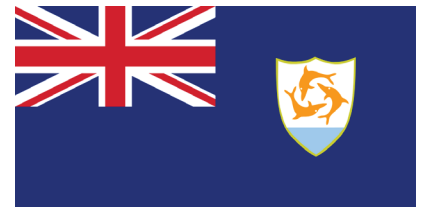
3. Comprehensive and compact missions

CPA UK has developed its customised methodology, incorporating international standards, good practice and codes of conduct into smaller, short-term missions in keeping with the size of the electorate. CPA UK EOMs frequently take place in territories with fewer than 30,000 voters; however they observe all aspects of the election process. Missions usually have a relatively short in-country deployment period, yet incorporate all aspects of the election process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPA BIMR express our thanks to Andy Bruce and Hannah Roberts for their expertise without whom CPA BIMR would have been unable to develop our work to the success it has. CPA BIMR would also like to thank the UK Foreign and Commonwealth for their ongoing support and that of their Governors without whom we would not be able to undertake election observation work. Finally and most importantly, to all the Supervisors of Elections for their cooperation and willingness to be observed and to take on-board recommendations and reforms.

ANGUILLA 2015



OVERVIEW

In December 2014 the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) was officially invited by the Governor, Her Excellency Christina Scott to deploy an independent Election Observation Mission to Anguilla to observe the April 2015 general election. This invitation was supported by the former Government and the official Opposition of Anguilla. This was the first time Anguilla had an election observation mission.

The Mission was present in Anguilla between the 12 April and 24 April. The Mission was guided by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers. The Mission observed the electoral process in accordance with international standards, including Anguilla's commitments under international law as well as domestic legislation.

The Mission met with key stakeholders, including election officials, political parties, candidates, media, civil society representatives, voters, the Governor, Deputy Governor, Attorney-General and Police Commissioner. The Mission also attended campaign rallies and observed reporting in the media both prior to arrival and whilst on the Island. Our assessment considered the legal framework, election administration, political campaign, media, polling and counting, and opportunities for complaints and appeals. In addition, it considered a number of wider issues such as gender equality and minority issues. Whilst observing the latter part of the campaign, the Mission gave particular attention to the fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly, association, movement and information.

In its findings, the Mission felt that "Anguilla's 2015 election met some key international standards but improvement is required in critical areas. Fundamental freedoms were respected and the process was competitive. The peaceful and orderly manner in which the campaign and voting took place, including high levels of public engagement, is extremely commendable. Turnout on election day was high, Anguillians were free to express their will in secret and voting and counting processes were well managed and transparent. However, equal suffrage was not provided for and the regulatory framework needed to be strengthened, notably in campaign financing, media coverage and the registration of voters."

The Mission made twelve recommendations to reform the electoral process in Anguilla. They covered a number of topics ranging from boundary delimitation, candidate and voter qualification, registration of political parties and the media, voter identification to election administration.

Mission Composition 2015

CPA BIMR

Mario Galea MP (*Malta*),
Head of Mission
Sharlene Cartwright
Robinson MP (*Turks &
Caicos Islands*)
Shivonne White (*Montserrat*)
Andy Bruce (*UK*), *Election
Analyst*
Mark Stevens (*UK*), *Election
Analyst*
Matthew Salik (*UK*), *Election
Coordinator*



KEY OUTCOMES

- 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTION REFORM COMMITTEE** - As an outcome of the EOM, **Anguilla established a Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee in September 2015 to review the EOM's recommendations.** A report was produced in 2017 which contained a number of proposals including electoral reform in the form of a draft Bill. These were accepted in principle by the Government. Amendments to the Election legislation is presently being drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers.
- 2. PERMANENT ELECTION OFFICE** - The Mission noted that the administration of the election was conducted by part-time officials who had to manage their other full-time responsibilities, such as the Supervisor of Elections who was also a Permanent Secretary. **The Mission recommended the creation of a full-time standalone permanent office. This has now been instituted** and should give the Supervisor sufficient time and resources to prepare for the 2020 election.
- 3. VOTER IDENTIFICATION** - As recommended in 2015, **voters' identification cards are in the process of being legislated for** and will ideally be issued in time for the 2020 elections. This will help to ensure better polling processes such as preventing fraudulent voting and shorter queuing.
- 4. BOUNDARY DELIMITATION** - The Mission noted the substantial disparity in the number of voters between election districts. **As a result of our recommendation, Anguilla are legislating to create an Electoral District Boundaries Commission to divide the island up into more or less equal constituencies.** It is anticipated this exercise will occur every ten years. There is also a plan to have thirteen elected members instead of seven. It is also proposed there should be nine district representatives and four members at large. The House will be increased from seven to thirteen elected representatives once elections are held under the new Elections Act once passed.
- 5. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS** - As part of our core purpose to train and support parliamentarians and officials in the process of election observation methodology, the Supervisor of Elections, Ms Arjul Wilson has participated in the Cayman Islands EOM 2017. As an outcomes, this has improved her understanding of election observation methodology and enabled her to extract key learning for incorporation into a Anguilla context.
- 6. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS** - As above, the current Leader of the Opposition, Pam Webster has participated in CPA UK's recent Election Assessment Mission to the UK General Elections in 2017. Ms Webster outlined in her feedback clear improvement in her understanding of election observation and how to take forward learning into Anguilla's electoral systems.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS 2011 & 2015



OVERVIEW

CPA BIMR's first experience at organising EOMs was in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in 2011. At the request of the then Governor, Boyd McCleary on behalf of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Government and Opposition of BVI, CPA BIMR in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) undertook an EOM for the elections on the 7 November 2011.

The Mission observed the General Elections, met with a number of key stakeholders and at its conclusion submitted a preliminary report followed by a full report of its findings. In summary it found that "there was nothing untoward - unconditional, illegal or otherwise - that could have been construed as having any significant influence on the outcome of the elections. [Furthermore] the will of the people of BVI was fairly and freely expressed in an open democratic process; and the people of BVI should be highly commended for the transparent, orderly and peaceful manner in which the elections were concluded".

The Mission went on to propose three recommendations which focused on voter education, polling and campaigning. Specifically material should be produced to help voters understand the electoral process, use of voter identification, improvements to the secrecy of the ballot, better training for the election officials and the development of a code of conduct/ethics for candidates to abide by to improve the conduct of behaviour during the election.

In 2014, CPA BIMR was once again invited by the Governor, His Excellency John Duncan OBE to deploy a second EOM to BVI to observe the 8 June 2015 general election. The Mission comprised of six observers and was present between the 30 May and the 11 June 2015.

The Mission, utilising CPA UK's recently developed methodology comprised of CPA BIMR observers sourced from within the region and the UK Overseas Territories conducted a comprehensive EOM, examining the full range of election related areas; campaign, media, diversity and inclusion, and polling as well as a number of other areas. In summary it concluded that "[The] EOM believes that the Virgin Islands (UK) 2015 election was genuine, vibrant and competitive. The election met key international standards, providing the voters an opportunity to cast their votes in secret and express their will in a transparent, peaceful and orderly manner. They commended the voters on their enthusiasm and commitment to the democratic process, evident in the high voter turnout. The Mission praised the dedication of the Supervisor of Elections, as well as the Election Officials who were professional in carrying out their functions meticulously and impartially. However, further improvements were needed to streamline the cumbersome voting and counting procedures as well as to address the deficiencies in the regulatory framework, particularly in relation to the registration of political parties and campaign financing."

The Mission took on-board the 2011 recommendations and in its conclusions proposed eight recommendations which ranged from fixed term parliaments, need for a permanent Elections Commission, better storage of advance polling ballots, better polling and counting procedures, and the consolidation of election laws, The Mission also recommended once again the need for a code of conduct for candidates to improve campaigning.

CPA BIMR would thank and give special recognition to the lasting and important legacy of Dr Winston Green MP who passed away in 2017.

Mission Composition 2011

CPA BIMR

Thomas Docherty MP (UK)
Connor Burns MP (UK)
Deputy Leon Gallienne
(Guernsey)
Alex Downie OBE (Isle of Man)

CARICOM

Amb. Rudolph Collins,
Head of Mission
Eugene Petty (St Kitts & Nevis)
Mignon Bowen, Project
Officer CARICOM

Mission Composition 2015

CPA BIMR

Steve Rodan SHK (Isle of Man) - Head of Mission
Dr Winston Green MP (Jamaica)
Ruth Blackman MP (Turks and Caicos)
Matthew Salik (UK), Election Analyst
Ellen Shustik (Canada), Election Analyst
Rachael Atkins (UK), Election Coordinator



KEY OUTCOMES

- 1. IMPROVED VOTER EDUCATION** - At the conclusion of the 2015 EOM, the Mission noted that progress had been made in terms of voter education through communicating via media outlets, publishing pamphlets and the Elections Office website. **The Mission noted the electorate's substantial awareness of the voting process.** A day prior to final polling, the Supervisor reiterated through the media that registered voters who did not possess photographic ID would still be able to vote on polling day.
- 2. VOTER IDENTIFICATION** - As recommended in 2011 and 2015, voters' identification cards are in the process of being issued and legislation is being prepared to be forwarded to the House of Assembly.
- 3. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS** - Other recommendations suggested by the Electoral Observer Mission in 2015 do not all need legislation to be implemented. Most of the recommendations can be done administratively; and they will need to be taken forward in the upcoming General Elections due in 2019. However, there are **a number of recommendations needing legislation; and as at June 2018, a number of them are in the process of being considered by the House of Assembly.**
- 4. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS** - The Supervisor of Elections, Ms Juliette Penn has participated in two CPA BIMR and CPA UK EOMs and EAMs (UK EAM 2017 and TCI EOM 2012). As an outcomes, this has improved her understanding of election observation methodology and enabled her to extract key learning for incorporation into a BVI context. Such as the approach to counting votes. These will hopefully be implemented for the 2019 election.

The [observation] process was positive. It assisted the Territory's performance and allowed the process to be kept free and fair at the highest level. The Elections Office benefited. Just knowing that we were being observed, encouraged us to be better and strive for excellence with every new election. The Territory will benefit greatly from future Election Observer Missions as the process would encourage us to strive to be the best and to live up to international standards of FREE and FAIR Elections."

Juliette Penn, Supervisor of Elections, BVI, 2018

CAYMAN ISLANDS 2013 & 2017



OVERVIEW

A CPA BIMR EOM was deployed to the Cayman Islands between 16 and 27 May 2013 following an invitation from the Governor of the Cayman Islands and with agreement of the Government and the Legislative Assembly. Despite initial concerns, the Mission was eventually endorsed by the Leader of the Opposition. The EOM was composed of six observers deployed to all districts of Cayman Islands. The 2013 election was the first to have an international election observation mission. CPA BIMR worked in partnership with the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organisations (ACEO) in sourcing Caribbean election officials to join the Mission.

Overall the Mission felt that the 2013 General Elections met international standards for democratic, genuine and transparent elections. The election campaign allowed different opinions to be expressed freely and the voting and counting process on Election Day were very well conducted. The high voters' turnout was also a very positive sign and it showed commitment of the Caymanian people to the principles of democracy. However there were a number of concerns raised over qualification to stand as a candidate and the lack of equality of the vote between voting districts. These formed part of the fourteen recommendations included in the final report.

Following substantial reforms in the Cayman Islands electoral system as a result of the 2013 EOM, CPA BIMR was once again invited to observe the Cayman Islands election. The Mission was in-country from 19 to 27 May 2017. This followed an invitation from the Governor of the Cayman Islands, and was undertaken with the agreement of the Government.

The Mission concluded that the 2017 general elections in the Cayman Islands met the international standards for democratic, genuine and transparent elections. There was a vibrant election campaign, which took place in a peaceful environment, during which the freedoms of expression, assembly and association were respected. The administration of the elections was of an extremely high standard, with all aspects of the process conducted with a meticulous attention to detail. The electoral process ran smoothly. Officials acted in a transparent and impartial manner and technical preparations for the elections were accomplished successfully.

Voter registration figures increased to 21,227 for the 2017 election representing a 15% increase on 2013. The increase was achieved by means of a significant voter registration drive by the Elections Office, including going door to door across the country to promote registration.

However the secrecy of the vote was potentially compromised in several ways and the overly lengthy residency requirements of up to 20 years are problematic and are an undue restriction on the right to passive suffrage. Furthermore, the transparency of campaign finances was limited as there are no requirements for contestants.

What was most notable was that despite the reforms implemented in advance of the 2017 elections there were still a few instances in which electoral districts depart from the principle of equal suffrage. These issues and more made up the twenty-one recommendations concluding the EOM report.

Mission Composition 2013

CPA BIMR

Mario Galea MP (*Malta*),
Head of Mission
Margaret Mitchell, MSP
(*Scotland*)
Senator Philip Ozouf (*Jersey*)
Speaker Hon. Randolph
Horton JP MP (*Bermuda*)
Alexander Matus (*Slovakia*),
Election Analyst
Marian Gabriel (*Slovakia*),
Election Analyst
Helen McLeod (*UK*), *Election
Administrator*,
Matthew Salik (*UK*), *Election
Coordinator*

Association of Caribbean Electoral Organisations (ACEO)

Ms Fern Narcis, Legal
Officer (*Trinidad and
Tobago*)
Ms Juanita Barker, Legal
Officer (*Guyana*)

Mission Composition 2017

CPA BIMR

Hon. President Steve
Rodan MLC, *Head of
Mission (Isle of Man)*
Deputy Speaker Akilah
Nisbett (*St Kitts and Nevis*)
Aurjul Wilson (*Anguilla*)
Mariam El-Azm, *Election
Coordinator (France)*
Anne Marlborough, *Election
Analyst (Ireland)*
Dr. Armin Rabitsch, *Election
Analyst (Austria)*



KEY OUTCOMES

- 1. BOUNDARY DELIMITATION** - One of the greatest areas of concern as observed in 2013 was the Cayman legal framework and election system consisting of electoral districts comprising of four multi-member and two single-member districts. This undermined the principle of one-member-one-vote and equal suffrage. The issue was further compounded in that there was substantial disparity between the number of voters in different districts. **Following the publishing of recommendations aimed at rectifying these issues, Cayman Islands established a boundary commission. The Commission concluded that nineteen single-member constituencies replace the existing system. Following legislative reform these were in place for the 2017 elections.**

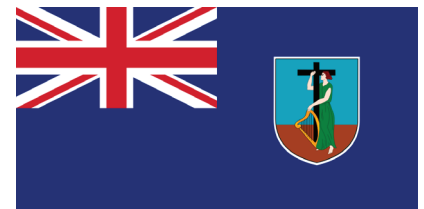
Further amendments to ensure greater equality in the numbers of voters between districts were raised as a recommendation at the 2017 EOM, these have been discussed at government level and briefing notes are being prepared for the Deputy Governor to take forward to the Cabinet.

- 2. IMPROVED VOTER EDUCATION** - In 2017, the Mission **noted that progress had been made in terms of voter education** through communicating via media outlets, publishing pamphlets and the Elections Office website. The Mission noted the improvements in voter awareness. The education and outreach policy was partly due for the need to educate the public in the new electoral system and boundary changes.
- 3. CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY** - Following the 2013 and 2017 election missions, **recommendations were made around residency requirements for candidates being “problematic” and an “undue restriction”.** The recommendation was reported and discussed in the local media. **In August 2017, the Cayman Islands Grand Court considered a court case related to the eligibility requirements and ruled in favour of a relaxation of the eligibility rules.**
- 4. POLLING CARDS** - As recommended, the **Election Office will seek to produce polling cards in advance of the election** to help electors identify where they should be voting.
- 5. SECRECY OF THE BALLOT** - Also recommended by the 2017 Mission was the proposal to intermingle the ballot papers for mobile and postal with the rest of the votes in a polling station within the electoral district for which they have been cast. This would remove the possibility that the intent of any single voter might be revealed because the number of votes counted is so small, which would protect the secrecy of the ballot. Such reforms are set to be operationally implemented in time for the next election.

“The Observer Mission process was positive. The process may be enhanced by observers spending more time in country in the lead up to the Election, to observe and document proceedings.”

Wesley Howell, JP, Supervisor of Elections, Cayman Islands

MONTSERRAT 2014



OVERVIEW

In June 2014, CPA BIMR was officially invited by the Governor, His Excellency Adrian Davis to deploy an independent Election Observation Mission to Montserrat to observe the September general election. This invitation was supported by the Government and the Official Opposition of Montserrat.

The Mission was present in Montserrat between the 3-14 September 2014. The Mission was guided by the United Nations Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers. The Mission observed the electoral process in accordance with international standards, including Montserrat's commitments under international law as well as domestic legislation. The Mission met with key stakeholders, for example the election administration, political parties, candidates, civil society, media representatives, police officials, academics and members of the public; it also attended campaign rallies and observed reporting in the media both prior to arrival and whilst on the Island. The Mission considered the legal framework, election administration, political campaign, media, polling and counting, and opportunities for complaints and appeals. In addition, it considered a number of wider issues such as gender equality. Whilst observing the latter part of the campaign, the Mission gave particular attention to the fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly, association, movement and the right to information. On Election Day 26 visits were made to all 12 polling stations including the opening and closing. Also observed were the counting and tabulation of results and the immediate post-election period.

In conclusion, the Mission found the 2014 General Elections in Montserrat vibrant, peaceful and participatory. Thirty-one candidates competed for nine seats in a single constituency resulting in a smooth transition of power. Polling was very diligently and effectively conducted. The count was exemplary, undertaken with the utmost rigour and the highest possible levels of transparency.

However there are a number of challenges with the legal framework, including the right to stand, to form a political party and a lack of campaign regulation. The Electoral Commission needs further support to institutionalise its successes so that it can consistently function as an effective and independent administration. Thirteen recommendations were listed at the end of the report with the aim of further strengthening democratic rights and minimising the risk of problems for future elections in Montserrat.

Mission Composition 2014

CPA BIMR

Mario Galea MP (*Malta*),
Head of Mission
Cole Simons JP MP
(*Bermuda*)
Hannah Roberts (*UK*),
Election Analyst,
Matthew Salik (*UK*), *Election
Coordinator*



KEY OUTCOMES

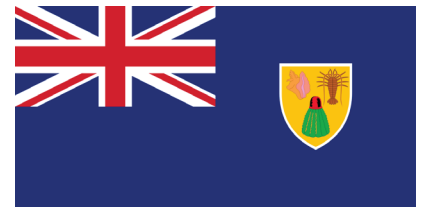
- 1. GENERAL - ELECTORAL REFORM** - In 2017, an **Electoral Reform Commission has been established in Montserrat**, for the purposes of looking at the Electoral framework; this Commission will also formulate proposals for appropriate reform for the entire system. The review includes voter registration, voter qualification, the ballot paper, constituency and the legal framework of the elections and more.
- 2. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS** - Election official Shivonne White has participated in two CPA BIMR EOMs (Anguilla and TCI) as an election observer. These have helped to increase her awareness of election observation methodology as well as to increase understanding and experience of other comparative electoral systems.
- 3. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS** - As part of CPA UK's core principles to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians in the importance of election observation methodology, CPA UK invited Gregory Willock MP, Montserrat parliamentarian and Parliamentary Secretary to observe the UK EAM in 2017.

"In many people's minds, election observation is about sending a group of observers to polling stations on Election Day, and although that is a part of it, there is much more involved. It includes a core team of experts that analyse the electoral laws and the constitution as well as the voter registration process, voter education, campaign rules and behavior. Finally, observers also stay on after the elections to report on the final tabulation and publication of results, and any electoral disputes and their resolution.

I found being a part of an Election Observer Mission an excellent opportunity not only to bring my own election experience to the table, but also in knowing that our very presence helps ensure that human rights and democratic values are respected and further inspires confidence in the quality and legitimacy of the electoral processes in the country."

Shivonne White, Electoral Official, Montserrat, CPA BIMR Election Observer, Anguilla, 2014

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS 2012 & 2016



OVERVIEW

The 2012 Election Observer Mission deployed by CPA BIMR and the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organisations concluded that the election process was transparent and accountable and that voting took place in an orderly manner despite organisational shortcomings. The mission arrived in TCI on 6 November 2012. The observers met with representatives of all three political parties and the election administration. Some observers also monitored a political rally. On Election Day, observers visited all polling stations in TCI.

The 9 November 2012 elections in the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI) were an important step in returning to democratically elected government. The Legislative Assembly was dissolved in 2009 following the publication of the Commission of Inquiry's report on corrupt practices by senior members of the last elected government.

Overall the Mission concluded that voters had a genuine choice, the election process was transparent and accountable. Voting took place in an orderly manner despite organisational shortcomings. Observers visited all 17 polling stations and evaluated the process as good or very good in the majority of cases. However, despite efforts and professionalism of election officials, time-consuming voting procedures resulted in long lines at most polling stations visited. Secrecy of the vote was of concern as the voter registration number was handwritten on each ballot, potentially allowing for disclosure of voter's choice during the count or after the elections.

In a welcome development, the Political Activities Ordinance introduced strict regulations on campaign activities to address problems identified in previous elections. Parties and candidates campaigned through advertisements in the media, posters, door-to-door meetings with voters and rallies. According to the new regulations, distribution of free food and alcohol to voters was prohibited. Prior to the elections, all three parties signed the Code of Conduct issued by the Integrity Commission.

In all, the Mission proposed six recommendations which focused on polling and candidate registration.

In 2016, CPA BIMR (this time without ACEO) was invited to conduct an EOM in TCI for their December election. The Mission proposed eleven recommendations and in their findings concluded that the voting and counting process was good or very good in all polling stations visited. An following the 2012 recommendation, the increase in the number of polling stations and officials is to be welcomed, however there were still some long queues after opening.

The main problem observed was a lack of consistency and simplicity in voting procedures. Observers recommended introducing a standard layout of polling station.

Finally the observers recommend that, after two General Elections, was time for a thorough review of the Elections Ordinance. Observers found that there were sometimes piecemeal amendments, such as a recent change to the layout of the ballot paper for the All Islands electoral district. A review would allow for the enactment of a comprehensive new piece of legislation better suited to current requirements.

Mission Composition 2012

CPA BIMR

Joe Bossano MP (*Gibraltar*),
Head of Mission
James Duddridge MP (*UK*)
Thomas Docherty MP (*UK*)
Konrad Olszewski (*Poland*),
Election Analyst

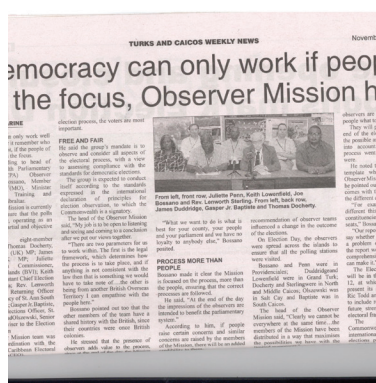
Association of Caribbean Electoral Organisations (ACEO)

Juliette Penn (*BVI*)
Keith Lowenfield (*Guyana*)
Gasper Jn Baptiste (*St Lucia*)
Rev. Lenworth Hayworth Sterling (*Jamaica*)

Mission Composition 2016

CPA BIMR

Jim Wells MLA (*Northern Ireland*), Head of Mission
Michael Stewart MP (*Jamaica*)
Shivonne White (*Montserrat*)
Konrad Olszewski (*Poland*),
Election Analyst
Anne Marlborough, *Election Analyst (Ireland)*
Alasdair Rendall (*UK*),
Election Coordinator

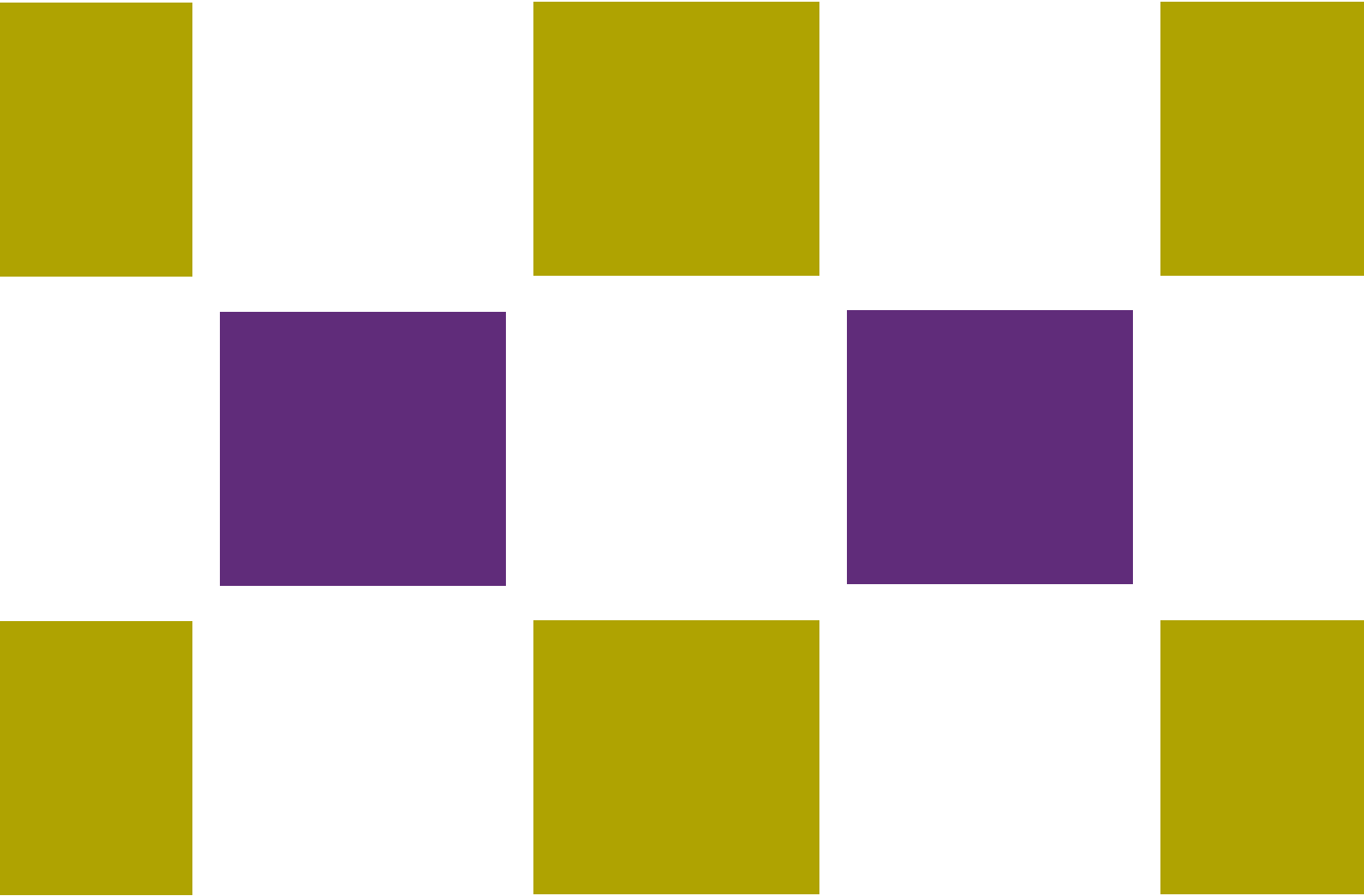


KEY OUTCOMES

- 1. GENERAL - ELECTORAL REFORM** - As at June 2018, the Supervisor of Elections, after communicating with the Attorney General's chambers is now in the process of preparing a Cabinet Paper on the recommendations of the 2016 Mission. These, it is hoped, will be carried forward in time for the next election.
- 2. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS** - As part of CPA UK's core principles to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians in the importance of election observation methodology, CPA UK invited Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP (current Premier) and Ruth Blackman MP to participate in EOMs (BVI and Anguilla respectively). Both parliamentarians expressed an increase in their knowledge and understanding of election observation methodology as a result of these programmes.

"I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Election Observer Mission for supporting my nomination to the Mission. The experience was a rewarding one in that so many similarities exist between the TCI and the BVI electoral process that the knowledge gained was shared with the Supervisor of Election in TCI. The opportunity was also afforded me to be part of a great team that had the expertise to carry out a vigorous exercise. I was impressed by the manner in which the people of BVI displayed excellent tolerance whether they were waiting to cast their vote or during the counting. If asked to participate in any future EOM, I will accept willingly."

Hon. Ruth Blackman MP, Turks & Caicos Islands,
Observer to the CPA BIMR Virgin Islands (UK) EOM, 2015



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