



# CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT (CARICOM)

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## **REPORT** OF THE CARICOM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION

**GENERAL ELECTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
28 APRIL 2025**

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## Map of Trinidad and Tobago



Figure 1: Detailed map of Trinidad and Tobago, showing the capital city, towns, states, provinces, and boundaries.

<sup>1</sup> 2009, adapted from Ezilon.com.

## **Country Profile of Trinidad and Tobago**

<b>Type of Government</b>	Parliamentary Democracy (Republic)
<b>Head of State:</b>	Her Excellency Christine Kangaloo (since 20 March 2023)
<b>Assembly</b>	Bicameral Parliament
<b>Incumbent Head of Government</b>	The Honourable Stuart Young (since 17 March 2025)
<b>National Day</b>	31 August, Independence Day (since 1962)
<b>Capital</b>	Port of Spain
<b>Population</b>	1,368,333 (Central Statistical Office, 2024)
<b>Major Ethnicities</b>	East Indian 35.4%, African descent 34.2%, mixed (other) 15.3%, mixed (African/East Indian) 7.7%, other 1.3%, unspecified 6.2%
<b>Major Religions</b>	Protestant 32.1% (Pentecostal/Evangelical/Full Gospel 12%, Baptist 6.9%, Anglican 5.7%, Seventh Day Adventist 4.1%, Presbyterian/Congregational 2.5%, other Protestant 0.9%), Roman Catholic 21.6%, Hindu 18.2%, Muslim 5%, Jehovah's Witness 1.5%, other 8.4%, none 2.2%, unspecified 11.1%
<b>Major Languages</b>	English (official), Trinidadian Creole English, Tobagonian Creole English, Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi), Trinidadian Creole French, Spanish, Chinese

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat was invited, by way of letter dated 10 December 2024 from Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to deploy an Election Observation Mission to observe the Parliamentary Elections to be held in 2025. On 13 January 2025, the CARICOM Secretary-General advised that the Secretariat was fully prepared to undertake the necessary arrangements for the deployment of an Election Observation Mission to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago advised on 19 March 2025 that Parliamentary Elections would be held on 28 April 2025 and confirmed the invitation to the CARICOM Secretariat to mount a CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM).

A CARICOM Election Observation Mission was deployed to observe the Parliamentary Elections from 21 to 30 April 2025. The Mission comprised electoral officials from eight member states, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as four officials from the CARICOM Secretariat, providing technical and administrative support.

The Members of the Observation Mission were as follows:

1. Mr. Ian Hughes, Supervisor of Elections, Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, (Chief of Mission)
2. Ms. Dora James, Supervisor of Elections, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Electoral Office, (Deputy Chief of Mission)
3. Mr. Ramon Orlando Alleyne, Chairman, Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Barbados
4. Ms. Fatima Elizabeth Gordon, Supervisor of Registering Officers, Elections and Boundaries Department of Belize
5. H.E. Felix Gregoire, Chairman, Public Service Commission, Commonwealth of Dominica
6. Mr. Clement Rohee, Commissioner, Guyana Elections Commission
7. Mr. Andrew Anthony Smith, Regional Manager, Electoral Commission of Jamaica
8. Ms. Maureen John-Xavier, Chairperson, Electoral Commission of Saint Lucia

The members of the CARICOM Secretariat that supported the Team were Ms. Angella Prendergast, Director, Foreign and Community Relations, Ms. Shae-Alicia Lewis, Programme Manager, Community Relations, Mr. Irvin Brown, Project Officer, Foreign and Community Relations; and Ms. Serojnie Seetaram, Senior Secretary, Foreign and Community Relations.

## **SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR THE OBSERVATION MISSION**

The scope of services, as outlined in the CARICOM Handbook issued to each Member of the Mission, stipulated the following:

- I. Observe the electoral process, including the preparations for the start of the poll, the casting of votes, the closure of the polling stations, the counting of the ballots and the preparation of the Statement of Poll;
- II. Collect information on the results at the voting tables to assist in the quantitative verification of the results; and
- III. Collect qualitative observations regarding the voting process, comportment of the electoral officials and political actors, and the overall electoral environment.
- IV. Observe and assess the outcome of the elections and the initial immediate impact on the social and political environment; and

- V. Collaborate in the preparation of the Report of the Observer Mission to be prepared by the Chief of Mission, through the submission of observation sheets, oral reports on their observations and findings on the day of the election.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Originally inhabited by Arawakan and Cariban-speaking tribal groups, the islands of Trinidad and Tobago were later developed as a sugar colony. Although enslaved Africans had been brought to the islands in the 1700s, the abolition of slavery led to significant challenges in securing a stable and affordable labour force for sugarcane plantations.

In 1845, the immigration of indentured workers from the Indian subcontinent commenced and continued until 1917. By 1870, Indo-Trinidadians comprised approximately one-fourth of the total population. Additionally, beginning in 1838, Trinidad welcomed immigrants from various regions, including the smaller British Caribbean colonies, Africa (as free settlers rescued from foreign slave ships), Madeira, China, Syria, Lebanon, Venezuela, and the United Kingdom. As a result, Trinidad and Tobago developed one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the Caribbean, a characteristic that continues to shape its political landscape today.

During the early to mid-20th century, a series of labour movements, demands for local democracy, and eventual independence shaped the political landscape. Key milestones included the labour disturbances of 1937, the expansion of elected political representation in 1941, and the introduction of universal adult suffrage in 1945.

By 1959, the legislative council saw an increase in elected members and the appointment of an elected Speaker, while the ministerial system evolved into a cabinet selected from the legislative council. In 1956, the People's National Movement (PNM), led by Dr. Eric Williams, secured victory in the general elections. Under his leadership, the nation attained independence on 4 July 1962. The PNM remained in power for five consecutive terms, governing until 1986.

In 1989, the United National Congress (UNC) was founded by Basdeo Panday, a distinguished Trinidadian lawyer, economist, and trade unionist, following a split within the then-ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR). Prior to the elections, the UNC served as the primary opposition party, predominantly supported by Indo-Trinidadians.

## **Political and Electoral Landscape**

The House of Representatives in Trinidad and Tobago consists of 41 members. The country has adopted a first-past-the-post voting system in electing members of the House of Representatives. At the time of the 2025 Parliamentary Elections, the PNM held 21 seats in the House of Representatives while the main opposition party, the United National Congress (UNC), held 19 seats. The seat for the constituency of D'Abadie/O'Meara remained vacant after the death of the incumbent PNM representative in December 2024, as bi-elections may not be held in an election year.

The Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley resigned from the post of Prime Minister on 16 March 2025 (On 1 May 2025, Dr. Rowley also stepped down as the political leader of the PNM.). The Honourable Stuart Young, who assumed the role of Prime Minister on 17 March 2025, subsequently advised the President to dissolve parliament on 18 March 2025 and scheduled the general elections for 28 April 2025.

## **2020 General Elections**

The 2020 general elections recorded a voter turnout of 58.08%, with 658,677 ballots cast from a total of 1,134,136 registered voters. The election was contested by 19 political parties, represented by 146 candidates.

The People's National Movement (PNM) retained its parliamentary majority from the 2015 elections, securing 22 seats and 49.05% (332,180 votes) of the popular vote. The United National Congress (UNC) remained the primary opposition party, winning 19 seats and receiving 47.14% (309,654 votes) of the popular vote.

The remaining parties and independent candidates collectively garnered 3.81% (25,058 votes) of the popular vote but did not win any seats.

## **Changes to Boundaries and Names of Constituencies**

On 29 March 2025, the Elections and Boundaries Commission of Trinidad and Tobago published the updated map of constituencies for the April 2025 General Election. The thirteen (13) constituencies below were subject to boundary changes only.

- |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Arima                   | 8. Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West |
| 2. Caroni Central          | 9. Port of Spain South                |
| 3. Cumuto/Manzanilla       | 10. San Fernando East                 |
| 4. La Horquetta/Talparo    | 11. San Fernando West                 |
| 5. Laventille East/Morvant | 12. Tabaquite                         |
| 6. Laventille West         | 13. Toco/Sangre Grande                |
| 7. Oropouche East          |                                       |

The two (2) constituencies below had their names changed.

1. Aranguez/St. Joseph (previously St. Joseph)
2. Arouca/Lopinot (previously Lopinot/Bon Air West)

Three (3) constituencies were renamed and also had their boundaries changed, namely:

1. Malabar/Mausica (previously D'abadie/O'meara);
2. Claxton Bay (previously Pointe-a-Pierre); and
3. Trincity/Maloney (previously Arouca/Maloney).



## **Tobago's Autonomy**

Tobago operates under a semi-autonomous system with its own House of Assembly. Efforts to grant the island greater autonomy, through the passage of the Constitution Amendment (Tobago Self-Government) Bill and the Tobago Island Government Bill, faced a significant setback. While the Tobago Island Government Bill was approved by a vote of 20-10, the Tobago Self-Government Bill was defeated amid opposition concerns that it did not adequately meet the requirements for enhanced autonomy. Hon. Farley Augustine, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly and leader of the Tobago People's Party (TPP), was among those who voiced these concerns.

The Chief Secretary sought to define and delineate Tobago's territorial boundaries while ensuring equal status and empowering the island to enact its own legislation. He advocated for the establishment of a federal system and proposed revisions to the composition of the Fiscal Review Commission. Additionally, he called for the creation of a Tobago Fund comprising revenue collected within the island on behalf of the national government, while accusing the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) of lacking the will or intent to grant Tobago greater autonomy.

The Tobago Self-Government Bill required a minimum of 31 votes in the House of Representatives to pass but ultimately received 22 votes in favour and 16 against. Conversely, the Tobago Island Government Bill succeeded with a 20-10 vote. Shortly before the House convened, the Chief Secretary submitted a list of proposed amendments to both bills. Government officials expressed surprise at the opposition's rejection of the constitutional amendment, asserting that its development had involved extensive consultations with stakeholders, including legal and maritime experts. They emphasized that the bill had been scrutinized by joint select committees comprising representatives from both the government and opposition.

Senator Ancil Dennis, political leader of the Tobago Council for the PNM, noted that the bill, if passed, would have increased Tobago's annual share of the national budget from a minimum of 4.03% to 6.8%.

## **Postponement of Local Government Elections**

On 3 November 2022, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Hon. Faris Al-Rawi, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, announced the extension of the terms of all councillors and aldermen until 3 December 2023, to facilitate the implementation of the local government reform package. At the time, local government elections were constitutionally due on 3 December 2022, or within three months thereafter.

The United National Congress (UNC) and Mr. Ralph Maharaj separately initiated legal challenges against this decision. The Privy Council ultimately ruled in favour of Mr. Maharaj in a 3-2 decision. The court found that the amendments affecting the periods of service for incumbent councillors and aldermen, specifically those in office as of 7 November 2022, when the proclamation was made, violated constitutional rights and did not align with the statutory construction of the amendments. Specifically, the ruling stated that the changes did not legally apply to the incumbents.

## **Emphasis on External Non-Caribbean Observers**

On 19 March 2025, the UNC released a statement that chronicled the urgent call made by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to invite independent international election observers for the 2025 General Election. The opposition accused former Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley, of dismissing the initial request made in a letter from the Leader of the Opposition dated 16 September 2024.

The 19 March letter also addressed:

1. The historical presence of election observers during general elections in Trinidad and Tobago since 2000 and the absence of observers during the 2020 general election, which was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. An alleged conflict of interest with the CARICOM Observer Mission due to the connection of a CARICOM staff member to the former Attorney General;
3. The postponement of the 2022 Local Government Elections, which was brought before the Privy Council and overturned;
4. Concerns regarding the Elections and Boundaries Commission, including allegations of partisanship and the redrawing of boundaries in Tobago;
5. Alleged abuses of state resources for political campaigning; and
6. Concerns regarding a lack of transparency from the Government.

In light of these assertions, the opposition urged the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to invite independent non-Caribbean observers to ensure a free and fair election process. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago later announced that it had also invited the Commonwealth and the Carter Centre to mount election observation missions.

## **KEY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Crime and State of Emergency**

On 30 December 2024, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago declared a nationwide state of emergency due to high rates of criminal activity in the country. Parliament extended the state of emergency to April 2025 unanimously on 13 January 2025, based on reports from local police that indicated the imminence of a gang war. The state of emergency suspended several constitutional rights and permitted security forces to search and seize assets. Trinidad and Tobago has been challenged with increasing rates of violence as the country recorded 624 homicides in 2024 with a significant number of those being due to gang violence. The country has also struggled with small arms trafficking that has fuelled much of the violence. The state of emergency ended on 13 April 2025.

## PRE-ELECTION OBSERVATION

### Political Campaign

- *Reports of Misinformation and Harassment*

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in political campaigns has sparked growing concerns worldwide, particularly regarding its potential role in misinformation and manipulation. In Trinidad and Tobago, both the People's National Movement (PNM) and the United National Congress (UNC) levelled accusations against each other, alleging the use of AI-driven tactics to influence public opinion.

The UNC claimed that the PNM spread fake news as part of its electoral strategy, while the PNM countered with allegations that the UNC employed AI to create fraudulent social media profiles and generate misleading online discourse. Additionally, the PNM candidate for La Horquetta/Talparo accused the UNC of attempting voter suppression by financially incentivizing social media influencers to dissuade young people from voting.

These concerns echoed past allegations, particularly the 2010 "Do So" campaign, which was reportedly developed in collaboration with the Strategic Communication Laboratory (SCL) Group—later known as the parent company of Cambridge Analytica. The campaign was allegedly designed to discourage young Black voters from participating in the electoral process.

Reports surfaced regarding allegations of bullying, intimidation, and harassment, which reportedly led to the withdrawal of four candidates from the Patriotic Front. Additionally, there were reports of altercations involving political candidates and their supporters in Tobago on Nomination Day, prompting law enforcement to call in reinforcements. However, these events did not appear to disrupt the nomination process. It is instructive to note, that these incidents were not observed by any member of the CARICOM Team.

### CEOM Consultations

The supporting team from the CARICOM Secretariat arrived in Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday, 19 April 2025, two days ahead of Ian S. Hughes, Chief of Mission, and Dora James, Deputy Chief of Mission, who arrived on 21 April 2025. Additional members of the team joined on 23 April 2025.

The Mission was accommodated at the Hilton in Port of Spain, Trinidad. On 22 April 2025, the Chief of Mission issued an official Arrival Statement. (**See Appendix I**)

During the period 22-30 April 2025, the Mission monitored the preparations and activities leading up to and after Election Day and held meetings with the following government and political stakeholders:

- The Honourable Stuart Young, Prime Minister;
- The Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, former Prime Minister, and Senior Members of the PNM;

- Mrs. Fern Narcis-Scope, Chief Elections Officer and the Chairman and Members of the Election and Boundaries Commission;
- Mr. Junior Benjamin, Commissioner of Police (Ag.);
- Mr. Peter Kanhai, General Secretary and Members of the United National Congress;
- Mr. Gary Griffith, The National Transformation Alliance;
- Mr. Farley Augustine, Tobago's People Party; and
- Mr. Watson Duke, Progressive Democratic Patriots, Tobago.

The CEOM also consulted with representatives of the following:

- Inter-Religious Organization of Trinidad and Tobago (IROTT);
- Greater San Fernando Chamber of Industry and Commerce;
- National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD);
- Media houses;
- Commonwealth Observation Group (COG);
- Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute;
- Network of NGOs;
- Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC);
- Joint Trade Union Movement (JTUM) and the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU); and
- Council for Responsible Political Behaviour

In an attempt to gain a first-hand impression of the campaign and the atmosphere on the ground, members of the Mission also attended the final mass rallies of both major political parties (UNC and PNM) on 26 April 2025.

### **Main Issues Raised by Stakeholders**

The Mission observed that, with the exception of the United National Congress (UNC), all stakeholders they engaged with expressed confidence in the Elections and Boundaries Commission's ability to conduct free and transparent elections. However, various political parties, raised concerns regarding the Commission's preparedness to manage the process, particularly due to the shortened preparation period, for what was perceived as an early or snap election. Of particular concern was the potential impact on the training of Election Day workers.

In addition to these concerns, the stakeholders also raised the following:

1. Mailing of voters' Registration Cards to deceased persons on the List for the Elections;
2. Removal of names from the Voters' List;
3. The expansion of the categories for the Special Voting;
4. Security of the Special Voting process;
5. The excessive level of expenditure by candidates and political parties;
6. Allegations of vote buying;
7. The alleged use of state funds and other resources by the incumbent party to support its campaign activities;

8. The lack of legislation to limit expenditure by political parties;
9. Late or last-minute changes to boundaries, without consultations with political parties; and
10. Lack of any regulatory or oversight body for media houses, resulting in:
  - ✓ alleged unwarranted and exploitative increases in advertising rates during the election period;
  - ✓ allegations of a lack of equal broadcast opportunities on state media for opposition and smaller parties; and
  - ✓ airing of advertisements and political broadcasts of an inflammatory and sometimes derogatory nature.

## THE ELECTORAL FRAMEWORK

Under the constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has the overall responsibility for the review of constituency boundaries, the registration of voters, and the conduct of elections. This responsibility is administered through the procedures outlined in the Representation of the People Act of the laws of the Republic. This requires the Commission to engage a cadre of election officers for the execution of the process.

At its meeting with the Elections and Boundaries Commission, the CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM) was advised of the following:

1. **Preparedness:** The Elections and Boundaries Commission confirmed its readiness for the Parliamentary Elections scheduled for 28 April 2025. Following extensive planning, rigorous training, and collaboration with stakeholders;
2. **Voter Education:** Through a series of nationwide outreach initiatives, the Commission had informed citizens about the voting process, polling locations, voters' rights, electoral regulations, and potential electoral offences. Comprehensive campaigns were conducted across social media platforms, radio, television, and print media to engage and educate the public;
3. **Polling Station Readiness:** Two thousand three hundred and sixteen (2316) polling stations had been established and equipped with the necessary staffing, materials, and supplies. Inspections had been conducted to ensure that each location met high standards of accessibility, functionality, and safety;
4. **Staff Training:** Over 13,000 Election officials and polling day staff had received training to equip them with the skills needed to assist voters and administer the voting process efficiently. Training included voting procedures, conflict resolution strategies, and the implementation of health and

safety protocols; and

5. **Security Measures:** Under the stewardship of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, the Commission was collaborating with the police to ensure robust security arrangements to safeguard voters, election personnel, and the integrity of the electoral process.

### **The Voters' List**

The EBC is required to publish an annual list on 1 July every year. This list becomes the Preliminary List at the start of the electoral registration period (14 – 23 July) and is updated at the end of the registration period to form the Revised List. The Revised List is used to conduct the election and may have a Supplementary List attached to correct any inadvertent omission or inclusion of names by the EBC.

As a result of the dissolution of Parliament and the subsequent announcement of a date for the general elections, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) commenced electoral registration for the 2025 Parliamentary elections.

The EBC notified members of the public, including persons already registered to vote, that under Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 2:01, Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago issued a Proclamation which fixed 20 March 2025 as the date for the commencement of Electoral Registration in the 41 Parliamentary Electoral Districts in Trinidad and Tobago.

In accordance with Section 30 and Registration Rules 52 and 53, the Electoral Registration was conducted in the various Registration Area Offices and Registration Sub-Offices during the period 20-28 March 2025. The purpose of the exercise was to facilitate those persons who:

1. Had attained the age of 18 and over, but who had not registered as electors;
2. Had been registered as electors, but changed address and had not yet advised of this change (of address);
3. Had been registered as electors and had changed their name because of marriage, or otherwise, but their previous name appeared on the Preliminary List of Electors; and
4. Had been registered as electors, but their names did not appear on the Preliminary List of Electors.

At the end of the process, Chief Elections Officer Mrs. Fern Narcis-Scope revealed that 1,153,850 people were registered to vote for the 2025 General Election on 28 April 2025. This represented an increase of over 20,000 electors or 1.7%. A total of 1,134,135 people were registered to vote in the 2020 general election.

Political Parties raised concerns about the size of the Voters List, which recorded 1.1 million registered names compared to Trinidad and Tobago's total estimated population of just under 1.4 million. They urged the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) to implement a more rigorous process to

remove ineligible electors.

The EBC acknowledged these concerns and highlighted its ongoing efforts to maintain the integrity of the Register. It further confirmed that, since 2010, over 100,000 names have been removed from the Voters List.

### **Nomination of Candidates**

Under Trinidad and Tobago law, Nomination Day cannot be less than 21 days before Election Day. With the date of the elections set for 28 April 2025, it was agreed that Nomination Day would be 4 April 2025. At the close of proceedings on Nomination Day, 158 candidates representing 17 political parties and 3 independent candidates were nominated to contest the general elections.

	<b><i>Political Party</i></b>	<b><i>Seats Contested</i></b>
1	All Peoples Party	8
2	Class Action Reform Movement	1
3	Congress of the People	2
4	Innovative Democratic Alliance	2
5	Movement for National Development	1
6	National Coalition for Transformation	2
7	National Transformation Alliance	17
8	New National Vision	1
9	Patriotic Front	37
10	Progressive Democratic Patriots	2
11	People's National Movement	41
12	Progressive Empowerment Party	3
13	The Hyarima Movement	1
14	Tobago People's Party	2
15	Trinidad Humanity Campaign	3
16	United National Congress	34
17	Unity of the People	1
18	Independents	3

### **Voter Registration Cards**

The Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) committed to mailing voter registration cards to all eligible electors, as these cards are required for voting. However, a contingency plan was established for individuals who either did not receive their card or failed to bring it to the polling station.

According to Election Rule No. 36: "No person shall be entitled to vote at a polling station for any polling division unless his registration record appears in the Unit Register of Electors for that polling division, or his name appears on the Revised List of Electors for that polling division."

To address this, the EBC arranged for substitute cards to be available at polling stations for issuance and use, provided the elector was properly identified. Additionally, registered persons whose names appeared on the list of electors were entitled to vote using their ID cards as an official means of

identification.

### **Voter Identification Cards**

The Mission observed that many people presented themselves to vote with an expired voter ID Card or other forms of government-issued IDs.

An Identification Card for the purpose of voting is valid for ten (10) years from the date of issue. As the expiry date of an ID card approaches, an application to renew the card can and should be made at least two (2) months before the expiry date.

On Election Day, an elector can vote without an ID card once their name is on the voter's list. The Unit Register at the Polling Station is checked to locate the registration records. Once the records have been found, a comparison of the photo on the record will be used to verify the identity of the elector. Once positively identified, the elector will be required to complete an affirmation (Form No. 53 – Oath of Elector without Identification Card). This information was recorded on the poll card and in the polling station diaries.

### **Media Coverage**

The Mission observed an active campaign period, with numerous rallies and political speeches delivered by various candidates, particularly from the two major parties. These events were widely broadcast across all major media outlets during the prime-time window of 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The Chief of the CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM) noted that candidates leveraged multiple platforms, including print, electronic, and social media, to engage as many voters as possible. However, stakeholders expressed concerns regarding the use of social media, citing instances where false or misleading information was disseminated by certain parties, allegedly as a tactic to intimidate opposing candidates.

Additionally, the Mission received reports of advertisements that were said to lower the standard of campaigning. Despite thorough monitoring of television and newspaper advertisements, no overtly vitriolic content was observed. These reports, nonetheless, highlighted the need for stricter adherence to a political code of conduct.

The substantial volume of advertisements, paid broadcasts, and election-related paraphernalia indicated that parties and candidates invested significant resources in their campaigns.

As previously indicated, members of the Observation Mission team attended the closing rallies of both major political parties. The atmosphere at these events was highly festive. While complaints had been raised about personal attacks and derogatory remarks directed at opponents, no such instances were observed by the Mission during their time at the venues.

### **Women's Participation**

Stakeholders with whom the CEOM met reported that while women were highly active in serving as



key mobilisers in grassroots electoral campaigns for the political parties and as election day workers and agents, this did not fully translate into the selection of an equal number of men and women as candidates for representative politics. The Mission observed that there were no legal obstacles to women's participation as candidates. There were fifty-four (54) women among the one hundred and sixty-one (161) candidates nominated for the 2025 General Elections. Eleven (11) or twenty-seven percent (27%) of forty-one (41) parliamentary seats contested were won by women.

### **Campaign Financing**

The CEOM was informed that no legislation currently governs the financing of political parties and their campaigns. Instead, campaign funding is sourced through voluntary contributions from various entities, including foreign sources and businesses.

Stakeholders emphasized the need for regulatory measures to oversee campaign financing. They highlighted concerns regarding the level of expenditure by certain candidates and the absence of any requirement to disclose the sources of funding.

## **THE VOTING PROCESS**

### **Special Elector Voting**

Between the date of publication of an Election Notice and Nomination Day, eligible persons desirous of being considered as special electors apply to be treated as such to the Returning Officer of the electoral district in which they are registered.

The establishment of Special Polling Stations, in keeping with special voting requirements, is an integral part of the Commission's responsibility to conduct elections. Designated Special Electors, such as members of the security forces and other individuals who satisfy certain criteria and would be unable to cast their ballot on Election Day, were allowed to apply to be a part of the special election voting process. Electors were able to collect their ballots at established registration centres and then report to one of the special polling stations established for the process to cast their ballots.

Special Elector voting commenced on 21 April 2025 and concluded on 27 April 2025. A total of 16,748 Special Electors were expected to cast their votes, and according to the EBC, this was the highest ever special voter registration for a General Election.

Special Electors were reminded that their voting procedure differed from the standard process and may require additional time. As a result, longer-than-usual wait times were observed at some locations.

The CEOM, in its assessment of the process, noted that some individuals who had applied for advance voting did not collect their ballots. This included members of the security forces. Of greater concern, however, was the fact that certain individuals collected their ballots but did not subsequently cast their votes at any polling location, effectively resulting in lost ballots. Additionally, the CEOM observed that advance polling was conducted under the supervision of a single presiding officer—senior officers in

the case of the police—without oversight by political parties in some instances.

Concerns were also raised by the UNC regarding the manual marking of voters' names on the list of electors. The process carried the risk of oversight, whereby a name could be inadvertently left unmarked, potentially allowing an individual to vote again on Election Day.

On 25 April 2025, the CEOM was invited to witness the procedure for sorting special envelopes received from designated polling stations, under Election Rule 76 of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 2:01. The Team also observed the intermixing of ballots at the specified location in both Trinidad and in Tobago and concluded that the process was transparent, efficient, and well organised.

### **Polling Day**

Polling was scheduled to be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Election Day. On 28 April 2025, the day designated for the taking of the poll, the CEOM team observed that voters were able to cast their votes consistent with the laws governing the process.

## **ELECTION DAY OBSERVATIONS**

### **Deployment of Observers**

The CEOM deployed six (6) teams of Observers into what are considered marginal constituencies to observe the process on Election Day. Each team was assigned specific areas to observe as the Mission wanted to ensure coverage in as many constituencies as possible.

Teams visited the polling locations within their assigned constituencies the day before the scheduled poll. They observed preparations for the taking of polls on Election Day and assessed travel time to ensure maximum coverage on Election Day. A total of 202 polling stations in 12 constituencies were visited. The List of Constituencies monitored by each team is set out in **Appendix III**.

### **Opening of the Polls**

The CEOM teams observed the opening of the polls in twelve (12) polling stations at six (6) locations.

1. All polling stations observed were fully staffed with all poll workers in place.
2. There was one political agent present on behalf of each of the two major political parties in each polling station.
3. All the stations opened at the stipulated time of 6:00 a.m.

The Mission also observed that the opening of the poll procedures were adhered to, with the seal of the ballot box being broken and the emptying of its contents taking place in full view of all present. There were no reported shortages of election materials.

## **Security**

The number of security personnel deployed at polling stations appeared to be sufficient, and their presence was reassuring and generally non-intrusive. They appeared to be organized, as their operation orders were prepared and officers briefed on their assignments well in advance of Election Day. They were equipped with the necessary equipment to ensure effective communication, proper monitoring, and safety at all times. A designated area at all polling locations was equipped with the necessary supplies and equipment to ensure that the security personnel would be able to adequately carry out their duties throughout the entire day.

## **Identification of Voters**

All members of the CEOM team reported that the identity of voters was checked consistently at all locations visited. Voters who turned up without their voter cards were processed using the red line (There were two lines in each polling station: the red line for voters without a voter card, as well as voters with disabilities, and the green line for voters in possession of their voter card.). The substitute voter card was found in all cases witnessed and the electors were allowed to vote without hindrance. The agents of the political parties were able to witness the activities in each polling station and to satisfy themselves of the eligibility of those who voted.

## **Checking of Fingers for Ink**

The fingers of all electors were not consistently checked for ink by all deputy presiding officers. This oversight did not compromise the process, as in almost all cases, the clerk responsible for the ballot box ensured there was no ink on the elector's finger before allowing the voter to dip his/her finger in the ink ahead of depositing the ballot into the box.

## **Instructions to Voters**

The instructions to voters before being issued a ballot were fairly consistent as it relates to folding the ballot to ensure the signature of the deputy presiding officer was displayed. The method of folding, however, was not consistent, and the directive that only the demonstration ballot should be used to direct the elector on how to vote was not always adhered to, as the genuine ballot was used in several instances.

## **Assistance to Voters with Disabilities**

In some polling stations, it was noted that a significant number of electors needed assistance to cast their votes. Some were as a result of age or blindness, while others were challenged by physical or other impairment. Some electors needing assistance were helped by a family member or friend, while others were assisted by the presiding officer.

Voters with disabilities were given priority in the polling stations observed as they were escorted to the front of the line. The relevant oaths were administered to both the elector and his/her companion.

### **Secrecy of the Vote**

The secrecy of the vote was maintained except in a few instances where the elector did not fold the ballot properly before exiting the voting booth. In all cases the elector was instructed to return behind the booth and to fold the ballot so their preference or selection was not displayed. The CEOM Team also observed that in a few locations, the positioning of the booth increased the possibility for someone to see the voter's selection and compromising the secrecy of the vote.

### **Gathering and Campaigning at Polling Stations**

There was no evidence of anyone campaigning or seeking to influence the voters at any of the locations visited. There was no evidence of party colours being put on display and no congregation within the proximity of the polling stations by unauthorised persons.

### **Election Officials**

Polling Station staff, including party agents, exercised due diligence in the performance of their duties. They were well versed in the processes and were actively involved in carrying out their duties. Polling staff clearly and audibly called out the names of voters to ensure that both poll clerks and poll agents could verify the person against the voter's register and procedures were clearly explained to voters. The CEOM team observed that Election Day workers were adequately trained. They carried out their functions efficiently and effectively and conducted themselves in a professional and non-partisan manner, which allowed for a smooth electoral process.

## **CLOSE OF POLL**

Polls were scheduled to close at 6:00 pm. The law, however, is clear that any elector in line at the close of the poll must be allowed to vote. The security personnel were on hand to ensure no unauthorised persons could access the polling stations after 6:00 p.m.

The CEOM teams returned to the polling stations where they had observed the opening of the polls to observe the closing of polls and counting procedures. In the stations observed, the polls closed promptly at 6:00 pm as there were no electors in line. As a part of the closing and counting procedures, the ballots must be reconciled to ensure all are accounted for. This involves checking the number of ballot papers supplied by the returning officer against the number of spoiled ballot papers (if any), the number of unused ballot papers and the number of electors whose names appear in the poll book as having voted. The agents of the candidates must be allowed to witness the entire process, including the removal of the seal placed on the boxes at the opening of the polls.

The team observed that the close of poll procedures were carried out efficiently under the stipulated regulations.

## **Counting of Votes**

The counting procedure was done under the law that requires that prior to commencement of the preliminary count, all ballot papers issued to the Presiding Officer and voter registration cards must be accounted for. This was done immediately after the polls were closed in the presence of political agents. Once the poll day workers and the agents were satisfied that all ballot papers issued were properly accounted for, the counting of votes immediately commenced. This entire process was done in full view of all present, and each ballot was shown to all present by the Presiding Officer. The team observed that the counting process was carried out efficiently, and the unofficial results for most polling stations observed were known by 8:00 p.m.

As specifically laid out in the Manual of Instructions for Polling Day Staff, the Presiding Officer and team complied with Chapter 12 captioned Packaging, Sealing and Returns to ensure that all relevant forms were filled out and signed as required by all present and that all used, unused ballots and unused elector ink were properly packaged for delivery to the Returning Officer.

## **Transmission of Results**

Preliminary results were broadcast on all television stations, radio, and social media platforms. The preliminary tabulation and verification of results from the Parliamentary Elections held on 28 April 2025 reflected a total registered electorate of 1,153,850 across 41 electoral districts in Trinidad and Tobago. Voter turnout was recorded at approximately 54%.

Based on the preliminary count, the United National Congress (UNC) emerged as the leading party in the parliamentary elections, securing 26 of the 41 constituencies. The People's National Movement secured 13 seats, and the Tobago People's Party secured 2 seats.

## **Recounting of Votes**

In accordance with Election Rule 101(6) of the Representation of the People Act, Chap. 2:01, requests were made for recounts in the following constituencies:

1. Arouca/Lopinot
2. Malabar/Mausica
3. San Fernando East

The recount was prompted by the UNC's formal request for general recounts and poll card verifications. According to the EBC, "The detailed preliminary results... remained largely unchanged," despite the recount.

## **POLLING DAY CONCLUSIONS**

The CEOM observed that the procedures carried out on polling day were conducted with high

standards and impartiality. No significant breaches of the laws and procedures were observed, which led the Mission to conclude that voters were able to cast their ballots without intimidation or fear, and that the results of the 28 April 2025, General Elections reflect the will of the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

## **POST-ELECTION OBSERVATIONS**

There were no reports of any street protests or civil disobedience following the announcement of the results. Generally, it appeared the nation had accepted the election results. Further, at approximately 10:00pm in an address from the People's National Movement (PNM) headquarters at Balisier House, political leader and former Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley announced that the PNM has conceded defeat in the 2025 General Election. He was joined by Prime Minister Stuart Young and campaign manager Rohan Sinanan. (See **Appendix IV** for the Preliminary Statement issued by the Chief of Mission on 29 April 2025).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The CEOM highly commends the Elections and Boundaries Commission on its efficient and professional management of the April 2025 General Elections, particularly considering the short period in which the EBC had to prepare for the elections. The CEOM acknowledges the patience and orderliness of the eligible voters who came out to exercise their franchise on Election Day and commends the diligence and professionalism of the polling staff who dedicated considerable efforts to delivering these elections.

Overall, fundamental freedoms of association, expression, assembly, and movement were respected. The CEOM's overall conclusion is that the voting, closing, and counting processes at polling stations observed was peaceful, transparent, and offered eligible voters the opportunity to express their will and cast their votes.

The conclusions of the CEOM are as follows:

1. The polls were conducted in keeping with the laws and regulations of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. The poll workers and other stakeholders, such as the police, conducted themselves professionally.
3. Electors were able to move about freely and were able to enter and leave polling stations without hindrance.
4. The results of the 28 April 2025 poll reflected the will of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Despite the positive conclusions and high praise expressed by the CEOM on the conduct of the polls,

the CEOM Team has identified areas of concern, as expressed by stakeholders, and others that were directly observed. The recommendations stem from these concerns and it is felt that acceptance and implementation of the recommendations will further strengthen the democratic system of governance in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

1. ***Use of Social Media*** - A clear policy needs to be developed on the acceptance and use of social media, so no party or individual is put at a disadvantage in seeking to play by the rules.
2. ***Campaign Financing*** - The CEOM notes that there are presently no laws governing campaign financing. The mission recommends that consideration be given to enacting laws governing campaign financing and also to include caps on contributions and spending. These laws would allow for an even playing field among parties and candidates, thus reducing the impact of money in future elections. The enactment of campaign financing legislation would increase the transparency in the financing of the electoral process.
3. ***Special Voting*** - All registration centres from which special polling ballots are collected should be made into special polling stations at which special voters can vote at the time they come to collect their ballot. This would prevent the elector from having to make two trips (one to collect the ballot and another to go somewhere else to vote). This would also ensure no ballots are unaccounted for.
4. ***Media Monitoring*** - The establishment of a media monitoring unit to ensure equal access to state media by all political parties is recommended.
5. ***Code of Conduct*** - The appointment of a political ombudsman to monitor adherence to the Political Code of Conduct, with penalties associated with breaches, could be considered.
6. ***Cleansing of the Register***- A rigorous process should be undertaken by the EBC to purge the Voters List of ineligible electors, thus leading to further confidence in the List.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **ARRIVAL STATEMENT**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat was invited by way of letter dated 10 December 2024 from Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, former Prime Minister of the Republic of and Tobago, to deploy an Election Observation Mission to observe the Parliamentary Elections to be held in 2025. On 13 January 2025, the CARICOM Secretary-General advised that the Secretariat was fully prepared to undertake the necessary arrangements for the deployment of an Election Observation Mission to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago advised on 19 March 2025 that Parliamentary Elections would be held on 28 April 2025 and confirmed the invitation to the CARICOM Secretariat, to mount a CARICOM Election Observation Mission.

In response to the invitation, an eight-member CARICOM Team has been deployed to observe the General Elections. The Mission is headed by Mr. Ian Hughes, Supervisor of Elections, Antigua and Barbuda.

The other members of the team are:

Ms. Dora James, Supervisor of Elections, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Deputy Chief of Mission);  
Mr. Ramon Orlando Alleyne, Chairman, Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Barbados;  
Ms. Fatima Elizabeth Gordon, Supervisor of Registering Officers, Elections and Boundaries Department of Belize;  
Ms. Maureen John-Xavier, Attorney-at-Law, Saint Lucia;  
Mr. Andrew Anthony Smith, Regional Manager, Electoral Commission of Jamaica;  
Ms. Schnaida Adely, Vice-President, Haiti Provisional Electoral Council; and  
H.E. Felix Gregoire, Chairman, Public Service Commission, Commonwealth of Dominica.

The Mission is supported by the following CARICOM Secretariat staff: Ms. Angella Prendergast, Director, Foreign and Community Relations; Ms. Shae-Alicia Lewis, Programme Manager, Community Relations; Mr. Irvin Brown, Project Officer, Foreign and Community Relations; and Ms. Serojnie Seetaram, Senior Secretary, Foreign and Community Relations.

The core team, comprising the Chief of Mission, Deputy Chief of Mission and the representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat, arrived in Trinidad and Tobago on 21 April 2025. Since then, meetings have been held with various stakeholders. These include engagements on 22 April 2025 with the Chief Elections Officer and the Chairman and Members of the Elections and Boundaries Commission; the General Secretary and members of the United National Congress and the Political Leader of the National Transformation Alliance. Other meetings with political representatives and civil society are scheduled for the remainder of the week.

On 28 April, the team will observe the electoral process, including the preparations for the start of the poll, opening of polling stations, casting of votes, closure of polling stations, counting of ballots, and preparation of the Statement of Poll. The team will also collect information on the results at the voting



tables to assist in the quantitative verification of the results; collect qualitative observations regarding the voting process, such as the comportment of the electoral officials and political actors, and on the overall electoral environment; and observe and assess the outcome of the elections and the initial immediate impact on the social and political environment.

The CEOM will issue a Preliminary Statement following the elections and will subsequently prepare the Final Report of the Electoral Observation Mission, to be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community. This Report will be shared with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Election and Boundaries Commission.

The CEOM will depart Trinidad and Tobago on 30 April 2025.

The CARICOM Election Observation Mission values the opportunity to support the democratic process in Trinidad and Tobago and expresses its appreciation for the warm welcome and cooperation received since its arrival.

**Ian S. Hughes**  
**CHIEF OF MISSION**  
**22 April 2025**

## **APPENDIX II**

## CEOM TEAM DEPLOYMENT

Trinidad & Tobago General Elections

28 April 2025

OBSERVATION TEAM	CONSTITUENCIES VISITED	NUMBER OF STATIONS VISITED IN CONSTITUENCY
Ian Hughes and Angella Prendergast	Aranguez/Barataria	22
	St. Joseph/St. Augustine	23
Andrew Smith and Fatima Gordon	Toco/Sangre Grande	26
H.E. Felix Gregoire and Serojnie Seeteram	San Fernando West	15
	Moruga/Tableland	8
Clement Rohee and Shae Alicia - Lewis	Tunapuna	30
	La Horquetta/Talparo	19
Maureen John-Xavier and Ramon Alleyne	Chaguanas East	23
Dora James and Irvin Brown	Tobago East	19
	Tobago West	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>202</b>

## APPENDIX III

### RESULTS/ELECTED CANDIDATES

	Political Party	Votes	%			Political Party	Votes	%
<b>MORUGA/TABLELAND</b>					<b>COUVA NORTH</b>			
Michelle Diane Benjamin	UNC	11083	57.3%	√	Jearlean John	UNC	13201	73.2%
Lisa Atwater	PNM	7983	41.3%		Brent Maraj	PNM	3094	17.2%
Trivet Phillip	PF	281	1.5%		Mickela Panday	PF	1727	9.6%
<b>CARONI CENTRAL</b>					<b>CHAGUANAS WEST</b>			
David Lee	UNC	12663	68.7%	√	Colin Neil Gosine	UNC	16013	89.0%
Adam Hosein	PNM	4854	26.3%		Winston Mahabir	PNM	1390	7.7%
Andrew Hosein	PF	914	5.0%		Marsha George	PF	599	3.3%
<b>CUMUTO/MANZANILLA</b>					<b>ARANGUEZ/ST.JOSEPH</b>			
Shivanna Sam	UNC	12559	68.3%	√	Devesh Maharaj	UNC	9908	57.3%
Sanjiv Boodhu	PNM	5393	29.3%		Terrence Deyalsingh	PNM	6672	38.6%
Valene Teelucksingh	PF	438	2.4%		Anthony Dolland	PF	350	2.0%
					Gary Griffith	NTA	334	1.9%
					Marcus Ramkissoon	THC	27	0.2%
<b>COUVA SOUTH</b>								
Barry Shiva Padarath	UNC	13122	73.6%					
Aaron Mohammed	PNM	3763	21.1%		<b>CARONI EAST</b>			
Imran Gokool	PF	955	5.4%	√	Rishad Seecheran	UNC	13957	80.8%
					Leena Rampersad	PNM	2757	16.0%
					Danielle Grell	PF	561	3.2%
<b>TOCO/SANGRE GRANDE</b>								
Wayne Sturge	UNC	9728	55.2%					
Roger Monroe	PNM	7363	41.8%		<b>ST. AUGUSTINE</b>			
Elizabeth Wharton	PF	385	2.2%	√	Khadijah Ameen	UNC	12664	73.8%
Christine Newallo-Hosein	NTA	143			Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal	PNM	3865	22.5%
					Daniel Maharaj	PF	481	2.8%
					Vera Dookie-Ramlal	NTA	129	0.8%
<b>LA HORQUETTA/TALPARO</b>					Christopher Mathura	THC	29	0.2%
Phillip Watts	UNC	9585	56.7%					
Foster Cummings	PNM	6712	39.7%					
Rekeisha Francois	PF	502	3.0%		<b>SIPARIA</b>			
Alvin Cudjoe	NTA	107	0.6%	√	Kamla Persad-Bissessar	UNC	13900	83.3%
					Natasha Mohammed	PNM	2412	14.5%
					Judy Sookdeo	PF	374	2.2%

## APPENDIX III (CONTINUED)

## RESULTS/ELECTED CANDIDATES

		Political Party	Votes	%			Political Party	Votes	%
	<b>OROPOUCHE EAST</b>					<b>TUNAPUNA</b>			
√	Roodal Moonilal	UNC	13649	81.8%	√	Roger Alexander	UNC	8466	53.0%
	Richard Ragbir	PNM	2264	13.6%		Esmond Forde	PNM	6943	43.5%
	Danny Jadoonanan	PF	771	4.6%		Aleksei Henry	PF	413	2.6%
						Savita Pierre	NTA	127	0.8%
						Leshawn Gopee	THC	28	0.2%
	<b>FYZABAD</b>								
√	Davendranath Tancoo	UNC	11396	69.5%					
	Kheron Khan	PNM	4454	27.2%		<b>MAYARO</b>			
	Naomi Gopeesingh	PF	539	3.3%	√	Wilfred Nicholas Morris	UNC	11241	70.4%
						Beatrice Bridgelal	PNM	4381	27.4%
						Brittney Williams	PF	347	2.2%
	<b>AROUCA/LOPINOT</b>								
√	Marvin Gonzales	PNM	7958	48.7%					
	Natalie Chaitan-Maharaj	UNC	7699	47.1%		<b>MALABAR/MAUSICA</b>			
	Kenny Lee	PF	537	3.0%	√	Dominic Romain	PNM	7691	48.2%
	Nicolene Taylor-Chinchamee	NTA	146	1.0%		Dominic Smith	UNC	7437	46.6%
						Anita Hankey	PF	834	5.2%
	<b>CHAGUANAS EAST</b>								
√	Vandana Mohit	UNC	10097	62.8%		<b>NAPARIMA</b>			
	Richie Sookhai	PNM	5317	33.1%	√	Narendra Roopnarine	UNC	13649	86.6%
	Afifah Mohammed	PF	487	3.0%		Sarah Nangoo	PNM	1650	10.5%
	Norman Dindial	NTA	125	0.8%		Fariyal Mohammed-Lalchan	PF	462	2.9%
	Ernesto Singh	IND	47	0.3%					
	<b>TABAQUITE</b>				√	<b>PRINCES TOWN</b>			
√	Sean Sobers	UNC	11615	73.90%		Aiyana Ali	UNC	11852	75.50%
	Marisha Alvarado	PM	3436	21.90%		Rocklyn Mohammed	PNM	3340	21.30%
	Amzad Mohammed	PF	668	4.20%		Sacha Mangroo	PF	510	3.20%
						<b>TRINCITY/MALONEY</b>			
	<b>CLAXTON BAY</b>				√	Camille Robinson-Regis	PNM	9858	64.50%
√	Hansen Narinesingh	UNC	9969	64.60%		Richard Smith	UNC	4443	29.10%
	Mukesh Ramsingh	PNM	4934	32.00%		Jamel Hunte	PF	987	6.50%
	Thelston Jagoo	PF	530	3.40%					
						<b>SAN FERNANDO WEST</b>			
	<b>OROPOUCHE WEST</b>				√	Michael Dowlath	UNC	7341	50.60%
√	Lackram Bodoie	UNC	11882	80.90%		Faris Al-Rawi	PNM	6638	45.70%
	Shawn Dube	PNM	2349	16.00%		Nnika Ramnanan	PF	450	3.10%
	Alisha Mohammed	PF	451	3.10%		Kevin Sarran	NTA	44	0.30%
						Denile Joseph	APP	28	0.20%
						Katryna Browne	NCT	17	0.10%

## APPENDIX III (CONTINUED)

## RESULTS/ELECTED CANDIDATES

		Political Party	Votes	%			Political Party	Votes	%
	<b>TOBAGO WEST</b>					<b>BARATARIA/SAN JUAN</b>			
√	Joel Sampson	TPP	6713	46.90%	√	Saddam Hosein	UNC	8887	62.90%
	Shamfa Cudjoe-Lewis	PNM	6604	46.10%		Muhammad Ibrahim	PNM	4742	33.60%
	Curtis Douglas	PDP	608	4.20%		Steffon Boodooram	PF	365	2.60%
	Aretha Clarke	PF	154	1.10%		Da Vvian Bain	NTA	97	0.70%
	Dexter James	APP	87	0.60%		Joshua Faltine	APP	37	0.30%
	Kaye Trotman	IDA	61	0.40%					
	Leroy George	IND	38	0.30%					
	Nickocy Phillips	UTP	37	0.30%		<b>ARIMA</b>			
	Ricardo Phillips	CARM	22	0.20%	√	Penelope Beckles	PNM	7055	50.00%
						Nigel Moses	UNC	6356	45.00%
						Jemima Lezama-Redhead	PF	520	3.60%
	<b>POINT FORTIN</b>					Shekinah Sirju	NTA	152	1.10%
√	Ernesto Raymond Kesar UNC		7293	51.80%		Nalini Dial	NCT	38	0.30%
	Kennedy Jr Kendel Richards PNM		6509	46.20%					
	Errol Fabien NTA		203	1.40%					
	Sheldon Khan APP		81	0.60%		<b>LA BREA</b>			
					√	Clyde Elder	UNC	7001	50.90%
						Randall Mitchell	PNM	6262	45.50%
	<b>SAN FERNANDO EAST</b>					Carla Garcia	PF	413	3.00%
√	Brian Hayden Manning	PNM	7017	50.60%		Renision Jeffrey	APP	53	0.40%
	John Michael Ali Bocas	UNC	6344	45.80%		Francis Morean	HM	24	0.20%
	Kenrick Serrette	PF	502	3.60%					
						<b>DIEGO MARTIN CENTRAL</b>			
	<b>ST. ANN'S EAST</b>				√	Symon De Nobriga	PNM	7409	56.60%
√	Nyan Gatsby-Dolly	PNM	7472	55.60%		Keron Thomas	UNC	4600	35.10%
	Gerrard Small	OP	4263	31.70%		Russell Chan	NTA	1085	8.30%
	Kerron Brathwaite	PF	1242	9.20%					
	Jason Reece-Roper	NTA	472	3.50%					
						<b>DIEGO MARTIN NORTH EAST</b>			
					√	Colm Imbert	PNM	7064	56.20%
	<b>TOBAGO EAST</b>					Brendon Butts	PEP	3525	28.10%
√	David Thomas	TPP	7144	57.10%		Chelsie Sedeno	PF	708	5.60%
	Ayanna Webster-Roy	PNM	4396	35.10%		Salim George	NTA	565	4.50%
	Watson Duke	PDP	788	6.30%		Garvin Nicholas	MND	556	4.40%
	Wade Caruth	PF	99	0.80%		Christine Soden	APP	145	1.20%
	Gerard Balfour	IDA	82	0.70%					

## APPENDIX III (CONTINUED)

### RESULTS/ELECTED CANDIDATES

		Political Party	Votes	%			Political Party	Votes	%
	<b>DIEGO MARTIN WEST</b>					<b>LAVENTILLE EAST/MORVANT</b>			
√	Hans Des Vignes	PNM	7703	62.60%	√	Christian Birchwood	PNM	5837	59.80%
	Janice Learmond-Criqui	PEP	3257	26.50%		Robert Mitchell	UNC	3270	33.50%
	Marsha Walker	NTA	1336	10.90%		Christopher Alexander	PF	577	
						Steve Stephens	APP	75	0.80%
	<b>PORT OF SPAIN NORTH/ST. ANN'S WEST</b>								
√	Stuart Young	PNM	7243	67.30%		<b>PORT OF SPAIN SOUTH</b>			
	Phillip Alexander	PEP	2597	24.10%	√	Keith C Scotland	PNM	5523	60.20%
	Vivian Johnson	IND	478	4.40%		Kirt Sinnette	COP	2218	24.20%
	Richard Thomas	NTA	443	4.10%		Dr. Winzy Adams	PF	670	7.30%
						Gail Gonsalves Castanada	NTA	352	
						Fuad Abu Bakr	NNV	268	2.90%
	<b>LAVENTILLE WEST</b>					Kezel Jackson	APP	149	1.60%
√	Kareem Marcelle	PNM	6096	69.10%					
	Rodney Stowe	UNC	2291	26.00%					
	Nathaniel Thomas	PF	429	4.90%					

## APPENDIX IV

## **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

By way of letter dated 10 December 2024, CARICOM was invited by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to deploy an Election Observation Mission to observe the Parliamentary Elections to be held in 2025.

A twelve (12) member CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM) arrived in Trinidad and Tobago on 21 April and will depart on 30 April 2025. The Mission is comprised of nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and supported by staff from the CARICOM Secretariat.

The CEOM's primary role is to observe preparations for the conduct of the Parliamentary Elections and to provide an independent, impartial, and honest assessment of the electoral process, taking account of all factors that may impinge on the overall credibility and transparency of the elections.

It is noted that the elections had 161 candidates representing 17 political parties.

Prior to and on Election Day, the team observed the Special Voting in addition to the procedure for the sorting of special envelopes and the intermixing of ballots on Election Day.

The CEOM also engaged with various stakeholders including the Elections and Boundaries Commission, representatives of political parties, trade unions, civil society, religious bodies, academia, other institutions, and the media.

On polling day, the team visited 202 polling stations across 12 constituencies, including in Tobago. The team observed the polling activities, which included the opening of the polls, the voting process, the closing of the polls, and the counting of ballots.

Based on the team's observations, the pre-poll and opening procedures were followed. The polls were opened on time in the polling districts. All polling stations observed were fully staffed and most had at least two Polling Agents present. Most polling stations were conveniently located and easily accessible to the voters, although in some instances, it was noted that accessibility presented challenges for persons with disabilities, and the elderly. The Mission further observed that there was a sufficient supply of the required voting materials at all polling stations.

Additionally, the Mission noted that there were few queues at the opening of the poll. The CEOM observed that voting proceeded in a peaceful and orderly manner. Most polling stations were divided

into two streams, which aided queue management.

In all polling stations visited, a sample of the ballot paper and relevant instructions were clearly displayed. Signage was also visibly displayed outside polling stations.

Adequate police security was in place at all locations visited. The polling officials conducted their duties with professionalism, transparency, diligence, and dedication. They were helpful to voters especially the elderly and persons with disabilities.

This contributed to the level of calm which accompanied the day's activities. Generally, the poll workers were focused as they steadily carried out the required procedures, thereby ensuring that all eligible electors who turned out to vote were able to exercise their franchise.

The initial assessment of Election Day activities by the CEOM is that the voters were able to cast their ballots without intimidation or fear, and that the results of the 28 April 2025 Parliamentary Elections reflect the will of the electorate of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Mission extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for its assistance and congratulates the staff of the Elections and Boundaries Commission; poll workers; the political parties and their candidates; stakeholders; the security forces and the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on the level of maturity displayed in the conduct of the Election Day activities.

Finally, we thank the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for their warm welcome and cooperation, which contributed to the success of the Mission.

A full Report will be prepared by the Chief of the CEOM for submission to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

**IAN S. HUGHES**  
**CHIEF OF MISSION**  
**CARICOM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION**

**29 April 2025**