



CARICOM ELECTORAL OBSERVER MISSION TO THE BY-ELECTIONS IN THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, 4-9 AUGUST 2003 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission was mounted at the invitation of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands to monitor the conduct of the by-elections in Five Cays and South Caicos on 7 August 2003.

In the Mission's assessment, the by-elections were conducted in a free and peaceful manner and good spirit. The process was transparent and the secrecy of the ballot was respected. The polling officials managed the process fairly and competently. The vote count was carried out accurately and efficiently in the presence of the candidates and their agents.

Based on its observations, the results reflect the will of the electorate in the two constituencies. The CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission noted the quick acceptance of the results by the candidates and agents who witnessed the vote count.

The electors are to be commended for their high turnout and for the orderly and patient conduct displayed. The turnout reflects a strong commitment to the democratic process.

A full report on the Mission's findings along with recommendations will be submitted to the CARICOM Secretary-General.

The CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission would like to thank the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the courtesies extended to the Mission. The Mission would also like to extend its appreciation to the Government Officials, the Supervisor of Elections and her staff, as well as to the Polling Officials for their cooperation.

CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission
Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands
8 August 2003