

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION (NGO) COALITION:

**St. Kitts Christian Council
St. Kitts Evangelical Association
St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce Inc**



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**OBSERVER REPORT**

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on

St. Kitts and Nevis General Election

held

Monday, January 25, 2010

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NGO COALITION REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Coalition is comprised by the Evangelical Association and Christian Council of St. Kitts, and the St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce. This tripartite group has existed, based on an *ad hoc* arrangement, since 1993 when it published initial guidelines for the electoral process in the General Elections. Over the years, the group has collaborated to lend its voice to a number of civic and national security endeavours, including the political climate, rallies and marches, social stability, public safety, and a national response to rising crime.

In March 2009, the NGOs took the step of institutionalising their long standing relationship into a formal structure that has since been dubbed the NGO Coalition. In preparation for General Elections which were constitutionally due by March 2010, the NGO Coalition revisited and updated its ***Code of Conduct for the Political Process: Ethical Guidelines*** and appealed to the leaders of the major political parties and independent candidates to co-sign the document along with the leadership of the NGO Coalition on both islands. The Code, *inter alia*, sets out guidelines for The Electoral Commission; Candidates for Election, their Associates and Supporters; Voters; and The Media. The NGO Coalition also decided that monitoring of ***The Code*** would have been a new feature for the General Election campaign and, as such, a sub-committee was established to monitor political meetings, advertising and marketing materials from political parties, statements made and releases issued by the political parties, and media coverage in general. Blatant abuses of the tenets of ***The Code*** were identified and condemned by the NGO Coalition in a steady stream of news releases that were issued to all media outlets. In a number of instances letters were also written to offending parties and key stakeholders in the election process, some of which resulted in meetings as a means of gaining clarity, making unbiased observations, and seeking explanations for particular actions or statements.

By the time of the announcement of the date for the General Election by the Prime Minister on January 7, 2010, a total of two political parties on St. Kitts and one Nevis had signed ***The Code***, along with two independent candidates. On St. Kitts ***The Code*** was endorsed by Mr Lindsay Grant, Leader of the People's Action Movement (PAM) (who signed first) and Hon Dr Denzil Douglas, Leader of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party. Hon Vance Amory, Leader of the Concerned Citizens' Movement (CCM) also signed the document. Regrettably, due to prolonged scheduling conflicts ***The Code*** was not endorsed by the Hon Joseph Parry, Leader of the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) prior to the General Election.

In an unprecedented move, the Electoral Commission, at the request of the NGO Coalition, allowed the group to participate in the monitoring of the General Election as observers. As such, the NGO Coalition Observers constituted one of four observer groups in the Federation, the other three being from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organisation of American States (OAS), and CARICOM. To facilitate this assignment the NGO Coalition also participated in a national orientation for observers and election officials in the week prior to Polling Day, January 25, 2010.

This report aims at reporting on the observations of the NGO Coalition group at the various polling stations in all eight (8) constituencies on St. Kitts. Attempts to engage our counterparts in Nevis to conduct a similar exercise proved unsuccessful.

2. SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

It was agreed by the NGO Coalition that its Observer Team would be garnered from members of the clergy; the Chamber of Commerce would not constitute part of this team as it was generally felt that the presence of easily recognisable ministers of religion may have (a) prompted immediate recognition by voters and polling agents, etc. and (b) encouraged voters, politicians and polling station staff to act in a calm and/or consistently professional manner. It was further agreed that two (2) ministers of religion would have been assigned to each constituency and were expected to observe, as far as possible, the conduct of the poll at all polling stations in the constituencies. Such observation, it was understood, would run the gamut of Election Day activities: from reporting on the queues of voters, to the counting of the votes once polling stations were closed.

In an effort to synchronise the work of the NGO Observer Team a preparatory meeting had been held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 for all observers. Most of the observers were in attendance at the meeting.

3. OBSERVATIONS & ACTIVITIES OF THE NGO OBSERVER TEAM

3.1 OBSERVERS' ASSIGNMENT TO CONSTITUENCIES & POLLING DIVISIONS *(Please see Addendum pages 13-14)*

3.2 OPENING OF THE POLL

It was unanimously agreed that the poll was opened on time, precisely at 7:00 a.m. The normal procedures appeared to have been followed, including the full inspection of ballot boxes and papers by political party agents and election observers.

3.3 POLLING DIVISIONS

Full access to the polling divisions was provided to all voters. Voting booths in each polling division also appeared to have been properly secured and well-constructed, which provided a measure of privacy for each voter casting his/her vote. The Voters' Lists were prominently located in all polling divisions. There was also evidence in most cases that random checks were been conducted by

political party agents, and electoral officials to ensure congruity between the "official list" and that which was posted at each polling division. The ballot boxes were locked throughout the entire period of voting i.e. 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in each polling station. There was also evidence that completed ballots were deposited into the ballot boxes once the voters had dipped their index fingers into the electoral ink as proof that they had already cast their vote for their preferred candidate.

A major area of concern for the NGO Observer Teams was the slow progress of voting lines in a number of constituencies, especially in Constituency #1 (Jubilee Stadium, Bird Rock, Basseterre) and Constituency 5 (New Athletic Stadium, Cleverly Hill, Sandy Point). In the case of the former, it was observed that some voters had been forced to wait more than four (4) hours to cast their votes, while in the case of the latter there was extreme waiting: persons who had been in the line since 7:00 a.m. when the polls opened were unable to vote before 12:45 p.m. These inordinately long delays were exacerbated by intermittent rain showers during which time most polling stations could not provide adequate shelter for voters. It was also realised that most polling stations did not make provision for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Bathroom facilities in a number of polling stations also appeared to be inadequate or non-existent. Commendations were extended to polling divisions in Constituency 7, however, where the elderly had been accorded preferential access to the polls regardless of their arrival time in the voting queues.

There was cause for concern in a number of constituencies regarding the appropriateness of some polling divisions. It was particularly noticeable in Constituency 7 that a makeshift building had been used as a polling station in Lodge Village.

The NGO Observers noticed that there was a very strong presence of the military in Constituency 4 (Old Road, Half Way Tree, Middle Island & Verchilds) and Constituency 5 (Sandy Point/Fig Tree). Similar concerns were vehemently expressed by voters in these constituencies. In Constituency 4 the Defence Force personnel were also outfitted in riot gear with M16 rifles. This strong military presence evoked a sense of unease and discomfort among voters and observer teams, and thereby betrayed the desired goal of free and fair elections that were free from fear. Such a strong military presence was generally felt to be unwarranted.

As polling day activities waned and evening approached it was also clear that in some constituencies lighting was inadequate. The headlights from security vehicles were used, in a number of cases, to light the pathway of the police and election officials as they engaged in the process of transferred sealed ballot boxes from the polling divisions to the central counting location.

3.4 ELECTORAL PERSONNEL

Throughout the conduct of the poll electoral personnel appeared to have a clear understanding of their respective roles in the process. However, there appeared to be noticeable inconsistencies in the administration of residency oaths in some polling divisions. A major altercation in Constituency 4 (Polling station at Old Road Police Station) between a political party agent for PAM and the Presiding Officer demonstrated the need to ensure that party agents and party officials receive the same training as electoral officials. (The incident cited above had been broadcast in its entirety by one major media house, namely WINN FM, and was witnessed by an NGO Observer Team member. The Observers expressed the view that, in their opinion, the vociferous and argumentative conduct of the electoral official was unnecessary and that the matter could have been handled with tactfulness.)

3.5 POLITICAL PARTY AGENTS

Agents for all of the political parties were strategically positioned in the polling stations in order to hear and observe instructions being given to voters by presiding officers and polling clerks. However, care had been taken to position the voting booths in such a manner that would have prevented party agents (and electoral officials) from viewing the voters as they cast their votes. In at least one polling division within Constituency 3 it was the Observers' view that the over-involvement of one party agent was such that the individual could have easily been assumed to be a staff member of the polling division.

In Constituency 4 there was noticeable inequity in the treatment of agents for PAM.

3.6 VOTERS

It was generally felt that voters conducted themselves with maturity, calm, and patience during the entire democratic process. Such decorum is commendable, given the taxing conditions some voters endured while waiting in long lines, and standing in intermittent showers. This stoicism is demonstrative of the voters' commitment to fully participate in the exercise of their franchise.

In a number of constituencies, but particularly Constituencies 4 and 5, voters were extremely concerned about the presence of voters in their queues who were not residents of the communities in which they were voting. In all of the cases where such concerns were expressed it was noted that such questionable voters were normally resident in St. Paul's (Constituency 6). When challenged, these voters admitted to being normally resident in St. Paul's but were registered in other constituencies. These voter concerns were presented to both security personnel and members of the various observer teams. It was noted that in

most, if not all, of these instances of voter irregularities voters confronted those who were found to be voting outside of their home constituencies. When such confrontations occurred it resulted in noise which security personnel were forced to address from time to time.

Major concerns were raised by a number of voters and security personal about the disruption of the poll in Constituency 4 (Half Way Tree) by the presence of the Labour Party candidate for Constituency 6. The candidate appeared to have been fully participating in some of the altercations surrounding the presence of St. Paul's residents in election lines for Constituency 4. Eye witness testimony affirm that the candidate was adamant that such St. Paul residents, who are actually residents in his home Constituency 6, should be allowed to vote regardless of the fact that they did not reside anywhere in Constituency 4. This disruptive presence by Dr Denzil Douglas was responsible, in large measure for the prolonged interruption of traffic flow in and out of Half Way Tree, resulting in some motorists and voters having to detour through treacherous terrain in the farmlands of Half Way Tree in order to arrive on time at home or at the polls. Voters felt that instances such as this should not be allowed to happen and set a bad example for our people when the Head of the Government is facilitating and advocating voter irregularities of this nature. Some voters said that such situations only added to the difficulty in getting our young people to look up to Government leaders as role models when they are actually undeserving of the respect they demand.

The NGO Observers witnessed a conversation between Dr Denzil Douglas and the military, in which he berated them for their failure to collect voters from Constituency 6 in order for them to vote in Constituencies 4 and 5.

Most of the disruptive incidents took place in Constituency 4 during the afternoon period of the poll.

3.7 THE POLL

The poll was generally conducted in the following manner: voters would enter the polling station; they were asked to state their name and present their Voter Identification Card to the Polling Clerk. Once the Polling Clerk was satisfied with the voter's identity he/she was then given a ballot and the requisite completion instructions prior to approaching the voting booth. Upon completion of the ballot, the voter would return same to the Returning Officer who then instructed the voter to immerse his/her finger in the electoral ink prior to the completed ballot being placed in the slot of the locked ballot box. Following completion of the foregoing, the voter was then instructed on how to egress the polling station. This voting sequence was repeated throughout the day until the polls closed in each constituency. In cases where constituency residency was questioned a residency oath was administered by an electoral official.

A number of irregularities were noted in Constituency 8 (Conaree) with the major one being that a female voter had been given a ballot that was completed prior to her entry into the voting booth. The voter reported this incident to various polling officials, including a member of the NGO Observer Team. The voter indicated that she proceeded to return the completed ballot to the Presiding Officer in spite of the pre-made mark as, she claimed, the mark represented a vote for the candidate whom she intended to elect.

It was observed that polling divisions in a few constituencies were open until well past the stipulated 6:00 p.m. cut-off time, in order to make up for the inordinate delays that were experienced at those constituencies. This was most noticeable in Constituency 5 (New Athletic Stadium) where polling continued until almost 9:00 p.m.

Blatant violations of electoral regulations by some voters were observed in a number of constituencies. It was evident that some voters entered the polling division with sizeable bags and cell phones. These items are clearly considered to be contraband, indicating that some electoral officials were not as vigilant as they should have been.

In a number of constituencies there appeared to be incongruence between the "Official Voters List" and those provided to political party agents and electoral officials.

It is to be noted that the NGO Coalition Observers were present at all Polling Divisions for the duration of the poll.

3.8 CLOSURE OF THE POLL

The NGO Observer Team notes that the prescribed procedures for closing of the poll were followed to the letter by the Presiding Officers. Arrangements for the collection of ballot boxes and related materials also appeared to be smoothly conducted. However, as noted earlier, there were instances where the transfer of boxes from some polling divisions to the central counting station could have been compromised by poor lighting. NGO Observer Team considers the use of security vehicle headlights in such instances to be both inappropriate and risky.

3.9 THE COUNT

Prescribed procedures for the counting of ballots appeared to have been followed, as a number of NGO Observer Team members witnessed this process for their respective constituencies. Present for this exercise were the Returning Officer, political party agents for the various candidates, a Tally Clerk, two security personnel and election observers from the three observer teams.

The counting of ballots was generally conducted in a transparent and open manner, and with the absence of bias when questionable ballots were being scrutinized. The counting of votes in a number of constituencies proved, however, to be an inordinately long process. It appeared that this was due, in large measure, to the need for re-counts in those constituencies that returned close election results for candidates. In cases where disagreements occurred over the Tally Clerk's count, re-counts were justified. In the case of Constituencies 5 and 8 on St. Kitts these occurrences were noticeably evident as official results for these constituencies were not announced before 2:15 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. on January 26, 2010, respectively.

There was evidence that the counting of ballots was conducted in a manner that sought to ensure that voter franchises were not being denied in spite of some improper completion of the ballot paper. Example: in cases where voters placed a tick ☑ instead of an ✕ in the desired candidate's box the vote was considered as being properly applied as the intention of the voter was clear. Similar considerations were also given when (a) part of the ✕ appeared to be barely outside the perimeter of the voting box and (b) the ✕ occupied the entire box.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- There should be greater efforts at public education on electoral laws and procedures so that voters, electoral officials and party agents can fully understand their individual and collective roles and responsibilities. This would also reduce (a) the instances of spoilt or rejected ballots; (b) the need to arrest and charge voters for violations; and (c) disagreements between electoral officials and party agents on Election Day.
- Provision should be made for identical orientation and training of all election officials, observer teams, and political party agents to facilitate congruency in election norms and regulations. Interpersonal skills training may also be appropriate – to avert instances such as the incident at the Old Road Police Station that was cited earlier in the text.
- Electoral laws should be changed prior to the next General Election in order to eliminate voter irregularities insofar as voting in appropriate constituencies are concerned. The excuse that someone should be allowed to vote wherever they had been registered without the Electoral Office verifying residency prior to the issue of Voter ID Cards is entirely inappropriate. Such a system merely encourages dishonesty that has been facilitated by electoral regulations. The onus should be on the Electoral Office to ascertain voter residency via the presentation of utility bills, land and house tax receipts, or accurate and up to date census data. The registration officers should be required to verify voters' residency declarations. Should the current system be allowed to continue it would make a mockery out of the presence of outside observer teams who may be fooled into thinking that the elections are free and fair when they are really

arriving in the Federation well after the voter fraud has been committed, and then protected, by the issue of Voter ID Cards.

- An immediate exercise must be conducted to obtain an accurate voter registry once electoral laws are tightened. If this does not happen, then matters such as the selection of jurors from the Official Voters' List would also prove problematic: election law offenders who are registered outside of their residency constituencies will never be served summons for jury duty as High Court officials would be unable to locate them.
- Efforts must be made well in advance of each General Election to ensure that all polling divisions are properly outfitted with covered walk-ways for voter queues, bathroom facilities, and wheelchair access and railings for persons with disability. Provisions should also be made to facilitate voting among the elderly. Makeshift polling divisions should also not be allowed under any circumstances.
- There should be an increase in the number of polling divisions within certain stations containing large numbers of voters. This is urgently required in Constituencies 1, 4 and 5. Such an increase will facilitate the speedy processing of voters through each polling station. There should also be a specific limit in the number of voters assigned to each polling division.
- There should be a serious review of the need for the presence of Defence Force personnel in riot gear toting M16 rifles. The people of St. Kitts and Nevis are not inherently violent. They should be treated as civilised persons and not be made to feel that they are approaching the polls in a state of fear. St. Kitts and Nevis is a free country that once boasted, in successive years during the 1980s, at being acclaimed the World's Freest Nation.
- It was clearly observed by the NGO Observers in Constituency 4 that military vehicles of the Defence Force were being used to transport voters from St. Paul's to polling stations in Constituencies 4 and 5. This is an abuse of state assets, and is certainly biased, given the fact that these voters appeared to be supporters of the ruling St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party. Since similar courtesies were not accorded the voters sympathetic to the PAM and independent candidates such a practice should be condemned even more vehemently and discontinued.
- As noted earlier, major concerns were raised about the disruption of the poll in Constituency 4 (Half Way Tree) by the presence of Labour Party candidate for Constituency 6. [The candidate appeared to have been fully participating in some of the altercations surrounding the presence of St. Paul's residents in the voting lines. It was evident that the candidate made his presence felt, in an effort to ensure that his St. Paul's constituents were allowed to vote wherever they wished. It was further noted that the candidate's disruptive presence in Half Way Tree was responsible for prolonged periods of traffic interruption in and out of the

area. In some cases voters and motorists were forced to detour into farmland terrain at the back of the village in an attempt to get home or to the polls on time.] The NGO Coalition is firmly of the view that no politician – even if he is Prime Minister – should conduct himself in such a manner. Moreover, as Head of the Government the Prime Minister should always be cognizant of his function, intentional or otherwise, as a role model. Government leaders should also realise that respect is earned and that it would be difficult to squeeze such respect out of young, impressionable citizens who are fully aware of the unacceptable manner in which some of them conduct their professional lives.

- Serious consideration should be given to discontinuing the practice of using the Old Road Health Centre as a polling station. The locale is too small and, as such, contributes to stagnancy in the progress of voter queues.
- Favourable consideration should be given to incorporating technology upgrades in voting. The time is long overdue for electronic voting in order to expedite the process. The NGO Coalition considers it rather inexcusable that in an age of information the final election results are being reported more than 25 hours after polling began, in a population of approximately 50,000 wherein less than 30,000 are eligible voters.
- It is recommended that preliminary counting of ballots should be done at each polling station in an effort to expedite the announcement of election results.
- It is further recommended that for future elections an independent, internationally recognised accounting/audit firm be contracted to oversee the counting of the ballots. This will go a long way in demonstrating the tenets of good governance in our democratic process.
- The NGO Coalition recommends that the Supervisor of Elections and his team conduct mock exercises prior to the election, in order to ascertain the average time needed for each voter to cast his/her vote. These empirical exercises will enable the Electoral Office to make the necessary provisions to ensure that the processing of voters is handled in an efficient manner. It is the considered opinion of the NGO Coalition that, had this been done, it may have resulted in the addition of polling stations in those polling divisions with large voter populations such as Constituency 5 (New Athletic Stadium) and Constituency 1 (Jubilee Stadium).
- Consideration should also be given to creating a separate polling station for Frigate Bay residents. The Frigate Bay community is significant and therefore its residents/voters should not be voting in an already enlarged polling station at the Jubilee Stadium (Constituency 1).
- Better arrangements must be made for staff rotation at polling divisions so that electoral staff can easily have bathroom and lunch breaks. It was noted in a number of constituencies that electoral staff had to cease operations if a member of their team had to use the restroom. In Constituency 5 (Sandy Point Police

Station) the Presiding Officer was openly eating his lunch from a disposable container – at his station – as he did not have time or opportunity to consume his meal in a private location.

- Care must be taken to ensure that the “Official List” and the voters’ list being used by political party agents are identical. There were a number of instances where objections were raised by party agents over voters whose names were not on their voters’ lists but appeared on the “Official List”. Such inconsistencies conjure an air of irregularity and loss of confidence in the electoral process.

5. CONCLUSIONS

It was generally agreed that the elections were conducted in a free and fair manner in most instances. The NGO Observer Team considered participation in the exercise to be educational. The NGO Coalition recommends that the various observer mission reports be thoroughly reviewed with a view to implementing well needed improvements in our electoral process prior to the next General Election.

It is with concern that the NGO Coalition notes that a number of its issues and concerns with the election – as well as a number of its recommendations – were repetitions of what transpired in previous elections. A review of the October 2004 Commonwealth Observer Mission Report bears this out as well.¹ However, along that same vein, the NGO Coalition also notes the final recommendation in that document which remarked at the “need for strengthening the role of civic organisations in the democratic process.”² This recommendation has certainly been respected as, for the first time in our Nation’s history, the NGO Coalition was able to participate as election observers. The remainder of the afore-mentioned recommendation spoke to the possibility of civil society approaching the Commonwealth Foundation with a request for capacity building technical assistance in an effort to improve the role of the NGO Community in the electoral and democratic processes. This is a recommendation that the NGO Coalition will certainly be taking seriously in order to strengthen its voice and its capacity to meaningfully contribute to the national development agenda.


..... 12/02/10
CHAIRMAN, ST. KITTS CHRISTIAN
COUNCIL


..... 12-02-10
CHAIRMAN, ST. KITTS EVANGELICAL
ASSOCIATION


..... 12-2-10
PRESIDENT, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS
CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

¹ The Report of the Commonwealth Expert Team – Commonwealth Secretariat: pages 27-28 (October 2004)

² Ibid

ADDENDUM

6.1 MAP OF ST. KITTS [OUTLINING PLACEMENT OF NGO OBSERVERS & ELECTORAL DISTRICTS]



CONSTITUENCY ASSIGNMENT OF NGO OBSERVER TEAM

NGO Observers
Pastor Pendol Doyle
Arch. Valentine Hodge
Fr Isaiah Phillip
Bishop Ron Dublin-Collins
Pastor Ericson Cumberbatch
Pastor George Gilfillan
Fr Elroy Zakers
Rev. Marcella Ephraim
Major Ronald Ellis
Rev. Sylvester Herbert
Pastor Bernard Roland
Rev. Dr Eustace Rawlings
Rev. Jeremy Francis
Fr. Jan Pastuszczak
Pastor Judah Payne
Rev. Leroy Matthew

6.2 - CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR
THE POLITICAL PROCESS:

Ethical Guidelines Issued by



St. Kitts Christian Council
P O Box 1269, St. Kitts

Nevis Christian Council
P O Box 71, Nevis

St. Kitts Evangelical Association
P O Box 1368, St. Kitts

Nevis Evangelical Association
P O Box 445, Nevis

St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of
Industry & Commerce
P O Box 332, St. Kitts



October 2009

GENERAL ELECTIONS

ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct for the Political Process which was issued in 1993, and revised in 1995, the St. Kitts Christian Council, the St. Kitts Evangelical Association, the Nevis Christian Council, the Nevis Evangelical Association, and the St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce now issue Guidelines for Elections in St. Kitts and Nevis.

In our democracy, different strategies for social and economic development will be presented by the various political parties, and it is the people's right to make a choice through the process of General Elections. It is therefore the responsibility of all political leaders to propose the best way forward for all, especially for the poor or oppressed or marginalised.

However, electioneering is potentially divisive, and in the heat of campaigning it may be forgotten that we are one people. The following guidelines are being proposed in the interest of mature campaigning and fair and free elections. We therefore call on all concerned to accept and adhere to them:

TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- ❖ The Electoral Commission should be transparent and impartial.
- ❖ Ensure that any person who is eligible to vote and does so apply is properly registered.
- ❖ Any person who is eligible and properly registered to vote should not be denied the right to vote.
- ❖ Ensure that the Supervisor of Elections and persons assisting him in any manner perform their duties in accordance with the law.

TO CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION, THEIR ASSOCIATES AND SUPPORTERS

- ❖ Candidates in any General Election need to justify their suitability by presenting proposals for the betterment of St. Kitts and Nevis, its people and land, and its interaction with the Caribbean region and the world.
- ❖ The emphasis must be on issues rather than personalities. Candidates must also avoid defamation of character of their opponents, their families and supporters.
- ❖ No abusive attacks or innuendos may be directed to campaigners or their family members for reason of their political affiliation, race, social origins and background, education, gender, religion, or any other reason.
- ❖ Candidates must seek to be truthful about the past and present socio-economic state of St. Kitts and Nevis.
- ❖ Candidates must avoid raising unfulfillable expectations and making unrealistic promises.

- ❖ Care must be taken not to incite sectional hostility or violence.
- ❖ To further demonstrate political maturity and foster unity among the people, Parties not forming the Government should appeal to the Nation via the media to respect and acknowledge the Government formed by the due process of the Constitution of the Federation. Likewise, Government ministers must also respect themselves and their opponents, since respect is earned and not an entitlement.
- ❖ Campaign slogans and the like, affixed to walls, poles, etcetera, should be such as are easily removable when campaigning ends. Special care should be taken to avoid defacing historic sites.
- ❖ No one shall prevent the distribution of leaflets and the display of posters, of other parties and candidates; and shall not deface or destroy the posters of others.
- ❖ Electoral regulations should be observed and not circumvented.
- ❖ Every person entitled to vote must be able to do so freely. Victimization of persons, interference with employment rights, intimidation, and the enticement with favours are gravely wrong. Persons are entitled to express their political views without fear of persecution or victimization.
- ❖ Avoid language that is abusive, indecent or inflammatory.
- ❖ Respect the freedom of the press.
- ❖ Refrain from excessive alcohol consumption and making alcoholic beverages available at campaign recruitment drives or public meetings.
- ❖ When the election results have been finalized, unsuccessful candidates should accept defeat in the true spirit of sportsmanship and successful candidates should celebrate victory gracefully and humbly.
- ❖ All citizens have a responsibility to obey the law and to promote the maintenance of law and order throughout the Federation.

TO VOTERS

- ❖ It is the individual's fundamental right to vote. A voter should not abstain from voting without good reason.
- ❖ All persons eligible to register should seek at all times to be honest with the information they impart.
- ❖ Do not sell your vote. You thereby forfeit your freedom of choice and devalue your worth as a person.
- ❖ Do not seek to vote more than once.
- ❖ Do not seek to vote in anyone else's name.
- ❖ Exercise your responsibility for the well-being of St. Kitts and Nevis by voting for a candidate of ability and integrity. Integrity would include adherence to the ethical guidelines herein.
- ❖ Integrity, good character, and sound judgement as manifested in your behaviour as a voter is important to the Political Process, and those whom you seek to elect.
- ❖ Vote after serious consideration of all candidates' policies.
- ❖ Each person has a right to his or her views and to support the candidate he or she prefers. Respect must be maintained for the opinion of others.

- ❖ Each voter has a responsibility to obey the law and to promote the maintenance of law and order throughout the Federation.

TO THE MEDIA

- ❖ Report the campaigning honestly and impartially.
- ❖ Ensure that news stories are accurate.
- ❖ Avoid the temptation to sensational reporting.
- ❖ Independent Candidates and Political Parties should be given equal time on the National Broadcasting Service to present their electoral platform. Such airtime should be paid for, not gratis.
- ❖ Election news coverage by state-owned media houses should also be balanced and fair, and not simply reserved for the reporting of the ruling party’s activities. Like their private sector counterparts, state-owned media houses must also distinguish clearly between news and commentary, and should report controversial issues fairly.
- ❖ The media must declare conflicts of interest, real or apparent, and safeguard their independence from Government, commercial and other interests seeking to subvert content for their own purposes.
- ❖ Media workers must conduct themselves professionally while defending freedom of information and resisting distortion, misrepresentation and censorship.

TO BE SIGNED BY LEADERS OF PARTIES

We the undersigned candidates, who in the forthcoming elections will be leading other candidates seeking seats in the National Assembly of St. Kitts and Nevis, approve of the Ethical Guidelines issued by the St. Kitts Christian Council, the St. Kitts Evangelical Association, the Nevis Christian Council, the Nevis Evangelical Association and the St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce, and pledge that we will put unreservedly into effect the guidelines provided for candidates, their associates and supporters, and request those whom we lead to do so.

.....
 Leader
 Concerned Citizens Movement

.....
 Leader
 Nevis Reformation Party

.....
 Leader
 People’s Action Movement

.....
 Leader*
 St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party

.....
 Leader
 United National Empowerment Party

TO BE SIGNED BY INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

I the undersigned candidate, who will be seeking a seat in the National Assembly of St. Kitts and Nevis, approve of the Ethical Guidelines issued by the St. Kitts Christian Council, the St. Kitts Evangelical Association, the Nevis Christian Council, the Nevis Evangelical Association and the St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce and pledge that I will put unreservedly into effect the guidelines provided for candidates, their associates and supporters.

Signature

Name (*Please Print*)

Signature

Name (*Please Print*)

Signature

Name (*Please Print*)

DOCUMENT SIGNED IN OCTOBER 2009 IN THE PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ST. KITTS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL, THE ST. KITTS EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION, THE NEVIS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL, THE NEVIS EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. KITTS AND NEVIS CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE, IN WITNESS OF WHICH THE SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAID ORGANISATIONS HAVE AFFIXED THEIR SIGNATURES BELOW:

.....
NEVIS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

.....
NEVIS EVANGELICAL
ASSOCIATION

.....
ST. KITTS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

.....
ST. KITTS EVANGELICAL
ASSOCIATION

.....
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS CHAMBER OF
INDUSTRY & COMMERCE INC.

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\* ~ **ADDENDUM:** *It should be noted that Dr the Hon Denzil Douglas (Leader of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party) has indicated that he will only endorse the section of this Code of Conduct for which he feels that he and his party are personally responsible i.e. **“TO CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION, THEIR ASSOCIATES AND SUPPORTERS”**. His signature being affixed here is indicative of such conditional endorsement.*

.....  
Leader  
St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party

.....  
Date

### **6.3 - CANDIDATES WHO CONTESTED SEATS IN VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES**

| <b>Electoral District</b> | <b>PAM Candidate</b> | <b>Labour Party Candidate</b> | <b>Independent Candidate</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Constituency 1</b>     | Glenroy Blanchette   | Dr Asim Martin                |                              |
| <b>Constituency 2</b>     | Roy Flemming         | Marcella Liburd               | <u>Elsroy Dorsett</u>        |
| <b>Constituency 3</b>     | Bernard Welsh        | Sam Condor                    |                              |
| <b>Constituency 4</b>     | Lindsay Grant        | Glenroy Phillip               |                              |
| <b>Constituency 5</b>     | Shawn Richards       | Dr Norgen Wilson              |                              |
| <b>Constituency 6</b>     | Junie Hodge          | Dr Denzil Douglas             |                              |
| <b>Constituency 7</b>     | Louis Williams       | Dr Timothy Harris             | Reginald Thomas              |
| <b>Constituency 8</b>     | Eugene Hamilton      | Cedric Liburd                 |                              |