

APPENDIX

IV

Sample
Reports

SAMPLE REPORTS

Monitors frequently publicize their observations in various types of reports. Reporting helps to achieve several objectives, such as contributing to the acceptance of legitimate election results or, in the case of a significantly flawed process, discouraging approval of the results. Reports also provide a historical record of an election's events and of your organization's activities. These records can help future monitors compare the past elections with subsequent electoral processes. Reports may also be useful in advocating electoral reforms, establishing your organization's credibility, recruiting volunteers or obtaining operating funds. This appendix illustrates four reports on different aspects of the electoral process.

REPORT ON THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

The Findings of the Electoral Assistance Bureau on the 1992 Preliminary Voters List represents a report of an investigation on Guyana's voter registration process. Several points are worth noting from this report. First, and most important, is that this report was researched, written and issued in the pre-election period. Publication of an assessment well *before* election day allows time for election administrators to make corrections and to find solutions to problems. It also alerts the citizens and the political parties to potential problems meriting further scrutiny. Second, the monitors in Guyana employed the technique of random sampling, which assisted them in developing a picture of the overall voter registration process without having to review every single entry on the list.

REPORT ON THE MEDIA

Many organizations have undertaken monitoring the media and issuing periodic reports throughout the campaign and election administration processes. The sample reproduced here, the "TV news during the elections," summarizes the findings of the Media Monitoring Project (MMP) regarding the 1994 elections in South Africa. The report was one of several that appeared in MMP's August 1994 journal entitled *Media Mask*. It provides a critical analysis of media coverage, placing particular attention to the amount and type of coverage received by competing political parties.

POST-ELECTION STATEMENT

Immediately following an election, significant pressure is placed on monitoring organizations to publicize their observations. A good post-election statement, such as the 1995 *Study and Research Group of Bangladesh (SRG) Election Observation* statement reproduced in this appendix, expressly acknowledges the preliminary nature of the conclusions it contains and indicates that a more comprehensive report will be issued after the official end of the electoral process. The SRG statement is notable also because it: reports the activities, specific findings (of both problems *and* successes) and general conclusions of the operation in a single page; did *not* publish these generalized conclusions prematurely (i.e., did not rely on incomplete information or isolated incidents); yet was issued soon enough after the elections to have an impact.

INTERIM STATEMENT

The final sample in this appendix comes from Ethiopia. The *Monitoring Mission Summary Report* of the Ethiopian Congress for Democracy (A-Bu-Gi-Da) represents an interim report of the 1994 constitutional assembly elections. An interim report may be issued several days or even weeks after the voting at a time when the voters and contestants are still waiting for an independent assessment of the process. An interim report often provides more complete information (e.g., official election results) and more thorough analysis than is possible in the immediate post-election statement. By its very name, the interim report also suggests that the observers intend to continue monitoring events and may, at a later date, issue a final, comprehensive analysis.

SAMPLE REPORTS

In the Ethiopian Congress for Democracy report, note the special attention paid to describing and assessing the political context in which the elections occurred. This provides an excellent example of a report that balances its evaluation of the administrative and technical process with an analysis of the political progress that was achieved through the electoral process. In Ethiopia's 1994 elections, a number of important political parties boycotted the elections, leaving many citizens and observers uncertain as to the significance of the process. Note also that the authors of the report offered limited, constructive recommendations as to how the elections might be improved from both a technical and political perspective.

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**The Findings of the Electoral Assistance Bureau
on the 1992 Preliminary Voters List**

Among the checks of the current Preliminary Voters List the following represent the results of our investigation.

1. VALIDITY OF POLLING DIVISIONS:

Checks on the 1991 list had revealed the existence of hundreds of polling divisions for which corresponding numbers could not be found in the relevant law. What was also discovered was that a number of well-populated polling divisions had been completely omitted from the list.

In the opinion of Professor Gladstone Mills, member of last year's Delegation of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government, those particular problems alone effectively invalidated the voters list and as such it could not be declared a viable one.

We were therefore particularly careful this time to carry out the same polling division checks and we were pleased to note that all but one polling division stuck precisely to Order No. 47 of 1990, which Order covers the designation of polling divisions.

The single omission was an Amerindian area, Epira, on the Corentyne River, which the current list merged with the neighbouring village, Orealla. We have been informed that the authority for this merger lay in the recommendation of the *Report of the Amerindian Lands Commission*. Since this merger would not prevent anyone in Epira from voting, we find the polling divisions completely acceptable and commend the Elections Commission for this major correction exercise. The merger of these two villages into one Polling Division must however be enacted in law eventually.

On this same question of polling divisions, however, there is one particular observation we need to make and that is on a decision effected in the same 1990 Order to combine several villages on the East Bank Demerara into a single polling division. These villages include Herstellang, Farm, Vreed-en-Rust, Covent Garden, Prospect and Little Diamond.

In this polling division alone the total number of registered voters is 4,024. This figure is exceeded only by nearby Golden Grove which has 4,059 registered voters.

We therefore ask that the Elections Commission pay particular attention to the polling stations for both these Divisions on election

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day as they could obviously present logistical nightmares to voters and election officials alike.

We would also recommend to the Chairman of the Elections Commission (whoever might be so intrepid as to accept this post in the future) that these Divisions be subdivided into units of more manageable numbers before the following elections.

2. ID NUMBER DUPLICATIONS:

Last year our computer check discovered 1700 sets of duplicate or multiple ID numbers on the voters list — a set being two or more persons with the same number. This year we are pleased to see only 28 sets of duplicate IDs.

At least nine of these sets we think actually pertain to nine individuals, and on further checking we have concluded that in two other cases the problem arose because an incorrect ID number had been recorded.

We have drawn these discrepancies to the attention of the Elections Commission and they have promised to have these odd cases investigated and corrected immediately.

We therefore find that the problem of ID duplications, though not absolutely perfected, is not significant enough to be of concern. This exercise is certainly a welcome improvement over last year's fiasco.

3. PERSONS LISTED IN WRONG DIVISIONS:

The number of persons listed in wrong polling divisions last year generated perhaps the most anger among voters, and certainly presented too massive a task to be undertaken by the EAB. The corrective process required for this particular problem was then, and is now, extremely burdensome for both the voter and the Elections Commission, in that two operations have to take place — putting the voter in his/her right polling division, and at the same time ensuring that the name is removed from the wrong division.

In order to determine the extent of this problem this time, the EAB did a sample test of polling divisions in Regions 2,3,4,5 and 6 — five regions that comprise 88% of our voters. The sample we carried out represented 70% of the registered voters in these regions, or about 60% of the entire electorate.

The results show that about 1.3% of listed voters have been displaced in the sampled divisions alone, and this will affect a total of just over 3,000 persons. If we take into consideration the numbers of displaced voters in the divisions we did not check, and add the

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possible displaced numbers for Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10, then our estimate is that there would be about 5,000 persons in all who have been listed in wrong polling divisions.

This overall average of 1.3% found in wrong divisions is a considerable achievement by the commission considering the extent of the problem last year.

Further to this the EAB undertook the exercise of identifying the names of persons who had been listed in wrong divisions, and we have tried to indicate their correct divisions based on their recorded addresses.

Computer printouts of these 3,000 names have been made available to the Elections Commission and to political parties to be used as a corrective tool during the Claims and Objections period. The numbers by Region are as follows:

REGION	TOTAL VOTERS		VOTERS IN	
	IN REGION	SAMPLE TAKEN	WRONG DIVISIONS	PERCENTAGE
2	23,101	21,927	198	0.9%
3	50,188	38,209	920	2.4%
4	148,046	77,389	730	0.9%
5	28,126	26,364	546	2.1%
6	72,304	61,265	609	1.0%
TOTAL	321,765	225,154	3,003	1.3%
PERCENTAGE	100%	70%	1.3%	

4. THE PEOPLE TEST:

Last year, using the specifications recommended by well-known Trinidadian pollster Dr. Selwyn Ryan, the EAB did a computer random selection of 1475 names on the voters list and then went out to look for the corresponding persons.

In order for those numbers to be a close representation of the Guyanese society, the names chosen comprised Afro-Guyanese both urban and rural, Indo-Guyanese both urban and rural, persons of mixed race both urban and rural, and Amerindians. We also took care to ensure that the percentages of persons of those races reflected as closely as possible the racial distribution as indicated in the 1985 census, the last reliable enumeration taken.

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Our field investigations failed then to locate 487 of the 1475 persons we looked for, or just over 30%.

When the 1992 list was made available to us, we therefore immediately checked how many, if any, of those persons were still on the list. What we found was that of the 487 persons not located last year only 294 were still on the present list, 193 having been removed.

We therefore went looking again for those 294 persons, especially because it seemed that the address details in particular in last year's list were different from those in this year's list. However for various reasons, this number was reduced to 269 and we were able to locate all but 54 persons.

The final result was that only 54 persons, or 3.7% of last year's total test sample of 1475, have not been found.

These findings would no doubt go a long way in instilling renewed voter confidence, and in dissipating many doubts shared by the political parties.

However, there are two indicators in this test that we find particularly troubling. In West Ruimveldt we were unable to locate 49% of the persons sampled, and in Kitty (Central) we failed to find 47%. The Elections Commission itself had commissioned a study which revealed about three similar aberrations for which no explanation could be provided. A closer study therefore needs to be undertaken of at least these five areas.

These discrepancies apart, we find the overall 3.7% "not founds" to be not unreasonable, and again commend the Commission on this corrective exercise.

Results of Extended Ryan People Test (done June 1992)

AREA	TOTAL TESTED	DEAD	REMOVED	MIGRATED	FOUND	NOT FOUND	% NOT FOUND
Kitty (Central)	15	-	2	2	4	7	47%
N.E. La Penitance	22	-	5	-	14	3	14%
Cotton Tree	32	2	4	7	17	2	6%
Port Mourant	78	2	8	7	53	8	10%
Guyhoc Gardens	7	-	1	-	4	2	29%
West Ruimveldt	39	2	3	-	15	19	49%
Golden Grove	20	-	1	-	14	5	25%
Cummings Lodge	13	-	5	-	6	2	15%
Leonora	24	-	3	1	16	4	17%
Mocha/Arcadia	8	-	3	-	5	-	0%
Charity	11	1	2	-	6	2	18%
Total Sample Done (1991/1992)					1475		
Total Persons Not Found					54		
Percentage Persons Not Found					3.7%		

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*page 5 of 6***EAB'S CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE**

The present voters list as sanctioned by the EAB must be regarded exactly for what it is — only a preliminary tool for carving the first rough form for a new democratic process. There is much yet to be done, many more tools required, and many concerns that need to be assuaged before we can be reasonably assured of a free and fair electoral process.

Some of our concerns include the following:

ID CARDS

According to the Elections Commission, there are still about 25,000 persons on the list for whom no ID numbers have been assigned. We had expected that when the Commission was presented last year with adequate photographic material, the issue of ID card distribution would have been settled by now.

The fact remains however that distribution continues to be extremely slow, and registration personnel often leave an area without attending to everyone. In almost every area visited by the registration team therefore, there is a backlog of persons without ID cards.

The level of attention given to the public by personnel at the National Registration Centre, Georgetown, is also totally inadequate. The Centre often refuses to see persons after 2 p.m., and even those who go during morning hours are shunted away. A Commission representative should be present at all times to monitor this work at the Registration Centre.

Although the Commission Chairman has given the assurance that persons without ID cards can still vote, there is some scepticism over this, and the Commission has to accelerate the distribution process in order to increase voter confidence. The private sector has offered to provide typists to speed up this exercise, and the Commission would do well to accept this gesture of assistance.

QUALITY OF ELECTORAL INK

In Kurdistan recently, despite the best assurances that the electoral ink was of "the highest quality", the opposition parties insisted on a test before election day. The ink was found to be easily removed, and the parties demanded a more permanent ink.

The EAB therefore recommends that two days in advance of polling day, each member of the Elections Commission should place his finger in ink randomly chosen by him in order to check its permanence

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later. (This exercise should not preclude them from voting at the appropriate time.)

THE PROBLEM OF VOTER CONFIDENCE

Early feedback both from our volunteers in the field and from our Election Hotlines indicate a level of resignation by persons whose names are not on the list this year. Some persons claim they registered on two occasions last year, and cannot be cajoled to do so again this year. Others cannot understand how they could have registered and their names be on last year's list, and yet not be on the current voters list.

An uphill task to regain the confidence of voters therefore now faces not only the political parties and the EAB, but especially the Elections Commission whose early stated aims were to increase voter confidence in the electoral process.

The success of the exercise just reviewed may serve to renew total public cooperation in this vital part of rebuilding the political future.