



Dominica Freedom Party

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December 12th 2014,

Mr. Gerald Burton
Chairman
Electoral Commission
Jewel Street
Roseau
Commonwealth of Dominica.

Dear Sir,

We write to you as a follow-up to our letter dated December 4th, 2014. The correspondence aforementioned was neither acknowledged nor responded to.

In that letter we asked you to investigate the damage your lack of action has caused thus far by instructing the Returning Officers for each constituency to have the Presiding Officers ask a question as to qualification of voters. You did not do so. You have failed Dominica again.

We now note with incredulity that although there is a recount in the Grand Fond/Morne Jaune/Riviere Cyrique constituency where out of an estimated 20 ballots rejected, in the preliminary count, fourteen 14 were found to be valid for the UWP candidate, thereby making him the winner. While the ballots were recounted 4 times, neither the Chief Elections Officer nor anyone from the Electoral Commission went to Grand Fond to confirm the result. When Mr. Laroque, the Chief Elections Officer, was questioned the morning of the 9th December 2014 as to why he was not there? he said it 'wasn't his job'. Sir, what is his job? If not to certify that the votes have been properly counted? We have reports of gross breaches by the DLP representative during the recount (eg. Representative of the Dominica Labour Party entered into a box already confirmed and pulled out ballots) with no admonition by the Returning Officer. Then we hear that Mr Laroque announced the winner to be the DLP candidate when there was no confirmation

at the time that candidates and representatives of both parties had left the count. How is that possible?

You sir, have totally compromised your office and yourself. Also, you and the Electoral Office have failed to adhere to sections 7 and 8 of the Registration of Electors Act 2.03 by not removing voters who were outside of Dominica for 5 years continuously as per section 7 and visiting every residence and noting the names of residents of age to vote as per section 8. Additionally, you failed to honour the recommendations of the three former Chief Elections Officers, particularly to sanitize the electoral list and to introduce voter identification cards.

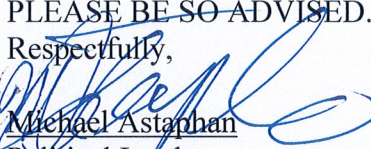
You were advised of these irresponsible failures on your part but rather than acting to remedy these breaches, the Electoral Office further exacerbated the demise of the democratic process by placing announcements that all persons whose names are on the list cannot be prevented from voting without clarifying that if they had been out of Dominica for more than 5 years continuously and voted, then they would be voting unlawfully. This action gives an unfair advantage to one political party and the complete disregard of your responsibility as Chairman of the Electoral Commission.

Your actions have brought one of the most important offices of our Democracy into dispute and shame. You have also exposed yourself to legal action.

We are seeking legal advice to see how best to bring legal action on your failure in this regard and that of your office to act in ensuring fair elections and to the appalling mismanagement of your office as well as your total lack of advancing democracy and civic knowledge.

PLEASE BE SO ADVISED.

Respectfully,


Michael Astaphan
Political Leader
Dominica Freedom Party

Cc:

Lennox Linton - Leader, United Workers Party

Roosevelt Skerrit – Leader, Dominica Labour Party

Stephen Larocque – Chief Electoral Officer

His Excellency Charles A. Saverin – President of Commonwealth of Dominica