



# Dominica Freedom Party

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December 4, 2014

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

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Dominica Freedom Party, I am writing to you as I am both gravely concerned and extremely troubled by the negative turn of events nationally in respect of the imminent General elections due to take place on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 as these relate to our Democracy and the Rule of Law.

We want to go on record to officially state that your Office and quite frankly, the central role in which you are personally engaged is threatening to dismantle Democracy in Dominica. This is no hyperbole or exaggeration since it is self-evident that the Electoral Commission has miserably failed in its fundamental duty of ensuring that all the minimal particulars and elements for a free and fair democratic election are in place. As a result, we can say clearly at this stage that the December 8 2014 elections will not be free or fair.

The most important element to having free and fair elections is the integrity of the electoral list. As a political party, we have written to you about this on several occasions over the past nine (9) years. We further wish to note that the Parliamentary Committee reviewing elections had also recommended that after each of the last three elections dating back to 2000, the voters list should be sanitized.

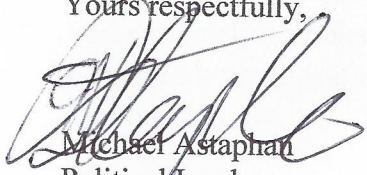
However, our criticism and dissatisfaction of your responsibility in this regard goes even further since not only did you 'inadvertently' fail to clean up the list or were unable to do so due to lack of resources but, in fact, never and NOT ONCE did you respond to our letters, those of the other political parties OR indeed the Parliamentary Committee to tell us the reason.

We would hate to believe that there was a much more pernicious reason on your part for not taking any action to clean up the list which may be interpreted as allowing and enabling the Dominica Labour Party, if it so devised, the opportunity to make use of the thousands of names that by law are supposed to be removed from the list every year under Section 7(a), 7(b), 7(c) and 7(d) of Chap 2:03 of the Registration Act. If this is so, this seemingly deliberate action on your part would be grossly immoral and could even be labelled as being treasonous.

In spite of all this, We, in the Dominica Freedom Party, beseech you to do something that would somewhat alleviate what appears to be the most unfair and potentially manipulated election in the history of Dominica. What we are asking you is to put out a Public Notice instructing that each and every Presiding Officer at each and every polling station shall and will put the questions in Section 7 (c) of the Electoral Act to every voter, that is to say "Have you resided in any part of Dominica for the last 5 years and if so where?"

We believe that this is fundamental to the holding of free and fair elections without which will otherwise be tainted for the lack of transparency and what is obviously a bloated voters list which cannot be justified.

Yours respectfully,



Michael Astaphan  
Political Leader  
Dominica Freedom Party

cc Mr. Stephen Laroque, Chief Elections Officer

cc His Excellency The President, Charles Savarin

cc Roosevelt Skerrit Leader, Dominica Labour Party

cc Lennox Linton Leader, United Workers Party