

CHAPTER 6



Summary of Conclusions

The main conclusions emerging from the body of our Report are as follows:

- The election to the Constitutional Commission was free and fair on the day, notwithstanding some shortcomings. The secrecy of the ballot was assured.
- The work of the Director of Elections and his staff was particularly critical to the success of the day. Rarely in an election has so much hung on the credibility, the good judgement and the organisational ability of one man.
- The Voters' Registration List used for the election was, in our view, a credible one; but having regard to the controversy it has generated we suggest a fresh look at the List over the coming months to allay these suspicions. All efforts should be made to ensure that such issues of a technical and administrative nature are removed from contention.
- The voter education campaign run by the office of the Director of Elections was very effective, so much so that 84 per cent of persons on the Voters' Registration List cast their ballots.
- All the parties should consider the adoption of a voluntary Code of Conduct to govern relations among them especially at election time. We believe that such a code would go a long way to create a peaceful atmosphere, and help ensure a free and fair poll.
- While the election was free and fair in the context of the laws of Seychelles, the existing link between the state and the SPPF gave the latter a significant advantage over its rivals. Accordingly, we urge that the process of separating the institutions of the state from the ruling party be accelerated.
- A free press has a particularly critical role to play in fostering the democratic ethic and promoting fundamental human rights. We therefore see the establishment of a free and independent media as integral to the consolidation of democracy in Seychelles.
- There is a continuing need for the law enforcement and security agencies to show discipline and exercise restraint, particularly in the fragile period of transition.
- All political leaders confirmed their commitment to adhere to the transition process and the final election of a government under the new constitution. For a multi-party democracy to endure, the national interest must override partisan interests.
- The Commonwealth presence was widely appreciated and seen as the guarantor of a peaceful and credible election.
- The Commonwealth should continue to provide assistance to the transition process.