

Report on the Reviewing of Boundaries of the Electoral Areas



January 2021

Contents	
Introduction	1
Discussion	1
Methodology	1
Conclusion	1
Recommendations	2

Introduction

The Electoral Commission (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Commission’) is obligated under article 116(3) to submit a report to the National Assembly in terms of its function under article 116(1)(b) that being review of boundaries of electoral areas. The same report must contain recommendations regarding changes in the number of boundaries which the Commission considers necessary in the circumstances. The report is to be submitted every three years.

Discussion

The last report was submitted in 2015 and contained the recommendation of the creation of Ile Perseverance as the 23rd electoral area on Mahe. It is to be noted that unfortunately the Commission is not in possession of any past reports.

As one of its strategic priorities, the Commission is anticipating the reviewing of boundaries exercise for 2021/ 2022. The exercise is included in the Commission’s budget which is an activity that is yet to be funded.

Methodology

The Commission is in discussion with the National Bureau of Statistics for a joint project. The former is undertaking a Population Census in 2021. The Commission is of the conviction that a voters census can be taken simultaneously as a first step towards the review of electoral boundaries.

Conclusion

The Electoral Commission is conscious of the importance of this exercise. Past elections showed the need for it so as to address the imbalance in the number of registered voters per electoral area.

The exercise however comes at quite a significant cost and the Commission relies on the corporation of the Government in order to meet this obligation bearing in mind that the country is experiencing an economic crisis hence, financial responsibility and sustainability is a priority.

Recommendations

This part of the report will focus on the best way forward on the implementation of the exercise. The recommendations takes a holistic approach for the purpose of ensuring a comprehensive exercise.

1. That the Government, National Bureau of Statistics and the Electoral Commission enter into a conversation on the feasibility of the Population Census and Voters Census conducted simultaneously.
2. That a budget for the exercise is discussed and approved at the earliest possible in order for the Commission to be able to conduct the exercise in 2021/2022.