

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Press Release & Preliminary
Statement on Preparations for
Local Government Elections

November 3, 2016

EOJ Intensifies Preparations for Local Government Elections

KINGSTON, Jamaica; In light of the announcement that the Local Government Elections will be held on **Monday, November 28**, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) has intensified preparations for the polls. While the timeframe given to complete these preparations is far less than ideal, the EOJ is in a reasonable state of readiness.

With less than a month left, the EOJ has fast-tracked its operations to meet statutory requirements and deadlines in order to ensure that its machinery is ready for the November 28 elections. The organisation is now hard-pressed to complete a number of immediate deliverables that would ideally require a lot more time. These include, but are by no means limited to:

1. The printing of Nomination Day lists for distribution to candidates on Election Day.
2. Completion of recruitment and training of more than 30,000 Election Day Workers, which is fairly advanced. This exercise has to be completed to facilitate the printing of the Election Day Workers voters' list.
3. Training of Election Day Workers to operate the Electronic Voter Identification System, which follows the manual training, has only just commenced.
4. Printing of disaggregated Voters' Lists (to facilitate special services voting) to be given to candidates eight (8) days after Nomination Day. The EOJ is required to separate the Voters' List by civilian, police, military and Election Day Worker categories and assign voting locations, based on the information it receives from the relevant entities.
5. Printing of ballots after Nomination Day for the two hundred and twenty-eight (228) Electoral Divisions.
6. Procurement, packaging and distribution of Election material to be completed in time for the polls.

The foregoing belies the magnitude of the tasks to be completed in less than a month. The law stipulates that the date of the election should be no less than 16 days and no more than 23 days after Nomination Day. With Nomination Day being November 11 and Election Day on

November 28, this clearly signifies that the EOJ has been given the minimum time period to finalize preparations.

Director of Elections, Orrette Fisher, notes that the EOJ's resources will be stretched but the organization remains committed to ensuring that a credible election is delivered.

"While the timeframe we have been given to complete our preparation for the elections is very short, we are doing our best at the EOJ to ensure that we are ready. It will be very difficult but we have already put measures in place to complete the significant amount of work to be done. Our goal is to ensure that the elections are free and fair," he said.

Electronic Voter Identification System

The Electronic Voter Identification System will be used in seven constituencies:

1. St. Catherine Eastern
2. St. Andrew West Central
3. St. Andrew South Eastern
4. St. Andrew Eastern
5. Kingston Central
6. Kingston East & Port Royal
7. St. Andrew Western

Special Services Voting

Special Services voting for the police, military and Election Day works will be held on **Friday November 25, 2016**, three days before the rest of the population goes to the polls.

November 30, 2016 Voters' List

The November 28 election date impedes the publication of the November 30, 2016, which will be scheduled for December 31, 2016 instead. This means that Voter Identification Cards will become available by the end of January 2017.

The EOJ expects to receive approximately \$220 million of the \$1.3 billion budgeted for the holding of the elections, by **Monday, November 17**.

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