

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST

Fellow Grenadians, Carriacouians & Petite Martiniquians, Good Evening.

Now that the election date has been announced and you are preparing to exercise your civic right and responsibility, it may be helpful for you to consider the following bits of information:-

1. You should make sure that you check carefully the Polling Division in which you are registered and the Polling Station of that division, because it is in that Polling Station you will find your name. Do not for a moment think that because you live next to a Polling Station, it is in that Station you should vote. That Polling Station may not be in your Polling Division. Checking this out beforehand will save you the embarrassment and frustration of running around on Election Day looking for your name.

2. The Polling Stations in your Polling Division will be opened at 6:00 a.m. and closed at 5:00 p.m. You must try to be at the Station within the opening hours. Do not wait until it is almost closing time to go to cast your vote, because it may happen that your watch or clock may deceive you on that day, or that you may be delayed along the way by one unexpected cause or another. The Presiding Officers at the Stations are strictly instructed to close the poll at exactly 5:00 p.m. (which is the Law); and that only persons who are there at that time will be allowed to cast their ballot. One second after 5:00 p.m. will be too late for you.

Employers are hereby reminded that arrangements must be made for their employees to get time off to cast their votes. More will be said about this in a subsequent broadcast.

3. When you arrive at the station on Election Day you would observe two documents posted on the outside. One document will be the official list of the names of persons

who would be allowed to cast their vote in that station. You should immediately check that list to ensure that your name, address and occupation are on it. If you do not find your name, it will mean that you are listed in another Polling Station, and so you will have to find the station where your name is. This is another good reason why you should go early in the event that you may have to be in search of your Polling Station and time will allow you to do so. Remember do not stand in the line and wait until you get inside to be told that your name is not on the list.

The other document you will observe is marked “Directions to Electors”. This poster gives you some general but important bits of information about voting and how you should handle your ballot paper. You should read them while you wait to get inside. Of course your Presiding Officer will explain to you in detail some of those things.

4. When you get inside the station you will give your name, address and occupation to the Presiding Officer but loud enough to be heard by the Poll clerk and the Agents of the

Candidates. You must listen carefully to the directions and instructions given to you by the Presiding Officer, especially with regards to how you should handle the ballot paper.

Remember that you must vote for only one candidate by marking an X or a cross next to the symbol of the candidate of your choice. You must only use the pencil you find in the voting compartment and no other writing instrument such as a pen or crayon. It is also important to remember that you should not write your name or any words on the ballot paper.

After you have finished marking your ballot, you must fold it in the same way as it was given to you by the Presiding officer and then return it to him/her.

The Presiding Officer will instruct you to slip your finger into the ink before you are allowed to place your ballot into the box. You must comply. Please remember that the Presiding Officer is conducting the exercise in accordance with the provisions of the law, and you must do as the Law

says. If you disobey, your ballot will not be inserted into the box and you would not have voted.

As soon as you have voted you will be told by the Presiding Officer to leave the station and you must do as instructed. Remember that there should be no gathering of persons within the 100 yards limit from the Polling Station.

5. It is expected that all voters would display a high level of good behaviour at the Polling Station, so as to avoid the Police Officer on duty having to arrest anyone for misconduct. Voters should not be showing any signs of being under the influence of alcohol or any other drug. You should not be wearing your party's colour or symbol.
6. A friend or relative accompanying a blind person to vote must be himself or herself a voter in the same polling division as the blind person, and that no person would be allowed to act as a friend for more than one blind voter. The Presiding Officer would require both you and your blind friend to take the necessary oaths.

7. Persons who are suffering from other disabilities and who will be taken by you to the Polling Station will be dealt with by the Presiding Officer as the Law prescribes.