



SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

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CABINET SECRETARIAT

GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS

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ST KITTS • WEST INDIES

13th August 2009

Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza
OAS Secretary General
OAS Secretariat
17th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20006

Dear Sir

I am pleased to convey greetings to you on behalf of the Government and people of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis and to reiterate our appreciation for the involvement of the Organization of American States/ over the years as part of the international mechanism for democracy and adherence to democratic principles.

This letter serves to advise of the upcoming General Elections in the Federation and to officially request the expert assistance of your organization in sending a team of observers to witness the electoral process with a view to ensuring that the elections are free, democratic and fair, according to international standards.

As you may be aware General Elections are constitutionally due by the first quarter of next year. Notwithstanding, given the intensity of the current election campaign activities it is likely that the date could be confirmed in the next few months.

Over the last four years the Government has sought to fulfil its commitment to undertake several initiatives with a view to reform the electoral system in order to enhance the integrity of the electoral process. The process was officially launch in 2006 with wide consultation involving nationals home and abroad, political parties, business organizations Trade Unions and other non-government organization. Three critical outcome of the process include.

1. A new Electoral List
2. The introduction of a fully computerized electoral system with a national identification card which will be used for the first time during the upcoming general elections.
3. The review of electoral boundaries which was to create greater parity in the distribution of the population in the various constituencies.

You will recall the participation of your organisation in the launch of the Electoral reform that marked the unprecedented efforts by the Government for 'openness, accountability, transparency and the involvement of the people in the process. These new initiatives, we are convinced, will address any irregularities that would blur the lines between the acceptable and unacceptable international standards and ideals.

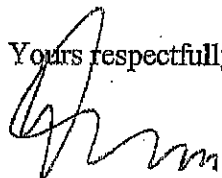
The Government looks forward to your favourable response to our request and continued cooperation as we seek to promote and adhere to the principles that are the hallmark of good governance and democracy that we pledge to embrace wholeheartedly.

Please note that the details of your response should be communicated to the following:

Mr. Joseph L. Edmeade
Cabinet Secretary
Government Headquarters
Basseterre

Tel: 1 869 467 1034, 467-1167, 465-0306
Fax: 1 869 466-4836, 465 1001

Yours respectfully,



Joseph L. Edmeade
Cabinet Secretary