July 8, 2020

**Attention All Editors** **For Immediate Release**

**EBC stages “mock polling station”**

Chief Election Officer, Fern Narcis-Scope and staff of the Elections and Boundaries Commission staged a “mock polling station” simulation exercise to assess its level of preparedness for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections, which will be conducted under Covid-19 guidelines. The simulation was an interactive exercise with the forty-one Returning Officers and included a team of officials from the Ministry of Health, led by the Principal Medical Officer Epidemiology (PMOE).

The Ministry of Health Officials were on site observing and participating in the simulation exercise. At every step in the staged voting process Mrs. Narcis- Scope identified for the benefit of the Returning Officers the new processes that will be introduced in the polling stations on Election Day. Mrs. Narcis-Scope engaged the Returning Officers in a Q&A session, supported by the PMOE, addressing concerns on potential risks and issues of non-compliance. Narcis-Scope also reminded all present that whilst there has been a general policy acceptance of the use of masks in Trinidad and Tobago, it is still not law.

All suggestions and recommendations emanating from this exercise will be incorporated into a Covid-19 policy document being compiled by the Ministry of Health for the conduct of elections under Covid-19.

Mrs. Narcis-Scope stated that the simulation exercise essential for the finalization of logistics was for a smooth process on Poll Day and it was also necessary to have the exercise with the supporting role of the Ministry of Health for its guidance on the EBC’s plans to conduct a poll with physical distancing, masks, and sanitization.

Narcis-Scope also stated that the public will be informed of what will apply at polling stations through an intensive sensitization campaign in the near future.

The mock polling station simulation exercise was held at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (NAPA Campus) on Tuesday July 7, 2020.

For more information, please contact the Corporate Communications Unit at 625-5924 or commanager@ebctt.com

### END ###

 (See attached photos)

Caption Img 1: Health Inspector and member an EBC staff member in the Simulation Exercise

Captio Img 2: EBC staff and Health Officials in the simulation exercise of the “mock polling station”

### END ###