

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS



Post – Election Report

On

**Campaign Expenditure**

By

The Registered Parties and Candidates

*Published by the TCI Integrity Commission*

October, 2013

## **Introduction**

The November 2012 General Election was the first election in the Turks and Caicos Islands for which the Integrity Commission (the Commission) is reporting on parties and candidates' compliance with spending rules. This report covers the General Election period August 28 to November 12, 2012, and the By-election on March 22, 2013. The Commission's role in monitoring parties and candidates' compliance with the law came into effect with the implementation of the Political Activities Ordinance (the Ordinance) in August 2012. This was a new statutory responsibility for the Commission and the first of its kind in the Caribbean region.

## **Campaign Expenditure**

Spending by political parties and Candidates during the election period has been regulated by the Ordinance and there was a maximum that each party or candidate were allowed to spend. In accordance with Section 46(8) of the Ordinance, the limits are as follows:

- \$30,000 in relation to each electoral district contested by the party (of which there were 10)
- \$40,000 in relation to the all-islands district (of which there were 5)
- \$100,000 in relation to each of the parties leaders

It was therefore possible for each party to spend a total of \$600,000 on their respective campaigns.

### **Timescales:**

All registered political parties, of which there were three, that put forward candidates at the November election were required to submit a campaign expenditure return. The date by which this was required depended upon how much the party spent on their campaign. The expenditure returns are required to be submitted to the Commission within three months of the election if their campaign spending was \$250,000 or less, or within six months if their spending was over \$250,000 (in which case an audited report is required). In respect of the November 2012 General Election, the dates for submission were as follows

- If campaign spending was \$250,000 or less – **Monday 11 February 2013**
- If campaign spending exceeded \$250,000 – **Friday 10 May 2013**

Shortly after the November 2012, election the Commission drafted a detailed guidance note which was issued to all the parties to assist them in understanding their responsibilities concerning recording and reporting campaign expenditure.

In January 2013, the Commission compiled the requisite forms for this purpose and provided the parties with explanatory notes for completion. In addition, the Commission issued a reminder to all parties setting out what was required and requested an initial assessment as to their respective spending. The Progressive National Party (PNP) confirmed that their spending exceeded \$250,000. In which case, their expenditure return would need to be audited and submitted to the Commission by 10 May 2013. Both the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) and the People's Progressive Party (PPP) confirmed that their spending was below the \$250,000 threshold and their returns were due to be submitted prior to 11 February 2013.

The Commission prepared and provided all parties with the relevant forms and worksheets for the purpose of compliance. The Commission met with both the PDM and PPP Treasurers to provide additional advice and guidance to ensure the requirements were understood and adhered to. Both PDM and PPP subsequently prepared and submitted their returns to the Commission within agreed timescales.

Given that their campaign expenditure exceeded \$250,000, the PNP were required to provide a report prepared by a qualified auditor on the campaign spending return prepared under Section 47 of the Ordinance. The Commission provided guidance to the party treasurer as to the scope of the report and what it should cover. The campaign spending return and Auditors report were duly submitted to the Commission by the PNP

### **Total Campaign Expenditure:**

Based on the returns submitted to the Commission, the 3 registered parties spent a total of \$578,303.55. Advertising and Publicity Materials accounted for \$236,952.09 or approximately 41% of this total expenditure, followed by Rallies and Other Events accounting for \$133,946.88 or 23%. Other categories of expenditure include: Transport; Media; Overhead and Administration and Manifesto/Party Policy Documents

*(See table 1 below, showing expenditure pattern of the respective parties)*

### **Individual Party Expenditure**

The **PNP** return revealed that the party campaign expenditure came to a total of \$332,085 or 57% of the three parties' total expenditure. The highest category of spending was on Advertising and Publicity Material which accounted for \$136,168 or 46% of the party's total campaign expenditure. A significant proportion of expenditure in the sum of \$77,574 or approximately 23 % of total expenditure was committed to Rallies and other events.

The **PDM** spent a total of \$135, 878, 09 or 24 % of the total campaign expenditure by the three parties. \$56,372.88 or 41 % of this amount was spent on Rallies and other

events. This was followed by Advertising and Publicity Material for which 47,198.99 or 35% of this sum was spent.

The PPP spent a total of \$110,340.46. This represented 19% of the overall expenditure by all three parties. Their biggest expenditure of 53,585.10 or 49% of their party total expenditure went into Advertising and Publicity Material, followed by Overheads and General Administration for which 23,305.81 or 21% of their party total expenditure was spent. According to their returns, there was no campaign expenditure on Rallies and other events.

**Independent Candidates**

Independent Candidates were also required to submit a record of expenditure incurred by them during the election period and this was required within 10 days after the 9 November, 2013 poll. Two independent candidates, Mr. Benneth Williams and Mr. Oswald Simons, stood for the November elections. The Commission received returns from both independent candidates within the timescales in accordance with the Ordinance. Based on the returns, their combined expenditure came to a total of \$4,289 with Mr. Oswald Simons taking up \$3,689 or 86 % of this combined total. Mr. Benneth Williams' total campaign expenditure was \$600.

*Table 1 below shows summary of Campaign Expenditure details/ pattern by each Party for the general elections*

**PNP – SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE**

	\$
A. Party political broadcast	6440
B. Advertising and publicity material	136,168
C. Unsolicited material to electors	1,585
D. Manifesto/party policy documents	10943
E. Market research/canvassing	13,878
F. Media	30,706
G. Transport	22,213
H. Rallies and other events	77,574
I. Overheads and general administration	32,578
J. Other specify:	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$332,085</b>