

## Chapter 5

# Summary of Conclusions

The principal conclusions emerging from the body of this Report are as follows:

- The voters of Seychelles were able to vote openly, freely and fairly, and the results of the elections accurately reflected the free expression of the will of the people of Seychelles.
- Arrangements and procedures for the elections were outstanding. The Director of Elections, his staff, and electoral officials at the polling stations were dedicated, scrupulous and meticulous in carrying out their duties. Voters were processed with professionalism, efficiency, and unfailing courtesy. The secrecy of the ballot was assured.
- The exceptionally high turnout of voters suggested a strong commitment on the part of the people of Seychelles to the restoration of multi-party politics, and to elections as a means of selecting their representatives to govern. The low proportion of spoiled or rejected ballots indicated that voters were familiar with the technicalities of voting procedures, and that voter education programmes aimed at explaining and clarifying these procedures were successful.
- Candidates and their agents were vigilant in monitoring both voting and the count, and a mood of cordiality prevailed among them and with the electoral officials at polling stations.
- The elections were conducted in a general atmosphere of peace and order. Personnel from the Seychelles Police Force performed in exemplary fashion in assisting at polling stations, and were integral to the success of the day. The military was not in evidence. Concerns expressed about the possibility of violence and disorder in the aftermath of the elections fortunately did not materialise.
- The news media performed well in keeping the electorate informed, both during the campaign and in the period immediately prior to the elections. All political parties had access to the state-owned media, in addition to their own publications. There were no undue restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly. The further development of a responsible and professional news media in Seychelles will assist greatly in the nurturing and consolidation of the multi-party system.
- Political leaders are to be commended for their determination to succeed with the transition process from a one-party to a multi-party system of government and in particular for their efforts along with church leaders to promote national reconciliation in a once-divided country.
- The completion of the process of de-linking the ruling political party from the organs and institutions of the state by the new Government will strengthen the newly restored multi-party system of government, will engender further confidence, and will serve to consolidate what has already been achieved.
- The successful completion of the elections for a President and National Assembly under a new Constitution and an emerging mood of national reconciliation augur well for the development of a democratic system of government which will serve all of the people of Seychelles.
- The presence of Commonwealth Observers at these elections was widely and uniformly welcomed by the Government, political parties, electoral officials, and the people of Seychelles.