



Commonwealth Expert Team Gambia Presidential Elections

29 November 2011

Dear Secretary-General,

The Commonwealth Expert Team (CET) has completed the Final Report of its observation of The 2011 Gambia Presidential election and is pleased to submit it to you.

In approaching our task, we were conscious of the importance of The Gambia to Africa, to the Commonwealth and indeed to the larger international community, and the onerous responsibility therefore placed upon us. We were mindful also of the history of elections in The Gambia and of how much was at stake on this occasion.

Our report includes a number of recommendations which, we believe, could further improve the democratic process in The Gambia. I hope that these can be positively considered and implemented. Some of them mirror recommendations already made by earlier Commonwealth Observer Groups. We urge the Secretariat to engage with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Government of The Gambia as soon as practicable to take these forward.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the support provided to us by the Commonwealth Secretariat staff team.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important mission and hope that our report can contribute in some small measure towards the deepening of democracy in The Gambia.

Yours sincerely,


Professor A. Bolaji Akinyemi
Chairman

Mr Kamallesh Sharma
Commonwealth Secretary-General
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX



Ms Cynthia Barrow-Giles



Mr Edward Alexander Canfor-Dumas



Mr Christopher Cobb



Madam Sa-adatau Maida