Head 08: Elections and Boundaries Commission

Total Allocation - $109,656,600.00

A summary of the Commissions' Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) for the period 2014-2020. It provides Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Commission’s responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC), and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure;
- the Estimates of Development Programme; and
- the Auditor General’s Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2018.
Head 08: Elections and Boundaries

Overview

Mission
To register individuals, conduct elections and review constituency boundaries with integrity, courtesy and transparency in accordance with the law.

Vision
To be a world class Electoral Management Body.

The EBC is responsible for the:

- registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency; and
- procedure for review of constituency boundaries.¹

The Elections and Boundaries Commission is the successor institution of two separate bodies:

- a Boundaries Commission; and
- an Elections Commission.

These were amalgamated in the Republican Constitution² enacted in 1976.


The Commission comprises a Chairman and not less than two (2) or more than four (4) Commissioners who are appointed by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. These appointments are for five (5) years in the first instance but under the Constitution, the appointees are eligible for reappointment. According to the Constitution, the Commission in the exercise of its functions as an independent body shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. Likewise it also has within its remit constitutional responsibility for reviewing the number and boundaries of the electoral districts into which Trinidad and Tobago is divided for the purpose of elections and for the submission of these reports to the relevant authorities.3

Chairman: Mr. Mark Ramkerrysingh

Chief Election Officer (Accounting Officer): Mrs. Fern Narcis-Scope

### The Commission’s total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2014 to 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
<th>National Budget</th>
<th>Percentage of National Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$85,988,440.00</td>
<td>$65,020,886,424.00</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$107,209,010.00</td>
<td>$61,966,922,675.00</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$86,871,897.00</td>
<td>$56,573,913,053.00</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$91,667,833.00</td>
<td>$54,883,153,410.00</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$61,196,052.00</td>
<td>$54,211,726,813.00</td>
<td>0.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$64,912,290.00</td>
<td>$54,149,378,860.00</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$109,656,600.00</td>
<td>$58,058,338,392.00</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total allocation for the Elections and Boundaries Commission as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase in the allocation to the Elections and Boundaries Commission by 0.07% between the period 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

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4 For the Fiscal Years 2014-2018, actual figures were used to calculate the total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020.

5 Total Allocation for the Elections and Boundaries Commission = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund Expenditure

6 The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Development Programme Expenditure: Consolidated Fund
Where the Commission spends its money

2019-2020 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of $109,656,600.00 for the Elections and Boundaries Commission is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of $105,656,600.00;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme Consolidated Fund in the sum of $4,000,000.00

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure – $38,472,100.00;
- 02 Goods and Services – $64,117,500.00;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases – $3,000,000.00; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies - $67,000.00.

The Election and Boundaries Commission’s:

- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget = 0.19%;
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is = 0.19%; and
- Development Programme - Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total allocation is = 0.16%.

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Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2014-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Personnel Expenditure</td>
<td>$30,347,045.00</td>
<td>$45,409,417.00</td>
<td>$33,311,907.00</td>
<td>$34,443,837.00</td>
<td>$32,337,673.00</td>
<td>$33,375,900.00</td>
<td>$38,472,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Goods and Services</td>
<td>$55,132,348.00</td>
<td>$50,392,699.00</td>
<td>$43,499,145.00</td>
<td>$53,538,295.00</td>
<td>$26,976,423.00</td>
<td>$30,386,390.00</td>
<td>$64,117,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Minor Equipment Purchases</td>
<td>$509,047.00</td>
<td>$4,402,834.00</td>
<td>$3,037,596.00</td>
<td>$798,964.00</td>
<td>$1,881,956.00</td>
<td>$1,150,000.00</td>
<td>$3,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Current Transfers and Subsidies</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$67,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$85,988,440.00</td>
<td>$100,204,950.00</td>
<td>$79,848,648.00</td>
<td>$88,781,096.00</td>
<td>$61,196,052.00</td>
<td>$64,912,290.00</td>
<td>$105,656,600.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure**

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Elections and Boundaries Commission for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases and Current Transfers and Subsidies.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 is **$105,656,600.00**. This represents 0.19% of the total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 was **$64,912,290.00**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2019/2020, there is an increase of **$40,744,310.00 or 63%**.

- The largest portion of the Elections and Boundaries Commission’s allocation has fluctuated between Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure and Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services. This represents **97%** of the Elections and Boundaries Commission total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.

- The Allocation for Sub-Head 02 – Goods and Services has fluctuated over the period 2014 to 2020 from a low of **$26,976,423.00** in fiscal year 2018 to a high of **$64,117,500.00 (estimate)** in fiscal year 2020. In fiscal year 2020, there is an increase of approximately **111%** in spending for Goods and Services from fiscal year 2019.

- For 2020 the Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure represents **36%** of the Commission’s total recurrent allocation. The largest allocation under this Sub-Head has consistently gone to sub-item 01 Salaries and Cost of Living Allowance.
The smallest portion of the Commission recurrent allocation has consistently been allocated to Sub-Head 03 Minor Equipment Purchases over the period 2014 to 2020. This represents 3% of the Elections and Boundaries Commission total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.
Staff and Pay

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2020 was $71,048,300.00, which represents an increase of approximately 78% from the last fiscal year 2019. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2017-2020.

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Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Elections and Boundaries Commission that may not feature in other Ministries or Departments. The following graph illustrates the Summary of Election Expenses for the Period 2015 – 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$29,133,826</td>
<td>$8,863,918</td>
<td>$29,718,477</td>
<td>$812,444</td>
<td>$2,034,750</td>
<td>$34,153,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2014-2020

Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes human resources and economic and social development. There was no Development Programme allocation to the EBC for fiscal year 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.
**Major Programmes and Developments**

The following table illustrates the major programmes and projects under the Elections and Boundaries Commission and the actual or estimated expenditures for the last three years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-head /Item /Sub-item /Group /Project Desc.</th>
<th>Programme/Project</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2020 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>005-06A-005</td>
<td>Upgrading of the Electronic Voter Registration and Election Management System</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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General Useful Information

- Election Commission of India, India: [http://eci.nic.in/eci/eci.html](http://eci.nic.in/eci/eci.html)