



FINAL NOTICE ON THE TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL BOARD OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM

The Triennial Meeting of the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago (MBTT) to elect three (3) Registrants to serve on the Council was held on Tuesday 12th September 2023. This election was conducted via an online voting platform and, to facilitate Registrants who did not receive the email from the online platform, email ballots were accepted.

This was the first time that the MBTT utilized this online voting platform for the election of Registrants to the Council and given its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, the Council recognizes its value and will be using this method going forward.

Since the online voting platform is a new method, the option for Registrants to send their ballots by email was employed to allow those who were unable to receive the email from the online platform due to reasons such as, not providing an active email address to receive communication. Ballots received by email would have therefore required validation to confirm good financial standing, cross checking with the online platform to eliminate duplicates and confirmation of various forms of identification via telephone.

The process engaged is evolving and all steps were taken to provide transparency and maintain integrity. At the Council Meeting in August 2023, the General Manager designate – Mrs. Dianne Maraj-Ramdeen was introduced, and the decision was taken to appoint her as the Returning Officer with effect from 1st September 2023 upon her assumption of duty as General Manager. Therefore, until 31st August 2023, the initial Notices about the election would have been issued under the hand of the Secretary. Thereafter, the Returning Officer proceeded with steps to verify the nominations, confirm that the proposers, nominees and seconders were in good financial standing, confirm the nominees' acceptances and made available biographies for the list of qualifying nominees. Further steps taken entailed contracting an online voting platform to manage a closed voting system, securing access to the online voting platform and email account, outlining the requisite parameters, and uploading the relevant data on the online platform. The parameters that had to be outlined on the online voting platform were items such as the date and time period of the election, voters were allowed to pick a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) nominees, a receipt was issued for each online ballot submitted. A Notice was published to inform Registrants of the methods of voting that would be available and make an appeal for valid email addresses to be provided prior to the election date.

On the day of the election 12th September 2023, the online voting platform forwarded emails to all Registrants with a secure link for voting to take place from 8 am to 8 pm and receipts were issued to all voters who engaged in the process. No one accessed the online voting platform or the election email address during the day of the election. On 13th September 2023, the results of the elections via the online platform and email were opened in the presence of two (2) recommended independent observers – Dr.

Joel Teelucksingh (Registrant) and Pundit Lloyd Mukram Sirjoo (IRO). While recommendations were sought, the decision was made by the Returning Officer to proceed with both persons as the former is a Registrant in good financial standing and the latter is the Head of the Inter Religious Organization and previous member of Council who also served as a returning officer in the past.

The results from the online voting platform were collated with the validated email ballots in the presence of the two (2) independent observers. This process was completed at 4:45 pm and the three (3) nominees with the highest number of votes were informed of their success, after which the Council was informed. Subsequently the results were published on 14th September 2023.

Three thousand, nine hundred and eleven (3,911) Registrants would have received emails with secure links for voting from the online platform and one thousand, two hundred and fifty-three (1,253) Registrants voted via that system. Forty-eight (48) email ballots were received and fourteen (14) were deemed invalid for the following reasons:

- Four (4) persons voted twice
- Four (4) persons voted outside the specified election hours
- Four (4) persons were not in good financial standing
- One (1) person submitted a ballot for 'Elections 2024'
- One (1) person had temporary registration.

Notwithstanding the above, if there are any pertinent issues that require expanding, members can indicate. Further, please be advised that the Council will be moving to formulate an official policy to guide the election process in the future and you will have an opportunity to contribute through consultation during the development of that policy.

Sincerely,
Dr. Peter Baggan
Secretary of the Council