Managing Election Results

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“It is enough that the people know there was an election. Those who cast the votes, they decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything.”

– attributed to Joseph Stalin
Principles of Results Management

- Speed
- Accuracy
- Transparency
- Integrity
THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL

So, what is the detail?

Understand the Scope
Geography/Distance
Polling Stations
Documents
Procedures
Legal Timeframes
The Source Documents are Most Critical!

- Forms for Counting, Results, Report & Ballot Papers
- Simplify, Simplify, Simplify!
- Reduce margin for errors/mistakes in field
- Party agents to “witness” through signature
- Report major decisions/observations
- Allow for simple mechanisms to investigate later
Using Technology

- Infrastructure availability & stability
- Levels of computer literacy at capturing point
- Levels of organisational skill
- Time to deployment
- Time to training
- Time to test IN THE FIELD
  - scale, system functionality, connectivity
  - competence, complexity
## Integrity Measures

| At the Voting Station | Results “audited” by officials and party agents  
|                       | Results in tamper-proof bag  
|                       | Security escort to Municipal Office |
| At Municipal Office   | Results Checked  
|                       | Results captured on computerised Results System  
|                       | Results Verification |
| Provincially         | Results System checks for mistakes/exceptions  
| Nationally           | Provincial Office resolution of exceptions |
Tallying/Results/ Media Centres

• What is the purpose?
  – Operational capability
  – Media Centre provisions
  – Political Centre with Dispute Resolution
  – “Plan B” Facility
  – Collection Point for Source Documents

• Can take up to 3 months of planning and 1 month to set up
Setting Targets:
2004 vs 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ballots</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>33,938</td>
<td>82.80%</td>
<td>17.03%</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2004 Actual
2006 Projected

Days
No of Ballots

Organized within: TRAIN
In collaboration with: CIDA, Canadian International Development Agency, IOM, International Organization for Migration, OAS, Organization of American States
Most Common Mistakes

- Transparency
- Speed
- Accuracy
- Integrity
- Education of Media/Parties
- Weak communication /coordination
- Complex procedures
- Lack of detail
- No risk/crisis plan
- Not getting the basics right
- Starting too late!
- Credibility