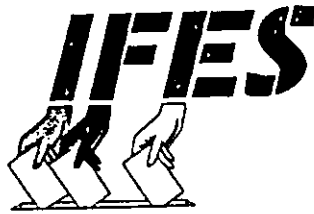


Date Printed: 11/03/2008

JTS Box Number: IFES_5
Tab Number: 15
Document Title: International Election Observation,
Honduras, November 21-27 2001:
Document Date: 2001
Document Country: Honduras
IFES ID: R01654



* 2 9 2 2 1 A 9 3 - 1 8 2 1 - 4 F 4 8 - B E 1 C - F 0 5 B C 3 3 B 8 1 F 9 *



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION

HONDURAS
November 21-27, 2001



HONDURAS

PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
November 25, 2001

OBSERVATION ELECTION GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS



**IFES INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION DELEGATION
HONDURAS 2001 GENERAL ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 25, 2001**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction**
 - A. Welcome letter, Richard Soudriette, President, IFES**
 - B. IFES experience in Honduras**
 - C. Staff of the Americas Division, IFES**
 - D. Contacts**
 - E. Map of Honduras**
 - F. Observer List**
 - G. Scope of Observation**

- II. Background on Honduras**
 - A. CNN Election Watch**
 - B. CIA Fact book: Honduras**
 - C. List of current cabinet members**
 - D. *Building Democracy in Honduras* – USAID**
 - E. Honduras This Week**

- III. Appendix**
 - A. Manual for Election Observation**
 - B. Election Observation Form**
 - C. Voter Education Manual: *Elecciones 2001-Instructivo electoral***

Notes _____

1

I. INTRODUCTION

A. WELCOME LETTER

**INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR
ELECTION SYSTEMS**

1101 15th Street, N.W.
Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Tel: 202.828.8507
Fax: 202.452.0804
www.ifes.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William R. Sweeney, Jr.
Chairman
Patricia Hutar
Vice Chair
Leon J. Weil
Secretary
Joseph Napolitan
Treasurer

Judy A. Black
Barbara Boggs
Dame Eugenia Charles
Judy G. Fernald
William J. Hybl
Lesley Israel
Peter G. Kelly
Maureen A. Kindel
Jean-Pierre Kingsley
R. Scott Pastrick
Sharol W. Siemens
Robert Holmes Tuttle

Richard W. Soudriette
President
Randal C. Teague
Counsel

DIRECTORS EMERITI
James M. Cannon
Peter McPherson
Richard M. Scammon

HONORARY DIRECTOR
Mrs. F. Clifton White

**INTERNATIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Dame Eugenia Charles
Dominica
Co-Chair

Jean-Pierre Kingsley
Canada
Co-Chair

Kwadwo Afiari-Gyan
Ghana

Violeta de Chamorro
Nicaragua

Pierre Cornillon
France

Grace Githu
Kenya

Rei Shiratori
Japan

J. Marsh Thomson
Philippines

Laura Velásquez
Argentina

Rosa Marina Zelaya
Nicaragua



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

November 15, 2001

Dear IFES Delegation Observer:

We are delighted you have agreed to join us to observe the November 25, 2001 general elections in Honduras. We will try to provide you with all of the background you will need, through this briefing book and briefings on the ground in Honduras on November 22-23, 2001.

Former U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette will lead our team. We will have a very able team of advisors, including Patricio Gajardo, IFES Americas Division Director, and electoral experts from several Latin American countries. Patricio Gajardo, assisted by Mario Henriquez, is in charge of a staff team making all the arrangements for the election delegation. We have a well-rounded delegation composed of experts on Latin American elections, civil society and related topics, and policy experts.

Our role as election observers is to provide an impartial assessment of the entire electoral process, from the campaign through the vote count; provide recommendations to help improve the electoral process or reform the broader political system when necessary; inform the international community in a final report of our findings; and help raise confidence among Honduran voters through our ability to identify campaign inequities and detect and deter fraud. We are NOT the ultimate judges of the election - this is the responsibility of the Honduran voters and authorities. However, our reports are taken seriously as a source of unbiased information for both international and national audiences.

Some election observers are called "electoral tourists" or "amateurs" because they fly in unprepared, enjoy the weather, make a statement about election day, and leave. We take our jobs very seriously and will work to prepare you to be part of a team that will assess the electoral process throughout the country and use our presence in a manner that will contribute to calm and successful elections. We will coordinate this effort with the Organization of American States (OAS) delegation.

This briefing book describes for you what you should expect to see on election day, and what to look out for. Please remember two crucial things: a) we are assessing the entire process, not just election day; and b) any comments you make about what you personally see on election day will be reported in the press as a general comment on the entire election. Therefore, please read carefully and follow the Press Guidelines included in this book.

On behalf of IFES I would like to thank you once again for assisting in the continuing development of Honduran democracy.

Sincerely,

Richard Soudriette
President

B. IFES EXPERIENCE IN HONDURAS



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

IFES Experience in Honduras

1997 Electoral Technical Assistance, Civic Education

USAID asked IFES to provide training and training materials to the Honduran National Elections Tribunal (TNE) and to give a subgrant to a Central American institute for technical assistance. While the subgrantee withdrew due to what it saw as Honduran political constraints, IFES developed curricula materials and provided training to approximately 100,000 poll workers through a "cascade" methodology to reach a maximum audience with limited resources. IFES also conducted a needs assessment on transmission of election results, provided expert assistance to the TNE in developing a logistics plan, and helped conduct three trial runs of the transmission of election results.

1997 Electoral Observation Mission

IFES deployed a team of electoral experts to observe the Honduran presidential elections of November 30, 1997. In addition to enhancing the credibility of the electoral process through monitoring by impartial, non-partisan international experts, the mission made recommendations for further improvements to the Honduran electoral system.

1999 Evaluation of Honduran National Identity Card Project

In April, 1999, IFES completed an evaluation for the private firm SAGEM, SA to evaluate the company's project carried out for the Honduran government in providing national identification and voting credential, as a continuation of technical assistance IFES had provided to the TNE and National Registrar of Persons (RNP). IFES conducted an in-depth analysis of the conversion of existing registration data, acquisition and verification of new data, creation of the Registrar's central database, and production of the identity card. Additionally, IFES evaluated the program's social impact, describing how the new identity document was regarded by different social groups in contributing to democratic and economic development. The delivery of 2.9 million ID cards made it possible for over 2 million Honduran citizens to vote in November of 1997.

1993 Electoral Observation and Electoral Training

At the request of the TNE and with the support of USAID, IFES provided a 12-member team of elections experts to observe the November 28, 1993 elections. In addition to verifying that the electoral process generally was run correctly and smoothly, the mission provided recommendations for improvements in promotion of electoral participation, voter registration, pre-election preparations, political party regulation, role of security forces, and creating an independent election commission.

IFES also supported the TNE in electoral training. The program included development of an *Electoral Primer*, a training video for poll workers and actual training of 73,000 poll workers and 3,000 electoral authorities.

C. STAFF OF THE AMERICAS DIVISION, IFES



STAFF

THE AMERICAS DIVISION-IFES

Patricio F. Gajardo –Director

Fernando Mark Rondon -Deputy Director

Rebecca Reichert –Senior Program Officer

Pablo Galarce–Program Officer

Mario A. Henríquez–Senior Program Assistant

Diana Rutstein–Program Assistant

Ruth Ann Hudson–Intern

Brenna McKay–Intern

Ana M. Pérez Katz–Intern

D. CONTACTS



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

CONTACTS

IFES-Washington, DC

Contact: Diana Rutstein
1101 Fifteenth Street NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 2005
Tel. (202) 828-8507
Fax. (202) 452-0804
E-mail: drutstein@ifes.org

IFES-Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Contact: Maureen Pearce
IFES-Ave. Roble S/N
Frente a Mall Multiplaza
Tegucigalpa, Honduras 2122
Tel. (504) 231-1300
Fax. (504) 231-1400
E-mail: ifestegus@yahoo.com

Hotel Real-Intercontinental Tegucigalpa

Ave. Roble S/N
In front of the Mall Multiplaza
Tegucigalpa, Honduras 2122
Tel. (504) 231-1300
Fax. (504) 231-1400
Website: www.interconti.com/honduras/tegucigalpa
E-mail: tegucigalpa@interconti.com

U.S. Embassy in Honduras

Avenida La Paz
Apartado Postal No. 3453
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Tel. (504) 236-9320
(504) 238-4357 --Consulate

USAID-Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Contacto: Todd Sloan
Avenida La Paz
Apartado Postal No. 3453
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Tel. (504) 236-9320
Fax. (504) 236-9037

E. MAP OF HONDURAS

F. OBSERVER LIST



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

**IFES INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION DELEGATION
HONDURAS 2001 GENERAL ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 21 – 27, 2001**

COUNTRY	OBSERVER	ADDRESS	PHONE, FAX, E-MAIL
Argentina	Carlos V. Corach * Senator for Buenos Aires Senate of the Republic	Hipólito Yrigoyen 1849 P.B. 80 'A' (1007) Buenos Aires, Argentina	Tel: (54-11) 4959-3000 Tel/Fax (54-11) 4331-1119 Fax: (541) 143-311-119 Ana Lia Sieira
Argentina	Laura Velasquez President FEPEPNA	Esmeralda 626 – 2A (1007) Buenos Aires, Argentina	Tel (54-11) 4322 – 4541 Fax: (54-11) 4394 – 2951 livelasquez@hotmail.com
Brazil	Jezer Jose de Oliveira * General Director of the Electoral Commission of Brasilia	General Director of the Electoral Court of Distrito Federal Brasilia –DF –Brazil	Fax: (55-61) 343-2013 5561-342-2079
Canada	John Graham [Former Ambassador to DR and Venezuela] Chairman of Canadian Foundation for the Americas	737 Lonsdale Road Ottawa, Canada	Tel: (613) 744-8155 Fax: (613) 744-8569 jwg@magma.ca
Costa Rica	Julie Whitman Arias Foundation	Fundación Arias Calle 36 Entre Avenida 1y3 Casa No. 119 San José, Costa Rica	Tel: (506)255-2955 julie@arias.or.cr
Ecuador	Carlos J. Aguinaga President Supreme Electoral Tribunal	Ave. 6 de diciembre 3606 y Bosmediano Quito, Ecuador	Tel. (593-2 2) 467-332 Fax: (593-2 2) 266-540 carlosaguinaga@tse.gov.ec
Guatemala	Eric Bolaños President Instituto Pro-Democracia y Desarrollo (IDE)	3ª. Ave. 4-64 Zona 2 Guatemala City, Guatemala	Tel: (502)250-0061 Fax: (502) 232-1014 ideguate@terre.com
Guyana	Gocool Boodoo Chief Election Officer Guyana Elections Secretariat	41 High Street, Kingston Georgetown, Guyana	Tel: 011-592-225-0277 or 0278 Fax: (592-2) 227-3323 gecomceo@networksgy.com
Mexico	Arturo Sanchez Gutierrez * Executive Director of Political Party Prerogatives Federal Electoral Institute	Instituto Federal Electoral Viaducto Tlalpán # 100 edif. "D" 1er. piso Col. Arenal Tepepan C.P. 14610 México, D. F. Instituto Federal Electoral, México, D.F.	Lourdes Gonzales Tel: (525) 655-3094/628-4234 Fax: (525) 655-6402 rivapala@ife.org.mx Lourdes@ife.org.mx
Nicaragua	Rosa Marina Zelaya * Former President Supreme Electoral Council	Residencial Bolonia, No. 245 Mansión Teodolinda, Una cuadra al Sur, 1/2 cuadra abajo Managua, Nicaragua	Tel (505) 266-0857 Fax (505) 268-7250 rmzelaya@uam.edu.ni

Peru	Rafael Roncagliolo Secretary General Transparencia	Av. Belen 389, San Isidro, Lima 27, Peru	Tel. (511) 441-3234 Fax (511) 221-7265 Emmy Dekker emmy@transparencia.org.pe
USA	Kenneth Blazejewski Program Assistant Central American Project Inter-American Dialogue	1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 510 Washington, DC 20910	Tel. (202) 463-2923 [office] Tel. (301) 585-5852 [home] Fax: (202) 822-9553 kblazejewski@thedialogue.org
USA	Eric Brown Executive Assistant Federal Election Commission	999 E Street, NW, Suite 907 Washington, DC 20463	Tel: (202) 694-1054 Fax: (202) 219-0147 ebrown@fec.gov
USA	Miguel Diaz Director-South America Project Americas Division Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)	1800 K Street, NW Washington D.C	Tel: 202- 775-3273 Fax: 202-466-4739 mdiaz@csis.org
USA	Thomas Dodd Former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica and Uruguay	2345 King Pl. NW Washington DC, 20007	Tel. (202) 333-4328 Connecticut Office 860-236- 8072, 860-873-2563 pjdodd@mail.com
USA	Eric P. Farnsworth Senior Advisor Manatt, Phelps & Phillips	1501 M St., NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005	Tel: (202) 463-4340 Fax: (202) 463-4394 efarnsworth@manatt.com
USA	Myles R. Frechette Former US Ambassador to Colombia	1800 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 6 th floor Washington, DC 20036	Tel. (202) 822-4700 Fax. (202) 828-2057
USA	Patricio F. Gajardo Director – The Americas IFES	1101 15 th Street, NW, 3 rd Floor Washington, DC 20001	Tel: (202) 828-8507 Fax: (202) 452-0804 Patricio@ifes.org
USA	Michael Galloway Professional Staff Member Office of Rep. Sonny Callahan	2372 Rayburn House Office Building Washington DC 20515	Tel: (202) 225-4931 Fax: (202) 225-0562 michael.galloway@mail.house.gov
USA	Mario A. Henriquez Senior Program Assistant IFES/Washington	1101 15 th Street, NW, 3 rd Floor Washington, DC 20001	Tel: (202) 828-8507 Fax: (202) 452-0804 Mario@ifes.org
USA	Ken Insley Senior Program Officer The American Council for Young Political Leaders	1612 K Street, NW Suite 300 Washington D.C. 20006	Tel: (202) 857-0999 Ext 17 Fax: (202) 857-0027 kinsley@acypl.org
USA	Tim Kraft President Avanti Limited	490 Applewood Corrales, NM, 87048	Tel: (505) 379-8140 Fax: (505) 792-0833 avantikraft@aol.com
USA	Noelle Lusane Foreign Affairs Advisor Office of Rep. Donald Payne	2209 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	Tel: (202) 225-3436 Fax: (202) 225-4160 Noelle.lusane@mail.house.gov

USA	Maria Rivera-Albert President National Hispanic Leadership Institute	1901 N. Moore St., Suite 206 Arlington, VA 22209	Tel: (703) 527 - 6007 Fax: (703) 527-6009 NHLI@aol.com
USA	Fernando Mark Rondon Deputy Director-The Americas IFES	1101 15 th Street, NW, 3 rd Floor Washington, DC 20001	Tel: (202) 828-8507 Fax: (202) 452-0804 Mrdonon@ifes.org
USA	Diana Rutstein Program Assistant IFES/Washington	1101 15 th Street, NW, 3 rd Floor Washington, DC 20001	Tel: (202) 828-8507 Fax: (202) 452-0804 Drutstein@ifes.org
USA	Luis Sobalvarro Program Officer International Republican Institute	1212 New York Ave. NW Washington, DC 20005	Tel: (202) 408-9450 Fax: (202) 408-9462 lsobalvarro@iri.org
USA	Mark P. Sullivan Congressional Research Service Latin American Specialist The Library of Congress	The Library of Congress Washington, DC 20540-7460	Tel: (202) 707-7689 Fax: (202) 707-3304 MSULLIVAN@crs.loc.gov
USA	Jennifer Tufts Development Section Delegation of the European Commission European Union	2300 M Street Washington D.C, 20037-1434	Tel: 202-862-9579 Fax: 202-429-1766 E-mail: Jennifer.tufts@cec.eu.int
USA	Jack H. Vaughn Former US Ambassador to Panama and Colombia	1843 N. Kramer Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719	Tel: (520) 326-5929 Fax: (520) 326-4537 leftiev@aol.com
USA	Dylan Walsh Program Assistant International Republican Institute	1212 New York Ave. NW Washington, DC 20005	Tel: (202) 408-9450 Fax: (202) 408-9462
USA	Maureen Pearce Program Manager IFES/Honduras	Hotel Inter-Continental Tegucigalpa, Honduras Office 303	Tel: (504) 231-1300 Fax: (504) 231-1400 mmahoneypearce@hotmail.com
SUPPORT STAFF			
Honduras	Mirian E. Colindres Assistant IFES/Honduras	Hotel Inter-Continental Tegucigalpa, Honduras Office 303	Tel: (504) 231-1300 Fax: (504) 231-1400 ifestegus@yahoo.com
Honduras	Patricia Diaz Assistant IFES/Honduras	Hotel Inter-Continental Tegucigalpa, Honduras Office 303	Tel: (504) 231-1300 Fax: (504) 231-1400 ifestegus@yahoo.com

G. SCOPE OF OBSERVATION

SCOPE OF OBSERVATION

The first objective of neutral observation is to monitor election activities from a positive perspective. With this view as a starting point, the second objective is to identify circumstances, issues or irregular practices that jeopardize or hinder the legal conduct of the election. This is particularly important if irregularities appear to be a deliberate pervasive or part of an organized scheme.

In fulfilling these key objectives, it is also important to consider that the elections do not begin and end with the conduct of the poll on elections day. To evaluate the election, therefore, observers should familiarize themselves with the political context in which the elections are taking place, the legal framework underpinning the elections, and the pre-election and campaign environments.

Attempts to ascertain the how the media is handling the coverage of the process and whether campaign coverage appears to be open and fair. Determine what civic education efforts appear to have been made and how well citizens appear to be motivated. As you help broaden your understanding of the election process as a whole, and assist you in assessing you findings in a meaningful context.

Notes _____

Lined area for notes, consisting of 30 horizontal lines.



II. BACKGROUND ON HONDURAS

A. CNN ELECTION WATCH

Election Watch: Honduras

<i>Country</i>	<i>Election Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Honduras	<input type="checkbox"/> Presidential	<input type="checkbox"/> November 25, 2001
At stake in this election: <input type="checkbox"/> Office of the president.		
Description of government structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Chief of State: President Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse. <input type="checkbox"/> Head of Government: President Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse. <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly: Honduras has a unicameral National Congress (128 seats).		
Description of electoral structure: <input type="checkbox"/> The president is popularly elected to a four-year term. <input type="checkbox"/> The members of the National Assembly are elected by popular vote for four-year terms.		
Main candidates for president: <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential Candidate: Ricardo MADURO <input type="checkbox"/> Party: National Party (PN) <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential Candidate: Rafael PINEDA Ponce <input type="checkbox"/> Party: Liberal Party of Honduras <p>Are the above-mentioned candidates the major competitors in the coming elections? If not, please list below any additional candidates and the parties under which they will run for the presidency. Similarly, please cross out any candidate that will not be competitive.</p> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential Candidate: _____ (please provide, if necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> Party : _____ (please provide, if necessary) </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential Candidate: _____ (please provide, if necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> Party : _____ (please provide, if necessary) </div>		
Popularity of the candidates: <p>According to your knowledge of the current political situation in Honduras, please number the following parties in order of popularity, with #1 being the most popular. Please note that you will not be cited for this opinion; this ranking is only used to determine which parties will be most competitive.</p> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Ricardo MADURO <input type="checkbox"/> Rafael PINEDA Ponce <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (please provide, if necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (please provide, if necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (please provide, if necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (please provide, if necessary) </div>		
When was the last election? Number of seats in last election?		

☐ Presidential election last held: November 30, 1997.

Population and number of eligible voters:

☐ Population: 6,249,598 (July 2000 est.)

☐ Number of registered voters: Please provide.

Of interest:

☐ Other: _____

Information provided by:

x _____
(Name (please print)/signature)

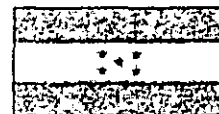
____/____/____
(mm/dd/yy)

(fax)

B. CIA FACT BOOK: HONDURAS



Honduras



Introduction Geography People Government Economy Communications Transportation Military
Transnational Issues



Honduras

Introduction

[Top of Page](#)

Background: Part of Spain's vast empire in the New World, Honduras became an independent nation in 1821. After two and one-half decades of mostly military rule, a freely elected civilian government came to power in 1982. During the 1980s, Honduras proved a haven for anti-Sandinista contras fighting the Marxist Nicaraguan Government and an ally to Salvadoran Government forces fighting against leftist guerrillas.

Honduras

Geography

[Top of Page](#)

Location: Middle America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Guatemala and Nicaragua and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Nicaragua

Geographic coordinates: 15 00 N, 86 30 W

Map references: Central America and the Caribbean

Area: total: 112,090 sq km

land: 111,890 sq km

water: 200 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly larger than Tennessee

Land boundaries: *total:* 1,520 km

border countries: Guatemala 256 km, El Salvador 342 km, Nicaragua 922 km

Coastline: 820 km

Maritime claims: *contiguous zone:* 24 NM

continental shelf: natural extension of territory or to 200 NM

exclusive economic zone: 200 NM

territorial sea: 12 NM

Climate: subtropical in lowlands, temperate in mountains

Terrain: mostly mountains in interior, narrow coastal plains

Elevation extremes: *lowest point:* Caribbean Sea 0 m

highest point: Cerro Las Minas 2,870 m

Natural resources: timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, antimony, coal, fish, hydropower

Land use: *arable land:* 15%

permanent crops: 3%

permanent pastures: 14%

forests and woodland: 54%

other: 14% (1993 est.)

Irrigated land: 740 sq km (1993 est.)

Natural hazards: frequent, but generally mild, earthquakes; damaging hurricanes and floods along Caribbean coast

Environment - current issues: urban population expanding; deforestation results from logging and the clearing of land for agricultural purposes; further land degradation and soil erosion hastened by uncontrolled development and improper land use practices such as farming of marginal lands; mining activities polluting Lago de Yojoa (the country's largest source of fresh water) as well as several rivers and streams with heavy metals; severe Hurricane Mitch damage

Environment - International agreements: *party to:* Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Honduras

People

[Top of Page](#)

Population: 6,406,052

note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2001 est.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 42.22% (male 1,381,823; female 1,322,684)

15-64 years: 54.21% (male 1,719,593; female 1,753,003)

65 years and over: 3.57% (male 108,271; female 120,678) (2001 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.43% (2001 est.)

Birth rate: 31.94 births/1,000 population (2001 est.)

Death rate: 5.52 deaths/1,000 population (2001 est.)

Net migration rate: -2.12 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2001 est.)

Sex ratio: at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 0.98 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.9 male(s)/female

total population: 1 male(s)/female (2001 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 30.88 deaths/1,000 live births (2001 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: total population: 69.35 years
male: 67.51 years

female: 71.28 years (2001 est.)

Total fertility rate: 4.15 children born/woman (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 1.92% (1999 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 63,000 (1999 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 4,200 (1999 est.)

Nationality: noun: Honduran(s)

adjective: Honduran

Ethnic groups: mestizo (mixed Amerindian and European) 90%, Amerindian 7%, black 2%, white 1%

Religions: Roman Catholic 97%, Protestant minority

Languages: Spanish, Amerindian dialects

Literacy: *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 72.7%

male: 72.6%

female: 72.7% (1995 est.)

Honduras Government

Top of Page

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Honduras

conventional short form: Honduras

local long form: Republica de Honduras

local short form: Honduras

Government type: democratic constitutional republic

Capital: Tegucigalpa

Administrative divisions: 18 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Atlantida, Choluteca, Colon, Comayagua, Copan, Cortes, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazan, Gracias a Dios, Intibuca, Islas de la Bahia, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Olancho, Santa Barbara, Valle, Yoro

Independence: 15 September 1821 (from Spain)

National holiday: Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

Constitution: 11 January 1982, effective 20 January 1982; amended 1995

Legal system: rooted in Roman and Spanish civil law with increasing influence of English common law; recent judicial reforms include abandoning Napoleonic legal codes in favor of the oral adversarial system; accepts ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse (since 27 January 1998); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government; First Vice President William HANDAL (since NA); Second Vice President Gladys CABALLERO de Arevalo (since NA); Third Vice President Hector Vidal CERRATO Hernandez (since NA)

head of government: President Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse (since 27 January 1998); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government; First Vice President William HANDAL (since NA); Second Vice President Gladys CABALLERO de Arevalo (since NA); Third Vice President Hector Vidal CERRATO Hernandez (since NA)

cabinet: Cabinet appointed by president

elections: president elected by popular vote for a four-year term; election last held 30 November 1997 (next to be held 25 November 2001)

election results: Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse elected president; percent of vote - Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse (PL) 50%, Nora de MELGAR (PN) 40%, other 10%

Legislative branch: unicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional (128 seats; members are elected proportionally to the number of votes their party's presidential candidate receives to serve four-year terms)

elections: last held on 30 November 1997 (next to be held 25 November 2001)

election results: percent of vote by party - PL 46%, PN 38%, PINU-SD 4%, PDC 2%, PUD 2%; seats by party - PL 67, PN 55, PINU-SD 3, PDC 2, PUD 1

Judicial branch: Supreme Court of Justice or Corte Suprema de Justicia (judges are elected for four-year terms by the National Congress)

Political parties and leaders: Christian Democratic Party or PDC [Efraín DIAZ Arrivillaga, president]; Democratic Unification Party or PUD [Marias FUNES Valladares, president]; Liberal Party or PL [Carlos Roberto FLORES Facusse, president]; National Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democratic Party or PINU-SD [Olban VALLADARES, president]; National Party of Honduras or PN [Carlos URBIZO, president]

Political pressure groups and leaders: Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras or CODEH; Confederation of Honduran Workers or CTH; Coordinating Committee of Popular Organizations or CCOP; General Workers Confederation or CGT; Honduran Council of Private Enterprise or COHEP; National Association of Honduran Campesinos or ANACH; National Union of Campesinos or UNC; Popular Bloc or BP; United Federation of Honduran Workers or FUTH

International organization participation: BCIE, CACM, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Intelsat, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LAES, LAIA (observer), MINURSO, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTrO

Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Hugo NOE PINO
chancery: Suite 4-M, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 966-7702

FAX: [1] (202) 966-9751

consulate(s) general: Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, San Juan (Puerto Rico)

honorary consulate(s): Boston, Detroit, and Jacksonville

Diplomatic representation from the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Frank ALMAGUER
embassy: Avenida La Paz, Apartado Postal No. 3453, Tegucigalpa

mailing address: American Embassy, APO AA 34022, Tegucigalpa

telephone: [504] 238-5114, 236-9320

FAX: [504] 236-9037

Flag description: three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and blue with five blue five-pointed stars arranged in an X pattern centered in the white band; the stars represent the members of the former Federal Republic of Central America - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; similar to the flag of El Salvador, which features a round emblem encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR EN LA AMERICA CENTRAL centered in the white band; also similar to the flag of Nicaragua, which features a triangle encircled by the word REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA on top and AMERICA CENTRAL on the bottom, centered in the white band

Honduras**Economy**

Top of Page

Economy - overview: Honduras, one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, is banking on expanded trade privileges under the Enhanced Caribbean Basin Initiative and on debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. While reconstruction from 1998's Hurricane Mitch is at an advanced stage, and the country has met most of its macroeconomic targets, it failed to meet the IMF's goals to liberalize its energy and telecommunications sectors. Economic growth has rebounded nicely since the hurricane and should continue in 2001.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$17 billion (2000 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 5% (2000 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$2,700 (2000 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture:* 16.2%
industry: 31.9%
services: 51.9% (1999 est.)

Population below poverty line: 53% (1993 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share: *lowest 10%:* 1.2%
highest 10%: 42.1% (1996)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 11% (2000 est.)

Labor force: 2.3 million (1997 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: agriculture 29%, industry 21%, services 50% (1998 est.)

Unemployment rate: 28% (2000 est.)

Budget: *revenues:* \$607 million

expenditures: \$411.9 million, including capital expenditures of \$106 million (1999 est.)

Industries: sugar, coffee, textiles, clothing, wood products

Industrial production growth rate: 4% (1999 est.)

Electricity - production: 3.319 billion kWh (1999)

Electricity - production by source: *fossil fuel:* 44.71%
hydro: 55.29%

nuclear: 0%

other: 0% (1999)

Electricity - consumption: 3.232 billion kWh (1999)

Electricity - exports: 0 kWh (1999)

Electricity - imports: 145 million kWh (1999)

Agriculture - products: bananas, coffee, citrus; beef; timber; shrimp

Exports: \$2 billion (f.o.b., 2000 est.)

Exports - commodities: coffee, bananas, shrimp, lobster, meat; zinc, lumber

Exports - partners: US 35.4%, Germany 7.5%, El Salvador 6.4%, Guatemala 5.8%, Nicaragua 4.8% (1999)

Imports: \$2.8 billion (f.o.b., 2000 est.)

Imports - commodities: machinery and transport equipment, industrial raw materials, chemical products, fuels, foodstuffs

Imports - partners: US 47.1%, Guatemala 7.4%, El Salvador 5.9%, Mexico 4.8%, Japan 4.7% (1999)

Debt - external: \$5.4 billion (2000)

Economic aid - recipient: \$557.8 million (1999)

Currency: lempira (HNL)

Currency code: HNL

Exchange rates: lempiras per US dollar - 15.1407 (December 2000), 15.1407 (2000), 14.5039 (1999), 13.8076 (1998), 13.0942 (1997), 12.8694 (1996)

Fiscal year: calendar year

Honduras Communications

Telephones - main lines in use: 234,000 (1997)

[Top of Page](#)

Telephones - 14,427 (1997)
mobile cellular:

Telephone system: *general assessment:* inadequate system

domestic: NA

international: satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean); connected to Central American Microwave System

Radio broadcast stations: AM 241, FM 53, shortwave 12 (1998)

Radios: 2.45 million (1997)

Television broadcast stations: 11 (plus 17 repeaters) (1997)

Televisions: 570,000 (1997)

Internet country code: .hn

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 8 (2000)

Internet users: 20,000 (2000)

Honduras Transportation

[Top of Page](#)

Railways: *total:* 595 km

narrow gauge: 349 km 1.067-m gauge; 246 km 0.914-m gauge (1999)

Highways: *total:* 15,400 km

paved: 3,126 km

unpaved: 12,274 km (1999 est.)

Waterways: 465 km (navigable by small craft)

Ports and harbors: La Ceiba, Puerto Castilla, Puerto Cortes, San Lorenzo, Tela, Puerto Lempira

Merchant marine: *total:* 313 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 760,819 GRT/820,582 DWT

ships by type: bulk 21, cargo 187, chemical tanker 7, container 4, livestock carrier 2, passenger 2, passenger/cargo 4, petroleum tanker 52, refrigerated cargo 17, roll on/roll off 8, short-sea passenger 5, specialized tanker 2, vehicle carrier 2

note: includes some foreign-owned ships registered here as a flag of convenience: Russia 4, Singapore 2, Vietnam 1 (2000 est.)

Airports: 119 (2000 est.)

C. LIST OF CURRENT CABINET MEMBERS

Honduras:**Cabinet
Gabinete****Base de Datos Políticos
de las Américas**

Last updated: February 1st, 2000.

- **Presidente / President**
Carlos Flores Facusse
- **Vice Presidentes / Vice Presidents**
Billy Handal
Gladys Caballero de Arevalo
Hector Vidal Cerrato
- **Ministro de Defensa / Minister of Defense**
Edgardo Dumas Rodriguez
- **Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores / Minister of Foreign Affairs**
Roberto Flores Bermúdez
- **Ministro de Finanzas / Minister of Finance**
Gabriela Nuñez
- **Ministro de Comercio e Industria / Minister of Trade and Industry**
Reginaldo Panting
- **Ministro de Obras Públicas, Transporte y Vivienda / Minister of Public Works, Transportation and Housing**
Tomas Lozano
- **Ministro de Cultura, Arte y Deportes / Minister of Culture, Art and Sports**
Hedman Allan Padgett
- **Ministro de Educación Pública / Minister of Public Education**
Ramon Calix Figueroa
- **Ministro de Trabajo / Minister of Labor**
Rosa América de Galo
- **Ministro de Salud / Minister of Health**
Plutarco Castellanos
- **Ministro de Agricultura / Minister of Agriculture**
Guillermo Alvarado Downing
- **Ministro de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente / Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

Xiomara Gómez

- **Ministro de Turismo / Minister of Tourism**
Norman García
- **Ministro de Cooperación Técnica e Internacional / Minister of Technical and International Cooperation**
Arturo Corrales
- **Fiscal General / Attorney General**
Roy Medina
- **Director del Instituto Nacional Agrario / Director of the National Agrarian Institute**
Anibal Delgado Fiallos
- **Presidente del Banco Central de Honduras / President of the Honduran Central Bank**
Victoria Asfura de Díaz
- **Director del Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social / Director of the Honduran Social Investment Fund**
Moisés Starkman

SOURCE: Foundation for Investment and Development of Exports. Government Offices List

[Return to Executive Institutions](#)
[Regresar a Instituciones Ejecutivas](#)

[Return to PDPA Home](#)
[Regresar al Inicio de la BDPA](#)

D. *BUILDING DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS:*
USAID

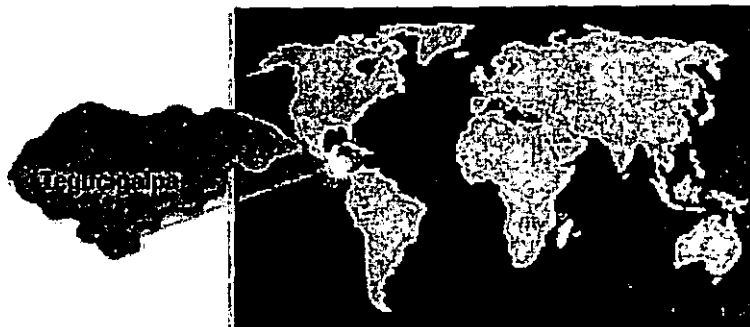
Skip redundant navigation


[Home](#) ▶ [This Is USAID](#) ▶ [Privacy](#) ▶ [What's New](#) ▶ [Missions](#) ▶ [Employment](#) ▶ [Search](#) ▶ [Contact](#)

The United States Agency for International Development

Building Democracy in Honduras

Background Information

[USAID/Latin America & Caribbean Bureau](#)
[OTI Program](#)
[Department of State Human Rights Report](#)
[CIA Factbook](#)


U.S. assistance to Honduras is still heavily focused on helping the country recover from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. However, even as the bulk of the U.S. Hurricane Reconstruction Program is expected to be completed December 31, 2001, more intense focus is being placed on critical transformation issues emerging from the reconstruction: economic growth, transparency, decentralization, and fundamental reforms in the judicial, health, and education sectors.

Hurricane Mitch's staggering levels of destruction and dislocation throughout the country represented the most pressing development challenge for Honduras in the fall of 1998. Before Hurricane Mitch, Honduras was making significant progress in addressing its daunting development challenges: severe poverty, protectionist economic tendencies, archaic judicial practices, inadequate education and health care systems, and widespread environmental degradation. Unfortunately, the damage and losses caused by the hurricane set the country back years in its development efforts, making U.S. assistance to Honduras a priority. Two years after Hurricane Mitch and the subsequent economic recession that lasted until early 2000, the Honduran economy is stabilizing and slowly showing signs of recovery. Reconstruction activities have allowed thousands of displaced families to obtain permanent shelter. Basic infrastructure (water and sanitation, roads, and bridges) along with critical social infrastructure (schools and health clinics) lost or damaged during the storm are being rebuilt. Honduras continues to strengthen its institutions in charge of disaster preparedness and emergency response systems at the local and national levels. Despite these advances, Honduras continues to struggle with the overwhelming reconstruction effort and the serious development and transformation issues facing it.

Economic growth over the last decade only slightly exceeded population growth and had little effect on poverty reduction. Approximately two-thirds of Honduran households still live in poverty. Honduras continues to suffer from insufficient employment generation, especially for the poor. Private investment is constrained by an unfavorable investment climate, including an overvalued currency, lack of credit, high commercial interest rates, deficient infrastructure (electricity, communications, and roads), weak legal institutions, a low level of education and workforce productivity, corruption, and burdensome bureaucratic obstacles. Progress in many of these areas has been stymied by the political

continued. Progress in many of these areas has been delayed by the political dynamics associated with elections scheduled for November 2001.

Honduran democratic institutions must be strengthened to assure protection of human rights and to allow for greater citizen participation in decision-making. Past decentralization efforts created some capable local governments that can play a major role in meeting the needs of their constituents and the reconstruction. In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, municipal governments demonstrated their abilities to respond to critical needs, to provide basic services, and to involve citizens in decision-making. Municipalities have taken on increased responsibilities but often lack the financial and human resources to implement critical actions effectively.

The major challenge facing the criminal justice system at this juncture is the successful implementation of the new Criminal Procedures Code (CPC). Passage of the new CPC and a constitutional amendment to reduce politicization in appointments to the Supreme Court are significant steps forward in transforming the current archaic, corrupt, and inefficient system. The implementation of the CPC and the constitutional amendment will require significant financial resources, political will, and civil society support. These reforms have the potential to increase greatly the public's belief in democratic government, and will require intensive training for and technical assistance to the five justice sector institutions that play critical roles in implementing the CPC.

In FY 2002, USAID programs will support the GOH Poverty Reduction Plan that was developed in consultation with civil society, communities, and other donors. USAID also will help spur economic reactivation of small and medium entrepreneurs and agricultural producers by improving access to financial and technical assistance and encouraging a healthy investment climate. Policymakers continue to receive expert advice on complex post-Mitch economic recovery and poverty reduction issues. USAID will also support the Honduran transition plan for the new Criminal Procedures Code that creates an oral, adversarial system that is more transparent and fair. This effort will focus on providing extensive training and assistance to the key parties in the judicial system including the courts, prosecutors, bar associations. USAID also will continue to work with the GOH to promote accountability and the transparent use of public-sector resources.

Democracy & Governance Activity Data Sheets	
522-004	Strengthened Rule of Law, Accountability, and Respect for Human Rights
522-007	More Responsive and Effective Municipal Government

The information on this page is taken from the Democracy and Governance section of USAID's FY2002 Budget Justification for Honduras.

[Back to Building Democracy in LAC](#)

Skip Navigation Links

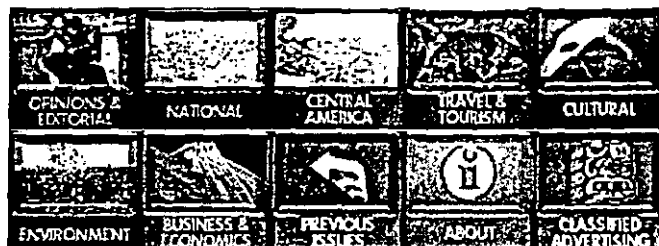
DG Home	DG Center	Programs	Publications	Links
-------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------

Navigation Links Skipped

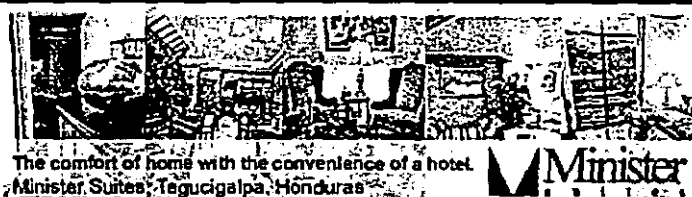
E. HONDURAS THIS WEEK

HONDURAS THIS WEEK online

YOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN WEEKLY REVIEW
Member of the Inter-American Press Association



NATIONAL



Beautiful Apart-Hotel in Tegucigalpa's finest neighborhood.

Beautifully appointed suites with high-bandwidth internet access, desk, safe, 3 direct-dial telephones, bar and kitchenette with fully equipped pantry in each room.

Monday, November 12, 2001 Online Edition 45

Three days after Michelle, two years Mitch, Garifuna United for Progress

With the help of Comité de Emergencia Garifuna, farmers like Sotera Alvarez and Serafina Alvarez have a good harvest.



By
SUZANNE SHENDE

Special to
HTW

(First of two parts)

When tropical Storm #15 and Hurricane Michelle bloated the

President Flores visits disaster areas

By BLANCA MORENO

Following the declaration of a state of emergency by President Carlos Flores in the Departments of Yoro, Cortes, Atlantida, Colon and Santa Barbara, as a result of the torrential rains due to Hurricane Michelle, the President has asked the population not harbor expectations that huge amounts of money are going to fall upon Honduras in response to the deluge, but that the government will receive a response sufficient to take care of the existing needs.

"Our responsibility in the interim has

Aguan River last week, Amada Solano called from the Santa Rosa de Aguan to report that, once again, the town was cut off, areas flooded, the sea had carved away at the coastline and two houses had fallen into its waves. The raging waters of the river converted the road into a veritable waterfall, which in its wake left a gigantic hole — even before reaching the uncrossable “plancha”, or the low cement crossing of a river, which remains invisible, under many feet of the fast moving river.

While the more central towns, that unfortunately suffered from the flooding, received adequate media coverage as to their plight, other more isolated communities, equally affected, failed to receive sufficient attention and help. According to radio and phone reports, the villages or aldeas of Sangrelaya and Cocalito, in the Municipality of Iruya, 85 houses were flooded, potable water was contaminated, 150 manioc, 70 rice, and 28 corn fields were lost, along with 10 cows. In San Jose de la Punta, 45 homes were flooded, in Tocamacho, 35, and in Punta Piedra, 20. The isolated coastal Garifuna villages in the region also reported lost crops and worries over hunger.

These recent storms only underlined how Aguan, in particular, was left vulnerable after all the damage done by Hurricane Mitch, three years ago. Secundina Ramos, who lost her house there in the deadly Mitch, explained how the canoe which was rescuing her from the raging river went under: “I grabbed a child, swam with one arm, they threw us a rope, and hauled us to the river’s edge. But nine others, of the 16 who were in the canoe with me, drowned.” One can never fully recover from the loss of life of a friend, colleague or family member. Nevertheless, some of the material damage is being addressed, little by little, by a group of Garifunas which formed in October, 1998. In the aftermath of Mitch, they united to create the Comité de Emergencia Garifuna de Honduras, a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Trujillo, Colon. Secundina is one of the Mitch survivors for whom the Comité built a house. After Mitch, as after Michelle, government emphasis in immediate reconstruction focused on the central parts of the country, and left the Garifuna coast largely to fend for itself. In response to the needs of the Garifuna communities which weren’t receiving sufficient assistance from national or international sources, the Comité built 13 houses in Trujillo for people without resources who had lost their homes, assisted in three construction projects for housing in Aguan, sent materials to more than 40 schools and kindergartens, provided equipment and medicines for hospitals, health centers and differently-abled people, repaired cultural centers, houses, schools, and small businesses, and delivered donations to needy people. These had to be transported by canoe, horse, mule, on foot,

to be to bring even more to the affected regions to make this a success”, emphasized President Carlos Flores.

The President went first to La Lima, Cortes, to view in person the damages caused by the rains, and instructed a team of his ministers to give immediate responses to those coordinating the evacuations, as well as the various aid groups which have promptly come to attend to victims of the natural phenomenon.

In a statement to the public, the President reminded citizens that international attention is centered on other notable world events, and that these events are monopolizing the currently available support.

“We are going to have to redouble our internal cost, to attend to our own in a great part, and in the measure in which we can do so will proportion amongst ourselves, attending to the difficulties and the problems that we are encountering at this moment.”

The President has returned from putting on his rain coat and boots, and during the past week, went to Yoro, Atlantida, and Colon, where he conversed energetically, expressing thankfulness for the diligent work done and reiterated that “the fundamental thing is that there was not loss of life.”

One of the departments most affected by Michelle was Gracias a Dios, better known as the Mosquitia, where the Permanent Emergency Commission (COPECO) sent a primary disbursement in the amount of Lps. 30 thousand, for the acquisition of gasoline which is necessary for the maritime operations in effect, including evaluating damages, as well as search and rescue. Humanitarian

boat, horsecart or pick-up, to reach these most forgotten villages.

Crisis response through donations and reconstruction is not enough however. The Comité has had to expand its activities to support sustainable development, to defend the ancestral lands of the Garífuna, and to help communities strengthen themselves and design their own solutions to the problems they face.

The Garífuna, instead of wallowing in the difficulties left by Mitch, are struggling to create a better future for themselves, principally through agricultural revitalization. The Garífuna, of African, Carib and Arawak indigenous descent, have lived for over 200 years in villages along the north coast of the country which rely primarily on small scale agriculture and fishing for survival. After Mitch, it was reported that nearly 90 percent of the crops supporting Garífuna villages were wiped out.

This damage was so widespread that a United Nations Development Program study found that food available in Honduran farming communities the year after Mitch was decreased by 60 percent. In response, in each of 16 towns, from Guadalupe in the east, to Cocalito in the west, the Comité began by evaluating the needs of the towns. Early this year, following the ideas expressed by the communities, the Comité established tool banks in each town, directed by locally elected persons to lend tools to farmers.

The Comité has also provided seeds of traditional food plants, such as plantains and manioc root, that were largely lost in some areas during Mitch. These crops, the mainstay of Garífuna agriculture, were not included in most programs donating seeds after Mitch, which focused on the Ladino crops of corn and beans. In order to even find sources in quantity of these cuttings and seedlings after Mitch, committee members had to walk an hour and a half up into the mountains, where the crops were protected somewhat from the winds and flooding that destroyed the coastal fields. Additionally, the group has initiated a pioneer project in rescuing traditional root crops of taro root, sweet potato, red grow yams and arrow root, which were becoming scarce even before Mitch. They form an important, nutritious part of the Garífuna diet, and are much in demand among people who, having seen their vulnerability in the face of Mitch, want to attempt to be able to provide for themselves.

Three years ago in Aguan, dozens of people lost their lives, and hundreds, like Secundina lost their homes. Those that remained, however, are fighting to do more than just survive. Eufasia Guity, known as Facha, rows two hours in a dug-out canoe to reach the area she is cultivating. She is one of the

assistance currently available in La Ceiba amounts to 60,000 pounds of food and 18,000 pounds of clothing that will be sent to the departments which logistically will be able to put it to greatest use.

On the part of President Flores and the Chancelleries of the United States and Mexico, helicopters have been made available with the capacity to transport cargo, as well as to transport qualified technicians who will take part in the assistance operations.

The official accounting of damages in Gracias a Dios includes 4,131 persons evacuated, 2,400 victims, 511 damaged buildings, 15 destroyed buildings, 1 damaged bridge and 2 destroyed bridges, and 4,610 manzanas of damaged agricultural land.

Interairports requests tax exemption

Interairports, the company in charge of administering the country's airports has requested a tax exemption from the National Congress this week. The San Francisco-based company is arguing a loss of US\$ 541 thousand since the September 11th airplane attacks against the United States of America.

According to the daily La Tribuna, Interairports manager Johnny Morales explained that the tax exemption would apply to all of the types of machinery they are importing into Honduras. The machinery would be destined towards the expansion of the nation's airports. This expansion is part of the commitment of Interairports in their lease agreement with the government. The expansion deadline is July of 2003.

elected leaders of the tool bank, and she, along with the other farmers, has benefited from the Comité's project. Before Michelle, at least, she commented that, "my fields are lush and thriving, and my family will see changes when we harvest: we will sell a part and eat a part. I would like for the community to have something for tomorrow."

Another harvest that the Garifuna will have in "for tomorrow," thanks to the Comité, is a coconut crop. The majority of region's coconuts were killed by a disease called Lethal Yellowing, and so the Garifuna lost a crucial element in their traditional foods, affecting both consumption and sale. Amada Solano, another member of the tool bank with Facha, elaborates, "the coconut is the base of the Garifuna foods, and we miss it a lot — I used to make coconut bread, coconut candies, crab soup with pounded plantains. Once we have coconuts again, we will come back to life!"

Many mothers and grandmothers used to generate extra income from the sale of just such items. For 16 towns, then, the Comité bought hybrid or resistant coconuts, and the communities decided on a project. Upon completing the work, whether it be repair of a bridge, reforesting the beach with coconuts, cleaning up the piers and waterways used for navigation or cutting the grass around the kindergarten and health center, the participants are awarded a coconut plant-for-work. In addition, the Comité is establishing a nursery of coconuts in Barranco Blanco, a community that almost disappeared with the double blows of the coconuts' disease, and the destruction of clay and thatched roof houses in Mitch.

But the Comité doesn't only encourage the revitalization of traditional Garifuna crops. Responding to the community's suggestions, it has also provided thousands of grafted Valencia orange trees to the Garifuna towns of Colon. Within a few years, these will provide a good source of vitamin c, even when it isn't mango season, oranges for sale, and also serve as permanent markers of Garifuna towns' territory, which is increasingly subject to illegal invasion. The orange trees, too, were distributed in a work-for-plant method, and some were donated by the communities themselves to the schools.

According to their requests, farmers also received seeds for grains, such as rice, corn and beans. In light of the recent winds, flooding, and dire reports, the status of all these crops, which did survive last year's Tropical storm Katrina and this year's drought, will have to be evaluated. The works of the Comité are not limited to land — they also encompass the sea, through support to artisan fisherpeople. In three towns, the Comité is mounting a pilot project, providing cords, netting, buoys, weights, silk thread for weaving nets and other

Morales explained the machinery would include elevators, computers, X-ray machines and boarding gates among others. He argued that the machinery would eventually end up in the hands of the government, saying that it would become part of the airport infrastructure and that this would return to government ownership once Interairport's lease ran up.

In reference to the six-figure losses, Morales explained it was due to the great drop in flight passengers since the September 11 attacks. It should be noted that since Interairports began its operations a year ago, Honduran airport costs have risen to become the highest in all of the Central American and Caribbean region. Landing costs in a national airport are four times as much as in nearby Guatemala, for example.

According to La Tribuna, Marco Aguero, the head of the National Concessions Commission, said that the decision to grant the tax exemption is completely up to the National Congress. No figures were released as to how large that tax exemption would be.

WEEK IN REVIEW

State of emergency in five departments

Although Hurricane Michelle no longer poses a threat to country and the National Emergency Committee decided to suspend the red alert status last week, five departments were declared still in a state of emergency. These include the Departments of Cortes, Yoro, Atlantida, Colon and Gracias a Dios, where damage from rains and flooding was the worst. As of Monday,

netting, buoys, weights, sink ahead for weaving nets and other materials to the fisherpeople. Artesanal refers to the fisherpeople who row out in the night to harvest the bounty of the ocean by hand — or at least what is left after commercial shrimp boats deplete the natural resources of the region.

Hurricane Michelle hits North Coast hard

By WENDY GRIFFIN

At first the weather problems did not seem that serious. Every year lots of cold fronts hit the Honduran North Coast. Usually the weather report in the paper says that there is a cold front affecting the Honduran territory and it will last 72 hours. The only difference with this cold front/low pressure system is that there was no report of when it would leave.

People started being concerned because of the pelicans. All the pelicans began flying to the Guaymoreto Lagoon on Saturday. This is their refuge in times of bad weather where they can hide among the mangroves. Also the wind changed to "viento abajo" or from the northwest. "Viene mal tiempo, (Bad weather is coming)" people said. However, this is not unusual. It always rains in November. Sometimes it rains for three weeks or more without stopping.

It rained Sunday. It rained Monday. I was supposed to travel on Monday, but it was raining as if the clouds were plastic bags full of water and someone cut the bottom out. First it came down in sheets and then it began raining sideways, because of the wind. By Monday it was too late. "No hay pasada." There is no way to get through. It is flooding in La Lima and El Progreso. There is still not a feeling that anything is very wrong. It always floods in La Lima, which one newspaper described as the Venice of Honduras.

People were still travelling from San Pedro to Trujillo, I was told Tuesday. But you take one bus until it can go no further, then you walk across the flooded part until you get to another. I needed to go to Tegucigalpa, but not badly enough to cross flooded streams. The Cristales River, which usually gets just your knees wet was deep enough to jump off the bridge and swim down stream. It overflowed its containing wall like a waterfall, which was gorgeous, but it did flood a friend's plantains.

On Tuesday the pelicans are still flying in flocks towards the Lagoon. The rain is still attributed to the low pressure front.

countrywide, 6 deaths were reported, 14 people are missing, more than 22,000 were evacuated, 52,181 were left homeless, 12 bridges were damaged and 13 destroyed, approximately 32,000 manzanas of food crops were destroyed. —El Herald

1,600 persons trapped in the Mosquitla

Due to heavy rains caused by Hurricane Michelle, nearly 1,600 persons were trapped in Tiquiralla, Puerto Lempira in the Mosquitla last week. The Municipal Emergency Committee is working on evacuating these people to higher grounds until danger of flooding decreases. —La Tribuna

Military generals bank accounts add up to more than Lps. 130 million

Auditors of the General Comptrollers Office discovered a special bank account managed by four military generals with the Central Bank worth millions of lempiras last week. According to their report, the account was opened by General Walter Lopez Reyes and deposits were made with funds from left over military budget items. General Humberto Regalado Hernandez managed nearly Lps. 61 million, General Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez, Lps. 25 million, General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, Lps. 25 million and Mario Raul Hung Pacheco, Lps. 20 million. The Central Bank Report states that the former military chiefs used these monies, but neglected to report to what end. —La Tribuna

Honduras is hopeful Bolaños will change foreign policy

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Flores Bermudez stated last

During the six years I have been on the North Coast, at least three have had these low pressure fronts. TeleCeiba was showing pictures of the overflow of the Cangrejal River. Workers are visiting people's houses in more than waist deep water. Tall trees are falling. Somewhere a Tropical Storm is forming, but no one had an idea where it was. Since there were no direct buses, the newspaper was not getting through. Trujillo does not get most Honduran TV channels, so we are left with the vague news of "Primer Impacto" that Honduras is on alert for rains.

Then the rumors started. A taxi driver told, "Viene un huracán a las tres de la mañana". A Hurricane is coming at 3 am. I asked a girlfriend what she knew. She said the pulperia lady also told her a hurricane was coming.

What was I going to do if a hurricane was coming? My house had already survived Mitch. So I went home and went to sleep. All night long I would wake up and listen to the rain. "No, the hurricane is not here yet," and went back to sleep.

In the morning I still heard rumors. The hurricane was in Limon. No, it was in Nicaragua. It was coming right here and that was why they were evacuating Chapagua, a nearby low lying town. This is different from Tropical Storm Katrina two years ago, when a car with a loud speaker went through the town and announced, "A Tropical Storm is coming at 3 a.m." All during the day, villages called in to Radio Catolica in Trujillo. So many houses were down in Santa Fe. So many houses were flooded in Punta Piedra. So many manzanas of corn has been destroyed, what we mostly need is food. The winds were strong enough to blow palm thatch or "manaca" roofs off traditional houses, but the zinc sheeting or "laminas" stayed on.

The story of Honduran crops this year is an example of the Honduran saying "lueve sobre mojado" (It rains on a wet person.) In at least nine departments of Honduras, including the Mosquitia, the first crops of corn, beans, and rice planted in May-June were lost to drought. A second crop is planted October to be harvested in January. Thousands of acres of these crops were lost with the passing of Hurricane Michelle.

African palm trees were flooded, but most looked alright when I passed by four days later. Bananas and Plantains like a lot of water. Dole felt it would have minimal losses due to a dike it built along the Aguan to protect its crops. Independent farmers lost acres of crops as the winds blew the plantains down and in some cases flooding rivers carry the trees away.

Yucca is a plant that is delicate about water. If it gets good drainage, it can stand a lot of water, but if the soil gets water logged and does not drain, it rots. Many acres of yucca have been lost because the water did not drain quickly, while in other places the yucca may be salvageable. The River Kruta in the Mosquitia was in particular not draining quickly and people were stuck in their houses. The government said it had no helicopters to help the Miskitos, since the government's helicopters were helping flooded people in Yoro.

week that he is hopeful that during the term of office of the President-elect of Nicaragua, Enrique Bolaños, relations between Honduras and Nicaragua will improve. During his campaign, Bolaños was supportive of regional integration, it is possible the new President will eliminate the current 35% import tariff on Honduran goods into Nicaragua that has deeply affected national businesses that traded with the neighboring country in the past. —La Prensa

World Bank urges improved tax collecting

The representative of the World Bank in Honduras, Joseph Owens, stated on Wednesday that if Honduras wants to avoid new economic measures during the next government, it is imperative the government improve and put into effect new means of tax collection. He also stated that favoritism in applying taxes needs to be eliminated to encourage businesses to pay their taxes, since many don't due to said favoritism that they feel is unfair. High levels of corruption also need to be eliminated to minimize exonerations and tax evasion, which is estimated to amount to almost Lps. 10 billion a year. Stable and adequate domestically generated income is crucial for financing the poverty reduction program effectively and in the long term so as to not depend overly on internal and external financing or debt. —El Herald



Great Investment
40 acres in Talanga, F.M. Free
Zone, Manufacturing, Housing,
Gentlemen's Farm, Horse
Ranch, etc. \$55,000.00 Douglas
Mendoza 775-8241 after 5 pm
... More info in classifieds

Even three days after the storm, the seas were still churned up, beautiful high crashing waves like the Big Sur coast in the US. This meant Garifuna fishermen could not fish. People who reach their crops by canoe could not travel. No food could reach the Bay Islands or Hog Keys by boat. These type of food shortages are temporary, but many people are going to be in trouble for their loss of crops. There is a fear that since few people died and the Hurricane did not even touch ground in Honduras, international agencies will not provide much help to get through this emergency.

Nationalist candidate reveals government plan

Presidential candidate for the National Party, Ricardo Maduro, revealed his plan for government if elected on the 25th of the month. A grand event was held at the Hotel Mayas Convention Center where thousands of Maduro supporters gathered together. Maduro's government plan, he explained, was a result of a consultation with the Honduran people he has met in his campaign which has covered the whole territory. The plan, titled "My commitment to you," has a vision farther than a four-year presidential term, it sets goals to be fulfilled by the year 2021, Honduras' 200th anniversary as an independent republic. Maduro's plan deals mainly in six themes: security, strengthening democracy, equal economic growth, human development, fighting corruption, and sustaining the environment. It sets incredibly ambitious goals that would improve the way of life of all Hondurans, if completed.

Security

Maduro's plan begins dealing with peoples security, as well as the safety of their possessions. The plan begins dealing with the problem at its source, before criminality actually begins. It contemplates development programs for children and adolescents where these are taught to respect the law and advocate peace instead of violence. It would turn ethics and morals into good customs and public order.

Also, the plan contemplates a Zero Tolerance policy against all criminal offenders. It involves a reform of the whole Judicial Branch of the government, separating Justice from politics. Maduro promises to not interfere with the decisions of any court.

The National Security Plan that is also included in the proposal aims to fight organized crime, overhaul the police system, create gun registration laws, apply traffic laws and decentralize the administration of justice.

Strengthening Democracy

Professional translations by the staff of HONDURAS THIS WEEK. Spanish to English and English to Spanish. Starting at 100.00 Lps. per page depending on content. Call 232-8818 or fax 232-2300. ... More in Classifieds

Maduro points out that, while in full enjoyment of free elections since 1982, Honduras' democracy has been weakened by political institutions. If elected, he promises to establish a new equilibrium between government and society to allow more participation in the system, and to change the way the State goes about its business to guarantee transparency, efficiency and a profound respect of the Constitution.

Maduro wants to change the electoral system so that the members of the National Congress will be elected individually by district as well as on a national level, providing the smaller provinces of the country equal representation. Substitute congressmen will be eliminated. Immunity will be reduced purely to official actions taken by the Congressmen as public functionaries. Also, Maduro plans to change internal laws to regulate and account public spending and eliminate publicity by part of the Powers of State on an electoral year. This will put an end to political campaign paid for by government funds.

Equal Economic growth

Maduro's plan for economic growth is very extensive and takes into account several factors up to the year 2021. It is a very ambitious plan, the result of many efforts led by a man who has had decades of experience in the business world.

The plan for economic growth has four main goals. The first is to create an economic growth rate much higher than the population growth rate. Second is to assure that the economic growth is sustainable. Also, Maduro wants to apply adequate policies for the physical and intellectual training of human capital, which will be reflected in the significant reduction of the number of poor Hondurans. Finally he wants to honestly and efficiently focus the States efforts to reduce poverty.

The plan for economic growth deals also in the development of agricultural projects, the tourism industry and the improvement and creation of the country's infrastructure and public services.

Human Development

This area is possibly the most important of the candidates plan. It contemplates mainly education, but also deals with health, family and women's rights. Maduro's goals are insuring that one hundred percent of children between the ages of four and six will go to school. The reduction of the illiteracy rate from 28% to 9%. Elevate the number of children who finished grade school to 95%; teenagers who finish high school to 60% and adults who finish college to 15%. These goals are up to the year 2021, but would have processes that begin as soon as next year. Maduro's four-year goals for education is to insure that all primary school teachers have a college degree.

Healthcare will be improved with a modernization of the Honduran Social Security Institute and the whole healthcare system. Families will be strengthened with concrete actions, especially aimed towards the many single-mother homes of Honduras. Many more measures will be taken to comply with the legal obligations and commitments the State has in educating and improving the lives of women.

The fight against corruption

Maduro promises to take the measures needed to insure the adoption of an anti-corruption culture in the society, the innovation of institutions, and the changing of laws applicable to public servants. He will legally demand the ethical behavior of public functionaries by creating organs that will investigate, denounce, judge and punish all forms of corruption. He also plans to regulate any conflicts of interest that arise between an individual practicing his public functions and his or her private lucrative affairs.

A sustained environment

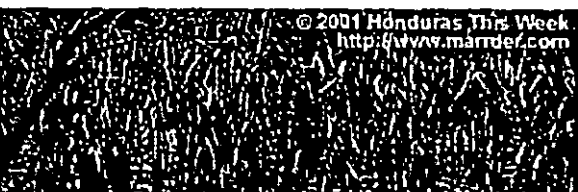
Maduro's plan did not leave out the environment, an important issue that strongly affects the future of Honduras. He plans to create an effective National Protected Areas System that insures the conservation of biodiversity in green areas as well as the maintenance of cultural and historic monuments. The plan also contemplates a re-forestation and protection of all water sources and mountain tops as well as protect and encourage our eco-tourism potential. With the Mitch disaster in mind, the environment program will also mitigate the impact of erosions and floods, mainly by not allowing any type of constructions near them. Ricardo Maduro's plan is ambitious, but it is also dynamic and has amazing potential.

If anyone is interested in finding out further details about "My commitment to you" they may do so at the candidates official website www.maduro.hn. Election Day is only a couple of weeks away and voters will go to the urns to decide if Ricardo Maduro will be given the chance to implement his plan and, as he says it, "Give Honduras a secure future."

Monday, November 5, 2001 Online Edition 44

North West region in state of emergency

Torrential rains and flooding, leave the Northern Coast, still recovering from the



© 2001 Honduras This Week
<http://www.marrrder.com>

U.N. agencies to carry on reform process



© 2001 Honduras This Week
<http://www.marrrder.com>

threes of
Hurricane
Mitch, into a
state of
crises.

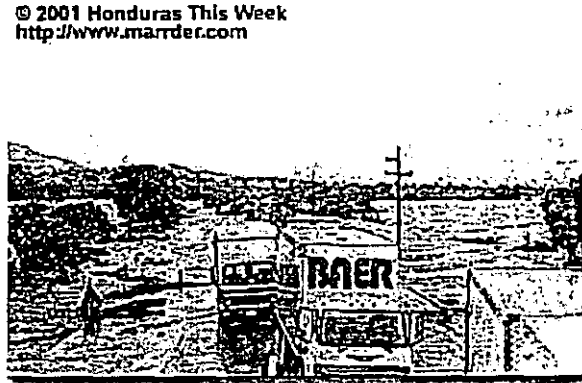


On the
third year
anniversary
of the
Hurricane

Mitch disaster, five of the nation's Atlantic coast departments have declared a state of emergency as a result of continuous rains and consequent flooding. This week, a tropical depression met with a cold front in front of Honduras's North Coast. The resulting disastrous weather brought nonstop rain for most of the week.

Flooding has occurred in the departments of Cortes, Atlantida, Colon, Yoro and Gracias a Dios. The most affected communities are La Lima, Santa Rita, El Progreso, Olanchito, Tocoa, Tela, and La Ceiba, the country's third largest city.

© 2001 Honduras This Week
<http://www.marrder.com>



According to the daily El Heraldo, four people have been reported dead as a result of the natural phenomenon, and another seven are reported missing. Over 20,200 people have suffered damages in their homes and businesses, over 4,000 have been evacuated. 25 homes have been reported as destroyed along with five bridges. Three more bridges have suffered bad damage. Whole communities have lost access to running water, electricity and food.

President Carlos Flores went from awarding Mitch heroes to emitting a decree declaring the emergency and sending the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) to immediately aid the Atlantic coast. Copeco has spent the week assessing the damage and helping the thousands of people that need aid. Food rations have been distributed

Members of the United Nations sign into effect the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

By SUYAPA CARIAS

Representatives of the eight agencies of the United Nations system working in Honduras recently signed a document containing the guidelines of what they call the "United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)". The new program, which will start to operate next year, is part of the reform process undertaken by the organization in this new century.

During a press conference held in Tegucigalpa last week, U.N. resident coordinator Jeffrey Avina explained that the initiative emerged from their interest to support, in a more coordinated way, the efforts of the government to promote sustainable human development and to reduce poverty.

"Our focus is centered in the fight against poverty and the institutional development of democracy as the essential columns for the transformation of Honduras", said Avina.

Conceived as a "new cooperation modality", UNDAF was born on July, 2000, with the creation of a technical group headed by the leaders of the following entities: The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Organization for International Migration (OIM), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Program (WFP), the Telecommunications International the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

After a series of discussions with

people that need aid. Food rations have been distributed along with other kinds of aid.

The week ended with a tropical storm forming on the Atlantic coast where Honduras and Nicaragua meet. Ironically enough, the storm has been named Michelle. Citizens of Honduras hope that this natural phenomenon, though damaging, will not result in a hurricane as harmful as that which leveled the nation exactly three years ago.

President Flores seeks relief from abroad

By BLANCA MORENO

President Carlos Flores launched a new S.O.S. to the international community due to Honduras's vulnerability to natural disasters. On the third anniversary of the Mitch incident, torrential rains have caused extensive flooding in the North coast, leaving many communities isolated and thousands with personal, emotional and material damage.

The president made an extensive tour through the flooded regions of the North coast to assess the damage in situ. Accompanied by National Congress President Rafael Pineda Ponce, President Flores flew over the affected regions. Afterwards they held a meeting at the offices of the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO).

Both men evaluated the magnitude of the harm caused by flooding and assessed the immediate aid needed by those affected. The Legislative branch can transfer the funds needed to confront the problem head on.

On Wednesday, President Flores instructed the Ministers of Presidency, Foreign Relations and Finance, along with the Secretary of Technical Cooperation (SETCO) to provide the emergency funds needed for the national situation. Chancellor Roberto Flores Bermudez offered detailed reports to the Diplomatic Corps. SETCO Minister, Glenda Gallardo activated contacts with cooperating nations to establish the needs Honduras might have if the rains persist.

President Flores ordered immediate assistance be provided to the thousands of people affected by the storm. Lps. 1.5 million were drawn from three emergency accounts to purchase medicines, food and other items necessary until more aid is found.

Substitute Finance Minister, Hugo Castillo, stated that these resources will be invested for the purchase of food and gas for the evacuation of the victims. These funds will be managed by COPECO.

The ambassadors of the United States and Japan were also

government authorities, the civil society and the cooperating community, the document of constitution of UNDAF was finished in mid-October.

"Under this format, the process seeks for making the UN work more efficient, avoiding duplications and competences between the different agencies and making a more rational use of the resources.

The projects included in UNDAF Honduras are related to education, health, economic growth and sustainable development", said Avina. The document was signed by Emiliano Alarcón, Miguel Angel Trinidad, Carlos Samayoa, Claudia von Roehl, Roberto Bastidas, Sietske Steneker, Fernando Lazgano, Naoto Yamamoto and Jeffrey Avina, representatives of the agencies listed above.

The United Nations just celebrated 56 years of foundation.



Great Investment
40 acres in Talanga, F.M. Free
Zone, Manufacturing, Housing,
Gentlemen's Farm, Horse Ranch,
etc. \$55,000.00 Douglas Mendoza
775-8241 after 5 pm
... More info in classifieds

Professional translations by the
staff of HONDURAS THIS WEEK.
Spanish to English and English to
Spanish. Starting at 100.00 Lps.
per page depending on content.
Call 232-8818 or fax 232-2300. ...
More in Classifieds

consulted to find aid for the strengthening of the Emergency Fund.

Presidency Minister, Gustavo Alfaro, stated that propositions were being organized to obtain help on a national and international level. "We still have not realized the magnitude of the damages left by the storm," he said, "but it is evident that over five thousand people are in need of food, shelter and medical attention and we hope it does not grow worse."

News from other Sources

[Home](#) | [Opinions & Editorial](#) | [National](#) | [Central America](#) | [Travel & Tourism](#) | [Cultural](#) | [Environment](#) | [Business & Economics](#)
| [Previous Issues](#) | [About](#) | [Classified Advertising](#) | [Features](#)



All original articles and photographs published in Honduras This Week are protected by international copyright law. Reproduction, in whole or in part without prior written permission, is strictly prohibited. Published online by [Marrder Omnimedia](#) in association with [Galaxy Multimedia](#). Comments or suggestions regarding this web site should be addressed to the webmaster, Stanley Marrder at stan@marrder.com. Letters to the editor should be addressed to: hontweek@hondutel.hn.



Notes _____

III. APPENDIX

A vertical dashed line consisting of 20 short, thick black horizontal bars spaced evenly along the left margin of the page.

MANUAL FOR ELECTION OBSERVATION

A . A BASIC APPROACH TO OBSERVING ELECTIONS

I MANDATE

Observers will normally be given a mandate by their sponsoring body. As a general rule, they are asked to report on their observations of the election process and to reach conclusions as to whether the election process was administered freely and fairly, and whether the outcome was valid.

To be able to do this, the observation must be carried out in terms of the laws and regulations affecting the election and within this framework observers must weigh all aspects of the electoral process such as voter registration, candidate selection and registration, the political campaign, media access, and the voting and counting systems, in addition to what they experience on polling day. It often happens that observers are not in the country for a long enough period prior to the election to have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the electoral environment or the events leading up to election day. In such instances, it is invaluable for election observers to seek out those groups which can provide them with comprehensive information that will assist them in meeting their mandate.

II SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Observers should attempt to use all available briefing sources from both within their own countries and the country whose election is being observed. As much information as possible should be sought before observers visit the polling stations.

Examples of sources can include:

1. *Foreign affairs departments and diplomatic missions on the subjects of political and social conditions, medical and security precautions.*
2. *Pre-election advisory, observation or fact-finding teams from the same or other organizations on the current electoral environment, political and electoral activities, and problems which have occurred.*
3. *Representatives of the responsible electoral body, nationally and locally on the Constitution, the Elections Act and Regulations, the electoral organization, election administration and the complaints process.*
4. *Political party representatives on campaigning, including rallies, the media, registration, violence and intimidation.*

6. *The "man-on-the-street"* on their view of the election, degree of confidence in the secret ballot and understanding of the choices available.
7. *The media* on electoral developments, restrictions and activities, intimidation, political bias, etc.
8. *Pre-election reports and recommendations* made by any of the above groups or organizations.

While making sure that all the subjects listed above are covered as far as is possible, observers should not restrict themselves to the sources mentioned. Rather, they should make use of as many different sources as are available.)

Throughout the election, observers will often be the recipients of second- or third-hand information and rumours. An objective observer is one who does not accept information at face value unless the facts can be verified, preferably first-hand. Observers should remember that the very fact that they are international observers may add unwarranted credibility to unsubstantiated information that they may mistakenly pass on.

III LEGISLATION

Although observers are not required to interpret the legislation, it is to their advantage to become familiar with the key elements of the Constitution, and the Election Law and Regulations, and how these provide for the essential underpinnings for democratic development through multi-party elections.

Furthermore, an understanding of the legislation will greatly assist in the process of observing the voting and counting, in responding to questions, and in preparing the observers' report(s).

More detailed discussion of the subjects referred to in I (Mandate) and II (Sources of Information) above will be dealt with in Section B (Pre-Election Day Review).

IV TERMS, CONDITIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Not only may the sponsoring body provide observers with a code of conduct, but some countries may also include a code of conduct for observers in their legislation or

regulations. Whether or not a written code of conduct exists, all observers should conduct themselves according to the following principles:

Observers should:

1. Obtain official accreditation from the receiving country to permit access to the polls and other election sites;
2. Be impartial and non-partisan;
3. Not interfere in the internal jurisdiction or affairs of the country;
4. Not disrupt or interfere in the election process, or at the polls;
5. Have freedom of access to speak to or meet with all political parties, candidates and election officials, subject to availability;
6. Have freedom of access to all polls and counting centres at all times, unless they are temporarily overcrowded; and
7. Have freedom of movement throughout the country, without prior permission or notification, subject to valid security considerations.
8. Have the freedom to report independently and publicly on their findings, observations and conclusions.

V RECORDING OBSERVATIONS

In order to facilitate the recording of observations throughout the election period, it is useful to carry a pocket notebook for noting the time, date, place and circumstances observed or complaints received, as these arise.

The very act of taking notes conveys an immediate impression of interest and concern. Where a complaint arises, the recording of the information itself often provides assurance to the complainant that the concerns will be conveyed to a higher authority.

Checklists for use both before and on polling day are also helpful reference tools and may be provided by the sponsoring body.

Using notebooks and checklists on the spot will ensure that specific details are easily accessible during the preparation of both the final observation report and of any interim reports, whether planned or required due to special circumstances.

observers might consult prior to visiting the polls.

The following paragraphs focus on the range of topics which might be explored or discussed with the various information sources, PRIOR to polling day. These topics include:

1. The Constitution and Election Legislation;
2. Human Rights;
3. The Judiciary;
4. The Military and the Police;
5. The Responsible Election Body or Bodies;
6. Electoral Boundaries and Representation;
7. Parties and Candidates;
8. Political Campaigns;
9. The Media;
10. Civic Education and Voter Information;
11. Voter Registration;
12. Voting Procedures;
13. Counting Procedures; and
14. Recounts and Recourse.

Some typical questions or points for consideration on each topic are raised below as a guide to the kind of information which might be sought in the information-gathering phase. There are undoubtedly other questions which observers will wish to add to the list, depending on their particular areas of expertise and concern, as well as on local conditions.

It is essential that observers fully understand the objective of the electoral event, whether that is an election, plebiscite or referendum at the presidential, national and/or local level(s).

1. The Constitution and Election Legislation

Does this legislation provide for:

- basic democratic rights to vote and be elected;
- freedom of speech and expression;
- freedom of assembly and association;
- universal suffrage; and

- the secrecy of the vote?

Are the provisions of the constitution and the electoral legislation respected and applied systematically and fairly by the government and by the electoral, judicial and other authorities?

Does the electorate perceive that the legislation is applied equitably?

2. Human Rights

Are rights such as freedom of expression and assembly respected and applied in an even-handed way?

Is the general population aware of its rights and freedoms?

What are the problems or human rights abuses?

Is there a mechanism for redress?

How quickly are complaints dealt with?

Is the application of human rights principles improving or deteriorating in the period leading up to the election?

3. The Judiciary

Is the judiciary independent of political influence?

Is it impartial and does it dispense justice fairly and equitably?

Is it seen to be credible and trusted by the general population?

4. The Military and the Police

Do the military and the police have significant political influence or exert significant political power?

Do they interfere with civilian control?

Do they play a dominant or influential role in the election process or in government?

Do they intimidate the electorate, parties or candidates by their presence or their actions?

Are there, or were there, any states of emergency, curfews or other controls in effect?

5. The Responsible Election Body or Bodies

What is the composition of the senior body?

How and by whom were its members appointed?

Is it a neutral, impartial, and/or balanced mechanism, preferably (but not necessarily) independent of government, legislatively, structurally, physically and financially?

Does it deal with all political parties in an even-handed way?

Does it apply the electoral act faithfully to the wording and intent of the legislation?

Are the field organizations throughout the country independent and impartial?

Do these offices have the logistical, personnel and material support necessary to carry out their roles and responsibilities?

6. Electoral Boundaries and Representation

What is the representation system? *Majority* (e.g., single member, multi member); *Proportional* (e.g., full, limited); *Mixed* (e.g., single transferrable vote, single non-transferrable vote, limited voting)

How are the representatives elected or selected (e.g. strict lists, direct voting)?

Are the electoral districts, regions or constituencies defined so as to ensure relatively equal representation of the population?

What were the criteria that were used in establishing the electoral boundaries, and are they recorded in legislation or policy?

Was the establishment of boundaries carried out by a non-partisan independent body?

Is there any evidence of boundaries being drawn to favour one political party over another?

7. Parties and Candidates

How many parties and/or candidates are competing?

How much time was there for new political parties to organize themselves prior to the setting of the election date?

What are the registration/nomination requirements?

Do these discriminate or bar any parties or candidates from competing?

Was the party/candidate registration process conducted fairly?

Is there a code of conduct required of parties/candidates?

Is it respected and followed?

Are any parties boycotting the election?

How are parties funded?

Are there provisions for funding of parties?

Are there limits on contributions or spending by parties and/or candidates?

Is there public reporting (disclosure) of party finances?

Is the political playing field reasonably level?

Is there a clear separation between government activities and resources and those of the governing party?

8. Political Campaigns

Are parties/candidates free to conduct political rallies and to freely communicate their views anywhere in the country? Are permits required to hold meetings?

If so, are they issued equally to all parties?

Has violence or intimidation occurred during the campaign?

Were all parties able to communicate with the electors to the extent and in the manner they wished?

9. The Media

Do media services exist that are independent of government control?

Do they present the full range of political views?

Is there any evidence of media control or censorship by the government or any particular party?

Do all parties/candidates have equitable access to the mass media for publicizing their political platforms either in paid or unpaid messages?

Do they have equitable access to state and public service media?

Is the media directly, or through other groups, actively involved in voter education?

Does the media have a code of ethics or code of conduct related to the election?

Is state and public service media coverage reasonably well-balanced and non-partisan?

10. Civic Education and Voter Information

What is the nature and scope of the civic education and voter information program?

What bodies are responsible?

Are the political parties/candidates involved?

Are some programme elements targeted to specific groups such as women, youth, electors with disabilities, aboriginal and ethnic minorities and illiterate electors?

Are the information materials suitable for their target audiences?

Is the electorate adequately informed concerning the democratic process and the

range of choices available?

Does the electorate know about the voter registration process and the voting process?

What information materials are available to the electorate?

What is the literacy rate of the country?

If the illiteracy rate is high, what methods are used to disseminate information?

Are these materials produced in the different languages of the electorate? (if applicable).

11. Voter Registration

What are the voter eligibility criteria?

Do these provide citizens with the right of access to the process?

What is the registration process?

Is it effective, impartial and non-discriminatory?

Is it necessary to present a voter registration document at the poll?

What is the estimated eligible voter population and on what is this estimate based?

Is the registration undertaken before or during the election period?

How many electors have registered prior to election day?

What percentage of the estimated total does this represent?

How are people's names removed from the register?

How are people added to the register?

What is the deadline for removals or additions?

What provisions are there, if any, for late deletions or additions?

What provisions are there for replacement of lost or stolen registration documents?

How do the political parties candidates view the registration process and do they play a role in it?

Have some electors not registered and for what reason?

Will the electoral register be up-to-date on polling day?

Is there a mechanism for registration on polling day?

Is there an effective objection and appeal process?

12. Voting Procedures

What is the step-by-step voting procedure?

How many polling stations will there be?

How many election officials are assigned to each polling station and what are their responsibilities?

How many electors are expected to use each polling station?

How far will electors have to travel?

What provisions are in place to prevent multiple voting?

What is the nature and extent of the training programme for election officials?

How are the poll officials selected?

Who is permitted to be present in the poll during and outside voting hours?

What is the role of the party/candidate agents at the poll?

Are there local national observers?

What are the special provisions, if any, for prison inmates and handicapped, ill, minority language or illiterate voters?

Are there provisions for voting outside the country?

What are the arrangements for the secure distribution and delivery of election materials, and supplies to and from the polls?

To what extent is authority delegated to regional or local poll officials?

What are the telecommunications facilities?

What are the problem-resolution mechanisms established for polling day?

What built-in security measures have been used in printing ballot papers?

How are the ballot boxes sealed?

13. Counting Procedures

Are the ballots to be counted at the polling stations or in one or several central counting centres?

If the ballots are counted at the poll, are the results announced and posted there?

If the count is to be done in a regional counting centre, what are the security arrangements for transporting the ballot boxes and for the duration of the count?

Who may be present when the ballots are counted?

How are counting officials selected?

What is the nature and extent of their training?

What are the criteria for accepting or rejecting a ballot?

What is the role of the political party representatives?

What is the reconciliation process (if any)?

How are the results to be compiled, released, verified and published?

14. Recounts and Recourse

What are the conditions under which recounts may be required?

Is there any recourse in the event of a challenged election? - Are the courts involved?

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Several days to a week before polling day(s), observers should travel to the area(s) they plan to observe in order to locate the polling stations and meet with the responsible local election and civic officials. They should discuss with these officials the preparations that are underway for the election and any problems that are being encountered or are anticipated.

It may also be useful to meet with local representatives of all political parties and with other observers. In this way, not only will observers be familiar with the location and with the individuals responsible prior to polling day, but they may also avoid duplication of effort with other observers and will have established an international presence in the community.

C. ELECTION DAY: OBSERVING VOTING ACTIVITIES

Two options are available to observers visiting polling stations. Ideally, activities in only one polling station should be observed for a period starting before the opening of the polls, throughout the day, to after closing time. (The counting process will be discussed in the next section.) However, most international observers, because of their limited numbers, find it preferable to visit a number of polling stations, in order to obtain a wider overview of the polling day activities, to make some unexpected visits (the surprise element), and to establish an international presence in the region or district, rather than in only one location.

1. PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE POLLING STATIONS

Observers should arrive at polling stations prior to the time scheduled for the opening of the polls. At this time it should be noted whether:

- all required election officials are present;
- all accredited party/candidate representatives are present;
- other national or international observers are present;
- all election supplies and lists of electors are on hand and functional;
- ballots, ballot boxes and seals have been carefully guarded and secured up to and since their arrival at the poll;
- all forms, protocols and other documents have been signed by those responsible, as required by law;
- the responsible election officials are fully aware of and follow all requirements for setting up and opening the poll;
- ballot boxes are shown to be empty before being sealed in the presence of party/candidate representatives and observers;
- the serial numbers on the ballot boxes, ballot stubs and on the seals used (where applicable) are recorded by those present;
- adequate security for the poll has been provided;
- queues of voters waiting for the polls to open are controlled and orderly; and

2. AT THE POLLING STATIONS DURING VOTING HOURS

When visiting any polling station, observers should ensure that their activities do not disrupt the voting process in any way. Conversations with election officials should be held only when they are not occupied with voters, and conversations with political/candidates' representatives and other observers should preferably take place outside the polling station. Finally, permission should be obtained from the presiding officer or individual concerned before, any photographs are taken, as this is frequently discouraged or not permitted.

When inside the polling station, observers should note whether:

- there are long queues of electors and whether these are orderly;
- there is a military or police presence and whether this creates an atmosphere of intimidation;
- there have been any incidents of violence or intimidation at the poll;
- there is any evidence of party or political colours, symbols or propaganda in or near the polling station;
- voters encounter any confusion or difficulty on entering the polling station;
- there are problems related to the list of electors (if applicable) or the acceptability of voter identification documents;
- problems and challenges concerning identity documents, missing documents or the voters lists are expeditiously and knowledgeably dealt with, without seriously disrupting the voting process;
- all procedures related to checking for and applying indelible ink (as applicable) are followed;
- there is sufficient ink and, if related lights or machines are used, whether these are functional;
- the stamping, initialling and issuing of the ballot paper(s) (as applicable) is in

accordance with the defined procedures;

- election officials are knowledgeable concerning special provisions (if any) which might apply to blind, disabled, and to illiterate and other electors who may need extra assistance;
- to what extent voting by blind, disabled or illiterate voters is a secret vote and whether this group forms a significant percentage of the population;
- on leaving the voting screen, voters have folded their ballots so as to ensure the secrecy of their choice;
- election officials ensure that all ballots cast are deposited in the correct ballot box;
- electors leave the polls in a quiet and orderly manner;
- political party representatives were able to witness and, if necessary, question or challenge any aspect of the voting process; and
- the administration of the polls was such as to create confidence that all electors would be able to cast their votes within the time allotted.

Observers may find it useful to determine the average time it takes a voter to vote from entry to departure. In addition, depending on what time of day the visit takes place, observers may be able to forecast, by determining the maximum number of electors at any poll compared with the number of votes already cast, the time remaining, the number of people waiting, and the average time to process each elector, whether all electors will be able to vote before the official close of the polls. In some cases, where it appears there may be problems in this respect, observers may wish to revisit certain polls.

3. THE CLOSING OF THE POLL

Observers should attempt to attend the closing of a poll at a location where possible problems might be anticipated, such as a remaining queue of electors.

At the close of the polls, observers should determine whether:

- the polls closed at the time provided for by law;
- the closing of the poll was extended due to late opening or other similar circumstances (as provided by law or at the personal discretion of the election official);

- all procedures and reports related to the closing of the poll were followed;
- all necessary security provisions concerning ballots, ballot stubs, ballot boxes, seals, etc. were respected; and
- party/candidate agents and observers were satisfied with the actions taken by the poll official(s).

D. OBSERVING THE COUNTING PROCESS

The counting of the ballots is often carried out at the polling stations immediately after the close of the polls. However, some countries, often for security reasons, conduct the counting at one central location or at a number of regional counting centres. In these situations, ballot boxes and related materials need to be transported, thereby raising additional concerns which the observer must take into account.

1. Transportation of ballots from the polling station to a counting centre

Where ballots are transported from the polling station to a counting centre, observers should determine whether:

- all the ballot boxes, seals, unused ballots, stubs, etc. being sent have been properly sealed, secured and recorded;
- all the preparations have been observed by party/candidate agents and observers;
- the responsible election officials, military, or police, etc., as provided for by the election authorities, are present and have provided for suitable transportation facilities and adequate security;
- the ballot boxes, related election materials and reports are accompanied in the same vehicle by party/candidate agents and possibly observers;
- the length of time taken to transport the ballot boxes from the poll to the counting centre is unreasonably long;
- there were any incidents or complaints relating to the transport of ballot boxes; and whether
- on arrival, there is any evidence of tampering with or the replacement of any of the balloting materials.

2. Counting at the poll or counting centre

At the poll or counting centre, the observer should determine whether:

- party/candidate agents and observers are present throughout;
- media representatives are permitted;

- ballot boxes are unsealed in the presence of agents and observers;
- the ballots in each box are totalled separately;
- the total number of ballots in the box are reconciled with the total number of ballot stubs (less spoiled ballots) and with the number of electors who voted (depending on the electoral system);
- any irregularities were noted before mixing the ballots with those of any other boxes and/or starting the count (depending on the electoral system);
- all sorting and counting of ballots was open and clearly visible to agents and observers;
- decisions as to rejected or invalid ballots were consistent, equitable and in accordance with the law;
- the number of invalid ballots was significant enough to suggest a protest vote or a lack of knowledge of how to mark the ballot by the elector;
- party/candidate agents challenged counting or invalid ballot decisions and whether these were dealt with in accordance with the law;
- party/candidate agents and observers were permitted to make or were given copies of the results of the count(s) which they observed;
- the result was announced at the counting site or forwarded to a higher authority for announcement;
- a parallel "quick count" was carried out by observer groups;
- following completion of the count, all balloting materials were secured and guarded; and whether
- balloting materials were sent to another location for recount or storage and if so, were accompanied by agents and/or observers.

E. POST-ELECTION DAY CONSIDERATIONS

It is quite common to find that even unofficial election results are not available on election night. In such cases, partial results may not be sufficient to predict the final outcome. In some instances, several days or even weeks are required before the official results are announced. Because the greater the length of time that elapses between the count and the announcement of the results, the greater the level of suspicion and accusations of manipulation and fraud, this period presents a critical challenge to observers.

Observers should therefore attempt to follow closely any and all final vote tallying which may take place in the period leading up to the announcement of the official results.

Once the announcement is made, the observers should:

- determine the level of credibility given to the announcement, and the level of public acceptance;
- determine the percentage of votes cast as related to the total number of electors, to establish whether a majority of the population voted;
- calculate the total number and percentage of spoiled and rejected (invalid) ballots, to establish whether there is any significant impact on the results. If so, an attempt should be made to determine the cause of this occurrence;
- determine the number and percentage of votes and seats obtained by parties/candidates and assess the overall results, in order to establish whether the results indicate a clear, unqualified expression of the wishes of the electorate;
- try to establish whether all participating parties accepted the results, and, in the case of complaints or objections, the seriousness of these; and
- determine how expeditiously investigations and complaints were handled and by what authority.

Given the importance of these factors, it is desirable that at least some observers remain for a reasonable period after polling day, in order to obtain first-hand information to complete their reports.

Observers may be asked to make one (or more) of the following types of reports:

1. "Off-the-cuff" reports

An informal, on-the-spot "report" is sometimes requested by the media, an embassy, political or electoral officials or others during the course of the election. In such circumstances, observers are advised to provide very little or no information, rather than comment, perhaps unwisely, on electoral processes which are not yet complete, or risk compromising their impartial status by making premature judgements.

2. Special reports

A special report may be made during the course of the electoral period preceding polling day. There may be one or a series of these reports. They could be status reports on the progress of the various electoral activities or they could focus on specific problems, abuses, or other negative situations which may be expected to have a detrimental impact on the election. These types of reports are sometimes useful as a basis for discussions with election, government or party officials in order to resolve problems when they are identified. Although such reports are often produced by pre-election monitoring or technical assistance teams, it may sometimes be desirable and useful for observers to prepare one or more interim reports.

3. The Observer's Report

During the course of the election, members of observation teams will often visit different polling stations and will record their comments separately. Subsequently these observations will be discussed and amalgamated into an observers' group report. The comments and suggestions which follow, provide some guidelines as to the context and approach to the preparation of this final report of the observer team. (A single observer who is not part of a team should also use the guidelines which follow in preparing his or her final report.)

4. The Observer Team Report

(a) Deciding on contents

This report should identify the participants of the observer group and briefly describe their activities from the time of arrival to the time of departure. The sources of their information, especially with respect to events which occurred

prior to their arrival or which they did not observe firsthand, should be reported.

It is usually helpful to review the fourteen areas described in Section B of this Guide (Pre-Election Day Review), and to report on any critical matters - positive or negative - especially those which had a lasting influence on the electoral event.

This can be followed by a description of the group's observation of the voting activities on polling day, including the count. Examples of significant observations made by the members should be provided.

(b) Drawing conclusions

This narrative review of the electoral process will often, in itself, lead to an obvious conclusion as to the group's overall evaluation of the electoral event. While every election has its flaws and problems, in the majority of cases these are not sufficient grounds to reject the whole process. However, there have been instances where elections have been clearly illegitimate. The most difficult evaluations to make involve those elections which fall somewhere between the two extremes. In such cases, the job of the observer is often made even more difficult by pressures from the media and others to render an absolute judgement as to whether the election was "free and fair".

(c) Was the election "free and fair"?

At the outset, observers should avoid the "Trap" of evaluating an electoral event as free and fair on the grounds that all aspects of the voting process went smoothly on polling day, with no evidence of major incidents of fraud, intimidation or disruption. Indeed, before deciding whether an election has been free and fair, a smooth-running polling day must be viewed in the context of the legislative and political environment and of the events preceding as well as following polling day, up to and including the announcement of the official results.

Definitions

In reviewing all of these elements in the context of "free" and "fair" elections, the following definitions are offered for consideration:

"FREE" = an electoral process where fundamental human rights and freedoms are respected, including:

- freedom of speech and expression by the electors, parties, candidates and the media
- freedom of association, that is, freedom to form organizations such as

- and electoral information messages
- freedom to register as an elector, a party or a candidate
- freedom from violence, intimidation and coercion
- freedom of access to the polls by electors, party agents and accredited observers
- freedom to exercise the franchise in secret
- freedom to question, challenge and register complaints or objections without negative repercussions.

"FAIR" = an electoral process where the "playing field" is reasonably level and accessible to all electors, parties and candidates, and includes:

- an independent, non-partisan electoral organization to administer the process
- guaranteed rights and protection through the constitution and electoral legislation and regulations
- equitable representation of electors provided through the legislation
- clearly defined universal suffrage and secrecy of the vote
- equitable criteria and opportunities to register as an elector, a political party or a candidate
- equitable and balanced reporting by the media
- equitable access to financial and material resources for party and candidate campaigning
- equitable opportunities for the electorate to receive political and voter information
- accessible polling places
- equitable treatment of electors, candidates and parties by election officials, the government, the police, the military and the judiciary
- an open and transparent ballot counting process
- an election process which is not disrupted by violence, intimidation or coercion.

(d) **Final evaluation**

In the case of observer groups, following a review of individual reports, the final evaluation should normally be reached through consensus of all members.

If we accept the statement that "Every state should be possessed of a government whose authority derives from the will of the people as expressed by a secret ballot in genuine free and fair elections held at regular intervals on the basis of

universal and equal suffrage,"¹ and since no electoral event can be evaluated as entirely free and fair in terms of the definitions listed previously, the observer must determine the degree to which the will of the majority of the voters was expressed clearly, knowledgeably and in secret, and reported accurately — keeping in mind all of the factors which could influence the expression of their views.

The presentation of the rationale leading up to the ultimate conclusion is much more critical than the conclusion itself. First and foremost, observers' reports should be factual, and descriptive. In some instances it may be preferable to let the facts speak for themselves, and let the reader draw his or her own conclusions rather than to seek to make an overall assessment. This approach is especially applicable where there was a high incidence of serious irregularities or problems.

Therefore, the observer should resist being pressured into making a judgement as to whether the election was "free and fair" in every case. In instances where such a conclusion may be appropriate, observers should normally qualify the degree to which the election met the "free and fair" definitions and determine to what extent the election made a significant and positive contribution to the democratic evolution or development of the country concerned.

Text prepared by: RON GOULD
Assistant Chief Electoral Officer
ELECTIONS CANADA

Editor: Christine Jackson
Special Advisor (Operations)
ELECTIONS CANADA

¹ Free and Fair Elections - International Law and Practice, Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1994

ELECTION OBSERVATION FORM



ELECTION OBSERVATION FORM

OBSERVER _____ TIME _____

VOTING CENTER _____

PROVINCE _____ MUNICIPALITY _____

POLLING TABLE NUMBER _____

POLLING TABLE

Did the polls open on time? YES _____ NO _____

When the polling table opened, were all its members present? YES _____ NO _____

Are all the voting materials available? YES _____ NO _____

Does the location and organization of the polling table allow for an orderly voting process? YES _____ NO _____

Are the poll workers organized and efficient? YES _____ NO _____

Is the voters registry in order? YES _____ NO _____
If not, describe _____

Is the principle of "secret vote" being respected? YES _____ NO _____

Are there other observers present? YES _____ NO _____

Domestic _____ International _____ Political Parties _____

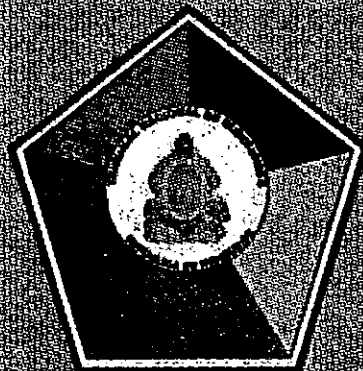
VOTING CENTER

Is there any type of security present? YES _____ NO _____
Police _____ Military _____ Other _____

Are there any indications of intimidation or coercion toward voters? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, please describe _____

Is there any electoral proselytism or propaganda? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, please describe _____

VOTER EDUCATION MANUAL:
Elecciones 2001-Instructivo electoral



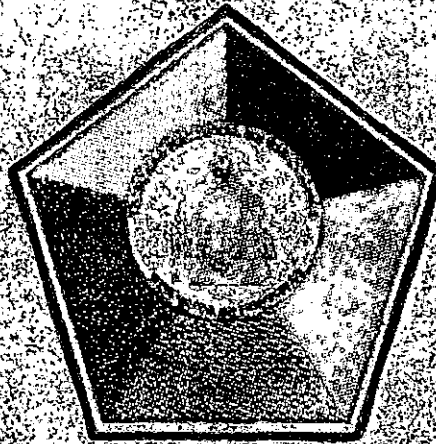
República de Honduras
Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones

Respeto y garantía del voto popular

Elecciones
2001

Instructivo electoral





T. N. E.

Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones

CIUDADANO HONDUREÑO...

TU VOTO ES PODER.

ACUDE A EJERCERLO EL

25 DE NOVIEMBRE.

DE LAS MESAS ELECTORALES RECEPTORAS Y SUS MIEMBROS



Ser Miembro de una Mesa Electoral Receptora es un derecho y un deber ciudadano, conlleva dignidad, responsabilidad y puntualidad en el desempeño de su cargo y otorga la inmunidad personal durante el ejercicio del cargo.

Art. 86 de la Ley Electoral

El Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones instalará una Mesa Electoral Receptora por cada trescientos electores, no obstante, por razón del Voto Domiciliario, podrá instalar Mesas Electorales Receptoras con un número menor o mayor de electores.

Art. 118 de la Ley Electoral

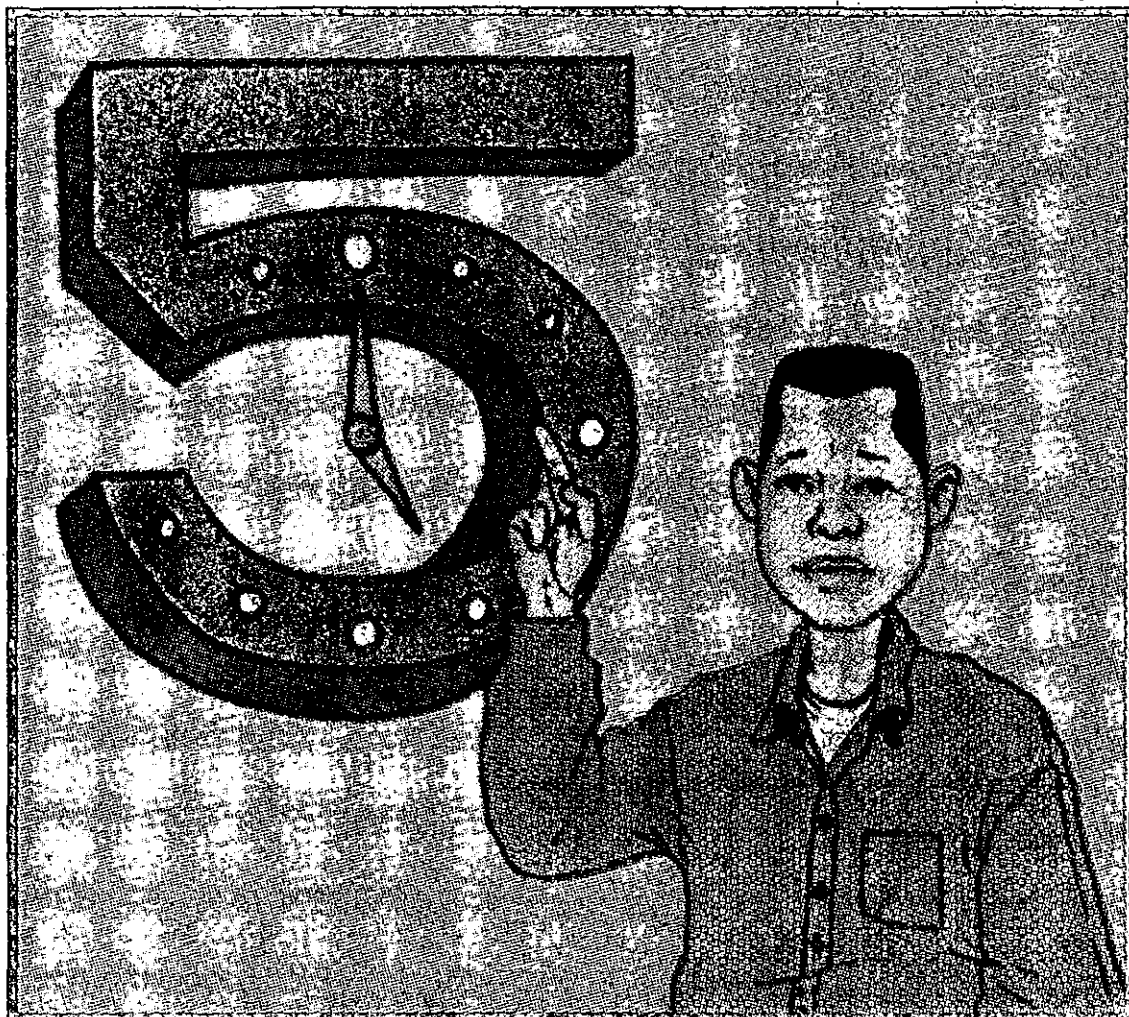
Las Mesas Electorales estarán integradas por un Miembro Propietario y un Suplente por cada Partido Político o Candidatura Independiente legalmente inscritos.

Los Miembros de la Mesa deberán ser nacidos en el Municipio o haber tramitado su tarjeta de identidad en el Departamento al cual pertenece su municipio o que se encuentren en el listado electoral municipal.

La organización interna de los Miembros Propietarios de las Mesas Electorales Receptoras será: Un Presidente, un Secretario y un Escrutador, los demás serán vocales. El Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones hará su distribución igualitaria entre los Partidos Políticos y Candidaturas Independientes que participen en las elecciones por Departamento y Municipios, entregando las respectivas credenciales veinticinco (25) días antes del día de las elecciones a las Autoridades Centrales de los Partidos Políticos.

Si uno de los Suplentes tuviese que actuar en lugar del propietario por ausencia de éste, lo hará en el cargo que el ausente tuviese en la Mesa.

Art. 119 Ley Electoral



**25 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2001
DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES**

ACTOS PREVIOS A LA VOTACION

1. INSTALACIÓN DE LA MESA ELECTORAL RECEPTORA

A las 5:00 de la mañana, del día 25 de noviembre los Miembros Propietarios y Suplentes de la Mesa Electoral Receptora deberán estar puntuales en el local previamente señalado para su instalación (Art. 168, 174 y 176 de la Ley Electoral). Todos se acreditarán con sus respectivas credenciales las que quedarán en poder de la Mesa Electoral Receptora.

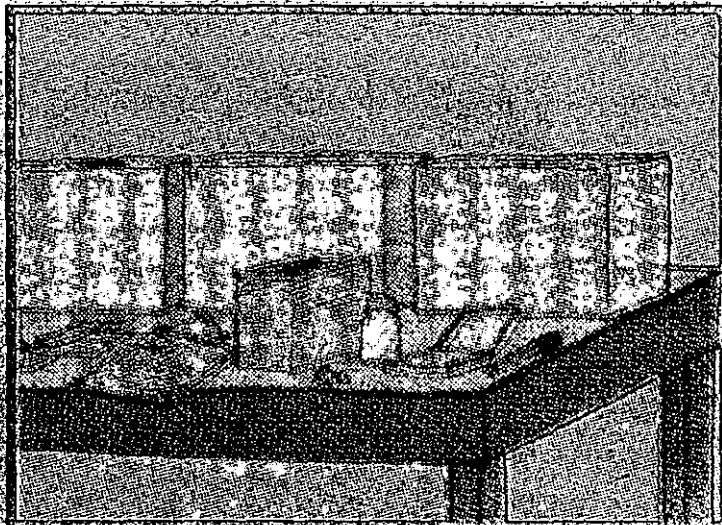
La Mesa Electoral Receptora podrá instalarse con la mayoría de los Miembros propietarios presentes. Además la mesa podrá instalarse con un solo Miembro Propietario y dos Suplentes para hacer la mayoría de Ley, y si no acuden suplentes, el Propietario solicitará el nombramiento a la autoridad local del Partido o Partidos que no lo hayan acreditado.

2. DE LA REVISIÓN DE LA DOCUMENTACIÓN Y MATERIAL ELECTORAL PARA LA PRACTICA DEL SUFRAGIO.

Los Miembros de las Mesas Electorales Receptoras **deberán constatar** que todo el material esté de acuerdo con lo que dice la Ley Electoral.

1. Lista de electores correspondientes a las Mesas Electorales Receptoras y un ejemplar para ser expuesto al público.
2. Número de papeletas electorales de acuerdo a la carga electoral establecido por el Voto Domiciliario, para tres niveles electivos: a) Presidente de la República y Designados a la Presidencia, b) Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano y c) Miembros de las Corporaciones Municipales.
3. Un cuaderno de votación que contiene:
 - Formulario para el Acta de Apertura de la votación.
 - Hojas en blanco para anotar las incidencias de la votación (cambio de Presidente, aclaraciones, anulaciones de votos.....) las que serán firmadas por los Miembros de la Mesa.
 - Formulario para el Acta de Cierre.
4. Tres urnas: (Presidente, Diputados y Corporación Municipal).
5. Otros materiales necesarios para la votación:
 - Almohadillas.
 - Tinta indeleble.
 - Bolígrafos (tinta color verde y tinta color negro)
 - Cintas engomadas
 - Sellos (válido, nulo, voto escrutado, blanco, sobrantes y ratificado).
 - Papel de empaque
 - Papel higiénico.
 - Candelas
 - Fósforos.
 - Rótulo para la Mesa
 - Número para la Mesa.
 - Bolsas plásticas.
 - Manta
 - Cordel
 - Clavos
 - Hojas en blanco para recuento de votos

Arts. 154 y 159 Ley Electoral

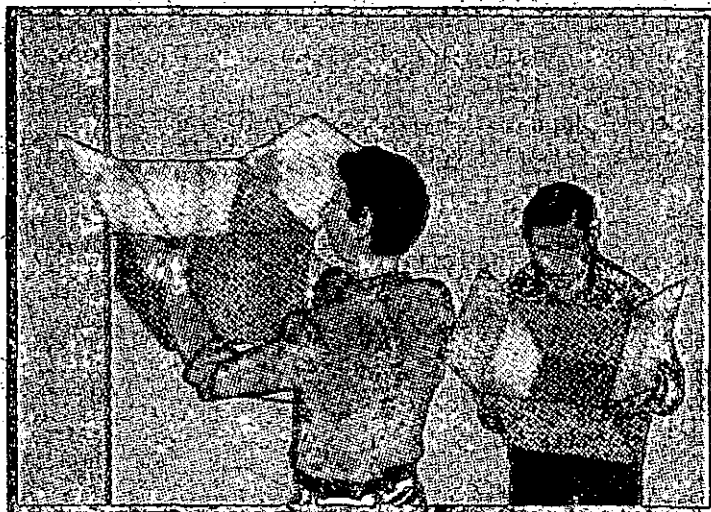


3. ROTULACIÓN Y NUMERACIÓN DE LA MESA ELECTORAL

En el exterior del local se colocará el rótulo que indique el número de la Mesa Electoral Receptora, el Centro de Votación que corresponde y las iniciales de los apellidos por orden alfabético, del primer apellido de los electores que en ella votarán y la lista de electores exhibidos al público.
Art. 123 de la Ley Electoral

4. REVISIÓN DE LAS URNAS

Reunidos los Miembros de la Mesa Electoral Receptora, procederán a revisar las urnas que deberán estar completamente vacías, estas urnas que en un total de tres, tienen colores distintos, corresponde a la Planilla Presidencial, color blanco; la Planilla de Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano color gris y la Planilla de Corporación Municipal, color morado lila.
Art. 170 Ley Electoral

**5. CIERRE Y SELLADO DE URNAS**

Revisadas las urnas, el Presidente de la Mesa Electoral Receptora las cerrará y sellará con una cinta de papel engomado que cruce ambos cuerpos de la urna, dejando libre la ranura para la introducción de votos. Puesta la cinta engomada en las urnas, la firmarán los Miembros de la Mesa, el Notario o Testigos asistentes al acto.

Art. 170 Ley Electoral



6. UBICACIÓN DE LA CABINA DE VOTACIÓN

A las 5:00 de la mañana los Miembros de la Mesa Electoral Receptora revisarán el lugar, donde los electores marcarán sus papeletas electorales y comprobarán que es un lugar seguro, que todo se encuentre en orden.

El lugar deberá estar provisto de los espacios privados donde deberán colocarse bolígrafos de color tinta verde para que los electores marquen la papeleta.

Art. 171 Ley Electoral

7. DEPOSITO DE LAS TARJETAS DE IDENTIDAD

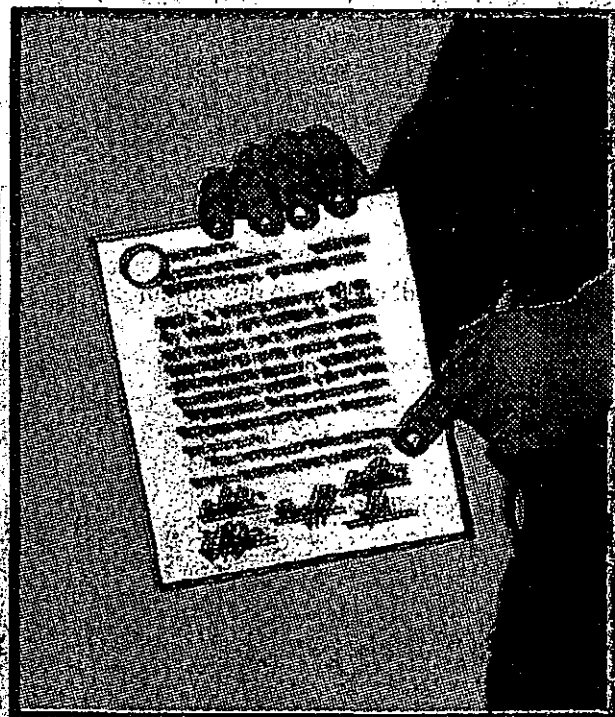
Los Miembros de las Mesas Electorales Receptoras depositarán sus respectivas Tarjetas de Identidad bajo custodia del Secretario de la Mesa, las que se les entregará al concluir el escrutinio

Art. 171 primer párrafo Ley Electoral

8. ACTA DE APERTURA DE LA VOTACIÓN

Acto seguido se levantará el Acta de Apertura en el Cuaderno de Votación, la que será firmada por los Miembros de Mesa de acuerdo al formato que se detalla.

Art. 159 Ley Electoral.



REPUBLICA DE HONDURAS
TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES

ACTA DE APERTURA DE LA VOTACION

A las _____ de la mañana nosotros los abajo firmantes Miembros de la Mesa Electoral No. _____, ubicada en el Centro de Votación _____, barrio o colonia _____, aldea o caserío _____, del Municipio _____, Departamento _____

Verificamos que el local donde se realizará la Votación está acondicionado, por lo que procedimos a instalar la Mesa Electoral Receptora y a ubicar la cabina de votación, de manera que los electores puedan marcar privadamente las papeletas electorales para elegir :

1. PLANILLA PRESIDENCIAL Y DESIGNADOS A LA PRESIDENCIA
2. PLANILLA DE DIPUTADOS AL CONGRESO NACIONAL Y AL PARLAMENTO CENTROAMERICANO
3. PLANILLA DE CORPORACIÓN MUNICIPAL

Seguidamente procedimos a preparar las tres urnas, comprobamos que estaban vacías, cerrándolas con la banda de papel engomado, la cual firmamos para constancia, inmediatamente después se constató el número de papeletas por nivel electivo:

- a) _____ Papeletas para elegir la Planilla Presidencial y Designados a la Presidencia
- b) _____ Papeletas para elegir la Planilla de Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano.
- c) _____ Papeletas para elegir la Corporación Municipal.

Se constató la existencia de los sellos y demás materiales a que se refiere el ARTICULO 154 de la Ley Electoral y de las Organizaciones Políticas; los Miembros y Delegados presentes depositamos en custodia nuestras Tarjetas de Identidad y el Presidente de la Mesa Electoral Receptora, a las _____ horas de la mañana anunció EMPIEZA LA VOTACION.

En fe de lo cual, firmamos la presente Acta de Apertura de Votación a los veinticinco días del mes de noviembre del año dos mil uno

NOMBRE PRESIDENTE

FIRMA PRESIDENTE

IDENTIDAD No.

NOMBRE ESCRUTADOR

FIRMA ESCRUTADOR

IDENTIDAD No.

NOMBRE VOCAL

FIRMA VOCAL

IDENTIDAD No.

NOMBRE VOCAL

FIRMA VOCAL

IDENTIDAD No.

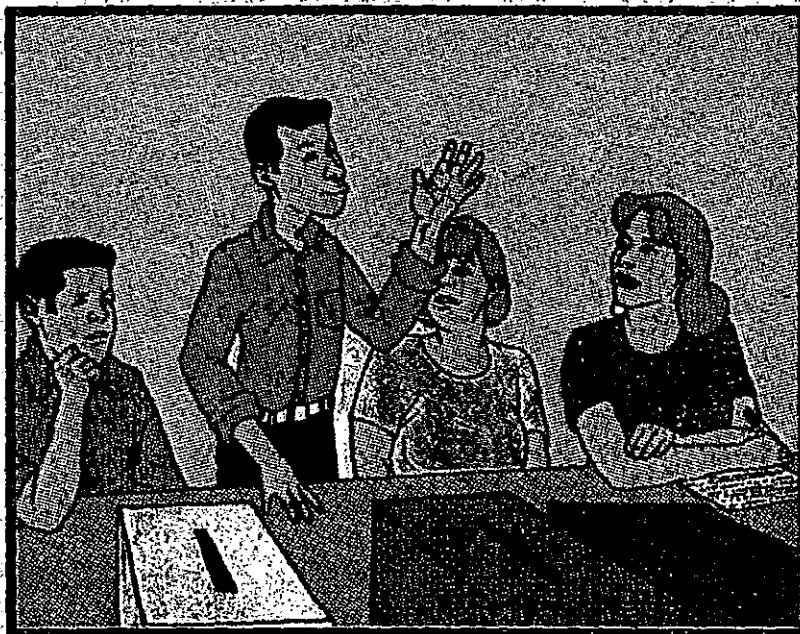
NOMBRE SECRETARIO

FIRMA SECRETARIO

IDENTIDAD No.

INICIO DE LA VOTACIÓN

A las 6:00 de la mañana, el Presidente de la Mesa Electoral Receptora anunciará: **EMPIEZA LA VOTACIÓN.**

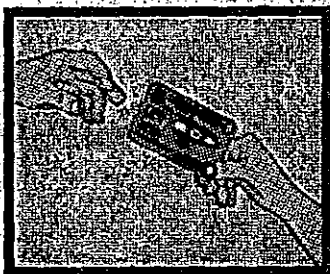


DEL PROCEDIMIENTO PARA VOTAR

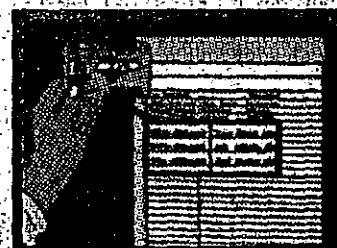
1. DE LA IDENTIFICACIÓN DEL ELECTOR

- El Presidente de la Mesa solicita al elector la presentación de su Tarjeta de Identidad.
- La Tarjeta de Identidad será revisada por los Miembros de la Mesa.
- Los Miembros de la Mesa comprobarán que el elector está inscrito en el listado electoral.

a



c



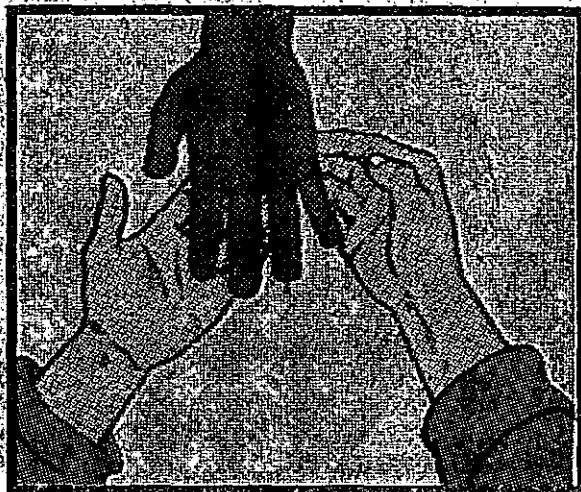
b



2. DE LA OBSERVACIÓN DE LA MANO DEL ELECTOR

Los Miembros de la Mesa observarán la mano del elector para comprobar que en sus dedos no existen manchas de tinta indeleble que indique que pudo haber votado en otra mesa; si las hubiere, el Secretario de la Mesa Electoral Receptora tomará nota de su Tarjeta de Identidad y se le ordenará salir del local sin votar y lo anotará en la hoja de incidencias. El incidente se consignará en la Hoja de Incidencias en el Acta de Cierre del Cuaderno de Votación.

Art. 171 párrafo 3

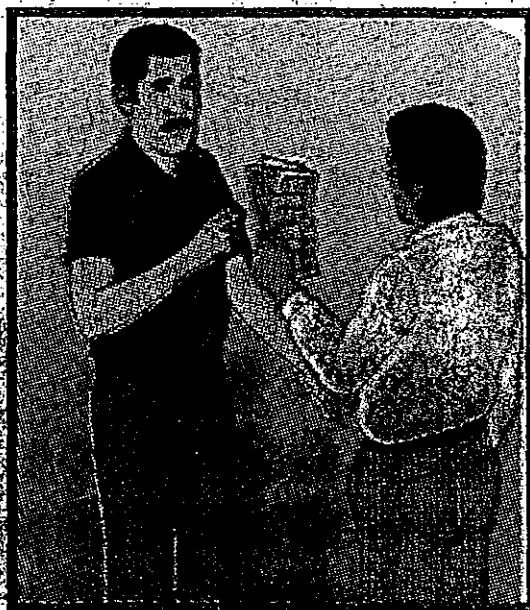


3. DE LA ENTREGA DE PAPELETAS AL ELECTOR

Si el elector no tuviese impedimento, el Presidente entregará al elector las tres papeletas que serán firmadas en el reverso por el Presidente y Secretario de la Mesa, una de Planilla Presidencial y Designados a la Presidencia, una de Planilla de Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano y una de Corporación Municipal y mantendrá en custodia la Tarjeta de Identidad del elector.

Previo a marcar las papeletas la Mesa Electoral debe instruir al elector sobre el doblado de las mismas.

Art. 171 párrafo 4to. Ley Electoral



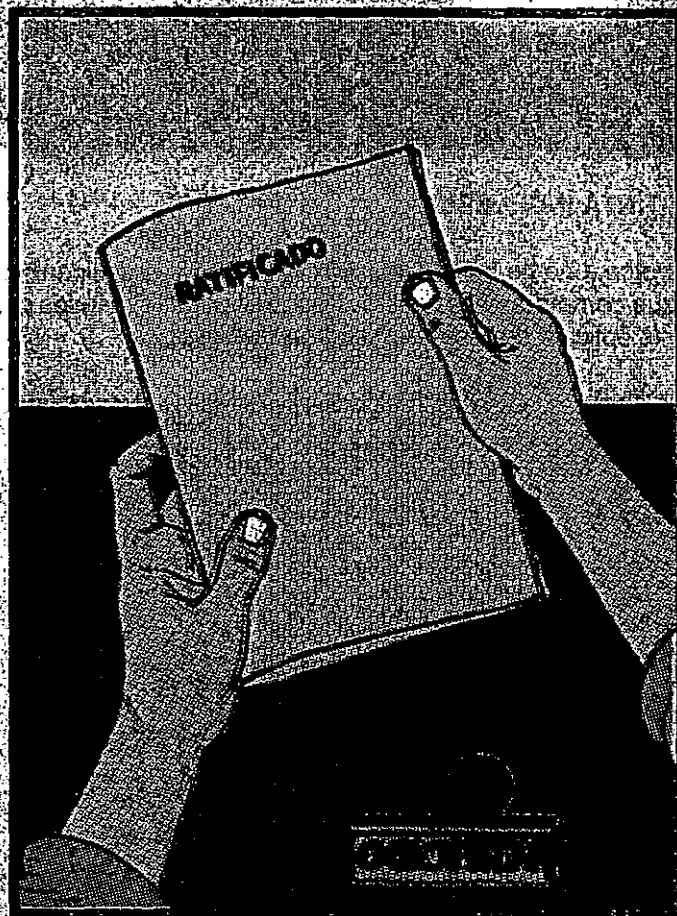
4. DE LA MARCACIÓN DE LAS PAPELETAS POR EL ELECTOR

El Elector pasará al designado para marcar privadamente sus votos, pudiendo hacerlo con cualquiera de los siguientes símbolos: una cruz (+), una equis (x), un círculo (o), una raya vertical (|), una raya horizontal (-), una pleca (/) o con cualquier otro símbolo.

Las frases o símbolos que ofendan la moral y las buenas costumbres, así como los nombres, firmas, iniciales o leyendas, anularán el voto.

**5. DEL SELLO "RATIFICADO"**

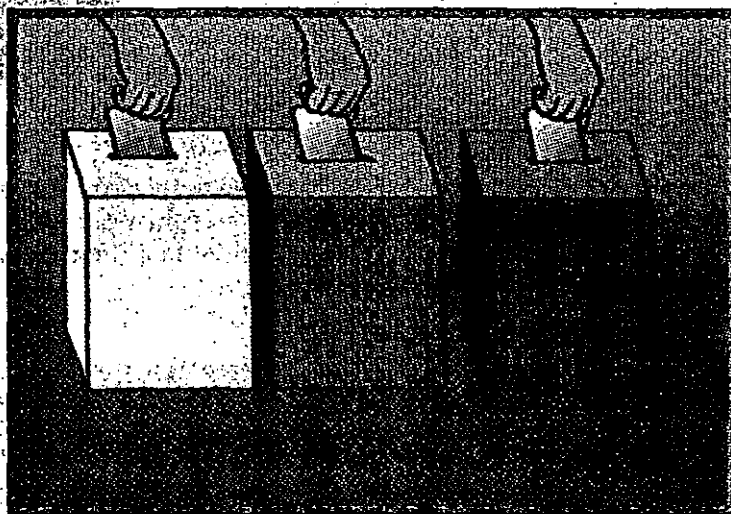
El Elector doblará las papeletas, de manera que quede oculto el contenido de su voto, pero quedando visibles las firmas del Presidente y Secretario de la Mesa. Regresará a la Mesa y presentará los votos para que le sea aplicado el sello de "RATIFICADO" en el reverso de las papeletas donde firmaron el Presidente y el Secretario de la Mesa. El sello de "RATIFICADO" será aplicado por el Escrutador.



6. DEL DEPOSITO DE LOS VOTOS EN LAS URNÁS POR EL ELECTOR

Después de que el Elector ha marcado las papeletas y las ha doblado tal como se le instruyó (quedando visibles las firmas del Presidente y Secretario de la Mesa), acto seguido depositará las papeletas en las urnas electorales respectivas:

- La papeleta de color blanco la depositará en la urna del mismo color y corresponde a la planilla para Presidente y Designados a la Presidencia.
 - La papeleta de color gris la depositará en la urna del mismo color y corresponde a la planilla para Diputados.
 - La papeleta de color morado lila la depositará en la urna del mismo color y corresponde a la planilla Corporación Municipal.
- Art. 154 literal 3 Ley Electoral

**7. DE LA APLICACIÓN DE TINTA INDELEBLE**

Una vez depositados los votos, uno de los Miembros de la Mesa le examinará el dedo meñique de la mano derecha del Elector, o el que corresponda, para ver si tiene residuos grasosos o impermeables, procurando eliminarlos si los tuviere y le aplicará tinta indeleble en el mismo.



8. DE LA DEVOLUCIÓN DE LA TARJETA DE IDENTIDAD AL ELECTOR

La Mesa Electoral Receptora le entregará la Tarjeta de Identidad al Elector, quien se retirará inmediatamente del local.

9. DEL SELLO VOTÓ

El Secretario de la Mesa colocará el sello "VOTÓ" en el Listado de Electores, en la casilla que corresponda.

Art 171 Ley Electoral

**ELECTORES QUE TIENEN PREFERENCIA PARA EJERCER EL SUFRAGIO**

Los ciegos, impedidos y mujeres embarazadas tendrán preferencia al momento de ejercer el sufragio. Los ciegos, los impedidos de ambas manos y los imposibilitados de votar por sí mismos, votarán públicamente ante la Mesa; a petición de ellos y acatando su voluntad, el Presidente de la Mesa marcará las papeletas en la columna indicada por el elector, mostrando la papeleta a los demás Miembros de la Mesa.

Art. 175 Ley Electoral



CONTINUACION DE LA VOTACION

La votación continuará sin interrupción hasta las 4:00 de la tarde, no admitiendo después de esa hora más que los votos de los Miembros de la Mesa Electoral Receptora, Propietarios y Suplentes, debidamente acreditados, quienes comprobarán su calidad de electores con la Tarjeta de Identidad y deberán permanecer hasta concluir el escrutinio. La tinta indeleble le será aplicada a dichos Miembros al concluir el escrutinio y les será entregada su respectiva Tarjeta de Identidad.

Art. 176 Ley Electoral

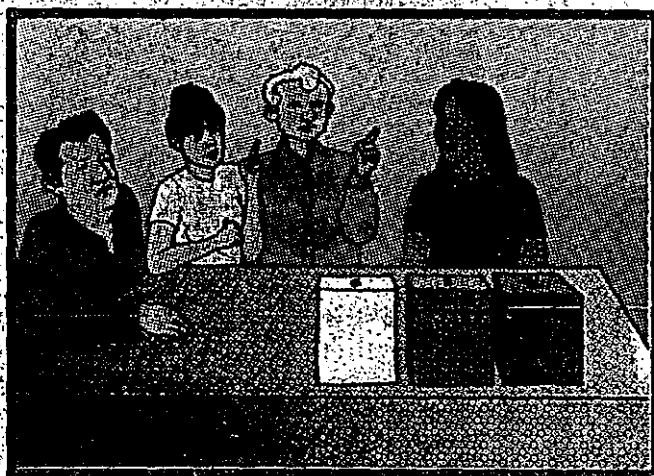
DE CÓMO RESOLVER LOS INCIDENTES EN LA VOTACION

Las Mesas Electorales, por mayoría de votos resolverán sobre los incidentes electorales que se susciten durante el transcurso de la votación. En caso de empate, el Presidente resolverá con su voto de calidad.

Art. 92 y 181 de la Ley Electoral

DEL CIERRE DE LA VOTACIÓN

A las 4:00 de la tarde, el Presidente de la Mesa anunciará "QUEDA CERRADA LA VOTACIÓN". Si por causa no



prevista o circunstancia de caso fortuito o fuerza mayor, la votación no empezare a la hora señalada en la Ley, o sucediere alguna interrupción, el Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones o en su defecto, el Tribunal Departamental o Local de Elecciones y la Mesa Electoral por unanimidad de votos, podrá prorrogar la votación hasta por una hora más; es decir, hasta las cinco de la tarde (5:00 p.m.) en las jurisdicciones donde hubiese ocurrido el atraso o interrupción.

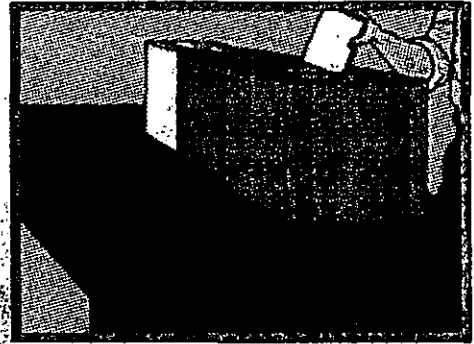
Art. 176 párrafo 2



DEL EJERCICIO DEL SUFRAGIO DE LOS MIEMBROS DE LA MESA Y DELEGADOS

Los miembros de la Mesa Electoral Receptora, tanto propietarios como suplentes, acreditados y designados por los partidos políticos y candidaturas independientes, votarán en la Mesa Electoral donde desempeñen sus funciones, previa la comprobación que no han hecho uso del sufragio y de que son electores.

Salvo lo consignado en el párrafo anterior, ningún elector podrá votar fuera del municipio donde se ha inscrito o en una Mesa Electoral Receptora que no le corresponde.



PAPELETAS SOBRANTES

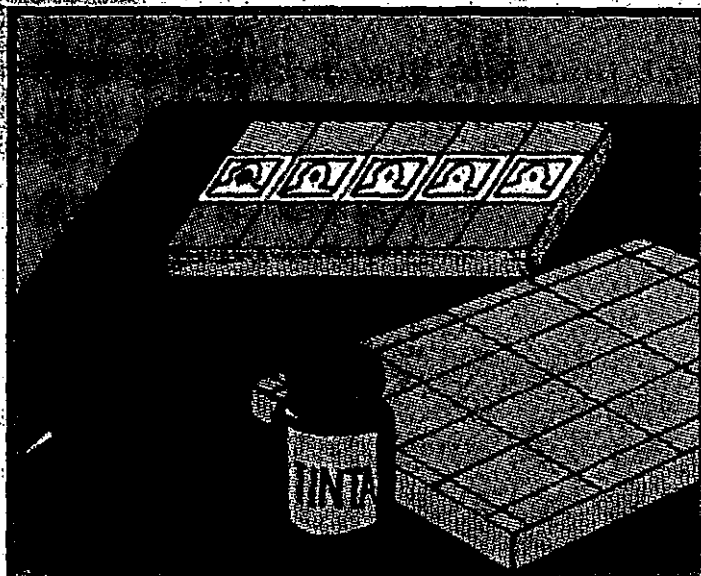
Acto seguido el Secretario de la Mesa procederá a sellar las papeletas NO UTILIZADAS, aplicando el sello "SOBRANTE" y si no hubiese sello se le pedirá al Presidente escribir en estas papeletas la palabra "SOBRANTE" y que las firme, luego se procederá a practicar el escrutinio.

Art. 177 Ley Electoral



CLASIFICACIÓN DE LA DOCUMENTACIÓN Y MATERIAL ELECTORAL QUE NO SE UTILIZAN EN EL ESCRUTINIO

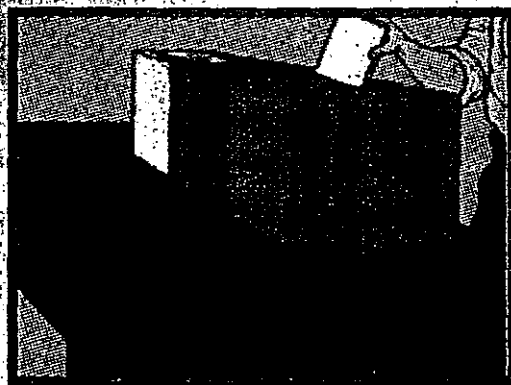
Todos los documentos y materiales electorales que no se necesitan en el escrutinio, deben ser clasificados, ordenados y colocados en un lugar seguro, a fin de que no dificulten la realización del mismo, permitiendo el normal desenvolvimiento de los Miembros de la Mesa Electoral.



ACTOS PREVIOS AL INICIO DEL ESCRUTINIO

1. EXHIBICION DE MANOS

Los Miembros de la Mesa deberán exhibirse recíprocamente sus manos, para establecer que no tienen manchas de tinta que puedan manchar los votos. Asimismo, se despojarán de anillos, pulseras y cualquier otra prenda para evitar daños a los votos.



2. RUPTURA DE LA CINTA DE PAPEL QUE SELLA LA URNA

Para efecto de practicar el escrutinio, el Presidente de la Mesa, en presencia de los demás Miembros, verificará el estado de las Urnas, procederá a abrir urna por urna rompiendo la cinta de papel que las sella. Art. 177 Ley Electoral



DEL ESCRUTINIO

El escrutinio se practicará en el orden siguiente:

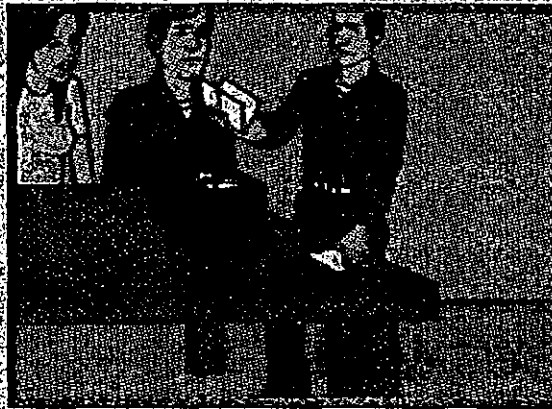
- 1.- Presidente de la República y Designados a la Presidencia;
- 2.- Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano;
- 3.- Corporación Municipal.

1. ESCRUTINIO DE VOTOS

El Escrutador saca uno a uno los votos, lo examina para comprobar si no tiene alteraciones; anuncia a que partido pertenece, luego lo pasa al Presidente, éste lo muestra a los demás Miembros de la Mesa y lo traslada al Secretario. En caso de comprobarse alteraciones será nulo. Acto seguido el Escrutador sacará otro voto de la urna y así sucesivamente.

Cuando aparezcan en una urna votos de diferente color al de los votos que se estén escrutando, el Escrutador lo extraerá por último y se lo entregará al Presidente de la Mesa, quien a la vista de los demás Miembros lo conservará para que sea finalmente escrutado en el momento en que se abra la urna de los votos de su respectivo color. Si esta urna ha sido escrutada, el voto en mención será revisado, leído y acreditado al Partido Político que corresponda.

Art. 177 Ley Electoral

**2. DEL SELLO "ESCRUTADO"**

A cada voto escrutado se le pondrá el sello "ESCRUTADO", si no hay sello el Presidente de la Mesa escribirá en el voto la palabra "ESCRUTADO", y lo firmará.

Art. 177 Ley Electoral

PARTIDO LIBERAL DE COSTA RICA	PARTIDO LIBERAL DE COSTA RICA	PARTIDO LIBERAL DE COSTA RICA	PARTIDO LIBERAL DE COSTA RICA	PARTIDO LIBERAL DE COSTA RICA
Rafael Ángel Fournier	Rafael Ángel Fournier	Rafael Ángel Fournier	Rafael Ángel Fournier	Rafael Ángel Fournier

3. DE LA CALIFICACIÓN DEL VOTO

a. VOTO VALIDO

El voto es válido y se le aplicará el sello "VALIDO", cuando:

1. La marca esté puesta total o parcialmente sobre la bandera, espacio en blanco o fotografía de un Candidato, y se acreditará al Partido Político que corresponde la bandera, el espacio en blanco o fotografía.
2. La marca esté puesta sobre dos columnas o parte de éstas, se considerará voto a favor del Partido Político en cuya columna esté la mayor parte de la marca o raya.
3. Se encuentren dos o más votos entrelazados, el Escrutador los colocará a un lado tal y como los encontró y si al finalizar el escrutinio resultare coincidente el número de votantes efectivos y los votos depositados, se considerarán votos válidos.
4. La marca esté puesta en la columna en que aparece la bandera del Partido Político aunque no aparezca la fotografía del Candidato,
5. Se encuentren votos con marcas de residuos grasosos.
6. Los votos que no estén sellados con la leyenda "RATIFICADO".

PARTIDO LIBERAL DE HONDURAS	PARTIDO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO DE HONDURAS	PARTIDO RENOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD	PARTIDO UNIFICACIÓN DEMOCRÁTICA	PARTIDO NACIONAL DE HONDURAS
Rafael Pineda Ponos	Marco Orlando Mera	Olyán Valladares	Matías Funes	Ricardo Maduro

b. VOTO EN BLANCO

1. A los votos que no fueran marcados se les aplicará el sello "VOTO EN BLANCO". Si no hubiese sello, se le pedirá al Presidente que con su puño y letra escriba "VOTO EN BLANCO" y a la vez lo firme.
2. Cuando en una papeleta aparezca una columna en blanco por razón de que el Partido Político no inscribió planilla, y el Elector haya marcado en esa columna, se considerará VOTO EN BLANCO.

Art. 177 Ley Electoral

PARTIDO LIBERAL DE HONDURAS	PARTIDO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO DE HONDURAS	PARTIDO RENOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD	PARTIDO UNIFICACIÓN DEMOCRÁTICA	PARTIDO NACIONAL DE HONDURAS
	DC		UD Unificación Democrática	
Rafael Pineda Ponce	Marco Orlando Martí	Olivan Valladares	Matías Funes	Ricardo Maduro

c. VOTO NULO

1. Los votos que no estén firmados por el Presidente y Secretario del Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones y marcados con el sello del Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones
2. Los votos que no estén firmados por el Presidente y Secretario de la Mesa.
3. Cuando haya más de un voto bajo el mismo doblez, ambos serán nulos
4. Cuando se encuentren dos o más votos entrelazados, el Escrutador los colocará a un lado tal y como los encontró, y si al finalizar el escrutinio, resultare diferencia entre las papeletas entregadas a la Mesa y el número de votantes efectivos, ambos se considerarán votos nulos (Art. 177 Ley Electoral)
5. Los votos marcados con leyenda que ofende la moral y las buenas costumbres
6. Cuando esté marcado en dos o más columnas

PARTIDO LIBERAL DE HONDURAS	PARTIDO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO DE HONDURAS	PARTIDO RENOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD	PARTIDO UNIFICACIÓN DEMOCRÁTICA	PARTIDO NACIONAL DE HONDURAS
	DC		UD Unificación Democrática	
Rafael Pineda Ponce	Marco Orlando Martí	Olivan Valladares	Matías Funes	Ricardo Maduro

7. Cuando la marca esté fuera de la sección o columna.
8. Cuando esté marcado con tinta de diferente color a la del color verde.

d. CLASIFICACION DE VOTOS

El Secretario separará los votos en legajos independientes para Presidente de la República y Designados a la Presidencia, Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano, y para Miembros de la Corporación Municipal.

Los votos serán clasificados así:

- Votos válidos por Partido Político
- Votos nulos
- Votos en blanco

Art. 177 Ley Electoral



e. DE LAS CIRCUNSTANCIAS QUE NO ANULAN EL VOTO

1. La mancha que ocasione la marca en otro lugar del voto que evidentemente no sea el escogido por el Elector, no anulará el mismo, y se acreditará a la planilla escogida por el Elector.
2. Toda mancha en el voto causada por la imprenta, por Miembros de la Mesa u otras personas, no atribuibles al Elector, no anularán el voto.

RECuento DE VOTOS

Terminado el escrutinio, el Escrutador contará los votos para comprobar si el número de éstos es igual al de Electores que votaron, según conste en el Cuaderno de Votación, procediendo inmediatamente el Secretario a llenar el acta de cierre.



TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES

ELECCIONES 2001
INSTRUCTIVO ELECTORALREPUBLICA DE HONDURAS
TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES
ACTA DE CIERRE DE LA VOTACION

MESA No

CODIGO DE BARRA

DEPARTAMENTO		MUNICIPIO	
BARRIO O COLONIA		ALDEA O CASERIO	
CENTRO DE VOTACION		HORA DE CIERRE	
EL PRESIDENTE DE LA MESA ELECTORAL RECEPTORA EN PRESENCIA DE LOS DEMAS MIEMBROS DECLARÓ CERRADA LA VOTACION. EL ESCRUTADOR PROCEDIÓ EN CONSECUENCIA A EXTRAER UNO A UNO LOS VOTOS, EL SECRETARIO TOMO NOTA DEL SIGUIENTE RESULTADO POR PARTIDO POLITICO.			
PRESIDENTE	VOTOS		
	PARTIDO	EN NUMEROS	EN LETRAS
	LIBERAL		
	DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO		
	INNOVACION Y UNIDAD		
	UNIFICACION DEMOCRATICA		
	NACIONAL		
	TOTAL VOTOS VALIDOS		
	VOTOS NULOS		
	VOTOS EN BLANCO		
DISUTADOS	VOTOS		
	PARTIDO	EN NUMEROS	EN LETRAS
	LIBERAL		
	DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO		
	INNOVACION Y UNIDAD		
	UNIFICACION DEMOCRATICA		
	NACIONAL		
	TOTAL VOTOS VALIDOS		
	VOTOS NULOS		
	VOTOS EN BLANCO		
GOBERNACION MUNICIPAL	VOTOS		
	PARTIDO	EN NUMEROS	EN LETRAS
	LIBERAL		
	DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO		
	INNOVACION Y UNIDAD		
	UNIFICACION DEMOCRATICA		
	NACIONAL		
	TOTAL VOTOS VALIDOS		
	VOTOS NULOS		
	VOTOS EN BLANCO		
TOTAL			

INCIDENCIAS Y PROTESTAS QUE SE SUSCITARON DURANTE EL PERIODO DE VOTACION Y EL ESCRUTINIO

FIRMAN PARA CONSTANCIA LOS MIEMBROS DE LA MESA

PRESIDENTE	No. DE IDENTIDAD	ESCRUTADOR	No. DE IDENTIDAD
VOCAL	No. DE IDENTIDAD	VOCAL	No. DE IDENTIDAD
TESTIGO	No. DE IDENTIDAD	TESTIGO	No. DE IDENTIDAD
SECRETARIO	No. DE IDENTIDAD		

Una vez terminado el escrutinio se levantará el ACTA DE CIERRE anotando en las casillas correspondientes el número de votantes, los votos obtenidos por cada uno de los Partidos Políticos, los votos en blanco, los votos nulos y el número de papeletas sobrantes para garantizar el resultado.

PROCEDIMIENTO PARA LLENAR EL ACTA DE CIERRE**1. PLANILLA PARA PRESIDENTE Y DESIGNADOS PRESIDENCIALES:**

- 1.1 Detalle de votos válidos para ese nivel de planilla por cada Partido Político.
- 1.2 Total de votos válidos para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma de los datos detallados anteriormente.
- 1.3 Total de votos nulos para ese nivel de planilla.
- 1.4 Total de votos en blanco para ese nivel de planilla.
- 1.5 Total de votos escrutados para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma del total de votos válidos, más el total de votos nulos, más el total de votos en blanco, anotados anteriormente.
- 1.6 Total de papeletas sobrantes para ese nivel de planilla.
- 1.7 Total global para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma del total de votos escrutados, más el total de papeletas sobrantes para ese nivel de planilla.

2. PLANILLA PARA DIPUTADOS AL CONGRESO NACIONAL Y PARLAMENTO CENTROAMERICANO:

- 2.1 Detalle de votos válidos para ese nivel de planilla por cada Partido Político.
- 2.2 Total de votos válidos para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma de los datos detallados anteriormente.
- 2.3 Total de votos nulos para ese nivel de planilla.
- 2.4 Total de votos en blanco para ese nivel de planilla.
- 2.5 Total de votos escrutados para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma del total de votos válidos, más el total de votos nulos, más el total de votos en blanco, anotados anteriormente.
- 2.6 Total de papeletas sobrantes para ese nivel de planilla.
- 2.7 Total global para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma del total de votos escrutados, más el total de papeletas sobrantes para ese nivel de planilla.

3. PLANILLA PARA CORPORACIÓN MUNICIPAL

- 3.1 Detalle de votos válidos para ese nivel de planilla por cada Partido Político.
- 3.2 Total de votos válidos para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma de los datos detallados anteriormente.
- 3.3 Total de votos nulos para ese nivel de planilla.
- 3.4 Total de votos en blanco para ese nivel de planilla.
- 3.5 Total de votos escrutados para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma del total de votos válidos, más el total de votos nulos, más el total de votos en blanco, anotados anteriormente.
- 3.6 Total de papeletas sobrantes para ese nivel de planilla.
- 3.7 Total global para ese nivel de planilla. Este total es igual a la suma del total de votos escrutados, más el total de papeletas sobrantes para ese nivel de planilla.

4. Finalmente los incidentes ocurridos y las protestas durante el periodo de votación y el escrutinio, se anotarán en las líneas correspondientes.

Si algún Miembro de la Mesa no quisiera firmar el Acta por alguna causa, se hará constar en las hojas de incidencias, y mientras no se pruebe lo contrario, el Acta será válida si ha sido firmada por la mayoría de los Miembros de la Mesa.

CERTIFICACIÓN DE LOS RESULTADOS DE LA VOTACIÓN

La Mesa Electoral Receptora extenderá Certificación con los mismos resultados de la votación consignados en el Acta de Cierre a los Miembros de la Mesa para que lo entreguen a su Partido Político.

TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES

ELECCIONES 2001
INSTRUCTIVO ELECTORAL

REPÚBLICA DE HONDURAS
TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES
CERTIFICACIÓN DE RESULTADOS

MESA No

CÓDIGO DE BARRA

DEPARTAMENTO		MUNICIPIO	
BARRIO O COLONIA		ALDEA O CASERIO	
CENTRO DE VOTACIÓN		HORA DE CIERRE	
<p>EL PRESIDENTE DE LA MESA ELECTORAL RECEPTORA EN PRESENCIA DE LOS DEMÁS MIEMBROS DECLARÓ CERRADA LA VOTACIÓN. EL ESCRUTADOR PROCEDIÓ EN CONSECUENCIA A EXTRAER UNO A UNO LOS VOTOS, EL SECRETARIO TOMÓ NOTA DEL SIGUIENTE RESULTADO POR PARTIDO POLÍTICO:</p>			
P R E S I D E N T E	PARTIDO		VOTOS
			EN NÚMEROS
			EN LETRAS
	LIBERAL		
	DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO		
	INNOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD		
	UNIFICACIÓN DEMOCRÁTICA		
	NACIONAL		
	TOTAL VOTOS VALIDOS		
	VOTOS NULOS		
D I P U T A D O S	PARTIDO		VOTOS
			EN NÚMEROS
			EN LETRAS
	LIBERAL		
	DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO		
	INNOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD		
	UNIFICACIÓN DEMOCRÁTICA		
	NACIONAL		
	TOTAL VOTOS VALIDOS		
	VOTOS NULOS		
C O M U N I C A C I O N	PARTIDO		VOTOS
			EN NÚMEROS
			EN LETRAS
	LIBERAL		
	DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO		
	INNOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD		
	UNIFICACIÓN DEMOCRÁTICA		
	NACIONAL		
	TOTAL VOTOS VALIDOS		
	VOTOS NULOS		
VOTOS EN BLANCO			
TOTAL VOTOS ESCRUTADOS			
PAPELETAS SOBRANTES			
TOTAL			

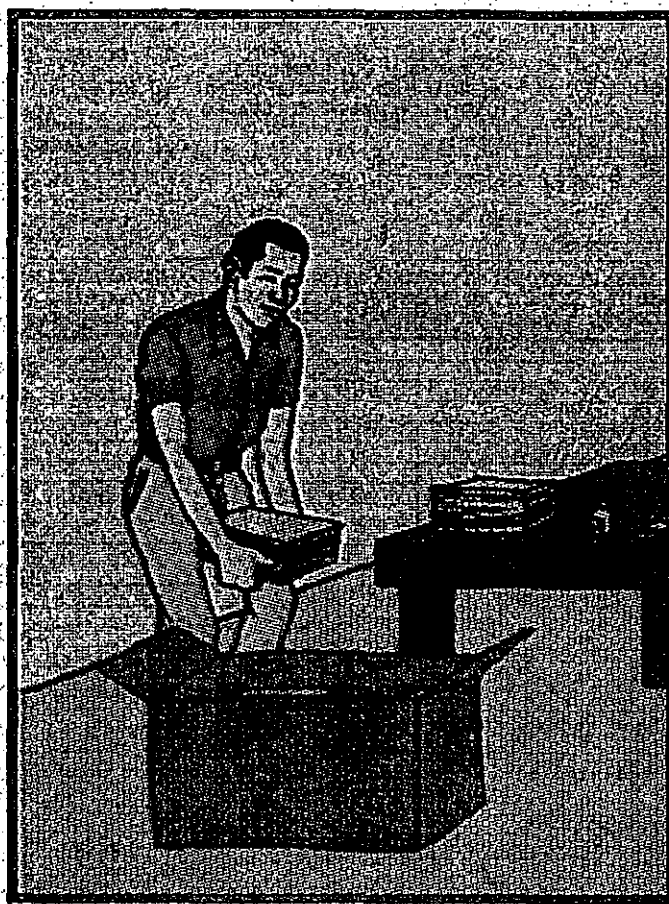
INCIDENCIAS Y PROTESTAS QUE SE SUSCITARON DURANTE EL PERIODO DE VOTACIÓN Y EL ESCRUTINIO

FIRMAN PARA CONSTANCIA LOS MIEMBROS DE LA MESA

PRESIDENTE	No. DE IDENTIDAD	ESCRUTADOR	No. DE IDENTIDAD
VOCAL	No. DE IDENTIDAD	VOCAL	No. DE IDENTIDAD
TESTIGO	No. DE IDENTIDAD	TESTIGO	No. DE IDENTIDAD
SECRETARIO	No. DE IDENTIDAD		

CLASIFICACION Y ORDENAMIENTO DEL MATERIAL ELECTORAL UTILIZADO

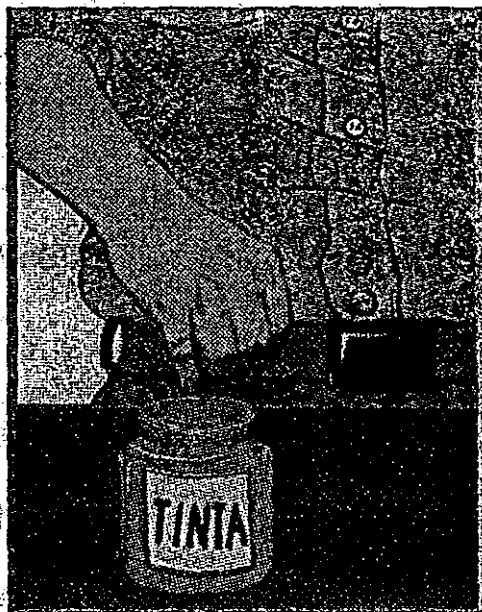
Al concluir el llenado del Acta de Cierre, el Formato TRE y de las Certificaciones para los Partidos Políticos, todos los materiales electorales retornables utilizados en la votación, deberán ser devueltos al Tribunal Local de Elecciones siguiendo los mecanismos definidos por el Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones.



MATERIALES RETORNABLES	MATERIALES NO RETORNABLES
Almohadilla	Papel higiénico
Sellos	Cinta engomada
Cuaderno de votación	Urnas
Votos	Tinta indeleble
Cortina	Instructivo
Papeleta sobrantes	Ley electoral

APLICACIÓN DE LA TINTA INDELEBLE A LOS MIEMBROS DE LA MESA

Después de haber ordenado los votos y demás materiales utilizados en la votación, que serán retornados al Tribunal Local de Elecciones, los Miembros de la Mesa Electoral Receptora se aplicarán la tinta indeleble. Art. 176 Ley Electoral

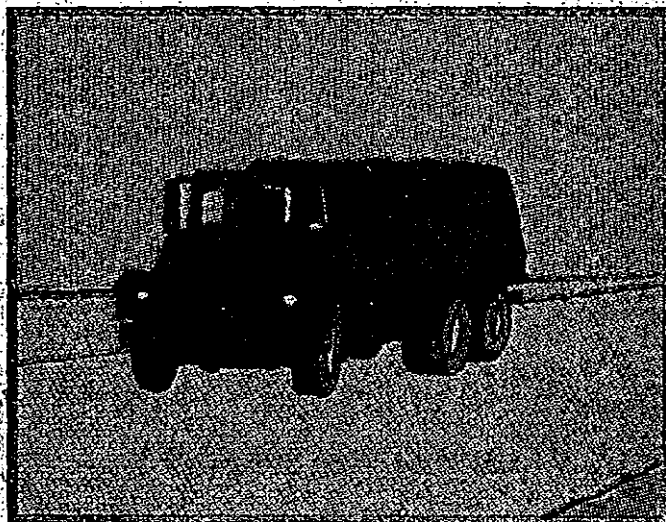
**TRANSPORTE DE LA DOCUMENTACIÓN Y MATERIAL ELECTORAL AL TRIBUNAL LOCAL**

La Maleta Electoral conteniendo los votos, el Cuaderno de Votación, y el resto de materiales retornables, será llevada bajo el mecanismo de seguridad convenido, al Tribunal Local de Elecciones.

Los Miembros de la Mesa Electoral se retirarán hasta que hayan entregado todo al Tribunal Local, incluyendo el Acta de Cierre. (Art. 118 Ley Electoral)

El Certificado de Resultados que se entregará a los miembros de la Mesa Electoral llevará el nombre de cada uno de los partidos políticos que participen en el Proceso Electoral.

No se acreditarán Delegados por parte de los partidos políticos

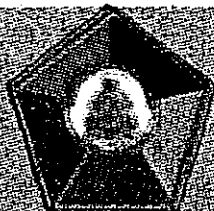


CONTENIDO**PAGINA No.**

De las Mesas Electorales Receptoras y sus Miembros	3
Actos previos a la votación	4
1. Instalación de la Mesa Electoral Receptora	4
2. De la revisión de la documentación y material electoral para la práctica del sufragio	5
3. Rotulación y numeración de la Mesa Electoral	6
4. Revisión de las urnas	6
5. Cierre y sellado de urnas	6
6. Depósito de las Tarjetas de Identidad	7
7. Acta de apertura de la votación	7
Formato de Acta de Apertura de Votación	8
Inicio de la votación	9
Del procedimiento para votar	9
1. De la identificación del elector	9
2. De la observación de la mano del elector	10
3. De la entrega de papeletas del elector	10

4. De la marcación de las papeletas por el elector	11
5. Del sello Ratificado	11
6. Del depósito de los votos en las urnas por el elector	12
7. De la aplicación de la tinta indeleble	12
8. De la devolución de la Tarjeta de Identidad al elector	13
9. Del sello Votó	13
Electores que tienen preferencia para ejercer el sufragio	13
Continuación de la votación	14
De cómo resolver los incidentes en la votación	14
Del cierre de la votación	14
Del ejercicio del sufragio de los miembros de la Mesa	15
Papeletas sobrantes	15
Clasificación de la documentación y material electoral que no se utilizan en el escrutinio	16
Actos previos al inicio del escrutinio:	16
1. Exhibición de manos	16
2. Ruptura de la cinta de papel que sella la urna	16
Del escrutinio	17

1. Escrutinio de votos	17
2. Del sello Escrutado	17
3. De la calificación del voto:	18
a. Voto válido	18
b. Voto en blanco	18
c. Voto nulo	19
d. Clasificación de votos	20
e. De las circunstancias que no anulan el voto	20
Recuentos de votos	20
Acta de Cierre de la Votación	21
Procedimiento para llenar el acta de cierre	22
1. Planilla para Presidente y Designados presidenciales	22
2. Planilla para Diputados al Congreso Nacional y al Parlamento Centroamericano	22
3. Planilla para Corporación Municipal	22
4. Incidentes Ocurridos	22
Formato de la certificación de los resultados de la votación	23
Clasificación y ordenamiento del material electoral utilizado	24
Aplicación de la tinta indeleble a los Miembros de la Mesa	25
Transporte de la documentación al Tribunal Local	25



AUTORIDADES DEL TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES

Presidente

Lic. Heriberto Flores Lagos

Vice-Presidente

Abog. René Corea Cortés

Vocal

Lic. David Matamoros Batson

Vocal

Abog. Lisandro Quesada

Vocal

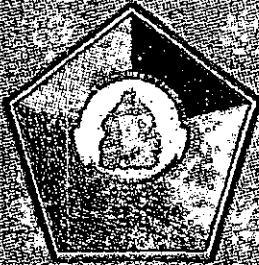
Lic. Marco Ramiro López

Vocal

Abog. Juan Vicente Raudales Castro

Secretario

Lic. Purificación Torres



TRIBUNAL NACIONAL DE ELECCIONES



Señores
Miembros de las Mesas Electorales Receptoras
Presente

El Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones, en nombre de la República de Honduras, deposita en Ustedes la gran responsabilidad de convertirse en jueces, de cuyas decisiones dependerá el futuro de la nación. Por ello es indispensable que actúen en el marco de los más elevados principios de la ética y moral política. De conformidad con la Constitución de la República, el sufragio es un derecho y una función pública. El voto es además universal, obligatorio, igualitario, libre y secreto.

La Ley dispone también que se declara punible todo acto por el cual se prohíba o limite la participación del ciudadano en la vida política del país.

En base a estos postulados Constitucionales, los Miembros de las Mesas Electorales Receptoras, devienen obligados a garantizar que el Proceso Electoral se desarrolle en un ambiente de absoluta seguridad, libertad, legitimidad, transparencia y espíritu democrático.

Es obligatorio para los miembros integrantes de las Mesas Electorales Receptoras estudiar, analizar y comprender no solamente el instructivo relacionado con la práctica de las elecciones, sino también la Ley Electoral y de las Organizaciones Políticas, que les permitirá tener una mejor visión sobre el cumplimiento de sus responsabilidades.

Al augurar a Ustedes el mayor de los éxitos en el cumplimiento de sus obligaciones, hacemos votos porque Dios ilumine vuestras mentes y oriente su entendimiento, a fin de culminar vuestra labor con la satisfacción del deber cumplido.

El voto es un derecho y un deber y el mismo representa poder. Ejercécelo! y contribuye con los demás a que lo ejerzan.

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C. 25 de noviembre de 2001

Tribunal Nacional de Elecciones

Trabajando por Honduras