

■ TPP wins 15-0

Tobago dumps PNM

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A BLUE wave swept across Tobago yesterday, with the Tobago People's Party (TPP) taking complete control of the sister isle.

The People's National Movement (PNM) was decimated in the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) election, losing its lone seat in Darrel Spring/Whim, as the TPP emerged victorious in all 15 electoral districts.

It was a historic, stunning victory for the party formed in August 2023 and led by political leader Farley Augustine.

Just before 10 p.m., jubilation and loud cheers erupted along the Esplanade in Scarborough when a TV report from a nearby bar announced that the TPP was declaring victory in almost all electoral districts.

About half-an-hour later, hundreds of TPP supporters flocked to Scarborough wearing the party's blue T-shirts, carrying flags and blowing whistles and horns.

A truck blasted music and turned the Esplanade into what appeared to be blue themed fete as supporters danced in the street, waiting for the arrival of the TPP political leader last night.

In the 2021 THA election, Watson Duke's Progressive Democratic Patriots (PDP) soundly beat the PNM, breaking its 21-year control of the THA with a resounding 14–1 victory.

That election marked the rise of Augustine as THA Chief Secretary.

The electoral district of Parlatuvier/ Speyside/L'Anse Fourmi, which Augustine contested, was among the first seats to be declared early in favour of the TPP.

Following a fallout with Duke, Augustine had formed the TPP, and after four years of his leadership, the people of Tobago have shown that they repose full confidence in him and his team.

At the April 2025 general election, the TPP won both the Tobago East and Tobago West parliamentary seats.

The PNM was unable to resuscitate itself on the island under the leadership of Opposition Leader Penelope Beckles at the THA polls yesterday.

For a consecutive election, PNM Tobago Council leader Ancil Dennis lost his seat to the TPP.

Dennis was beaten by his former PNM colleague, former chairman of the Tobago West constituency Keigon Denoon.

Denoon broke ranks with the PNM and joined the TPP.

Both Denoon and Dennis contested the electoral district of Buccoo/Mt Pleasant, where Denoon emerged victorious.

TPP chairman Nathasha Second and general secretary Pearl Alman-George were at the party's headquarters at Port Mall, Scarborough, last night, tabulating preliminary figures.

Just after 9 p.m., Second received a call from Augustine, during which he indicated that the party had, at that time, secured 14 electoral districts, with the count still under way in Darrel Spring/Whim.

In 2021, the PNM's Kelvon Morris won that seat by a narrow margin of three votes and went on to become minority leader in the THA.

Second said preliminary data suggested increased voter turnout in the district, delivering a win for TPP candidate Ricky Joefield and securing all 15 seats for the party in what she described as a historic victory.

'Revolutionary' approach Second said the TPP had proven that it delivered to the people of Tobago, and that its election machinery and hard work were successful.

'The people have been impressed with the TPP,' she declared.

She said the party has been 'revolutionary' in its approach to education, healthcare and looking after the youth of the island.

'There is excitement in Tobago for the TPP's blueprint,' she said.

She said the first order of business will be thanking the people and holding consultations on the way forward.

'There will be focus on education and development of a Tobago-centric curriculum,' she said.

She said there will be continued efforts towards infrastructural development and autonomy for Tobago.

The election took place without any major issue, according to the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC).

Chief Election Officer Fern Narcis told the *Express* that most challenges were in the Plymouth/Black Rock area where a few people were unsure of their polling station locations.

She said everyone was able to vote as these issues were resolved and voters were assisted by the EBC's Hotline personnel and/ or website to determine the correct stations.

She said: 'We at the EBC are quite pleased with how today progressed.'



ONE FOR THE PARTY: Chief Secretary Farley Augustine displays his stained finger after casting his ballot at Speyside Anglican Primary School in yesterday's THA election.

-Photo: ISHMAEL SALANDY