Week # 110

The **Anguillan general election** was held on 15 February 2010. Seven seats in the Anguilla House of Assembly were contested in the election. The incumbent Chief Minister of Anguilla Osbourne Fleming chose to retire and not stand for election. Fleming is a member of the Anguilla National Alliance, which is part of the ruling Anguilla United Front (AUF), a conservative coalition which won 4 of the 7 seats in the Assembly during the 2005 general election.The incumbent AUF was defeated, and former Chief Minister Hubert Hughes was sworn in to succeed Fleming as Chief Minister.

Anguilla

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Anguilla

Capital	The Valley
Official language(s)	English
Ethnic groups	90.1% West African, 4.6% Multiracial, 3.7% European, 1.5% other
Demonym	Anguillian
Government	British Overseas Territory
- Monarch	HM Queen Elizabeth II
- Governor	William Alistair Harrison
Establishment	
- UK overseas territory	1980
- Water (%)	negligible
Population	
- 2006 estimate	13,600

- Density	132/km^2 342/sq mi
GDP (PPP)	2004 estimate
- Total	$108.9 million
- Per capita	$8,800

1. Introduction

Anguilla is a British overseas territory in the Caribbean, one of the most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles. It consists of the main island of Anguilla itself, approximately 26 km (16 mi) long by 5 km (3.1 mi) wide at its widest point, together with a number of much smaller islands and cays with no permanent population. The island's capital is The Valley. The total land area of the territory is 91 km^2 (35 sq mi), with a population of approximately 13,500 (2006 estimate).

History

Anguilla was first settled by Amerindian tribes who migrated from South America. The earliest Amerindian artifacts found on Anguilla have been dated to around 1300 BC, and remains of settlements date from 600 AD. The date of European discovery is uncertain: some sources claim that Columbus sighted the island in 1493, while others state that the island was first discovered by the French in 1564 or 1565. The name Anguilla derives from the word for "eel" in any of various Romance languages (modern Spanish: *anguila*; French: *anguille*; Italian: *anguilla*), probably chosen because of the island's eel-like shape.

Anguilla was first colonised by English settlers from Saint Kitts, beginning in 1650. The French temporarily overtook the island in 1666 but under the Treaty of Breda it was returned to English control. Other early arrivals included Europeans from Antigua and Barbados. It is likely that some of these early Europeans brought enslaved Africans with them. Historians confirm that African slaves lived in the region in the early seventeenth century. For example, Africans from Senegal lived in St. Christopher (today St. Kitts) in 1626. By 1672 a slave depot existed on the island of Nevis, serving the Leeward Islands. While the time of African arrival in Anguilla is difficult to place precisely, archive evidence indicates a substantial African presence (at least 100) on the island by 1683.

The island was administered by England, and later the United Kingdom, until the early nineteenth century when – against the wishes of the inhabitants – it was incorporated into a single British dependency along with Saint Kitts and Nevis. After two rebellions in 1967 and 1969 and a brief period as a self-declared independent republic headed by Ronald Webster, British rule was fully restored in July, 1971. Anguilla became a separate British dependency (now termed a British overseas territory) in 1980.

Politics

Anguilla is an internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom. Its politics takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic dependency, whereby the Chief Minister is the head of government, and of a pluriform multi-party system.

The United Nations Committee on Decolonization includes Anguilla on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The territory's constitution is Anguilla Constitutional Order 1 April 1982 (amended 1990). Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the House of Assembly. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature.

Elections in Anguilla

Background

Located in the Caribbean, Anguilla is a self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom. The island was first discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493, and has been administered by Britain since 1650.

In 1967, People's Progressive Party (PPP) leader Ronald Webster declared Anguilla a sovereign nation, and eventually renamed it as Republic of Anguilla. Britain did not acknowledge the island's independence, and in 1969, British forces invaded the island to restore order.

In 1980, the area became a separate parliamentary democratic British dependency, and Webster won the House of Assembly election under the Anguilla United Party (AUP) banner. Emile Gumbs of the Anguilla National Alliance (ANA) took over as chief minister in 1984, remaining in the post for 10 years. AUP leader Hubert Hughes formed a coalition government with the Anguilla Democratic Party (ADP) in 1994.

Following the 2000 election, Osbourne Fleming took over as chief minister after the Anguilla United Front (AUF)—a conservative coalition encompassing Fleming's ANA and the ADP—secured four seats in the legislative branch.

Fleming had served as finance minister and was a well-known businessman before running for the island's highest elected office. He won a second term in office in 2005 after securing five of the seven seats at stake in the House of Assembly election.

Around 13,500 people inhabit the island of Anguilla today.

Anguilla elects on territorial level a legislature. The **House of Assembly** has 11 members, 7 members elected for a five year term in single-seat constituencies, 2 ex officio members and 2 nominated members. Anguilla has a multi-party system.

Anguillan general election, 2005

The **2005 Anguillan general election** was held in Anguilla on 21 February 2005 to elect the seven elected seats in the House of Assembly. The Anguilla United Front, an alliance

of the Anguilla National Alliance and the Anguilla Democratic Party, won the election retaining four of the elected seats.

Background

In the 2000 Anguillan general election the governing Anguilla United Party was defeated by a coalition of the Anguilla National Alliance and the Anguilla Democratic Party. Together the two parties won four of the seven elected seats and the leader of the Anguilla National Alliance, Osbourne Fleming, became Chief Minister of Anguilla. In May 2004 the leadership of the opposition passed from Hubert Hughes, leader of the Anguilla United Movement party, to Edison Baird, leader of the Anguilla Strategic Alliance. This came after one member of the House of Assembly, Albert Hughes, changed parties.

The House of Assembly has 11 members. Seven members are directly elected by the Plurality voting system while the other four members are appointed. One of the appointed members is chosen by the governing party, while the other three are appointed by the Governor of Anguilla, with one of the three appointments being made in consultation with the opposition.

Campaign

Towards the end of January 2005 Chief Minister Osbourne Fleming announced that the election would be held on the 21 February, with nominations required by the 8 February. A record 25 candidates put themselves up for election by the 7,560 eligible voters.

The governing Anguilla United Front stood based on the development they had brought over the past five years, including the island's first 18 hole golf course, the renovation of Wallblake Airport and plans for a luxury hotel. Osbourne Fleming claimed that the developments would bring jobs and had made Anguilla significantly different to how it had been five years before.

Three opposition parties, the Anguilla Strategic Alliance, Anguilla United Movement and Anguilla Progressive Party fielded candidates. Opposition leader Edison Baird of the Anguilla Strategic Alliance said that the government had not been open enough in explaining how the development project would benefit ordinary Anguillans. Opposition parties also criticised tax concessions given to the company who would be building the luxury hotel.

Results

All 6 incumbents who sought re-election kept their seats in the election. The only change took place in Valley North where the previous representative, Eric Reid, stood down and was succeeded by Evans McNeil Rogers.

Summary of the 21 February 2005 House of Assembly of Anguilla election results			
Parties	**Votes**	**%**	**Seats**
Anguilla United Front • Anguilla National Alliance • Anguilla Democratic Party	2,177	39.1	4
Anguilla Strategic Alliance	1,203	21.6	2
Anguilla United Movement	1,088	19.5	1
Anguilla Progressive Party	370	6.6	-
Independents	731	13.1	-
Appointed members	-	-	4
Total (turnout 74.6 %)	**5,569**	**100**	**11**

Aftermath

- The day after the election was declared a national holiday and the four elected members of the Anguilla United Front were sworn into government by the Governor Alan Huckle. Following the election, Albert Hughes, left the Anguilla Strategic Alliance and joined the government. This meant the opposition was evenly split between the Anguilla Strategic Alliance and the Anguilla United Movement, so the Governor did not appoint a Leader of the Opposition. **2010 House of Assembly Election**

Anguillans renewed their legislature on Feb. 15. Incumbent chief minister Osbourne Fleming— who has headed a conservative government since 2000—did not stand for re-election.

In 2009, Fleming announced he would retire from politics in 2010. Another two lawmakers with Fleming's Anguilla United Front (AUF), communications and works minister Kenneth Harrigan and parliamentary secretary Albert Hughes, also announced their retirement following this year's ballot.

The AUF has chosen current finance minister Victor Banks to replace Fleming as party leader. He will lead the governing party into this year's election.

Former Anguila chief minister Hubert Hughes heads the Anguilla United Movement (AUM) into the ballot, and Brent Davis is the leader of the Anguilla Progressive Party (APP). Three independent candidates are also running: former telecommunications executive Sutcliffe Hodge, educator Terrence Harrigan, and businessman and telecommunications service provider Kennedy Hodge.

On Jan. 7, as Fleming announced the date of the next election, he declared: "The people elected us for five years and five years it would be; that was my commitment that was my pledge."

On Jan. 22, elections supervisor Colville Petty declared: "We will be definitely ready on February 15." Petty revealed that 8,652 people in seven electoral districts are registered to vote in the ballot, up from the 7,558 who registered in 2005.

Voting took place on Feb. 15. Preliminary results suggested that the Anguilla United Movement (AUM) would secure four of the seven seats at stake. AUM leader Hubert Hughes is expected to form the government.

The Anguilla United Front (AUF) won two seats, and the remaining mandate went to the Anguilla Progressive Party (APP). AUF leader Victor Banks was unable to win his seat in District 4.

On Feb. 16, Hughes was sworn in as chief minister.

Political Players

Governor: Alistair Harrison
Chief minister: Hubert Hughes - AUF

Legislative Branch: The House of Assembly has 11 members; seven members are elected to five-year terms in single-seat constituencies, plus two ex-officio members and two appointed members. Three of the non-elected members are chosen by the governor, and the other is picked by the governing party.

Anguillan general election, 2010

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The incumbent Chief Minister of Anguilla Osbourne Fleming chose to retire and not stand for election. Fleming is a member of the Anguilla National Alliance, which is part of the ruling Anguilla United Front (AUF), a conservative coalition which won 4 of the 7 seats in the Assembly during the 2005 general election.

The incumbent AUF was defeated, and former Chief Minister Hubert Hughes was sworn in to succeed Fleming as Chief Minister.

Election background

In 2009, the year before the election, Chief Minister Osbourne Fleming, who was also the leader of the Anguilla United Front (AUF), announced that he would not stand for re-election in the 2010 race. Two other members of the ruling AUF also announced their intent to retire as well - Parliamentary Secretary Albert Hughes and Communications and Works Minister Kenneth Harrigan. Collectively, Fleming, Hughes and Harrigan had been active in Anguillan politics for more than 80 years. It was announced that Finance Minister Victor Banks would succeed Fleming as the party leader of the AUF coalition.

According to the Consitition of Anguilla, the general election was due to be held by March 2010. However, the election could have been postponed until as late as May or June 2010.

On Monday, January 4, 2010, the last day of the current Assembly, the leader of government business held talks with the Governor of Anguilla, Alistair Harrison, concerning the dissolution of the legislative body to pave the way for new elections. That same day, Chief Minister Fleming told the Assembly that he felt that the previous five years of AUF in Anguilla had been a success, "The people elected us for five years and five years it would be, that was my commitment that was my pledge."

Retiring Chief Minister Osbourne Fleming officially set February 15, 2010, as the date for the election during a public meeting of the ruling Anguilla United Front (AUF) in Blowing Point held on January 5, 2010. In his announcement, Fleming told supporters, "Tonight, I take great pleasure in advising you that by the help of God, because we don't know what could happen, elections in Anguilla will be on the 15th of February 2010."

Colville Petty, the supervisor of elections, reported that 8,652 voters were registered to vote in the seven electoral districts on the island. That marked an increase in voter registration from the 2005 general election, when 7,558 people registered to vote.

Electoral District Four, which includes parts of The Valley, the capital of Anguilla, had the largest number of registered voters in the 2010 election, with a total of 1,789.

Candidates

Twenty candidates have registered to contest the seven Assembly seats in the election. The nomination papers for all candidates were due on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

- The Anguilla United Front, the ruling coalition which has controlled the majority of the seven seats in the Assembly since the 2005 election, is fielding candidates in all seven constituencies. The AUF is the only political party which will have a candidate in all seven races. The AUF will be led by Finance Minister Victor Banks, who replaced the retiring Osbourne Fleming as leader of the party.

- The opposition Anguilla United Movement will contest five constituencies. The party will be headed by former Chief Minister Hubert Hughes.

- The opposition Anguilla Progressive Party will also have candidates in five of the seven races. The APP is headed by Brent Davis, an Anguillan businessman.

- Three independents will also run as candidates for Assembly seats.

Results

Summary of the 15 February 2010 House of Assembly of Anguilla election results			
Parties	Votes	%	Seats

Anguilla United Front • Anguilla National Alliance • Anguilla Democratic Party	2,781	39.37	2
Anguilla United Movement	2,308	32.68	4
Anguilla Progressive Party	1,039	14.71	1
Independents	935	13.24	—
Appointed members	—	—	4
Total (turnout ?%)	**7,063**	**100**	**11**
Source: Elections Anguilla			

REFLECTIONS ON ANGUILLA'S GENERAL ELECTIONS 2010 BY VIVIEN A. VANTERPOOL B.PHIL, DAES., DES. GENERAL

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When I endorsed the candidature of Palmovan Webster as the Anguilla Progressive Party's candidate for District Number One - Island Harbour and its environs, I used as my theme the word change. This had already been the theme for the APP and was also heard subsequently on the other parties'/independents' rostrums.

Little did I realize the depth and meaning of the word "change" until I read an article in "The Daily Herald" of Wednesday 11th February 2010 written by Dr. Miguel Goede. I was so impressed by this article that I thought it appropriate to include an extract for the general public to have an idea of its meaning and I quote:

WHAT IS CHANGE? "It is a movement toward a desired & sustainable situation." In order for change to succeed, six things must be in place.

(a)	There	must	be	the	need	for	change
(b)	A	sharp	vision	of	the	result	of	the	change
(c)	Management	or	leadership	committed	to	the	change
(d)	Support	of	the	people	involved	in	the	change
(e)	Structure	or	infrastructure	to	accomplish	the	change,	and
(f)	The	measure	of	progress	to	the	change

If any of these are lacking the change will probably fail. Therefore any group undergoing change consists of innovators and laggards. It is important to focus on the former. The latter will always resist change and can be brought around only after the change has already progressed" – end of quote. I thought that I should include this section of the article in order to emphasize the importance of the habit of reading which I shall deal with later in this later in this article.

Positive	Aspects	of	Electioneering	Campaign	2009/10

• The Anguilla Progressive Party's introduction of the broadcasting of its campaign over radio and the ELECTRONIC MEDIA, thus arousing the youth of Anguilla to become interested in the island's politics. This activity, I firmly believe, was a catalyst in influencing the members of the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School's Literary and Debating Society to on their own - (principal and the Chief Education Officer) to engage the political parties and Independent Candidates in eight debates concerning the policies, plans and activities for Anguilla for at least the next five years. Please allow me to publicly congratulate the participating students as well as all involved in this important exercise for their initiative in becoming an active element in the political debate of Anguilla's future development. I am convinced that them action has had a profound influence on the outcome of 2010 General Election – THANK YOU THE YOUTH OF ANGUILLA. The high turn out at the polls islandwide amplified and encouraged the people of

Anguilla to come out in their numbers.
• The politics of Anguilla has moved to a higher level than hitherto with issues taking centre stage in the majority of cases.
• In number one constituency – Island Harbour – the electors, having cast their votes, returned to the POND FILL, where the candidates' tents were erected, conversing with each camp where eats were available for cash as there were a number of vendors. There was to my mind a scene of real camaraderie exhibited on the POND FILL.
• Campaigning was over, votes had been cast, and whatever the outcome all of us will have to live in Anguilla. This told me, I hope that Anguillians are maturing politically.

NEGATIVE   ASPECTS
• The non-attendance or partial non-attendance of the two senior parties - Anguilla United Front and the Anguilla United Movement. To my mind this action was an affront to our intelligent youth and no cosmetic excuse, in my book, could be satisfactory explanation for their absence at these debates.
• This shows me as an educator (former) that these leaders are not interested in the all round promotion of our Education System, period.
• Character assassination by members of some of the political parties as well as independents.
• An alarming number of alleged bribery cases even in the lines and in the environs of Polling Stations in some of districts during the campaign and on Election Day.
• The need for Electoral Reform immediately to counteract this discreptance as it affects very seriously the democratic progress moving forward.
Education
If conditions are to improve the foregoing has to change early in this New Government's term of office.
• There needs to be an introduction of civics - what we called in our day Moral Instruction – at Primary Level, then move to Political Science at Secondary Level (Campus B and Campus A). This should be an examination subject in the schools curriculum.
• Reading should be a priority subject in the schools' curriculum, as all other subjects

depend heavily on understanding the various subjects of the curriculum.
• The setting of community councils/constituency cells in every constituency
• Community councils/cells are not only for politics, but organized to assist in other programmes – debates, assisting pupils/students with their homework assignments, story telling and other topics of national interest.
• Ensure the development of sporting facilities in each of the several constituencies on the island and that there are opportunities for purposeful development for the vocational aspects of education.
• I feel very forcefully that at present the less academic child is short –changed, seeing that our economy is primarily based on tourism. To my mind this specific group will continue to be marginalized.

The above, dear reader, are my reflections on Anguilla's General Elections 15th February 2010 and have expressed them as I have seen them. I look forward with hopeful anticipation to see Anguillians, and the new Government in particular, implement and improve on any other aspects of Anguillian society that needs addressing to the betterment of all.
May I conclude, fellow Anguillians, that we all pray for our new Government that God would bless, protect and guide them in their deliberations in these challenging times. We will be with you all the way with the proviso that you follow the straight road, and if not we will at the next general election reward you according to your stewardship.