

July 1st, 2024

TO: Rotary Means Business Fellowship Board of Directors  
FROM: The Election Investigation Committee  
SUBJECT: Report on RMBF Directors' Election 2024

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Dear Sirs,

The scope of the inquiry of the Election Investigation Committee was to determine whether there was a compromise of the integrity of the RMBF and the 2024 elections for RMBF directors. Within that scope, the Election Investigation Committee examined the following aspects:

1. The nomination process and the role of the Election Officer, including any potential conflicts of interest.
2. Issues of transparency and improper notification due to alleged deficiencies in the receipt of communications regarding nominations and election ballots.
3. The potential compromise of the voting process and attempts at tampering with the number of votes for certain nominees.

Regarding the Election Officer, Rtn Leonardo Santos, the Committee established that Rtn Leonardo was appointed by the Board of Directors in the meeting on May 6th, after it was confirmed that he was running unopposed for the position of director in South America. His appointment was influenced by his esteemed reputation and extensive experience as both a Rotarian and a RMBF-ian. The Committee conducted an inquiry with Rtn Leonardo, during which he disclosed that his role was to monitor the electronic voting process via RMBF's internal website system. He testified that, at the commencement of the voting process, all candidates' vote counts were set to zero, and he oversaw the process throughout the voting period without observing any anomalies in the vote counts. The Committee found no evidence to dispute or suspect the veracity of Rtn Leonardo's statements.

Regarding the issues of transparency and improper notification related to the alleged lack of received communications about nominations and/or election ballots, the Committee recognized that there were problems with the email addresses of some members, as well as difficulties in accessing the website and voting in the elections. Apart from the legal notice received from our colleague Rtn Prashant, Rtn Leonardo and Rtn Sachin testified that they had not received any formal complaints from any candidates. However, the notifications about the election and about the possibilities of running for a position were not only communicated in emails, but also on the official website as well as through different WhatsApp groups. Chapter leaders were requested to disseminate the information among their chapters' lifetime members. In response to these issues, the Committee advises Rtn Rajamohan, the new RMBF Chair, to assemble a team to review the RMBF members' directory to ensure that every member's email and mobile phone number are accurate. However, the Committee would also like to emphasize that it is each member's responsibility to be proactive in verifying and updating their contact information, and to promptly address any omissions in communications. In addition, there were no issues with the website during the election voting.

The Committee acknowledges the concerns regarding the involvement of Rtn Sachin and Rtn Mark in communicating with the membership about the elections, despite being candidates themselves. Nonetheless, their roles as Chair and Chair Emeritus oblige them to maintain communication with the members. It is suggested that future communications concerning elections may be assigned to a designated Commission to mitigate any perceptions of conflict of interest. In this instance, the Committee found no evidence of a conflict of interest and no suspicion that any notifications were intentionally mishandled with intentions contrary to the 4-Way Test and Rotarian values and Code of Conduct.

Regarding the potential compromise of the voting process and attempts at tampering with the number of votes for certain nominees, the Committee finds it highly unlikely that any RMBF members could manipulate TotalPoll, the WordPress plugin used for this election. If necessary, the Committee may request the Board of Directors to expand the scope of this investigation to include consultation with the developers of TotalPoll for a more in-depth analysis of potential fraud. The Committee concurs with the recommendation that an independent Commission should oversee the vote counting process; in this election, this role was fulfilled by the Election Officer. The Committee found no evidence or suspicion that the election results were compromised by any party.

Finally, Rtn Sachin, Rtn Rajamohan, and Rtn Leonardo all testified, affirming their Rotarian honor that they neither observed nor engaged in any actions aimed at influencing the selection process or any activities such as campaigning, canvassing, or electioneering that would compromise the integrity of the elections or the RMBF.

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn Ingo Oscar Seitz  
Rtn Alan Kirk  
Rtn Fran Mikulicic