



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA  
Washington, D.C.

“Año del Bicentenario del Natalicio de Juan Pablo Duarte”

EDW-720-13

The Embassy of the Dominican Republic presents its compliments to the honorable members of the Congressional Black Caucus and has the honor to inform that, as part of the commitment of the Dominican Government to find a humanitarian solution for those affected by ruling 168-13 of the Dominican Constitutional Tribunal, the Central Electoral Board (JCE) presented today the results of the audit performed to the Civil Registry from 1929 to 2007.

Having deployed a massive effort to conduct an emergency inspection of approximately 60,000 birth registry books throughout the country, the JCE has informed that there are 53,847 entries corresponding to foreigners, or 0.57% of the total (based on census information from 2010 regarding the population of the country). Of these, more than half, or 29,455, correspond to regular or valid declarations that confer Dominican nationality. That is, their foreign parents fell under the category of residents at the time of registration and their children are considered Dominican. These foreigners were of 98 different nationalities but, at 22,689, the descendants of legal Haitian residents are by far the largest group.

By contrast, there are 24,392 persons recorded in the registry books who were inscribed without fulfilling the requisite conditions or providing a valid document. Of these, 13,672 are descendants of Haitian nationals.

This is consistent with information provided by the JCE as a result of their work to update the civil registry in recent years. Between 2008-2013, the Dominican Central Electoral Board submitted 16,945 birth certificates to the Department of Inspection for evaluation. Of these, only 1,088 (6%) were suspended temporarily for reasons of duplicity, impersonation and other inconsistencies. The JCE's efforts to eradicate irregularities in the Registry are not limited to identifying immigration violations; during the years of 2007-2013, the JCE canceled 42,015 identity cards, of which only 410 (1%) were removed due to false claims of citizenship.

There is no factual basis to conclude that the ruling affects hundreds of thousands of individuals, and two important factors already set out above must be taken into consideration when reaching this conclusion: the low number of affected persons detected by the JCE and the eligibility of children born to foreigners to accede to Dominican nationality if they have at least one legally-resident parent.

The data collection process was carried out with transparency and with the involvement of an oversight committee composed of recognized personalities of the civil society.

Additionally, Mr. Rosario informed that 21,449 children of foreign parents have been registered in the foreign-born registry books since 2007.

Further, the Embassy of the Dominican Republic would like to inform that the United Nations Organization (UN) will work with the Dominican government in the process of the regularization of foreigners living in the Dominican Republic, and will present a proposal for the Regularization of Foreigners Plan.

The Embassy of the Dominican Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the honorable members of the Congressional Black Caucus the assurances of its highest consideration.

