**PRESS RELEASE**

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**A (CORONAVIRUS) GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY**

Using preference points voting – a pre-requisite of effective power-sharing.

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a) In preference points voting, the mathematics of the count encourages TDs to vote across the party divide.

b) The matrix vote is PR, so a party with say 25% of the seats in the Dáil, will probably nominate only 4 or at the most 5 TDs for Cabinet. So again, it is in the best interests of all TDs to vote, not only for their own party nominees, but also for some of their parliamentary colleagues of the other parties.

+ Day 1 On-line Parties submit proposals, one per party, on the names and duties of the

 15 Ministers – a *Taoiseach* (PM) plus 14 Ministers of A, B… etc;

+ Day 2 On-line By 12 noon, all TDs cast their preferences on these options, and the

outcome, at 1 pm, is the option with the highest average preference.

+ Day 3 On-line Parties publish their nominees for which TD they want in which post.

+ Day 4 On-line By 12 noon, all TDs cast their preferences for WHO shall be in WHICH

ministry. And the Dáil thus chooses the 15 most popular TDs to serve

in those ministries for which each of these 15 TDs got the most points.

+ Day 5 First meeting of the new Cabinet.

The (electronic) ballot looks like this:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Cabinet |  | Minister of…. |
| Prefs | Name | PM | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N |
| 1st  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| …. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15th  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Each TD chooses 15 nominees; lists them in order of preference in the shaded column; and indicates in which ministry each of these nominees is to serve: one tick in each column, one in each row; eg,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Cabinet |  | Minister of…. |
| Prefs | Name | PM | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N |
| 1st  | Ms *i* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd  | Mr *t* |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| …. | …. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15th  | Ms *p* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  |

The matrix vote is a proven methodology. See:

http://www.deborda.org/home/2016/12/10/2016-16-let-the-dail-elect-the-government.html

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