

## **GECOM 2005 ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT MR. HATHAWAY'S REPORT**

The Commission received the Report on the Needs Assessment Study conducted by Mr. Keith Hathaway under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Some of the recommendations contained in the Report have already been implemented while others are ongoing. Examples of those completed are the preparation and signing of the Memorandum of understanding and Media code of Conduct for the 2006 elections and the establishment of the Media Monitoring Unit which is currently in operation.

### **2. ATTACHMENT OF MR. DEAN SWERDLIN AS IT MANAGER TO GECOM/MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR GECOM'S IT DIVISION**

Mr. Dean Swerdlin, was hired as GECOM's temporary IT Manager during the period between the resignation of Mr. Mike Griffith from this position, and the appointment of Mr. Gavin Campbell (during mid-March, 2005) through a management contract with De La Rue. The Political Parties in Parliament had been consulted prior to the management contract between GECOM and De La Rue being entered.

### **3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MONITORING PANELS**

GECOM responded favourably to calls from the Parliamentary Political Parties for the establishment of Monitoring Panels for GECOM's IT Division and Operations Department. The establishment of the IT Monitoring Panel required the creation of a "testing" area that is now functionally ready for use by the Panel. The PPP/C and PNCR have nominated one representative each and the Donor Group has nominated an IT expert to participate as an "observer" on the IT Monitoring Panel. The Operations Monitoring Panel is yet to be established.

### **4. MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES**

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), in keeping with its policy of openness held separate meetings with the combined Opposition Parliamentary Political Parties and the People's Progressive Party/Civic. The meetings, which were conducted under very cordial conditions, placed focus on several very important matters including the following:-

- i. The adequacy of the established Registration Offices to deal with the Continuous Registration exercise.
- ii. Security issues pertaining to the Information Technology (IT) Department.
- iii. Discussions pertaining to the establishment of two separate Monitoring Panels to oversee the work of the IT and Operations Departments.
- iv. The general conduct of Continuous Registration.
- v. The 2006 Elections Plan.

- vi. Preparation of the Preliminary List of Electors (PLE), Revised List of Electors (RLE) and the Official List of Electors (OLE), and the steps (including the house-to-house verification of new applicants) that would be necessary to ensure the integrity of the OLE.
- vii. Preparations for the fingerprint scanning and cross matching exercise and negotiations of the contract with the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) for its (the exercise) implementation.

## **5. TEMPORARY IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) commenced issuing Temporary Identity Documents (TID) from Monday, April 4, 2005, to registered persons who had lost their National Identification Cards. This initiative was implemented in order to provide assistance to persons desirous of conducting various kinds of business/personal transactions, but was constrained from so doing due to the absence of authentic identification.

The TID provided information on:-

- Name;
- Date of birth;
- National Identification Number;
- Recent photograph; and
- Date of issue of the TID;
- The registrant's signature.

Upon the resumption of the issuance of National Identification Cards, the TID would become invalid. TIDs were issued strictly as a temporary form of identification and were not envisaged to be used for election purposes.

## **6. HANDING OVER OF GENERATOR**

GECOM received a 240 KVA generator set from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The generator set with the capacity to supply electricity to the entire Head Office Complex was procured from MACORP and installed at the Commission's premises. The generator, which cost US\$ 29,100.00 was paid for by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), which was the implementing arm of USAID in Guyana, while installation which was executed by Minelli Engineering Ltd to the tune of G\$3.1 million, was paid for by the Government of Guyana.

The handing over was done by H.E. Roland Bullen, Ambassador of the USA to Guyana and witnessed by Senior USAID personnel.

The procurement and installation of the new generating set became necessary due to the need for increased power supply to the different departments of the

Commission\Secretariat, and more specifically to ensure the efficient and uninterrupted functioning of the Information Technology Department (ITD). The daily electricity requirement of the Commission/Secretariat during occurrences of external power failures had outgrown the capacity of the Perkins generator which was being used prior to the acquisition of the new generator.

## **7. IDENTIFYING THE DEFICIENCIES IN THE ELECTORAL LAWS**

### **• PHASE I**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) acquiesced to a request from GECOM for assistance to support a Consultancy for identifying the deficiencies in the Electoral Laws. Consequently, a team of persons comprising Mr. Maurice Henry, Mr. Haslyn Parris, Ms. Priya Manikchand to identify the deficiencies for subsequent corrective action as per an established Terms of Reference (ToR) was put together. This task was completed and the Report has since been tendered to the USAID, and GECOM and was shared with stakeholders.

### **7.2. PHASE II**

A comprehensive Report on the recommendations for changes associated with the identified deficiencies, which was prepared by Mr. Carl Dundas, Legal Consultant, was completed and submitted to GECOM, and subsequently to stakeholders. This consultancy was also made possible under the auspices of the USAID.

## **8. ELECTIONS PROJECT PLAN IN MICROSOFT PROJECT FORMAT**

The GECOM Secretariat developed a comprehensive elections project plan for the preparations and administration of General and Regional Elections in 2006. This plan was developed in Microsoft Project format, with assistance from an overseas based IBM Consultant, with a view to establishing clear guidance in terms of critical tasks, timelines and resource (human/material/financial) requirements. While the Commission was being guided by this plan in the preparations for and administration of the upcoming elections, it recognized that it would be necessary for the Plan to be reviewed on a continuous basis with a view to delivering the elections in a manner that will be commonly accepted as being free, fair and transparent.

## **9. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aiming to provide support for the next General Elections in Guyana, was signed on Wednesday July 20, 2005 between the Government of Guyana (GoG), Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) and the Donor Community.

The MoU constituted the basis on which the Donors will support the democratic process in Guyana through a variety of separate instruments. Also, it sought to ensure that all signatories will commit to the holding of free and fair elections that are in accordance with the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana, as well as the international standards, as articulated by various United Nations Declarations, Covenants, Conventions, Resolutions and Reports. Additionally, it seeks to foster broad public

confidence in the electoral process, with the intention of promoting the acceptance by all of the results of the elections. Further, the MoU caters to the accreditation of International and Domestic Observers to monitor the preparations of and conduct of the 2006 General and Regional elections (please see items 17 and 18 on pages 8-9 of the MoU which is attached as **Annexe I** for details)

The signatories to the MoU will be Dr. Roger Luncheon - Head of the Presidential Secretariat on behalf of GoG, Dr. Steve Surujbally – Chairman of GECOM on behalf of the Commission, and Representatives of the Governments of Canada, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Commission will also sign the MoU. Witnessing the signing ceremony will be Mr. Youssef Mahmoud – Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Facilitator of the Donor Community.

#### **10. JOINT INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSESSORS (JITAS)**

The Donor Agencies and the Commonwealth Secretariat facilitated GECOM with the services of two Joint International Technical Assessors (JITAs), to observe all aspects of the elections process and to ensure that it meets international standards. They are Dr Kwadwo Afari-Gyan, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Ghana (Commonwealth Secretariat) and Mr. Stephen Beale (Donor Community).

The main responsibilities of the JITAs are:-

1. to advise GECOM on the management of international standards for elections, and assist the Commission and its Secretariat in the adoption of good practice during preparations for and conduct of the upcoming elections;
2. to monitor the technical conduct of election preparations at all levels throughout the election process; and
3. to produce technical quality assessment reports in the form of periodic written assessments, to be presented to GECOM, the Donor Agencies which have subscribed to the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of Guyana, and to the National Assembly.

The JITAs submit regular reports to the Commission the Donor Community. Their appointments are intended to ensure transparency and confidence in the Commission's arrangements and above all efficient and professional planning for and delivery of the Elections.

#### **11. CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION**

Since the Commission had set the establishment of a system of Continuous Registration, as a main focus, an immense effort had to be made to bring the Commission to the state of preparedness to so do. Continuous Registration Manuals had to be prepared, discussed, reworked and further developed. New Registration Forms, new laws and new strategies for registration had to be developed to the satisfaction of all – the Commission,

Secretariat and Stakeholders. Attention had to be paid specifically to the following matters:-

- **Concept Paper for Continuous Registration/Operations Manual For Continuous Registration in Guyana**

A Concept Paper on Continuous Registration which was developed by GECOM's Secretariat evolved, after stakeholder participation and Commission approval, into the Operations Manual for the Implementation of Continuous Registration (OMIR). This OMIR document was and is being used as the official guide in the implementation of the Continuous Registration Process.

- **Implementation of Continuous Registration**

With regards to the commencement of Continuous Registration the following had to be completed:-

- **National Registration (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2005**

The National Registration (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2005 which was necessary to clear the way for the legal implementation of Continuous Registration was passed by Parliament in July, 2005. The Act, which in effect is an amendment to the National Registration Act Cap 19:08, was approved by the National Assembly following considerable internal deliberations at GECOM, and extensive consultations with the Attorney General's Chambers. The Act also benefited from scrutiny by all of the Parliamentary Political Parties. Previously, the National Registration Act Cap 19:08 provided for national registration to be done periodically with the start and end dates being made known publicly.

- **Regulations Associated with the National Registration (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2005**

In order to implement the Continuous Registration process it was necessary for the relevant Principal Regulations to be amended to facilitate the operational changes required for the efficient implementation of this process. This legal hurdle, like the main Act, had been the subject of considerable internal deliberations at GECOM, and extensive consultations with the Attorney General's Chambers culminating with concurrence on all issues pertaining to the Regulations. Since the National Registration Residents (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 had been completed, and in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, and under advice from the Attorney General's Chambers, Continuous Registration commenced on October 17, 2005.

- **Operations Manual For The Conduct Of Continuous Registration**

This manual was intended for use in training and as a reference document for Registration Officers and other Field Registration Staff relative to the implementation and conduct of Continuous Registration in Guyana. The Manual seeks to provide an understanding of how Continuous Registration is organised to function and the duties and responsibilities of various categories of persons who are directly involved in its conduct (registration officers and their staff, scrutineers of the political parties, and members of

the general public). This Manual has been uploaded on the GECOM Website for easy reference.

- **Recruitment and Training of Registration Staff**

The responsibility for the registration of persons in Guyana is vested in GECOM by law (The Constitution and the National Registration Act: Chapter 19:08). The constitution also stipulates that GECOM is responsible for the efficient functioning of the permanent Secretariat which comprises the officials and employees of the Secretariat; appoints all permanent and temporary staff; and Exercises disciplinary control, including dismissal, over such staff. On these bases, the recruitment and training of staff commenced in September, 2005.

- **Documenting the Role of Scrutineers and Training of Scrutineers**

GECOM developed a document titled “Role of a Scrutineer”. This document was aimed at providing guidance to the Scrutineer to ensure that Continuous Registration is carried out in a professional, non-partisan and non-threatening way. A copy of the document is attached as **Annexe II**.

- **Establishing District Registration Offices**

Twenty Three Registration Offices were initially established in all ten of Guyana’s Registration Districts for the commencement of the Continuous Registration exercise. Their establishment and respective locations were gazetted as well as publicized in the three major local newspapers.

- **Establishing Additional Registration Sub-Offices**

The Commission established four additional Registration Sub-Offices in Registration Districts 1, and 4 with the aim of ensuring that eligible persons living in the target areas could present themselves to become registered with more ease. A list of the Registration Offices and Sub-Offices is attached as **Annexe III**.

- **Procurement of Furniture/Equipment/Vehicles**

GECOM adhered to the financial requirements for the procurement of furniture, equipment and vehicles to facilitate the work of the Registration Offices and Sub-Offices.

- **Printing Of Registration Forms**

GECOM entered into a contract with the Guyana National Printers Limited (GNPL) for the printing/production of adequate numbers of seventeen different Registration Forms, and Ledgers to facilitate the commencement of Continuous Registration.

## **12. ACCESSING THE 2001 OLE DATABASE**

Mr. Gavin Campbell, Information Technology Manager opened the 2001 OLE database, with the permission of the Commission, to facilitate applications for transfers and corrections to registrants’ personal information as part of the process of Continuous Registration. This was done in the presence of the Joint International Technical Assessors (JITAs) and observers from the main political parties and Donor Group.

### **13. REPLACEMENT OF THE MIDI SYSTEM**

GECOM contracted De La Rue to replace the existing MIDI System which was found to be defective when an effort was made to produce replacement ID cards for persons whose ID cards were lost or damaged. The replacement was also aimed at facilitating the production of ID cards for new Registrants from the first Cycle of Continuous Registration and those thereafter.

### **14. RETOOLING/REORGANIZING OF THE IT DIVISION**

In preparation for the commencement of Continuous Registration and preparations for the upcoming exercise, the IT Division was retooled and reorganized to allow for efficient inputting of registration data in the compilation of the National Register of Registrants (NRR) and the generation of the voters list for the 2006 elections. This involved (i) renovation to the entire IT area; (ii) purchase of new computers and other relevant IT equipment and accessories; (iii) transfer of the responsibility for inputting registrants' data from the IT Division to the Registration Division; and (iv) the implementation of a regime of measures relevant to the security of the IT Division.

### **15. GECOM WEBSITE**

The website of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) was launched in December 2005 as a means of making relevant information available to Stakeholders on a permanent basis. The website consists of two main components. One part covers basic information about Guyana, the Guyana Elections Commission, Guyana Elections and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The other part covers Media Centre, Handbooks/Manuals, Past Elections Results and Feedback. The material content is based mainly on statutory provisions and information extracted from printed materials, which include almost all of the publications of GECOM and such other textual material relevant to the operations of the Commission.

The composition of the website was done internally at GECOM with emphasis being placed on its being user friendly. A standard method of interfacing from summary topics to different levels of details is adopted. Horizontal and vertical navigation at various levels are provided for instantaneous movement amongst the variety of data views available on this website. Additionally, one could return to the home page by simply clicking on the HOME icon provided on every page of the site. Our website's address is <http://www.gecom.org.gy>

The design and construction of the GECOM website was made possible with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is being hosted and maintained by DevNet, a non-governmental non-profit organisation created by the Sustainable Development Network Programme project in Guyana to work in the field of ICT for development

### **16. MEDIA & DEMOCRACY**

Emanating from recommendations contained in the Hathaway Report, the Commonwealth Secretariat appointed a Media and Democracy Consultant to GECOM. The Consultant is Mr. Tim Neale, who was tasked with responsibility for developing a

usable Media Code of Conduct and to set up a new Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) and to oversee its operations.

**The Media Consultant was Responsible for:-**

- Developing a Media Code of Conduct (MCoC) for media reporting on matters associated with the upcoming elections.
- Using the Media Code of Conduct as a guide to monitor and analyse the publication of information on election related matters by the print and electronic media.
- Report all incidents of publication of information which has the potential of being detrimental to GECOM's work in an accurate and timely manner.
- Make recommendations to the Commission on the need for or against response to published information that is deemed to worthy of such action.

**16.1. Media Code of Conduct Workshop**

Representatives from various media houses participated in an examination of the 2001 Media Code of Conduct at a Workshop titled 'Guyana Media Code of Conduct for 2006 Elections Workshop' at Cara Lodge, Quamina Street, on Georgetown Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at the. The purpose of this Workshop was to determine how the 2001 Media Code of Conduct could be strengthened to contribute towards a fair, peaceful and well-regulated election and the avoidance of the aggravation of ethnic tension and unnecessary political discord, ensuring that voters make an informed choice

The workshop was attended by Aneka Edwards, Cecil Griffith, Allan Outridge, Duane Fowler, Martin Goolsarran, Vishham Ramsaywack, Michael Gordon, Steve Narine, Michella Ali, Colin Smith, Glenn Lall, Gwen Evelyn, Donald Ramotar, Nills Campbell, Roy Babel, Ali Majeed, Julia Johnson, Adam Harris, David DeGroot, David DeCaires, Pat Dial, Kwame McCoy, Leroy Adolphus, Michael McCormack, Joseph Hamilton, Fazil Jameer, Beverly Alert, Evan Persaud, Chandra Narine Sharma, Clement David, Prem Misir, Enrico Woolford, Sherwood Lowe, Michelle Nurse, Sharief Khan.

**17. ACCREDITATION OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

GECOM, as a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding, committed itself to the presence of International Observers to monitor the electoral process in Guyana. International Observers will be given accreditation as set out in the Laws of Guyana. A Terms of Reference associated with the work of International Observers is enshrined in the MoU.

**18. DOMESTIC ELECTION OBSERVERS/ACCREDITATION OF LOCAL OBSERVER GROUPS**

In addition to International Observers, GECOM has agreed to accredit non-governmental organisations, service organisations and any body of civic-minded citizens operating in Guyana and their members as individual domestic observer groups, subject to them indicating the desire to so be and to abide by the Protocol developed by GECOM for their operations. In this regard, GECOM advocated the appointment of an "umbrella body"

comprising representatives from the accredited domestic observer groups to relate with the Commission on matters associated with the Elections.

**19. CIVIC/VOTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

From the commencement of the Continuous Registration exercise GECOM established hotlines (the numbers of which were published in the local newspapers on a daily basis) to provide information about the registration process. In addition to these published interactive advertisements, the Commission sought to promote the exercise by (i) installing banners/posters at strategic locations; (ii) distributing appropriate flyers; (iii) broadcasting relevant messages in various communities with mobile public address systems; (iv) making announcements at schools with the approval of the Ministry of Education; (v) advertising the launching Mobile Registration Units to facilitate the registration of eligible persons living in far-flung riverain and hinterland communities. This included the production of infomercials that were broadcast by the electronic media on a daily basis to bolster GECOM's public awareness campaign about the Continuous Registration exercise. GECOM is satisfied that its Public awareness Campaign delivered the desired results.

**20. GECOM'S DELEGATION VISIT TO JAMAICA**

Dr. Steve, Surujbally, Chairman of GECOM, Commissioners Moen McDoom and Robert Williams and Mr. Mr. Gavin Campbell, Information Technology Manager, DURING October, 2005, traveled to Jamaica to get first hand information on the matter of the use of fingerprinting within the registration process. Please see **Annexe IV** for details of this visit.

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**ANNEXE I**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS IN GUYANA

BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA, GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION &  
DONORS

DATED July 20, 2005

## 1. Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding and its annexes constitute the basis on which the undersigned donors will support the democratic process in Guyana through a variety of separate instruments. Each donor's contribution will be set out in separate agreements according to each donor's procedures. It is expected that all signatories will commit to:

- ❑ the holding of free and fair elections that are in accordance with the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana which embrace the international standards, as articulated by various UN Declarations, Covenants, Conventions, Resolutions and Reports (Annex I) and that will be continually assessed for compliance with international standards by the Joint International Technical Assessor (s) (JITA) (Annex 4), and that are open to international and domestic observation throughout the electoral process;
- ❑ the fostering of broad public confidence in the electoral process, with the intention of promoting the acceptance by all of the results of such elections;

## 2. Government of Guyana

The Government of Guyana will provide full and sustained political commitment to the democratic process in Guyana and ensure that priority is given to its smooth application through:

- ❑ the holding of free and fair elections in accordance with the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana which embrace the UN standards detailed in Annex I of this Memorandum of Understanding and that are open to international and domestic observation throughout the electoral process;
- ❑ the implementation of confidence-building measures, especially, but not exclusively, in support of Parliament with the intention of promoting a political climate in which all participants have a stake in the acceptance of the results of the elections;
- ❑ the recognition of the right to a participatory role of all Guyanese individually and through their organisations in the entire electoral process in accordance with Article 149c of the Constitution of Guyana;
- ❑ the timely enactment of identified legislation required to implement the provisions and the commitments in this Memorandum of Understanding and that are necessary for the implementation of the electoral process;
- ❑ respect for and promotion of the independence and efficient functioning of the Guyana Elections Commission, especially as that would be based on the timely provision of sufficient resources from the government to carry out the electoral process;
- ❑ the provision of agreed upon security to technical assistance personnel and international observers.

### 3. Guyana Elections Commission

In accordance with Article 162 of the constitution, the Guyana Elections Commission, and its permanent and professional secretariat, will:

- ❑ ensure that all necessary steps are taken to adhere to the requirements of the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana which embrace the international standards detailed in Annex 1;
- ❑ in ensuring the integrity of the Elections Commission and the adequacy of the necessary steps to satisfy the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana as well as the international standards as outlined in Annex 1, take any appropriate steps that it deems necessary to conduct elections within the timeframe established by GECOM;
- ❑ recruit, appoint and assign staff at appropriate professional levels which would include the local counterparts to the technical assistance staff to be provided under this Memorandum of Understanding, including advisor to the Chief Election Officer;
- ❑ accredit in a timely manner, domestic and international observers who will be granted, in accordance with the international standards and within the framework of the laws of Guyana and the decision of GECOM, full and unimpeded access to all aspects of the elections process from registration to the installation into office of the new Government. (see annex 3)
- ❑ within GECOM's competence, agree to the protocols attached in Annex 3 of this Memorandum of Understanding, in accordance with international standards, in the framework of the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana relating to the rights, responsibilities, privileges and immunities of observers, their equipment, documentation and local staff, and other related matters;
- ❑ include within the protocols relating to international and domestic observation, provisions allowing observers to make such representation and such publication of their findings at such time as they may see fit, including the publication of any "Quick Counts" that they may undertake in line with the standards outlined in Annex 3;
- ❑ help develop and secure support from all concerned stakeholders for a Code of Conduct guiding media behaviour during the pre-election and election period, incorporating Guidelines for responsible and balanced reporting;
- ❑ provide active support for the development of a Code of Conduct for all political parties registering for the election and work towards securing the acceptance by them of the results of an election internationally recognised as free and fair, in accordance with Annex 1. Such a code of conduct will also require these political parties to forswear the

use of any tactics which might incite supporters to acts of violence, pre-election, during the election and post-election;

- ❑ facilitate agreement on appropriate arrangements for equitable and free access to the state media by the political parties during the campaign period;
- ❑ help monitor the media, make every effort with the support of relevant stakeholders to ensure balanced coverage, record observations and initiate action deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of free and fair elections;
- ❑ produce, publish, and disseminate such voter education materials as it may deem necessary and also encourage the production, publication and dissemination by individuals and groups of voter education materials approved by GECOM.
- ❑ appoint such committees as may be necessary to monitor and contribute to technical aspects of the work of the Guyana Elections Commission
- ❑ establish the necessary mechanisms to facilitate donor coordination and to ensure sound financial management, according to International Audit and Accountancy Standards, in the use of donor funds.
- ❑ make all necessary arrangements to accommodate and facilitate the work of Joint International Technical Assessor(s), in accordance with the Terms of Reference contained in annex 4.

#### 4. Donor Commitment

The undersigned donors will make their assistance available in a coordinated fashion and in accordance with the terms of such individual agreements as may be necessary, subject to the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana, and within GECOM's competence, as well as based on the mutually agreed recommendations in the Needs Assessment(Annex2) of the Memorandum of Understanding, in order to support the Guyana Elections Commission in discharging its responsibilities, including long term institution building support.

This assistance will be based on a costed Action Plan. The Action Plan will delineate those costs to be borne by the Government of Guyana and those supported by donor assistance.

Donors will seek to ensure that their various programmes of support to GECOM maximise benefits to the electoral process while minimising duplication, delays and transaction costs.

#### 5. Monitoring

The signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding share a duty to monitor progress towards the realisation of elections that conform to the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana,

which embrace the international standards as detailed in Annex 1 as part of their obligation under the effective implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. In particular the following will be monitored:

### ***Government Commitments***

- that efforts are made by the Government of Guyana to implement the measures indicated in section 2 above;
- that there are efforts to foster broad public confidence in an electoral process assessed as free and fair by the Joint International Technical Assessor(s), with the intention of promoting the acceptance by all of elections results;

### ***GECOM Commitments***

- The electoral process at all stages complies with the Constitution and other relevant laws of Guyana as well as the international standards detailed in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding and that sufficient time will be allowed for completion of all stages of the elections as provided for in GECOM's timetable.

### ***Monitoring arrangements***

- To monitor progress, the undersigned donors will identify as soon as possible one or more Joint International Technical Assessor(s).
- The Guyana Elections Commission will appoint one or more of the identified Joint International Technical Assessor(s). The terms of reference of the Joint International Technical Assessor(s) are attached in Annex 4 of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Joint International Technical Assessor(s) will assess progress on a monthly basis, or as required, of the preparations by the Guyana Elections Commission and will submit a technical quality assessment report to the Guyana Elections Commission, the Government of Guyana, the National Assembly of Guyana and the undersigned donors.
- The Technical Quality Assessment Report by the Joint International Technical Assessor(s) will include:
  - judgement of the achievement and quality of performance of the technical benchmarks laid down in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding and achieved during the course of the reporting period;
  - identification of cases of any non-compliance with the international standards or time requirements;

- prospective assessments of the likelihood of meeting at any future date the international standards and complying with elections timetable requirements;
  - recommendations for remedial action deemed necessary
- The Joint International Technical Assessor(s) may, at any time, inform the Guyana Elections Commission, the Government of Guyana, the National Assembly of Guyana and the undersigned donors, through the submission of a written assessment, of any benchmark that has not been met to a sufficient level of technical quality or on time.
  - In the event that the Joint International Technical Assessor(s) advises that the elections are likely to be held in a manner that is not free and fair, and therefore not in keeping with agreed international standards, or that the agreed elections timetable is likely to be revised for reasons that are not in keeping with the Constitution of Guyana, the signatories to this agreement will meet without delay to decide how this impacts upon agreements in this Memorandum of Understanding, and on any changes that might be necessary.

## 6. Entry into Effect of the Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU, once the signatures in Section 8 below are affixed, will be submitted to the National Assembly of Guyana and will come into effect on the passage of a Parliamentary Motion of support for the MOU by the parties there represented.

## 7. Suspension of the Memorandum of Understanding

In the event that the donors in the Memorandum of Understanding consider, on the basis of reports and assessments of the Joint International Technical Assessor(s), that:

- ❑ agreed election laws or regulations are not in accordance with the international standards in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding; or
- ❑ the electoral environment is not amenable to elections being held in accordance with the international standards in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding; or
- ❑ observers either domestic or international do not have full and independent access to the electoral process; or
- ❑ there has been a breach of faith by any party to the Memorandum of Understanding related to agreed upon measures;

the undersigned donors will make representations to the Guyana Elections Commission accordingly.

The parties to this agreement will consider whether support under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be suspended or terminated in the event that it is considered, on the basis of reports and assessments or observation by local and international observers, that the failure to achieve compliance with the undertakings in the Memorandum of Understanding persists after presentation of the reports.

The parties will notify each other that they wish to suspend or terminate such support, jointly or separately, by providing notice of so doing and the grounds for so doing and will entertain within a reasonable timeframe, representations before formal implementation.

## 8. Signatures

This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an International Treaty but rather represents understandings reached between the Government of Guyana, the Guyana Elections Commission and the undersigned donors upon the matters referred herein.

Signed in six (6) originals in Georgetown on 20 July 2005, BY

THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented by Dr. Roger Luncheon, Head of the Presidential Secretariat

THE GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented by Dr. Steve Surujbally, Chairman

AND FOR THE DONORS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
The Government of Canada  
Represented by Mr. Murray Kam, Acting Canadian High Commissioner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
The Government of the United Kingdom  
Represented by Mr. Malcolm Kirk, Acting British High Commissioner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
The Government of the United States of America  
Represented by Mr. Roland Bullen, Ambassador

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
The European Commission (EC)  
Represented by Mr. Per Eklund, Head Of Delegation

## ANNEXE II

### **THE ROLE OF SCRUTINEERS IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS (Elections Law Amendment Act No. 15 Of 2000, Sec. 8)**

#### **1:0 PREPARATION OF THE OFFICIAL LIST OF ELECTORS**

Every organization or group proposing to submit a list of candidates, may by writing under the hand of the authorized person appoint:

One (1) Chief Scrutineer for each political party/group for the country; · Ten (10) Deputy Chief Scrutineers - one for each political party/group for each region; Initially, twenty-three (23) Assistant Chief Scrutineers and as may be required for new registration offices, established by the Commission - One for each political party/group is required for each Registration Area Office; · Divisional Scrutineers (These are required based on the number of populated divisions in each registration area).

#### **What is the Role of a Scrutineer?**

The Scrutineer is to ensure that registration is carried out in a professional, non-partisan and non-threatening way. The Registration Officer/Assistant Registration Officer/Clerk asks each applicant a set of questions. The Scrutineer is to observe and listen to ensure that the authorized officer completes the forms as accurately as possible and attaches the appropriate photographs and relevant thumb-prints. Scrutineers should not, by any means, interfere with the process. They should not ask applicants for information, but must only collect same from the Registration Officer, or other authorized staff. Scrutineers should try to work as cordially and as co-operatively as possible with the area registration staff.

*NOTE: The role of the Registration Staff is clearly defined in the Operations Manual for the conduct of Continuous Registration.*

#### **How must Scrutineers deal with problems?**

If a problem is detected, the Divisional Scrutineer should first approach the Registration officer or Assistant Registration Officer drawing his/her attention to the problem. Every effort must be made to resolve minor problems in a cordial and impartial manner. If the problem is not resolved, the Divisional Scrutineer must inform the Assistant Chief Scrutineer at the Registration Office. He/she must then seek the involvement of the Registration Officer in the resolution of the matter. The Assistant Chief Scrutineer must also inform his Deputy Chief Scrutineer who will in turn inform the Chief Scrutineer. They must then seek to address the matter at the earliest opportunity.

#### **REMEMBER!**

*The Registration Officer and other authorized staff are the persons appointed by the Elections Commission and have the right to ask Scrutineers for their credentials.*

#### **APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS**

*The Commissioner shall be given notice in writing of the appointment of a person as a scrutineer by the authorized person appointing him/her.*

### **CHIEF SCRUTINEER**

There is only **ONE** Chief Scrutineer for each approved party or group for the entire country. The Chief Scrutineer is the liaison among the political parties/groups, the Secretariat and the Elections Commission. The Chief Scrutineer can request registration information from the Registration Officer, the Assistant Registration Officer and the Registration Clerks at any office in the country.

### **DEPUTY CHIEF SCRUTINEER**

There is **ONE** Deputy Chief Scrutineer (per party or group) for each of the **TEN** registration districts in Guyana. The Deputy Chief Scrutineers are responsible for overseeing the work of the Assistant Chief Scrutineers and the Divisional Scrutineers in each registration district. The Deputy Chief Scrutineers can request information from staff at any office in the particular district.

### **ASSISTANT CHIEF SCRUTINEER**

It is proposed that the Assistant Chief Scrutineers work with each Registration Officer at a Registration Office. Initially, there are twenty-three (23) offices and at least one for each party/group is required at each office. The 4 Assistant Chief Scrutineer is responsible for the co-ordination of the work of the Divisional Scrutineers for each political party/group. Specifically, they are required to ensure that the required number of Divisional Scrutineers is available and ready at all times to support the work of that particular office. They are required to mobilize, train and assign reliable Divisional Scrutineers as may be necessary to facilitate registration at the office and field verification of completed applications. Assistant Chief Scrutineers can request information from the Registration Officer and Staff of the specific office to which appointed. Previously, this category of scrutineers provided voluntary service for the party/group. However, since the task is much more demanding, and punctuality and regularity are critical to the success of the exercise, it is recommended that each Assistant Scrutineer be paid for services rendered.

### **DIVISIONAL SCRUTINEERS**

Divisional Scrutineers observe the registration process at each Registration Office. They are also required to accompany Registration Officers/Clerks from house to house to verify the accuracy and completeness of the registration information collected as well as the identity and residency of the applicant. They are appointed by the “authorized person” of the party/group they represent. The Commissioner of Registration issues to them the relevant identification cards which they must present to the Registration Officer before they are allowed to function at the office. The identification badge must be worn at all times while the Scrutineer is in operation. Divisional Scrutineers can only inspect and collect information from applicants in the divisions to which they are appointed. The information collected is normally forwarded to the Chief Scrutineer of the party/group they represent. They are expected to treat all information collected with professionalism and confidentiality. The function of the Divisional Scrutineer is a very demanding one and in order to guarantee that the registration process is not affected in any way, careful co-ordination by the Assistant Chief Scrutineer is necessary. Divisional Scrutineers are to be fielded as per team. Each Registration Officer requires a specific number of teams to oversee work at the office as well as in the field. It is the responsibility of the Assistant Chief Scrutineer

to make sure that his/her representative on each team is adequately trained, prepared and notified in good time so as to be readily available for participation in field-work on a daily basis.

***TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT***

*The appointment of a scrutineer terminates on the date on which the Revised List of Electors is published.*

**ANNEXE III**

**LIST OF REGISTRATION OFFICES SCHEDULE**

<b>Registration Districts</b>	<b>Registration Areas</b>	<b>Registration Offices</b>
The Registration District For Region No. 1 or the Barima/Waini region.	Mabaruma, Kumaka, Hosororo, Matthew's Ridge, Matarkai and surrounding areas. (Sub-Region I)- Part of the Registration District for Region No. 1	Office of the Election Commission, Regional Democratic Council Building, Mabaruma Compound, Mabaruma, North West District, Region 1
The Registration District for Region No. 1 or the Barima/Waini Region	Moruca, Kumaka, Santa Rosa And surrounding areas (Sub-Region II)- Part of the Registration District for region No. 1	Office of the Election Commission, Acquero Community Council Building, Moruca, North West District, Region 1
The Registration District for Region No. 2 or the Pomeroon/Supenaam Region	Pomeroon River Right Bank Manawarin and surrounding areas including Charity and all the areas to Paradise on the Essequibo Coast (sub-Region I)- Part of the Registration District for Region No. 2	Office of the Elections Commission Agriculture Extension Centre, Charity, Region 2
The Registration District For the Region No. 2 or the Pomeroon/Supenaam Region	Walton Hall including Anna Regina and the surrounding areas to Supenaam River and its tributaries (Sub-Region II)- Part of the Registration District for Region No. 2	Office of the Elections Commission Regional Democratic Council Building, Lower Flat, Southern Section, Anna Regina, Essequibo Coast Region 2
The Registration District for Region No. 3 or the Essequibo Island/West Demerara Region.	Essequibo Islands and other areas including Kariti, Lower makouria (Right Bank) Bonasika, East bank Essequibo and the surrounding areas to Cornelia Ida on the West Coast Demerara (Sub-Region I & II) – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 3	Office of the Elections Commission Parika Marketing centre, East Bank Essequibo, Region 3
The Registration District for Region No. 3 or the Essequibo Island/West Demerara Region.	Hague on the West Coast Demerara including the areas of Vreed-en-Hoop, west bank demerara to Potosi Demerara	Office of the Elections Commission Educational Resource Centre Ministry of Works Compound, Plantation Walk,

	River and the surrounding area (Sub-Region III) – Part of the Registration District for region No. 3	West Bank Demerara Region 3
The Registration District for region 4 or the Demerara/Mahaica Region	Moblissa on the Linden Soesdyke Highway including the areas from Timehri to Eccles on the East bank Demerara – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 4	Office of the Elections Commission Lot 1 Greenfield Park, East Bank Demerara, Region 4
The Registration District for region No. 4 or the Demerara/Mahaica Region	South Georgetown including the area of Agricola, Ruimveldt , La Penitence, Tucville, Albouystown, Lodge Stabroek and their surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 4	Office of the Elections Commission 17, Croal Street, (Action Tyre Building), Stabroek Georgetown. Region 4
The Registration District for Region No. 4 or the Demerara/Mahaica region	North Georgetown including the areas of Kingstown, Cummingsburg, Queenstown, Campbellville, Prasad Nagar, Kitty, Sophia, Liliendaal, Pattensen, Cummings Lodge and their surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for region No. 4	Office of the Elections Commission, Former Prime Time Building Church Street, Company Path, Cummingsburg, Georgetown Region 4
The Registration District for Region No. 4 or the Demerara/ Mahaica Region	The areas on the East Coast of Demerara from Industry to Two Friends including St. Cuthbert's Mission- Part of the Registration District for region No. 4	Office of the Elections Commission Guysuco Compound, Coldigen, East Coast Demerara, Region No. 4
The Registration District for Region No. 5 or the Mahaica/Berbice Region	St. Cuthbert's Mission (Eastern Portion) to Fortitude/Chance West Coast Berbice including Mahaica to Abary and their surrounding areas – Part of the registration District for Region No. 5	Office of the Elections Commission Sub-Regional Office, Zes Kinderen, Mahaicony, Region 5
The Registration District for Region No. 5 or the Mahaica/Berbice Region.	First savannah/Cook Tom (Right Bank Mahaicony River) to Bank Creek/Yakata Basin including Abary to Berbice	Office of the Elections Commission MMA Compound Onverwagt, West Coast berbice, Region 5

	River and all the areas to Blairmont and the surrounding areas – Part of the registration District for Region No. 5	
The Registration District for Region No. 6 or the East Berbice/Corentyne Region.	Randwagt sari to Gibraltar/Hampshire, Correntyne including New Amsterdam and surrounding areas- Part of the Registration District for region No. 6	Office of the Elections Commission Kaitano Building, Princess Elizabeth Road, New Amsterdam, Berbice, Region 6
The Registration District for Region No. 6 or the East Berbice/Corentyne Region	Williamburg to No. 51 Correntyne including Black Bush Polder Settlement – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 6	Office of the Elections Commission Maida/Tarlogie, Neighbourhood Democratic Council Office, Tarlogie, Region 6
The Registration District for Region No. 6 or the East Berbice/Corentyne Region	No. 52 Correntyne to Haimarakabra including Corriverton, Crabwood Creek/Molsen and their surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 6	Office of the Elections Commission Former District Commissioner’s Office, Corriverton Region 6
The Registration District for Region No. 7 or the Cuyuni/Mazaruni Region	Kurutuku to Packase/Tiger Eping to Takatu/Tipara including Bartica (sub-Region I) – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 7	Office of the Elections Commission Former Lands and Surveys Buildings, Mongrippa Hill, Bartica Region 7
The registration District for Region No. 7 or the Cuyuni/Mazaruni Region.	Muruwawe/Ohnopi to Marupa/Dukarri Jawalla to Phillippi including Kamarang and the surrounding areas (Sub-Region II) – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 7	Office of the Elections Commission Regional Administration Sub-Office. Kamarang Region 7
The registration District for Region No. 8 or the Potataro/Siparuni Region.	Monkey Mountain to Eckerek/Arnik including Kato Paramakatoi and surrounding areas (Sub-Region I) – Part of the Registration Diistrict for Region No 8.	Office of the Elections Commission Paramakatoi Community School Paramakatoi Region 8
The registration District for Region No. 8 or the	Ewang/Ekuraparu to Siparuni/Kuratoka including	Office of the Elections Commission Eradication Programme

Potataro/Siparuni Region.	Tumatumari/Madhia and surrounding areas (Sub-Region II) – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 8	Office of the malaria Division, Mahdia Region 8
The Registration District for Region No. 9 or the Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo Region.	Arawan-Powua/Baicwau to Kawaimatta/Karanabo Upper Awarikuru/Moruiwau (Left Bank Rupununi) Katiwau (Right Bank Rupununi) to Achiwuib including Moco, Aishalton and surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 9	Office of the Elections Commission Regional Democratic Council Compound, Lethem Region 9
The Registration District for Region No. 9 or the Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo Region.	Karasabai to Aranaputa Yupukar/Maparr (Right Bank Rupununi River) to Yupukari Koreshen to Pakani/Smsyhs Essequibo River including Annai and surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 9	Office of the Elections Commission Regional Development Office Annai, North Savannahs Region 9
The Registration District for Region No. 10 or the Upper Demerara/Berbice Region.	Bami/Kara Kara (North) to Watooka Square Shirabaru Right Bank Karaduni River to Kimbia/Wikki including McKenzie, Retrieve, Washer Pond, Kwakwani and surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 10	Office of the Elections Commission 23 Republic Avenue, McKenzie Region 10.
The Registration District for region No. 10 or the Upper Demerara/ Berbice Region	Mariaba/Dehalibana to Makouria/Dadawarin Dallawalla/Katapuli to Wisroc Park Dorabisi/Waimibisi to Canister Falls including Blueberry Hill, Silvertown, One Mile, Half Mile, Wismar and surrounding areas – Part of the Registration District for Region No. 10	Office of the Elections Commission Winifred Gaskin Drive Wismar, Region 10

## ANNEXE IV

### REPORT ON VISIT BY THE GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION (GECOM) TEAM TO JAMAICA – 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2005

**MEMBERS OF THE TEAM:** Dr. Steve Surujbally, Chairman, GECOM  
Mr. Moen Mc Doom, Commission Member  
Mr. Robert Williams, Commission Member  
Mr. Gavin Campbell, Manager, Information Technology  
Division, GECOM

**PREAMBLE:** For some time, now the Opposition Parties in Parliament (OPP) have been insisting that fingerprinting as a biometric feature should be introduced to reduce the possibility of multiple registrations. The OPP have also been asserting that Jamaica had introduced a system of Live-Scan Fingerprinting (LSF) as a unique identifier of registrants.

In addition to requesting information from eleven (11) Companies which had claimed to be able to provide such a service, GECOM had written to the Director of Elections (DoE) of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) explaining that the Commission was considering capturing the legally required fingerprints by using Live-Scan technology and then using appropriate software to enter the collected data into the appropriate field of record of each new registrant.

The DoE responded explaining how common LSF was, and that it is currently the preferred method of fingerprinting capture. He also mentioned that the EOJ had assisted Antigua and Barbuda, an event to which the OPP has consistently referred. The DoE further stated that LSF had been introduced in Haiti with success.

A telephone conversation with the Deputy Director of Elections of the EOJ, Mr. Earl Simpson, conveyed a somewhat different impression to that which was documented by the DoE.

The Commission decided that it would be best for a team from GECOM to visit the EOJ to acquire, *locus in quo*, more information about the systems being used via meetings with the technical and field staff of the EOJ.

**OBJECTIVE:** The team was mandated **generally** to inform itself about the registration process employed by the EOJ, and **specifically**, (i) to ascertain the level of introduction of the LSF technology in Jamaica, (ii) to enquire about the practicality of implementing LSF, (iii) to ascertain the costs associated with the introduction of LSF, and (iv) whether such an exercise would disrupt the preparations for the 2006 election in Guyana.

**GENERAL:** The team was met at the airport on the afternoon of October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and transportation to the Hotel Pegasus in New Kingston.

A vehicle/driver was placed at the disposal of the team during its entire sojourn in Jamaica.

The willingness of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) to describe the electoral system and operational methodologies, to answer all questions asked, to expose team members to field operations, and to promise support and assistance in GECOM's endeavours was encouraging, commendable and very appreciated by the team.

**EOJ STAFF WITH WHOM THE TEAM INTERACTED:**

- Mr. Danville Walker, Director of Elections
- Ms. Valerie Smith, Assistant Director, Information Technology (AD-IT)
- Mr. Earl Simpson, Deputy Director of Elections – Operations (courtesy meeting)
- Mr. Brown, Information Technology Manager
- IT Staff
- EOJ Officer in Charge of the St. Andrew Parish
- EOJ Staff and Scrutineers of one of the Registration Offices in St. Andrew

**FINDINGS:**

**Photography**

The EOJ has used Polaroid cameras and is now migrating to digital cameras, so that their current system relies on a mixture of Polaroid and Nikon digital cameras. In the case of the Polaroid cameras, a single exposure is made of each registrant, and the photograph inserted into a clear pouch attached to the form. GECOM uses two pictures for every registrant; this means that every one Polaroid film accommodates two registrants. The EOJ uses a "tourist-type" Polaroid film which allows every film to take only one picture of the registrant. In the case of the digital cameras, each office is issued with a set of stickers that match the photograph numbers from the cameras, and a sticker is affixed to each form to indicate the corresponding photograph.

There is a project currently underway to replace the Nikon digital cameras with Canon ones, which will allow the camera to be directly connected to and controlled by a PC or laptop.

The EOJ felt that although the Polaroid cameras were cheaper, the cost of film was high; it was however recognized that with the purchase of larger quantities of film, the price can be reduced significantly.

**FINGERPRINT SCANNING**

- 1) The EOJ carries out Live Scan Fingerprinting only on a very limited basis. In fact, GECOM's Delegation was told by the field staff that only the EOJ Headquarters possessed live print scanners. No such equipment existed in the field.

- 2) Fingerprints of all ten fingers are taken as a “**wet print**”, i.e. all 10 fingers are rolled on a special ink pad, and the prints are placed on specially designed spaces on the Registration Form. Primary scanning is done on the index and middle fingers of both hands.
- 3) There are spaces on the form that indicate whether the applicant’s fingerprint is temporarily or permanently unavailable.
- 4) The forms are processed by machine, and minutiae data are generated only for the rolled fingerprints. These are then **compared** with the existing database in order to search for duplicate registrations.
- 5) The existing database was constructed from the scanning of “wet prints” on the Registration Forms.

- N.B.**
- (i) The DoE reported to us that when the EOJ began to establish the database of scanned fingerprints (taken from the “wet prints”), up to 25% were unusable.
  - (ii) Both the DoE and the assistant Director (IT) maintain that currently, even the heretofore unusable “wet prints” can be used for comparison. The DoE maintains that even if only a piece of the fingerprint is available for scanning, current techniques allow the use of such a fingerprint.
  - (iii) The DoE/AD-IT explained that if a print is totally unusable for scanning and comparison purposes, the registrant would be called in to have his/her fingerprints retaken.
  - (iv) The comparison of each new fingerprint with all others does not take a long time and it would not disrupt a Continuous Registration process.
  - (v) The Registration Forms with the rolled “wet prints” are sent to the EOJ Headquarters weekly for processing (scanning, comparisons).
  - (vi) In the case of Antigua and Barbuda no matching on the basis of Live Scans were carried out. All comparisons were done in Jamaica.
  - (vii) In the case of Haiti, LSF was considered a viable option because there was no existing electoral database, therefore a brand new list of electors is being compiled.
  - (viii) The DoE’s advice relative to GECOM was as follows:
    - 1) Use appropriate software to capture the fingerprints from incoming form R 01’s.

- 2) Use appropriate software to scan the existing MRC's, and generate a database of the fingerprints to use for comparison both within itself and against the new applications being received. This activity would run concurrently with the Continuous Registration activity.

**N.B. The EOJ would be able to provide, as required, the scanning equipment, minutiae generation software, and matching engine. The cost of this was estimated at being around \$1 US per set of fingerprints to be matched, plus the cost of equipment for scanning the source documents.**

(The system used by Antigua is that fingerprints are taken at the registration offices, then all of the data is sent to Jamaica for scanning, minutiae generation, and matching. As mentioned above, it is the view of the EOJ that fingerprint scanning technology has developed to such an extent that valid minutiae data can be generated even from the inferior fingerprint impressions contained on the MRC Cards).

- (ix) The DoE advised against the use of stamp-pad inks. He suggested that specially designed fingerprint pads (available from various sources) be used instead. He promised to send the information on the Company EOJ uses for its fingerprint pads.
- (x) The DoE expressed his willingness to process the fingerprints on our MRCs (= establish a database with our scanned MRC prints) and the scanned prints of the new registrants, and carry out the matchings.

## **CONCLUSION**

The visit to Jamaica was illuminating from several perspectives:

- 1) The hospitality and willingness to accommodate the Delegation's every wish was quite overwhelming.
- 2) The visit underlined the conviction that too much misinformation about LSF etc has been bandied about.
- 3) DoE and his team are quite willing to help in any way possible, once GECOM defines what it is that we want done. It was also clear (because the DoE told us so in no uncertain terms) that GECOM would have to pay for the assistance. The DoE would be willing to come to Guyana, look at GECOM's prints on the MRCs and make a proposal.
- 4) GECOM's discussions will have to centre on

- (i) Whether GECOM wishes at all to carry out any fingerprint scanning and comparisons as a way to reduce Multiple Registration , which many see as a precursor to multiple voting or whether IT will rely on impediments which IT can put in place to prevent multiple voting.
- (ii) Whether GECOM purchase the scanners/software and develop TIS own programmes to effect fingerprint matchings, or whether IT give the job (or parts thereof) to the DoE and his team.

Finally, the Delegation collected exemplars of all the paraphernalia associated with registration and the electoral process.

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**GUYANA  
ELECTIONS  
COMMISSION**

**Report on  
Major Activities  
Conducted During  
2005**

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