

## NOTICE

### USE OF CELL PHONES IN POLLING STATIONS STRICTLY PROHIBITED



The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has, as a matter of policy, decided to introduce a comprehensive set of measures to prohibit the use of cell phones and other recording devices in Polling Stations.

This decisive action is aimed at protecting the secrecy of the ballot, particularly to address existing concerns about the potential for vote selling that is directly linked to photographing of ballots. The prohibition on cell phone use and the penalties for vote selling are rooted in the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 1:03.

1. As a voter, when you go to the Polling Station you will be asked to turn off your cell phone before you enter the Polling Station.
2. When you enter the Polling Station you will be reminded to turn off your cell phone.
3. **The Presiding Officer will keep your National ID Card until you have finished voting.**
4. Provision will be made next to the voting compartment for you to place your phone and other items including handbags, before you use the voting compartment to vote.
5. **The Presiding Officer or other Polling Day Staff will instruct you to free your hands of all items by placing them next to the voting compartment before you vote.**
6. The voting compartment will be positioned in a manner that allows for GECOM staff, and Party Agents as far as this is practicable, to observe if you are attempting to use your phone to take a photo of your ballot.
7. If you attempt to take a photo of your ballot the GECOM Staff and Party Agents will raise an alarm. **Any voter observed taking a photograph of his/her ballot paper will result in a formal note being made of the incident, and a report will be submitted to the Guyana Police Force for investigation.**
8. Remember to pick up your phone from the desk/table, and your ID card from the Presiding Officer, before you leave the Polling Station.

It is important for you to understand that the selling of a vote is a serious offence which carries heavy penalties. **Anyone found guilty of selling his/her vote will have to pay a fine of sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000.00) and will be imprisoned for six (6) months.**

GECOM urges you to cooperate with these new measures, specifically because they are necessary for upholding the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.