

02.04.2008.

GECOM HOLDS STRATEGIC ONE DAY WORKING SESSION

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) and Senior Members of its Secretariat convened at a strategic one day Working Session on Friday, March 28, 2008, to (i) identify and analyze current problematic issues, (ii) to confront possible weaknesses within the Commission's Operational and Administration systems, and (iii) developing solutions to deficiencies, while specifically focusing on matters which are emerging from the current House-to-House Registration exercise and which are in need of resolution.

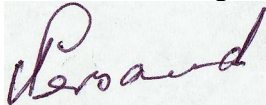
The event was held at the Sea Breeze Hotel, Pere Street, Kitty, Georgetown.

During forthright discussions, emphasis was placed on the manner in which the ongoing House-to-House Registration exercise is being conducted and the level of success being achieved to date, in order to determine whether there is need for a strategic review of the current Work Plan for the exercise. In this regard, the Commission is confident that the exercise is proceeding at a satisfactory pace and will be concluded by the end date of July 4, 2008.

The Commission also sought to review its decisions pertaining to (i) justifications for the production of new National ID cards as a sequel to the House-to-House Registration exercise, (ii) the unacceptability of an existing National ID card as a source document for registration, and (iii) issues associated with the suggestion to include names on existing National ID cards under the head "aka". Accordingly, the Commission maintained its earlier decisions that (i) new National ID cards would be produced for all persons registered under House-to-House Registration, (ii) an existing National ID card will not be accepted as a source document for registration, and (iii) names without legal authentication will not be documented on National ID cards under the heading "aka". The Commission intends to provide elaborate information on these matters at a Media Conference to be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

The decisions pertaining to Operational and Administrative matters, which were taken at the Working Session, will be implemented, thus ensuring further efficiency, while discussions on any outstanding suggestion/recommendation which emerged from the event will be brought to finality at the Commission level.

Participants at the Working Session were Dr. R.S. Surujbally - Chairman of GECOM, Mr. V. Alexander - Commissioner, Dr. K. Mangal - Commissioner, Mr. M. McDoom - Commissioner, Mr. M. Shaw - Commissioner, Mr. R. Williams - Commissioner, Mr. Gocool Boodoo - Chief Election Officer, Mr. C. Benn - Deputy Chief Elections Officer, Mr. K. Lowenfield - Assistant Chief Election Officer, Mr. D. Ramlall - Civic and Voter Education Officer, Mrs. B. Critchlow - Voter Registration Manager, Mr. G. Campbell - Information Technology Manager, Mr. J. Sharma - Chief Accountant, Mr. T. Semple - Administrative Manager, Mr. C. April - Logistics Manager, Mr. N. Prashad - Internal Auditor, Mr. D. Thompson - Security Officer, Mr. A. Sattaur - Accountant, Mr. B Ramnarine - Registration Officer, and Mr. N. Jervis - Registration Officer.



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