

**22.06.2006.**

**REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE FINGERPRINT SCANNING AND CROSS-MATCHING EXERCISE**

The results of the fingerprint scanning and cross-matching exercise that was conducted by the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) and Management Services and Support Inc (MSSI) were officially presented to Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) by Mr. Danville Walker, Director of the EOJ during the Commission's Statutory Meeting on 20.06.2006.

The results, which are documented in print, provide a statistical summary, and offers as well, statistical information on (fingerprint) Image Quality Distribution; Zero Candidates –(quality and number of minutiae distribution); a list of absolute duplicates; a list of probable duplicates; a list of zero candidates MRCs; a list of rejected fingerprints; and a list of mismatched electors names.

During presentation of the results, Mr. Walker recalled that prior to the commencement of the project he had indicated that upon its (the project) conclusion, the Commission would know the state of its (GECOM'S) fingerprint database. He said that in achieving this, "some duplicates have been identified".

Mr. Walker noted that the exercise focused on the scanning of fingerprints from 509,853 Master Registration Cards (MRCs) to create a database of fingerprints including the fingerprints of persons listed on the 2001 OLE, and those of persons who were registered during the first cycle of Continuous Registration. This resulted in the creation of a database of 725,550 fingerprints. Mr. Walker explained that the reason for the number of fingerprints being higher than that of MRCs' is because four fingerprints of every registrant were taken during the Continuous Registration process, as against one fingerprint which was taken during previous registration exercises.

According to the results, the project determined that 296,910 (circa 41%) of the fingerprints scanned were of an "average" to "good" quality, while those in the category of "below average" to "poor" were 428,217 (circa 59%).

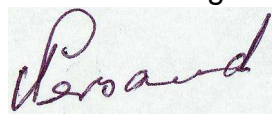
Mr. Walker noted that although there was no way EOJ/MSSI could have known the

quality of the fingerprints before the start of the project, the results were not surprising as the fingerprints of the majority of electors were thumbprints that were collected many years ago (as early as 1996) under varying circumstances including the use of unsuitable (wet) ink and paper.

## **Duplicates Found**

The results depict that of the good fingerprints that represents twenty five percent of the fingerprint database, EOJ/MSSI found 1,858 duplicate fingerprints. EOJ/MSSI also found 4,515 additional duplicates in the fingerprints that varied in quality from average to below average to poor which account for seventy five percent remainder of the database. Mr. Walker said that when these figures were translated to duplicate MRCs it showed that of the 25% good fingerprints, 947 are classified as DUPA (absolute duplicates). The remaining 75% of the MRCs showed 4427 as DUPB (probable duplicates). This gives a total of 5374 duplicate registrations. Mr. Walker was keen in pointing out EOJ/MSSI was positive that the 947 MRCs of the good 25% were absolute duplicates about which there could be no doubt. However, with regards to the remaining 75%, Mr. Walker said that because of the lesser quality of the fingerprints in this category it could be found that only about 60% (of the 4427) were actually duplicates.

Responding to the identification of multiple registrations, as contained in the results, GECOM has instructed the Secretariat to commence internal work to locate the respective MRCs with the associated electronic records for corrective action. Additionally, the Secretariat was instructed to document a proposal for the deletion of records associated with multiple registrations, including the methodology for conducting field investigations, if such becomes necessary. Initial checks have revealed that many of those reported as duplicate registrations actually are not, and that the reported number of 5374 duplicate registrations could be greatly reduced upon completion of the related investigations.



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