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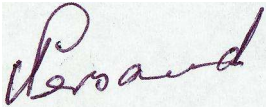
Commencement of the Production of National ID Cards

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has taken a significant step forward in its state of preparedness for the upcoming elections by the commencement of the production of National Identification Cards on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. Consequently, persons who are newly registered could look forward to receiving their ID cards very soon. This includes also, persons who have applied for replacement ID cards. GECOM will publicly announce the commencement of distribution of ID cards.

The new ID cards are being printed on colour laser printers that were installed in place of the black and white models that were used in the past. Similarly, laminating and cutting are being done by upgraded equipment.

As an integral part of the National Registration process, the production of ID cards was delayed because the Multiple Identification Issuing (MIDI) system which was used to produce them had fallen into disrepair since its last use to produce ID cards in 2000-2001. Remedying this situation required replacement of all of the PC hardware, especially since a significant amount of the existing equipment had been taken into use to facilitate efficient conduct of the Continuous Registration exercise currently underway.

The equipment required to update the MIDI system were procured contractually from DE LA RUE of the United Kingdom. The contractual arrangement included the delegation of Mr. Glyn Williams, Senior Software Engineer from DE LA RUE to work in collaboration with GECOM's IT Manager, Mr. Gavin Campbell to bring the system to its current state of operational efficiency. Mr. Williams and Mr. Campbell are satisfied that they have achieved this and that the ID card production process is flowing satisfactorily



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