

JAMAICAN TEAM VISITS GECOM ON FINGERPRINTING

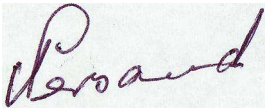
21.11.2005.

A three-member team led by Mr. Danville Walker, Director of Elections of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) departed on Saturday, November, 19, 2005 having concluded a three-day visit at the behest of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM). The team, which included Ms. Valerie Smith, Head of the EOJ's Information Technology Section and Ms. Nadia Frankson, was here to find out whether the fingerprints stored on GECOM's Master Registration Cards (MRCs) could be used for electronic cross referencing.

During the visit, the team held extensive talks with senior staff of GECOM's Secretariat. It also visited some Registration Offices to observe the manner in which fingerprinting is currently being done. Mr. Walker expressed general satisfaction with the Continuous Registration exercise, especially the photography aspect, and the initiative displayed by the staff of the Registration Offices his team visited.

During a recent visit to Jamaica, a GECOM team led by Dr. Steve Surujbally' GECOM's Chairman had sought to confirm whether the EOJ is now in possession of technology that would allow for the use of registrants' scanned fingerprints to be cross-referenced. Having been told during its visit to Jamaica that the technology had recently been improved to allow even partial prints from the MRCs to be used to generate a database for the purpose of cross-referencing them, the Commission had taken the decision to invite the Jamaican team to observe the prints in GECOM's possession to determine whether they could be used accordingly.

Having concluded its visit, the EOJ team is now expected to submit a proposal to GECOM, provided that it is satisfied that the available prints could be scanned, a process which would in no way conflict with the ongoing Continuous Registration exercise.



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