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MEDIA RELEASE

GECOM Receives Report on Logistics Issues

A Report on “Critical Logistics Issues” related to upcoming General and Regional Elections in Guyana has been prepared and submitted to The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) by Mr. Bruce Hatch, Logistics Expert, who departed Guyana on Monday, July 11, 2006.

In presenting the Report to GECOM’s Chairman, Dr. Steve Surujbally, Mr. Hatch expressed confidence that “there is both sufficient experience and technical expertise within the Operations and Logistics groups at GECOM to meet critical dates and implement the overall election plan”. He posited that the senior staff of the Secretariat, who are responsible for election operations, are particularly capable and evidently command significant support from their staff to so do.

Mr. Hatch, a Canadian citizen with international experience in Election and Project Management joined the GECOM Secretariat on Tuesday, June 13, 2006 in the capacity of Logistics Consultant under the auspices of the International Donor Agencies in Guyana. Mr. Hatch’s consultancy was aimed at strengthening the capacity of GECOM’s Logistics Department.

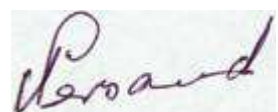
During the consultancy, Mr. Hatch focused his expertise on:-

- Reviewing existing mechanisms and proposals for the transmission of election results.
- Providing advice and assisting in designing a system for the transmission of election results; document the methodology used for designing the system; and the resources required to make the system operational.
- Assisting in testing and evaluating the system proposed for the transmission of the election results and recommend modification(s) for improvement if this is found to be necessary
- Advise and assist in the production of procedures for the execution of GECOM’s logistics activities.
- Advising and assisting in the development of a strategy for logistics support to field operations, including the distribution of sensitive election materials.
- Reviewing GECOM’s logistics plans and procedures for the 2006 General and Regional Elections.
- Assessing and reporting on the effectiveness of all aspects of logistics operations associated with the conduct of the 2006 General and Regional Elections.

The Report deals with the following critical logistics issues:

- i. Availability of Ballot & Forms printing information – Candidate Lists
- ii. Ballot Production & Delivery
- iii. Polling Kit Assembly
- iv. Material Distribution Plan
- v. Disciplined Forces Balloting
- vi. Statement of Poll (SOP)
- vii. Preliminary Results
- viii. Transmission of Results
- ix. Electronic transmission methodology
- x. Physical transfer methodology
- xi. Election Operations Center – Processing of Results

Acknowledging the excellent quality of the Report and its value to GECOM, Dr. Surujbally expressed the Commission’s gratitude and satisfaction for the timely provision of Mr. Hatch’s services by the Donor Agencies. He gave the assurance that the Report would be put to use in the delivery of the 2006 National and Regional elections in a free, fair and transparent manner.



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