

## **MR. KEITH LOWENFIELD IS GECOM'S NEW CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER**

The full membership of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) today decided unanimously to the appointment of Mr. Keith Lowenfield to the position of Chief Election Officer and Commissioner of National Registration. This decision was taken at a Special Meeting of GECOM in the Commission's Boardroom.

The Commission's decision has brought to an end a very lengthy and meticulous procedure associated with the matter including (i) advertising the vacancy locally and overseas, (ii) shortlisting of suitable candidates from the fourteen applications received, (iii) determining procedures for the interviews, and (iv) conducting the interviews.

Of the fourteen applications received, four were deemed by the Commission to have met the criteria and were shortlisted to be interviewed. They were Mr. Danville Davidson of Jamaica, Ms. Savitri Singh of Washington, USA, Mr. Calvin Benn, and Mr. Lowenfield.

Mr. Davidson and Ms. Singh were interviewed via skype.

Mr. Benn was not interviewed because he tendered a letter dated March 10, 2014, informing regretfully that he was no longer interested in the post of Chief Election Officer and that, by way of the said letter, he was withdrawing his application for the post.

Mr. Benn submitted in his letter that he had engaged in some serious reflection during a recent period of illness and has concluded that it would be unwise for him to compete for the position of Chief Election Officer. Further, he expressed regrets to the Commission for any inconvenience which might have been caused by his change of heart.

Immediately following the Commission's decision, Mr. Lowenfield was summoned to the Meeting and was informed accordingly. GECOM's Chairman, Dr. Steve Surujbally took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lowenfield on being appointed to head the Commission's Secretariat and expressed his confidence in his (Mr. Lowenfield's) ability to honour the responsibilities of the position of Chief Election Officer. All of the Commissioners also took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lowenfield and wish him well in his new position.

Responding to the sentiments expressed by Dr. Surujbally and the Commissioners, Mr. Lowenfield thanked them individually and collectively for the confidence that the Commission has placed in him through its decision to appoint him to the position of Chief Election Officer and Commissioner of National Registration. In so doing he undertook to carry out the relevant duties to the best of his abilities without fear, favour and discrimination.