

# Media Release

February 8, 2016

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## **GECOM Supports Youth Initiative on Voter Education Campaign**

Francis Bailey, Chief Election Officer- Mr. Keith Lowenfield



**(From left – right) Deputy Chief Election Officer- Mr. Vishnu Persaud, Executive Director of Youth Challenge Guyana, Mr. Dmitri Nicholson, President of Guyana National Youth Council- Ms. Tricia Teekah, Executive Member of Guyana National Youth Council- Mr. Francis Bailey, Chief Election Officer- Mr. Keith Lowenfield**

The Guyana Elections Commission encourages wholesome voter education to ensure a high voter turnout at the Local Government Elections (LGE). It is in this regard that representatives of Youth Challenge Guyana, The National Coordinating Coalition and the National Youth Council, visited Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to discuss the facilitation of training and support for their joint programme titled “Voter Education Project” which according to them, is being funded by USAID through Counterpart International.

*The Voter Education Project* is designed to lend support to the electorate as well as candidates. This project also aims to target the youth primarily. Apart from that, the project focuses on women and Special Interests groups.

The Representatives explained that project will establish “candidate hubs” across the country where trained personnel will be available to answer questions on Local Government Elections. Youth friendly publications will also be produced to strengthen awareness. Deputy Chief Election Officer, Vishnu Persaud indicated that GECOM can provide existing literature and check materials produced via the project towards ensuring that the information being disseminated is accurate.

GECOM has continuously been engaged with voter education over the years. Chief Election Officer, Mr. Keith Lowenfield indicated that because of the wide hiatus between Local Government Elections, a culture may have developed whereby people view the LGE as unimportant. However, through these awareness campaigns that can be improved. “I am very happy with this initiative and we are willing to provide guidance on information accordingly. We can aid in providing trained personnel to offer guidance and information to your representatives”- CEO, Mr. Lowenfield. The team expressed appreciation of GECOM’s willingness relative to the success of their project.

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