

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

1:0	Introduction
2:0	Elections Administration
2:1	Structure of the Elections Commission
2:2	Appointment of Chairman
2:3	Appointments of other Members of the Commission
2:4	Powers and functions of the Commission
2:5	Finances
2:6	The Electoral System in Guyana
2:7	Legal Framework
2:8	Demarcation of Boundaries
2:9	Donor Support for the work of the Commission
2:9:1	Nature of Specific contributions from Donor Community
2:10	Observers Missions participating in the 1997 Elections
2:10:1	National Observers
2:10:1	International Observers
3:0	Elections Officers
3:1	Policy for Appointment
3:2	Categories of Staff
3:2:1	registration and Election Officers
3:2:2	Registration and Election Field Staff
3:3	Extra Staff Appointment
3:4	Meetings
3:5	Training of Staff
3:5:1	Polling Day Staff Training
3:5:2	Submission of Proposals for Polling Day Staff
3:5:3	Section of the Law under which Appointments took effect
4:0	Contesting Parties and List of Candidates
4:1	Political Parties
4:2	Nomination Day
4:3	Examination of Lists
4:4	Approval of Lists
4:5	Publication of List of Candidates
4:6	Code of Conduct for Political Parties
4:6:1	The Electoral Accord
4:6:2	Signing of the Accord
4:6:3	Release to the Public
4:7	Guidelines for the Media during the Election campaign
4:7:1	News
4:7:2	Controversy and Balance

- 4:7:3 Right of Recall
- 4:7:4 Climate of Awareness and Tranquility
- 4:7:5 Political Broadcasts
- 4:7:6 Radio
- 4:7:7 Paid Political Advertisements
- 4:8 The Role of the Media in the 1997 Elections
  - 4:8:1 Radio
  - 4:8:2 Television
  - 4:8:3 Print Media
  - 4:8:4 Advertisements
  - 4:8:5 Media Center
- 5:0 Registration of Electors
  - 5:1 The Registration Process
    - 5:1:1 The Role of Scrutineers in the Registrations Process
  - 5:2 Photography
  - 5:3 Preparation of the Final Voters' List
    - 5:3:1 Demarcation of Polling Units
    - 5:3:2 House to House Registration
    - 5:3:3 Set-Up of Computer Operation
    - 5:3:4 The Encoding Process
    - 5:3:5 Field Verification
    - 5:3:6 Preparation of the Preliminary Voters' List
    - 5:3:7 Scrutiny of the Preliminary Voters' List
    - 5:3:8 Claims and Objections
    - 5:3:9 Printing of the Final Voters' List
    - 5:3:10 Preparation of the Disciplined Services Lists
    - 5:3:11 Preparation of an Addendum and Elections List
    - 5:3:12 Printing of Ballot Papers
  - 5:4 Voter ID Production
    - 5:4:1 MIDIS System Overview
    - 5:4:2 The Voter Identification Card
    - 5:4:3 The Production Process
    - 5:4:4 The Database Transfer
    - 5:4:5 MRC'S Voter ID Card Room
    - 5:4:6 Voter ID Card Room to Computer Room
    - 5:4:7 Data Validation
    - 5:4:8 Image Capture
    - 5:4:9 Printing
    - 5:4:10 Queries
    - 5:4:11 Computer Room to Finishing Room

5:4:12	Database Integrity Tests
5:4:13	Production Reviewed
5:4:14	Training Personnel
5:4:15	Actual Production
5:4:16	Total Number of Cards Produced by Districts
5:4:17	Conclusion
5:5	Voter ID Card Distribution
5:5:1	Distribution Schedule for ten (10) Districts
5:5:2	Monitoring the Process
5:5:3	Factors Hindering the Distribution Process
5:5:4	The Voter ID Distribution Task Force
5:5:5	The Pilot Project
5:5:6	Introduction of National House to House Distribution
6:0	Voter Education and Information
6:1	Objectives of the voter Education Programme
6:2	Implementation of the Voter Education Programme
6:3	Memorandum of Understanding
6:4	Outreach Programmes
7:0	Polling Stations
7:1	Identification of Polling Stations
7:2	Selection of Polling Stations
7:3	Privately Owned Building as Polling Stations
7:4	Polling Stations outside of Polling Units
8:0	Polling Day Activities
8:1	Opening of the Poll
8:2	Voter Turn-Out
8:3	The use of the Voter identification Card
9:0	Counting of the Votes and Declaration of results
9:1	The Ballot Paper Account (Form 23)
9:2	The Count
9:3	Statement of the Poll (Form 23 A)
9:4	Communicating the Results
9:5	Receiving results at the Command Center
9:6	Declaration of Results
10:0	Summary of Elections Expenses
10:1	Summary for Operation at the District Level
10:2	Budgetary Provision for 1996 and 1997
11:0	Issues (General)
11:1	Training and Recruitment
11:2	Unsigned Statements of Poll

## 12:0 Statistical Data

- Summary of Preliminary Voters' List as per Electoral District
- Names added to FVL due to photographic extension to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1997
- Voter Identification cards produced as per district
- Voter Identification Cards Distributed to Elections.
- Disciplined Services staff as per region (Election District)
- Person listed on Final Voter's List as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997.
- Final Voters' List at December 15, 1997
- Listed Voters' according to Occupations
- Final declaration of results of General Election
- Final declaration of results of Regional Election

## 13:0 Conclusion and Recommendations

LIST OF TABLES	PAGE NO.
<b>TABLES</b>	
I. - Categories of staff as per Registration District for National House to House Registration Exercise	22
II. - Categories of Staff as per Registration District for the Claims and Objections Period 1997	23
III. - Categories of Polling day staff as per Electoral District	24
IV. - Training of Field Photographers (No. of participants by venue)	27
V. - Training of Field staff (No. of Participants by Registration District).	28
VI. - Training of Polling Day Staff (No. of participant by Electoral District by Training Venues).	29
VII. - Details of Ordinary and Tendered Ballot Papers issued as per Electoral District	57
VIII. - Distribution of Voter Identification cards as per Electoral District	75
IX. - Distribution of Polling Stations as per Electoral District.	79
X. - Electoral District showing the number of Polling Division/ Sub-Divisions which had utilized buildings outside of the unit	80

## APPENDICES

- I. - Senior Management Structure of the Guyana Elections Commission
- II. - Telecommunication Equipment received from the German Government
- III. - Equipment purchased under UNDP assistance to the Election Commission
- IV. - Guidelines established by the Elections Commission for International Observers
- V. - List of International Observers
- VI. - Political parties which indicated their interest in contesting the General and Regional Elections, 1997.
- VII. - Political Parties submitted lists of candidates to the Chief Elections Officer on November 5, 1997.
- VIII. - Approved lists and regions in which Political Parties had indicated their desire to Contest.
- IX. - Sample of Voter ID Card
- X. - MRC Log Sheet
- XI. - Duplicate Registration Card
- XII. - Query Sheet
- XIII. - Image Capturing Screen
- XIV. - ID Card Rejection Sheet
- XV. - Polling Place Assessment Form
- XVI. - Polling Place Assessment Form
- XVII. - Results of the Regional Elections 1997.
- XVIII. - Comparative Analysis of Election Results during the period 1964 – 1997.

The 1997 General and Regional Elections may yet go down in history as one of the most keenly contested since the introduction of Universal Adult Suffrage in 1953.

Indeed, as had been the case at every election held since that year, measures of controversy were anticipated.

Elections 1997 benefited from novel inputs in the form of the Voter Identification Cards, and the computerization of voters lists, in addition to an unprecedented managerial structure, and a voters' education programme.

Thousands of persons representing all strata of the Guyanese society, and stretching from Areas around Punta Playa to New River were targets of specific training programmes designed to prepare them to manage the elections.

Naturally, the critics were not needed to require that overall the performance was not perfect. However, even detractors must concede that training, involving skilled and experienced facilitators offered solid foundations.

These foundations could certainly be built on for future, thus affording future electoral contests a readily available school of trained personnel who will be geared to efficiently undertake their duties.

The 1997 Elections Report could hardly over emphasize the negative effect of the delay in appointing the Guyana Elections Commissioners following the 1994 Local Government Elections.

Notwithstanding the pressures put on National Registration Center workers as a result of the loss of time, the record of achievements by the National Registration Workers will never be lost in the archives.

For the first time in this country's Electoral History, the Chief Election Officer was supported by two Advisors/Co-ordinators, a Deputy Commissioner of Registration, and six (6) Senior Managers.

Commissioner of Registration and Chief Election Officer, Mr. Stanley Singh, was supported by Acting Deputy Commissioner of National Registration, Mr. Ganga Persaud, who was responsible for Operations.

He was further supported by Senior Manager, Finance, Mr. Albert Ramsaroop, Senior Manager, Human Resources, Mr. Edward Williams, Senior Manager, Administration and Public Relations, Mr. Gocool Boodoo, Senior Manager, Information Systems,

Mr. Leslie Benfield, Senior Manager, Planning, Mr. Calvin Benn, and Senior Manager, Voter Education, Mr. Albert Henry (**See Appendix 1 for Senior Management Structure**).

In addition, Ms. Donna Harris, Advisor/Co-ordinator, took on the task of negotiating funds with International Donor Countries and Agencies, and Mr. Arnold Depoo, Advisor/Co-ordinator, was responsible for the production of the Voters' Identification Cards.

The structure as further reinforced by the presence of Assistant Commission, Ms. Brenda Smith, Advisor and Co-ordinator in Public Relations and in Logistics and Security.

Management and non-management workers throughout Guyana laboured for nearly two (2) years to bring to pass their dreams of a successful run General and Regional Elections.

Workers walked, sailed and flew into and across difficult terrain to register their fellow Guyanese to qualify them to exercise their franchise. Though easily forgotten, workers risked their lives to undertake their duties.

In two instances, workers actually lost their lives in the process of carrying out their tasks.

Notwithstanding the difficulties that Election Commission operatives had to contend with, they displayed levels of nationalism that won the commendation of their fellow Guyanese as well as persons who paid attention to their performance.

Indeed, the shortcoming as evidenced by the performance of some workers involved in the registration, distribution and polling day processes, could only serve future Commission workers as guideposts so that they could charter the correct course in conducting future elections.



## 2:0 Election Administration

### 2:1 Structure of the Election Commission

The present Elections Commission was established by virtue of the *Constitution Amendment Act. No. 15 of 1995*. This act provided for its operation between the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 1995 and the date of expiry of three (3) months from the date of General Elections.

### 2.2 Appointment of Chairman

The Chairman was appointed from a list of six persons, not unacceptable to the President and submitted by the Leader of the Minority Party after consultation with the political parties represented in the National Assembly, *“other than the party to which the President belongs”*.

*The constitution (Amendment) Act No. 15 of 1995, which refers to the Elections Commission after the temporary suspension of Article 161 states:*

*“he Chairman of the Elections Commission shall be a person who holds or who has held office as a judge of a Court having unlimited Jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in some part of the Commonwealth or a court having Jurisdiction in appeals from any such court or who is qualified to be appointed as any such Judge, or any fit and proper person”.*

*It was due to this Constitution (Amendment) Act, that the present Chairman was appointed.*

### 2.3 Appointment of other Members of the Commission

The other members of the Commission were appointed as follows:-

- (a) Three (3) appointed by the President, acting in his own deliberate judgment. Three (3) persons representing the political party forming the Governing were appointed under this provision.
- (b) Three (3) appointed by the President acting on the advice of the Minority Leader after he had consulted with the Political Parties represented in the national Assembly other than the party to which the President belonged.

Under existing provision, an alien cannot be appointed to membership of the Commission.

In accordance with the provisions outlined above the 1997 General and Regional Elections Were conducted by the Guyana Elections Commission constituted as follows:

Mr. Doodnauth Singh S.C.	-	Chairman
*Mr. Ralph Ramkarran S.C	-	Member
Mr. Moen Mc Doom S.C	-	Member
*Ms. Philomena Sahoye-Shury	-	Member
Ms. Joslyn Dow	-	Member
Mr.Malcolm Parris	-	Member
Dr. Barton Scotland	-	Member

\* Commissioners who left as of Nomination Day and were replaced by:

- (1) Mr. Mahmood Shaw: and
- (2) Dr. Keshav Mangal

## 2.4 Powers and Functions of the Commission

The powers and functions of the Commission had been specified as follows:

- To manage , direct, control and supervise the entire electoral process from Registration of Electors, through declaration of results;
- To appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over all staff required for that purpose;
- To make appointments to all offices provided for under the *Representation of the People Act Chapter 1:03*, and under the *National Registration Act Chapter 10:08*.

All the powers which were previously exercised by or on behalf of the Minister responsible were exercisable by the Elections Commission. The Guyana Elections Commission was in independent, autonomous body not subject to the direction of any authority.

## 2.5 Finances

The finances of the Commission were provided by Parliament. These had been considerably augmented by resources provided directly by the Donor Community to the Elections Commission.

## 2:6 The Electoral System in Guyana

In accordance with the provisions of the 1980 Guyana Constitution, the 1997 General and Regional Elections were conducted under the system of Proportional Representation.

Since the enactment of the aforesaid 1980 Guyana Constitution, which came into operation on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1980 each of the election held in 1980, 1985, 1992 and 1997 had been for the following purposes:

- a). Election of an Executive President of Guyana;
- b). Election of members of the National Assembly; and
- c). Election of members of the ten (10) Regional Democratic Councils of Guyana

**The National Assembly of Guyana is comprised of:**

- (1) Fifty-three (53) members elected as a result of the system, which had established the whole of the country as one electoral area or a single constituency.
- (2) Twelve (12) additional regional representatives (elected as a result of Regional Elections)
  - (i) One (1) each from the ten (10) Regional Democratic Councils; and
  - (ii) Two (2) from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs.

In keeping with the provisions of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the President of Guyana after proroguing Parliament on November 29, 1997, proclaimed the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1997 as the day on which General and Regional Elections were to be held for contesting the fifty three (53) seats in the National Assembly and seats in the Regional Democratic Councils of each of the ten (10) Regions into which Guyana was divided.

The system of elections in Guyana made provision for the following categories of voters:

- a). The ordinary voter (usual or normal poll);
- b). The blind/incapacitated voter (requesting assistance);
- c). The Proxy (voting by means of an instrument – the proxy);
- d). The Certificate of Employment (persons in the employ of the Commission);

e). The specific disciplined forces; and

f). Non-resident electors.

## 2.7 Legal Framework

Electoral reform in Guyana started in 1990 and continued in 1997. The most important legislative document was the Elections Laws (Amendment), Act No. 12 of 1996. this Act laid the legislative machinery for the General and Regional Elections 1997.

Equally important also was the Elections Law (Amendment), Act No. 22 of 1997 introducing the Voter Identification Card. The Voter Identification Card was the property of the Guyana Elections Commission and as such was retained by the Commission during the voting process.

The principle was clear **“NO VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD, NO VOTE”**

The Elections Commission had discussions with Political Parties and interested Groups on all aspects of legislative changes relating to the 1997 General and Regional Elections.

Invaluable technical assistance was provided by the United Nations Development Programme in the form of the services of an International Legal Advisor, Mr. Krishnandarsan who was attached to the Commission for a one (1) month period.

Mention must also be made of the contribution locally of Mr. Cecil Dhurjon, Parliamentary Counsel in the Attorney General Chambers. The work of these two (2) experts served well to inform and guide the Commission in the preparations for and the conduct of the General and Regional Elections, 1997.

## 2.8 Demarcation of Boundaries

One of the early decisions of the newly Constituted Elections Commission was to complete boundary demarcation of all largely populated registration and polling divisions within the ten (10) regions of Guyana.

Mr. Albert Henry, Senior Manager, headed a group, which included ten (10) students from the University of Guyana, (Geography Department) and immediately reviewed such large registration divisions. The exercise was conducted during March and April 1996.

The main objective was to cause a registration division to have not more than three hundred and fifty (50) electors. Though the project was not a total success, it resulted in 1844 registration division and sub-divisions as against eight hundred and forty (840) in 1992.

The Elections Commission on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1996 published notices in the Official Gazette specifying the registration districts, the divisions and the sub-divisions together with their names, number and descriptions for ten (10) regions of Guyana.

Regular discussion took place with Political Parties, interested groups, Community Leaders and other persons in arriving at decisions with regards to the demarcation.

In this regard, a constant review had been recommended if the demarcation exercise was to prove successful.

## 2.9 Donor Support for the work of the Commission

Initially through UNDP's assistance, the Guyana Elections Commission was able to secure the services of a Consultant Mr. Dong Nguyen, who terms of reference included determining the needs of the Commission for the upcoming General and Regional Elections. The Needs Assessment Document, which emerged, projected an estimated cost for the entire project as US \$4.589 million. This document formed the basis for assistance from the donor community.

The Elections Commission in its internal planning and preparation had budgeted US \$5.845 million towards the holding of the General and Regional Elections. Of this estimated amount, the Commission had spend in the planning and preparatory stages of 1996 and 1997 approximately US \$3.5 million. This amount was disbursed in the form of subventions from the National Treasury.

In response to requests, the Donor Community provided the following assistance in cash and in some cases material and technical support.

• British High Commission	-	<b>US \$ 60,000</b>
• Canadian High Commission	-	<b>US \$ 217,000</b>
• European Union	-	<b>US \$ 418,000</b>
• Federal Republic of Germany	-	<b>US \$ 52,000</b>
• Inter American Development Bank	-	<b>US \$ 500,000</b>
• Organisation of American States	-	<b>US \$ 30,000</b>
• United Nations Development Programme	-	<b>US \$ 300,000</b>
• United States Agency for International Development	-	<b><u>US \$ 101,000</u></b>
<b>Total Contribution</b>		<b><u>US \$1,950,000</u></b>

## 2.9.1 Nature of specific contributions form Donor Community

### (a) The British High Commission

The British High Commission committed US \$60,000 to purchase transportation equipment to service interior locations. In this respect, two land rovers were delivered to the Elections Commission. The first was handed over in March, 1997 and the second in July, 1997.

The first rover (PFF 7170) was used to service offices and polling stations in the sprawling Rupununi Savannahs. The second (PFF 8751) was used to bolster transportation in Region No. ten (10) Upper Demerara/Berbice and certain parts of Region Four (4) especially settlements on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway.

### (b) The Canadian High Commission

The Canadian High Commission through the Canadian International Development Agency (C.I.D.A) approved a grant of CDN \$300,000 to procure election materials and supplies. A memorandum of understanding to this effect between the Canadian High Commission and the Elections Commission was signed on July 31, 1997. The materials and supplies were provided by the Canadian based NGO, CODE Incorporated. These included metal Ballot Boxes, Ballot Papers, Electoral Ink, Ballot Box Seals and Paper.

### (c) Federal Republic of Germany

Assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany had been swift and timely. Upon the submission of a formal request to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Trinidad and Tobago, a response was forwarded to the Commission requesting the submission of two (2) relevant quotations. This took some time because local suppliers had difficulty in obtaining information from potential suppliers overseas. Nevertheless, the Embassy responded within three (3) weeks of the Commission's submission by forwarding a cheque for G\$ 7,313,053.26 (approximately US \$52,000) through express mail.

Procurement was then effected and representatives from the Embassy invited for a formal handing over. *(See Appendix 11 for list of telecommunication equipment donated by the Federal Republic of Germany).*

### (d) European Union

The delegation of the European Commission to Guyana at one of the Donor meetings expressed an interest in financing the production of the Voter Identification Cards and advised that this avenue be explored. The Election

Commission, in response to this advice submitted a detailed proposal for the production of the Voter Identification Card in October, 1996.

The proposal was accepted in principle and after consideration, the grant agreement, equivalent to US\$418,900 was signed in June, 1997.

With the signing of the agreement, plans for the production of the voter identification card were well on stream and after international bidding; the tender was awarded to *De la Rue* Identity Systems of the United Kingdom.

The agreement for the production of the cards was signed on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1997 between the Elections Commission and a representative of *De La Rue* Identity Systems Limited.

Equipment for the production of the Cards arrived in Guyana on August 12, 1997 and a production schedule was developed and implemented.

**(e) Inter American development Bank (IDB)**

The IDB technical assistance grant agreement for US \$500,000 was signed on June 4, 1997. This assistance to the Elections Commission was intended to hire twelve (12) full-time local consultants and three (3) international consultants. Some provision was also made for the purchase of equipment.

The project was implemented in June 1997 and was expected to last for a period of eighteen (18) months.

**Two Keys Objectives of this Project were:**

- (1) to strengthen the administrative structure of the Guyana Elections Commission; and
- (2) to provide technical assistance for the upcoming general and regional elections.

Consideration must also be given to the fact that the IDB's assistance was intended to target areas that will render some aspects of the Commission's Operations more sustainable, e.g. the registration, production and Distribution of national ID cards on a continuous basis.

UNDP had been identified as the implementing agency for the disbursement of grant and as such the relevant service agreement was signed on July 31, 1997.

Under the provision of the IDB grant, the Commission was able to retain the services of the following consultants specifically for the 1997 elections.

### International management Consultant

- Dr. Aubrey Amstrong.,  
(Barbados)

### Local Consultants

- Information Systems Manager - Mr. Leslie Benfield
- Systems Analyst/Programmer - Mr. Roger Bart
- Programmer - Mr. Atmaram Mangar
- Technical Consultant - Fr. Tim Curtis
- Press Relations Co-Ordinator - Mr. Nills Campbells
- Voter Education Co-ordinator - Mr. Rampersaud Tiwari
- National Logistic Advisor - Mr. Joseph Harmon

The only piece of equipment secured under this provision was a RAID ARRAY Storage Box which was used exclusively for the storage of the computerized Data-Base for the Voter Identification Cards.

#### (f) Organisation of American States

The OAS made a commitment of approximately US \$60,000 to further the work of the Commission. A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed between the Guyana Elections Commission and the OAS on June 18, 1997. however, only approximately US \$30,000 was provided for Technical Assistance.

Funding secured under the OAS was to enhance the training capability of Senior Managers as well as to prepare and update training manual to be used as resource materials in the training of polling day staff.

Former Chief Elections Officer of the Barbados Elections and Boundaries Commission, Mrs. Mersada Elcock, recruited under this project worked with Senior Managers over a three (3) month period updating the training materials and assessing training needs for senior and middle management staff. Under the guidance of the Commission's staff, an appropriate training programme for administrative staff was also recommended.



The training manuals were completed on schedule and were utilized extensively in the training of Returning Officers and other polling day staff.

**(g) United Nations Development Programme**

UNDP from the inception was very responsive to the Commission's request for assistance. Initially, a Preparatory Assistance Project for \$60,000.00 was signed in 1996 providing the scope for capacity building and institutional strengthening of the Guyana Elections Commission.

Later, on May 5, 1997 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Guyana Elections Commission signed the UNDP Technical Assistance Agreement. This was equivalent to US \$300,000 including the Preparatory Assistance Project.

This provision was to assist the Commission in improving its administrative capacity and management capability in its preparation for the 1997 national and regional elections. It was to assist also in creating the conditions for a permanent elections and national registration structure.

For the 1997 elections, three (3) consultants had been recruited under this project. These were:

- (a) Ms. Donna Harris                      Advisor to the Commission with responsibilities for Donor Activity and Information Systems;
- (b) Mr. Arnold Depoo                      Advisor to the Commission with special responsibilities For Operations and Voter ID Production; and
- (c) Mr. Vishakan Krishnadarsan      International Legal Advisor  
Mr. Krishnadarsan was recruited in March 1997 and his first assignment for one week was to examine the legal implications of proposed changes in current electoral laws recommended by the Commission.

His second stint commenced in mid July, 1997 for a period of one month. Under the direction of the Commission, he was tasked to prepare legislative amendment proposal to make the Voter Identification card the only form of identify paper an elector can use on polling day. Based on his recommendations, draft legislative was prepared by the Attorney General's Chambers and subsequently enacted by Parliament.

UNDP assistance also provided for a wide range of equipment which served to facilitate the work of the Commission in several respects. (*See Appendix 111 for a complete list of equipment donated by UNDP*).

**(h) United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

USAID disbursed through the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) approximately US \$272,000 on the electoral process in Guyana.

Some areas in which this grant assistance had been expended were as follows:

- Upgrading of hardware and software for the computerization of the Voters' List; (twelve (12) Computers, a 12KVA Exide UPS, a Compaq Dual Pentium Pro Server, a 5 SI Nx Hp Printer, and a 15/30 GB Tape Drive and software).
- Technical assistance for upgrading the computer system; and
- Voter education and training

The equipment and software provided by USAID were being utilized to the maximum prior to and during the elections period.

Security paper for the training of the Final Voters List was also provided for under this source.

The Commission had planned and implemented a relatively extensive Voter Education Programme focused on public education and awareness of the "Claims and Objection Period" (June 1997), getting persons to check the List to make sure that their names were on it. Buttons, bumper stickers, posters, banners, jingles and regular press releases all served to facilitate this exercise. Again funding in this respect was through NDI to the tune of US \$75,000.

Through the Voter Education Programme also, six trainers Seminars were held prior to the elections. These seminars targeted Trade Unions, Religious Groups, Youth, Women, The Media and Amerindian Organizations and afforded them the unique opportunity to discuss the operations of the electoral machinery and make recommendations for greater inclusiveness on the part of the elector.

USAID/NDI also provided assistance for the Commission's second Strategic Planning Retreat held in May, 1997 at the Ocean View International Convention Centre, as well as for a Workshop on Elections management in June 1997 in Trinidad and Tobago. Four senior staff members of the Commission including the Chief Election Officer attended this workshop where they were exposed to the operations of the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

**(i) The Government of Venezuela**

In response to a request from the Chairman of the Elections Commission for assistance in the form of fuel and lubricants to facilitate the elections process, the government of Venezuela responded favorably by agreeing to donate limited quantities of each. These were as follows:

- Automobile fuel 50,000 gallons
- Light airplane fuel 150 Drums
- Marine Oil 325 Cases

- Automobile Oil

50 Drums

The distribution of fuel and lubricants was carried out in accordance with the needs of the Commission, and under the supervision of the United Nations Office in charge of the co-ordination of foreign assistance to the elections process.

## **2.10 Observation Mission Participating in the 1997 Elections**

### **2.10.1 National Observers**

The Local Government (Elections) Act. No. 7 of 1994 passed in the National Assembly in March 1994 provided legal sanction for National Election observation in Guyana. Prior to this act, there was no provision in the elections law for local groups to observe the electoral and whenever this was possible it was primarily on a random basis.

With legislation in place, national groups now had the unique opportunity of monitoring closely the electoral process. Locally, they had the distinct advantage of first-hand knowledge of the socio-political culture as well as the electoral environment. In addition, they were likely to mobilize far more local volunteers and therefore, access wider geographical coverage than international groups.

#### **(a) The Electoral Assistance Bureau**

As in 1992, in 1997 the Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB), a domestic NGO was once again the most active local group monitoring the electoral process. The EAB played a critical role in voters' education and general scrutiny of the voters' list. It also pronounced on the role of the media and assisted with the training of volunteers for Election Day activities.

For the 1997 General and Regional Elections, the EAB requested accreditation for some one thousand, one hundred (1,100) volunteers. Of this number, almost one hundred (100) elected to serve as polling place officials filling personnel gaps existing at many polling stations. Such involvement was not without the blessings and support of the EAB.

On Election Day, just over seven hundred (700) observers served in the field. These were supervised by thirty six (36) volunteers drawn from the private and professional sectors. Those deployed covered approximately six hundred and forty four (644) polling stations representing 35% of the 1837 polling stations. In addition, a smaller number of volunteers operated on mobile teams covering selected areas for shorter period on polling day.

Based on its involvement, the EAB in an interim statement on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1997 concluded:

*“The Electoral Assistance Bureau, based on reports from its observers and supervisors, considers that the voting process on December 15 was carried out in an unrestricted manner. The secrecy of the ballot was not compromised and electoral procedures were generally carried out with impartiality”. (P, 2).*

Further, the EAB was able to conduct a quick count at forty five (45) polling stations throughout the country. The results of this count were not immediately available to the public.

**(b) The Guyana Trades Union Congress**

As the elections drew closer, the Guyana Trade Union Congress, the local umbrella organization of the trade union movement also decided to participate in the observation exercise and requested accreditation for eight of its members. They were involved in observation exercises in various parts of the country on Election Day.

**2.10.1 International Observers**

The General Elections (Observers) Act No. 17 of 1990 provided that:

*“The President may, in consultation with the Chairman of the Elections Commission, invite persons from outside of Guyana for the purpose of observing the democratic process of state as enshrined in the Constitution, and more specially, the conduct of any election”.*

In conformity with Section 3 (1) of the above stated Act, His Excellency President Samuel Hinds after consultation with the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission, formally invited a number of international Organizations and Institutions to officially observe all aspect of the democratic process involved in the forth coming General and Regional Elections to officially observe the elections held on December 15, 1997.

Such invitation was premised on the view that the presence of international observers in the host country reflected the international community’s interest and support for the democratic process and served mainly to raise public confidence in the elections.

In response to the invitation by President Hinds, the Organization of American States and the Commonwealth Secretariat responded favorably. The United Nations was from the very beginning involved in the provision of direct technical assistance to the Guyana

Elections Commission. The Carter Center also accepted the invitation but eventually had to decline it for lack of adequate resources to conduct a meaningful observation. (*See Appendix IV for guidelines used by the Elections Commission for International Observers*).

**(a) The Organisation of America States (OAS)**

The OAS observer mission to Guyana consisted of a Chief of Mission, a core of support staff and twelve (12) observers. (See Appendix V for names of OAS observers). This group arrived in Guyana approximately two and half weeks prior to polling day. Later, it was joined by a small high level delegation headed by the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS Ambassador – Christopher Thomas. This observer group was able to cover seven (7) of the ten (10) electoral districts of Guyana.

**(b) The Commonwealth Secretariat**

The Commonwealth Secretariat sent eight (8) supporting staff to Guyana on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1991 to make necessary arrangements for a group of fourteen (14) observers who arrived on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1997 one week before Election Day. The Team was headed by his Excellency Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, former President of the Republic of Tanzania. These were deployed in teams of two (2) across the ten (10) electoral districts of Guyana. (*See Appendix V for Commonwealth Team*).

**(c) The International Foundation for Electoral Systems**

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems fielded an eight-member team of international election experts who observed the December 15 1997 Regional and General Elections. (*See Appendix V for IFES Observers*).

**(d) The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs**

The National Democratic Institute which had been playing a very supportive role to the electoral process in Guyana indicated early that it had no intention of sending observers.

**(e) Guyana-Based Diplomat Missions**

Heads of several Diplomatic Missions decided at a stage to seek accreditation to observe the elections. These included representatives from the British High Commission, the European Union, Canadian High Commission, Indian High Commission, United States Embassy, Russian Federation, Suriname Embassy, the Venezuelan and the Columbian Embassies.

These missions in some cases participated with the support of their staff members  
(*See Appendix 1V for list of participants*).

### **3:0 Elections Officers**

In addition to the Chief Elections Officer, Deputy Commissioner, and Senior Management Team, several categories of election officers were engaged in the conduct of the December 15 1997 Elections. In this respect, the Commission had implemented specific guidelines for the training and recruitment of staff.

### **3:1 Policy for Appointment**

The Guyana Elections Commission in keeping with its policy of transparency and fair play caused to be advertised all vacancies for District and Field Staff. Applicants were invited to be trained by a cadre' of competent trainers. There was also a marking team established and those persons were responsible for setting the question papers and marking the scripts.

Based on the results of the test, and with the assistance of the trainers, most of whom were Senior Managers, proposals for Registrars, Deputy Registrars and Clerks for the Ten Districts were put up through the Human resource Department for the two man Select Committee of the Guyana Elections Commission to approve.

When the office bound staff members were appointed they assisted in the organization and the training of other field staff. They were also responsible for proposing these persons for appointment, again, through the Human Resource Department for the two-man select committee of the Commission to approve.

### **3.2 Categories of Staff**

**Staff were categories as:**

- Registration/Election Officers; and
- Registration/Election Field Staff.

#### **3.2.1 Registration and Election Officers**

These were made up of all the officers who came under the organizational structure including the ten Registrars/Returning Officers of the ten Registration/Election Districts, their Clerks, Clerical Assistants, Deputy Registrars/Returning Officers and the Clerk and Clerical Assistants of Deputy Returning Officers.

In addition, district No. 4, Demerara/Mahaica which accounted for approximately 50% of the electorate had four co-ordinators working under the returning officer. These were assigned as follows:

- East Bank Demerara
- North Georgetown
- South Georgetown and
- East Coast Demerara

**It must be noted that these officers who were appointed, spanned three periods of the election process. These were:**

- National Registration of all eligible Guyanese fourteen years old and over;
- The Claims and Objections Process, when eligible Guyanese eighteen years and over sought to have names placed or particulars corrected on the voters list and when qualified electors sought to have non-eligible persons removed from the list of electors; and
- The Elections Process where the actual voting for lists of candidates took place.

For the National Registration Process each District was managed by a registrar a number of Deputy Registrars, a Clerk or Clerks to the Registrar, Clerical Assistants to the Registrar and Deputy Registrar for the Claims and Objections process, each District was managed by a Registrar, Clerk or Clerks to the Registrar, Clerical Assistant(s) to the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Clerks to the Deputy Registrars and Clerical Assistants to the Deputy Registrars.

### **3.2.2 Registration and Election Field Staff**

The three phases of the election process were also relevant to the Registration and Elections Field Staff.

The National Registration process required the appointment of divisional registrars who registered eligible Guyanese, fourteen years and over, for the National Register. Such staff visited every household in every town, village and settlement in attempting to register persons. There were also 148 photographers appointed to ensure that each person's registration was completed. The Claims and Objections process required the appointment of Divisional Registrars who were assigned to attend to the claims and objections transactions in each division and in some areas, two or three divisions put together.

There was also a complement of one hundred and twenty (120) photographers whose appointment continued into the claims and objections period and beyond to allow adequate time for persons to complete their registration by taking their photographs.

The Elections Process required the appointment of one thousand, eight hundred and thirty even (1837) Presiding Officers, one thousand, seven hundred and sixty two (1762) Assistant Presiding Officers, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty (1866) Poll Clerk (Entrance), four hundred and fifty (450) Poll Clerks (Information) and one thousand five hundred and nine(1509) Counting Assistants. It was this cadre of staff who performed all the tasks necessary to produce trouble free elections on December 15, 1997.

Table 1, 11, and 111 show distribution of staff within the ten registrations and electoral districts and for specific phases of the process.

### **3.2 Extra Staff Appointment**

When the voter Identification Cards production began, it was necessary that additional persons be engaged as Distribution Clerks for the distribution process. Returning Officers were empowered to select from among those persons who performed as Divisional Registrars and those who underwent training and were proposed as Polling Day Staff.



**GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
**STAFF ANALYSIS – REGISTRATION PERIOD 1996**

**Table 1: Categories of Staff as per Registration District for National House to House Registration Exercise**

DISTRICT	REGISTRARS	CLERKS TO REGISTRAR	CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO REGISTRAR	DEPUTY REGISTRAR	CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY REGISTRAR	DIVISIONAL REGISTRAR	TOTAL
(1) Barima Waini	1	2	1	4	4	29	41
(2) Pomeroon Supenaam	1	1	1	4	4	86	97
(3) Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	1	1	1	7	7	185	202
(4) Demerara/Mahaica	1	2	1	16	16	575	611
(5) Mahaica/Berbice	1	1	1	4	4	104	115
(6) East Berbice Corentyne	1	2	1	11	11	315	341
(7) Cuyuni/Mazaruni	1	2	1	3	3	46	56
(8) Potaro/Siparuni	1	2	1	2	2	22	30
(9) Upper Takutu Upper Essequibo	1	1	1	5	5	43	56
(10) Upper Demerara/Berbice	1	2	1	4	4	71	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>1,632</b>

**GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
**STAFF ANALYSIS-CLAIMS AND OBJECTION PROCESS FOR 1997**

**TABLE 11: CATEGORIES OF STAFF AS PER REGISTRATION DISTRICT FOR THE CLAIMS AND OBJECTION PERIOD 1997.**

DISTRICT	REGISTRARS	CLERKS TO REGISTRAR	CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO REGISTRAR	DEPUTY REGISTRAR	CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY REGISTRAR	DIVISIONAL REGISTRAR	CO-ORDINATORS	CLERKS TO THE CO-ORDINATORS	TOTAL
(1) Barima Waini	1	2	1	3	4	30	-	-	44
(2) Pomeroon Supenaam	1	2	1	4	4	39	-	-	55
(3) Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	1	2	2	7	7	75	-	-	101
(4) Demerara/Mahaica	1	2	2	16	16	156	4	4	216
(5) Mahaica/Berbice	1	1	1	4	4	47	-	-	60
(6) East Berbice Corentyne	1	2	1	10	8	96	-	-	128
(7) Cuyuni/Mazaruni	1	2	1	6	3	32	-	-	50
(8) Potaro/Siparuni	1	1	1	3	3	16	-	-	28
(9) Upper Takutu Upper Essequibo	1	1	1	5	6	20	-	-	38
(10) Upper Demerara/Berbice	1	1	2	4	4	26	-	-	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>762</b>

GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
ANALYSIS OF POLLING DAY STAFF

GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS DECEMBER 15, 1997

Table 111: Categories of polling Day Staff as per Election Districts

DISTRICT NO.	PRESIDING OFFICERS	ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICER	POLL CLERK	COUNTING ASSISTANT	POLL CLERK INFORMATION	GRAND TOTAL
1	66	66	66	31	-	299
2	112	112	111	98	22	455
3	244	244	243	233	96	1060
4	736	724	785	708	264	3217
5	121	121	119	111	35	507
6	303	301	307	198	24	1133
7	66	48	56	21	2	193
8	35	19	34	3	-	91
9	60	38	56	34	-	188
10	94	89	89	72	7	351
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>7,424</b>

### 3.4 Meetings

Meetings were held with the following categories of field staff:

- Registrars/Returning Officers on a monthly basis and whenever necessary. This served as a measure for reporting to Senior Managers and afforded the opportunity for briefing to take place and ideas to be exchanged for influencing policy decisions. These sessions were conducted by the Chief Election Officer in the main and the Deputy Commissioner of Registration who was responsible for Operations.
- Deputy Returning Officers, on a weekly basis for the purposes of reporting and for briefing and exchanging of ideas which facilitated the smooth operations of the fieldwork. The respective registrars/returning Officers were responsible.
- Field Staff mainly Divisional Registrars, Photographers, Voter Identification Distribution Clerks and Polling Day Staff through initial briefings and subsequent briefings when problems arose in the field. Each Deputy Registrar/Returning Officer for each sub district within a district was responsible.

### 3.5 Training of Staff

In the light of past experiences and the need to ensure that the field staff of the Guyana Elections Commission was well equipped with the necessary skills and competencies, training of staff members had been an integral part of the electoral process. The training began with the training of Photographers in 1995 and continued with the training of Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Clerks, Clerical Assistants and Divisional Registrars in April and May 1996, for National Registration. The same categories of staff were trained in March, April and May 1997, for the claims and objections process and finally in July, August, September and October 1997 for Field Management Staff and Polling Day Staff.

Large sums of money were expended in these exercises as could be seen under the financial section of this report.

After training was completed, the Registrars/Returning Officers, Deputy Registrars/Returning Officers undertook to carry their respective supervises under intensive briefing sessions before they were allowed to undertake the activities assigned them.

### **3.5.1 Polling Day Staff Training**

The emphasis here was placed on knowing and displaying in a step by step manner the process involved in manning a polling station and reporting the elections results at the place of poll. To achieve this, our panel of trainers themselves underwent intensive briefings using the video cassette prepared for such an exercise. It was indeed with this tool and the training manual that the training of the Polling Day Staff was efficiently affected.

It must be noted that the training manual "Guyana Elections Commission, Representation of the People Act Cap 1:03 Manual for Presiding Officers and Polling Place Staff, for the conduct of General and Regional Election" was prepared by an Organization of the America States (OAS) Consultant, Ms. Mersada Elcock in conjunction and collaboration with the Human Resource Officer and edited by the Training Team. The Commission's gratitude goes out to this Agency and its Consultant.

### **3.5.2 Submission of Proposals for Polling Day**

Submission of proposals for the appointment of Polling Day Staff was made to the Guyana Elections Commission early October, 1997. One Commissioner brought to the attention of the Commission that it would have appeared then that Deputy Returning Officers were placing their friends to serve as polling place officers rather than utilizing persons who displayed competence on the test. As a consequence, the Commission did not give the "go ahead" for the Select Committee to examine the proposals and make appointments until the last week in November. The two Commissioners of the select Committee were assisted by Ms. Philomena Sahoye-Shury of the PPP/C and Mr. Oscar Clarke of the PNC who worked along with the Senior Manager, Human Resources to have those appointments completed. The appointments were not completed until the week before elections and this gave many of the districts very limited time for them to undertake extensive briefings of the process. None the less, briefings were carried out during that week and that resulted in the highly acclaimed performance of staff manning polling places on elections day.

Tables 1V, V, and V1 below indicate that number of persons trained over a period of time and for specific functions.

Training of Field Photographers

February and November 1995

Table 1V: Training for Field Photographers (Participants by Venue)

Venue	No. Participants Trained	Remarks
(1) N.R.C	128	District 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9 were included
(2) Leonora Primary School	14	Region No. 3
(3) G.T.U Hall New Amsterdam	29	Regions No. 5 and 6
(4) Anna Regina Community High School	38	Region No. 2
(5) Mc Kenzie High School, Linden	62	Region No. 10
(6) John the Baptist School – Bartica	30	Region No. 7
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	

National Registration of Guyanese 1996

Training Statistics, Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Divisional, Registrars (Others)

Table V: Training of Field Staff (No. of participants by Registration District)

Venue	No. Participants Trained	Remarks
Registrars/ Deputy Registrars	107	Participants Drawn from all parts of Guyana
District (1)	68	Education resource Centre, Mabaruma
District (2)	91	Anna Regina CHS, Vreed-en-Hoop CHS
District (3)	264	Leonora Secondary, Craig Primary
District (4)	961	St Stanislaus College Campbellville Sec., East Ruimveldt Secondary, Mon Repos Primary
District (5)	168	Mahaicony Secondary
District (6)	382	Berbice High School, J.C Chandisingh Sec, Corriverton Primary
District (7)	71	St Anthony's Bartica, Kamarang Primary,
District (8)	33	Paramakatioi Primary
District (9)	91	Arapaima Primary
District (10)	162	Kwakwani CHS Mc Kenzie High Scholl
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,334</b>	

National Registration of Guyana 1996

Training Statistics, Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Divisional registrars (Others)

Table V1: Training of Polling Day Staff (No. of Participants by Electoral District by Venue)

Venue	No. Participants Trained	Remarks (Training Venues)
(1)	343	Education Resource Centre, Mabaruma/Santa Rosa Primary
(2)	507	Charity Primary/Anna Regina CHS/Suddie Primary
(3)	1134	Greenwich Park Primary, Leonora Primary Vreen-en-Hoop CHS
(4)	4170	St. Stanislaus College, Campbellville secondary, East, La Penitence Secondary, Mon Repos Primary, Paradise Primary, Craig Primary, Soesdyke Primary & Unity Primary.
(5)	558	Mahaicony Secondary, Fort Wellington CHS, Rosignol Primary
(6)	1251	Berbice High School, Sheet Anchor Primary, J.C Chandisingh Secondary, Winifred Gaskin Sec, Corriverton Primary, New Market Primary
(7)	227	St Anthony's Primary, Kamarang Primary, Kurupung Primary
(8)	110	Paramakatoi CHS, Mahdia Primary
(9)	216	Aishalton Primary, St Ignatius CHS, Annai Primary
(10)	415	Mc Kenzie High, New Silver City Secondary Kwakwani CHS
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,931</b>	



### 3.5.3 Section of the law under which appointments took effect

All appointments made under the hand of the Chairman of the Elections Commission or the Commissioner of Registration/Chief Elections Officers under delegated powers, were made by the Elections Commission consistent with the provisions in Act No. 12 of 1996, Election Laws Amendment Act 1996, Section 15 (a) & (b) and Section 15 (2) under the caption Employees of Elections Commission. In addition to the above, positions were created under the article 7 (a), (b), (c), (d) of Cap 1:03 Representation of the People Act and Act No. 16 of 1998 Cap 19:08 National Registration Act.

The Guyana Elections Commission therefore, had the authority to appoint, discipline and remove any employee in its employments except for those appointed by the Public Service Commission, in which event, the necessary recommendation could be made to that authority for consideration and appropriate action.

## 4.0 Contesting Parties and Lists of Candidates

### Political Parties

Prior to nomination day, twenty-four Political parties indicated their intention to contest the 1997 General and Regional Elections. *(See Appendix V1 for names of parties which had indicated their intention to contest).*

It must be noted that the accepted procedures for a Political Party to contest an election in Guyana was for the Political Party to write officially to the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission informing the Elections Commission that the party was established and would be contesting the elections. The Party was required also to indicate a forwarding address and the name of the contact person. The Elections Commission in turn acknowledged the letter and from that moment elections correspondence, materials, etc, were forward to that Party at the stated address.

## 4.2 Nomination Day

According to Representation of the People Act Cap. 1:03 Section 9, the Elections Commission appointed November 5, 1997 as Nomination Day.

The chief Election Officer, r. Stanley Singh, resented himself at the City Hall, regent Street and the Avenue of the Republic, Georgetown in the County of Demerara on Nomination Day between the hours of 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm and received Lists of Candidates.

Twelve (12) Political parties submitted their List of Candidates for the General and Regional Elections. *(See Appendix V11 for List of Candidates submitted).*

#### **4.3 Examination of list**

All submitted lists were carefully examined by the Chief Election Officer and his staff. Some Political Parties had submitted defective lists. The representatives of such parties were summoned and the necessary corrections made.

#### **4.4 Approval of Lists**

Based on the recommendations of the Chief Election Officer, and in accordance with Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act. Cap. 1:03, the Elections Commission approved ten (10) Political Parties to contest the General and Regional Elections 1997. (See Appendix V111 for approved lists and the regions in which Political Parties had indicated their desire to contest).

#### **4.5 Publication of Lists of Candidates**

The Elections Commission published by Notice in the Official Gazette on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1997 the Title, Symbols and Names for each List of Candidates which contested the Elections.

#### **4.6 Code of Conduct for Political Parties**

The Commission after much deliberation was able to develop a framework which required that all political parties in the contest adhered to certain norms in their public political campaigns. (*See Electoral Accord*).

##### **4.6.1 The Electoral Accord: (for all political parties)**

1. To embrace the laws relating to freedom of speech and association and all other laws connected thereto.
2. To acknowledge the right of citizens of Guyana either individually or as a group or through their political parties to engage in lawful political activities which include the freedom to make house to house visits, to sell or distribute political literature, to hold private meetings, to hold rallies, to picket, to march, to demonstrate, to make representations, to advertise, to represent their political parties in the electoral process in accordance with the laws of Guyana.
3. To uphold the principle of peaceful political struggle as provided by the Constitution and other laws of Guyana.
4. To ensure that no political party, organization, action group or individual shall be permitted to direct, plan, provoke or promote violence or threat of violence against any other party, organization or action group or against any section of the public, individual or their property in pursuance of its campaign.

5. To condemn violence as a means of electoral campaigning and to undertake not to encourage, incite directly violence or harm any person in the course of the electoral campaign.
6. To uphold the principle of free speech and to discourage members and supporters from disrupting meetings and gatherings of there political parties.
7. To work in full co-operation with all relevant administrative and law enforcement authorities to maintain peace, law and order through the election campaign so that elections will be held with due regularity in an atmosphere of peace, order and good will and that racial harmony may be preserved.
8. To ensure that speeches, slogans, posters, handbills and other advertisements do not contain material offending public morality, decorum, decency or taunts, ridicule, innuendoes or defamatory matter.
9. To inform the public of the importance of ethnic harmony and cultural respect.
10. To refrain from using or permitting as a political strategy or otherwise, an appeal to racial hostility or racial loyalty or to generate fears of insecure based on the above.
11. To ensure that no advantage should be had by any party through free use of public property for electioneering purposes.
12. To respect private property and the right of all citizens, groups and political parties lawfully to use their properties in furtherance of their political objectives and philosophy in accordance with the law.
13. To publicly and privately inform party supporters and activists and other individuals of the absolute need for continued peaceful conduct after transparent elections, regardless of the results. Furthermore, that such results should not be perceived or represented as an ethnic victory but should be viewed only as an exercise of the will of the people by virtue of free and fair elections under the democratic process in the plural society of Guyana.
14. To adhere to this Electoral Accord, to issue instructions and orders to members and to appeal publicly to supporters to observe the electoral laws and to make decisive steps to restrain leaders, officials, candidates and members who violate this Electoral accord.
15. To recognize the duty of the Elections Commission to discuss and resolve any matter relating to this Accord and hereby authorizes the Elections Commission to receive complaints and investigate them and to take as may be appropriate.
16. To fully publicize this Electoral Accord and to promote the attainment of its objectives by all means of public communication and information.

The Electoral Accord was opened to any political party than wished to subscribe to its terms and conditions and to become a party thereto, thereby agreeing to and embracing the conditions therein by the authorized representative affixing his/her signature hereunder.

#### 4.6.2 Signing of the Accord

The Accord was signed by representatives of four (4) political parties on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1997. These parties enjoyed Parliamentary support following the 1992 general elections.

The parties involved were:

- Alliance for Guyana
- People's National Congress
- People's Progressive Party; and
- The United Force

Sometime later representatives of the G.B.C, JFPA, NDF and GDP also appended their signatures. On both occasions the Chairman signed on behalf of the Guyana Elections Commission.

#### 4.6.3 Release to the Public

Immediately upon the completion of the signing ceremony, the parties endorsed the following release:

*"We, representatives of the political parties, contesting the upcoming elections condemn all actions which are designed to frustrate the free expression of ideas and programmes at political campaign meetings by excessive heckling throwing of missiles and other forms of aggressive and threatening behaviour".*

*"We call on our political activists and supporters to desist from such conduct which can only demean our electoral process and lead to the undermining of our democracy. We wish to remind our supporters that we have collectively signed the Code of Conduct and have done so in good faith. Any violation of the Code of Conduct brings our parties into disrepute and constitutes a grave violation of this accord."*

## 4.7 Guidelines for the Media during the Elections Campaign

The Guyana Elections Commission had firmly accepted that freedom of expression by the media, radio, television and print was symbolic of a democratic culture. However, the commission made it clear that the manner in which the media used their freedom carried a serious obligation to serve the society and the public as a whole.

In guidelines recommended for the media, the Commission urged:

*“The managers and owners must recognize their inheritance of a public trust developed over a period of time, and equally, they should be constantly aware of the public’s expectations that the media would have behave in a professional manner exercising a critical and discerning judgment which respects and advances the right and dignity of all people, while at the same time maintaining standards of good taste as reflected by the society and the public being served”.*

### 4.7.1 News

The media were encouraged to ensure that they adhered to the cardinal principle of fair, balanced and objective reporting in the spirit of tolerance and in a constructive manner seeking to build an interesting campaign producing high level debates.

### 4.7.2 Controversy and Balance

The media were advised to display maturity when dealing with matters of controversial nature by allowing parties to receive equal exposure. Requests by individuals, groups or organizations to present their views on controversial public issues should be considered on the basis of their individual merits and in the light of their contributions to the public interest.

### 4.7.3 Right of Recall

Media editors and managers should consider it obligatory to retract inaccurate or damaging information published against any individual or party, that were subsequent found to be untrue. It is equally important to replace inaccuracies with the truth.

#### 4.7.4 Climate of Awareness and Tranquility

During the Official Campaign Period, the media were advised to undertake special responsibility for public participation in the electoral process and to ensure that the public is informed on the candidates and the issues. This must be done in an atmosphere conducive to growth of our new democratic culture.

#### 4.7.5 Political Broadcast

In the run-up to the elections, the Elections Commission requested that both the print and the electronic media provided contesting political parties with some publicity free of charge.

#### 4.7.6 Radio

The Commission recommended that radio time be allocated to political parties in parliament proportionately and contesting political parties without Parliamentary representation were also to be provided with time as suggested below. Each broadcast was to be for five minutes on the Voice of Guyana and was to be re-broadcasted on Radio Roraima at a fixed time, or at a time that would allow for the same assumed listener-ship.

POLITICAL PARTIES	NO. OF BROADCAST
P.P.P	Nine Broadcasts
P.N.C	Eight Broadcasts
A.F.G	Three Broadcasts
T.U.F	Two Broadcasts

#### RADIO

Non Parliamentary parties entering the electoral race were to be given one broadcast each of five (5) minutes with a repeat on the sister station.

#### TELEVISION TELECAST

Each television station that operated in Guyana was to provide each political party with (30) minutes broadcast time.

#### NEWSPAPERS

Commercial newspapers were requested to allocate twelve (12) column inches of space for each political party to state its policies for the forthcoming Elections.

#### **4.7.7 Paid Political Advertisements**

Political Parties, contesting groups or candidates were required to pay for all additional time and messages or advertisements. However, the Commission recommended that the media allow for the lowest published rate to be charged for such messages.

Further, equitable and fair treatment of all parties, contesting groups and candidates should be the standard adhered to by all media.

#### **4.8 The role of the Media in the 1997 Elections**

The Guyana Elections Commission enjoyed good relations with the media for the greater part of the 1997 elections exercise.

Not only was this recognizable by the high turn out at press conferences and the enthusiastic participation of media representatives, but by quality of reports published.

Doubtless, the media support enjoyed by the Guyana Elections Commission was instrumental in the climate of awareness that developed. The registration period, the claims and objections period, the distribution of Voters Identification Cards, an ongoing details in relation to various electoral activities all received favourable exposures in the local media.

On the basis of available reports, the overseas media were equally understanding and sympathetic with the efforts of the Elections Commission and its workers up to and including the day of the General and Regional Elections.

##### **4.8.1 Radio**

In addition to the routine newscasts which highlighted elections activities, the State-owned radio was instrumental in supporting Elections Commission efforts in many ways.

Both radio stations facilitated National Registration Center Officials on the popular early morning shows, the Breakfast Show and Good Morning Guyana. Officials, through pre-arrangements, were able to call in live several time each week, and to propagate Elections Commission messages through the airwaves.

Other programmes such as Conversation Tree, Let's Gaff. "Nite Rider, Action Line "Reach out and Touch", Women, Home and Family, also accommodated inputs, free of charge, for the Guyana Elections Commission.

##### **4.8.2 Television**

The television stations also played positive roles in enhancing efforts by the Guyana Elections Commission to disseminate messages to the Guyanese people.

Notably, channel 42 stood out with distinction in its offer of free air-time of half an hour each week for the Commission to express its views on matters. This time was subsequently increased to one hour each week, with 50% of the time given free of charge.

Channel Twelve (12) offered the Commission five (5) minutes free of charge, Mondays to Fridays, but unfortunately because of several factors, this was not utilized to the fullest.

On one occasion Channel Twelve (12) also allocated a one hour telephone call-in-programme to allow Elections Commission Officials to interact with members of the public through the telephone, to dispel their fears, to clarify matters, and to inform them of plans of the Guyana Elections Commission on electoral matters.

Channel Nine also made a similar offer, but once again circumstances never allowed for the utilization of this facility.

Other television stations, particularly, Channel Twenty Eight – Evening News, Channel Six – Capitol News and Channel Eleven – Six O'clock News, allowed for interviews to be conducted on request to allow Commission Officials to express their views on issues.

#### **4.8.3 Print Media**

This perhaps is one area of weakness, in that newspapers in particular were found to have a strong but understandable preference for paid advertisement.

Nevertheless, newspaper and magazines, e.g. Guyana Review, from time to time, responded to requests, from the Elections Commission for publication.

#### **4.8.4 Advertisement**

The advertisement varied from the provision of information such as legal notices, to motivating advertisement, including those designed to persuade electors to register, to have their photographs taken, to uplift their Voters Identification Cards, or to urge them to vote early on Elections day.

All sections of the media were used in the Voter Education Programme.

Popular theatre personalities such as Margaret Lawrence, Andre Sobrian and Kim Lucas, along with former National Cricketer, Roger Harper were among actors projecting the Elections Commission messages.

Former National Calypsonian, Ayambo, sang a special song to promote the photo phase of the registration exercise.

A special radio programme on the voice of Guyana and anchored by



Mr. Courtney Roberts proved very useful in informing and motivating electors. This programme was aired from Monday to Friday following the announcements of deaths and messages.

The Elections Commission also issued a Guideline for the media and contesting Political Parties for the General and Regional Elections.

Unfortunately, the absence of legal clout in effect neutralized the intended values of the guidelines issued.

As a result, the balance that was sought after to facilitate a fair and free campaign had its shortcomings.

State-owned media and those with the ruling party were biased in that party's favour, while some private-owned media gave the advantage to particular sections of the opposition.

The guidelines sought to advise on objective news writing, and dealt with such issues as controversy and balance, right of recall, climate of awareness and tranquility, paid political messages, responsibility and correction of media errors, questionable matters, disclaimers, air-time, payment and credits, commercial political advertisement, legal obligations, scripts, drama, re-broadcast, racism, inflammatory remarks, and the role of the Elections Commission in policing the stipulations.

#### **4.8.5 Media Center**

Over two hundred (200) press passes were issued to local and foreign media practitioners who covered the 1997 elections.

A media center was established at the Demerara Distilleries Limited building in High Street, Kingston. Chairman, Doodnauth Singh S.C. in addition to the hosting of media conferences from this center, officially announced the results. He also declared Mrs. Janet Jagan, Head of the People's Progressive Party (Civic), winner of the elections.

#### **5.0 Registration of Electors**

The National Registration Act (Cap., 19:08) of 1967 dealt with the administration and method of registration of electors. The compilation of the National Register was administered by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Registration, in conjunction with the National registration Center (NRC) staff.

*Two methods for national registration were stated in the law (Article 6) as follows:*

- (a) House to house visits by a divisional registrar to receive applications; or
- (b) Registration at centers/district offices wherever these were established.

Under the law, the country was divided into ten (10) electoral districts corresponding to the ten (10) administrative regions. All persons fourteen (14) years of age and above were required to submit applications for registration. Failure to register was considered an offence.

The final voters list was extracted from the national register and includes persons eighteen (18) years of age and above on a pre-specified qualifying date i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> September 1997.

The administration of registration and dealing with complaints and objections to, and inclusion of names in the register were supervised by ten (10) Registrars (one per district) and Deputy Registrars as required. Actual registration was carried out by divisional registrars under the supervision of the Registrar or a Deputy. Complementary staff included Clerks, Clerks Assistants and Photographers.

## 5.1 The Registration Process

Pursuant to *Order No. 24 of 1996* and in accordance with *Section 6 (1)* of the National registration **Act Cap., 19:08**, clerical registration of persons who were fourteen (14) years old on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1996 (qualifying date) commenced nation wide on Monday June 17, 1996.

Registration was done on a house to house basis by officers refereed to as Divisional Registrars. A total of one thousand, eight hundred and four (1804) divisions/sub-divisions were being served by staff specially recruited and trained for this purpose. In addition to field in areas where the officers live, mobile teams were established to service many riverain, mountainous and hinterland communities.

The exercise commenced in quite an unusual way with Divisional Registrars working for the first two days in the field and then reporting to their respective deputies for the ensuing two days. The intention was to examine the forms completed on the first two days in order to highlight inaccuracies, omissions and discrepancies and to initiate appropriate action.

This strategy served the exercise well for it was soon discovered that a number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies were evident in what was recorded. These included:

- (a) Incorrect spelling of some names, especially surnames;
- (b) Miscalculation of age;
- (c) Omission of thumb prints on some forms;
- (d) Recording 1996 as year for date of birth;
- (e) Inaccurate recording of height and sex;
- (f) Omission of Order No. and Division No.;

- (g) Uncertainty about nationality of electors; and
- (h) Failure to determine the relevant category (A or B).

After two days of in-house review and training work resumed in the field. Fewer, errors were noticed but progress remained slow.

As the exercise progressed, middle management staff had to initiate a number of activities in order to ensure that certain projections were kept in perspective. These included:

- (1) Constant supervision of field staff to provide guidance and to enhance the quality of work;
- (2) Regular meetings to evaluate performance and provide feedback;
- (3) Initiatives to sensitive prospective registrants;
- (4) Daily editing of work done to ensure a high degree of accuracy; and
- (5) Regular meetings with managerial and clerical staff providing reports and evaluation of work done.

In addition, field staff had to revisit several homes in order to find persons who were away at the time of the first, second and/or third visits. Originally, this exercise was scheduled to be completed on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1996. However, after considering recommendations from Political Parties an extension of one week was granted.

At the close of the period on November 7 1996 a total of five hundred and twenty four thousand, seven hundred and ninety four (524,794) persons were registered.

### 5.1.1 Role of Scrutineers in the Registration Process

The law provided for the appointment of scrutineers by political parties. These scrutineers were part of the registration process and were entitled to inspect and make copies of information on electors, in their respective divisions and sub-divisions.

*There were four (4) categories of scrutineers representing each political party. These were:*

- (a) Chief Scrutineer;
- (b) Deputy Chief Scrutineer;
- (c) Assistant Chief Scrutineer; and
- (d) Divisional Scrutineer.

The Chief Scrutineers was the national representative of a political party. Such a person was empowered to solicit information from and make representations on behalf of his/her political to the Commissioner of National Registration; the Registrar; Deputy Registrar and or Divisional Registrar in that country.

The Deputy Chief Scrutineers was appointed to operate on behalf of his/her political party in a particular Registration District. Such an individual was employed to solicit information and inspect forms at any level with that district, especially in relation to the Registrar.

The Assistant Chief Scrutineers was appointed to operate as per sub-district corresponding to the level of the Deputy Registrar. Such an individual had the authority to make representations, solicit information and inspect forms for that sub-district.

A Divisional Scrutineer was appointed to serve in a specific division/sub-division relating directly and working along with the Divisional Registrar. In a case where the Divisional Scrutineer lived in one division and was appointed to serve in another, he was permitted to make representations in both divisions, where listed as well as to where appointed.

Each scrutineer was allowed to inspect and record information on electors. However, this must be done in full view of the registration official.

Registration officials were expected to extend the necessary courtesies and co-operation to scrutineers in so far as they do not interfere with the execution of their duties.

## 5.2 Photography

One novel feature of this registration exercise was the proposed introduction of photography simultaneously. In order for a registrant to complete his/her registration, his/her photograph had to be taken. However, the late arrival of the new cameras resulted in a heavy back-log of un-photographed registrants across the country.

In some hinterland areas such as region 1, 7, 8, and 9 it was possible for the photographic aspect to be done simultaneously with clerical registration. This support was provided by the National Registration Center utilization trained personnel and old cameras to capture registrants as mobile teams traversed dense forest, rapids, waterfalls and mountains to ensure that each eligible registrant enjoyed the opportunity to have the process completed.

In the more heavily populated areas on the coastland the delay in the commencement of photography resulted in much anxiety. With the arrival of the cameras, photography commenced in several coastland areas around the middle of September, 1996.

The strategy recommended by the Commission to reduce the back-log of un-photographed was to introduce an accelerated phase. This involved placing all the cameras assigned to one district in a specific location/ e.g. a sub-district so that large numbers were dealt with in a short time before the cameras were removed to a new location. This strategy served some areas well but there were still far too many persons who for one reason or another did

not report to the centers to have their pictures taken. The result was extensions, and further extensions of the photographic exercise.

Throughout this period, the Commission was fully committed to providing all eligible registrants with the opportunity to complete registration by having their photographs taken.

**The commitment was manifested in several ways:**

- (a) Several extensions of the photographic period;
- (b) Involvement of Political Parties to assist in the mobilization of non-photographed registrants. Lists were provided in this respect;
- (c) House to house visits for dealing with shut-ins;
- (d) Extended hours of work for photographers during the week and especially at week-ends;
- (e) Maximum use of the electronic media to encourage persons to complete their registration; and
- (f) Extension of the Claims and Objectives Period by one-week.

Photography continued across the country until, 1997.

The Commission's efforts in this regard had borne fruit in that the number of non-photographed persons had reduced significantly from the level of which it was at the beginning of the first extended period. At the close of photography, thirteen thousand, one hundred and thirty three persons were still to be photographed. Many of these persons had either removed, migrated, deceased or were residing at unknown addresses.

### **5.3.0 Preparation of the Final Voters List**

The Final Voters' (FVL) was a legal requirement for the General and Regional Elections and was the end product of a number of intense activities which fall directly under the ambit of the Guyana Elections Commission.

For the purposes of the preparation of the list, the entire country was divided into ten (10) electoral districts corresponding to the ten (10) administrative regions. Each district was further divided into geographical sub-districts, divisions and sub-divisions. The sub-divisions were designed to attempt to have not more than 350 electors registered to vote in a particular geographical area called a polling unit. There were 1804 such polling units across the country.

The final voters' list (FVL) was prepared with the efforts and expertise of a number of persons. The manual compilation of data was done in a national house to house field exercise discussed earlier, under the supervision of the Commissioner, National

registration. The field data was processed and forwarded to the Information Systems Department (ISD) where the National Database was prepared. Each list consisted of a Serial Number, Name (in alphabetical order according to Surname) MRC number, address and Occupation of the elector.

### 5.3.1 Demarcation of the Polling Units

One of the primary activities that preceded the set-up of the Computerized Database was the demarcation of the geographic boundaries each of which constituted a polling unit. Various field staff was involved in this exercise prior to the house to house registration. There were some problems with the boundaries, and these were evident days before the elections. Many problems occurred because some boundaries were not fully described indicating clearly what structures demarcated and defined a unit. Some units were defined by surrounding roads, rivers, drains, dams, buildings etc.

In some areas where the demarcation was not easily recognizable, it was possible for registration officials to register persons in the wrong PCU e.g. 413213 A instead of 413213 B. this resulted in great difficulty at the main office and several cases had to be re-checked to make certain that each registrant was listed only once.

### 5.3.4 House to house Registration

This form of registration was used to collect bio-data of all Guyanese Citizens 14 years and over. It involved various visits to the household in order to capture details of each resident. This activity began in June 1996 and was completed later in the year. (November 1997).

Registration formed the basis for generation the data for the Computerized Database. Information compiled included:

- **Master Registration Number**
- **Name (Surname, First Name, Middle Name)**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Place of Birth**
- **Address (Lot Number, residential Address in Guyana)**
- **Registration District, Division Number, and Subdivision**
- **Occupation**
- **Gender**
- **Height**
- **Disability**
- **Nationality**
- **Registration Date**
- **Category**
- **Application Number**
- **Order Number**

- Photograph
- Thumbprint
- Colour of Eyes
- Distinguishing Marks
- Signature of Registrant
- Signature of Divisional Registrar and Date

Items listed in bold face were captured to generate the FVL Database. The only two fields in bold that did not appear on the Voter's List were Date of Birth and Gender. Date of Birth was used to extract persons 18 years and above given a qualifying date. Gender was used to verify a record (using name, photograph etc.) and for production of VIP Cards.

The strictest methods of data capture were necessary for ensuring a truly accurate database. Because the Information Systems Department was not set-up at the time of planning for the registration exercise, no technical input was made into process. In addition, to the boundary problems referred to above there were many other fundamental problems with this activity. The main problem was that of multiple registrations. Some officers registered the same person twice. In other cases single persons was registered up to four times by different officers. The traditional method of trapping such errors was by storing source forms alphabetically in order to identify similar names. This was not very effective since over two thousand such duplicates were discovered by the computer department.

### 5.3.3 Set-Up of Computer Operation

The Data Processing Center was closed since 1994 when the last election was held. In July 1996, a Supervisor Ms. Diane Adams was appointed to assist in the preliminary work.

Later an (IFES) consultant, Mr. Fitzgerald Jean, a Microsoft Access Programmer from Haiti was hired to set-up a database system for capturing the source documents or Master registration Cards (MRC's). He worked with the Commission for about four weeks. During this time an additional eight persons were recruited. Also the first Adviser to the Commission with responsibility for computers, Ms. Donna Harris, was appointed. (Later a Local Consultant Ms. A. Bovell was hired (part time) to provide the necessary technical support after Mr. F. Jean had left).

Several computers, printers and power-supplies were out of order and required repairs. Also many of the consumables (e.g. Toner for the Laser Printers) had expired, and were discarded. The system set-up using ten (10) 386 computers that were used in the 1992 General Elections and the 1994 Local Government Elections. Four printers from past elections were also used.

#### 5.3.4 The Encoding Process

Work started in September 1996. The first task was the encoding of the districts, divisions and subdivisions and the boundary descriptions for each geographical area. These were verified, corrected and subsequently published in the Official Gazette by Mr. A Henry.

MRCs were received from September 11<sup>th</sup> 1996. However, encoding did not commence until September 19<sup>th</sup> 1996.

Mr. F. Jean left the country towards the end of September 1996. By October, the center was in production mode. However, the process was extremely slow with daily database failures. The database failures produced down time of about two hours when the local Consultant was contact-able. Repairs to the database took on average 30 minutes to 3 hours depending on the type of failure. In an average day it was estimated that there were about five failures. Only some types of failure could be repaired by the operational staff other required the presence of the Local Consultant.

The average daily production in terms of records entered was approximately 2,700 MRC's. Ten new computers were ordered through IFES. These arrived on October 20, 1996. In keeping with recommendations from IFES, Mr. Leslie Benfield and Mr. Roger Bart were appointed as full time technical staff to set-up and manage an Information Systems department. On the 25<sup>th</sup> November Mr. Roger Bart joined the Commission. He immediately took action to fix various "bugs" with the system and commenced a complete analysis of the software. Mr. Benfield joined the Commission later as Systems Manager in the month of November on a part time basis (officially in Jan. 1997).

During the period 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December, the new computers were installed by another IFES Consultant, Mr. T. Gafoor who officially handed over it to the Elections Commission. There was drastic improvement in the production to an average of about 6,300 records per day. Mr. Gafoor was briefed as to the future requirements by Mr. Benfield and Mr. Bart which included a larger server, central UPS and two large printers.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December a second shift was brought on to further increase production.

Later in the month the technical staff submitted an analysis of the system, which highlighted a number of problems with the program, designed by the Consultant. These were fundamental to the data integrity. Some problems experienced were as follows;

- (i) There was no prior verification of work that was encoded therefore various errors were captured and remained undetected.
- (ii) The data validation was not strict enough to eliminate even the most obvious errors such as incorrect data type, MRC No. out of range, duplicate MRC No. etc.



- (iii) There was no proper analysis of data. Names and Addresses were abbreviated sometimes beyond recognition.
- (iv) Data was entered for persons without key fields such as Address, MRC No. and Occupation.

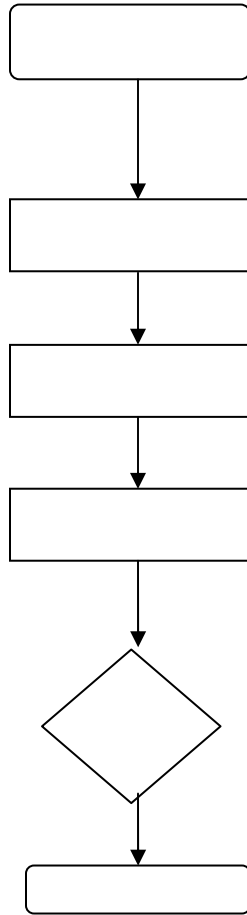
These problems in the design of the programme resulted in over 260,000 records being corrupted. At this point the task ahead of the Commission was a tremendous one. A large percentage of these records had to be discarded and three months of encoding work had to be abandoned. The original deadline of January 31, 1997 for completing the PVL had to be put back to three months later.

The problems with the data base were solved using a number of methods:

- (i) A new Data Entry Program was written with adequate data validation and verification;
- (ii) Corrected some of the work that was previously entered (about 237,423 records were already entered). 46% was corrected the others were re-encoded;
- (iii) Introduced data Control Mechanisms to tract paper Work;
- (iv) Integrated data Verification in the Production Cycle such that a Print out for verification is production after each record was entered;
- (v) Increased management and supervision over the production process. This included solving staff problems to ensure that all computers are busy on each shift. One fundamental problem with the staff was the availability of transportation for staff on the night shift. Several staff who lacked the required discipline were replaced. Also Accuracy of encoding and Time and Attendance were monitored carefully;
- (vi) Improved the network from Novel to the more modern Windows NT;
- (vii) Purchased additional computers; and
- (viii) Introduced daily back-ups (twice a day in production mode).

The new Data entry system can be illustrated as in diagram below;

**Diagram 1: New Encoding Process**



With the above process, there was an increased reliance on the following resources;

- (a) Human Resources to Encode, Verify, Correct and Supervise
- (b) Printers to verify on paper

With the increased work additional verifiers had to be recruited. It was estimated that with the backlog of work at least 27 persons were required to clear the backlog of Verification. At the Commission level the political parties offered to provide some personnel. Only about seven persons were hired. As a result a decision was made based on a suggestion by the NRC to verify the work in the field. This was the genesis of the so-called Field Verification exercise.

In addition, to the human and procedural deficiencies discussed above there was an additional need to upgrade the Network System from Novel to Windows NT. In addition the printers were immediately found to be inadequate. Assistance was requested via IFES and forward by Taff Gafoor in December. Equipment received through IFES included two printers, a UPS, and a Compaq Windows NT Network Server.

With the New Data Entry Systems in place and equipment the production had soared to some 12,000 records per day. This increase in the data entry caused a problem since the existing staff could only verify approximately 5,000 records per day.

### 5.3.5 Field Verification

As indicated above, Field Verification was used to verify the backlog of work already entered. Draft lists were printed and sent to all the Returning Officers. This was done to fast-track the entire data- entry exercise so that the Preliminary Voter's List (PVL) would have been ready by May 1996.

Field Verification as the name implies, was a process of verification of the information that was presented on the Voter's List being undertaken by the staff in the field. Field staff referred to the persons who would have done the registration i.e. the Registrar, Deputy registrar and the various Divisional Registrars.

In addition to the information that appeared on the PVL there were three other bits of information that were verified in the field. These were as follows;

- Date of Birth – Used to extract valid voters;
- Gender – Used as a check against name; and
- Photographic Information – whether or not a registrant was photographed

The field Verification was conducted in February 1997. it was not 100% successful since several instructions for conducting this exercise were not relayed. As a result, the verification was rushed and not done to the required standards as detailed in a memorandum to the Returning Officer. Some principles that should have been followed included;

- (i) The incorrect field highlighted and the corrected information written in capital letters above it. (Some staff scratched out the old information in such a manner that it was not possible to discern what was changed.
- (ii) The verification was done using the form 1 instead of the duplicate MRC. The Form 1 had a hand written MRC Number copied from the MRC. This was used to verify the details and it was found that this introduced several errors since the MRC Number on the Form 1 was written incorrectly.
- (iii) Some information such as gender was not accurately verified.

### 5.3.6 Preparation of the Preliminary Voters List

The Preliminary List was the end result of entering verifying and correcting records for all persons registered in the House to House exercise.

In the compilation of the Preliminary Voters List (PVL) a number of problems were discovered;

- (i) The registration had indeed produced records of two persons in different PCU's but who were listed at the same address.
- (ii) The old information had to be merged with newly entered information. This was a tedious exercise as there were over 5,000 records with clashing MRC numbers. Each pair of details had to be scrutinized by a senior officer.
- (iii) Several records in the old information had blank occupations and other particulars (e.g. numerical and abbreviated names).
- (iv) Since the workstations were used to capture the records before sending same to the we had to ensure that all work entered was posted to the server.
- (v) Comparison tests indicated that were various cases of multiple registration or similar particulars. This was a tedious exercise. One case found where a Registration Scrutineer, named Mr. Wilfred Bete had registered three time and his wife (as we were told) registered twice. There was a case of a well renowned lawyer and his wife who registered twice. No step was taken to investigate any such case.

Despite these pit falls the two databases were merged and various other problems were resolved.

To produce the PVL the Commission decided that persons, who did not take their photographs could not be on the Voter's List. This decision was taken based on the interpretation of the law, which required persons to take their photographs to be fully registered. These names were placed on an attached list on pink paper. To implement this decision the ISD had created a field in the database that indicated which persons did take their photographs. At this point the Returning

Officers were instructed by the Commissioner of Registration to send in a list of all persons who did not take their photographs. This was done and the information was entered.

Before any Voter's List was printed, a number of data verification tests were done to ascertain that:

- (i) No record existed in a division without a sub-division, where the division was subdivided and vice-versa;
- (ii) No person existed with blank or invalid occupation, surname, data of birth etc;
- (iii) All names with funny characters (e.g. numbers and semicolons) were printed and verified as a separate exercise;
- (iv) All system data validation rules were-checked to ensure data integrity;
- (v) All possible duplicate were re-checked, where time did not permit a detailed analysis of it in the "field".
- (vi) Only exact-matches on the GRO report were deleted; and
- (vii) A check was done to compare addresses and PCU's to find instances of miss-matched Polling Unit. Time did not permit a proper analysis of it in the "field".

A qualifying date was set by the Commission as the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1997, and the Preliminary List was produced. The List containing 466,566 electors was published on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1997. This activity signaled the start of the next major election phase called Claims and Objections.

### 5.3.7 Scrutiny of the Preliminary Voters List

The PVL was heavily scrutinized by the Electoral Assistance Bureau, using a number of staff to effect field tests. They found that the List was 94% accurate since some of the persons listed were not accounted for or the address did not exist. The Commission investigated and found that in fact the EAB's exercise was not as comprehensive as expected since a number of persons listed as not found were either abroad or not at home. The cases not found were touted to be fictitious persons or instances of fictitious addresses. One example was an opposition Member of Parliament, Mr. Winston Murray who was abroad at the time of EAB's field visit.

In fact, the Preliminary List was considered by all Political Parties and interest groups to be quite accurate.

Another part of the EAB testing consisted of a computer test where it was demonstrated that certain basic data validation rules were built into the system design, some were;

No two records could have the same MRC Number

- Also MRC Numbers were all in the range 1,550,000 and 2,200,000
- No records had blank Address, Surname, Occupation
- No person was less than 13 or over 114 years old

The political parties were all invited to these demonstrations.

The EAB also requested a list of persons with similar surnames and dates of birth. On this list the Bureau found 148 cases of possible duplicate. These were examined internally and some found to be actual duplicate registrations. Similar checks were done internally and some 3,500 cases were found and investigated.

### 5.3.8 Claims and Objections Period

This was a period specified in the Electoral Laws that allowed persons to check the PVL to ensure that they were properly listed in the area within which they live. A person could have done any of the following:

- Corrections to Data – e.g. his Name, Occupation etc;
- Transfer – Indicate that he had changed his address since the last house to house registration to a different Polling Unit;
- Objections – Indicate that someone listed is now Dead or Abroad permanently;
- If he had not taken photograph he could now do so; and
- Also persons who did not get an opportunity to register in 1996 could have done so during the period. However, they had to be 18 or over by the qualifying date (30<sup>th</sup> September 1997).

It was decided at a technical committee that there should be advanced security measures for tracking all changes to any record. These features were built into the new program so that all corrections made during claims and objections were saved for future reference. This was a very powerful tool as various transactions were received for a single registration in some cases (e.g. a man may do two corrections to name on the first form and address on the second form, if these forms came in separately then either the name or address would have been changed back to the old value, if a check was not made to indicate that this changed before).

Another feature added during the claims and objection period was the duplicate registrations. A number of Scientific Comparison tests were done to identify similar double registrations. Some tests done were:

- Same Surname and Date of Birth
- Same Surname, First Name and Date of Birth
- Same Surname, First Name, Middle name and Date of Birth
- Same Surname and Address and Date of Birth
- Same Name and Address

A report was published in all newspapers in May 1997, showing over 1,500 names of persons as in 2 above. They were asked to rectify these deficiencies at the nearest registration office.

In addition to duplicates, the ISD also compiled a database of persons who were listed as dead based on information from the General Registrar's Office. Another database of persons who were known to be dead, based on signed reports from our field staff was also compiled. These names were deleted from the FVL by flagging the record as dead or known to be dead respectively.

When the department commenced the corrections exercise, there was some amount of system failures with increased frequency towards the middle of the exercise. These were solved by re-structuring the main database, and compacting each section.

There was a small amount of transactions due to Claims and Objections just as expected, since the Improved Data Entry Systems and Field Verification would have reduced the percentage errors. Only about 10,000 records of the 466,566 PVL were modified during the claims and objections period. This means that 2%, or 2 in every 100 persons had their particulars incorrect or intentionally changed his/her particulars since the registration (e.g. Woman married and requested a change to her Surname, man moved to another address). These numbers indicated either or both of two important factors about this age old procedure;

- (i) That the PVL was over 98 percent accurate (assuming all persons checked the list as they were supposed to);
- (ii) Persons did not make maximum use of this period for effecting corrections.

No documentation was available to establish what percentage of the population in any area checked the list.

In addition to corrections, a large number of new registrations including duplicates were received. There were also a large number of photographic transactions.

The Commission agreed to extend the photographic period beyond Claims and Objections.

### **5.3.9 Printing of the Final Voter's List**

Preceding the printing of the Final Voters List, a second field verification exercise was done. This was done to ensure that all corrections were received and effected.

The FVL was produced on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1997 when the final set of corrections, additions and deletions were done.

The Final Voter's List was given to the President on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1997.

Following the hand-over of the FVL to the President there was a number of requests for lists by the Political Parties, the EAB and Registration Officials. Also several copies of the lists were done to facilitate distribution of ID Cards.

Special security paper was ordered to produce the FVL for use on Polling Day. The paper was obtained from IFES; each national FVL had 459,997 persons listed, on approximately 20,000 pages. Three large HP Laser Printers and a Large Photocopier were used to produce an additional 30 copies of the List.

Also produced was a Non Resident Voter's List. This list consisted of the particulars of all overseas mission staff and their immediate families living in the said country. There were 66 overseas Voters listed, in twelve countries.

### **5.3.10 Preparation of the Disciplined Services Lists**

In the period following the Claims and Objections a list was extracted from the PVL indicating all the Disciplined services Staff. These were sent to the respective agencies as follows:

- Guyana Police Force;
- Guyana Defence Force;
- Guyana National service; and
- Guyana Prison service.

The lists were to be verified indicating which officers were no longer in the force or service and which others were new recruits.



All of the above agencies had problems with their submissions. Some problems experienced included:

- I. Staff used one name at work but another name for registration (most common problem);
- II. Various staff did not register or take their photographs;
- III. There was a high staff turnover in the services;
- IV. The personnel records within these organizations were not up-to-date;
- V. There was a problem with the placement of staff. Persons were often moved to another location independent of the exercise. This was evident in the Police and Army allocations. The various lists were completed and verified repeatedly by the respective officers.

### 5.3.11 Preparation of an Addendum and Deletions List

The Commission made a decision that any person who was registered and took out his/her photograph on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> October was entitled to vote and must be added to a separate addendum.

Some 1,418 persons were listed in the addendum.

The addendum was closed about five days prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> December for outlying areas. However, because of the number of cases of persons in Region 4 who were registered and had stubs as evidence of having completed their registration before the specified date, a decision was made to keep the addendum open until 14<sup>th</sup> December 1997. a total of 885 persons were added to the region 4 list.

Following the disciplined services elections on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December a list was prepared which showed the persons who voted on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1997, it was called **The Deletions List**. This was a very tedious and critical exercise. No mistake was tolerated. The Presiding Officer's List was used to flag those persons who voted on the 10<sup>th</sup> from the Military Databases. These Deletions Lists were printed on white paper and sent out to the polling stations.

### 5.3.12 Printing of Ballot Papers

As was done for the 1994 Local Government Elections the Guyana Elections Commission reached an agreement with Guyana National Printers, a local Company to print Ballot Papers for the upcoming elections.

Printing commenced in November 1997. However, disagreements between the workers and management on wages increases resulted in the workers resorting to industrial action backed by the recognized Trade Union.

The Chairman of the Elections Commission along with representative of the Guyana Trade Union Congress made several attempts to resolve the impasse. The Commission made

proposal to offer the workers a monetary incentive to the tune of one and a half million (G\$1.5) dollars. However, the situation remained precarious.

The Commission took a decision on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1997, to print the ballots in Trinidad and Tobago. The special security paper which was made possible by a donation from the Canadian NGO CODE to print the ballots was shipped through Laparkan Cargo Services on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 1997. Mr. Ganga Persaud, Deputy Commissioner (ag), Mr. Calvin Benn, Senior Manager along with Mr. Arnold Depoo, Advisor, and Mr. Joseph Harmon, National Logistic Advisor were expected to travel to Trinidad and Tobago to oversee the printing of the ballots.

Due to illness it was not possible for Mr. Calvin Benn to travel with the team which departed on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1997.

Actual printing commenced on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 1997. This delay was due to a Court Writ filed by the People's National Congress party questioning the legality of having the abbreviation PPP/Civic on the ballot paper instead of PPP/C. The Court rules on favour of the plaintiff and as such the decision was communicated to the team in Trinidad on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1997.

Mr. Moen Mc Doom, Commissioner, joined the team on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1997, while Ms. Donna Harris, Advisor did likewise on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1997. Mr. Oscar Clarke representing the Opposition Political Parties joined the team on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1997.

Mr. Harmon left the team in Trinidad and Tobago on the 29<sup>th</sup> November, while Mr. Persaud and Ms. Harris returned to Guyana on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Mr. Depoo and Mr. Clarke returned on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1997 after ensuring that the Ballot Papers were placed on the aircraft enroute to Guyana.

The team monitored all stages of the printing process. All used, unused and damaged security papers were returned to the Guyana Elections Commission for safe keeping.

DISTRICT	ORDINARY BALLOTS		TENDER BALLOTS	
	Amount	Serial #	Amount	Serial #
1	14,000	00000-014000	425	000001-000425
2	29,000	014001-04300	750	00026-001175
3	65,000	043001-108000	1350	00176-002525
4	210,000	108001-318000 318000-352500	4000	002526-006525
5	34,500	352501-434500	750	006526-007275
6	82,000	434501-446500	1750	007276-009025
7	12,000	446501-453500	500	009026-009525
8	7,000	453501-463500	375	009526-009900
9	10,000	463501-489000	425	009901-010325
10	25,500		750	010326-011075
<b>Total</b>	<b>489,000</b>	<b>00000-489000</b>	<b>11075</b>	<b>000001-011075</b>

**Table V11 – Details of ordinary and Tendered Ballot Papers issued as per Electoral District.**

The Printed ballot papers were transported under heavy security from the Timehri Airport to the Commission. Here, storage arrangements were put in place for the Chairman and members of the Commission to be the holders of the keys to the containers.

#### 5.4.0 Voter I.D Production

A voter identification card was used for the first time in Guyana's National and regional Elections in 1997. The system used for the production of this card was purchased from Thomas De La Rue Ltd., based in the United Kingdom. This was made possible through a grant to the Guyana Elections Commission (G.E.C.O.M) from the European Union. The system, De La Rue Identity Systems' Multiple Identification Document Issuing System (MIDIS) is one of the most widely used personal computer based net-worked system used for the controlled production an issuing of personal identification documents.

The MIDIS system was used to produce cards for 459,702 of the 461,415 electors appearing on the Final Voters' List of 99.6 percent of the registered electorate. Cards not produced were due to inadequate source document information and duplication.

#### 5.4.1 MIDIS System Overview

The MIDIS system, used by the G.E.C.O.M, was a specially configured system that allowed for the photo and signature images of an elector to be scanned into the system from the master registration card (MRC). The MRC as the source used in the registration process of all electors in Guyana. Using a copy of the Final voters' List (FVL and the scanned images personalized cards for the electorate were produced.

**The system consisted of the following:**

- a) System Fileserver
- b) Image Capture Work-Station (6)
- c) Print Server
- d) Quality Assurance Work-station
- e) Laminator
- f) Die Punches

As part of the contract with De La Rue, the company also provided the following consumables:

- a) Card substrate: A Security printed teslin material with various security features;
- b) Laminator: heat-seal laminator for covering of the teslin card;
- c) Training: training for the Commission's staff in the operation and management of the system;
- d) Technical Expert: A De La Rue engineer was on-site for 60 days to assist in installation, training and management of the system.

#### 5.4.2 The Voter identification Card

The Voter identification card had imprinted on the face the following information of an Elector:

Surname;  
Given Names  
Date of Birth  
MRC #  
Gender  
District  
Division  
Sub-division  
Signature  
Photo

The back of the card had textual information on the use of the card and the signature of the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission. (*See Appendix 1X for a sample of the voter identification card.*)

#### 5.4.3 The Production Process

The Guyana Elections Commission Information Systems Department maintained a database containing the final Voters' List, which was extracted from the National Registration data. A copy of the FVL Database and Master Registration card was used to produce the voter identification cards. The MRC cards which had the elector's signature and photograph attached were maintained by the National Registration Center.

#### 5.4.4 The Database Transfer

The Information System Department, using a single temporary one-way cable connection transferred the elector's data to the Voter Identification Card department for production of the cards. This transfer of data occurred by district. After the transfer, the connection was terminated and the database was reported through a transfer program to the MIDIS system.

#### 5.4.5 MRC's to Voter ID Card Room

MRC's of all registrants were alphabetically sorted by districts and divisions by NRC staff. They were then bundled by division and sent to the Voter ID Card room from NRC in metal boxes. The number of each division was clearly marked on the boxes.

The bundles in the metal boxes were received by the Voter ID Card staff recorded in a log book. They were then opened and checked to ensure accuracy in the numbers sent. If the numbers did not correspond the supervisor was notified and a query was recorded. An MRC log sheet was attached to each bundle. The time the bundle was received was logged (*See Appendix X MRC Log Sheet*). The bundles were then replaced in the metal boxes and properly packed in a safe corner of the boardroom. The bundles were then given to the image capture operators in the computer room.

#### 5.4.6 Voter ID Card Room to Computer Room

As soon as a bundle was received by an image capture operator, the time was logged and the MRC log sheet signed by the operator.

The image capture operator opened the bundle and started image capturing.

The MRC numbers entered and the details of that record were retrieved if the corresponding person was an elector and was present in the database.

If no record was found, the MRC number was re-entered for confirmation upon which the supervisor was immediately notified. The supervisor then extracted the MRC Form from the bundle and placed it in a separate bin. An entry of this MRC form was made on the Query Sheet for the current shift.

This occurred where:

1. the person had not reached lawful age and had slipped through initial checks;
2. the person was somehow omitted from the voters list for that district; or
3. the initial data entry operator entered an incorrect MRC number.

#### 5.4.7 Data Validation

The image capture operator performed data validation before image capturing. If the person was in the database, his/her details were retrieved and the image capture operator then compared the MRC form with the details retrieved on screen. The person's surname, first name, middle name, sex, MRC numbers, district, division and sub division were displayed on screen. These and other details are present on the MRC form. (*See Appendix X1 Sample of completed Master registration Card*).

If the data appearing on the screen was inconsistent with that on the MRC, specifically gender and/or date of birth, the supervisor was immediately notified. The operator aborted the image capturing process. The Supervisor then extracted the MRC form from the operator's bundle and placed it in a separate bin. An entry of the difference was made on the Query Sheet for the current shift (*See Appendix X11 – Specimen Query Sheet*).

The MRC number was recorded along with the field (s) which contained the difference(s), the information in the database and the information on the form.

The '*records not found*' queries were kept separate from the other queries.

#### 5.4.8 Image Capture

If the details did compare, the image capture operator then proceeded to capture the image. The photograph of the persons was captured followed by the signature. (*See Appendix X111 – Image Capture Screen*).

*If the MRC form did not have a signature but the person's thumbprint with the Registrar's initial instead, the word THUMBPRINT was captured.*

If the quality of the photograph or signature on a MRC form was not acceptable for image capturing, the supervisor was immediately notified. The operator, aborted image capturing and a query was recorded on the MRC Query Sheet for that shift. The supervisor extracted the MRC form and placed it in the query bin.

When the image capture operator had finished capturing an entire bundle he/she logged the time finished and signed the MRC Log Sheet. The supervisor then retired the completed bundled.

After image capturing the record was automatically sent to the print server to be printed. As soon as a print server received eight (8) records the printer was instructed to print a sheet containing eight (8) cards.

#### 5.4.9 Printing

The cards were printed on the special security featured paper provided.

The print server operator identified as close as possible when a bundle had been printed. He/she retrieved the corresponding bundle of MRCs and took it together with the printed sheets to the finishing room.

#### 5.4.10 Queries

Queries were all collected and analyzed by the supervisor after each district had been completed with the exception of districts 4 and 6. They were grouped and sent to NRC for verification and/or retrieval of necessary information. Replies to these queries were received by the Information Systems Department, they were checked by supervisors, and a separate file on changes was created and sent to the Voter Identification card Computer Room to reprocess at a convenient time.

#### 5.4.11 Computer Room to finished Room

The bundles were safely packed away in the finishing room while the printed forms were given to the laminators. After a set of forms had been laminated they were passed to the punchers. Upon completion of punching, the cards were batched along with their corresponding bundle and passed to the quality checkers.

The quality checkers verified that the finished cards were of acceptable quality and the details on the cards matched those on the MRC form.

If the card was rejected due to discrepancies or poor quality, the supervisor was immediately notified and the card was cut in the middle by the quality checker. An entry was made on the ID Card rejection Sheet and both the card and the MRC form were extracted and placed in a separate bin for re-processing/re-query. (See Appendix X1V – ID Card Rejection Sheet). If a card was damaged during finishing, it was checked later against a reprint identified from the production log.

After a bundle was completed, the time/date finished was logged and the MRC log sheet signed by the operator. The bundle and the finished cards were then packed safely away.

The queries for the voter identification cards were collected and analysed by the supervisors after each bundle was finished and necessary reports were sent to the computer room for reprocessing.

After a small district was completed the time/date was logged and all the bundles and cards were dispatched to National Registration Center for distribution. Bundles and cards were divided into a number of divisions for the larger districts and then sent to NRC.



#### **5.4.12 Database Integrity Tests**

An independent consultant to the Guyana Elections Commission with senior staff of the Information Systems Department and Voter Identification Card Department conducted database tests prior to distribution. A database of cards produced was compared with the database of the Final Voter List to ensure that cards were not prepared for persons who were not on the Final Voters List and to ensure consistency of data. These tests were by districts for small districts, and by selected divisions for large districts. Distribution of the cards was subjected to the success of these tests.

#### **5.4.13 Production Reviewed**

The computer and finishing equipment were received by the Guyana Elections Commission on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1997. The hardware system was fully, configured and tested within two days by the De La Rue system engineer. Staff was trained in the relevant areas over the next three days.

#### **5.4.14 Training Personnel**

De La Rue provided a System Engineer to complete initial setup of system, train relevant users, and to provide on side administration of the MIDIS System. Mr. David Hopwood was present for the entire first pass production process. Training was provided for local System Manager, Arun Manger, in the full administration of the MIDIS software and hardware systems. Nineteen (19) computers operators and three supervisors were trained in the image capturing, printing, laminating and die cutting processes. Thirteen (13) finishers and two supervisors were trained in the laminating and die cutting processes.

The entire staff during production was as follows:

- 2 System Managers
- 3 Computer Operations Supervisors
- 19 Computer Operators
- 2 Finishing Supervisors
- 13 Finishing Staff
- 1 Quality Assurance Supervisor
- 4 Quality Assurance Staff

#### 5.4.15 Actual Production

Actual production commenced with image capturing only (since Teslin basestock security paper was not received from De La Rue) on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1997. Printing and finishing of cards commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1997. Production was agreed to be carried out on a "first pass, queries later" basis according to districts. This meant that queries were dealt with at a later convenient time according to districts. Districts with difficulty accessibility were processed first.

Production commenced with a singly shift of approximately seven hours per day an average of approximately 3500 cards per day. It was necessary that staff worked very flexible hours considering the time-frame for production. Opportunities for extra production time were quickly seized whenever staff was willing. The single shift was increased to a double shift of approximately seven hours each per day on all days with the exception of Sundays in order to achieve a production rate that would ensure timely production. Sunday had a single eight hour shift. The shifts were further increased to approximately eight hours during the month of October when it was observed that increased production was necessary. With the increase in shift time and average of approximately 10000 cards was eventually achieved. Production reports were carefully monitored in order to determined shift increase.

The first phase of production ended on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1997, though processing of queries continued until 14<sup>th</sup> December 1997.

A decision was made by the Commission to produce replacement cards for a number of persons who were not in receipt of their cards or had their cards lost during the last four days of production. One thousand, three hundred and fifty (1350) such replacement cards were produced with the word **REPLACEMENT** stamped on the teslin basestock.

It was observed that the MIDIS system performed creditably during the production process. However, there were times when the software system was over loaded and production lessened. After complete production all equipment were checked for functionality. All equipment was in working order with the exception of one printer and one monitor. Correspondence is continuing with De La Rue since the entire system is under warranty.

#### 5.4.16 Total Number of Cards Produced by Districts

Districts	Number of Cards produced	% Produced
1	12332	99.6
2	27458	99.8
3	62392	99.8
4	199207	99.5
5	31977	99.8
6	78972	99.8
7	10674	99.5
8	4844	99.5
9	8603	99.7
10	23245	99.5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>459704</b>	<b>99.6</b>

Replacement Cards: 1350

#### 5.4.17 Conclusion

The MIDIS system had performed creditably and had indicated huge potential for future endeavours regarding national registration. Production of the National Voter's Identification Card had demonstrated that Guyanese were fully capable of efficient mass production in a highly technical environment.

### 5.5.0 Voter ID Card Distribution

The Voter ID card was crucial to the electoral process. In order to ensure that these cards were delivered to the rightful electors, the Guyana Elections Commission decided that the cards be uplifted only by electors named therein. Additionally, this mode of delivery provided the Officials of the Commission with the opportunity to:

- (i) verify that photographs were/was not those of the persons named on the individual Cards;
- (ii) rectify situations where photographs were incorrectly matched against electors Particulars; and
- (iii) correct any inaccurate particulars recorded on the cards

As part of the efforts to prepare and execute distribution programme, the Chief Elections Officer held a meeting with representatives of political parties. These representatives made suggestions and commented on the following aspects of the distribution exercise:

- (a) Public Awareness to sensitize prospective electors;
- (b) Storage of undelivered cards;
- (c) Steps in the delivery process to be adhered to;
- (d) Methods of treating with the old and infirm (priority); and
- (e) Method of reporting daily (feedback)

These ideas and suggestions were used as guidelines by returning Officers and their staffs to prepare their respective programmes for distribution in the regions. These programmes reflected the various locations at which the exercise was to be conducted and the modus operandi to be employed with respect to each location.

The Commission insisted that the distribution process be preceded by intensive public awareness programmes in every community and cluster in every district where the Offices for distribution were located. In addition, there was continuous public awareness at a National level prior to and throughout the entire period of distribution.

These programmes were tabled at meetings of the Commission and had to be properly ratified before implementation.

### 5.5.1 Distribution Schedule for ten (10) Electoral Districts

The distribution process was schedule for September 15 to November 30, 1997 as follows:

DISTRICT	PERIOD
8 Potaro/Siparuni	September 15-October 18
1 Barima/Waini	September 22-October 25
7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni	September 22-October 25
9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	September 29-October 31
6 East Berbice/Corentyne	September 29–October 31
4 Demerara/Mahaica	October 11- November 30
10 Upper Demerara/Berbice	October 21- November 21
2 Pomeroon/Supenaam	October 31- November 30
5 Pomeroon/Supenaam	October 31-November 30

As reflected in this schedule the distribution of voter identification cards was given priority in the early stages in the hinterland locations. This decision was taken because of the complex problems and peculiarities of our hinterland. Elections Officials had to traverse mountains and rapids to conducts this exercise. This was dangerous, demanding and time consuming.

It should be noted that the launching of the voter identification card took place at Mahdia in Region No. 8 on September 19<sup>th</sup> 1997.

**This region was specifically chosen for launching this project because:**

- (i) it consisted of the smallest number of voters (4,864);
- (ii) it was the most difficult region to traverse (officials had to brave many mountains and dangerous rapids); and
- (iii) it was considered ideal for gathering a variety of first hand experiences to guide similar exercises in the other electoral districts.

### 5.5.2 Monitoring the Process

In order that adequate and regular feedback be provided, Returning Officers of each district submitted daily progress reports by telephone or by radio which were installed in all the districts as part of the communication network. The daily feedback provided the Guyana Elections Commission with the opportunity to evaluate the progress of the exercise daily. The Commission also provided daily information to the electorate through appearance on radio, television programmes and reports in the news papers.

### 5.5.3 Factors hindering the Distribution Process

Reports emanating from the various regions reflected some common factors hindering the distribution process.

**These factors were both human and technical and were caused by both distribution Officials and prospective electors. These included:**

- (i) some electors had removed from their places of residence (this was an inter and intra regional situation). Their whereabouts were unknown.
- (ii) some electors were reportedly living overseas;
- (iii) the hours of work of some electors did not facilitate them uplifting their cards.
- (iv) some officials were hesitant and/or refused to treat with electors who had lost their stubs although there were clear procedures in place for dealing with same.

**In addition to these problems, there were electors who visited distribution centre but, were unable to uplift their cards due to the following situations.**

- (a) some electors' names were not listed even though they were in possession of registration stubs;
- (b) voter Identification Cards were not produced for 1711 electors or 0.4% of the total Electorate;
- (c) some officials showed lack of patience and tolerance; and
- (d) some were ignorant of established procedures that were in place from time to time.

These factors resulted in a decline in the rate of distribution in some regions.

The Commission addressed these problems as it was informed and produced several "advisory documents" on the process aimed at providing distribution officials with guidelines for dealing effectively with such problems.

During the latter part of October the Commission met almost on a daily basis to evaluate the distribution exercise and put systems in place for improvement where necessary.

#### **5.5.4 The Voter ID Distribution Task Force**

On October 20, 1997, reports reaching the Center showed that seventy four thousand, five hundred and twenty eight (74,528) cards were delivered country wide. Of this total twenty two thousand four hundred and seventy seven (22,477) or (11.27%) were from District 4. consequently, a task Force was appointed with specific responsibility for acceleration of the distribution process in District Four. Members of the Task Force were all senior officers of the Commission.

As part of its management strategy the Task Force assigned its members supervisory responsibilities for specific areas/locations (East Bank Demerara, South Georgetown, North Georgetown and East Coast Demerara). Members were required to conduct daily supervision of each area assigned. During this activity they made on the spot decisions, provided supplies if needed and did whatever they considered necessary to enhance the delivery process.

**The Task Force initiated the following strategies among others to enhance the distribution process:**

- (i) the provision of hand-held radio sets to improve the communication network between and among the sixteen (16) Field Managers who were supervising the exercise at their I level;
- (ii) visits to and address at school during general assembly;
- (iii) daily use of public address system urging electors to uplift their voter identification cards;
- (iv) designing and public displaying of posters and hand bills with diagrams and descriptions of boundaries of areas serviced by various distribution centers;
- (v) the recruitment of additional personnel to strengthen staff;
- (vi) seeking release of personnel from various Ministries and Department to participate in the distribution exercise; and
- (vii) recommending increase in remuneration/wage package (which was granted) for the distribution Clerks.

Efforts at enhancing/improving the distribution of the voter identification did not stop here. The Guyana Elections Commission met with the Inter-Party Committee for Electoral reform (IPCER) on a regular basis to report on, and discuss the progress of the distribution exercise. By October 29, 1997 there were a total of two hundred and eighty two thousand, nine hundred and seventy nine (292,979) or (61.52%) cards delivered country wide. Of this amount, one hundred and fifteen thousand, eight hundred and twelve (115,812) or (58.07%) represented cards delivered in District Four.

#### 5.5.5 The Pilot Project

The sessions with the IPCER were very fruitful. Emanating from one of those sessions was a proposal to change the mode of distribution from an Office based exercise to a house to house activity.

However, it was decided to conduct a pilot study before proceeding with this proposal on a large scale. To this end the following divisions/sub-divisions were randomly selected.

4142121	Triumph, east Coast Demerara
413131E	North Cummingsburg, North Georgetown
413622C	Meadowbrook, South Georgetown

The proposal for the pilot study was discussed at a meeting with IPCER and the study was conducted on Friday, October 31, and Saturday November 01, 1997. the total number of cards distributed in District Four by that date was one hundred and twenty six thousand, two hundred and thirty one (126,231) or (63.29%). Country wide the figure was three hundred thirteen thousand, and twenty five (313,025) or (68.05%) of the listed electors.

The three (3) areas were visited simultaneously by three separate teams of officials lead by Task Force Members responsible for the respective areas in which the divisions were located.

Each team comprised of distribution clerk, a photographer and at least accompanied by the Co-ordinators and Deputy Returning Officer of the various sub-districts.

Of a total of nine hundred and eighty six (986) cards, four hundred and thirty six (436) or 44.2% were delivered. Of the balance of five hundred and fifty (550); three hundred and nine (309) electors were not at home to receive their cards, eighty six (86) were removed, thirty three (33) had migrated and fourteen (14) were reportedly deceased. Time did not permit the teams to visit one hundred and eight (108) persons.



### 5.5.6 Introduction of National House to house Distribution

The Major yielded significant data that supported the house to house exercise. As a result the Commission launched the house to house distribution of voter identification Cards in District No. 4 (Demerara/Mahaica) on November 07, 1997 and subsequently in all other regions. Scrutineers formed part of the distribution teams.

The Commission continued its daily assessment of the distribution process and recognized that on November 30, 1997 a total of four hundred and fifteen thousand, five hundred and ninety three (415,593) or (90.15%) of voter identification cards were distributed. The balance on hand was forty five thousand, four hundred (45,400) cards.

In keeping, with its policy of openness the Commission granted an extension of the distribution process. However, this activity was restricted to the Offices of the Deputy Returning Officers.

On December 7, 1997 there was a total of forty one thousand, eight hundred and thirty five (41,835) cards still to be issued. Of this total nineteen thousand, two hundred and eight three (19,283) were from District 4, the majority of this amount being from Georgetown.

There were complaints from political parties that some electors had to visit several offices in Georgetown before eventually obtaining their cards.

Consequently, the Commission decided that distribution for Georgetown be undertaken at the Commission's Headquarter (a central point). This made it easier and more convenient especially when cards had to be corrected due to one reason or the other e.g. mismatched photograph or incorrect particulars.

Distribution continued at the Commission Headquarters, on East Bank and East Coast Demerara, Districts 2, 3, 5, 6 & 10 until December 14, 1997. In some instances the exercise continued late into the nights. Distribution in the hinterland areas (Districts 1, 7, 8 & 9) continued until 4 p.m. on December 15, 1997.

At the conclusion of the distribution exercise a total of four hundred and thirty one thousand, seventy seven cards were issued to electors. This represented 93.43% of the electors listed. The final breakdown of distribution of VID according to electoral districts was as follows:

<b>ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO. NAME</b>	<b>NO. OF ELECTORS</b>	<b>VOTED ID CARDS DISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>%DSTRIBUTED</b>
1 Barima/Waini	12,377	11,172	90.26
2 Pomeroon/Supenaam	27,500	26,020	94.61
3 Essequibo Island/West Demerara	62,495	59,137	94.62
4 Demerara/Mahaica	200,295	186,565	93.15
5 Mahaica/Berbice	32,031	30,727	95.93
6 East Berbice/ Corentyne	79,133	75,038	94.83
7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni	10,726	9,125	85.07
8 Potaro/Suparuni	4,864	4,125	84.81
9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	8,628	7,853	91.02
10 Upper Demerara/ Berbice	23,366	21,315	91.22
	<b>461,415</b>	<b>431,077</b>	<b>93.43</b>

**Table V111: Distribution of Voter identification Cards by Electoral Districts**

Distribution of voter identification cards country wide cost the Commission approximately eighty seven million dollars (\$87,000,000.00).

Our election laws specified that all unused voter identification cards must be returned to the Guyana Elections Commission within thirty (30) days after the date of elections. Systems had been put in place to assist holders of these cards to return same with least difficulty. Returning Officers of the respective Districts had been given the necessary advice and guidance and this activity is currently being undertaken.

## **6.0 Voter Education and Information**

The Guyana Elections Commission vigorously promoted a comprehensive and detailed Voter education and Information Programme to stimulate and maintain greater interest and deeper understanding of the electoral process that were integral to the General and Regional Elections of December 15, 1997.

### **6.1 Objectives of the Voter Education Programme**

To generate awareness and deeper understanding of the rights, duties and responsibilities of voters in the electoral system, through education and information activities, for the forthcoming General and Regional Elections.

To promote a culture of trust and confidence in the electoral policies and process that is acceptable to Political Parties, Interest Groups and citizens by providing suitable information on the institutional and operational features of the electoral process.

To enable approved Political Parties and accredited election observers to know as much as possible of the electoral process through carefully prepared Information Kits which were made available to each Political Party and each team of observers.

### **6.2 Implementation of the Voter Education Programme**

The programme was implemented by the Voter education and Information Unit of the Guyana Elections Commission in collaboration with other resources units of the Commission, and with support from the National Democratic Institute for International Relations (NDI). Emphasis was placed on explaining the thoroughness of the preparation and accuracy of the Voters Lists; and polling procedures for voters, polling officers and representatives of approval political parties.

### **6.3 Memorandum of Understanding**

In September 1996, a memorandum understanding was signed between the Guyana Elections commission and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs to accelerate the Voter Education and Information programme.

The Election Commission assigned Commissioner Joslyn Dow and Moen Mc Doom to be the intermediary of all programme and Mr. Albert Henry, Senior Manager, Voter Education and Statutory Matters to be the day to day officer to ensure an impressive and active Voter education and Information Programme was executed.

## 6.4 Outreach Programmes

The outreach programmes of the Elections Commission targeted Youths and Students Religious leaders, Trade Unions, Amerindians, media and Women, Voter Education workshops for a wide cross section of people were held in all Regions.

The Elections Commission Co-sponsored a number of other Voter Education and public Awareness programmes with Non-Governmental Organisation.

During the claims and objections period, with assistance from N.D.I a number of promotional items such as buttons, posters stickers and banners were fully utilized.

Each Elections Commission staff member during the National registration period was given one jersey with the words "National registration Official". Jerseys were worn by staff as they moved from house to house, registering qualified persons.

Radio and television stations rendered valuable help in creating call in Programmes, Quizz Catch Programmes, Jingles, Skits and Drama and a number of public Service Announcements were some of the activities promoted by the Guyana Elections Commission.

As Election Day got closer the voter Education programme concentrated on "Promoting the vote". This programme was well received up to Election Day.

Helping to accelerate the Voter Education Information Programme were the full utilization of all Newspapers in Guyana. All Newspapers had full page news and teaser stripe advertisements, special spot on specific subjects, interviews and discussions and many releases.

This was the first time that Guyana Elections Commission had embarked on massive Voter Education and Information programme.

The programme was indeed successful and more planning will be in place for a continuation of other such programmes.

Based on the extensive outreach Voter Education and Information Programme, the 1997 General and Regional Elections experienced an 88% Voter turn out compared 80% in 1992.

## 7.0 Polling Stations

In pursuance of **Section 6** of the Representation of the People Act, (Cap. 1:03), the Chief Elections Officer was directed by the Elections Commission to give notice of Polling Places in each division or sub-division for each polling district mentioned in schedule.

## 7.1 Identification of Polling Stations

Returning Officers were advised at an early stage of the process to identify appropriate buildings to house Polling Stations. Initially, one thousand, seven hundred and twenty one (1,721) proposed polling stations had been identified for the ten (10) electoral districts across Guyana. These did not include stations for disciplined services and non-residents electors voting.

The proposed list compiled by the Commission was forwarded with due notification to political parties for scrutiny. In addition, for the benefit of the community, the Commission ensured that clearly visible, bright green stickers labeled "Proposed Polling Place" were posted on these buildings. The intention was to provide an opportunity for community groups, NGO's and other interested parties to pronounce on the suitability of the place identified.

In addition, a marked departure from previous years was that because of the demarcations, sub-divisions were created and polling stations were now required to accommodate no more than three hundred and fifty (350) to four hundred (400) electors. This represented a significant improvement since the last elections where three hundred and eighty seven thousand (387,000) voters had to be accommodated at 909 polling stations.

## 7.2 Selection of Polling Stations

The Commission after perusing the list recommended by Returning Officers, decided to establish its own internal assessment mechanism to determine the suitability of such places.

An assessment form was designed for this purpose (See Appendix – XV Polling Assessment Form). Each Returning Officer was then required to conduct an individual assessment of each polling place using the prescribed form. The completed forms were analysed and recommendations made on the suitability of each polling place.

These recommendations were considered in conjunction with observations, comments and suggestions from Political Parties as well as those from NGO's, religious and social groups. On the basis of the suggestions and concerns raised, several changes/modifications were effected. The result was a total of one thousand, eight hundred and forty four (1,844) polling stations catering for four hundred and sixty one thousand, four hundred and fifteen (461,415) voters in the ten (10) electoral districts.

Of the number proposed, only one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven (1,837) were actually used since it was later found to be convenient to merge stations which catered for extremely small numbers of electors.

The table below gives a summary of the number of polling places as per electoral district.

DISTRICT	# OF POLLING UNITS (PROPOSED)	# OF POLLING STATIONS USED
I. Barima/Waini	100	66
II. Pomeroon/Supenaam	105	112
III. Essequibo Island/West Demerara	220	247
IV. Demerara.Mahaica	564	736
V. Mahaica/Bebice	133	120
VI. East Berbice/Corentyne	349	303
VII. Cuyuni/Mazaruni	107	68
VIII. Potaro/Siparuni	47	36
IX. Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	74	55
X. Upper Demerara/Berbice	105	94
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>1837</b>

Table 1X: Distribution of Polling Stations as per Electoral Districts.

### 7.3 Use of Privately Owned Buildings

Several of the polling stations approved were privately owned buildings. This was agreed to because in several polling units Government-owned buildings were non-existent. In such circumstances, the same assessment criteria were applied and owners were notified of the selection by letter.

Once a building was selected, returning Officers were required to enter into a contract on behalf of the Guyana Elections Commission securing the premises for several days prior to and including elections day.

Owners of such buildings were in receipt of 50% of the total contract prior to elections day. The remainder was paid upon satisfactory execution of the contract.

### 7.4 Polling Places outside of Polling Units

In some instances, polling places had to be selected outside of Polling Divisions/Sub-divisions because suitable buildings could not be identified within those units. The table below shows a breakdown of such units and the number of polling places.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	POLLING DIVISIONS/SUB-DIVISIONS	POLLING PLACES
No.1 Barima/Waini	13	17
No. 2 Pomeroon/Supenaam	3	2
No.3 Essequibo Island/ West Demerara	79	50
No. 4 Moblissa/Mahaica	129	62
No. 6 East berbice	69	52
No. 7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>243</b>

*Table X: Summary of Electoral Districts showing the Number of Polling Divisions/Sub-Divisions which had utilized buildings outside of the unit.*

## **8.0 Polling Day Activities**

On the elections day, polling commenced at 6:00 hrs at 1837 Polling stations in the ten (10) Electoral across Guyana. All Polling Stations were manned by officials of the Guyana Elections Commission. These included Presiding Officers (P.O), Assistant Presiding Officers (APO), Poll Clerks (P.C) and Counting Assistants (C.A). In addition, each Polling Station had at least one police/security officer and duly appointed representatives of Political Parties viz Polling agents. The presence of local and international observers was also very evident at many polling stations.

### **8.1 Opening of the Poll**

In many areas Polling Day Staff were at their assigned Polling Stations from as early as four (04:00) hours. In the majority of cases ballot boxes were delivered to staff either by the Deputy Returning Officers or their Clerks.

Preparations for the opening of the Poll were supervised by the Presiding Officer in the presence of his staff, Polling Agents and the Security Officer. At 6:00 hrs the procedures recommended were adhered to and the Poll was declared open by the Presiding Officer. This activity was witnessed by all present.

It must be noted however, that there were reports of polling stations opening late for a number of reasons. Reports of personnel gaps in some areas also surfaced from time to time even though many stations reported full complement of polling officials at the commencement of poll.

### **6.2 Voter Turn-Out**

From as early as 5:00 hrs electors queued up at polling stations to exercise their franchise. The opening of the poll, there was a constant flow of electors at most polling station until midday when there was a lull.

During this period staff treated with cases which included the following:-

- (a) The ordinary voter (Elector with name on list and voter and voter I.D. card);
- (b) The blind or incapacitated voter unaccompanied;
- (c) The blind or incapacitated voter accompanied by another elector;
- (d) Elector with name on list, voter I.D Card, but data did not correspond exactly;
- (e) Elector with name on list but no voter I.D Card;



- (f) Elector with same particulars as someone who appeared to have voted before at the Polling Place;
- (g) Elector Voting as proxy;
- (h) Elector voting with Certificate of employment; and
- (i) Elector who did not understand the language spoken to him/her.

Reports reaching the Commission indicated that polling place officials lacked consistency in dealing with cases from station to station e.g. Voter I.D. Cards were kept on desks in some cases, others placed them in the PE 1 bag, while still some placed them in the ballot box which was the correct thing to do.

It was significant to note that incorrect procedures and evidence of short comings were quickly brought to the attention of Presiding Officers and corrective actions taken.

It was general felt that although there were minor inadequacies here and there, these were not significantly enough to affect polling at any station. Even before the close of poll, it was reported that over 85% of the electorate had cast their ballots on Election Day.

The electorate must be commended for the discipline, patience, tolerance and co-operation displayed on Election Day. Such behaviour contributed in no small measure in ensuring an incident free poll.

### **8.3 The use of the Voter I.D. Card on Polling Day**

The provision of

- The Representation of the People Act Cap. 1:03; (relevant sections).
- The National Registration Act. and the regulations made there under; Cap. 19:08;
- The Elections Laws (Amendment) Act No. 12 of 1996;

Have all been amended by the Elections Laws Amendment Act. No. 22 of 1997 to provide the legal basis for the use of a "voter identification card" on Election Day.

*According to Sec (9) (3) of the Act.*

*"The particulars obtained in the registration process for the preparation of the registration card and the identity card shall be extracted and utilised in such manner as the Commission may determine in the preparation of the voter identification cards".*

### The Voter Identification Card

<i>GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD</i>		
<i>SURNAME:</i>		
<i>GIVEN NAME(S):</i>		
<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>	<i>GENDER:</i>	
<i>MRC NO. DIST.</i>	<i>DIV.</i>	<i>SUB.</i>
.....		
<i>SIGNATURE OR PRINT</i>		

<p><i>THIS CARD IS THE PROPERTY OF THE GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND IS ISSUED TO THE PERSON NAMED HEREIN AND MUST BE PRODUCED BY THE SAID PERSON WHEN CASTING A VOTE AT AN ELECTION IN WHICH THE PERSON IS QUALIFIED TO VOTE. IT IS OF NO VALUE TO ANY OTHER PERSON AND, IF FOUND, SHOULD BE HANDED IN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION OR ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR RETURN TO THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE (PRE-PRINTED)</i></p>	<p><i>STANDARD PRE-PRINTED TEXT</i></p>
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(Bill No. 26 of 1997)  
Passed by the National Assembly on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1997.

In accordance with the amended laws, every name and other particulars appearing on the official list of electors must be complemented by a voter's identification card.

This card was the only form of identification used to establish the identity of the voter/elector on Polling Day.

### Use of the Voter Identification Card

#### THE VOTER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD WAS USED ON POLLING DAY TO:

- (a) Establish the identity of the voter and if necessary, eligibility;
- (b) Once condition @ is satisfied each card will be exchanged for a ballot paper;

**NB:** Section 74 (A) (1) made it quite clear that the voter identification card will be retained by the Presiding Officer whether or not he issued a ballot paper to an elector.

A ballot paper may be refused if the elector refused to:

- (i) be sworn in/take an oath/affirmation of identity when necessary;
  - (ii) answer questions when legally required to do so.
- (c) Section 74 (A) (1) of the Election Laws Amendment Act. No.22 of 1997 further stated that:

*"The voter identification card retained by the Presiding Officer shall be perforated or indelibly stamped with any other clear distinguishing mark at the time when an elector votes at an election to evidence the fact that the elector has voted and shall be securely kept in such manner as shall be determined by the Commission."*

In accordance with this section the Presiding Officer stamped the voter identification card and deposited same immediately into the ballot box. Cards were securely kept here until and commencement of the count.

- (d) Upon re-opening the ballot box, voter identification cards were tallied with ballots cast prior to the commencement of the count.
- (e) Once those present were satisfied with reconciliation (cards with ballots), the cards were Stored in a specially prepared canvas bag with lock and key (PE 1).
- (f) After the count, the cards were delivered directly to the Returning Officer in separate bags (PE 1) outside of ballot box.

- (g) *It must be noted that, "a voter identification card is the property of the Elections Commission and any person to whom a card is issued and who does not vote at an election shall within thirty (30) days of the date of the election be bound to surrender the card to the Elections Commission where upon he shall be issued a receipt therefore; and it shall not be lawful for any person to use a voter identification card for any purpose other than voting at an election."*

## 9.0 Counting of votes and Declaration of Results

**Section 83** of the Representation of the People **Act Chapter 1:03** was repealed by the representation of the People Amendment **Act No. 30 of 1990**.

This new Section provided the operation guidelines for the close of the Poll and the procedures to be followed during the count.

Section 83 (1) clearly stated that the Presiding Officer as soon as was practicable after the close of the poll must commence the count in the presence of persons entitled to be present.

Those entitled to be Present were:

- (a) Presiding Officer and Polling Day Staff;
- (b) Polling Agents;
- (c) Counting Agents i.e. (persons representing contesting list of candidates); and
- (d) Local and International Observers.

Most polling stations closed at 6 O'clock and very few reported that persons were waiting to vote at this time.

### 9.1.1 The Ballot Paper Account (Form 23)

It was necessary for Presiding Officers to complete this form before the commencement of the count.

Each Presiding Officer had to:

- Count spoiled ordinary and tendered ballot papers;
- Count used ordinary and tendered ballot papers;
- Count unused ordinary and tendered ballot papers;
- Account for all ballot papers supplied; and
- Complete Form 23

This form was kept safely until the count was completed. The Presiding Officer then recorded on this form the number of ballot papers in the ballot box. This account was then signed by the Presiding Officer and placed in a special envelope for the transmission to the returning Officer.

In a few instances, Presiding Officer failed to complete this form. Even in situations where the ballot papers account was prepared, approximately 5% of the Presiding Officers locked this record in the ballot boxes.

## 9.2 The Count

Having completed Form 23, the Presiding Officer invited his staff, agents and observers to check the sealed ballot box. Once satisfied, the box was opened in full view of everyone and contents laid on counting table.

Voter Identification Cards were checked and placed in specially prepared canvas bag (PE 1). The ballot papers were then opened and turned face downwards so that the six (6) digit mark was visible to all present.

The presiding Officer or person authorized by him counted and recorded the number of ballot papers in the ballot box. Ballots papers were then torn along the perforated edge in order to separate the general from the regional vote. Ballots for the general elections were then awarded to lists on the basis of the mark which was shown to all present in the interest of accuracy and transparency. While this was been done, the staff, agent and observers were recording the information on individual tally sheets. Counted ballots were placed in marked piles clear visible to all present. Rejected ballot were placed in a separate pile so marked.

Once tall the ballots were shown, the Presiding Officer or his agent recounted each pile and verified same with tally sheets of present. Ballots counted for each list of candidates were placed in separate envelopes clearly marked so that all the name of the list was known to all the number of votes cast for that list recorded also. Rejected ballot papers were also counted and placed in another envelope clearly marked. The Presiding Officer affixed his seal to the envelopes and invited duly appointed candidates and agents present to do

likewise. These envelopes were placed in the official envelope marked PE 7 which was sealed and placed in the ballot box.

### 9.3 Statement of the Poll (Form 23A)

At the completion of the count Presiding Officers prepared Form 23 A – Statement of the Poll. This was the official polling station document reflecting the number of valid votes cast for each list of candidates, the number of rejected ballot papers and the reasons for the rejection of ballot papers. Once completed the Presiding Officer certifies a significant number of copies for distribution to representatives and agents who observed the count.

Presiding Officers invited duly authorized persons who observed the count to endorse the document before copies were distributed to those present.

Unfortunately, after the close of poll and the completion of the count, reports reaching the Commission indicated that some one hundred and sixty (160) Statements of Poll were unsigned for reasons still unclear. These unsigned statements were from the following districts;

	DISTRICT	No. UNSIGNED STATEMENTS
	2	7
	3	8
	4	107
	5	4
	6	12
	9	1
	10	21
	-----	-----
Total	7	160
	-----	-----

In addition, crucial advice offered to the last moment was ignored resulting in some statements of the poll being locked in ballot boxes.

### 9.4 Communicating The Results

Each presiding Officer was issued with an envelope containing an Authentication Code, i.e., a unique code to transmit the result to the Command Center. This code was developed by the Logistics Advisor Lt. Col. Joseph Harmon.

Each Returning Officer in conjunction with this field staff had put arrangements in place for the transmission of the results using radio, telephone or hand held sets. Ten (10) additional telephone sets were installed in the Command Center to facilitate the receipt of results. The Logistics department had carefully assigned lines to the various regions so that contact may be established with the least difficulty.

In addition, the radio room was being manned on a full twenty four hours schedule.

Despite these arrangements, when the results were ready, coastal Returning Officers i.e. Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and parts of 7 and 10 reported that they experience great difficulty in making contact on the telephone numbers assigned to the districts. Efforts were then made to communicate through radio sets. These posed other difficulties since heavy traffic was on Channel 11 and the limited range required switching to Channel 1 for some areas. This caused serious delays in communicating the results from outlying areas.

## **9.5 Receiving Results at the Command Center**

Results were received at the Command Center from approximately 9:30 p.m. on the night of December 15, 2007. This continued until afternoon of December 16, 1997 by means of telephones. Telephone and radio operators upon receipt of information prepared a report on a standard format. Such reports were channeled through several stages of verification involving members of the Elections Commission and assigned Senior Staff.

The reports were then passed to the computer section for encoding. Once the reports were entered, the information was made available to the Chairman of the Elections Commission who made the announcement to those present in the media center.

While reports were being processed from several outlying areas, concern was expressed about feedback from District # 4. Demerara/Mahaica. Reports from this district were a mere trickle and as far as Georgetown sub-district was concerned not a single report was received by midnight of December 15, 1997.

The Commission did not hesitate to express its concern over such state of affairs and instructed the Chief Elections Officer to intervene immediately to ensure that Presiding Officers comply with established procedures. This intervention resulted in a submission of some Statements of the Poll by the Returning Officer of District 4 at approximately 2:30 am on December 16, 1997. By Thursday December 18, 1997 all Statements of Poll were submitted by Returning Officers to the Command Center.

## **9.6 Declaration of Results**

As the result came in the method of announcing of results by the Chairman at the media center continued with the exception of District No.4.

A verification process was implemented to deal with the late Statements of Poll submitted by District 4. While this process was in progress, the Chief Elections Officer after an assessment of the results already verified made a preliminary declaration to the Chairman on

Friday December 19, 1997. This declaration cited the PPP/C as having won the General and six of the ten (910) regions. This was followed by the PNC securing the second largest number of votes at the General Elections and majority in the four remaining districts.

The Chairman of the Elections Commission without hesitation made a declaration on the Presidency immediately. This resulted in a halt to the verification process underway for District 4 and a closure of the computer operations.

**In accordance with Section 96 of the Principal Act (Representation of the People Act Chapter 1:03) stated as follows:**

The Chief Election Officer shall after calculating the total number of valid votes of Electors which have been cast for each list of candidates, on the basis of the Votes counted under *Section 65 (Disciplined Forces Ballots)* and *92 (Non-Resident Ballots)* and the information furnished by returning Officers under *Section 84 (11) (Votes cast in each electoral district)* ascertain the result of the elections in Accordance with *Section 97 (Allocation of Seats) and 98 (Membership of the National Assembly)*.

The Chief Elections Officer summoned the ten (10) Returning officer to double check each Statement of Poll in preparing the votes cast as per list of candidates for each ballot box. This activity was seriously affected by the verification process. However, all checks were completed on December 30, 1997. The results were then certified by the Chief Elections Officer and presented to the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission.

Having received the official results, the Chairman then made a final declaration.

The number of votes cast for each list of candidates for the general election was as follows:

<b>PARTY</b>	<b>NO. OF VOTES CAST</b>
Alliance for Guyana	4,783
A Good and Green Guyana	1,552
God Bless Guyana	314
Guyana Democratic Party	2,528
Justice for All Party	1,265



National Democratic Party	105
National Independence Party	258
People's National Congress	161,901
People's Progressive Party	220,667
The United Force	5,937
<b>Total Number of Valid Votes Cast</b>	<b>339,310</b>

The number of rejected ballot papers was eight thousand, seven hundred and forty seven (8,747).

Seats were allocated to each list of candidates for the general election as follows:

<b>PARTY</b>	<b>SEATS ALLOCATED</b>
Alliance for Guyana	1
People's National Congress	22
People's Progressive Party	29
The United Force	1
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>53</b>

The Chief Elections Officer then officially informed the representative and deputy representative of each list of the official results and informed them of the need to extract from the list the names of persons elected to serve in the National Assembly. (*See Appendix XV1 – Detailed results of Regional Elections, 1997*).

The official results were published in an extra ordinary issue of the Official Gazette of Friday January 30, 1998.

## 10.0 Summary of Election Expenses

The Accounts Department of the Guyana Elections Commission has been tasked to provide accounting services for the operations at the Commission and the National Registration Center. This unit provided the financial guidelines, procedures and framework for all income and expenditure pre and post elections 1997.

### 10.1 Provision for Operations at the District Level

The Returning officers were responsible for managing expenditure in their districts. Advances were provided for them to finance day to day operations in each district. They were required to adhere to standard financial policies and practices in force from time to time and were briefed and trained in the completion of relevant forms and records. However, difficulties arose when bills were to be submitted to clear advances. In the majority of cases, poor documentation and inadequate explanation relating to expenses incurred resulted in delays which usually affected tight schedules. Late submission of accounts (claims) and delay in the return of pay sheets also added to some of the woes experienced.

Other difficulties were experienced in remote areas where at times it was practically impossible to obtain quotations to meet the three quote system requirements and decisions had to be made about utilizing the only available service. The experience gained from such transactions were not intended to short cut the system but served to emphasize some degree of flexibility in situations where certain needs and services were non-existent.

Payment of honorarium to staff and scrutineers posed additional difficulties in remote areas, primarily because of communication problems and access to some location. However, instances of delay could not always be attributed to the center for in the majority of cases payment was prompt. At the moment, there are few outstanding payments receiving the attention of the Ministry of Finance.

### 10.2 Budgetary Provision for 1996 and 1997

The budgetary allocations for 1996 under the respective heads were as follows:

#### (a) Head – 12 – Elections Commission

Revised Voted Provision	\$24,189,000
Total Expenditure	\$19,965,000
Balance	\$ 4,224,000

**(b) Head – 26 – National registration Center**

Revised Voted Provision	\$364,000,000
Total Expenditure	\$315,643,000
Balance	\$ 48,357,000

The budgetary allocations for 1997 under the respective heads were as follows:

**(a) Head 04 – 07 Elections Commission**

Revised Voted Provision	\$193,154,000
Total Expenditure	\$165,024,000
Balance	\$ 28,130,000

**(b) Head 07 – 06 National Registration Center**

Revised Voted Provision	\$421,315,000
Total Expenditure	\$415,118,000
Balance	\$ 6,197,000

Local financing supplemented by resourced made available by the Donor Community accounted for all expenditure for the 1997 General and Regional Elections.

## **11.0 General Issues**

The extent of the country – approximately 83,000 square miles with numerous rivers, creeks, hinterland settlements along with the sea coast and coastland stretching from Punta Playa to the New River Triangle, made it very difficult and costly to adequately register clerically, photograph and distribute Voter identification Cards. The deplorable state of some of the roads, trails and the existing danger of navigating the rapids and water falls along with the constant treat of malaria particularly in districts 1, 7, 8 and 9 and some parts of 6 and 10 were challenges accepted and confronted with great success.

The Registrars/Presiding Officer, their Deputies, the Divisional registrars/Presiding Officers, Scrutineers/Polling Agents were involved in every aspect of the preparation and conducting of these Elections hence the success stories are rightfully theirs.

Apart from the security personnel provided by the Elections Commission by way of part time employment, the members of the Discipline Forces, particularly those from the Guyana Police Force gave much needed support in the process. Many ranks braved the sometimes not so encouraging situations in order to perform their respective tasks which ranged from accompanying electoral supplies, maintaining law and order at public meetings and at polling stations as well as protecting the Presiding Officers and electoral supplies.

The Discipline Forces must be commended for assisting the Commission in its communication links with difficult areas such as Eterinbang, Camp Jaguar and Gunn Stripp.

The registration and elections processes up to Elections Day 15<sup>th</sup> December 1997 were blessed with generally a high degree of maturity and understanding on the part of the political activists and supporters. This was evident in every good attendance recorded by Party Representative at meetings held at the sub-district, district and national levels by Elections Officials. The few cases of disagreements were treated with urgency and solutions were arrived at in the best interest of the process. The Chairman and members of the Commission were the pace settlers in this regard.

The Commissioner of Registration/Chief Elections Officer skillfully and tactfully marshaled the strengths and weakness of the management team in a formidable process of team building towards the acquisition of organizational goals. Weekly management meetings took on a daily flavour as Elections drew nearer resulted in all being aware of the plans and projections.

The Senior Managers were charged with the responsibility of assuring that each staff member within his/her department was aware of the tasks and progress achieved. The Junior Management and other staff of the Commission worked relentlessly for extremely long hours in ensuring that deadlines were kept and tasks were completed with efficiency and effectiveness. Many responded to the additional tasks assigned with commitment, reflecting the will to have the best ever elections held in our dear country.

The Permanent secretary and staff at the Ministry of Home Affairs supported all aspect of the registration and Elections process. This entity was tasked with the job of ensuring that claims were processed and funds released on a timely basis as requested by the Commission. Further, statements of expenditures, bills and receipts were scrutinized to ascertain that financial regulations were adhered to. It must be noted that this Ministry along with the Commission's Accounting Unit have performed exceedingly well. There was often the issue of non submission of receipted pay-sheets, and Political Parties were found to be the major "culprits". Nonetheless the officers in these entities used various strategies to cope with same.

Elections Management is a crucial and demanding job. Guyana trained (10) Returning Officers, their Deputies, Clerk and Clerical Assistants were persons with varying degrees of management exposure. Coming into the Elections Management arena most if not all of them had to adjust, modify and even change their management approaches and styles in order to successfully accomplished the various tasks required.

The managers found it necessary to work for very long period without leave, ignoring families and friends in some cases and even overlooking the National Holidays. Their desire and ultimate goal was to manage the best run elections in the history of this country.

There were several Ministries and Organisations which supported the overall work of the Commission. The Ministry of Education which provided some 80% of our temporary staff

must be commended for its support. The ten (10) regional Democratic Councils also provided invaluable support to the process.

It is only fitting to express our heartfelt thanks to all Guyana and our brothers and sisters of the International Community for their co-operation, tolerance, patience, understanding and support, which resulted in a dream fulfilled towards the enhancement of democracy through the just concluded General and Regional Elections, 1997.

The report from the various Observers Missions, namely the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth Team and Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB) have all been made public. It is assumed that there will be an exceedingly high degree of correlation with respect to the contents of all reports on the Elections.

### **11.1 Training & Recruitment**

The training and recruitment policy is as such that it provides the opportunity for Field staff to be given equal opportunity at training, at being evaluated and at being selected. It was however, mentioned earlier, that because of queries raised in terms of the persons proposed for appointment, the Commission acted too late in giving the green light for the proposals to be examined and appointment made.

It must be remembered that training for polling officers occurred between August and October 1997. So when appointments were made during the week or two before elections, very minimal time was left for the many briefing sessions to be undertaken by Returning Officers in giving their Polling day Staff members the practice they deserved. Only one or two briefings were undertaken.

### **11.2 Unsigned Statement of Poll**

Following the close of poll on Election Day, the Elections Commission was quick to observe that Statement of Poll for District four; Demerara/Mahaica were not being forwarded to the Commission with the urgency expected. The Chief Election Officer (CEO) was asked to intervene immediately and upon doing so, many of the delayed results were delivered by hand to the Commission.

Upon inspection, many of the Statement of Poll submitted were found to be incomplete i.e. either lacking the validation signature of the Presiding Officer or did not indicate clearly the relevant polling division/subdivision numbers. This situation contributed in no small measure in the delay in announcing results for this district. As results continued to trickle in nationally, the Commission soon discovered that deficiencies of this nature were very evident in several other electoral districts.

The statement of the poll (Form 23 A) was a statutory requirement and Returning Officers certainly did not find it comfortable explaining why Presiding Officers did not adhere to guidelines spelt out for the completion of same.

When Presiding Officers were randomly questioned as to why the statements were left unsigned, the reasons advanced included:

- (a) Had forgotten to sign;
- (b) Confusion lead to statements remaining unsigned;
- (c) Were not instructed to sign form during the training sessions;
- (d) Statements signed were placed in the ballot box, but those for the CEO were left unsigned;
- (e) Statements were left unsigned by Presiding Officer because Polling Agents urged them to hurry up; and
- (f) The Training Manual did not guide trainees to sign forms.

Such explanations were unacceptable to Returning Officers and their Deputies who confirmed that training sessions offered exposure in every single area of the voting process. These included:

- (a) Step by step theoretical procedure as outlined in the manual;
- (b) Audio – visual demonstration of the voting process including the close of poll and the count;
- (c) Briefing sessions including mock polls held at least twice before polling day; and
- (d) Selected exercises involving completion of the Ballot Paper Account and the Statement of the Poll.

To this point in time it is still not clear as to what actually transpired resulting in several unsigned statements of poll.

# STATISTICAL DATA

- Summary of Preliminary Voter's List as per Electoral District.
- Names added to FVL due to photographic extension to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1997
- Voter Identification Cards produced as per district.
- Voter Identification Cards Distributed to Electors.
- Disciplined services staff as per Region (Electoral District).
- Persons listed on Final Voter's List as at 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1997.
- Final Voter's List at December 15, 1997.
- Listed Voter's according to Occupation
- Final declaration of results of General Election.
- Final declaration of results of Regional Election.

**GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
**SUMMARY OF PRELIMINARY VOTERS LIST**

DISTRICT	REGISTRANTS	REGISTRANTS 18 YEARS AND OVER, BORN ON OR AFTER 30 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER , 1987		
		PHOTO TAKEN (WHITE LIST)	PHOTO TAKEN (PINK LIST)	TOTAL
1. Barima/Waini	13,841	11,907	202	12,109
2. Pomeroon/Supenaam	30,965	26,596	908	27,504
3. Essequibo Island/West Demerara	69,616	61,092	2,091	63,183
4. Demerara/Mahaica	255,469	193,576	10,566	204,142
5. Mahaica/Berbice	35,845	31,278	928	32,206
6. East Berbice/Corentyne	88,442	77,302	2,635	79,935
7. Cuyuni/Mazaruni	11,900	10,185	470	10,655
8. Potaro/Siparuni	5,355	4,590	211	4,801
9. Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	9,883	8,256	170	8,426
10. Upper Demerara/ Berbice	26,718	22,573	1,020	23,593
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>518,038</b>	<b>447,355</b>	<b>19,201</b>	<b>466,556</b>



NAMES ADDED TO THE FVL DUE TO PHOTOGRAPHIC EXTENSION TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

DISTRICT	DISTRICT NAME	VOTERS
1	Barima/Waini	14
2	Pomeroon/Supenaam	65
3	Essequibo Island/West Demerara	114
4	Demerara/Mahaica	855
5	Mahaica/Berbice	74
6	East Berbice/Corentyne	158
7	Cuyuni/Mazaruni	37
8	Potaro/Siparuni	7
9	Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	9
10	Upper Demerara/Berbice	85
		<b>1,418</b>

REPORT ON VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARDS PRODUCED PER DISTRICT

DISTRICT	VALID PRODUCED	REPLACEMENT CARDS PRODUCED	CARDS DESTROYED AS A RESULT OF BEING DELETED FROM PVL
1	12332	25	15
2	27458	66	
3	62392	105	
4	199207	820	
5	31977	93	
6	78972	95	26
7	10674	42	26
8	4844	14	10
9	8603	9	8
10	23245	81	
<b>Total</b>	<b>459704</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>85</b>

VID Department

GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

DISTRIBUTED TO ELECTORS

DISTRICT	CARDS DISTRIBUTED	%	NO. OF PERSONS VOTED
Barima/Waini – 1	11,172	90.3	10,266
Pomeroon/Supenaam – 2	26,020	94.6	24,789
Essequibo Islan/West Demerara – 3	59,137	94.6	56,917
Demerara/Mahaica – 4	186,565	93.1	175,604
Mahaica/Berbice -5	30,727	95.9	29,598
East Berbice/Corentyne – 6	75,038	94.8	71,805
Cuyuni/Mazaruni – 7	9,125	85.1	8,253
Potaro/Siparuni – 8	4,125	84.8	3,588
Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – 9	7,853	91.0	7,596
Upper Demerara/Berbice – 10	21,315	91.2	19,627
Overseas	66	100	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>431,143</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>408,057</b>

*GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION*

*SUMMARY OF REGIONS WHERE DISCIPLINED SERVICE STAFF WERE REGISTERED*

<i>REGION</i>	<i>POLICE</i>	<i>ARMY</i>	<i>GNS</i>	<i>PRISION</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>49</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>69</i>		<i>299</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>426</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>613</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>1,837</i>	<i>885</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>3,114</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>481</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>488</i>	<i>304</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>887</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>36</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>41</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>302</i>
	<i>3,433</i>	<i>1,758</i>	<i>386</i>	<i>5898</i>	

**PERSONS LISTED ON THE FINAL VOTER'S LIST  
AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 1997**

DISTRICT	DISTRICT NAME	VOTERS
1	Barima/Waini	12,363
2	Pomeroon/Supenaam	27,435
3	Essequibo Island/West Demerara	62,381
4	Demerara/mahaica	31,957
5	Mahaica/berbice	31,957
5	East Berbice/Corentyne	78,957
7	Cuyuni/Mazaruni	10,689
8	Potaro/Siparuni	4,857
9	Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	8,619
10	Upper Demerara/Berbice	459,997
		<b>459,997</b>

This List was given to the President on the 8<sup>th</sup> August and Frozen for use on E-Day along with any addition or deletion lists.

This list also formed the basis for the ID –Card Database.

VOTER LIST AS AT 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1997

DISTRICT	DISTRICT NAME	FVL	ADDENDUM	TOTAL
1	Barima/Waini	12,363	14	12,377
2	Pomeroon/Supenaam	27,437	65	27,500
3	Essequibo Island/West Demerara	62,381	114	62,495
4	Demerara/Mahaica	199,440	855	200,295
5	Mahaica/Berbice	31,957	74	32,031
6	East Berbice/Corentyne	78,975	158	79,133
7	Cuyuni/Mazaruni	10,698	37	10,726
8	Potaro/Siparuni	4,857	7	4,864
9	Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	8,619	9	8,628
10	Upper Demerara/Berbice	23,81	85	23,366
		<b>459,997</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>461,415</b>

**GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
GENERAL ELECTIONS 1997**

DISTRICT	% VOTED	# OF LISTED ELECTIONS	GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS VALID VOTERS 1997										REJECTED	VALID VOTES CAST	TOTAL VOTES CAST
			AGF	AGGG	GBG	GDP	JFAP	NDF	NIP	PNC	PPP/C	TUF			
Barima/Waini	82.6	12,377	154	34	20	246	14	12	24	2,535	5,461	1,065	661	9,565	10,226
Pomeroon/Supenaam	90.1	27,500	121	36	39	226	42	7	16	6,552	17,801	292	377	24,412	24,789
Essq. Islands/ West Demerara	91.1	62,495	300	76	34	789	233	10	28	13,817	40,604	163	863	56,054	56,917
Demerara/Mahaica	87.2	200,295	1,963	974	135	495	882	32	84	89,609	76,753	881	3,796	171,808	175,604
Mahaica/Bebrice	92.4	32,031	164	85	6	53	20	2	42	10,168	18,468	55	535	29,063	29,589
East Berbice/ Corentyne	90.1	79,133	391	164	23	480	20	8	22	17,183	52,205	228	1,081	70,724	71,805
Cuyuni/Mazaruni	76.9	10,726	127	22	9	55	8	4	15	4,316	3,229	195	273	7,980	8,253
Potaro/Siparuni	73.8	4,864	904	45	6	23	13	5	5	1,140	786	509	152	3,436	3,588
Upp. Takatu/Upp. Essequibo	88.0	9,628	342	13	4	22	4	1	8	1,767	2,605	2,431	399	7,193	7,596
Upp. Demerara/Berbice	83.9	23,366	314	103	38	139	27	24	14	14,802	3,440	118	608	19,019	19,627
<b>Total</b>		<b>461,415</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>161,889</b>	<b>220,632</b>	<b>5,937</b>	<b>8,745</b>	<b>399,258</b>	<b>408,003</b>
Non-Resident		66	3	-	-	-	2			12	35		22	52	54
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>461,481</b>	<b>4,983</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>12635</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>161,901</b>	<b>220,667</b>	<b>5,937</b>	<b>8,747</b>	<b>399,310</b>	<b>408,057</b>

**GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
GENERAL ELECTIONS 1997**

DISTRICT	% VOTED	# OF LISTED ELECTIONS	GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS VALID VOTERS 1997										REJECTED	VALID VOTES CAST	TOTAL VOTES CAST
			AGF	AGGG	GBG	GDP	JFAP	NDF	NIP	PNC	PPP/C	TUF			
Barima/Waini	82.6	12,377	68	31	-	268	-	-	-	2,509	5,507	1,088	755	9,471	10,226
Pomeroon/Supenaam	90.1	27,500	114	38	-	247	-	-	-	6,559	16,990	292	549	24,240	24,789
Essq. Islands/ West Demerara	91.1	62,495	314	88	-		-	-	-	13,676	40,446	194	1,353	55,564	56,917
Demerara/Mahaica	87.2	200,295	2,050	1,353	-	509	1,091	-	-	88,330	76,308	932	5,031	170,573	175,604
Mahaica/Bebrice	92.4	32,031	162	85	-	52	-	-	-	10,081	18,443	56	719	28,879	29,589
East Berbice/ Corentyne	90.1	79,133	362	166	-	485	-	-	-	17,056	51,962	253	1,521	70,284	71,805
Cuyuni/Mazaruni	76.9	10,726	111	19	-	59	-	-	-	4,277	3,193	201	393	7,860	8,253
Potaro/Siparuni	73.8	4,864	876	50	-	-	-	-	-	1,132	799	514	217	3,371	3,588
Upp. Takatu/Upp. Essequibo	88.0	9,628	333	14	-	17		-	-	1,761	2,580	2,458	433	7,163	7,596
Upp. Demerara/Berbice	83.9	23,366	327	131	-	169	-	30	-	14,638	3,423	143	766	18,861	19,627
<b>Total</b>		<b>461,415</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>160,019</b>	<b>219,651</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>11,737</b>	<b>396,266</b>	<b>408,003</b>



### 13.0 Recommendations

1. The idea of not making clerks available to Deputy Registrars during the Registration period seemed to have had some amount of merit in the sense that it forced the Deputies to be more involved in the editing process.

Consideration should however have been given to determine which of the Deputies should have had, and how many and who could have done without, based on:-

- a) The extent and number of units in a Sub-District.
- b) The type of terrain and mode of transportation, and

The estimated number of registrants.

For the purpose of General and Regional Elections the registrants should be delegated with the responsibility of demarcation special "registration/electoral" units rather than using the boundaries of the administrative units. It was not uncommon especially in many of the riverain areas to encounter situations where one Division/Unit was found on one bank of a river and just opposition on the other bank was another or more than one unit.

This awkward situation not only caused the Divisional Registrar to have longer distances to travel, but would have greatly inconvenienced the electors in getting to the polling stations if float situations were not implemented. Intensely populated units should be revisited.

At least two (2) lamps should be made available in the future, for each polling station without any other source of lighting.

4. Photography should as far as possible be done simultaneously with clerical registration.
5. It is felt that "head fee" offered for registration might have resulted in poor quality of work by many Divisional Registrars and that some other means of remuneration should be considered for similar future exercise.

On the statement of poll should be indicated a special place where the counting agents and others should sign. This would reduce the incidence of so many of them not affixing their signatures as in the recent concluded elections.

7. GECOM communication sets should be installed in interior locations from the commencement of the registration exercise and not only close to the elections. Adequate telephone line should be made available at the Returning Officers' Office.
8. Three proposals are put forward for the disciplined services:-

- a) Integrate their ballots with the rest of a particular polling station for the count if they **MUST** vote before civilians.
  - b) Allow them to vote with the rest of the electors on Election Day.
  - c) Since their loyalty should be to their country and not to any political party, Exempt them from completely from voting.
9. Laws should be enacted to severely penalize all election officials by both a prison term and a fine for any willful act of malpractice/corruption that would constitute a bias or fraud from the commencement of registration to the elections proper. "Black listing" of these persons so as to prevent them from working with the Commission in future.
  10. In a house to house registration exercise, the Divisional Registrar especially in Hinterland Districts should be allowed to register a person anywhere he/she is encountered as long as it could be established that the person's home was already visited for the sole purpose of registration.
  11. Permanent offices should be established by the Elections Commission in all Districts in the first instance and sub-regional offices should follow later. Discontinue unnecessary extensions, this will encourage possible electors as well as Political Parties to work within a given time-frame.
  12. Early recruitment and training of staff is desirable but avoid prolonged delay in implementation of activity. Fixed dates and times should be maintained.
  13. Revised Poll Book to make one comprehensive document comprising of all records to be submitted to returning Officer/Chief Elections Officer.
  14. Manuals should be made available to prospective recruits prior to Training Sessions and continue with use of Cassette during Training Sessions but Cassette and Manual to correlate.
  15. Delink National registration Finance form Ministry of Home Affairs, with regular auditing.
  16. Selection of Fields officers should be done not only on Examination Scores but also on advice/guidance by Registrar/Returning Officer.
  17. The processing and issuing of Voter Identification cards for Election Purposes should Conclude two (2) weeks before Election Day.
  18. Legal action for false information submitted during Registration, Voter Identification Cards preparation/distribution.

19. That a Permanent Elections Commission be established and maintained with District Offices to pursue with Registration of eligible persons attaining 14 years and update the Electoral Register or 18 years and over.
20. Observers should be welcomed for our General Elections to assist to project Guyana's image of transparency and democracy abroad.
21. All conditions including remuneration for various categories of Polling Day Staff and penalties for work not done satisfactorily should be included in Manual.
22. More emphasis should be placed on Post Poll activities during training and briefing sessions for Polling Day Officials.
23. Evaluations should not only test recalls, but should be structured as to realize recall, application, comprehensive etc.
24. There should be more consideration for social, spiritual and family life of officials. Work should not be done on Sundays and holidays, such as Good Friday, Easter Monday etc.
25. Honorarium for Registration/Elections Officials should be more realistic and it should be paid on time.

Verification of work done by field staff must be seriously looked at and the necessary Corrections made at NRC/Computer Section.

APPENDIX 11

Telecommunication Equipment received from the German Government

1. Five (5) YAESU HF Sets with;
  - Five (5) Dipole Antennas;
  - Five (5) 20 Amps Power Supply;
  - Four (4) hundred feet (400) RG8U Antenna Cable;
  
2. Sixteen (16) Motorola M120, 45W 2 CH Base Radio, with
  - Sixteen (16) VHF Antenna;
  - Sixteen (16) 20 Amps Power Supply;
  - Fourteen hundred feet (1400) RG8 Cable.
  
3. Twelve (12) Motorola Radius SM50, 25W
  - 2 Channel VHF Synthesised MOBILE RADIO;
  - 12 Mobile Whip Antenna.
  
4. One hundred (100) Motorola Radius SP50, 5W, 2CH
  - VHF Synthesised Hand Held radio including;
  - Whip Antenna;
  - Standard rate Charger;
  - High Capacity Battery;
  - Belt Clip; and
  - One hundred (100) SP 50 Spare Battery.

FOB	G' \$6,328,180.00
Freight & Insurance	569,536.00
CIF Georgetown	\$6,897,716.00

## APPENDIX 111

### Equipment Purchased under UNDP Assistance to the Election's Commission

Quantity	Description	Remarks
4	Portable Generator	(Honda)
1	Video Camera	(Samsung)
1	Over Head Projector	
1	Portable Screen	
1	25" TV/VCR	(Sharp)
5	Motor Cycles (Scramblers	(Yamaha)
2	Outboard Engines	(75HP)
12	Life jackets	(Adult)
2	19' Fibre Glass Boats	
4	Laptop Computers	
4	Desktop 166 Mhz Computers	
12	Raincoats & Umbrellas	

## APPENDIX 1V

## Enhancing the Electoral Process

### Guidelines used by the Elections Commission for International Observers.

1. Following consultation of the Chairman of the Elections Commission in conformity with Section 3 (1) of the General Elections (Observers) Act 1990 (No. 17 of 1990), the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana invited a number of international organizations and institutions to officially observe all aspects of the democratic process involved in the forthcoming General and Regional Elections to be held on December 15, 1997.
2. The Elections Commission hereby wishes to inform those organizations and institutions that responded positively to the invitation that they may apply for accreditation and identification as international observers by December 7, 1997.
3. Each organization referred to in paragraph 2 shall designate in writing to the Elections Commission its representatives, disclosing their particulars and credentials.
4. The particulars and credentials of the representatives so designated shall include the following:
  - a) full name;
  - b) date and place of birth;
  - c) address;
  - d) educational and/or professional background;
  - e) knowledge of the country and/or previous experience in the field of electoral observation.
5. The name of any representative accredited as an international observer shall be published in the Gazette and he or she shall be issued with an identity card by the Chairman of the Elections Commission or his authorized appointees.
6. All observers while exercising their functions shall clearly display the identity card issued to them by the Elections Commission.
7. International observers shall have the right:
  - a) to request from the relevant authorities an appropriate visa to enter Guyana for the duration of the period of election observation as specified in Section 13;
  - b) to enjoy freedom of movement throughout Guyana;
  - c) to communicate freely with any political party with any organization of person;

- d) to open offices within Guyana for the performance of their functions; and
  - e) to communicate with the local and election media.
8. (1) An observer may scrutinize the official list of electors, enter polling places and places appointed for the counting of votes, and seek information from the Chairman of the Elections Commission, Commissioners/Chief Election Officer and other election officers.
- (2) An organization accredited to observe shall have the right to obtain from the Chairman of the Elections Commission a copy of the official list of electors for one or more polling divisions and of any written law governing or regulating any election.
- (3) The Chairman of the Elections Commission, Commissioner/Chief Election Officer and other election officers shall facilitate the work of the observers and shall comply with any reasonable request made by said observers in the performance of their functions.
9. Observers shall be free to observe the course of the campaigning for elections, as well as to observe access to and use of the public media.
10. (1) International observers shall have the following obligations:
- a) to inform the Elections Commission, at the time of their application for accreditation, of the objectives of their observation;
  - b) to obtain proper accreditation, and supply information as required for that purpose;
  - c) to exercise their role with impartiality, independence and objectivity;
  - d) to respect the Constitution and the laws of Guyana;
  - e) to respect the role, status and authority of election officials;
  - f) to refrain from interfering in, or impeding, the normal course of the electoral process, and from providing guidance or information to personnel involved therein;
  - g) to ensure that their activities do not affect the secrecy of the ballots;
  - h) to report to the Elections Commission in a timely manner all criminal activities relevant to the election and violations of the electoral legislation;
  - i) to provide to the Elections Commission, prior to their release, copies of written information and statements which they have produced;
  - j) to refrain from announcing election results prior to their announcement by the Elections Commission;

- k) to limit themselves to observing and reporting on the electoral process. Accreditation shall not entitle any observer to certify the accuracy of the elections nor to make any pronouncement to the results thereof; and
- l) to return the identity cards issued to them by the Elections Commission at the end of their mission as observers.

The Elections Commission may revoke the accreditation of any international observer who violates the obligations laid down in subparagraph (1) and thereupon his status as an international observer shall cease.

- 11. International observers may operate separately or jointly with other observers.
- 12. Diplomats accredited to Guyana who are designed and recognized as international observers shall exercise their functions as such observers in accordance with these guidelines.
- 13. Election observation shall begin on the day of accreditation and shall end on the day determined by the Elections Commission, as reflected on the observer's identity card.

Dated this                      day of November, 1997.

**Doodnauth Singh S.C.,  
Chairman,  
Guyana Elections Commission**



## APPENDIX V

### Electoral Observer Mission List of Observers

12 December 1997

#### Organisation of American States

1. Mr. Kenneth Hall, Registering Officer, Barbados
2. Mr. Lucas Echeverri, Lawyer, Columbia
3. Ms. Georgine de Miranda, Lawyer, Suriname
4. Dr. Hilary Brown, Constant, Jamaica
5. Dr. Merlin B. Brinkerhoof, Professor, Canada
6. Mr. Tomas A Bialet, Consultant Argentina
7. Dr. Joseph Edsel Edmunds, O.B.E., Ambassador, Chief of Mission, St Lucia
8. Mr. Noel Springer, Elections Officer, Barbados
9. Dr. Bruce Rickerson, Elections Specialist, USA
10. Mr. Santiago Mariani, Consultant, Argentina
11. Mr. Hector Vanolli, Elections Specialist, Argentina.
12. Ms. Maria Vellos, Registering Officer, Belize
13. Dr. John Tierney, Professor, USA
14. Ms. Bertha Carrillo, Consultant, Mexico
15. Ms. Ada Chicas, Consultant, Belize
16. Ms. Diana Thorburn, Consultant, Jamaica
17. Mr. Jaime Toso, Administrative Officer, USA
18. H.E. Mr. Christopher Thomas, OAS Assistant Secretary-General, Trinidad and Tobago
19. Mr. Paul Spencer, Advisor to the OAS Assistant Secretary-General, Antigua
20. Mr. Ian Edwards, OAS Public Information Specialist, Jamaica
21. Ms. Shirley Campbell, Special Assistant to the OAS Assistant Secretary-General, Trinidad and Tobago
22. Mr. Sergio Humberto Diaz-Aguilera, Ministry of External Relations, Columbia
23. Mr. Aurelio Tobon, OAS Conselor, Columbia
24. H.E Mr. James Mack, Ambassador, USA
25. Mr. Gregory Thome, Second Secretary, US Embassy, USA
26. Mr. Graham Webster, Third Secretary, US Embassy, USA
27. Mr. Maximiliano Salazar, Security Officer, US Embassy, USA

## Commonwealth Secretariat

28. H.E. Mr. Ali Hassan MWINYI, Former president of the United Republic of Tanzania, Head of Mission, Tanzania
29. Ms. Jeanette France, Former Public Service, St Vincent and the Grenadines
30. Ms. Bience Gawanas, Ombudswoman, Namibia
31. Rt. Rev. S. Tilewa Johnson, Chairman, Independent Electoral Commission, The Gambia
32. Mr. Stanley Martin, Former Diplomat, Britain
33. Ms. Mary Murphy, Election Officer, Canada
34. Dr. Heatherwick Ntaba, M.P., Member of Parliament, Lawawi
35. Mr. Neil Pickard, Former Minister, Australia
36. Dr. (Mrs.) Bharati Ray, M.P., Member of Parliament, India
37. Mr. Hensley Robinson, Chief Electoral Officer, Barbados
38. Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, M.P., Member of parliament, Trinidad and Tobago
39. Ms. Dorianne Rowan-Campbell, Consultancy on Development Issues, Jamaica
40. Sir Anthony Siagru, K.B.E., Former Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Papua New Guinea
41. Sir Peter Tapsell, M.B.E., Former Speaker, House of Representatives, New Zealand
42. Mr. Carl Dundas, Team Leader, Commonwealth Secretariat
43. Mr. Judith Pestaina, Assistant to Observers, Commonwealth Secretariat
44. Mr. Richard Nzerem, Assistant to Observers, Commonwealth Secretariat
45. Ms. Orna MsLaren, Assistant to Observer, Commonwealth Secretariat
46. Mr. Mwambu Wanendeye, Media Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat
47. Mr. Guy Hewitt, Assistant to Observers, Commonwealth Secretariat

## British High Commission

48. H.E Mr. David J. Johnson, C.M.G., C.V.O., High Commissioner, UK

## Canadian High Commission

49. H.E. Mr. Allan Bowker, High Commissioner, Canada
50. Mr. Charles Boode, Counsellor (Development), Canada
51. Mr. Delmer Bjorklund, First Secretary (Development), Canada
52. Mr. Ian Hardy, Second Secretary and Consul, Canada

### International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES)

53. H.E Mr. George F. Jones, Director/The Americas, USA
54. H.E. John Graham, Senior Advisor, Canada
55. Ms. Lesley Israel, IFES Board member, USA
56. Mr. Samuel Polanen, Chairman of the Electoral Council, Suriname
57. Mr. Howard Cayenne, Chief Election Officer, Trinidad and Tobago
58. Ms. Torie Keller, Public Information Officer, USA
59. Ms. Nhelly Saleh Ramirez, Programme Officer/The Americas, USA
60. Mr. Pablo O. Galarce, Program Assistant/The Americas, Chile

### National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

61. Mr. Keith Jennings, Senior Programme Officer for Political and Civic Organisation, USA
62. Mr. Matt Dippell, Senior Programme Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, USA
63. Ms. Deborah Ullmer, Acting Country Director, USA
64. Mr. Makram Ousiss, Program Officer, Lebanon
65. Mr. Winston Cramer, Programme Co-ordinator, Guyana
66. Ms. Lisa DiRosa, Programme Assistant, USA
67. Mr. Paul Adams, Programme Assistant, Guyana
68. Ms. Shelida Walcott, Programme Assistant, Guyana
69. Ms. Sucketa Persaud, Secretary, Guyana
70. Mr. Maurice Witter, Driver, Guyana

### Organisation of American States (cont'd)

71. Mr. Michael G. Wyllie, Director, Office of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Guyana, St. Vincent.
72. Dr. Willem Grisley, Sector Specialist, USA

### European Union (EU)

73. H.E Mr. John Caloghirou, Head of Delegation, EU

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

74. Mr. Carlos Felipe Martinez, UN Resident Co-ordinator, UNDP
75. Mr. Andrea Tamagnini, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP

### Russian Federation

76. R. Alexander Zaitsev, Counselor, Russia

### US Embassy

77. Mr. Hugh V. Simon, Deputy Chief of Mission, USA

78. Mr. Patrick McDuffie, USAID Director, USA

79. Ms. Theresa Hebron, Consul, USA

80. Ms. Victoria Coffineau, Vice-Consul, USA

81. Mr. Steven Banks, Vice-Consul, USA

82. Ms. Deborah Rhea, Vice-Consul, USA

83. Mr. Gale L. Ruff, Attaché, USA

### Indian High Commission

84. H.E. Mr. Satya Pal Kanjia, High Commissioner, India

### Suriname Embassy

### Colombia Embassy

## APPENDIX V1

### Political Parties which indicated their interest in contesting the General and Regional Elections 1997

1.	Alliance for Guyana WPA/GLP/Citizens	- A.F.G
2.	A Good & Green for Guyana	- A.G.G.G
3.	Amerindian Party	- A.P
4.	A Righteous Coalition	- A.R.C
5.	Bakja People's Movement	- B.P.M
6.	Democratic Labour Movement	- D.L.M
7.	God Bless Guyana	- G.B.G
8.	Guyana Action Party	- G.A.P
9.	Guyana Democratic Party	- G.D.P
10.	Guyana National Congress	- G.N.C
11.	Horizon and Sun	- H.A.S
12.	Human Rights Party	- H.R.P
13.	Islamic Republican Party	- I.R.P
14.	Justice for All Party	- J.F.A.P
15.	National Democratic Front	- N.D.F
16.	National Independent Party	- N.I.P
17.	National Republican Party	- N.R.P
18.	People's Democratic Movement	- P.D.M
19.	People's National Congress	- P.N.C
20.	People's Progressive Party/Civic	- P.P.P/C
21.	The United Force	- T.U.F
22.	Union of Guyanese International	- U.G.I
23.	United Republican Party	- U.R.P
24.	United Workers' Party	- U.W.P

## APPENDIX V11

Political Parties which submitted lists of Candidates to the Chief Elections Officer on 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 1997.

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 1.  | Alliance for Guyana<br>WPA/GLP/CITZENS | - A.F.G   |
| 2.  | God Bless Guyana                       | - G.B.C   |
| 3.  | A Good & Green Guyana                  | - A.G.G.G |
| 4.  | Guyana Democratic Party                | - G.D.P   |
| 5.  | Guyana National Congress               | - G.N.C   |
| 6.  | Horizon and Star                       | - H.A.S   |
| 7.  | Justice for All Party                  | - J.F.A.P |
| 8.  | National Democratic Front              | - N.D.P   |
| 9.  | National Independent Party             | - N.I.P   |
| 10. | People's National Congress             | - P.N.C   |
| 11. | People's Progressive Party/Civic       | - P.P.P/C |
| 12. | The United Force                       | - T.U.F   |

APPENDIX V111

Guyana Elections Commission  
General and Regional Elections

No.	Title of List	Symbol	Representative	Contesting General Elections	Regional Elections										Remarks
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	A Good and Green Guyana	Front End Loader	Hamilton Green	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
2	Alliance for Guyana	The Bell	Rupert Roopnarine	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
3	God Bless Guyana	Dove	Hardatt Persaud	√											
4	Guyana Democratic Party	House	Asgar Ally	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
5	Justice for All Party	Scale	Chandra N. Sharma	√			√								
6	National Democratic Party	The Factory	Joseph Bacchus	√										√	
7	National Independent Party	Three Concentric Circles	Saphier Husain	√											
8	People's National Congress	Palm Tree	Hugh Desmond Hoyte	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
9	People's Progressive Party	The Cup	Janet Jagan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
10	The united Force	The Sun	Mansoor Nadir	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	

Dates November 11, 1997

**The Representation of the People Act  
(Cap. 1:03)**

**Regional Elections**

**Declaration of Results**

In accordance with section 99 of the representation of the People Act, Cap. 1:03 (as applied to regional elections by section 18 of the Local Democratic Organs Act, 1980) the Elections Commission hereby declares that the results of the elections held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1997, pursuant to article 73 (2) of the Constitution for the election of councilors in each of the ten regions of Guyana are as follows:

(1) Regional Democratic Council for Region No. 1 or the Barima/Waini Region

(a) The number of votes cast for each List of Candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	68
A Good and Green Guyana	31
Guyana Democratic Party	268
People's National Congress	2,509
People's Progressive Party/Civic	5,507
The United Force	1,088

<b>Total number of valid votes</b>	<b>9,471</b>
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(b) the number of rejected ballot paper is 755

(c) the number of seats allocated to each list of Candidates is as follows:-

People's National Congress	4
People's Progressive Party/Civic	9
The United Force	2

<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
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(2) Regional Democratic Council for Region No.2 or the Pomeroron/Supenaam Region.

(a) The number of votes cast for each list of candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	114
A Good and Green Guyana	38
Guyana Democratic Party	247
People's National Congress	6,559
People's Progressive Party/Civic	16,990
The United Force	292
<b>Total number of valid votes</b>	<b>24,240</b>

(b) the number of rejected ballot paper is 549

(c) the number of seats allocated to each list of Candidates is as follows:-

People's National Congress	5
People's Progressive Party/Civic	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

(d) The names of the persons who, as a result of the election, have become members of the Regional Democratic Council Region No. 2. or the Pomeroron/Supenaam Region are as follows:-

(1) People's National Congress

BACCHUS, Michall  
BOWEN Marva  
HUBBARD, Festus  
NAIPAUL, Bharrat  
WILLIAMS, Mary

- (e) The names of the persons who, as a result of the election, have become members of the Regional Democratic Council for Region No.2 or the Pomeroun/Supenaam Region are as follows:-

**(i) The People's National Congress**

BIRBAL, Perry  
HAYNES, Andrew  
MARCUS, Fitzroy  
OSBOURNE, Onola  
PERSAUD, Timothy  
PRESCOD, Colin  
SOUVENIR, Yvonne

**People's Progressive Party/Civic**

AHMAD, Shaheed  
BAKSH, Forouk  
BISHRAM, Ramenauth  
DEODAT, Victor  
DOOKIE, Esau  
DYAL, Narine  
FORTE, Eric  
SUSSAIN, Mohames L.  
JOSEPH, Marva. C.  
KAMAL  
MANPERSAUD  
MATTHEWS, Shameen  
ORI, Hansraj  
PAYNE, O.A. Jerome  
PRASHAD, Rabindra  
RAMRATTAN  
ROOPCHAND  
SAHADEO, Maharajia  
SUKHAI, Pariag  
SUKOO, Walter

## People's National Congress

ALLEN, Genevieve  
ARCHER, Megan  
BAILEY, Laurice  
DECEMBER, Pamela  
ELLIOT, Ernest  
EVELYN, Christina  
EVERSLEY, Trevor  
FRASER, Desmond  
FRANCOIS, Alma  
HAMILTON, Joseph  
HUNTLEY, Princess  
JARVIS, Yonette  
LEGALL, Debra  
MUNROE, Allan  
PHOENIX, Zenobia  
ROBERTS, Patrick  
SAMMY, Lachman  
WILLIAMS, Joseph

## People's Progressive Party

Bobb, Joseph  
BUDHAI, Audit Narain  
BURKE, George  
COLE, Maurice Adolphus  
FOO, Claudette  
LA CRIZ, Dianne B.M.  
MATADIN  
MORIAN Desmond Edroy  
Mudlier, Dennis B.M.  
NEENDKUMAR  
RAI, Khemraj Abel  
RAMANAH, Kistanah  
RAMKELLAN, Kashoo P.  
RAMNARAIN, Chnadroutee  
SEERAJ Dharamkumar  
SHIWPRASHAD

## People's Progressive Party

BAKSH, Jalalooden  
BALDEO, HARRINARAINÉ  
BISHNAUTH, Bindrabhan  
CAMPAYNE, Phillip  
DHANRAJ, Janie  
FRASER, A. Geoffrey  
ISHMAEL, Mohamed  
RAMPHAL S. Mangal  
RICHMOND, Rudolph  
SAHADEO Jailall  
SEARS, Willaims H.  
SINGH, Shiroot

### 6. Regional Democratic Council Region No. 6 or the East Berbice/Corentyne Region.

(a) the number of votes cast for each list of Candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	362
A Good and Green Guyana	166
Guyana Democratic Party	488
People's National Congress	17,056
People's Progressive Party/Civic	51,962
The United Force	253
<b>Total number of valid Votes</b>	<b>70,284</b>

(b) The number of rejected ballot is **1521**

(c) The number of seats allocated to each list of candidates is as follows:-

People's National Congress	8
People's Progressive Party	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

7. Regional Democratic Council for Region No. 7 or the Cuyuni/Mazaruni Region.

(a) the number of votes cast for each list of Candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	111
A Good and Green Guyana	19
Guyana Democratic Party	59
People's National Congress	4,277
People's Progressive Party/Civic	3,193
The United Force	201
<b>Total number of votes</b>	<b>7,860</b>

(b) the number of rejected ballot paper is 393

(c) the number of Seats allocated to each list of Candidates is as follows:-

People's National Congress	8
People's Progressive Party/Civic	6
The United Force	1

**Total** 15

(d) the names of persons who are as a result of the election, have become member of the Regional Democratic Council for the said Region No. 6 or the Cuyuni/Mazaruni Region are as follows:-

(i) People's National Congress

ANDRIES, KELLY

ARCHER, BRETNOL

DAVID, JUDITH

HUSBANDS, JANNET

MC WATT, HILLARY

PETERS, RICHARD

PROWELL, CARLOS

REID, EMMA

- (e) The names of the persons who as a result of the election, have become members of the Regional Democratic Council for the said region No. 8 or the Potaro/Suparuni Region  
Are as follows:-

**Alliance for Guyana**

Henry , Wainwright  
Peters, Alberino  
Williams, Matherson  
Xavier, Francis

**People's National Congress**

Bancroft, Gloria  
Clarke, Ewart  
Francis, Manuel  
Kenfune, Peberty  
Mc Garrel, Stanley

**People's Progressive Party**

1. Atkinson, Albert A.
2. Dear, Archie Clyde C.
3. Geronimo, Gilbert
4. Joseph, Cajetan

**(iv) The United Force**

1. Stanislaus, Alfred
2. Stanislaus, Sipron

9. Regional Democratic Council for Region No. 9 or the Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo Region.

- (a) the number of votes cast for each list of Candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	333
A Good and Green Guyana	14
Guyana Democratic Party	17
People's National Congress	1,761
People's Progressive Party/Civic	2,580
The United Force	2,458
<b>Total number of valid votes</b>	<b>7,163</b>

10. Regional Democratic Council for Region No. 10 or the Upper Demerara/Berbice Region.

(a) the number of votes cast for each list of Candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	327
A Good and Green Guyana	131
Guyana Democratic Party	169
National Democratic Party	30
People's National Congress	14,635
People's Progressive Party/Civic	3,418
The United Force	143

**The number of valid votes 18,851**

(b) the number of rejected ballot paper is 777

(c) the number of Seats allocated to each list of candidates is as follows:-

Alliance for Guyana	1
People's National Congress	14
People's Progressive Party/Civic	3

**Total 18**

(d) the names of the persons who, as a result of the election have become members Of the Regional Democratic Council for the said Region No. 10 or the Upper Demerara/Berbice Region.

(i) Alliance for Guyana

COLLINS, STANLEY M.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ELECTION RESULTS  
DURING THE PERIOD 1964 to 1997**

YEAR	NO. OF LISTED ELECTORS	TOTAL VOTES CAST	VALID VOTES FOR EACH LIST OF CANDIDATES																				TOTAL VALID VOTES
			GUMP	JP	NLF	PEEP	DLM	NDF	NRP	PDM	PNC	PPP	TUF	UGI	URP	UWP	WPA/AFC	GBG	JFAP	AGGG	NIP	GDP	
1964	247,604	240,120	1,194	1,334	177	224	-	-	-	-	96,657	109,332	29,612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	238,530
1968	269,088	314,216	899	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	174,339	113,991	23,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	312,391
1973	431,575	349,590	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2053	243,803	92,374	9,580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	347,810
1980	493,550	406,265	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	312,988	78,414	11,612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	403,014
1985	399,304	294,801	-	-	-	-	2167	156	-	232	228,718	45926	9,820	-	-	-	4,176	-	-	-	-	-	291,195
1992	384,195	308,852	-	-	-	-	1557	68	114	270	128,286	162,058	3,183	134	1343	77	6,086	-	-	-	-	-	303,186
1997	461,481	408,057	-	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	161,901	220,667	5,937	-	-	-	4,783	314	1265	1552	258	2528	399,310