Suriname Elections 2020 Project
Handover Ceremony for Computers

Remarks

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United Nations Development Programme
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Ministry of Home Affairs

Salutations

• Mr. Amatngalin, Deputy Director, Financial Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs
• Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs
• Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to be here with you today, on the occasion of this handover ceremony of computers to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The procurement and handover of these computers falls within the framework of the Electoral Support that UNDP is providing to the Ministry of Home Affairs. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the staff of this Ministry for the fruitful cooperation.
In March of this year, UNDP and the Ministry of Home Affairs signed the Electoral Support Project and this project aims to provide assistance and support to the Republic of Suriname ahead of, during, and after the 2020 elections. The project has several key elements:

- Capacity building for relevant institutions
- Technical support in the administration and conduct of elections, including the preparation of ballot papers and voter cards
- Encouraging the participation of women, the indigenous populations and persons with disabilities
- Developing party financing regulations and a political party code of conduct
- Media training, and
- A voter outreach education campaign.

The project aims to develop sustainable capacity building for relevant institutions in order to ensure that elections are carried out in a coordinated manner, with increased standards of transparency. The project also aims to educate Surinamese voters, especially first-time voters, about the voting process in order to ensure greater awareness.

Based on a Needs Assessment Mission which was held earlier this year, and discussions with the Ministry, we have purchased thirty computers and will be handing these over today, to support the activities just mentioned. Over the coming weeks additional IT equipment will follow.
Computers are not a solution in themselves to all the challenges that the Ministry is facing in preparing for the elections. However, we do acknowledge that improved technology will contribute to more efficient ways of working at the sections of Home Affairs which are very much involved in the preparations of the 2020 elections, and with the administration of voters.

We are committed to supporting the Ministry of Home Affairs and all other actors involved in the electoral process to ensure that Suriname maintains its record of well organized and peaceful elections.

Deputy Director, I look forward to working more closely with you and your staff, on the agreed outputs, as captured in the project document, with the aim of achieving the project outcomes.

I thank you.