



**PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Publication)**

**GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION REQUESTS EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE
BRANCHES TO CONSIDER DECLARING HOLIDAY FOR 2008 GENERAL
ELECTION.**

With the 2008 General Election scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, the Guam Election Commission is already anticipating several challenges in being able to efficiently conduct the General Election if November 4th is not declared a Holiday.

In a letter to both Acting Governor Michael Cruz and Speaker Judi Won Pat, GEC Chairman John Terlaje and Vice Chairman John Taitano emphasize that should November 4, 2008 remain status quo, the GEC could face issues that include, but are not limited to the fact that:

- Majority of the designated Polling Sites are Guam Public School System (GPSS) facilities (*classrooms and cafeterias*);
- Poll Maintenance Workers for the General Election are GPSS and Mayor's Office employees;
- Majority of the Precinct Officials and Tabulators are Government of Guam employees;
- Transport operators and vehicles used on Election Day are Department of Public Works (DPW) buses and drivers.

The GEC is very concerned with the possibility of not being able to utilize the public schools, the village gymnasiums, as well as the UOG Field House to conduct the General Election should November 4th remain a regular workday. The GEC presently has no contingency plan and has never had to identify alternative facilities to conduct the General Election. For as long as the GEC has conducted elections on Guam, the GEC has and continues to utilize facilities that are owned by the government of Guam.

The GEC is soliciting the favorable consideration of the two (2) island leaders in evaluating the potential situation and to exercise their respective authorities to declare November 4, 2008 a Government of Guam Holiday in light of the upcoming 2008 General Election.

For more information on this Press Release, you may call Guam Election Commission Executive Director John F. Blas at (671) 477-9791 or (671) 477-9792.