

## Generic Voter Registration System(GVRS)

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A photo and finger print system will be included in the electoral voting system for the 2016 parliamentary elections.

This will mean that every registered and eligible voters will be required to have their photos and finger prints on their electoral cards which will be computerised to be able to vote in the parliamentary elections in 2016.

“We will not have this ready for the 2012 general elections but we are working towards achieving this for the 2016 parliamentary elections,” Principal Electoral Officer Lawson Samuel told Daily Post yesterday morning.

He said the system known as the Generic Voter Registration System(GVRS) is already being set up for Vanuatu by the Australian Electoral Experts but more funds and work is needed to complete the system and that this should be ready for the 2016 general elections.

Mr Samuel is in Honiara today to meet his Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea counterparts to discuss and share ideas of ways and means to improve electoral voting systems in the three Melanesian countries. They will be reviewing the system known as GVRS set up by the Australian Electoral Experts and see how effective this can be for the three countries.

“As far as Vanuatu is concern, we will proceed with the GVRS system and our target will be to put this into use in our 2016 general elections,” Mr Lawson Samuel assured.

He added that Vanuatu needs the system because the past general elections have showed that many voters have registered twice or more to try and cast more votes.

Mr Samuel also confirmed that further funds will be required to complete the computerise photo and finger print GVRS system to be ready for the 2016 general elections. He said while it sounds complicated and comprehensive once in place, it will eliminate every possibility of a voter trying to cast his vote twice.