ABSTRACT FOR PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP

Parliament in the Age of Information and Communications Technology.

" The impact of the increasing use of ICT in the Parliaments of the Commonwealth Caribbean"

This paper would examine the impact of the increasing use if ICTs in conducting the business of Parliaments in the Caribbean.   It discusses the view that the Web can transform any ailing system of representative democracy into a more robust form of participatory democracy. It also supports the idea that the virtualization power of IT can provide transparency and through revised legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act render greater accountability in the governments' decision making process.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) create the forum for the development of a people and society, through the automation of technical routines like online registration, electronic voting, access to and the provision of feed-back mechanisms for new legislations, effective representation of MPs' through public relations and the incorporation of e-forums as a method for the delivery of parliamentary services.This new phenomenon of e –Democracy undoubtedly would generate more active citizen participation enabled by the Internet and in turn may contribute to better governance.

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