



Saint Lucia Electoral Department

PRESS RELEASE

St. Lucia Celebrates International Day of Democracy: Emphasizing the theme, “Artificial Intelligence as a Tool for Good Governance”.

For twelve (12) years running, Saint Lucia joins the global community in observing the International Day of Democracy on Sunday September 15, 2024. The day is dedicated to reinforcing the principles of free speech, civil liberties, the rule of law, and human rights. Moreover, this year's observance highlights the crucial role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping democratic governance.

According to the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres , as we mark this important day, we reflect on the state of democracy worldwide during an era where over 50 countries are holding elections in an effort to uphold values such as freedom, accountability, and human rights, which continue to face unprecedented challenges. Freedoms are being eroded, civic spaces are shrinking, and polarization is on the rise.

This year's theme centers on the intersection of democracy and artificial intelligence (AI). It offers remarkable potential for enhancing democratic processes. AI can bolster public participation, equality, security, and human development. It has the power to improve education on democratic processes and create more inclusive spaces where citizens have a voice and can hold decision-makers accountable.

To fully harness the benefits of AI while mitigating its risks, effective governance at all levels is essential. The recent report from the High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence provides valuable recommendations on ensuring that AI serves humanity equitably and safely.

As the world looks forward to the upcoming Summit of the Future, Saint Lucia reaffirms its commitment to building a more inclusive, just, and equal world. We call on all stakeholders to

collaborate and strengthen international cooperation, build trust, and safeguard the future for generations to come.

On this International Day of Democracy, let us continue to protect and promote democratic values and ensure that AI contributes positively to our shared goals.

To commemorate this day, the Saint Lucia Electoral Department will:

1. Affords members of the public the opportunity to take advantage of the temporary **waiver** of the \$100 fee for replacement of Lost Identification Card. This initiative will take place at the Castries and Vieux Sub Office from Monday 16 September to 1 October, 2024 Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:15pm

ALSO PLEASE NOTE that all requirements for replacement of lost ID cards will be enforced by the department. These requirements include

- A Statutory Declaration form issued by the Electoral Department to be completed by the applicant and signed by a Justice of the Peace (JP) or a Notary Royal
 - Two passport-sized photographs, and
 - One \$5 postage stamp affixed to the form.
2. Present a **Facebook live** event to highlight the significant work of the department; this broadcast will showcase the critical roles of the department in maintaining a transparent and fair democratic process.
 3. Undertake an initiative where management will feature photos and short biographies of all our former Chief Elections Officers, and visits to some of the electoral boundaries.



Alympia Lionel (Ms.)
Assistant Chief Elections Officer