

## Absentee Voting

Election Committee has carefully weighed the options provided in Bylaws for Absentee-voting. Absentee voting will be allowed in this year's upcoming election, if there is a need for election. We also intend to publish guidelines soon, on how to obtain ballot paper once nomination-withdrawal deadline has passed and, if election is imminent. Also, please note that only the following options are allowed for absentee voting:

- In Person: If your spouse will be attending the election/event, you may download and print the ballot paper **\*\*when it becomes available\*\*** on the website, vote on the ballot paper; your spouse may hand over your vote in a sealed envelope to Election-committee designate during designated election hours.
- By Postal: You may download and print the ballot paper and notarization document **\*\*when they become available\*\*** on the website, vote on the ballot paper, sign the separate notarization document in front of a notary, have the notary notarize your notarization document confirming that you used a Government-issued ID for identification purposes. Both ballot and notarized document must be mailed in a sealed envelope (one vote per envelope only). In this option, only postal mail is allowed; that postal mail will have to reach Sangam mailing address one day before the election that is on or before Nov. 20, 2015.

**We draw your attention to the specific Bylaws regarding absentee voting and voting procedure:**

*Absentee votes in meetings of Sangam: Absentee voting by postal mail is allowed in General Body meetings of the Sangam if it is received at the Sangam mailing address one day before the General Body meeting. Mailed absentee voters should use the ballot papers provided by GATS and mail them in a small, sealed envelope accompanied by a separate sheet, which is duly signed by the member and notarized. Also, any member can hand over his/her votes to his/her spouse in a sealed envelope if they cannot make it to the general body meetings of the Sangam. The secrecy of all absentee voting shall be maintained.*

*Voting procedure: Members will not be allowed to vote without a government issued photo ID. The members and spouses names should be listed in the membership database. Any name changes can be accepted as an exception as decided by the election committee.*