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### GECOM Implores Parties/Other Stakeholders To Support House-To-House Registration

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) is forced to respond to a most disappointing public pronouncement by Ms. Amna Ally, Chief Scrutineer of the People's National Congress Reform – 1 Guyana (PNCR-1G) on the matter of accreditation of Scrutineers to monitor the House-to-House Registration exercise.

Ms. Ally has gone on record with the accusation that GECOM has failed to accredit persons who were included in a list of names supplied to Mr. Gocool Boodoo, Chief Election Officer to be appointed as Scrutineers for the PNCR-1G. This, apart from being a far cry from the truth, is a grave distortion of the relevant facts, which could only serve to undermine the integrity of GECOM, cast doubts on the House-to-House Registration process and consequently raise questions about the purity of the National Register of Registrants Database which is to be created therefrom.

The facts of this matter as they unfolded are:-

1. Ms. Ally submitted a list of the names of persons appointed in the 23 Registration Areas as Scrutineers for the PNCR-1G to be so accredited a few days prior to the Commencement of the House-to-House Registration exercise. The GECOM Secretariat immediately circulated to the Registration Officers (ROs) in each of the 23 Registration Areas the names of the persons appointed as Scrutineers by the PNCR-1G to work in respective Areas. Simultaneously, the Secretariat commenced producing accreditation badges for the appointed persons.
1. Ms. Ally was informed by the Chief Election Officer, Mr. Boodoo, that the ROs were given the names of the persons appointed as Scrutineers in their respective Registration Areas and that they were instructed to allow those persons to work although they may not be in possession of accreditation badges. The accreditation badges would have been distributed to the Scrutineers via the respective Chief Scrutineers as soon as they were ready.
1. On Tuesday, January 8, 2008, when the House-to-House Registration exercise had already commenced, Ms. Ally called Mr. Boodoo's office indicating that there were some changes to be made with the list of names of persons appointed as Scrutineers for PNCR-1G which she had

submitted. At 17:30 hours (5:30 pm) on this said date, a new list of the names, with numerous countrywide changes to the original list, of persons appointed as Scrutineers for the PNCR-1G was delivered to Mr. Boodoo's office.

1. Upon receipt of the latter list of names, Mr. Boodoo immediately proceeded to instruct the ROs to note the names of persons who presented themselves as Scrutineers for the PNCR-1G and to allow them to work until such time that their respective appointments could be verified from the new list. Understandably, there would be a delay, due to no fault of GECOM, in preparing and distributing accreditation badges with regards to the changes in the appointment of Scrutineers for the PNCR-1G.

In view of the foregoing, GECOM takes this opportunity to implore that all political parties and other stakeholders in this House-to-House Registration exercise conscientiously support GECOM in achieving optimal success by refraining from doing and/or saying anything, which could undermine the integrity of the exercise, without justification. GECOM remains committed to carrying out this House-to-House Registration exercise in strict compliance with the legal provisions and in a manner that will guarantee that the NRRDB to be created therefrom is indisputable.

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