

14.03.2008.

62 DAYS OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE REGISTRATION – ACHIEVEMENTS

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) is convinced that the current pace of the ongoing House-to-House registration exercise will result in this activity being completed by the scheduled end date of July 4, 2008.

This state of affairs became apparent upon the examination of the Registration Transaction Report for the week ending Friday, March, 7, 2008, by the Commission at its 213th Statutory Meeting which was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

This Registration Transaction Report showed that 227,851 transactions had been completed for the period January 7-March 7, 2008, i.e. in 62 days. This figure represents 39% of the estimated total of 591,297 persons who would be 14 years or older by June 30, 2008, under this House-to-House Registration which is earmarked to be completed in 180 days.

The 227,851 Registration transactions represent the total number of persons who have met the eligibility criteria, and for whom Application for Registration Forms have been filled out by Registration Teams working in all of the 23 Registration Areas across Guyana.

GECOM has managed to accomplish this level of success despite (i) the teething problems encountered at the commencement of the exercise, (ii) inclement weather patterns and (iii) the national impacts of the tragic occurrences at Lusignan and Bartica.

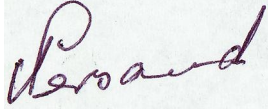
While there was a steady climb in the weekly number of completed transactions since the commencement of the exercise on January 7, 2008, it must be noted that the national state of tension resulting from the killings at Lusignan and Bartica resulted in a significant dip in the number of registration transactions conducted during the 7th week as is evident from the enclosed histogram (bar chart). However, as is also obvious from the histogram, the number of Registration transactions rose again during the 8th week. The slight decrease during the 9th week, as shown on the histogram is due to the non receipt of reports on the number of Registration transactions that were conducted in far flung areas for this week.

In developing its Work Plan for House-to-House Registration, GECOM's Secretariat had estimated the number of persons to be registered by upping the number of persons included on the 2006 Official List of Electors (OLE) by 20% to cater for the capture of persons 14 years old or over who would have never been registered.

GECOM remains optimistic that, notwithstanding the persistent experiences of inclement weather and based on the existing levels of progress, the House-to-House Registration exercise should conclude by the gazetted end date of July 4, 2008.

On a related matter, the Commission wishes to acknowledge the approval of \$300 million by the Government for the payment of Scrutineers as a move which guarantees that House-to-House Registration will continue to be carried out under the watchful eyes of persons appointed as Scrutineers. This represents an additional pillar to support the integrity of the new National Register of Registrants (NRR) that is to be created from the exercise.

GECOM takes the opportunity, once again, to assure all Political Parties and other stakeholders that it remains committed to working towards the successful and satisfactory completion of the House-to-House Registration exercise, and to note that the cooperation of all Political Parties, civic and business organizations and all other stakeholders will contribute significantly to the achievement of this primary objective.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Persaud", is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Vishnu Persaud, MCIPR
Public Relations Officer