

Press Release



CARICOM's Role at the National Recount was to Observe the Process

- *Validation of an Election can only be done in the High Court*

15th November, 2024 GEORGETOWN - The Chairperson of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), Justice (ret'd) Claudette Singh has taken note of comments attributed to her by Commissioner Vincent Alexander on the Freddie Kissoon show aired on Wednesday, 13th November on radio and several social media platforms. Specifically, Mr. Alexander stated that the GECOM Chairperson did not provide the CARICOM Scrutineering team at the National Recount with the 'list of names certified by the Immigration Department of persons who were not in the jurisdiction at the time of the election.'

Mr. Alexander's comments sought to imply that the Chairperson may have had a sinister motive for not providing the CARICOM Scrutineering team with the list of names submitted by the Immigration Department. Recognizing that Mr. Alexander sought to mislead the nation with his baseless comments that are not premised on law, this response is absolutely necessary to correct such misinformation/disinformation that can potentially cause public confusion.

In view of the foregoing and for the sake of clarity, Order 60 of 2020 made provision for a National Recount to be conducted. Order 60 provided for the recount process to be undertaken, executed and supervised by GECOM and be **scrutinized** by a CARICOM team appointed by the Chairman of CARICOM.

It is therefore imperative to emphasize that the role of the CARICOM team was only to scrutinize the recount process. The Constitution which is the supreme law stipulates the method by which an election should be validated. Article 163 of the Constitution has specifically provided for the High Court to have exclusive jurisdiction to determine any question as to the validity of an election and in this regard, Parliament has made provision for the determination by way of the Validity of Elections Act, Chapter 1:04.

Against this backdrop, it is evident that Mr. Alexander's assertion that the GECOM Chairperson may have deliberately withheld the document from the CARICOM Scrutinizing team is baseless and could have only been intended to mislead stakeholders and cause confusion.

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