

GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION



THE ROLE OF SCRUTINEERS

IN THE

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Prepared By:

Date:

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ELECTIONS LAW AMENDMENT ACT NO. 15 OF 2000, SEC. 8

1:0 PREPARATION OF THE OFFICIAL LIST OF ELECTORS

Every organization or group proposing to submit a list of candidates, may by writing under the hand of the authorized person appoint:

- One (1) Chief Scrutineer for each political party/group for the country;
- Ten (10) Deputy Chief Scrutineers
One for each political party/group for each region;
- Initially, twenty-three (23) Assistant Chief Scrutineers and as may be required for new registration offices, established by the Commission.
One for each political party/group is required for each Registration Area Office;
- Divisional Scrutineers: These are required based on the number of populated divisions in each registration area.

NOTE !

The role of the Registration Staff is clearly defined in the Operations Manual for the conduct of Continuous Registration.

What is the Role of a Scrutineer?

The Scrutineer is to ensure that registration is carried out in a professional, non-partisan and non-threatening way. The Registration Officer/Assistant Registration Officer/Clerk asks each applicant a set of questions. The Scrutineer is to observe and listen to ensure that the

authorized officer completes the forms as accurately as possible and attaches the appropriate photographs and relevant thumb-prints.

Scrutineers should not, by any means, interfere with the process. They should not ask applicants for information, but must only collect same from the Registration Officer, or other authorized staff. Scrutineers should try to work as cordially and as co-operatively as possible with the area registration staff.

REMEMBER!

The Registration Officer and other authorized staff are the persons appointed by the Elections Commission and have the right to ask Scrutineers for their credentials.

How must Scrutineers deal with problems?

If a problem is detected, the Divisional Scrutineer should first approach the Registration officer or Assistant Registration Officer drawing his/her attention to the problem. Every effort must be made to resolve minor problems in a cordial and impartial manner.

If the problem is not resolved, the Divisional Scrutineer must inform the Assistant Chief Scrutineer at the Registration Office. He/she must then seek the involvement of the Registration Officer in the resolution of the matter.

The Assistant Chief Scrutineer must also inform his Deputy Chief Scrutineer who will in turn inform the Chief Scrutineer. They must then seek to address the matter at the earliest opportunity.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

The Commissioner shall be given notice in writing of the appointment of a person as a scrutineer by the authorized person appointing him/her.

CHIEF SCRUTINEER

There is only **ONE** Chief Scrutineer for each approved party or group for the entire country. The Chief Scrutineer is the liaison among the political parties/groups, the Secretariat and the Elections Commission. The Chief Scrutineer can request registration information from the Registration Officer, the Assistant Registration Officer and the Registration Clerks at any office in the country.

DEPUTY CHIEF SCRUTINEER

There is **ONE** Deputy Chief Scrutineer (per party or group) for each of the **TEN** registration districts in Guyana. The Deputy Chief Scrutineers are responsible for overseeing the work of the Assistant Chief Scrutineers and the Divisional Scrutineers in each registration district. The Deputy Chief Scrutineers can request information from staff at any office in the particular district.

ASSISTANT CHIEF SCRUTINEER

It is proposed that the Assistant Chief Scrutineers work with each Registration Officer at a Registration Office. Initially, there are twenty-three (23) offices and at least one for each party/group is required at each office. The

Assistant Chief Scrutineer is responsible for the co-ordination of the work of the Divisional Scrutineers for each political party/group.

Specifically, they are required to ensure that the required number of Divisional Scrutineers is available and ready at all times to support the work of that particular office.

They are required to mobilize, train and assign reliable Divisional Scrutineers as may be necessary to facilitate registration at the office and field verification of completed applications.

Assistant Chief Scrutineers can request information from the Registration Officer and Staff of the specific office to which appointed.

Previously, this category of scrutineers provided voluntary service for the party/group. However, since the task is much more demanding, and punctuality and regularity are critical to the success of the exercise, it is recommended that each Assistant Scrutineer be paid for services rendered.

DIVISIONAL SCRUTINEERS

Divisional Scrutineers observe the registration process at each Registration Office. They are also required to accompany Registration Officers/Clerks from house to house to verify the accuracy and completeness of the registration information collected as well as the identity and residency of the applicant.

They are appointed by the “authorized person” of the party/group they represent. The Commissioner of Registration issues to them the relevant identification cards which they must present to the Registration Officer before they are allowed to function at the office. The identification badge must be worn at all times while the Scrutineer is in operation.

Divisional Scrutineers can only inspect and collect information from applicants in the divisions to which they are appointed. The information collected is normally forwarded to the Chief Scrutineer of the party/group they represent. They are expected to treat all information collected with professionalism and confidentiality.

The function of the Divisional Scrutineer is a very demanding one and in order to guarantee that the registration process is not affected in any way, careful co-ordination by the Assistant Chief Scrutineer is necessary.

Divisional Scrutineers are to be fielded as per team. Each Registration Officer requires a specific number of teams to oversee work at the office as well as in the field. It is the responsibility of the Assistant Chief Scrutineer to make sure that his/her representative on each team is adequately trained, prepared and notified in good time so as to be readily available for participation in field-work on a daily basis. **(See numbers overleaf)**

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

The appointment of a scrutineer terminates on the date on which the Revised List of Electors is published.

SUMMARY OF SCRUTINEERS REQUIRED AS PER REGISTRATION OFFICES

REGION	OFFICE	NO. OF DIVISIONS REGISTRATION	NO. OF ELECTORS	GECOM STAFF	SCRUTINEERS REQUIRED	
					A.C.S.	DIV. S.
1	MABARUMA	31	7,576	8	1	4 teams
	MORUCA	24	3,897	8	1	4 teams
2	CHARITY	21	8,365	8	1	4 teams
	ANNA REGINA ESSEQUIBO COAST	26	17,869	9	1	5 teams
3	PARIKA EAST BANK ESSEQUIBO	49	30,496	10	1	5 teams
	VREED-EN-HOOP WEST BANK DEMERARA	46	30,524	10	1	5 teams
4	EAST BANK DEMERARA	32	30,199	10	1	5 teams
	SOUTH GEORGETOWN	37	58,858	16	1	8 teams
	NORTH GEORGETOWN	29	36,579	15	1	6 teams
	EAST COAST DEMERARA PARADISE	51	67,946	19	1	8 teams
5	MAHAICONY	20	5,252	7	1	4 teams
	ONVERWAGT	42	25,447	11	1	5 teams
6	NEW AMSTERDAM	60	31,970	11	1	6 teams
	TARLOGIE	26	20,123	10	1	4 teams
	CORRIVERTON	41	20,556	10	1	4 teams
7	KAMARANG	18	2,812	8	1	3 teams
	BARTICA ESSEQUIBO RIVER	33	6,685	9	1	4 teams
8	PARAMAKATOI	22	2,791	8	1	2 teams
	MAHDIA	05	1,580	8	1	3 teams
9	LETHEM	25	5,679	8	1	3 teams
	ANNAI	12	3,078	8	1	2 teams
10	MACKENZIE	21	9,178	9	1	4 teams
	WISMAR	20	12,725	8	1	4 teams
	TOTAL	691	440,185	228	23	102 teams

