

GECOM DISTANCES SELF FROM MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENT

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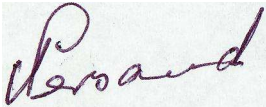
Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) wishes to totally and absolutely disassociate itself from a most erroneous advertisement published by the Government Information Agency (GINA) in the Guyana Chronicle of November 5 and 7, 2005.

GECOM is convinced that GINA meant no mischief in publishing this grossly misleading advertisement. However, the incorrectness of the information contained therein will most certainly lead to a great deal of confusion, which will be very difficult to neutralize and eradicate. In essence, the GINA advertisement has done a great disservice to GECOM and the public at large.

The GINA advertisement advises that GECOM intends to register “persons who will attain the age of 18 years on or before March 31, 2006”. This is totally incorrect. The accurate position is that GECOM is registering persons who will be 17 years and older by March 31, 2006.

The GINA advertisement contains information about the locations of GECOM’s Registration Offices in a very disjointed manner e.g. anyone seeking to find the Registration Offices for District 6 (Region No. 6) could form the opinion that there are four such existing Offices, whereas in effect there are three. Additionally, no mention is made of the two Registration Offices in District I (Region No. I), and the catchment areas for the respective Registration Offices have been totally ignored.

While GECOM is appreciative of the efforts of GINA and other agencies to assist in publicizing this Continuous Registration exercise, we advise all organizations/agencies wishing to be supportive of GECOM’s initiatives to do so only through comprehensive collaboration with the Commission.



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