

GECOM Concludes Extensive Deliberation on the Joinder of Lists and Filling of Vacancies in the National Assembly

10th July, 2025 GEORGETOWN – The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) at its Statutory meeting held on Thursday, 10th July, 2025 concluded extensive deliberations about Joinder of Lists, and Filling of Vacancies in the National Assembly. The Commission's determination of this matter was premised entirely on the legal framework. Accordingly, the Commission concluded that the following must be applied:

1. Joinder of Lists

Under **Section 22(1) of the Representation of the People Act (ROPA)**, two or more political party candidate lists may be combined for the purpose of allocation of **seats** in parliament. This combination is referred to as a "joinder of lists."

Important points to note:

- Ballots are not cast for the combination; The Parties in the combination will be listed separately on the ballot paper.
- The combination is treated as one List for the purpose of seat allocation.

2. Rules Governing Joinder Lists

- To calculate seat distribution among the Parties involved in joinder of lists **the valid votes** across for all of the Lists in the combination are added together.
- Before ascertaining the allocation of seats within the combination, a determination needs to be made whether the combination won seats in the National Assembly.**
- The allocation of seats in the National Assembly is determined by dividing the total number of valid votes cast for all of the contesting Lists of Candidates by 65 to find the electoral quota of votes per seat.**
- Providing the combination won seats in the National Assembly, an electoral quota** needs to be established within the combination to determine how seats would be distributed therein. The electoral quota is determined by dividing the total number of valid votes received by the combination by the number of seats allocated to the combination.



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- v. The total votes received by each party in the combination are divided by the quota to determine the allocation of **seats** within the combination.
 - vi. **In the case of a seat within the combination, the party with the largest number of surplus votes** will get that unallocated seat.
 - vii. **In the case of only one seat having been won by the combination, that seat shall go to the Party that received the largest number of votes among all of the parties in the combination.**
- **Note:** Each party in the joinder retains its own Representative and Deputy Representative for the purpose of extraction of candidates to become Members of the National Assembly. Therefore, it is **ONLY** the **Representative or Deputy Representative** of the Party(ies) that are allocated seats can do such extraction.

3. Filling of vacancies in Parliament (Section 99A)

If a **parliamentary seat becomes vacant** (for reasons other than a full dissolution of Parliament), the vacancy must be filled by:

- A person **not already an elected member**, but qualified and willing to serve.
- **Someone whose name appears on the same list from which the original MP was elected.**
- The selection is done by **further extraction** from that list, by the Representative or Deputy Representative of the said List.



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