

Caricom praises Guyana for peaceful election



Electoral officials tally ballots after polls closed in Uitvlugt, Guyana, during general elections on Monday. AP PHOTO

AKASH SAMAROO LEAD EDITOR - POLITICS AKASH.SAMAROO@CNC3.CO.TT

As the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) continues to tally votes from Monday's general election, several media outlets are projecting a victory for Dr Irfaan Ali's People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), suggesting the party is on course to retain control of the country.

Yesterday GECOM did not release any preliminary information. However, it posted Statements of Polls (SOPs), and the media houses across Guyana used those figures to determine the voting trends and conduct their own analysis.

An SOP is a form completed by the presiding officer at a polling station after the close of the polls and after the votes have been counted.

It is anticipated that GECOM will release the results of the election either today or tomorrow. Initially, it did commit to revealing the results on September 4.

PPP/C leader Dr Irfaan Ali, who is the presidential candidate, yesterday urged his supporters to celebrate their democratic values as they begin another chapter of development in their country.

"By the end of today, the trend will be clear, and we will be in a position to move forward

together,” he said.

Meanwhile, the presidential candidate for A Partnership for National Unity (APNU), Aubrey Norton, is still somewhat confident of victory, despite losing ground to political newcomers, the We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party led by prominent Guyanese businessman Azruddin Mohamed.

Speaking with the media yesterday, Norton said, “Yes, I believe there is a pathway to victory for our party. I want to tell supporters thanks for the support during the election. Be patient, we are keeping on top of it; we will do anything to ensure the results of these elections are the true results. And we do believe once there are no irregularities, then there’s a pathway to victory.”

Meanwhile, the Caricom Election Observation Mission (CEOM) held a media briefing yesterday, where it praised GECOM for the way it conducted the elections.

Chief of Mission Josephine Tamai said, “The CEOM is of the view that on election day, voters were able to exercise their franchise in a peaceful and orderly manner without significant incidents. The team observed no signs of intimidation, harassment, or campaigning intended to influence or obstruct the democratic process. Polling day staff performed their duties in a professional manner and are to be commended. Similarly, the police maintained law and order at the polling stations with extreme professionalism in their interactions with electors and various political stakeholders.”

The CEOM, however, did express concern over the voter’s list, which it said contained the names of deceased people. It also said Guyana should consider enacting campaign finance legislation.

Guyana’s electoral system is based on a form of proportional representation, where a party’s number of seats in the 65-member National Assembly is determined by its overall share of the votes. The system has two tiers: 25 seats are allocated to ten multi-member geographic constituencies based on regional votes, while the remaining 40 “top-up” seats are drawn from national party lists to ensure the final seat count is proportional to the national popular vote. Voters cast a single ballot for a political party, not an individual candidate, and the leader of the party that wins the most seats becomes the president.

Election result important to T&T Economist Dr Vaalmiki Arjoon says T&T ranked among Guyana’s top five suppliers, exporting over US\$400 million annually.

Arjoon believes that with Guyana being the world’s fastest-growing economy, the election results will help determine “how oil rents are managed, whether contracts are revisited, and how fast key projects advance, all of which spill directly into our energy and services ecosystem.”

The economist posits that a PPP/C victory signals “policy stability and continuity, including steady project approvals, a strong push on infrastructure, and no reopening of the Stabroek production-sharing agreement.”

He added that for T&T companies, this translates into reduced uncertainty and a clearer path for expanding their role in Guyana’s rapidly evolving economy, with fewer surprises.

Arjoon said a PPP/C victory can also mean, “Guyana’s local content policy will continue to shape how foreign firms, including those from T&T, enter and operate in the energy sector. For T&T’s energy-service companies, the clear path forward is through continued partnerships and joint ventures with Guyanese firms, built around skills transfer, technical support, and industry expertise.”