

## PRESS RELEASE

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### ERC HOSTS SUCCESSFUL CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNING TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

**Georgetown, Guyana** - In a strong show of unity and democratic commitment, the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) hosted its Code of Conduct Signing Ceremony on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC). The event brought together political parties contesting the 2025 General and Regional Elections, along with representatives of the diplomatic corps, elections observers, and the media.

Political parties present at the signing included the Alliance For Change (AFC), Assembly for Liberty and Prosperity (ALP), The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and We Invest in Nationhood (WIN). The event commenced with interfaith prayers for peace, at elections, from religious leaders representing the Christian, Hindu and Islamic faiths within Guyana.

The signing ceremony reaffirmed the ERC's constitutional mandate to promote ethnic harmony, safeguard national unity, and support peaceful democratic processes. Leaders and representatives of participating political parties formally signed the Code of Conduct, pledging to uphold mutual respect, reject divisive rhetoric, and prioritize national interest throughout the election period.

Delivering opening remarks at the ceremony, Chairman of the ERC, Shaikh Moeenul Hack, underscored the importance of responsible leadership and national solidarity. He stated, inter alia, "Let us also reaffirm that the political space in Guyana must never be reduced to hostility or intimidation. It must remain one of dignity, responsibility, and decency, where all citizens feel safe to participate and express themselves without fear. The Code of Conduct, in this sense, is not just a pledge made to the ERC; it is a promise to the people of Guyana, a vow to conduct campaigns peacefully, to reject hate speech and divisive rhetoric, and to put the national interest before partisan ambition."

The Chairman noted that the primary objective of the Code of Conduct's signing is to ensure that the rule of law is upheld. "It affirms that all political parties must conduct themselves in accordance with the Laws of Guyana and must actively appeal to their supporters to do the same," he said.

He posited further that while imperfections exist in all democracies, "that reality must not be exploited to sow discord, but rather, must be met with political maturity and restraint." He called on political leaders to set the tone and asserted that the true strength of a democracy is not merely tested at the ballot box, but in how its leaders conduct themselves before, during and after elections. To that end, Shaikh Hack appealed to all the political parties to choose the path of civility, maturity and collective responsibility.


Following the formal signing of the Code of Conduct, the political parties were also given the opportunity to provide remarks and unanimously echoed sentiments of commitment and adherence to the principles outlined in the document.


The signing ceremony concluded with the Commission expressing appreciation to the political parties and called on all stakeholders commitment to monitoring and supporting efforts that promote peace, inclusivity, and respect during the elections and beyond.


The ERC reaffirms its commitment to promoting harmony and good relations amongst all peoples of Guyana.


***Please see attached the signed copy of the Code of Conduct.***

***Ethnic Relations Commission***

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