



# GUYANA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

Guyana High Commission, 3 Palace Court, Bayswater Road, London W2, 4LP

Tel: 020 7229 7684 ; Fax No: 020 7727 9809

E-mail: [guyanahc1@btconnect.com](mailto:guyanahc1@btconnect.com)

Website: [guyanahc.com](http://guyanahc.com)

## THE 2008 BUDGET

The 2008 budget was presented to the National Assembly on 22 February 2008 by the Minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Ashni Kumar Singh, MP. The G\$ 119.3 billion budget is 19.3 percent higher than that of 2007. The budget which was well received by the private sector and other stakeholders has since been debated and passed in National Assembly.

### OVERVIEW OF 2007

In his budget presentation on 22 February, the Finance Minister recalled that the 2007 budget which was presented under the theme **Building a Modern and Prosperous Guyana**, reiterated Government's vision of a better Guyana for all Guyanese, articulated an ambitious policy agenda for the medium term, and presented programmes and projects all aimed at consolidating the impressive gains already made in transforming the economy and improving the levels of the Guyanese people.

The Hon. Minister recalled too that 2007 was also a year that provided Guyanese with a stark reminder of our vulnerabilities as part of the global economic system. The unprecedented surge in world market prices for fuel and non-fuel commodities exceeded all expectations and presented policy makers around the world with the prospect of rising inflation. He noted that our vulnerabilities are not only external in origin.

### FOCUS FOR 2008

The Minister outlined in his Budget Presentation the broad macro-economic policies that will be used as the basis for propelling the nation's development in the current year. According to him, the Government will continue to manage the economy responsibly, and avoid short term actions

cont'd....2/

### National stakeholders agree to urgent setting up of Parliamentary Committee on National Security

At a meeting held on Wednesday, 12 March at the Office of the President under the chairmanship of President Bharrat Jagdeo, national stakeholders agreed to the urgent setting up of a Parliamentary Committee on National Security, for the effective participation of civil society in the Committee and other parliamentary processes, and to explore an agreed mechanism for the continuation of the National Stakeholders' Forum.

The agreement for the setting up of the Parliamentary Standing Sectoral Committee on national security with ministerial representation was one of five agreements reached when stakeholders met at the Office of the President to follow-up on their meeting of 27 February 2008 regarding the Lusignan and Bartica massacres which left 23 persons dead.

The forty two organisations in attendance included representatives of the Government, the Joint Services, the Parliamentary political parties, the private sector, labour organisations, the legal profession, women organisations, Amerindian organisations, the Citizens Initiative, the Guyana Human Rights Association, the Inter-Religious Organisation, Christian, Hindu, Muslim bodies and the Indian Arrival Committee.

In a statement following the meeting, the Government Information Agency (GINA) pointed out that the other agreements reached were for: expediting within 90 days, the appointment of the six (6) Constitutional Commissions which are key features of the governance framework; the convening and activation of the Parliamentary Constitutional Reform Committee to address issues at present before it and to examine further areas for constitutional reform; meaningful and effective participation of civil society in these parliamentary processes; and an agreed mechanism for the continuation of the National Stakeholders' Forum.

### New Minister of Foreign Affairs

Following the resignation of the Hon. S.R Insanally, former Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs with effect from 10 April 2008. The High Commissioner and staff join in extending congratulations and best wishes to Minister Rodrigues.

Direct Flight to Guyana from the UK	-	See statement attached
G\$8B for Sugar Industry	-	Page 6
Carifesta	-	Page 8

Cont'd from page 1

## THE 2008 BUDGET

that can undermine our potential for long-term growth; secondly, the Government will accelerate the programme of infrastructure development that has transformed the physical landscape of Guyana in recent years; thirdly, the Government will sustain significant investments in the most important social services, particularly education, health, housing, water, and sanitation; fourthly, the government will continue to give practical expression to the belief in compassion, fairness, and equality; fifthly, the Government will ensure that the justice and security sectors continue to accelerate reforms to deal with the current and emerging challenges; and finally, the Government will advance institutional reforms aimed at further transforming the business environment to stimulate greater investment, job creation and sustained economic growth.

It is in this regard, therefore, that Budget 2008 is presented under the theme: *Staying the Course: Advancing the transformation Agenda.*

## Review of the Domestic Economy

### *Real Gross Domestic Product*

The economy realised real growth of 5.4 percent in 2007. This figure reflects a sustaining of the 2006 growth measured at 5.1 percent, and compares favourably with the 4.9 percent that was projected for last year.

### *Sectoral Performance*

According to Minister Singh, the sugar industry defied less favourable weather conditions and industrial disruptions, particularly

in the second half of the year, to grow by 2.7 percent to a total production of 266,482 tonnes. Rice production also suffered from the effects of heavy rain, especially in the second half of 2007, and the sector's production declined by 2.9 percent to 298,198 tonnes. Other agricultural sub-sectors returned encouraging growth performances with other crops growing by 4.6 percent while livestock production grew at 2 percent. The fisheries sector was able to return growth of 3.2 percent despite increased incidents of piracy. The forestry sector, however, declined by 11.1 percent, reflecting reduced harvesting as a result of weather factors and a tapering of domestic demand for construction materials towards the end of 2007.

The mining and quarrying sector recorded a strong recovery from last year with growth of 22.7 percent as a result of performances in the bauxite and gold sub-sectors. Total bauxite production in 2007 increased by 51.6 percent to 2,242,928 tonnes, reflecting strong returns to the increased private investment in the sector.

The manufacturing sector returned a mixed performance to an overall growth of 1 percent in the sector. The engineering and construction sector grew by 5.7 percent. The services sector, on the other hand, returned very strong performances, led by the transport and communication sector which grew by 13 percent.

### *Balance of Payments*

The overall balance of payments at the end of 2007 amounted to a modest deficit of US\$1.4 million compared with a surplus of US\$42.9 million recorded in 2006. Total export earnings increased by 16.4 percent to US\$680.9 million. This increase was primarily the result of developments in the Euro to US dollar exchange rate.

## GUYANA OFFICE FOR INVESTMENT (GO-INVEST)

The Guyana Office for Investment (GO-INVEST) has redesigned its website to a more user friendly and comprehensive format. It includes information on export promotion and has links to many websites in Guyana.

You can now visit GO-INVEST at: [www.goinvest.gov.gy](http://www.goinvest.gov.gy)

Debt relief financed the modest balance of payments deficit, while the Bank of Guyana increased its external reserves position to end the year with total reserves of US\$313 million compared with US\$278 million at the end of 2006.

### *Inflation Rate*

The Inflation rate was 14.0 percent in 2007, compared with 4.2 percent in 2006 and 5.2 percent projected for 2007. This reflected a number of factors. Imported price escalation, particularly in the fuel and food categories, un-seasonal rains, and food conditions in food producing areas exerted upward pressures on domestic prices.

### *Debt Management*

The most significant development during 2007 regarding the Guyana's external debt position was the delivery and implementation of the Inter-American Development Bank's MDRI with effect from January 2007, which has finally returned Guyana's debt stock to a sustainable level for the first time since the country fell into arrears over twenty-five (25) years ago. Under the MDRI, the IDB has cancelled all outstanding debts incurred by Guyana prior to December 31, 2004, which resulted in savings of about

US\$20 million in debt service in 2007. By the end of December 2007, the stock of external debt has fallen by 31 percent to US\$0.7 billion while debt service payments decreased by 18 percent to US\$18.5 million, relative to 2006.

## **KEY SECTORAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008**

### ***INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION***

The New Skeldon sugar factory will be in operation this year; G\$7.6B will be spent to complete improvements in the field and at the factory. The factory's sugar out-put is projected to increase by 38.8 percent to 38,500 tonnes.

Government is vigorously pursuing private sector investment in the alternative energy sector, specifically hydropower and bio-fuels. It is currently in receipt of 11 investment proposals for bio-fuel interest.

**The possibility of establishing an offshore financial sector in Guyana is being deliberated and technical work will advance during this year.**

### ***COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGY***

Work has already started on the first tranche of competitiveness reforms, with a three-year programme, to deliver on six priority areas.

The Guyana Office for Investment (GOINVEST) will receive significant resources to improve its capacity for proactive image building, investment facilitation, and investment generation.

Export facilitation efficiency will be improved to international standards. In 2008, an action plan will identify areas for immediate implementation as well as a path to longer term reforms.

The Deeds Registry will be modernised for greater efficiency in

business registration and business filing processes; and Greater support will be given to small businesses.

### ***PUBLIC SERVANTS***

The Income tax threshold was increased by 25 percent from G\$28,000 to G\$35,000 per month and took effect from January 2008.

Taxpayers will benefit from higher take home pay while 36,000 persons have been exempted from income tax. Compared to 2002, this figure represents a 94% increase in income tax threshold.

### ***SECURITY & DEFENCE***

G\$13.7B has been allocated for the strengthening of public safety agencies.

Two helicopters and other equipment and gear will be procured for the joint services.

G\$65M will be expended to expand and equip Community Policing Groups in order to support crime fighting efforts.

G\$660M will be spent to develop an integrated crime and violence information system to monitor trends in crime and violence and allow for more targeted evidence based interventions, design and commence construction of a forensic laboratory and a modern police training facility.

G\$300M is allocated for the completion, construction and rehabilitation of more than 30 police stations countrywide.

G\$97M is allocated for the construction of a juvenile holding centre at Sophia and for the upgrade of the Mazaruni Prison, the completion of the dormitory at the Georgetown Prison and the completion of a training facility for prison officers at Lusignan.

### ***JUSTICE SECTOR***

G\$1.5B has been allocated to the justice sector.

G\$303M will be spent under the Programme for the Modernisation of Justice Administration System, part of a US\$10.2M programme aimed at improving the quality, efficiency and efficacy of service delivered in justice sector institutions.

G\$50M has been allocated to complement ongoing efforts to reduce the backlog of civil and criminal cases in all levels of courts

G\$20M will be spent to construct a new magistrate's court at Charity which will allow for extended hours of service through a permanent location thereby enhancing access.

### ***LOCAL GOVERNMENT & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

The 2008 budget makes financial provision for the completion of house-to-house registration for a new voters' list and the conduct of local government elections further to the allocations made in 2007.

House-to-house registration commenced across the country and is expected to be completed in six months.

### ***HOUSING, WATER AND SANITATION***

A total of G\$1.5 billion has been allocated to improve infrastructure for existing and new housing areas.

Infrastructural work for approximately 3,000 lots in housing schemes, will be completed while a further 2,000 low income and middle income house lots will be allocated and 2,500 titles and transports processed.

Infrastructure works - roads, water supply and electricity - will be done in areas such as Parfaite Harmonie, Westminster and Onderneerming, Farmer's Field and Plum Park Sophia, and Hope.

Over G\$3.7 billion is allocated for the provision of potable water

supplies.

### **HEALTH**

G\$12.1B has been allocated to the health sector with capital expenditure budgeted at G\$3.3B and current at G\$8.8B.

G\$1.2B will be spent to complete the new modern Linden hospital and the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) inpatient facility.

Health services will be offered in modern new hospitals in Lethem and Mabaruma as well as in the Suddie, Leonora and Mahaicony Hospitals which have been reconstructed to accommodate comprehensive diagnostic centres.

G\$140 million will be spent to operationalise the Suddie, Leonora, and Mahaicony centres and the ophthalmology centre at Port Mourant, and to rehabilitate the Canje psychiatric hospital.

G\$2.8 billion will be provided for operation and maintenance of the GPHC, of which G\$91 million will be utilized to upgrade the electrical and water supply systems.

A total of G\$340 million will be spent on the Basic Nutrition Programme, to continue manufacturing and distributing sprinkles to children and pregnant women through 79 centres catering for 44,000 beneficiaries.

### **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

G\$19B has been allocated to the education sector.

G\$3.4B will be spent on capital projects while G\$15.5 billion will be expended in the operations of the sector with almost G\$9 billion to be spent on wages and salaries.

G\$115M will be spent for the implementation of a nationwide Literacy Programme through a Fast Track Initiative. Another G\$89million will be spent to continue the training of master

trainers, cluster advisers and cluster trainers so that teachers can be trained in literacy methodology.

Numeracy programme will benefit from a further G\$90M in 2008.

Over G\$728M will be spent on teacher training to upgrade capabilities and curriculum modules

Over G\$2B has been budgeted for construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of schools and buildings in the education sector.

### **TOURISM**

Guyana's hosting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Festival of the Arts (CARIFESTA X) is expected to generate much activity for the domestic tourism industry.

G\$300 million will be spent to upgrade venues for the various CARIFESTA events.

Nature based tourist markets with specific emphasis on niche sectors such as yachting, birding, and eco-tourism will be targeted.

### **YOUTH AND SPORT**

G\$60M has been allocated to ensure the expansion of the National Training Project for Youth Empowerment programme. Approximately 1,000 young people who did not complete secondary school will be trained in several skills.

G\$35.7M will be spent to expand and maintain the Madewini Youth Camp, to purchase training materials and sports gear and to retool workshops along with general maintenance at Kuru Kuru, Smythfield, Vryman's Erven and Sophia Training Centres, and the New Opportunity Corps.

A further G\$20M is allocated for the Youth Initiative Programme for the establishment of additional facilities in Crabwood Creek, Calcutta and West Canje.

G\$25M is provided for the construction of an Olympic sized swimming pool, for the

rehabilitation of the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall and the National Gymnasium, and upgrading the Colgrain Pool, and for the purchase of sports gear and equipment.

### **TARGETED SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS**

G\$2.5B will be spent on old age pensions from which 35,000 persons over the age of 65 years will receive a monthly pension of G\$6.000 which represents an increase of 63 percent

G\$810M will be spent on public assistance programmes aimed at 15,000 beneficiaries

G\$120M will offset the cost of water charges on behalf of the elderly

G\$105M under the Amerindian Development Fund will be utilised for priority projects in Amerindian communities.

G\$100M will be set aside to establish a fund to provide support to vulnerable single parent

G\$50M will be used to construct a Amerindian Hostel and allow increased access to educational opportunities for hinterland students.

G\$50M will be spent to provide spectacles to persons in need.

G\$110M will be used to upgrade the Palms and meet operational costs.

### **WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Government will continue to support the school uniform distribution programme and the difficult circumstances programme.

A comprehensive child protection strategy will be established to implement a foster care programme to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children and advance the country's national campaign against domestic violence.

## **ROADS AND BRIDGES**

G\$6.2B has been budgeted for road and bridges, of which G\$5B will be spent on roads and \$1.2B on bridges

G\$1.8B for the completion of the New Amsterdam to Moleson Creek Road from New Amsterdam Stelling to No. 36 Village and the commencement of Lot 2 from No. 37 Village to Moleson Creek.

G\$857M will be spent for the rehabilitation of 5 bridges along the Timehri-Rosignol Corridor.

A further G\$980M will be used to complete the access roads to the Berbice River Bridge

G\$160M has been allocated to purchase 4 fixed platform vehicle weight scales and 5 additional portable scales which will be installed at Lethem, Wismar, the western end of the Berbice River Bridge, and the western end of the Demerara Harbour Bridge.

## **AIR AND RIVER TRANSPORT**

G\$108M is budgeted for the construction of two new airstrips at Wakenaam and Leguan and the rehabilitation of the Baramita Airstrip. G\$29.7M is budgeted for the maintenance of domestic aerodromes.

G\$395M has been allocated for the docking of ferry vessels and dredges, acquisition of spares, and rehabilitation of stelling and navigational aids.

## **SEA DEFENCE AND DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION**

G\$2.2B to continue construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of sea defence structures. The shore zone management system in Regions 5 and 6, and the implementation of a pilot project for mangrove regeneration

protection at Mon Repos will continue. G\$3.7B is targeted to be spent on drainage and irrigation.

G\$50M is allocated for the Conservancy Adaptation Project which will develop a hydraulic engineering foundation critical for flood control management.

G\$2.1B will be allocated to the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority for rehabilitative and maintenance work.

## **NEW AND EMERGING SECTORS**

US\$20.9M will be spent to launch an agricultural Export Diversification Programme which will result in the promotion and consolidation of agribusiness.

The livestock, small-stock, aquaculture and apiculture industries will benefit from interventions aimed at strengthening those sub-sectors.

The National Dairy Development Programme will provide partial material assistance to 130 individual farmers and 8 farmers' groups for their resuscitation of 300 acres of pasture in seven regions.

G\$35M will establish a new laboratory at the National Agriculture Research Institute to consolidate all of the pest and disease management and quarantine services, as well as provide training to farmers and agriculture researchers and students.

## **BAUXITE INDUSTRY**

The industry is expected to continue to expand with production increases projected for both Linden and Berbice.

Government is currently anticipating submission of a feasibility study for an alumina refinery in Linden, while the ongoing pre-feasibility study of a large hydro project in the Upper

Mazaruni to support a smelting sector is expected to progress to full feasibility.

## **ENERGY AND POWER GENERATION**

US\$21.2M will be provided to the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) to advance its efficiency. The company will acquire an additional 20 megawatts of generating capacity utilising the more economical heavy fuel oil

Other initiatives to boost efficiency include implementation of a new customer information system, continuation of the meter replacement programme, and introduction of new metering technology.

G\$220 million has been provided to purchase a diesel electrification system for Port Kaituma, construct distribution systems for Orealla and Siparuta, and install solar panels in hinterland communities, among other works.

## **TAX REFORM AND TAX ADMINISTRATION**

Government will conduct a study of the tax system to determine how it can implement further reform to ensure that it adheres to all of the principles of fiscal operations. Government will thereafter proceed to implement a number of reforms aimed at simplifying the business environment and ensuring efficient tax administration and effective compliance.

Government is in the process of implementing a number of other improvements in tax administration, including the complete roll-out of the Total Revenue Integrated Processing Systems (TRIPS) and the Taxpayer identification Number (TIN) both of which allow for significant re-engineering of the way the Guyana Revenue Authority interacts with taxpayers.

## ECONOMIC NEWS

### Guyana lauded by the IMF

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded the Guyana Government for its sustained efforts to improve the country's economy.

In its 20th February 2008 report on the conclusion of the Article IV consultation with Guyana, the Directors commended the Guyana authorities for a second consecutive year of strong GDP growth.

The Directors welcomed efforts by the Government to further improve tax policy, efficiency and tax administration, enhance the quality and efficiency of public expenditure, strengthen governance and upgrade the Government's debt management capacity.

The Directors commended the Government's commitment to sound macro-economic and structural policies, as evidenced by the perseverance with adjustment and reform and cautious use of external financing. They have considered this commitment crucial to further diversify the economy, reduce its vulnerability to commodity price and other external shocks and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Directors noted the Government's efforts to deepen custom reform, strengthen the rule of law and the judiciary, and further reduce the perception of corruption.

#### Guyanese folklore

*Churail or Churlie is supposed to be the evil spirit of a woman who had died in childbirth.*

### G\$8B for the Sugar Industry

Guyana is to receive 27 million Euros or G\$8 billion later this year from the European Union (EU), as part of the accompanying measures in support of the sugar industry.

The agreement was signed, on 3 April 2008 between the Ministry of Finance and the Head of the European Commission (EC) to Guyana, Ambassador Geert Heikens.

The EU support for the industry will extend to 2013 with the first phase covering the period 2006 to 2010. The decision on the financial allocation for the second phase, 2011 to 2013, will be taken after evaluation of the first phase.

The agreement signed is part of a financial package negotiated with the EC by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states as a result of the 36 percent cut in the price of sugar paid by the EU to ACP producers.

The industry contributes between 17 to 18 percent of Guyana's GDP and is 57 percent of the agricultural sector. The industry provides direct and indirect benefits to approximately 125,000 Guyanese - through employment, various aspects of training, education, and health care, among other things.

### US\$32.9M IDB Loan

The Government of Guyana and the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) have signed two agreements to the tune of US\$32.9M to develop the agricultural and energy sectors.

A US\$20.9M loan will be used to support the Government's ongoing efforts to promote the

diversification of the country's agricultural exports which fall under the Agricultural Export Diversification Programme.

The other loan of US\$12M will be used to promote a more sustainable and efficient energy sector.

### IDB approves grants for bio-energy projects

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved technical cooperation grants totalling US\$925,000 to support Guyana's bio-energy sector.

The grants comprise US\$675,500 from the IDB's Japan Special Fund and US\$250,000 from the IDB's Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative Fund.

The grants will be used by the Government to promote the development of its bio-energy sector through policy development, training, feasibility studies and incentives for private investment.

## GENERAL NEWS

### US\$30M Joint Venture

The Executive Chairman of the New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation informed the media on 24 February that his company signed a joint venture agreement with a Chinese company. The agreement provides for US\$30M investment in various projects. In the first phase of the operations, scheduled to commence later this year, approximately 600 persons will be employed. It is expected that when all the projects come on stream the company will provide employment for 120 persons.

## **G\$1.7B Pasta Plant**

Edward B. Beharry and Company Limited (EBB) is investing G\$1.7B in a new plant for the production of pastas and chowmein.

Construction of the new plant has already started at the company's Industrial Site complex and is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2008.

According to a press release from the company, the new investment will ensure that the company's production capacity exceeds regional demand, putting it in a good position to satisfy rapidly expanding regional markets. The company has already set up service distribution centres in Trinidad and Tobago and in Suriname.

## **G\$5.5B for Housing/Water Sectors**

According to the Ministry of Housing and Water, G\$5.5B has been allocated in 2008 for the development of the housing and water sectors in Guyana. Of this sum, G\$1.36B will go towards developing new housing schemes while G\$3.4B will be utilised to improve the water supply infrastructure. The Ministry has announced its intention to issue more than 3,000 land titles, clearing up by the end of 2008 a backlog dating back to 2003. In 2007, over G\$1.7B was spent on 43 housing projects in five regions, making available a total of 12,789 house lots with 100km of paved roads and 1,100km of new water pipelines.

## **G\$100M Solar Project**

As the Government continues with its programme to provide electricity in the Amerindian communities in the hinterland, a project is scheduled to begin in April this year to instal solar panels in four communities at a cost of G\$100M.

The Principal Coordinator of the Unservered Areas Electrification Programme (UAEP), Ms Maxine Nestor, said that 347 of the panels will be installed in identified areas and the beneficiaries will only be requested to pay G\$500 monthly towards maintenance.

The communities to benefit from the project are located at Capoey in Region Two (Pomeroon/Supenaam) - 64 systems; Kurukabbaru in Region Eight (Potatro/Siparuni) 104; Yarakita in Region One (Barima/Waini)102; and Muritano in Region Ten (Upper Demerara/Berbice)67.

Under the UAEP, the sum of US\$3.2M or G\$64M has been allocated for implementation of demonstration projects in the hinterland, using various sources of energy, including diesel, hydro, solar and wind power.

## **G\$600M for GCAA**

The Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) disclosed that a recent allocation of G\$600M will be used to upgrade its navigation and communications system.

The GCAA said that the allocation is another step in ongoing efforts to further improve air transport operations. Approximately 500 persons in aviation security were trained last year under an initiative conducted with support from the Multilateral Investment Fund. Through the Fund, equipment was also obtained to boost aviation security at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri, and at the Ogle Aerodrome.

## **US\$4M Laboratory**

Minister of Health, Dr Leslie Ramsammy has said that construction of the modern US\$4M laboratory located at Thomas and New Market Streets is scheduled for completion at the end of June this year.

## **NOTICE**

**Guyana High Commission**

**New E-mail address:**

**[guyanahc1@btconnect.com](mailto:guyanahc1@btconnect.com)**

**New Website address:**  
**[guyanahc.com](http://guyanahc.com)**

The three-storey building will house the laboratory as well as the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) Clinic. The laboratory with its state-of-the-art equipment is expected to serve as a hub for the Caribbean. The National Reference Laboratory is being constructed with funding from the USA under President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS.

## **G\$100M Multi-Purpose Lab**

The Ministry of Agriculture on 14 February 2008, commissioned a G\$100M pesticide and toxic chemicals multi-purpose laboratory in the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) Complex, Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara.

*Guyanese Proverb: Nah put all two foot in river if yuh want see how he deep.*

*Meaning: Do not jump into a venture before you make sure that it is worthy.*

## IWOKRAMA SIGNS NEW ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT

The Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development (IICRCD) has signed an agreement with UK-based investment entity Canopy Capital. The Agreement, *inter alia*, addresses the placing of monetary value on environment services that the rainforest provides while uncut, rather than just trading in carbon credits.

The Agreement, which was signed during the World's First Biodiversity and Finance Conference in New York on 27 May 2008, opens the way for financial markets to price the 'utility value' of rainforests.

IICRCD Chairman Mr Edward Glover noted that for the first time investors will pay for the ecosystem services produced by rainforests, including rainfall generation, climate regulation, biodiversity maintenance and water storage-utilities with global significance which are vanishing as forests fall.

The funds already secured from Canopy Capital will be used to continue the management of the Iwokrama forest in accordance with the IICRCD's philosophy of conservation through sustainable best practice, providing livelihoods and business partnerships for the 7000 people living in the forest and surrounding area.

According to Mr Glover, forests do much more than store carbons and it is opportune now for stakeholders to move beyond emission-based trading to measure and place a value on all the services forests provide. Such an initiative fits perfectly with Iwokrama's original

objective to demonstrate that conservation, environmental balance and sustainable economic activity can be mutually reinforcing.

## CARIFESTA 2008

The 10th Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) will be held in Guyana from 22 to 31 August.

The opening and closing ceremonies are scheduled for the National Stadium in Providence while other events are slated for the Sophia Exhibition Centre, National Park, ICC, Sports Hall, Umana Yana, Parade Ground, National Cultural Centre, Theatre Guild, and Museum. Festivals will also be convened in Regions 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10.

Minster of Culture, Youth and Sport, Dr. Frank Anthony said that Carifesta is escalating from being just a Caribbean event with a team comprising 25 persons from Indonesia coming to participate. A team from Morocco is also expected while countries in Africa and China have also expressed interest in coming.

It is expected that between 1500-2000 artistes will visit Guyana to participate in the occasion and plans are afoot to have 1000 children taking part in the opening ceremony.

A special project called the 'Guyana classics' will be launched during CARIFESTA, with the aim of bringing back the rich literary traditions.

Other components of the festival will include an Amerindian village at the Sophia Exhibition Site which will showcase various architectures of the different Amerindian tribes; and a symposium which will focus on culture in an academic and practical way, covering Guyana's cultural history - past, present and future. Legendary Caribbean poet Derek Walcott will be opening the symposia and has agreed to have a class with young writers.

## NOTICE

### PLEASE DROP IN!

We have available at the High Commission internet news; video cassettes on eco-tourism and cultural programmes; and other literature.

The High Commission is open from Monday to Friday: 09:30 hrs to 17:30 hrs.

It is expected that work on the Theatre Guild will be completed in time for the event and will be the focus for drama during the festival.

Fashion will also play a dominant role with not only designers' booths at the Sophia Exhibition Centre but also at fashion shows. The high point of this will be the Fashion Weekend which will be staged at the Buddy's International Hotel.

The High Commission will continue to provide information as it becomes available and is urging participation from Guyanese nationals in the UK and other European countries.



*A scene from Bush Lot, West Coast Berbice*

**PASSPORT AND  
CONSULAR  
MATTERS**

**OPENING HOURS**

**Monday to Friday:  
9.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.**

**BIRTH, DEATH &  
MARRIAGE  
CERTIFICATE**

These certificates are issued by the Registrar General in Guyana whose address is:

**The Registrar General, General Register Office, General Post Office Building, Georgetown, GUYANA.**

An application form should be completed and posted to the Registrar General together with a postal order for two pounds (£2.00) made payable to the Registrar General and crossed. This amount covers the fee and return registered postage.

It is important to enter accurate information on the form, particularly the exact place of birth in Guyana, that is, street, hospital or village.

It is advised that a covering letter be sent stating very clearly the address in the United Kingdom to which the certificate should be returned.

**Forms can be uplifted from the Guyana High Commission.**

**Telephone: (GUYANA)**

**00592 225 7561 or 00592 226 4575**

**Fax: 00592 227 6861**

**REGISTRATION AS A  
CITIZEN OF GUYANA OF A  
CHILD BORN ABROAD TO  
A GUYANESE PARENT**

The following must be sent to the Registrar General at:

**The General Register Office,  
General Post Office Building,**

Georgetown, Guyana.

**Telephone: 00592 226 4575**

**Fax: 00592 227 6861**

- (a) Child's original Birth Certificate together with an official translation if it is not in the English Language.
- (b) Copy of birth certificate of Guyanese parent.
- (c) Fee of £2.00 payable by postal order to the Registrar General. Euros are not acceptable. It is advisable that a bank draft for US\$5.00 be sent if applicant is living abroad.
- (d) Letter to the Registrar General requesting that the child be registered as a citizen of Guyana and that the appropriate birth certificate be posted to the address of the parent. It is important to write your address clearly.

**COMMUNITY  
NEWS**

**THAMES RIVER CRUISE  
DANCE**

**The Guyana Law Association (UK)  
Cordially invites you to attend their  
'Thames River Cruise Dance'**

**DATE: Saturday 10th May 2008**

**TIME: 8.30pm - 2.00am (Ship  
departs at 9.00p.m sharp)**

**COST: £30**

**VENUE: The Royal Princess  
Westminster Pier (Not Embankment  
Pier) Victoria Embankment  
Westminster London SW1A**

**DRESS CODE: Lounge Suit**

**Tickets are available in advance only  
from: Miss Dale Simon: 07904  
452991; Guyana High Commission:  
0207 229 7648; Mr Ansari Ramjohn  
J.P.: 01923 828265; Mr Brian Horne:  
07877380802; Mr Colin Bobb-  
Semple: 07739355832; Mr Lal  
Nawbatt: 07855891040; and Mr Deo  
Singh J.P.: 020 8859 2440**

**Caribbean Finger Buffet Included  
(Cash Bar)**

**Guyana's 42nd  
Independence Anniversary**

The Federation of Guyanese Nationals under the patronage of His Excellency High Commissioner Laleswar Singh presents the following activities in celebration of the 42nd Anniversary of Guyana's Independence:

**1. Sunday, 11th May  
Event: Multi-Faith Service  
Time: 3p.m**

**Venue: The Church of St Mary  
Magdalene, Munster Square,  
NW1**

**Contact: Ms Sheila Beveghems  
Tel: 020 8764 2955**

**2. Saturday, 24th May  
Event: Independence Dance  
Time: 8p.m to 2a.m**

**Venue: St Aldheim's Church  
Hall, Windmill Road, Edmonton,  
London N18 1PR**

**3. Monday, 26th May  
Event: First Annual Guyana Folk  
Festival (in collaboration with  
Guyana (UK) Sports  
Development Association  
(GUSDA))**

**Time: 12 noon to 10p.m**

**Venue: Norbury Manor Business  
& Enterprise College,  
Kensington Avenue, Thornton  
Heath, Croydon CR7 8BT**

**Contact: Ms Desiree Prince,  
Tel: 020 8342 8178**



**PRE CARIFESTA  
CONCERT**

**The Guyana High Commission  
invites you to a PRE  
CARIFESTA CONCERT**

**DATE: Sunday, 6th July 2008**

**TIME: 3 to 5p.m**

**COST: £20.00**

**VENUE: Fairfield Halls, Arnhem  
Gallery, Park Lane, Croydon,  
Surrey, CR9 1DG**

**Further information will be  
supplied shortly.**

**DIARY OF  
EVENTS**

**MAY  
2008**

EVENT: The Association of Guyanese Nurses and Allied Professionals (AGNAP) Spring Bank Holiday Dance

DATE: Friday, 2nd May

TIME: 8p.m until early morning

VENUE: Croydon Town Hall, Katherine Street, East Croydon

CONTACT: Mrs Gloria Omotoso, Tel: 020 8376 1703

#####

EVENT: Linden Education Link (UK) - Spring Bank Holiday Dance

DATE: Saturday 3rd May 2008

VENUE: Chestnuts Community Centre (obliquely opposite St Anns Hospital), St Anns Road, Tottenham, London, N15

Contact: Ms Gwen Adams, Tel: 0207 249 1657

#####

EVENT: Queen's College of Guyana (UK) Association-Spring Event

DATE: Friday 9th May 2008.

VENUE: Guyana High Commission, 3 Palace Court, Bayswater Road, London, W2 4LP

CONTACT: Mr Peter Fraser, Tel: 020 8743 7370

EVENT: Linden Education Link (UK) - Multi-Faith Church Service

DATE: Saturday 17th May 2008

VENUE: Holy Trinity Church, Phillip Lane, South Tottenham, N15

Contact: Ms Gwen Adams, Tel: 0207 249 1657

#####

EVENT: Guyana Friends Association — Barbecue

DATE: Sunday 18th May 2008

VENUE: St Augustine's Church Hall, Tooting Broadway, London

Contact: Ms Bridget Sam-Bailey, Tel: 020 8244 6857; Mobile: 07956 417823

**JUNE  
2008**

The Association of Guyanese Nurses and Allied Professional (AGNAP) presents its 20th Anniversary week of celebrations:

1. EVENT: Thanksgiving Service

DATE: Sunday 15th June 2008

TIME: 3.30p.m

VENUE: Croydon Parish Church, Reeves Corner, Croydon

2. EVENT: A Day at the Races

DATE: Tuesday 17th June 2008

TIME: To be arranged

VENUE: Royal Ascot  
COST: £70.00

3. EVENT: Tea

DATE: Wednesday 18th June

TIME: 3.30p.m

VENUE: House of Lords  
COST: £30.00

4. EVENT: Grand Ball

DATE: Friday 20th June

TIME: 7p.m

VENUE: Selsdon Park Hotel, South Croydon

COST: £60.00

Black Tie/Evening dress

5. EVENT: Annual Concert

DATE: Sunday 22nd June

TIME: 1.30p.m

VENUE: Westminster Methodist Central Hall, South Croydon

COST: £10.00

CONTACTS: Mrs Gloria Omotoso, Tel: 020 8376 1703; Mrs Aileen Edwards, Tel: 020 8657 8984; Mrs Betty Why, Tel: 020 8906 1331; Mrs Beryl Curtis, Tel: 020 8592 3182

#####



Great news for Guyanese in the UK with the introduction of direct flights to Guyana facilitated by Club Caribbean and Zoom Airlines from 20th November 2008.

(See flyer attached for more information)

**NEWS IN  
BRIEF**

*Guyanese Word and Meaning:*

*Word:*

*Meaning:*







