



Stiff lobbying by Mashramani participants and the religious community has resulted in government deciding that the Costume and Float Parade would be held on Wednesday as was originally planned.

Wednesday would also remain a National Holiday, officials said.

Culture Minister, Dr. Frank Anthony told a news conference that many of the 38 organisers of the Costume and Float Parade did not attend a stakeholders' meeting earlier Tuesday.

He said when they were contacted, they told authorities that they had already prepared for Wednesday – Republic Day- and that they would have to pay more for the trucks and trailers of the Costume and Float Parade was pushed back.

“They have already made substantial preparations for these things; they have contracted trucks; they have decorated the trucks, they have already ordered meals and made a lot of other preparations for tomorrow (Wednesday) so we have to strike a balance between these investments that have already been made and getting on the road,” said the minister.

Government was seriously contemplating postponing the parade to Sunday.

But Anthony said the Christians and Hindus were “persuasive” in telling authorities that holding the event on Sunday would disrupt their day of worship.

“While that thought was circulating, a number of the churches called us and indicated to us that might not be the most appropriate day,” the minister added.

Opposition Leader, Robert Corbin had also told President Bharrat Jagdeo that Sunday would have been inappropriate for religious reasons.

At the stakeholders meeting, participants were divided over whether the parade should have been postponed because of the inclement weather that had resulted in severe flooding across the coast on Sunday and Monday.

Among the key reasons that had been advanced for holding the event on Sunday was the fact that the parapets on Church Street and Vlissengen Road and the Merriman’s Mall were all sodden or having puddles of water. Concerns were also raised about the fact that many residential areas were still under water.

Those areas are usually used by spectators and picnicking families and friends.

Since the announcement by government, booth holders on the Merriman’s Mall have begun constructing stalls there.