

## GUYANA celebrates 46 years of Independence



The Golden Arrowhead hoisted as fireworks lit up the sky during Guyana's 46th Independence Anniversary Celebration .



President Donald Ramotar inspecting the Guard of Honour during Guyana's 46th Independence Anniversary Celebration in the National Park



A section of the 435 youths performing a choreographed dance at the National Park during Guyana's 46th Independence Anniversary Celebration

Thousands of Guyanese flocked the National Park last evening of May 25th, to witness the hoisting of the Golden Arrowhead on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the country's independence.

The annual event produced a fusion of cultural and military performances.

An estimated 500 children were drawn from various dance schools and organisations to display the country's past, present and future.

Before the arrival of President Donald Ramotar and his wife, Deolatchmee, the crowd was treated to one of the most interactive entertainment programmes in recent times.

### Entertainment

Performances were by the flamboyant Charmain Blackman, who generated energy in the crowd with her cantankerous hit "Gi dem mo fi talk."

Adrian Dutchin had the crowd singing to all of his hit tunes, including the infectious "I am a Guyanese."

There were also performances by the finalists of GT&T's dance competition "Feel the beat." And there was the Nyriyageet Dance Troup just out of an annual stage presentation to perform one of the dances it presented to the nation recently.

Top calypsonians Young Bill Rogers and Teneisha DeFreitas, along with soca queen Vanilla, added to the night's entertainment.

With the arrival of the President and First Lady, the Yoruba singers, who are celebrating their 41st anniversary, performed a medley of songs. This was followed by the Region Ten choir the winners of the National Choir competition.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Dr Frank Anthony introduced the President and he gave a speech that was about 30 minutes.

That was followed by the cultural performance and a display by the Army and Police. There was no announcement of national awards.

President Ramotar then witnessed the hoisting of the National Flag at midnight.

Sources: Article: Kaieteur News: May 26, 2012. Pictures from GINA.

## President Ramotar's Independence Day Address

### Revitalisation of village economies and shuttle bus system for major population areas

MAY 26, 2012 | BY KNEWS |



Head of State, President Donald Ramotar, has challenged Guyanese to set aside partisan interests for the greater good of the country.

In his maiden Independence Day speech to thousands of citizens at the traditional flag-raising celebrations at the National Park, the official announced plans to create

village hubs as part of the country's economic growth.

"We need to safeguard our freedoms, defend our democracy and allow the ingenuity and resourcefulness of our people to flourish. A great Guyana will not be measured only in terms of what we build and what we create but also in our character as a nation, including our ability and willingness to set aside narrow interests for the greater good of all Guyana," he said.

The call would come at a time when the ruling People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) has for the first time since seizing continuous power in 1992, not have a Parliamentary majority. He stayed away from taking shots at the opposition APNU and AFC

#### Village hubs

Explaining the village concept, Ramotar said that it is important to create the conditions for the full participation of the people in the work of their own areas.

"Here I am not only speaking about municipalities and Neighbourhood Democratic areas, but also of the village. We want to see every village, every nook and cranny having a vibrant economy. We will work toward breathing new life into our village economies so as to increase economic activities, provide jobs within villages for residents, promote inter-village economic exchanges and encourage the growth of businesses, large and small, including cottage industries."

It is the hope that villages will become vibrant hubs of development, borrowing on the successful experiences and best practices of other countries.

"I believe that this revitalisation will help to reduce rural unemployment and poverty. We have to make our communities safer and equipped to contribute to enhanced quality of life for residents. Improved quality of life cannot just be measured in terms of material possessions but must also address the need for recreation and the development of the artistic talents of everyone."

According to the President, special attention will be paid to improving the physical well being of communities and to develop the skills and talents of residents.

"Through our e-learning programme, we eventually hope to develop a national database that would catalogue the various resources and skills available within all communities so as to allow for greater utilization of these skills. As we revitalize our communities we will be linking them through an improved road network system."

#### Partnerships

He referred to the ongoing road works taking place on the East Bank and East Coast Demerara to create the four-lane highways.

Ramotar also plugged greater public/private partnerships. "We have seen this model successfully being implemented within the health sector where we have teamed up with private health care providers to offer speciality services."

An example of this will be the specialty hospital planned for Turkeyen. "I envisage the day is not far off when Guyanese would no longer have to fly overseas to seek medical attention since all of the specialist health care services would be available locally. We can do this through partnerships that allow us to source the skills and expertise of foreign and local professionals in hospitals in which the government has a stake.... Land, he said has already been identified."

"People for us come first and everything we do is intended to redound to the benefit of the people of this country. We are interested in ensuring the best for our people. But in order to do so we need to reduce the level of political animosity in our midst."

#### Post-Election challenges

He said the 2011 national elections have created new challenges to all the leaders of the country. "It is a time to show maturity and to put the interest of our country and our people ahead of narrow self-interests. No matter what side of the political divide we are on, let us remember that forty-six years ago we assumed the responsibility for our own development."

He also repeated his commitment to work with those who are interested in moving the country forward. "I know that the people of Guyana would like to see less divisiveness. This was also the dream at independence and it remains today a major national aspiration."

Read more on Blog [here](http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com)



## The Newsletter and Blog for Guyanese Individuals, Associations and Groups Worldwide

## Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter

By: Cyril Bryan. Editor and Publisher

This is the **26th edition** of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. It culminates two years and three months of publishing the Blog/website and the Newsletters. Thanks for your support.....



Cyril Bryan

Editorial: **Happy 46th Anniversary Guyana**

Guyana celebrated 46 years of independence on May 26, 2012. Yes! we got "freedom from those horrid colonial masters who kept us in bondage". We have been "free" now for 46 years but suffering from 'arrested development disease". On the other hand, little [Barbados](#), 166 sq miles with about 275,000 people, emulated the "colonial governance principles", and has attained the highest regional ratings in almost every UN category of economic and human development. ([see Emile Mervin's letter on Blog](#))

It is true that Guyana has progressed over the years, helped by the ongoing influx of private funds – remittances, returning nationals and investments by overseas residents contributing almost half of the GDP. Government has also financed development projects i.e. roads, bridges, stelling, schools and other infrastructure from internal revenues, loans, foreign aid and grants.

Independence is a figment of our imagination, managed by the world's economic gatekeepers – IMF, World Bank, Standard and Poor's, Moody's etc. Their reports and influence on world capital markets could collapse a weak economy. Guyana's foreign debt of over US\$1.5Billion is now higher than it was in 1992, and there are also millions owed to the local banks. Another G\$26 Billion was to be borrowed in the recent budget, so the government continues to live beyond its means.

Economically, things are shaky, so peace and harmony is necessary. The government believes that oil, if discovered, can be a savior. At this time CGX found water, and may not have the capital to continue its exploration. It looks like oil revenue, if realised, is in the distant future. The sugar industry has now collapsed due to weather, labour conflict and a faulty \$US\$200M Skeldon plant. Gold brings in more income than sugar and rice but the Brazilians control that industry and much of it (est at 50%) is smuggled out. Then there are the "uncollectable" REDD funds from Norway, cut out of the budget. Over US\$100M is held at the World Bank as it patiently awaits proper "documentation" from the Guyana government.

As an observer of Guyana's economy I am concerned. The NICIL issue truly highlights what is wrong with Guyana's governance. The people of Guyana have a right to expect its elected government to display fairness, honesty and focus on Guyana rather than for it to look for personal gain. This must be the government's challenge as we enter our 47th year of Independence.

Happy Independence Guyana!!

## Guyanese Online

The **Guyanese Online Newsletter** and the **Guyanese Online Blog Website** are independent publications that have been designed, edited, produced and published by **Cyril Bryan**. **Organizations get FREE advertising.**

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**Cyril Bryan's E-mail:** [guyaneseonline@gmail.com](mailto:guyaneseonline@gmail.com)  
or [cybryan@gmail.com](mailto:cybryan@gmail.com)

## May 1 – May 30 - 30 Most popular entries

Check the entries on the Blog/Website

1. Bob Marley's father – a British captain from Essex – revealed
2. Budget 2012: Income tax threshold, old age pension increased;
3. Famous People of Guyanese Heritage
4. Miss Guyana World 2012 makes NYC appearance
5. Roadside Market at Mon Repos E.C. Demerara – video
6. The End Of Johnnie Walker – reports inaccurate
7. Exploration Guyana: video
8. Living in Barbados: The Hazards of Illegality – Hubert Williams
9. Mother's Day Speech – by Randall Butisingh
10. Trinidad – Promotional Video
11. The Gardens of Georgetown
12. Incredible Iguazu Falls in Brazil and Argentina
13. Fruits of Trinidad and Tobago – and Guyana
14. The price of national pride: travails of a Guyanese abroad
15. THE LINDEN FERRY BOATS
16. The History of Indian Indentureship in the Caribbean
17. Guyana Floods – March 2012 – pictures of floods in Georgetown
18. Guyana 46th Independence Festival – Toronto – June 23, 2012
19. QC boy wins Cdn\$80,000 scholarship
20. Guyana: National Awards List – 2011
21. Georgetown – Celebrating 200 years on 29 April 2012
22. Indian women – One dishonourable step backwards
23. Parents opposed to Central High School's removal
24. THE 1897 WISMAR TO ROCKSTONE RAILWAY
25. Bob Marley and the the Wailers – 1980 – Germany concert video
26. Some Unique Words of Guyana By Dmitri Allicock
27. World Maps – This is a fantastic information tool
28. A Tribute to Byron Lee – and the Dragonaires videos
29. TAKUTU BRIDGE – Rupununi. Guyana
30. Appealing to Race and Pretending – by David Hinds

Blog: May 31, 2012 - Total views to date = 581,001  
Total blog views for May = 42,438

## PNC calls for “dialogue” and “compromise”

(Demerara Waves) May 26, 2012.

The Peoples National Congress Reform (PNCR)- the major partner in the major parliamentary opposition coalition A Partnership for National Unity (APNU)- urged the Donald Ramotar-led administration to be more conciliatory in managing the country's affairs.

“For this desirable situation to become a reality those in the Executive Government must seize the initiative and invite other stakeholders to dialogue on all matters of concern to the citizens of Guyana.

There must be a predisposition to compromise in the interest of arriving at policies and programmes which have the broadest agreement among stakeholders,” the PNCR said in a message to mark Guyana's 46th Independence Anniversary.

The PNCR's call comes against the background of the one-seat majority opposition controlled 65-seat National Assembly, saying the minority status of the government has opened “new avenues for the forging of a new democratic culture so necessary for the achievement of real independence and social progress” in the former British colony.

The PNCR accused the government of being confrontation and not entirely cooperative in contrast to the need for a new democratic culture emerging from the ballot boxes of the November 28, 2011 general and regional elections.

“While, by their votes last November, the people of Guyana appear to be ready to usher in this vitally necessary new democratic culture, the Executive Government has so far shown little enthusiasm to move in this direction and continues to behave as though nothing has changed,” the PNCR has said.

The PNCR said if Guyana can build a truly, inclusive political culture in which all stakeholders are allowed to play a meaningful role and can create an enabling environment for the orderly development of the nation, Guyanese can look forward to a future that is politically successful, economically self-sustaining and culturally rewarding.

The PNCR pledged to work with all responsible and reliable forces whose aim is to forge a ‘National Consensus’, which can facilitate the resolution of the many known problems which have bedeviled Guyana and stymied its development.



“In particular, our Party will be supportive of all plans and programmes which seek to bring an end to the suffocating Westminster form of Governance, which has not only slowed our development but also generate conflict and ethnic division,” the party said.

President Ramotar, in his address to the Nation at the annual Independence Anniversary flag raising ceremony, noted that “it is a time to show maturity and to put the interest of our country and our people ahead of narrow self-interests.”

He pledged to meaningfully engage all those interested in Guyana's development.

“I am committed to working with all those who are interested in moving our country forward. I know that the people of Guyana would like to see less divisiveness. This was also the dream at independence and it remains today a major national aspiration,” said Ramotar.

## ERC staffers unpaid; told not to return to work

[Demerara Waves: May 31, 2012](#)

Despite assurances that the 23 staffers of the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) would be paid some amount of money for May, they were Thursday summoned to a meeting and told not to return to work.

Well-placed ERC sources told Demerara Waves Online News ([www.demwaves.com](http://www.demwaves.com)) that Chief Executive Officer, Yvonne Langevine informed workers that from June 1, the door would be closed.

This is the latest development stemming from a close to GUY\$100 million budget cut by the combined 33-seat opposition majority in the 65-seat National Assembly. The opposition says it wants the constitutional body to first undergo reforms before it approves money.

Langevine, according to the sources, told the ERC staff that there was no money so far to pay them and when funds become available to do so she would call them. Concerns were also raised about termination of employment benefits and whether redundancy letters would be provided to the workers.

Telephone and Internet services to the ERC's office have been already disconnected.

Junior Finance Minister, Juan Edghill had earlier this week assured that money would be scraped from funds allocated in the 2011 national budget to pay the ERC staffers.



Parliament of the  
Cooperative  
Republic of Guyana

Guyana's Coat of Arms and an aerial view of Guyana's Parliament Buildings

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

## Guyana's Parliament

### National Assembly sitting postponed ... Gov't to bring back \$27 million Supplementary Provision

MAY 26, 2012 | BY KNEWS |

Next week's sitting of the National Assembly has been delayed by a week.

Kaieteur News understands that it was the government that requested the postponement. Usually, the government advises the Clerk of the National Assembly when to call a sitting of the National Assembly.

This newspaper understands that the Speaker of the House, Raphael Trotman was due to meet with President Donald Ramotar yesterday.

The sitting was scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday when the government had said it would test the opposition's resolve to reverse the budget cuts.

One month ago, the opposition controlled legislature voted to cut the 2012 budget by \$20 billion. Opposition parties had said that if they could be convinced they would be willing to reverse the cuts by voting favourably if the government brings a Supplementary Financial Paper to the National Assembly.

At the sitting that was scheduled for next week, the government was seeking clearance for \$27 million, which the opposition did not vote for on March 15. At that time, the government was able to get cleared some \$5 billion in supplementary provisions. But left out of that vote was \$27 million. But he was not optimistic that this would happen.

The seven-seat Alliance for Change (AFC) has already signaled that it would not be voting in favour.

The next sittings of the National Assembly have been pushed to June 6 and June 7.

### The Norway funds

Stabroek News May 14, 201 - [Commentary](#)

Amid the hysteria whipped up over the cuts to its 2012 budget, it may seem trite to state that it is the government which has failed signally to deliver on the steps that would put the designated sums in its hands for the Low Carbon Development Strategy projects. This stark fact has not however deterred the government from making the most outrageous charges over cuts and blaming the opposition for endangering every single project it can think of. In a way, the opposition's cuts have inspired the government to try to shift the blame for its abject failure to access the funds which are presently under the stewardship of the World Bank.

#### Budget cuts money not yet received

It also worthy of note that the \$18.3B excised from the LCDS in the budget was a result of this money not having been received by the government under the Norway forest deal and thereby creating the prospect of a vast hole which in normal circumstances should require a fundamental re-jigging of the entire budget. Further, the government should have sought recourse to a conditional appropriation for the sum which is the method envisaged by its own Fiscal Management and Accountability Act.

#### US\$100M parked at World Bank

It remains a fact that since Guyana and Norway signed a forest protection deal on November 9, 2009 amid much fanfare in a clearing in Fairview that not a single major tranche of the US\$70M accrued thus far has been released to Guyana. Moreover, Guyana could be eligible for US\$30-40M more this year if the inscribed benchmarks in the MOU between Georgetown and Oslo were met. This would mean at least US\$100M parked at the World Bank but out of the reach of the country. [ [read complete article](#) ]



## Guyana's Parliament and Governance

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

### [Ruling party blasts GHRA...](#)

MAY 13, 2012 | FILED UNDER NEWS

#### **...says watchdog body is politically bent**

The ruling party has questioned the independence of the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA). It is insisting that recent budget cuts endanger hundreds and perhaps thousands of jobs of people of all ethnicity and political persuasion.

The statement by the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) would come one day after GHRA, a watchdog body, accused Government of being in denial of the November 28 elections results.

According to GHRA, the fact that a ruling party was unable to "rubber stamp" its budget through the Parliament for the first time since 1968, [[more..](#)]

### [AFC bats for Ram, Goolsarran on Public Procurement Commission](#)

MAY 31, 2012 | BY KNEWS |

The Alliance For Change (AFC) has signaled intentions to name accountants, Christopher Ram and Dr. Anand Goolsarran, to be members of the long-awaited Public Procurement Commission (PPC).

With accusations of corruption, opposition parties have long been clamouring for that constitutional body which will have oversight to probe Government contracts. There have been several delays in the appointment of that five-member commission with the opposition parties accusing the former Bharrat Jagdeo-led PPP/C government of foot-dragging. [[more](#) ]

### [Russia to wipe off Guyana's remaining debt, aid in drug fight](#)

May 17, 2012 (Demerara Waves)

Russia is preparing to wipe off the remainder of Guyana's debt that harks back to the former Soviet Union and also help the South American nation combat narco trafficking.

Addressing the Business Luncheon of the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA), Russia's Ambassador to Guyana, Nikolay Smirnov said the remainder of the debt owed to his country totals US\$280,000 (GUY\$55 million).

Russia has already cancelled GUY\$16.3 million that Guyana had owed the former Soviet Union and inherited at the time of the break up into the Commonwealth of Independent States. [[more](#)]

### [GRANGER CALLS FOR URGENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM](#)

MAY 31, 2012 | BY KNEWS |

Opposition Leader, Brigadier David Granger, has issued a call to the People's Progressive Party Civic administration to expedite local government reforms so that local government elections can soon be held.

Granger's call has come in the wake of a number of issues pertaining to local democracy in this country. It is evident that local democracy is being trampled upon, he said. Little regard is being shown for the various tiers of government – be they Regional Democratic Councils or Neighbourhood Democratic Councils, he said.

Ministers Ganga Persaud and Norman Whittaker have taken a high-handed and heavy-fisted approach by transforming overseers from one NDC to another without any prior consultation with either the NDC or the overseers themselves, [[more](#)].

### [Recovering \\$6B from CLICO, political will, critical to NIS survival](#)

May 7, 2012 | By KNews | By Gary Eleazar

#### **- says Chartered Accountant - Christopher Ram**

This past week, Head of the Presidential Secretariat Dr. Roger Luncheon, who also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) announced that there will be a move to amend legislation with a view to bringing additional contributors to the scheme.

He spoke of persons such as taxi drivers, who upon a move to be re-licensed, would have to be NIS compliant. Dr. Luncheon suggested that this would increase the voluntary contributions for self employed persons.

The move has been hailed by eminent Chartered Accountant Christopher Ram as helpful, only for short term measures. The Accountant said that there is need for "Political Will" to effect the necessary "structural changes" necessary to rescue the Scheme. [[more](#)]

## Articles related to Guyana's Governance

### [\\$50B NICIL funds... Brassington says: Govt has no obligation to transfer money to Consolidated Funds](#)

MAY 1, 2012 | KNEWS

There is nothing in law that says that Government is obligated to transfer what is believed to be over \$50B from the coffers of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) to the Consolidated Fund, according to Head of NICIL, Winston Brassington.

The monies, representing largely the privatization proceeds of Government assets, has been a subject of contention with growing calls for more transparency and for it to be moved to government's central accounts- the Consolidated Funds. [[more](#)]

### [Ramotar defends NICIL hoarding \\$\\$\\$](#)

MAY 8, 2012 | KNEWS

"We are not doing anything illegal as far as that is concerned... None of it is misappropriated and it is audited," Ramotar By Gary Eleazar The Opposition concerns regarding billions of dollars being held in special accounts in the name of the National Industrial Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) and not turned over to the nation's [[more](#)]

### [Brassington buys 50,000 shares for NICIL, and 2.25 million shares in brother's name](#)

May 20, 2012 | By KNews |

#### **In the NICIL take over of GNCB Trust**

Executive Director of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) Winston Brassington, just one day after challenging the opposition members to prove the allegations of corruption against him, is again the centre of another scandal.

This time, Brassington is coming under fire for a transaction that he might have initiated in the name of his brother, Jonathan Brassington, for 2.25 million shares in Hand in Hand Trust Corporation.

Brassington was the head of NICIL when it acquired the Guyana National Cooperative Bank (GNCB) Trust. NICIL then sold the GNCB Trust to Hand in Hand Insurance Company. [[more](#)]

### [Home Affairs elections \\$90M for police adds up](#)

MAY 8, 2012 | KNEWS

...Audit Office probe almost complete By Gary Eleazar There appears to be vindication on the part of the Ministry of Home Affairs as it relates to that entity's accounting for the \$90M allocated to the Guyana Police Force for the November 28, 2011 elections. According to the budgetary explanation the money was to meet [[more](#).]

### [Guyana dents illegal fuel operations](#)

May 29, 2012 - Demerara Waves

Guyana has made a huge dent in the number of fuel smuggling sites over the last five years through its fuel-marking system, according to Authentix, the United States-headquartered suppliers of the fuel-marking system.

Authentix on Tuesday said in a statement that it is helping the nation of Guyana greatly reduce fuel crimes that result in lost tax revenue. Thanks to an effective fuel marking program powered by Authentix technology, the level of fuel adulteration has dropped significantly since the program was initiated, resulting in increased tax revenues. . [[more](#)]

### [Marriott Hotel an inflated project and a money laundering machine](#)

MAY 20, 2012 | BY KNEWS

The government now claims to have an agreement with a phantom group of investors for the highly controversial Marriott Hotel project which industry executives and politicians insist would be unable to recover costs or make a profit.

Winston Brassington, the head of the National Industrial and Commercial Investment Limited (NICIL) – Government's investment arm told Kaieteur News this week that an agreement has been signed with investors. However, he gave no clue as to who the investors are.

The only identified investor thus far is the government, which is putting US\$20 million (G\$4 billion) into the project. [[more](#)]

## Agriculture, Forestry and Mining

### [CGX oil search comes up empty](#)

MAY 8, 2012 | KNEWS - By Leonard Gildarie

**-Suresh Narine new Chairman in major shakeup - company spends extra US\$21M**

By Leonard Gildarie Guyana's hope of striking oil in commercial quantities suffered a major setback with Canadian-owned, CGX Energy Inc. announcing yesterday that its drilling has not found any oil in commercial quantities at the Corentyne offshore site. CGX reportedly said that it was spending around US\$500,000 daily to have Ocean Saratoga rig anchored in the Corentyne concession.

The company has since announced plans for drilling another well in that concession. It also announced a major shakeup, appointing Guyanese-born professor, Dr. Suresh Narine, as the new Chairman.

The Eagle-1 well was initially budgeted for 60 days of drilling but experienced weather delays and mechanical issues which extended operations for an additional 30 days. "The initial cost estimate for the Eagle-1 well was \$55 million.

However with the delays, the Eagle-1 well is now estimated to cost \$71 million. As a result, the company will need to raise approximately \$20 million in the near term." [ [more](#) ]

### [Private sector urged to invest in oil sub-sectors](#)



Canadian High Commissioner David Devine

May 28, 2012 (Demerara Waves)

Guyana's efforts to secure a foothold in the oil and gas industry saw the launch of a new sector guide on Monday and a call for the private sector to venture out of its comfort zone.

The Oil and Gas Guide was commissioned by the Canadian High Commission in Georgetown and

is aimed at preparing Guyanese businesses to take advantage of the subsectors for services that will be created to support the oil and gas sector. ""

The time has come for the Guyana private sector to step outside of the traditional sector models and look at this particular industry. Not to say that investment in those other sectors should not continue, it should and must. [ [more](#) ]

### [GuySuCo, GAWU play blame game over unmet production target](#)

May 28, 2012 (Demerara Waves)

The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) says some 146 strikes, bad weather and low worker turnout are to blame for its failure to meet the first crop target of 101,800 tonnes of sugar.

Last week the workers union GAWU blamed the corporation's management for the failure.

"In the 1st crop this year, among the harvesters, the Corporation experienced 146 strikes with 18,130 man-days lost, of which 11,700 man-days were lost at Blairmont.

Had the amount of man-days lost on strikes been at work supplying canes to the semi mechanical harvesters (Bell Loaders), an additional 7,500 tonnes sugar could have been produced equivalent to \$1,200M in revenue," a GuySuCo release stated Monday.

According to the corporation, the average turnout of harvesters this crop was 52 percent [ [more](#) ]

### [Suriname acknowledges gold being smuggled from Guyana](#)

Stabroek editor On May 17, 2012

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO – Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources Robert Persaud has claimed in local Guyanese media that a large amount of gold is smuggled each year out of his country to Suriname.

The Minister's claims are supported by Gerold Dompig, chairman of the Commission for Structuring the Gold Sector, who states that both Guyana and French Guiana have often complained that gold from their countries is being smuggled to Suriname. "Stakeholders from Guyana and French Guyana have mentioned this problem at several gold seminars," Dompig says in an interview with de Ware Tijd. "The royalties that must be paid to the state in Suriname are far lower than in those countries.

This creates a smuggling problem for them, as selling the gold in Suriname is more attractive to gold miners," Dompig confirms. He explains that Suriname charges only one percent royalties, while this is between four and six percent in the neighboring countries, adding, "Including taxes, we often arrive at half of what is charged by Guyana and French Guyana."

[ [more](#) ]



## [DDL record 1.5B profit for 2011](#)

APRIL 30, 2012 | KNews

**- performance credited to the state of the art bottling line**

Beverage giant, Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL) and its subsidiaries recorded an after tax profit of \$1.5 billion and a growth of 4.2 per cent in 2011. This was disclosed at the company's Annual General Meeting last Friday (May 25th) where shareholders met at the company's Diamond Complex on the East Bank of Demerara. [[more.](#)]

## [G/town Chamber elects new executive](#)

APRIL 15, 2012 | KNEWS

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on Friday elected a new executive whose members will focus on a number of issues that directly involve and serve their membership.

Newly-elected President of the GCCI, Clinton Urling, will work closely with fellow executives; Senior Vice President Lance Hinds, Junior Vice President Sean Ramrattan, Secretary, Molly Hassan and Treasurer Colleen Patterson, to ensure that the intended goals are met. [[more](#)]

## [GCCI's members expecting positive growth this year](#)

APRIL 30, 2012 | KNEWS

Most members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) are optimistic that this year their businesses would record positive growth. This is not surprising, since 89 **per-cent** rated their business activities as strong or very strong in 2011.

However, some members expect their business conditions to remain unchanged for 2012. This is according [[more.](#)]

## [Guyana Goldfields slides on stock market](#)

Stabroek staff - April 30, 2012

Canadian mining company, Guyana Goldfields is showing massive losses for 2012 thus far and is now worth CDN\$228 million on the TSX - its value having dropped more than 60% year to date on the back of a disappointing feasibility study for its Aurora gold project here. [[more](#)]

## [Guyana phone boss in the dark about new Chinese owners](#)

GT&T CEO looking for answers regarding recent deal that transferred majority ownership to Chinese company.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Thursday May 16, 2012 – Reporters attending a press conference at the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GT&T) head office this week hoping to get answers about new majority owners Datang Telecom Technology and Industry Group soon learnt that they were not the only ones with questions. [[more](#)]

## [Illegal mining high on GGMC management retreat agenda](#)

APRIL 29, 2012 | KNEWS

**The retreat comes at a time when mining activities, amidst high prices, are expanding across the mining regions in Guyana with an equivalent increase in illegal mining.**

The issue of illegal mining and the need for greater monitoring were among some of the major issues being dealt with on April 28th as the country's mining regulator, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), held a management retreat.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, the intention of the meeting, was to review GGMC's strategic objectives and future plans for expanding the mining sector. [[more](#)]

## [Is the cooperative movement in Guyana dying?](#)

APRIL 29, 2012 | KNEWS - Part 1 of 2

- A two-part interview with Patrick Mentore, Community Advocate Paradise Housing Scheme By Dale Andrews

After several years, the cooperative movement in Guyana has come under renewed focus, with new Labour Minister Dr. Nanda Kishore Gopaul pledging to revamp the sector with a view to returning it to its viable state. . [[more](#)]

## [Is the cooperative movement in Guyana dying?](#)

MAY 6, 2012 | BY KNEWS - Part 2 of 2

- The **second and final part** of an interview with Patrick Mentore, Community Advocate, Paradise Housing Scheme

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

## Other News from Guyana

### [Bobby Ramroop's US\\$40M QAI Company pays \\$38,000 VAT](#)

May 20, 2012 | By KNews |

**Having more than doubled in worth in 2010, over the previous year, Queen's Atlantic Investment**

Incorporated (QAI) headed by best friend of the former President Bharrat Jagdeo, Dr Ranjisingi 'Bobby' Ramroop paid a paltry \$38,647 in Value Added Tax (VAT). This is according to the official Financial Statement of Expenditure for the company ending December 2010 and signed by Dr Ramroop. It also reflects that the company paid no VAT in 2009.

QAI is the Company that had received several tax concessions from the Government. The laws had to be changed to accommodate this company after it leased the Sanata Complex at Industrial Site under an umbrella of controversy. [[more](#)]

### [GRA launches fully automated registration certificate for vehicles](#)

Stabroek editor On May 9, 2012

The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) yesterday premiered its fully automated Motor Vehicle Certificate of Registration.

A release from the GRA today said that with effect from May 8, 2012, motor vehicle owners will be issued with the new document which is expected to significantly cut the time spent by motor vehicle owners at the Licence Revenue Office (LRO). Members of the public have complained about these delays for many years. [[more](#)]

### [Minimum wage to be increased for low earners](#)

Demerara Waves May 3, 2012

The Guyana government has moved to implement a minimum wage for certain categories of low income earners with the new measure to take effect from June 1.

This was disclosed by Cabinet Secretary Dr. Roger Luncheon on Thursday at his post-Cabinet news briefing.

The categories to benefit include gas station employees; security guards; hotel, restaurant and bar workers; transportation workers; grocery, hardware, dry

### [U.S. stings Guyana on Human Rights again](#)

MAY 26, 2012 | BY KNEWS

The U.S. State Department has again rapped Guyana for its human rights record. The 2011 report on Human Rights Practices by the State Department that the most serious human rights abuses involved complaints of mistreatment of suspects and detainees by security forces, unlawful killings by police, and poor prison and jail conditions.

Other human rights problems highlighted in the report included lengthy pretrial detention; allegations of government corruption, including among police officials; sexual and domestic violence against women; and abuse of minors. ...[\[more\]](#)

### [Two GDF Cadets receive scholarships to prestigious U.S. Military Academies](#)

May 25, 2012 | By KNews



From left: U.S. Ambassador, D. Brent Hardt, Errol Van Lange, Czedra Frank and Colonel Bruce Lovell

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and the U.S. Embassy celebrated the achievement of two members of the GDF who have received full scholarships to attend two of the most prestigious academies in the United States.

Errol Van Lange will be a Cadet at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, and Czedra Frank will be a Midshipman

at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. These academies only accept 15 international students each year and have had a number of distinguished graduates, including six Heads of State, two Nobel Peace awardees, 116 Rhodes Scholars, and many Ambassadors and Generals.

Both Van Lange and Frank will be studying engineering while they are in school. [[more](#)]

## Georgetown News

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGETOWN - CELEBRATING TWO HUNDRED YEARS!

The capital city of Georgetown will celebrate two hundred years this year. The city of Stabroek was renamed Georgetown on 29 April 1812 in honor of England's King George III. On 5 May 1812 an ordinance was passed to the effect that the town formerly called Stabroek, with districts extending from La Penitence to the bridges in Kingston and entering upon the road to the military camps, shall be called Georgetown. [\[Read more\]](#)

### GEORGETOWN - GUYANA



### The new Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church



An artist' impression of what the new Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church will look like. The old church, which we all may remember, was destroyed by fire some years ago

### Shipping Association recommends port development surcharge

Amidst the dwindling amount of cargo that could be shipped in and out of Guyana, the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG) wants to charge more for imported and exported seagoing cargo to help fund the development of the Demerara Harbour.

Chairman of the Shipping Association of Guyana (SAG), Anthony Astwood said the idea emerged after government said it could not afford to dredge the Demerara River channel although it collects fees for ships docking at Port Georgetown.

Four years ago, according to Astwood, dredging the river to a depth of 6.5 meters would have cost of US\$6.5 million. But he said consideration was then given to fully develop the harbour by providing harbour lights, pilotage vessels and fire fighting equipment. He said the SAG also examined the possibility of buying a new dredge to do capital dredging and maintenance. [\[more\]](#)



" A TASTE OF GUYANA "

*A Guyanese community event for the entire family. Come Celebrate With Us ...*

**Saturday June 23, 2012 - 10:00am - 8:00pm**

**Bigger & Better Venue  
Markham Civic Centre**

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**Markham, Ontario,**    **-Cultural Show**  
**Canada, L3R 9W3**    **- Trade Show**  
    **- Food Vendors**  
    **-Kids Activities**

#### Directions by Public Transit

TTC  
Take 488 North from Warden Station to HWY 7 or  
Take the subway to Union, Don Mills, or Finch Station  
then connect with York Region Transit VIVA buses

York Region Transit  
Take YRT Route 1 or Route 40 or  
Take Viva Pink, Viva Blue or Purple. Markham Civic Centre is  
located at the north-east of the Town Centre Boulevard, bus stop.  
(Note: The Viva Green from Dixie Mills station connects with  
the Viva Purple at Enterprise Boulevard.)



#### Directions by Car

Take HWY 404 North to HWY 7 East Exit  
Exit off the HWY 404 turn right (west) onto HWY 7  
Turn left at Town Centre Boulevard North  
Enter first driveway on your right to access Markham  
Civic Centre

OR  
Take HWY 407 to Warden Ave. North Exit  
Turn left (west) at HWY 7  
Turn right at Town Centre Boulevard North  
(one street west of Warden Ave.)  
Enter first driveway on your right to access Markham  
Civic Centre



## Republic Bank's Youth Link graduates for national job database

Demerara Waves May 29, 2012

Graduates of Republic Bank's Youth Link Apprenticeship Scheme are to be included in the national job-bank database to take advantage of any job opportunities, according to officials.

Minister of Human Services, Jennifer Webster, who delivered the feature address at Monday afternoon's graduation of the apprentices, later told Demerara Waves Online News ([www.demwaves.com](http://www.demwaves.com)) that steps would be taken to include the graduates in the Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency's (CRMA) database (<http://www.crma-gy.com>)

"I also know that from speaking with the Managing Director that they do have some spaces so they would be taking some and definitely I will get from him the information on some of the others" she said. Webster underlined the need for the CRMA to "tap into the 'Youth Link' participants who [\[more\]](#)



The Youth Link graduates with Human Services Minister, Jennifer Webster (centre seated) and Republic Bank's Managing Director, John Alves (centre, top row).

## Parents opposed to CHS removal

Demerara Waves - May 9, 2012



Parents of students attending **Central High School** are vehemently opposed to the planned relocation of the institution to Lodge Secondary School, citing security concerns and the quality of education at that institution.

If authorities have their way, Central High would have to share the same D'urban Backlands location of Lodge Secondary in another two years.

President of the CHS local alumni chapter, Horace Cummings said chapters in New York and Toronto are willing to fund the acquisition of land and the construction of a state of the art school.

"The name of Central High must never die. That is the unadulterated position of the alumni" he said of the 80-year old school.

Reporting on the outcome of a meeting between a school delegation and Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand to a packed auditorium of hundreds of concerned parents, Cummings said another option was a merger with Brickdam Secondary School.

He related that Manickchand assured that the relocation had nothing to do with the sale of the Smyth Street Building or a court-ordered eviction... [\[more\]](#)



### COME BACK TO GUYANA

NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> TO NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

1. Air Fares Toronto - Guyana - Toronto
2. Transportation from Airport to Hotel & Hotel to Airport (Guyana)
3. Accommodation for 10 Nights - Bed & Breakfast Only
  - a) Sleepin Guesthouse - G/town
  - b) Hotel De Luifel - Paramaribo, Suriname
  - c) Splashmins Resort - Linden/Soesdyke Highway -Guyana
4. Trip to Paramaribo, Suriname, overnighting (2) Nights. Meals Included
5. Visit to No 63 Beach
6. Day at Races (Car & Motorcycle) at South Dakota Circuit. Trans to & from only.
7. Picnic/Brunch at Splashmins Resort. Meals Included
8. Trip to Parika, Charity-Essequibo. Meals Included

**GENERAL INFO:**

Persons purchasing this package should secure their air tickets by July 15th, 2012

**NOTE:** Prices subject to change after July 15, 2012  
Deadline for reserving this package is September 30, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFO, CONTACT:**

Colin Stephenson Tel:416-284-0434  
Email: [colinstephenson@rogers.com](mailto:colinstephenson@rogers.com)  
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## News items from Guyana on Medical related subjects

### [Paediatric ward to relocate by year-end](#)

Guyana Times—May 24, 2012—By Samuel Sukhnandan

Close to six months after being officially opened, the new wing of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) is still experiencing some teething problems, and is undergoing some final touches to house more patients.

GPHC Chief Executive Officer Michael Khan told Guyana Times on May 22nd that while the new facility is experiencing some problems; it is covered under a one-year liability plan. ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

### [City Nursing School full but recruits still sent there](#)

MAY 15, 2012 | KNEWS

#### – GPSU contemplating industrial actions

News of additional students being admitted to the already overcrowded Georgetown School of Nursing has frustrated tutors, who believe that the quality of nursing is being compromised for quantity output.

Yesterday's (May 14) orientation ceremony held for the newcomers at the Regency Suites, sparked concerns as to where they would be placed and what will happen to existing students. The function was not attended by a representative of the school. [\[.more.\]](#)

### [AFC says nursing programme is health crisis in the making](#)

May 31 2012 - KNEWS

-wants review, more lecturers

The Alliance For Change (AFC), is calling on Government to immediately review the country's nursing programme, as concerns grow over the quality of training.

There have been complaints by the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) and officials of the East Street, Georgetown School had warned of crowded classrooms, insanitary conditions and few lecturers. According to AFC Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, yesterday, during the party's weekly press conference, Government's nursing programme is a health crisis in the making. [\[ more..\]](#)

### [GPHC eye department begs improvements](#)

May 13, 2012 | By KNews | Filed Under News

Despite constant appeals to replace the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC)'s Eye Department operating suite with its old, rusted and badly damaged instruments, nothing is being done, says Ophthalmologist Dr. George Norton.

According to Dr. Norton, with this year's budgetary allocation of \$50M to the hospital to purchase medical equipment, management should but at least buy some new ones for the department. . [\[more\]](#)

Also read:

[More can still be done for eye care in Guyana – Ophthalmologist](#) May 15, 2012 | By KNews |



Dr George Norton

### **GPHC nurse highlights importance of accessing health care early**

May 11, 2012 | By KNews link

Seeking health care too late can without a doubt prove to be detrimental to some patients. In fact, according to Staff Nurse attached to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), Joanne Blenman, some patients attempt to access health care only when they are confronted with issues that cannot be reversed.



Nursing Assistant Sarah Tyn-dall-Sam (left) and Nurse

Nurse Blenman's disclosure was forthcoming Wednesday May 13, as she applied the finishing touches to a diabetic foot care booth which represented part of a health fair held through the collaboration of the GTM Insurance Companies and the GPHC. The fair was held at the GTM's Robb and Hinck Streets, Georgetown office.

As part of the commemoration of International Nurses' Week, the nursing staff contribution was intended to raise awareness about the need to access health care regularly and in a timely way.

According to Nurse Blenman, "although there might be both good and bad coming from some in the nursing profession, all we want to do today [\[ more\]](#)



## [Guyana-Miami route 'lucrative' for SLM](#)

Stabroek News On May 26, 2012

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO – Barely a month after the inaugural flight, the SLM Guyana-Miami line seems to be very lucrative. 'It was the right step,' chairman of the board Gerard Brunings tells de Ware Tijd.

The SLM management states that its choice to connect neighbouring Guyana with the United States was based on the Mid-Atlantic Route (MAR) Model: accommodating the large community in Diaspora. Florida is home to some 40,000 Guyanese. By including Belem to SLM now connects Brazil and Guyana with the US. [\[more\]](#)

## [CJIA tells squatters to move or be moved](#)

MAY 31, 2012 | BY KNEWS |

Management of the country's lone international airport has ordered squatters to move within 30 days or face a forced removal. The letters/notices of eviction were issued by the Chief Executive Officer, Ramesh Ghir.

However the Timehri (North) Community Development Council has said that the move will affect over 3,000 men, women and children along with their buildings. [\[more\]](#).

## **The longer and wider Ogle Airport Airstrip commissioned**



The runway expansion allows for the landing of ATR (used by CAL) and Dash 8 (used by LIAT) series class of aircraft and small executive-type jets

## [Expansion of Ogle airport runway completed](#)

May 9, 2012 | [By Knew](#) [\[full story\]](#) - excerpt below

According to the airport, today there are more than 10 operators maintaining a fleet of over 40 aircraft there, representing an investment of about G\$5 billion in fixed assets, aircraft and equipment.

The airport yesterday explained that the EU through a CARICOM facility and with the assistance of the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana, provided through the Government of Guyana, funding in the amount of Euro 1.5 million, for the Phase II runway project.

Ogle Airport is said to be doing approximately 100 flights per day moving over 200 passengers and 15 tonnes of cargo. It is projected that traffic in the next two to three years will move to 125 flights per day, and an increase by 100 in passengers. Daily cargo movements are also expected to rise by three tonnes.

However, the airport says that there will still be a number of constraints that will have to be addressed by government, including radio navigational aids and the relocation of [\[more\]](#)

## [Jet service comes to Ogle Airport](#)

May 13, 2012 | By KNews |

A chartered Jet travel is now possible out of Ogle Airport. It will allow passengers to travel in comfort with reduced travel time. Jags Aviation Limited is offering the executive charter service to the Caribbean and Florida.

The Jet, which is housed in the Wings Aviation hangar and waiting to go into service, could travel comfortably to Suriname, Trinidad and Barbados.

However, for travel to any country beyond Barbados the Jet would have to leave via the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. The aircraft would also offer medivac services. [\[more\]](#)

### Website Links Hotels, Eco-resorts. etc

[Adel's Rainforest Resort](#)

[Ariantze Sidewalk Hotel Café and Jazz Club](#)

[Banganara Island Resort](#)

[Blue Wave Apartment Hotel](#)

[Bradsville Apartments](#)

[Cara Hotels](#)

[El Dorado Inn](#)

[Evergreen Adventures](#)

[Grand Coastal Inn](#)

[Herdmanston Lodge](#)

[Hurakabra River Resort](#)

[Hotel Tower – Emerald Tower Resort](#)

[Iwokrama Canopy Walkway](#)

[Iwokrara Forest -](#)

[Kanuku Suites](#)

[Le Grand Penthouse Hotel](#)

[Pegasus Hotel](#)

[Princess Hotel](#)

[Radisson Apartment Suites](#)

[Regency Suites Hotel](#)

[Rock View Lodge, Rupununi](#)

[Roraima Airways, Hotels and Companies](#)

[Sleepin International Hotel](#)

[Splashmins Resort](#)

[Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](#)

[Status International Hotel](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)



## Guyanese Association of Manitoba. Canada AGM and Games Day 2012

By Sharmela Sukhdeo-Rambally

Saturday, April 28 saw the usual AGM and Games Day activities and GAM members as in the previous years but with a different twist as Kamta Roy Singh stepped down as president of the Association after serving for 13 years.

The atmosphere, like the weather, was gloomy and dull. However, as the day progressed the sun came out, brighter, warmer and more inviting to participants to enjoy the day with friends, families and fellow Guyanese. The kids played old fashioned homegrown games, while the adults broke out the card and dominos.

When the crucial time came for the AGM, participants voted Mohamed Alli as the new President. He gladly accepted and delegated his first task to Past President Kamta Roy Singh to organize a building committee, thus keeping him close and in the organization. Yours truly, Sharmela Sukhdeo-Rambally, was elected Vice-President

### Other elected members of the board of GAM-2012 are:-

Ricardo Kallu-Treasurer; Kris Singh - Asst. Secretary/Treasurer; Padmini Kaidnath- Secretary; Vinita Bayney- Director; James Brewster - Director; Molly Brewster - Director; Faizal Baccus- Director; Vanessa Singh - Dance Instructor Keith Deonarine - Cricket Coach .

Thanks and congratulations to all executives, participants and members.

GUYANA UNITED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK INC. (GUYDA)

PRESENTS ITS

ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2012

FROM 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

AT

CATHERINE MC AULEY HIGH SCHOOL

1377 BROOKLYN AVENUE

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Tickets: Adults - \$30.00

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ONLY 144 PLAYERS SO 1ST TO PAY WILL PLAY



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VICTORIA VILLAGE BREAKFAST MORNING**

**VICTORIA VILLAGE BREAKFAST MORNING**

**SATURDAY JUNE 30, 2012.**

9.00A.M.-1.00P.M.

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cobazil@yahoo.com
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[Download – Planned Events List – PLAISANCE VILLAGE EVENTS LISTING](#)

[Download – OFFICERS List – PLAISANCE OFFICERS – PLAISANCE -SPARENDAAM- GOEDVERWAGTING DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION](#)

**Guyanese in Barbados celebrate Guyana's 46th Anniversary**



Dave Martins and his band entertaining the crowd



Terry Gajraj had the crowd hopping with his pulsating soca and chutney tunes



Earlier, they were entertained by the "Birdman and his rooster ..funny!!



**Guyanese living in Barbados** joined others in the Diaspora in celebrating the country's Independence on Sunday May 27th 2012.

Guyana marked its 46th anniversary of independence on Saturday, but the annual "Taste Of Guyana" by the Guyanese Association of Barbados Inc (GABI), was held on Sunday, at the Banks grounds in Wildey.

President of GABI, Cyril Roberts, said they decided to take things a step further by incorporating a more attractive entertainment package to the traditional food and drink fundraiser. Guyanese also had a chance to meet their new Guyana Consul General Michael Brotherson, who took up his post in May 2012.

The highlight entertainers were Terry Gajraj who had the crowd involved and hopping to his Soca and Chutney music beats. He was followed by the veteran performer Dave Martins and his band, and later by Peter Ram, the well known Barbados entertainer. [[more](#)] [[more](#)]



## GUYANA- BORN, CHARMAINE HOOPER ENTERS TWO CANADA HALLS OF FAME .

(by Ron Fanfair of the SHARE)

Retired Canadian Soccer player, **Charmaine Hooper**, will enter two **Sports Halls of Fame** this year. She is among nine Canadians to be inducted into the national Sports Hall of Fame later this year. And, on June 3, she will join her brother, Lyndon, in the **Soccer Hall of Fame**.



She is the first national player to reach the 100-game milestone. Overall, Hooper turned out for Canada 129 times and scored 71 goals – both national records at the time – in a sterling 20-year career that ended in 2006. She represented Canada at 1995, 1999 and 2003 World Cups. Last April, Hooper – Canada’s Female Player of the Year in 1994, 1995 and 2002 – was appointed to the FIFA Task Force 2014.

A total of 520 Canadians have been inducted into the national Sports Hall of Fame since its establishment in 1995. Hooper is just the second black Canadian woman to be inducted after hockey star, Angela James, who was inducted three years ago. She’s also the second Guyanese-born athlete going into the Hall of Fame after Phil Edwards who was a member of Canada’s 4 x 400 metre relay team that won a bronze medal at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

This year’s induction ceremony will take place on October 18 at the Sports Hall of Fame which opened the doors to its new building at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary on July 1, 2011.

"Hooper played professionally in Norway, Italy, Japan, U.S.A., and Canada. During her College years she earned numerous state and NCAA records. Hooper last played for the Canadian National Team in 2006. She will always be remembered as one of Canada's best female or male soccer players ever"

## CENTURY21 CAMDEC Real Estate Ltd. Celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012 Hemthorn Investments Corporation Celebrates 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012

**Camille De Castro FRI** formed CAMDEC Real Estate Ltd. on January 4 1977. **Rupert De Castro** joined Camille in CAMDEC in August 1977. CAMDEC joined the CENTURY 21 system in 1978 at which time, Camille and Rupert were the only agents.

Hemthorn, owned by Camille and Rupert, owns and manages the 17,000 sq.ft. building from which CENTURY21 CAMDEC operates. The majority of space is divided into private, fully furnished offices which we rent from \$309.00/mth on short terms, 1-24 months +.

At the "peak" of the market in 1989 Camille and Rupert worked with 230+ sales associates speaking some 30 different languages, 23 support staff, opened the office from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. 7 days a week and closed \$6.75 million in commissions (1988).

In April of 1989 the market turned: The average house price in Toronto dropped from a peak of \$273,698 in 1989 to \$198,150 in 1996.

Then the market turned to the positive again. The average price increased in 1997 and has done so each year since, to an average of \$465,294 (year to date October 2011). With interest rates set to rise, one would expect the pace to be tempered.

Is this a good time to buy a house as an investment? NO.

Is this a good time to buy a home to live in? Yes, especially if you can accommodate a tenant in a separate entrance apartment in your basement. Rent of \$800 per month carries \$150,000 + of your mortgage. This process affords you the opportunity of buying another property as an investment sooner.

For more information on buying your first home or selling your property for the maximum price with the least amount of inconvenience and within your time frame and/or building a portfolio of investment properties (houses), I am a phone call away c: 416-817-7604 – 24 hours or Email ([adecastro@trebnet.com](mailto:adecastro@trebnet.com)).

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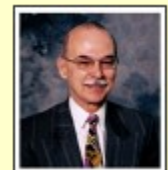
TALK TO SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE PROCESS AND IS WILLING TO IMPART HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS (HOUSES). SOMEONE WHO HAS HIMSELF DONE IT.

INFORMATION IS PROVIDED WITHOUT OBLIGATION.

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"When young, build assets...  
Then build cash flow."





## Cricket: Mr. Sarwan's sad story



[Stabroek staff](#) May 25, 2012 [comments](#)

We are loath to insert the adjective 'former', when describing **Ramnaresh Sarwan** (pictured at left) as a West Indies batsman, but we have to wonder whether this wonderful but unfulfilled talent will ever return to the West Indies Test team.

Mr Sarwan, who lost his West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) contract in 2010 for what the WICB claimed was his "extremely indifferent attitude and sporadic approach towards fitness," has not played for the West Indies since the home series against India in July, 2010. Admittedly, he would seem to have underperformed over the course of his career, though he still has a respectable, if less than stellar record of 5,842 runs in 87 Tests, with 15 centuries and an average of 40.01. But he will only turn 32 next month and, on recent form in English county cricket, he still appears to have lots of runs in him.

Mr Sarwan's recent interview with BBC Sport, however, paints a pitiful picture of mental disintegration that one finds difficult to reconcile with some of his heroic exploits on the cricket field.

Recall his being felled by a Dilhara Fernando bouncer in the World Cup match against Sri Lanka at Cape Town, in February 2003, only to return to the crease from the local hospital's X-ray room, having defiantly swapped his helmet for his maroon cap, in a valiant but vain attempt to win the game for the West Indies.

Remember his superb 105, just ten weeks later, as he stood up to the snarling, spitting, swearing Glenn McGrath and Steve Waugh's sledging Australians, when he helped set up the West Indies' epic, world record run chase, at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

Sadly, the WICB and coach Ottis Gibson appear to have achieved what the toughest of opponents could not do – they broke the spirit of one of the game's bravest and classiest batsmen.

According to Mr. Sarwan, "The coach said some negative stuff that hurt me mentally and emotionally. Mentally I was broken down, not from the stress of playing, it's just certain individuals have drained me

mentally. It took a toll on my confidence and the way I play. Everything went away." Additionally, he has been hurt by his treatment by his "own people," who presumably include the controversial, crisis-ridden Guyana Cricket Board. Indeed, a satisfactory explanation is yet to be proffered for Mr Sarwan's non-selection for this year's regional four-day tournament.

Now, some might consider Mr Sarwan soft for such a baring of the soul and less than the hardened professional he should be after so many years of top-flight cricket. There has also been occasion, over the years, to question Mr Sarwan's discipline and commitment. And, of course, there are at least two sides to every story; in this respect, we have not yet heard from Mr Gibson or the WICB's garrulous spin doctor-in-chief, CEO Ernest Hilaire. But to condemn Mr Sarwan for this revelation would be to underestimate the insidious tactics of a Board and coach seemingly intent on dispensing with senior players and remoulding the West Indies cricket team into a bunch of committed and gallant losers.

The Ramnaresh Sarwan story is illustrative of the basic problem afflicting West Indies cricket. It is a management problem, as this newspaper has consistently maintained, and here we have a specific example of the inability of the Board to manage change and the glaring deficiencies of the coach when it comes to man-management. As Michael Holding, the legendary West Indies fast bowler, now a highly respected commentator, said in a recent interview with the Daily Mail, "Ottis Gibson needs to understand that the West Indies cricket team is not a boot camp. He needs to learn how to man-manage. I have no issue with Ottis trying to get discipline back into the team. But it is the way he has done it. As soon as someone says anything he doesn't particularly like, he doesn't want them around."

Whether in sport, the corporate world or in government, that is no way to manage change or people. It is the way to entrenched mediocrity and persistent failure. The WICB needs to take a long, hard look at itself and its practices. The coach and captain need to stop being "pleased" about fighting losing causes, especially when they handicap themselves in their dubious approach to team selection. And Mr Sarwan needs to continue with his mental rehabilitation and let his bat do the talking from now on.

[Ramnaresh Sarwan's career info](#) << click here

## Book: Race, Jail v Bail - by Colin Bob-Semple

### Reviewed by Dr Vince Hines, Chairperson, Afrika and Diaspora Institute

The idea and motivation for writing '[Race, Jail v Bail](#)' began in 1970, when the Author entered the legal profession as an Articled Clerk at a firm of Central London solicitors, England, in an area, which became the focal Centre of "Race" in Britain, due to the horrendous racially motivated attacks which had occurred in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 1958.

#### Police Motto: Protect and Serve

The Police motto – 'protect and serve' was alien concept to immigrants, many of whom were people of Afrikan (African) origins, arriving in Britain from the British Commonwealth, to find employment, leading to helping Britain building her war-torn economy, after years of devastations from Britain's warring with her fellow Europeans in Germany.

Mindful of this background, the Author, now a legal expert in his field, approached his topic with confidence and authority, on issues dealing with race, stop and search, Police Powers and case studies taken from the Author's Casebook of the 1970's, including looking at the disproportionate numbers of 'Black' peoples in English prison system.

The immigrant community's call for justice went largely unheard, not only in police quarters, but also in the courts. In this area, the Author presented good and useful historical information in the way some courts during 1991-92, dealt with applications made by people of Afrikan origins in custody. Using his well-focused legal eye, Bobb-Semple looked at the right to bail, the exception to the general right to bail and the courts imposed bail conditions.

#### Ethnicity influences in courts

The purpose of the study was to assess whether a defendant's racial or ethnic origin had any influence on bail decisions in three Greater London magistrates' courts, in addition to gaining his Master's Degree from an English University.

Interviews were carried out with judges, magistrates, court clerks, barristers, solicitors, and a probation officer. The questions asked were designed to ascertain the causes of the disparities between the proportions of Black and White defendants being remanded in custody, being granted bail subject to conditions, and the nature of those conditions

There were recurring themes of 'Fear' of Black people, especially young Black males, and the descriptions applied to them:- 'Outsiders', 'Otherness', 'Black strangers', 'Aliens', 'Not-belongingness', 'Different lifestyle'.

Various sociological and criminological studies re-

searched the area of race and the criminal justice system, covering the police, magistrates' and Crown Courts, the Probation Service and prisons. Very few of these studies considered 'Race, Jail v Bail' in any depth.

#### Slavery and Colonialism

No study involving aspects of 'race' and ethnicity would be complete without a review of the influences and the effects on people of all 'racial' and ethnic backgrounds of the Atlantic slave-trafficking and British Colonialism, including the development of racism in the British Empire, the influences of Social Darwinism, criminal anthropology, Lombroso's theories, the effects of 20th century migration to Britain from the developing world.

The research study undertaken by the Author made it patently clear that not only the police need to take steps to address "Institutional Racism" but the courts and all others involved in the criminal justice processes.

It would seem that a significant part of Bobb-Semple's work is an exposé of English Laws – interpretations and applications; part of which is a documentation of confessions by the 'gatekeepers' of the Citadel of English Justice.

Though much of the work was done in 1993, it is still relevant today, mindful of quotes like "Statistics of Police Stop and Search activities in England and Wales show that Black people were Stopped and Searched 7 TIMES MORE than White people in 2009/10 and were Arrested over 3 TIMES MORE than White people, in relation to their proportions in the general population (Ministry of Justice, 2010 <http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/criminal-justice/race>)", under the general themes "Race and the Criminal Justice System". It is glaringly obvious to reasonable minds that English Justice is still coming up short for a section of the English population, in the 21st Century, namely members of the African communities, including those who came to settle in England from Afrika and the Afrikan Diasporas.

#### "Institutionalised Racism"

One should be curious to know whether the English Parliamentary Equality Act 2010 is capable of removing the deficits existing in English Justice, currently being experienced daily by 'Black People' passing through the English Criminal Justice System. Bobb-Semple's work reminds us that "institutionalised racism" did not evolve naturally, but manufactured and coded into the European and Arab consciousness, largely through their creation and brutal enforcements of their system of chattel slavery, lasting and trapping Afrikan people for over three hundred years, and generating residual effects like post [traumatic slave syndrome](#), still resonating with many of us Afrikans, not

Continued on the next page

## Race, Jail v Bail - by Colin Bobb-Semple (cont'd)

only in Britain, but in various parts of the world.

For those who would be inclined to counter the Author's thesis in this area, now and in the future, they would have to produce equally authentic documentations listing counter confessions of the 'gatekeepers' of England's Judiciary, demonstrating that there were fundamental repairs of the English Judicial System and that all were being treated 'justly'. And that lessons were learnt and the rogue elements of the Judiciary, including unfounded fears of the 'Black Race' had been exorcised. And that the eyes of English Justice were properly covered, in order that she would no longer be able to identify the colour and ethnicity of those who appeared before her.

Above all, English Justice should now be prepared to consider any claim for reparations by the Afrikan people, whose ancestry suffered cruel indignities and hardships by British Institutions, which promoted and maintained Chattel Slavery at home and abroad.

### Psychological Damage

There is, however, a new kind of 'mood music' playing in Britain, which generates 'social amnesia' among vast areas of today's multi-cultural Britain. Black Afrikans who made, and still making, material contributions to Britain's wellbeing are to a significant extent becoming invisible in some quarters. And a significant number of our Black African children are being damaged and marginalised, to the extent that they often turned their 'swords' on themselves. If our children are damaged, the future of Afrikans – Continental and Diaspora' – is damaged.

And yet, another part of English contemporary history, demonstrates that, in spite of unjust handicap placed on the Afrikan people, we continue to rise. Bobb-Semple produced a valuable piece of work, which looked with frankness on the historical and contemporary experiences of Afrikans at home and abroad.

This study should be useful to new comers to the legal profession and criminal justice system and those being introduced to English Law for the first time, in schools, colleges and higher learning. It would also be useful to observers from abroad, who seek to make comparisons with their own judiciary on the issue of race and culture, particularly in other European states and the USA, having a significant Afrikan population.

### Book purchasing details:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Race-Jail-Bail-Colin-Bobb-Semple/dp/1475247206/ref=ntt\\_at\\_ep\\_dpt\\_2](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Race-Jail-Bail-Colin-Bobb-Semple/dp/1475247206/ref=ntt_at_ep_dpt_2)  
[http://www.amazon.com/Race-Jail-Bail-Colin-Bobb-Semple/dp/1475247206/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1337420213&sr=8-3](http://www.amazon.com/Race-Jail-Bail-Colin-Bobb-Semple/dp/1475247206/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1337420213&sr=8-3)

## Ken Corsbie Articles and video links

**Ken Corsbie** is a master at telling stories. He started telling stories in the early 1950's in Guyana where he grew up.

As a teenager, Corsbie began crafting his talent with a creative group known back then as the "Next Door Yard." He embraced all that the group had to offer as they participated in musical contests, started a theater group.. [\[read more\]](#)



Ken Corsbie

### About Caribvoices

<http://www.youtube.com/user/caribvoies>

I'm a full-blooded West Indian Stereotype - half Chinese, half African, half Scottish, half South American Indian, half Welch - part Barbadian, Trinidadian, and born and bred Guyanese. I'm probably the only authentic true-true English speaking Caribbean storyteller in North America - and I mean CARIBBEAN.

I am a Caribbean storyteller, poetry performer, teller of folk and literary tales, stand-up. I've been a solo entertainer for the past 35 years, and have been living in America since 1996. I'm married to Elizabeth Barnum an administrator at StonyBrook U. in Long island, NY.

Along the way - nine awards including the Caribbean Cacique, Arrow of Achievement, the Long Island Traditions and the Pierrot Award from Gayelle, Trinidad.

so it go!!

MY email: [kcorsbie@optonline.line](mailto:kcorsbie@optonline.line)

### Check out the videos on his website:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/caribvoies>

### Here are a few articles featuring him and his work as listed in the [Saints website](#):

- [http://westindianencyclopedia.com/wiki/Ken\\_Corsbie](http://westindianencyclopedia.com/wiki/Ken_Corsbie)
- <http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2010/11/07/chinese-origins-ken-corsbie/>
- <http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2010/11/14/ken-corsbie-the-artistic-temperament-growing-up-in-georgetown/>
- <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2010/guyana-review/10/28/ken-corsbie-is-eighty/>
- <http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2010/11/28/ken-corsbie-%E2%80%9Ca-wild-and-wonderful-ride%E2%80%9D/>



## Book: Vignettes of the Sea - By Indira Babbellapati

### Reviewed by Leonard Dabydeen

A collection of fifty poems about the sea written by Professor Indira Babbellapaty at Andhra University, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. The foreword was written by Leonard Dabydeen of Brampton, Ontario, Canada. Both writers have shared poetic discourses over a lengthy period and have a heart for the sea. Paperback,

First Published by Monfakira

### Review by Leonard Dabydeen



Leonard Dabydeen

One of twentieth century's greatest poets, Pablo Neruda reflects in this poem, Ode to the Book (in the opening stanza) :

"When I close a book I open life. I hear faltering cries among harbours."

And here in this collection of poems, Vignettes of the Sea, you will certainly find author Indira Babbellapati deep in the footprints of Pablo Neruda, like an undaunted cohort. Her attachment to the sea brings unbearable jealousy, if not love, in every reader for the soul-searching emotions so illusively drenched in each of the forty poems in this book. It is as if ..."it was at that age... Poetry arrived' and "I don't know where it came from" (Pablo Neruda).

The sea is well-known to have the lure, luxury and xenophobia for poets for centuries. A chronological dance in time and motion will not be in order to reflect upon the waves of the ocean or sea of such great poets in the like of Samuel Taylor Coleridge ( The Rime of the Ancient Mariner), Henry Longfellow ( The Tide Rises The Tide Falls), John Masefield ( I Must Go Down To the Sea Again), Rudyard Kipling ( Who Has Desired The Sea ?), Emily Johnson ( The Mariner), Rabindranath Tagore ( Seashore) and Pablo Neruda ( I Recall The Sea). But what I find interesting is the inspiration of women unfaltering in the forefront of poetry about the sea. In the words of B.Z.Riger ( [www.artofollowingmindset.com](http://www.artofollowingmindset.com)) " They do not hide from what they are inspired by. They do not give way to the voices that say they are not good enough..." and a poem, written by Indira Babbellapati in this collection, Vignettes of the Sea, caught her attention:

"The sea surrendered to a fog thick and settled the waves too fell to the fog"

I mind as if it were yesterday that I recall my own fascination with the sea. My problem is: I'd rather be on land than in the ocean. Yet somehow I always give thought to my native homeland, Guyana, in South America being six feet below sea level. The eerie feeling is always in my mind that

the country could easily be swallowed up by the Atlantic Ocean, And once, I was left for hours in a boat somewhere in the Berbice River, in the middle of the night, while others went fishing. I stared out at the Atlantic Ocean as if I dared it to swallow me. And ever since, I am always having a mind-set about disasters, hurricanes and storms and the displacement of people from places and things. Years of reflections and circumstances did not put my poetry to tabloid...until now.

This was when I happened to meet the author of Vignettes of the Sea, Indira Babbellapati. Through the Internet and online, I started to unleash a wave of communication through poetry. First it was on the website, [www.helium.com](http://www.helium.com) ; the [www.poemhunter.com](http://www.poemhunter.com), and [www.inspirationpeal.com](http://www.inspirationpeal.com) (under the name STAReye), then a sprint with ART poetry and Poetry Foundation – American Life in Poetry ( Lulu Poetry ), participated in the T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize Competition, and waving words at the Canadian publications of the Antigonish Review, Crazyhorse and Fiddlehead. Facebook is also in the package..

Indira Babbellapati hails from Vijayawada, India in peninsular country surrounded by water – the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. Perhaps her life is a part of the sea, being Professor of English at Andhra University, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. She enjoys translating poetry from her mother tongue, Telugu to English for all to enjoy.

She believes poetry is beyond the existential concerns of the here and now.

The website, [www.123.people.com](http://www.123.people.com) commented that women like her, in the blowing wind of " inspiration cut in so many expressions of life and creativity", it is a gift one takes like a dance in partnership through life . In a more recent publication in [www.poemhunter.com](http://www.poemhunter.com) she writes:

"I saw the sea in high pressure or in low pressure moderation she knows not"

Her simplicity in writing style, her rich imagery and intensity of emotions perpetuate the narrative-prose poetic sailing without a compass. Some haiku and senryu add shiny ripples to her collection of poems.

When Indira sent me an email a few days ago, making a request for me to write the Foreword to her book, Vignettes of the Sea, I felt challenged and honoured for this undertaking. It's as if I hear Nobel Prize winner, Derek Walcott in fondness of homeland saying... "nobody wishes to escape the geography that escapes you. In my case it is the sea, it is islands. I cannot stay too long away from the sea".

## New magazine focuses on Guyana's Portuguese history

[May 24, 2012. \(Demerara Waves\)](#)

Culture Minister, Dr. Frank Anthony has shrugged off concerns about ethnic publications, arguing that rather than promote division they reflect Guyana's unified diversity.

He made the comments Wednesday evening at the launch of Corbin Media Group's (CMG) latest publication- 'A Voz do Portugues Magazine- Recognizing Guyanese of Portuguese ancestry.' In July 2011, CMG premiered Izwe- A Salute to People of African Descent.

"We are a multi-ethnic people and we must in a way celebrate our diversity and when we have a magazine that focuses on different parts of who we are as a people, we should be proud of it," Anthony told the launch at the Umana Yana, Georgetown.

The Culture Minister underscored the importance of telling the story of the history and contributions of Portuguese who came from Madeira in 1835 to work as indentured servants on sugar plantations. "They have done so much for us and they have accomplished so much over the years but yet sometimes we pass these business successes along the way,"

Anthony suggested that CMG might eventually publish a section of the magazine in Portuguese due to



Left to Right: Messrs. Dookhoo, Corbin and Anthony and Sr. Noel Menezes at the official launch of A Voz do Portugues.

the increasing presence and influence of Brazilians- mostly in the gold and diamond mining industry.

The Culture Minister's sentiments were echoed by historian, Sister Noel Menezes and Chairman of the Private Sector Commission, Ramesh Dookhoo who both pointed to the dwindled population of Madeiran ancestors. Official statistics show that Portuguese make up 0.20 percent of Guyana's 751,223 persons. Around 1891, they had made up 4.3 %.... [\[more\]](#)

## The Portuguese came in May too - commentary

May 8, 2010 | [By KNews | Columnists, Freddie Kissoon](#)

In the midst of the publicity about the arrival of East Indians, the media and the scholarly community forgot that the Portuguese came to Guyana in May too, two days before the Indians came. It was an article by Portuguese historian, Catholic nun, Sister Mary Noel Menezes that reminded this writer.

Unfortunately the majority of Guyanese Portuguese citizens have migrated. The outflow started after the PPP came to power in the early fifties and slowed down after the British suspended the Government.

The Portuguese began to leave again after Jagan won the 1957 elections. But the climax came after the politics of Peter D'Aguiar came to an end. From 1968 onwards, the Portuguese took frenetic flight out of Guyana. The exodus virtually re-shaped the demographic landscape of Guyana.

Not much academic attention has been paid to the politics of the Portuguese community in Guyana but just days before the date of their arrival anniversary,

The Guyana Review carried a lengthy judgement of their party, the United Force.

The story of the United Force cries out for revisionist interpretation.

The Guyana Review article eschews the revisionist path and ended up offering an analysis that conforms with the traditional approach, that it United Force was a conservative party that catered only for the business class.

There can be no question that the United Force and its leadership were the instruments of capitalist advocacy but how far can the conservative label be applied to them is open to debate. Conservatism as an ideology and conservatism in practice vary from country to country.

Was the United Force a conservative party in the sixties? It depends on your perspective. Peter D'Aguiar, it was true to say, was not interested in forming a broad-based working class party. His motive was to cater for the business constituencies. [\[more\]](#)



## Jamaica News

### [Frequent fliers to US will come on radar of new banking law](#)

April 27, 2012—(Jamaica Gleaner) Jamaicans who frequent the United States (US) – including merchants, athletes, pilots and entertainers – should soon expect to see their income and savings above US\$50,000 disclosed to that government under a measure to catch tax dodgers called the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

The implementation of the US legislation means the US will have more information than even the Jamaican Government on the financial and spending patterns of countless Jamaicans who are not even green card holders. [\[more\]](#)

### [Jamaica debt reduction imperative, says finance minister](#)



Dr Peter Phillips

KINGSTON, Jamaica (JIS) May 29, 2012 -- Jamaica must work to reduce its debt, even as negotiations continue on a new standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Peter Phillips.

Opening the 2012/13 Budget Debate on Thursday in the House of Representatives, the finance minister said that as of the close of the 2011/2012 fiscal year, the country's debt stood at \$1.7 trillion (US\$19.5 billion) or \$600,000 (US\$6,900) for every resident of Jamaica.

"Let me make it clear, this is Jamaica's problem and not that of the IMF. The bottom line is that we must set our debt as measured by its GDP (gross domestic product) firmly on a downward trajectory," [\[more\]](#).

### [JAMAICA BUDGET 2012-2013](#)

Click each link above or below for Jamaica's 2012-2013 budget in a readable online flip magazine format. It is a comprehensive document showing all aspects of Jamaica's latest Budget.

[Jamaica Gleaner—click here for Budget details](#)

### [Jamaica seals deal to drill for oil next year](#)



Jamaica, Monday May 28, 2012 – After a few years of uncertainty, it has been confirmed that the Canadian oil and gas exploration company, Sagres will begin the process of drilling for oil in Jamaica come next year.

Energy Minister Phillip Paulwell revealed recently that a deal had been signed between his government and the company and that drilling will be concentrated on the southern St Elizabeth Coastline.

While not disclosing specifics, the energy minister said the deal is a production sharing agreement where the government will receive a certain per cent of the oil and there would be no financial burden to the government. [\[more\]](#)

### [New Jamaica task force fights international lottery scams](#)

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Wednesday April 25, 2012 — With Jamaica rapidly becoming a centre for international telemarketing fraud, authorities have launched a new task force to fight proliferating lottery scams.

The Jamaican and United States governments already have a three-year-old joint task force that has been dealing with the issue, which mainly targets elderly Americans, but the problem has worsened.

Julian Robinson, a senior official in Jamaica's Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining, told the Press that the lottery scams will seriously damage Jamaica's reputation as a Caribbean tourist destination and business centre if they continue. [\[more\]](#)

**Jamaica is now moving to arrest the scammers:**

[Cops collar 'major' lottery scam suspects](#)  
[Cops seize cash, high-end vehicles in another lotto scam raid](#)





## Trinidad and Tobago News

### [T&T's economy in slump says Central Bank Governor](#)

May 24, 2012

Central Bank Governor Ewart Williams says the economy is in a slump, with three consecutive years of economic decline, slow implementation of Government projects and a reluctance by the private sector to invest, all contributing to the slowdown. In presenting what he acknowledges will be his last Monetary Policy Report, Williams said yesterday: "The economy has been in a slump and we are waiting on the recovery" [ [more](#) ]

### [T&T illegal diesel scam stretched across Caribbean – report](#)

May 22, 2012 (Trinidad Express)

The extensive network of the illegal bunkering of diesel ultimately charts a course for the high seas where it fetches top dollar on the black market.

But long before it disappears into the configured tank of a vessel there's a certain degree of wheeling and dealing allegedly happening on land.

A confidential report prepared by the manager of Auditing Services, Reynold Mahadeo at the Ministry of Energy within the last year and obtained exclusively by the Express reveals a tale of how vessel owners abuse the system, peddlers who sell diesel without a bunkering licence, fictitious buyers and claims of irregularities ... [ [more](#) ]

### [TGI tags June for normal cement supply](#)

May 12, 2012. KNEWS

Guyana's biggest supplier of cement, TCL Guyana Inc. (TGI), is aiming to regularize the local market by next month even though industrial problems continue at its Trinidad base.

Yesterday, the company received 4,350 metric tonnes (MT) of cement and supplies are on target to meet the 17,000MT for this month, a statement said yesterday

Following industrial relations problems from TGI's source at Trinidad Cement Limited several weeks ago, there were reported shortages on the local market with price jumping more than \$500 to \$2,000 per bag. [ [more](#) ]

### [Panday has a case to answer](#)

May 18, 2012 (Trinidad Express)

Attorneys representing former prime minister Basdeo Panday are seeking a stay of proceedings after a Port of Spain magistrate ruled that he had a case to answer on charges of failing to declare the assets of a London-based bank account to the Integrity Commission.

The attorneys, led by British Queen's Counsel David Aaronberg, had made a no-case submission on Panday's behalf before Magistrate Marcia Murray in the Third Court, stating the prosecution had led "absolutely no evidence" to prove that Panday was the beneficiary of the account.

When the matter came up for hearing yesterday, Murray shot down the no-case submission saying that, after listening to the evidence of the witnesses, she was of the view that the State was successful in establishing a prima facie case. [ [more](#) ]

## Caribbean Airlines (CAL) News

### [US\\$149m gone from CAL – says former chairman](#)

(Trinidad Express May 10, 2012) State carrier Caribbean Airlines (CAL) had US\$149 million or more than TT\$900 million deposited in several banks and financial institutions at the beginning of 2010.

Now, only two years later, the airline which replaced its failed predecessor BWIA in January 2007, is reporting an unaudited loss of US\$52.8 million (TT\$339.5 million) for 2011.

Former CAL chairman Arthur Lok Jack recalled that when he and his board of directors resigned in June 2010 (following the May 24 general elections and change of government), the airline was in a healthy cash position and was without debt.

Now the airline's accounts are bleeding red, with its subsidiary Air Jamaica airline also saddled with a loss for 2011 of US\$38.1 million (TT\$245.2 million). [ [more](#) ]

### **Other Caribbean Airlines stories:**

#### [CAL/Air Jamaica to drop unprofitable routes – minister](#)

#### [CAL flies direct to London - Barbados starting June 30](#)



## Barbados and Eastern Caribbean News



The historic Mutual Building. Bridgetown. Barbados

### City Campus for UWI - Cave Hill

BY TIM SLINGER | SUN, MAY 27, 2012 -

THE HISTORIC MUTUAL BUILDING on Lower Broad Street is to become home to the first university campus in Bridgetown.

And by early next year, about 2 000 evening students will bring The City alive after most business places have closed their doors.

Sir Hilary Beckles, principal of the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), said the move to open the UWI campus would be a stimulant for businesses in Bridgetown as well.

"We have a role to play in modernizing The City; and by bringing the university into The City, you will see those car parks that are now empty after four o'clock will all be filled," he said.

### Guyana's first resident consul general to Barbados appointed

May 3, 2012 - By Shamkoe Pilé – Caribbean News Now

Barbados -- Guyana's first consul general to Barbados, Michael Brotherson, has been told that his resident posting to the island will be of great benefit to Guyanese nationals living here.

These sentiments came from Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Maxine McClean, as she welcomed Brotherson to the country last week during a courtesy call at her office.

She stated that Barbados and Guyana had maintained a long tradition of "people to people relations", particularly in the areas of trade and tourism, and stressed that the ties between both countries were amicable/. [ [more](#) ]

### High inflation hurting Barbados tourism

**Barbados, Friday May 25, 2012** – Prices in Barbados have surged by roughly 16 percent over the past two years, and by 9.4 percent in 2011 alone. That rate of inflation is three times higher than that of the country's major international trading partners and also the highest rate of inflation in the entire Caribbean.

That was the situation outlined by Opposition Leader Owen Arthur at the recent Barbados Employers Confederation (BEC) luncheon at the Barbados Hilton.

Arthur maintains: "Since countries in the region are facing the same external shocks, it illustrates dramatically, that the bulk of Barbados' price increases have been domestically generated, especially by factors that have significantly added to cost of domestic production." [ [more](#) ].

### Gold Medal for Grenada at Chelsea Flower Show



LONDON, England, Friday May 25, 2012 –

The Grenada exhibit at the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Chelsea Flower Show 2012 has won a coveted Gold Medal, the tenth to be awarded to Suzanne Gaywood MBE and the Spice Island's pavilion since 199.

Billed "Tropical Paradise", the exhibit comprised heliconias, gingers, musas, anthuriums, orchids and other rain forest plants adorning a rustic circular pavilion in an explosion of colour and scent that provided an authentic taste of Grenada. [ [more](#) ]



## Suriname News

### [Suriname clinched US\\$ 2 billion in foreign investments in a decade](#)

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO — With over US\$ 260 million (112 million in 2010 and 154 million in 2011) direct foreign investments in Suriname have crossed the US\$ 2 billion line. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has issued a report with records of all investments in the region.

Stats from the report disclose foreign financial injections between US\$ 100 million and 400 million between 2002 and 2011. Henk Naarendorp chair of the Chamber of Commerce expects more investments to come referring to the expected US1 billion in investments by 2015. The ECLAC report confirms that investments in the bauxite and gold sector will exceed US\$ 200 million in 2012. [ [more](#) ]

### [Suriname has population of 534,000](#)

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO – Currently Suriname has a population of 534,000 people, 498,000 of whom are Surinamers and 36,000 foreigners. The electoral roll which counted 324,000 people in 2010 has grown to 331,000. Consultant for the Central Bureau for Population Registry (CBB), Anton Paal, tells *de Ware Tijd* that the Surinamese population grows by 1 percent per year.

Last week, Paal and Michael Kromodimedjo, system manager at CBB, presented the report '*Determining the Status Quo of Population Registry*' to Home Affairs Minister Soewarto Moestadja. The report included the latest figures. The 2004 census revealed that Suriname has a population of 492,829 people. [ [more](#) ]

### [Two parties out of the Suriname ruling coalition](#)

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO – VHP legislator Asiskumar Gajadien is not surprised the coalition has fewer members now, as this was to be expected. During a coalition conference Monday evening, it was decided to discard partners BEP and Nieuw Suriname, so the governing coalition now has 32 instead of 36 seats in Parliament. [ [more](#) ]

### [Suriname 'politicians' phones are bugged and they are being tailed'](#)

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO — 'We don't have the tools to prove it, but it is common knowledge that phones are tapped and people are tailed. Every politician knows it, but no one dares say something about it,' opposition legislator Guno Castelen tells *de Ware Tijd*.

The legislator says that the government abuses its powers to be one step ahead of political opponents as part of its strategy to intimidate people who are against the controversial Amnesty Act. At the ceremony commemorating Fred Derby, first chair and founder of the Suriname Labor Party (SPA), incumbent chair Castelen called on society to fight for upholding the constitutional state and democracy, just like Derby. The struggle these days would be against the controversial Amnesty Act. [ [more](#) ]

### [Suriname agri exports decline dramatically - pesticide concerns](#)

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO – The agricultural sector in general is declining at an alarming rate. While nation-wide exports of agricultural products amounted to some 80 tons a week ten years ago, this number has currently declined to some 35 tons.

Uncontrolled use of chemicals here and stricter safety requirements imposed by food-importing countries are among the reasons for this decline. [ [more](#) ]

### [Global Hindi language resource portal to be launched in Suriname](#)

Posted: May 10, 2012

PARAMARIBO, Suriname -- After hosting the World Hindi Conference in 2003, Suriname will now host a global Hindi language initiative. This will not be a conference or seminar but Suriname will witness the launching of the largest global resource portal of the Hindi language at [hindihomepage.com](http://hindihomepage.com).

This portal was due to be launched in the capital Paramaribo by Bholanath Narain, president, Suriname Hindi Parishad, in the presence of Indian ambassador, K.J.S. Sodhi, on Wednesday in a programme organised by Suriname Hindi Parishad. ... [ [more](#) ]