



Times Square in New York welcoming the New Year 2013

## Guyana, Brazil open talks on Lethem road, deep water harbour

January 11, 2013—Demerara Waves

President Donald Ramotar has opened talks with his Brazilian counterpart Dilma Rousseff on the execution of several projects here including paving the road to Lethem.

He made the announcement at a media briefing on Friday at the Office of the President. The Guyanese leader was in neighbouring Brazil for one day last month to attend the regional trade bloc MERCOSUR Summit.

“I had a meeting with the president of Brazil and we spoke about what I consider very important projects that I think are coming closer to fruition, like the (Lethem) road, the deep water harbour and more hydropower facilities.

Hopefully in the new month I’ll probably be meeting some (officials) to establish a technical team from Brazil and Guyana to start to work and try to bring these things into operation as early as possible,” the president said.

Ramotar noted that some of these projects would also benefit Brazil such as hydropower. It is also expected that with the paving of the Lethem to Linden road Brazilian industry in the north of South America’s largest country would get ready access to a seaport with the construction of the deep water harbour in Berbice.



**Editor’s Note:** Suriname announced an agreement in December 2010 for road and rail connections to Brazil, and a deep sea port . See link:.

[Suriname clinches US\\$6B deals with Chinese companies - includes deep sea harbour, railroad to Brazil](#)

ALSO SEE SURINAME FEATURE ARTICLE ON PAGE 21 FOR DETAILS OF THEIR PROJECTS.

### GUYANESE ONLINE NEWSLETTERS

These newsletters are published monthly. Its aim is to advertise the events and news of Guyanese Associations worldwide. Added to this, the newsletter highlights Guyana and Regional/Caribbean news, Arts and Culture, Medical, Business, Education and Historical articles.

Every month we publish over 100 Blog entries and these are also listed here and accessible by clicking on the items on the list.. Your comments are welcome!

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 **33rd edition** of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. It culminates 34 months of publishing the Blog and monthly Newsletters. Thanks for your support.....

E-mail address: [cybryan@gmail.com](mailto:cybryan@gmail.com)

### Guyanese Online

The **Guyanese Online Newsletter** and the **Guyanese Online Blog Website** are independent publications that are created, edited, produced and published by **Cyril Bryan** - [cybryan@gmail.com](mailto:cybryan@gmail.com)

**Guyanese organizations are offered FREE advertising. Advertising rates for commercial entities are reasonable. Donations are accepted with THANKS.**

Editorial

### Welcome to 2013

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

**Guyana:** This is the 14th month of the “new” Guyana government. Nothing much has changed. The majority opposition parties say they want to ensure more equitable and fairer governance, especially in the financial operations of the administration, and closer scrutiny of the budget and contracts. The minority PPP Government disagree with their interference, so Parliament is a hotbed and seems to be in gridlock.

The main issue in Guyana today is the Constitution: Who manages Guyana? Is it the elected Parliament? Is it the Executive – Ministers and Ministries? Is it the Judiciary? Or is it the Executive President who has veto power over Parliament’s bills? Also, unlike the previous 1964 Constitution, this Burnham 1980 constitution bans coalitions after elections. It means that minority governments can govern against the wishes of the majority of voters. Is this Democracy?

We in the Diaspora look on and wish Guyana all the best as it tries to solve its governance issues.

**Guyanese Online:** The aim of our publications is to report news, views and the history of Guyana. The readers and “followers” (Guyanese and non-Guyanese) enjoy the wide range of blog subjects we carry, while we focus on news and articles on Guyana and Guyanese around the world.

This is the 33rd publication of the Guyanese Online Newsletter, launched with the Blog in March 2010. The 2012 Blog analysis by Wordpress.com shows that most of our readers live in the USA, followed by Canada and the U.K, with readers in over 160 countries. The blog was viewed over 540,000 times and there were 1,237 new posts, for a total 2,246 posts.

Now, at the end of January 2013, the blog has over 2300 entries with total views of over 970,000 and will surely reach a million views by our third anniversary. We thank you for your support, articles and comments. We will strive to be even better in 2013.

### 30 Most popular - 30 days to January 28, 2013

Click and Check the entries on the Blog/Website

1. [The Mighty Sparrow – 100 songs and videos –](#)
2. [CHINESE ADVICE TO 50-YEAR OLDS & OLDER](#)
3. [GUYANA and CARIBBEAN RECIPES](#)
4. [High Tide floods Lower East Coast road – Jan 2013 – video](#)
5. [Trinis happy and have sexiest accents, says CNN](#)
6. [Fruits of Trinidad and Tobago – and Guyana](#)
7. [750 Guyanese deported in 2012](#)
8. [Teenage Parties – by Ken Corsbie – comedy video](#)
9. [Guyana’s fruits: The Awarra Palm Fruit](#)
10. [A Collective Tribute to Randall Mohan Butisingh – 1912-2112](#)
11. [Criminal deportees sent back to the Caribbean in 2012 – US report](#)
12. [Massive clean-up begins after East Coast flood – Jan 2013](#)
13. [A Visitor’s Impressions of Guyana \(Part II\)](#)
14. [The tale of two Guyanas – By Gordon Burnett](#)
15. [One of the Sweetest Prayers I’ve ever heard...](#)
16. [The Magnificent Essequibo River – by MG Joe G Singh](#)
17. [World Banker Makes a Stunning Confession – video](#)
18. [Old Jet Magazines – from 1950 onwards](#)
19. [Tribute to Past Guyanese Teachers \(cont’d\) – By Lear Matthews](#)
20. [KEN CORSBIE ON CRICKET – video](#)
21. [Guyana: Architecture...Building under our sun](#)
22. [Famous People of Guyanese Heritage](#)
23. [Guyana – Original Folk Songs](#)
24. [Adrian Dutchin – “I am a Guyanese” video](#)
25. [Guyanese Online – Introduction](#)
26. [Nostalgia 566 – Saga and Romance of BRICKDAM](#)
27. [10 THINGS THAT WILL DISAPPEAR IN OUR LIFETIME](#)
28. [Guyana Floods – March 2012 – pictures of floods in Georgetown](#)
29. [A Guyanese Christmas – by Ron Cheong](#)

30 [Trinidad Soca Parang Music – 90 videos – autoplay](#)



## Cuyana Christian Charities - Valentine Dance 2013



# Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.

## Valentine Dinner & Dance

**When:** Saturday, February 16, 2013  
7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

**Where:** Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian  
Catholic Church Hall  
1490 Markham Road -- North of 401. Toronto.  
Entrance West off Markham Road on Milner Avenue)

**Music:** Triple Play Band..... &  
DJ Raymond "Bake" Pereira

**Admission:** \$50.00 per person

Includes: Hors d'œuvre -- 7:00 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Buffet Supper -- 7:30 -- 9:00 p.m.  
Door Prizes



can be obtained from:

Mike Gonsalves -- 416-420-0565  
Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956  
Dexter Gonsalves -- 905-428-3883  
Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526  
Dennis Choy -- 905-839-0434

or any GCC member  
or email: [info@gcccanada.org](mailto:info@gcccanada.org)



## Commentary: Save City Hall in Georgetown



Stabroek News - January 20, 2013: [Editorial](#) |

### Architectural heritage in peril

Anyone who has any feeling for the architectural heritage of Georgetown must be in despair every time they pass City Hall – if they can bear to look at it at all, that is. What is the matter with those who sit in authority over us that they cannot see that one of the capital's architectural and historical treasures is disintegrating before their eyes? What is the matter with them that they do not think that this is a scandal? Why have they abdicated their responsibility to the citizens who live here and now, as well as future generations, who will surely condemn them for their dereliction? Do they have absolutely no sense of the aesthetic or the historical that they can pass by this deteriorating landmark and not experience even a frisson of disquiet?

Well, now it seems, the benighted structure is falling victim to the muddle that is the Mayor and City Council, and the muddle that is the Ministry of Local Government, and the lacuna between

the two. It is bad news for repairs and bad news for preservation. As the story in our edition today shows, even the money which former president, Mr Bharrat Jagdeo gave last year for emergency repairs has not yet been spent in total. The M&CC was given \$20M, of which only \$5M has so far been expended. According to Mayor Hamilton Green the council was waiting for the City Engineer's Department to put forward a project proposal – for some months, one presumes. The city engineer had been told to start with the roof, but had begun with the windows instead and had done some work there. The Mayor said they were awaiting a report on the fact the \$5M was not spent properly.

Well if all of that is not enough to make the sanest resident of Georgetown scream in exasperation, there is more. Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Norman Whittaker has asked Mr Keith Burrowes, it seems, to manage the money (no complaints there), and review any payment to be made in

Continued on next page



## Commentary: Save City Hall in Georgetown

Continued on previous page

this particular project. Exactly what progress he has made with the engineer's department has not been revealed, but one can infer not too much, since not too much seems to be happening. Our reporter did ask Deputy Mayor Patricia Chase-Green what efforts the senior members of the council were making to get the City Engineer's Department to function efficiently, and she replied, "When we intervene in matters of the council the officers run to the Minister who advise[s] them and they do not worry with the council."

### Death knell for City Hall

On the face of it this sounds like the death knell for City Hall: the department which is responsible for the emergency repairs is not doing what it should, and the council can do nothing because the officers complain to the Minister as a consequence of which they feel they can ignore the council. What is the matter with the Minister and the council? If both sides know that a department has urgent work to do that is not being done, can't they operate in concert to ensure that it is? Are we so far gone in terms of the political divide, that we would allow an important item of our material heritage to fall to pieces just because of pettiness?

Other than the most unreconstructed philistines, those who live and work in Georgetown would not hesitate to say they wanted City Hall to be saved. Furthermore, they would say they did not care two goat's whiskers who accomplished this. What they would not want to hear about is disputes or misunderstandings or lack of communication or lack of cooperation or lack of funds or lack of urgency. And if all the officials involved – government, city council and even the opposition – are not seized of the urgency of the matter, then the odds are we will not be bequeathing this particular heritage building which was handed down to us by earlier citizens, to those who will come after us.

Mayor Green did advert to the fact that they needed international help for total restoration.

No doubt this is true. But emergency repairs apart, the first stage in the larger renovation of the structure is an assessment of exactly what would have to be done, and how much it would cost. That might mean bringing down an overseas specialist, which the government – perhaps in the form of the National Trust – and not the city council would have to do. But if it does do so, there should be no shopping around the international agencies for funding to pay for the expert to come here. That expense, at least, the central administration should be able to withstand, and surely the opposition would not object to a supplementary for the purpose if necessary. Once there is a costing then the matter of the larger project can be attended to. Of course, the government will want foreign funding for that exercise, and perhaps it will get it – or get it in part.

### Georgetown uniqueness being destroyed

But supposing, for the sake of argument, it doesn't, why can't we pay for this ourselves? It wouldn't cost anything like the kind of sums the government is proposing to sink into the unappealing Marriott Hotel, which from the drawings supplied has no aesthetic qualities to recommend it, and bears not even the remotest relationship to this country's architectural traditions. Georgetown's unique character is being systematically destroyed, and all these tourists which Minister Irfaan Ally burbles on so optimistically about, are simply not going to come to a city of concrete and glass (even if the garbage has been cleared), which is just a smaller scale version of where they live. If he had his priorities right, he would regard saving City Hall and the few remaining historical buildings in private and public hands, as being at the very top of his to do list.

Just for once, will the government, the council, the relevant agencies and politicians of all persuasions commit to saving City Hall in 2013.

**Read more about the Georgetown City Hall at this link:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgetown\\_City\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgetown_City_Hall)



Parliament of the  
Cooperative  
Republic of Guyana

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

## Guyana's Parliament and Governance

### [Parliament off to stormy start in 2013...Opposition refuses to back down on Rohee "gag"](#)

JANUARY 4, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

The 2013 sittings of the National Assembly got off to a stormy start yesterday, with government and the Opposition steadfastly standing their ground over matters related to Minister of Home Affairs, Clement Rohee. The main Opposition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU), insisted that the Minister, who was effectively gagged in the closing sessions last [...]

### [Government spends \\$21B cut from budget](#)

JANUARY 8, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

#### [...Opposition questions authority](#)

The government is spending money that the National Assembly did not approve and the opposition is not about to let the matter go easily. The opposition wants to know exactly how much money the House did not approve that has been spent, and it also wants to know to which [...]

### [Nat'l Assembly roasts Govt. over \\$2B additional funds](#)

JANUARY 11, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

- but gives divided approval Despite heavy grilling yesterday in the National Assembly, the government yesterday managed to receive approval for \$2B it wanted as additional monies for its work in 2012, some of which is still incomplete. Financial Paper 6 of 2012 was for a total of \$2B – \$500M for the [...]

### [Judiciary, Parliament no longer dependent on Govt.](#)

JANUARY 11, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

The Opposition last evening defeated Government in a debate to have a number of independent institutions receive monies directly from the Consolidated Fund, instead of depending on government for approval. The successful piloting of the private member's motion by Carl Greenidge, Shadow Minister of Finance of A Partnership For National Unity (APNU), [...]

### [GGMC illegally transfers \\$254M transfer from GGMC to NICIL – AFC](#)

JANUARY 1, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

The Alliance For Change (AFC) has raised an alarm over a \$254M transfer from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) recently, describing it as an outrageous and illegal act by government. According to AFC Leader, Khemraj Ramjattan,

### [\\$254M "illegal" transfer to NICIL... APNU prepared for more Rohee-like sanctions against other MPs](#)

JANUARY 6, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

A determined Opposition in the National Assembly has signaled its intentions to bring more sanctions against Members of Parliament (MPs) unless there is strict adherence to how public monies are being spent. Shadow Finance Minister of A Partnership For National Unity (APNU), Carl Greenidge, also made it clear that the coalition is exploring [...]

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

## Guyana's Parliament and Governance

### [APNU not stalling Local Govt. bills - Granger](#)

DECEMBER 31, 2012 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

David Granger, opposition Leader, has refuted Local Government Minister Ganga Persaud's claim that his party is responsible for local government bills being stuck at the select committee. Granger said that he has denied the statement in its entirety. According to Granger, on the last sitting of the National Assembly on December [...]

### [Major donor nations up pressure for 2013 local govt. polls](#)

JANUARY 10, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

**“...no valid justification for further delay”- diplomats**

Guyana is coming under increasing pressure to hold local government elections. This time around, the pressure is from the international community- from four of Guyana's largest donor countries. In a joint statement issued yesterday by the local diplomatic missions — the US, Canada, Britain and the European Union— all said that it was a campaign promise by political parties leading up to the November 2011 General and Regional Elections to hold local government elections soonest.

### [New GPC still to supply drugs four years after collecting money— AG Report](#)

JANUARY 9, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#) By Abena Rockcliffe

**— \$80M spent since 2008 still to be cleared**

The Ministry of Health (MOH) was in 2010 unable to provide receipts to prove that it collected \$30M worth of drugs and medical supplies from New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation Inc. (New GPC). Also, in 2010, the outstanding balance of 222.526M for 2008 and 2009 was still to be reconciled by the Ministry.

These issues were all stated in the Auditor General (AG)'s report and are set to be brought up before the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

### [US, Guyana fine tuning open skies agreement](#)

January 21, 2013

The United States (US) and Guyana are fine-tuning a new air transportation agreement to cater for the granting of flag-carrier status in the future, according to American Ambassador to Guyana Brent Hardt.

The agreement could be inked within another month, he told Demerara Waves Online News ([www.demwaves.com](http://www.demwaves.com)).

The December 12 signing of the new accord by Hardt and Guyana's Aviation Minister Robeson Benn has been pushed back to allow the two sides to agree on a memorandum that should have been included in the final agreement, said the envoy. [\[read more\]](#)



US Ambassador Brent Hardt

### [President meeting Amerindians over land ruling dissatisfaction](#)

Demerara Wave:s Tuesday, 22 January 2013

Amerindian disquiet over a recent court ruling in favour of a miner over the Isseneru Village Council in their land dispute case has garnered the attention of President Donald Ramotar. At a media briefing organised by the Amerindian People's Association (APA) on January 22, it was announced that the village council would be meeting the president later in the day.

The Council had contended that Joan Chang's mining company was operating on titled lands without its permission as set out in the Amerindian Act of 2006 and had sought the intervention of the Guyana Geology Mines Commission (GGMC) which subsequently issued two cease work orders on the miners. But High Court Justice Diana Insanally has ruled that Chang had been granted a mining licence before the Act came into force and neither the Council nor the GGMC could stop Chang's operation. [\[more\]](#)

**VIDEO:** [Amerindians picket Gov't for protection of Land Rights](#)

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

## Other News from Guyana

### [GECOM begins Fourth Continuous Registration Cycle](#)

JANUARY 22, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

In keeping with the National Registration Act, the fourth cycle of Continuous Registration kicked into motion yesterday. The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) said anyone who will be 14 years or older by June 30, 2013, and is a Guyanese citizen by birth, descent, naturalization, or is a citizen from a Commonwealth country living in Guyana [...]

### [Choice Hotels to open upscale Ascend in Guyana](#)

JANUARY 27, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

Choice Hotels International will debut in Guyana with its upscale Ascend Hotel Collection in early 2013. The global lodging company announced that construction on a boutique 25-room member hotel in central Georgetown is advancing well. Guyana, a member of CARICOM (Caribbean Community), hosts several international organizations, including the CARICOM Secretariat and United Nations [...]

### [Kissoon details why he called former President 'ideological racist'](#)

JANUARY 26, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

With the Bharrat Jadgeo libel case making its first call for the year, defendant, and Kaieteur News columnist Frederick Kissoon yesterday returned to the witness box for the continuation of his evidence-in-chief before presiding Judge Brassington Reynolds at the Supreme Court. Kissoon, and National Media and Publishing Company, publisher of Kaieteur News, and Editor-in-Chief Adam Harris, are being sued for over \$10M, by the former head of state who is claiming libel in one of Kissoon's daily columns published in 2010. Under the direction of Attorney-at-law Nigel Hughes and Christopher Ram, Kissoon started to explain how he came to term the former President an "ideological racist."

### [Ineffective interior security and the gold-mining industry](#)

December 25, 2012 - Stabroek News

One of the more glaring – and costly – security failings of the government has been its woeful neglect of the interior mining communities.

Evidence of this shortcoming is overwhelming. Interior mining operations dare not drop their guard for fear of attacks by groups of armed brigands; brutal killings that invariably arise out of one type of dispute or another are now a virtual everyday occurrence; instances of 'rough justice' arising out of allegations of theft by employees of mining operations are frequent; and cases of alleged police-related shakedowns against gold miners have been recounted by miners. These occurrences, as much as the government's lack of any meaningful response, speak for themselves. [\[more\]](#)

### [M&CC repeats call for municipal court to tackle delinquent tax payers](#)

JANUARY 21, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

The Mayor and City Council (M&CC) has reiterated calls for a Municipal Court to be established so that the Council can meaningfully deal with delinquent tax payers. Mayor Hamilton Green told reporters that because of the socio-political business environment, tax payers are using various means such as the courts to avoid paying their [...]

### [Engineers meet on City Hall restoration](#)

JANUARY 27, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

On Wednesday, Mayor Hamilton Green, convened a special meeting on the restoration of City Hall. At that session, which a number of well known engineers including Bert Carter, Berkley Wickham, George Jardim, Bobby Hussein, and Guyana's Cultural Icon Eddy Grant attended, the Mayor said that he wanted to focus on restoration and not rehabilitation of [...]



Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

## Other News from Guyana

### [Gold earns US\\$737M gold following highest declaration](#)

JANUARY 3, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

- **438,645 ounces declared**

Gold declarations reached its highest in recent years, ending last year with a total of \$438,645 ounces, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Robert Persaud, confirmed yesterday. Given the trading prices at the end of the day, Monday, this would put the value of those declarations at more than US\$737 .

### [GRA's collections hit \\$116B mark, despite Linden](#)

JANUARY 10, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

• **plastic Driver's Licence from this year**

Despite significant disruptions, Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) last year still managed to surpass the 2011 collections by \$5B. According to Commissioner General, Khurshid Sattaur, the collection of \$116B included significant increases of taxes from self-employed, a long-standing problematic area. Government would be more than happy after a month-long protest in Linden caused the shutdown of several hinterland communities, badly affecting gold mining and logging operations and trade with Brazil.

### [President Ramotar tackles corruption, transparency questions](#)

JANUARY 12, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

...**releases privatisation deals between 1993-2011** -

\$25.6B in proceeds -\$11.7B paid to Treasury Since taking office back in December 2011 and in one of his most significant moves to address lingering questions of transparency and accusations of corruption within the government, President Donald Ramotar has released details of privatization deals done between 1993 and 2011. [...]

## [2012 The Year in Review](#)

Here is a review of various Guyana news items in 2012 as prepared by the Kaieteur News daily newspaper. [Download here.](#)

### [Auditor General recommends dismissal of NDIA Engineer](#)

JANUARY 7, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

--- **but officer still on the job**

Despite recommendations for his dismissal or resignation, a controversial senior section engineer of the national drainage and irrigation board remains on the job. The recommendations were made by the Auditor General's office, which confirmed an earlier finding that the Engineer Aneel Chowbay was in a position of conflict [...]

### ["No more will the disrespect be tolerated..." - Coalition](#)

JANUARY 7, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

**1823 monument site battle...** By Abena Rockcliffe

Deep reflections, meaningful symbolism, African drums and singing of inspirational songs characterized the Libation ceremony held yesterday at Independence Park by the Coalition of the 1823 Parade Ground Movement. The Libation was hosted by the Coalition to register its continued demand for the 1823 monument [...]

### [High tide flooding...Ocean View Hotel suffers major damage](#)

January 16, 2013 | By KNews |

The aftermath of Monday evening's flood was especially bad for management of the Ocean View International Hotel.

While the overtopping waters caused a great deal of unease to commuters, it was not comparable to the damage that the owner of the Ocean View International Hotel and Convention Hall, Mr. Jacob Rambarran, experienced. He is now counting millions of dollars in damage.

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

## Bai Shan Lin promises 10,000 jobs for Guyanese

– wants 700 initial recruits on job by March

### Recruitment at Bai Shan Lin exceeds expectation : – Chairman

Thursday, 24 January 2013 Guyana Chronicle

GUYANESE have responded overwhelmingly to Bai Shan Lin's vacancies for jobs, exceeding expectation by 100 more applicants, according to Whenze Chu, Chairman of the China Forest Industry Group Company Ltd, the parent company of Bai Shan Lin Forest Development Inc. Over 800 have eventually been employed by the Chinese wood processing and export company after it had published an advertisement seeking 700, and according to the chairman, 100 have already been assigned to their working positions.

Included in the proposed park will be industries for shipbuilding, woodworking, machinery, processing and manufacturing, food and aquatic processing, mining, a school and a hospital.



Prospective employees at Bai Shan Lin's Ogle office on Monday in response to the company's advertisement for 700 workers (Inset is Company Chairman Whenze Chu)

Construction of an international mall and an exhibition centre to showcase products manufactured at the Bai Shan Lin plant in Linden and other entrepreneurship ventures are also included. [\[more\]](#)

## Smuggling, high taxes hurting Banks DIH – Reis



Banks DIH Chairman Clifford Reece

He was at the time addressing shareholders at the company's 57th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday January 19 at its Thirst Park, Georgetown

January 21, 2013 By Svetlana Marshall—Guyana Times

Banks DIH Limited Chairman Clifford Reis said despite the many challenges, including smuggling, faced during the last financial year 2011/2012, the company can boast of its overwhelming success. .

In his address, Reis said Banks DIH continued to face increasing competition on the market from both legal and illegal sources. He explained that Guyana's open market policy has paved the way for establishment of alternative products similar to those produced by Banks. As a result, he posited, the company's workforce must remain committed to the task of keeping the organisation on par with international standards through the provision of superior products. He added that Guyanese must also remain loyal to their own.

### Robust standards, new products propel Banks DIH Group to historic \$2.5B profit

JANUARY 15, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

BANKS DIH Limited Group of Companies last year recorded a profit of \$4.938 billion before taxes thereby improving its overall performance over 2011 when the group recorded a \$4.036 billion profit, Banks DIH 2012 Annual Report noted.

According to Chairman and Managing Director, Clifford Reis, Banks DIH Limited for the first time in its history achieved a profit before tax of \$3.5B profit after tax of \$2.5 billion.

He said profits after tax for the Group attributable to Shareholders increased significantly from \$2.298 billion to \$2.776 billion, an increase of \$478.0 million or 21 per cent.

The Company's profit before tax was \$3.672 billion compared to \$2.802 billion in 2011, an increase of \$870.0 million or 31per cent. Profit after tax increased from \$1.934 billion in 2011 to \$2.522 billion by \$588.0 million or 30 % [\[more\]](#).

## [Canadian firm eyes US\\$205M investment](#)

JANUARY 12, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

### **...3.29M ounces of gold over 17 years**

Guyana Goldfields has signaled its intentions to start commercial operations in early 2015 and will be looking to plunge up to US\$205M in the initial startup, a reduction from over the US\$500M it originally wanted to invest. According to a statement from the company ...

## [Esso starting 3D seismic activities for oil offshore Guyana](#)

JANUARY 16, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

Preparations to restart offshore drilling for oil are underway, with a group expected to commence conducting 3D activities from Sunday. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), fisherfolks and mariners should be on the lookout for the sensitive devices that will be [...]

## [GT&T appoints new CEO](#)

JANUARY 15, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

Radha Krishna Sharma has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GT&T) and Justin Nedd, Chief Financial Officer. The appointments follow the resignation of Yog Mahadeo as Chief Executive Officer and Royston Rajpaul as Chief Financial Officer last year. Mr. Sharma, whose appointment takes effect from March 1,

## [Gov't defends sole-sourcing of drugs from New GPC](#)

JANUARY 24, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

Government is looking to continue sole-sourcing billions of dollars in medical drugs from the New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation (New GPC), with the Head of the Presidential Secretariat Dr Roger Luncheon seeking to justify why. In recent years, the procurement of drugs by Government has come under intense scrutiny with New GPC at the center [...]

## [Bauxite sector makes ambitious projections for 2013](#)

January 28, 2013—KNEWS

### **– amid calls to ensure communities benefit**

A review of the bauxite sector, to chart the course for continuous expansion saw the two bauxite companies, Bosai and Rusal outlining their projections for 2013. The programme was hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources at the Watooka complex in Linden on Saturday, January 26, 2013.

## [Illegal Brazilian-operated river dredges ordered to cease operations](#)

JANUARY 20, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) yesterday issued cease work orders to three dredges (draga) operating without the requisite documentation in the Essequibo River near Itaballi, Region Seven. The immediate cease work orders were issued following a surprise visit by Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Robert Persaud, and a team

## [Rice and cash crop surge](#)

JANUARY 20, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

Rice production in Berbice increased in 2012, reaching 97,797 acres of crops that yielded 2.6 million bags of paddy at a yield of 4.3 tonnes per hectare. This is an improvement on the 93,900 acres at a yield of 4.2 tonnes per hectare, according to Region 6 Chairman, David Armogan. "Rice cultivation is picking up [...]"

## [Berbice estates fall short of sugar targets](#)

JANUARY 20, 2013 | FILED UNDER [NEWS](#)

... Skeldon misses by 40,000 tonnes By Leon Suseran The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) estates in the East Berbice area—Albion, Rose Hall and Skeldon—all fell miserably short of their targets in 2012. This information was recently revealed by the Region 6 Chairman David Armogan. The estates, combined, produced a staggering 56 per cent [...]



## MEDICAL

### [No impartiality where needed](#)

January 17, 2013 | By [KNews](#) | [Editorial](#)

**Examining the relationship between the Ministry of Health and the new Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation.**

This past Monday (January 14, 2013), the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly began examining the relationship between the Ministry of Health and the new Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation.

For more than a decade the government has been paying the New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation billions of dollars each year for the supply of drugs, to the exclusion of many other agencies with the potential to supply the drugs.

There are many questions, some representing the continuation of comments by the Auditor General. Indeed, there have been questions about the relationship between the government and the New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation. There have even been questions about the pricing to the extent that there have been accusations of price gouging.

However, since that issue is now before the Public Accounts Committee the revelations or explanations should be forthcoming and there would be extensive media reports. What is of more interest at this is the partisan nature of the Public Accounts Committee. This body exists in every parliament. It is expected to monitor government expenditure of money released by the very parliament.

Indeed, there is the report by the Auditor General which highlights discrepancies in the various accounting practices in Government Ministries and departments. These discrepancies are more often than not, noted and corrected or at least attempts are made to correct them. But sometimes they are ignored and repeated the following year. This has been the case with the relationship between the government and the New GPC. When that happens, the Public Accounts Committee would become involved. [\[more\]](#)

## EDUCATION

### [UG officially launches US\\$10 M science and tech project](#)

JANUARY 24, 2013 | FILED UNDER **NEWS**

With a World Bank loan of US10 million, the University of Guyana in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is set to execute a Science and Technology Support project over five years (2012 to 2017). At an event to officially launch the project yesterday at the University's George Walcott Lecture Theatre, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Emanuel Cummings, said that the move is aimed at ensuring the development of facilities in four faculties within the University.

These, he said, are the Faculties of Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Sciences, Technology and the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Efforts will be made to ensure that there is curriculum development as it relates to the support of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

### [Wi-Fi coverage for UG, stadium - GT&T](#)

January 17, 2013 Demerara Waves

The Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GT&T) has announced that it will be offering blanket Wi-Fi coverage at the University of Guyana at a subsidised cost.

This was revealed by acting Chief Financial Officer Sonita Jagan at the company's annual media brunch on Thursday January 17, 2013.

"We will subsidise it to the extent that we'll charge probably around \$100 (US.50 cents) an hour so it will be very affordable for students with the ability to have access to good download speeds and upload speeds wherever they are on campus."

"We're hoping that this service will come in with the opening of the new university term on the 28 January. We've been working on it for the last few months and we're actually hoping to roll out a high speed data Wi-Fi system over the entire UG campus (Turkeyen). [\[more\]](#)

## [New IRS laws could hurt Caribbean tourism industry](#)

**NASSAU, Bahamas, Thursday January 24, 2013** – The Bahamas Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) has flagged a potentially crippling development within the United States tax legislation that could have far reaching implications for hoteliers and tourism attractions across the Caribbean.

According to the Nassau Guardian, the BHTA has brought to the urgent attention of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association the fact that US credit card companies have been mandated to implement an automatic 28% withholding fee unless the merchant receiving the payment is compliant with new Inland Revenue Service (IRS) regulations. [\[Read more\]](#)

## [LIAT signs deal for 3 48-seater aircraft from ATR](#)

January 19, 2013—Trinidad Express

France-based aviation company ATR and regional airline LIAT (Leeward Islands Air Transport) have signed an agreement for the purchase of three 48-seater ATR 42-600 aircraft.

The deal also includes options for two 68-seater ATR 72-600, and is valued at over US\$100 million. LIAT will take delivery of its very first ATR 42-600 in June 2013.

With the arrival of these aircraft from ATR, plus additional ATR - 600s under discussion from leasing companies, LIAT will progressively replace its current fleet of former turboprop aircraft, ATR said in a statement.

## [Guyana records 17.7 % increase in tourist arrivals](#)

**-record level expected in December**

GINA Wednesday, 21 November 2012 -

GUYANA will likely, by year-end, achieve a record-breaking 20% increase in tourist arrivals over last year's figure. By October, there was already an increase of 17.7% according to Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) Indranauth Haralsingh.

"We are very happy to report that we have had record arrivals so far for the year, ... we have had 148,628 visitors compared with 126,313 up to the end of October," said the GTA Director at a press conference. [\[more\]](#)

## [GEMS launches sixth edition of tourism handbook on Guyana](#)



HANDBOOK LAUNCH: Publisher of the all-important handbook, Ms Gem Madhoo- Nascimento, presents a copy of the publication to Acting Tourism, Industry and Commerce Minister, Mr. Irfaan Ali. Looking on in approval are THAG President, Mr. Daniel Gajje (second left); GTA Director, Mr. Indranauth Haralsingh (second right); and other supporters of the venture.

Saturday, 19 January 2013 - GENERAL Executive Management Services Incorporated (GEMS Inc.), through the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, have launched the sixth edition of the handbook, 'Guyana, Where and What', in the Ministry's South Road, Georgetown boardroom. [\[more\]](#)

### 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](#)

[Iwokrama 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](#)

## Elaine Ville Housing Development - Guyana

See video: click link below

[Elaine Ville Video](#)

Located at:

New Providence  
East Bank, Demerara  
Guyana South America

.. Just minutes from Georgetown



Build your own dream home from a choice of large lots in a new upscale development



- > Concrete drains,
- > Concrete roads,
- > Potable Water Supply,
- > Electricity,
- > Recreational Park

Local Financing available

See website link below for more information on this development as well as its location and contact details. Also view this video below:

[Elaine Ville Video](#)



For more details go to our website at:

<http://www.elaineville.com/>



Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Barbados News

### [No room for 'Republican' ideals](#)

January 22, 2013 Barbados Today



**Prime Minister Freundel Stuart** believes that his Government is engaged in a fight against local republicanism in the form of the opposition Barbados Labour Party. Stuart made this observation yesterday while speaking at a rally at Fitt's Village, St. James to commemorate the birthday of national hero, the Right Excellent Errol Barrow.

He noted that yesterday not only marked the anniversary of Barrow's birth, but it was also the day on which President Barack Obama's inauguration took place and the day on which the USA celebrated the birthday of civil rights leader, the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

Stuart pointed out that the three leaders "set their faces against oppression and fought for the marginalised and the socially disadvantaged". The Prime Minister noted that republicans subscribe to the view that government should be minimal, restricted to the maintenance of law and order and the collection of garbage. [\[more\]](#)

### [Barbados downgrade not a surprise – Finance Minister](#)

December 23, 2012 (Barbados Nation)

Moody's Investors Service announced that it had lowered the island's foreign and local currency bond ratings to Ba1 from Baa3, while maintaining that the economic outlook was "negative".

But in a swift response, Minister of Finance Chris Sinckler said: "The most recent ratings downgrade by Moody's Investors Service comes as no surprise to us in the Ministry of Finance or in the Government, as a whole."

Sinckler said in a statement that it was generally expected that since Standard & Poor's had made their adjustment to the country's credit rating some months ago, it was altogether likely that Moody's would align their rating accordingly.

### [Sweet boost for cane industry](#)

January 24, 2013 Barbados Today

The revitalisation of Barbados sugarcane industry could be in for a massive boost from the Japanese.

Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, Dr. David Estwick, is to meet with representatives of the globally influential Japanese company, Marubeni Corporation, who have expressed an interest in funding the entire Cane Industry Restructuring Project.

The meeting will take place on January 28, at the ministry's headquarters at Graeme Hall, Christ Church, at 10 a.m.

The Barbados Cane Industry Corporation, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, is in the process of implementing the project which aims to convert the existing Barbados sugar industry into a sugarcane and renewable energy industry. This new thrust will result in the processing of over 330,000 tonnes of sugar cane to produce 15,000 tonnes of raw sugar, 12,000 tonnes of refined sugar and 24,000 tonnes of molasses.

In addition to the bagasse by-product from the processing of sugarcane, a further 150,000 tonnes of river tamarind biomass will be used to generate over 170,000 megawatt hours of electricity. The facilities are expected to come on stream in January, 2016. Project manager with the BCIC, Carl Simpson, explained that the proposed funding for the project would be delivered in two phases. [\[more\]](#)



Andrews Sugar Factory - Barbados

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Barbados News

### [Bajan union challenges sacking of 97 LIME workers](#)

January 4, 2013 Barbados Nation

Barbados Workers' Union, the union representing the 97 LIME workers sacked on Wednesday wants their termination letters immediately withdrawn and an apology made by managing director Alex McDonald for "unfair" comments on the workers' performance .

He said LIME's dismissal of retail and back-office staff with immediate effect late Wednesday had contravened the terms of the collective agreement as well as both sides' commitment to Minister of Labour Esther Byer-Suckoo.

### [BWU strike off](#)

Telecommunications giant LIME said tonight it was sorry for sending home 97 of its employees while negotiations were ongoing with the Barbados Workers Union, under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour Dr. Esther Byer-Suckoo.

And the union has agreed to suspend both limited and planned nation-wide strike action against the company, at least for the time being.

These were among the developments announced tonight by Prime Minister Freundel Stuart at Government Headquarters following a three-hour meeting which he chaired that involved a delegation of about a dozen from LIME, headed by its Managing Director, Alex McDonald, and a team from the BWU comprising over 25 people led by General Secretary Sir Roy Trotman. [\[more\]](#)

### [LIME's letter of apology sent to PM](#)

January 23, 2013 Barbados Today

That draft letter of apology which telecommunications giant LIME has agreed to issue to the Barbados Workers Union, the 97 employees sent home from the company and to the people of Barbados, is now before Prime Minister, Freundel Stuart. [\[more\]](#)

### [Barbados policyholders to sue CLICO directors](#)

January 27, 2013 (Barbados Nation)



Thirteen Directors of the insolvent CLICO and British American Insurance Company (BAICO), including former CLICO executive chairman Leroy Parris and president of CLICO Holdings Barbados Limited, Terrence Thornhill, are facing B\$128 million in negligence lawsuits .

### [Some Bajans riled at Rihanna's image](#)

January 19, 2012—Barbados Nation

RIHANNA'S "good girl gone bad" image isn't shining a positive spotlight on Barbados as of late, say some Barbadians on social media.

Although she is known for controversial antics and a devil-may-care attitude, it seems that a recent stunt by Ri-Ri has caused some of her fans, and even media, to speak out about her role as an ambassador for young women.

### [Tension easing between Guyanese, Bajan immigration – counsel](#)

December 21, 2012 Barbados Nation

Tension between Guyanese nationals arriving in Barbados and Immigration authorities appear to be easing.

Guyana's newly appointed Consul General in Barbados, Michael Brotherson, is reporting "excellent relations with the competent authorities" in Barbados after a period of repeated claims by Guyanese nationals of Immigration harassment on arrival at Grantley Adams International Airport.

Saying he could not "point to any major issue" which he found himself having to address in this early stage of his tenure, Brotherson conceded that Barbados and Guyana would "from time to time have to deal with issues likely to crop up".

But he believed the "excellent bilateral relations" the two countries would ensure that any contentious matters were ironed out satisfactorily. .

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Jamaica News

### [Jamaica envoy concerned about number of deportees from US](#)

January 21, 2013 (Jamaica Information Service)

Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Stephen Vasciannie has renewed calls for Jamaican migrants to abide of US law in an effort to reduce the deportation rate. About 75 Jamaicans are deported each month.

Delivering the keynote address on Saturday at an awards ceremony culminating a year-long Jamaica 50 series of activities in Atlanta, Georgia, Vasciannie said the number are not good for Jamaica. [\[more\]](#)

### [Jamaica plastics factory fire leaves 200 jobs in limbo](#)

January 21, 2013 (Jamaica Observer)

Acrid grey smoke still spewed from the smouldering ruins of the massive warehouse at Omni Industries Limited and Flexpak compound in Twickenham Park, St Catherine way past mid-day on Saturday after a ferocious fire ravaged it in the pre-dawn hours . [\[more\]](#)

### [PetroCaribe funds sought for Kingston Harbour dredging](#)

January 19, 2013 (Jamaica Gleaner)

The PetroCaribe Development Fund has been approached by the Port Authority of Jamaica to finance dredging in the Kingston Harbour

Leader of Government Business AJ Nicholson said several unsolicited proposals have also been received from overseas financial institutions for the project.

Senator Nicholson said discussions are proceeding with at least two of the overseas institutions, as well as the PetroCaribe Development Fund. He added that the Port Authority is confident that financing will be obtained for the dredging. [\[more\]](#)

### [Jamaican parties rap US newspaper on debt editorial](#)

(Jamaica Observer) January 9, 2013

An editorial in the Chicago Tribune — one of the largest and most respected newspapers in the United States — which described the Jamaican economy as being in worse shape than that of Greece and an example of what could happen to countries that continue to pile up debt, has been viewed as inaccurate from representatives of both sides of the political divide.

Special advisor to the prime minister, attorney-at-law Delano Franklyn said that Jamaica was not in the same position as Greece which had to make unilateral decisions to reduce its stock of debt, while Opposition spokesman on finance Audley Shaw said it was not true that his party balked at imposing tough decisions to address the debt problem when they formed the government between 2007 and 2011. [\[more\]](#)

### [Dudus' assets seized; Gov't facing legal action from relatives](#)

January 18, 2013 (Jamaica Observer)

The assets of former Tivoli Gardens strongman Christopher 'Dudus' Coke were on Wednesday ordered forfeited to the State.

The order, made by Justice Lennox Campbell, comes more than two years after the assets were frozen when Coke was extradited to the United States to face gun and drug-running charges. He is now serving time in a US prison after pleading guilty to lesser charges last year.

The order was made in default, as Coke was not represented in court to challenge the application which was made by the Government's Asset Recovery Agency.

Coke's assets include his business, Presidential Click Promotions Limited.

Meanwhile, the Asset Recovery Agency on Wednesday withdrew its claim for the forfeiture of the assets of businessman Justin O'Gilvie and his wife, as well as relatives of Coke. [\[more\]](#)



Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Jamaica News

### [Major arrests loom in Jamaica...as cops close in on 'crime bosses'](#)

December 29, 2012– Jamaica Gleaner

Several persons described by Jamaican law-enforcement officials as “entrenched crime bosses” who have amassed millions of dollars in wealth through their criminal lifestyle are now on a priority list of targets for the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Task Force [\[more\]](#) .

### [US officials close to wrapping up Jamaica lottery-scam investigations](#)

December 30, 2012 (Jamaica Gleaner)

There are indications that United States (US) law-enforcement personnel could be close to wrapping up their investigations of several Jamaicans who are considered major players in the lottery scam.

While not divulging details, Assistant Commissioner of Police Carl Williams, said in recent weeks Jamaican law-enforcement personnel have had “a number of meetings” with their counterparts in the US. [\[more\]](#)

### [Dancehall pushing crime — Jamaica Security Minister](#)

January 14, 2013 (Jamaica Observer)

Crime is on the decrease in the island’s deadliest police divisions, but popular culture continues to hamper government’s efforts.

Security Minister Peter Bunting reiterated the statement on Thursday, citing at least one dancehall tune as evidence of the social ‘dysfunctionality’ behind criminality in Jamaica. He made specific mention of its role in the deadly lottery scam in St James.

“I think that a national hero that we haven’t named officially is ‘Anansi’. Because Jamaicans seem to love... an anti-authoritarian element in our culture,” said Bunting, before quoting the lyrics of the song Reparation by jailed dancehall artiste Vybz Kartel and Gaza Slim. [\[more\]](#)

### [Jamaica sugar industry to focus on local market](#)

January 5, 2013 (Jamaica Gleaner)

Jamaica’s sugar import will see a reduction for the 2012-2013 crop year following a decision to focus on supplying the lucrative local market.

“We have a preliminary projection of about 140,000 tonnes for the next sugar crop, and we will be supplying all the sugar needed for the domestic market from this amount,” Ambassador Derrick Heaven, executive chairman of the Sugar Industry Authority (SIA), told The Gleaner.

Jamaica imports some 60,000 tonnes of brown sugar annually, mainly from other producing countries in the region to satisfy local demand. However, the additional 65,000 tonnes of the refined product that the country also consumes would still have to be sourced from overseas.

“I can safely say that as of this 2012-2013 crop year, all the raw sugar for local consumption will be supplied from locally produced sugar.

### [Contractor General’s statements hurting Jamaica – AG](#)

January 12, 2013 (Jamaica Observer)

Attorney General Patrick Atkinson says that uncontrolled media releases from the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) will only serve to hurt Jamaica’s reputation internationally .

He made particular reference to two recent statements by the office that Cabinet had “been reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for criminal prosecution” and that “Cabinet is in flagrant violation of the rule of law”.

“When you use that kind of language, that will cause some international speculation and this is at a time when we are looking forward to foreign investments and so it certainly does not help when you have that kind of inflammatory language being used,” Atkinson said, [\[more\]](#)

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Trinidad and Tobago News

### [T&T Security Minister: Five army camps coming for crime hot spots](#)

January 15, 2013 - (Trinidad Guardian)

National Security Minister Jack Warner on Monday evening called out all the armed forces to help in the fight against crime, following a four and a half-hour meeting with the top brass of the protective services at his office in Port-of-Spain.

The move will see soldiers setting up five more camps in crime hot spots across the country to work alongside the police, the Coast Guard and Air Guard, keeping a close watch over the coasts and air space.

The meeting, held with acting Commissioner of Police Stephen Williams, Deputy Commissioner Mervyn Richardson, Chief of Defence Staff Kenrick Maharaj and the heads of the Coast Guard and Air Guard, came after a weekend in which nine persons were murdered, taking the toll for the year to 16 in the first two weeks..

### [Water woes across T&T](#)

January 9, 2013 (Trinidad Express)

SEVERAL areas across the country will be left without a steady supply of pipe-borne water as a result of the shutdown of two major desalination plants later this month.

Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) head of corporate communications Ellen Lewis said yesterday maintenance works are expected to be carried out on the Navet and Caroni desalination plants, hence the reason for the shutdown from January 15 to 24.

The plan will involve “re-allocation of supply from the Caroni Water Treatment Plant, managed diversion of supplies from other production facilities to supplement supply to certain areas of North, Central and South Trinidad, introduction of temporary supply schedules, system of storage at critical service reservoirs, increase in level of water trucking, leak management and system upgrades”.

### [Machel Montano sentencing adjourned to February 25](#)

January 18, 2013 - Trinidad Express



Magistrate Maureen Baboolal-Gafoor intends to sentence soca superstar Machel Montano on five criminal charges on February 25.

Montano, the headline act for several Carnival 2013 fetes, including his own show Machel Monday scheduled for February 4, had previously assured his fans that he would be performing this Carnival in the face of his court hearing yesterday.

For almost three hours yesterday morning, lawyers representing Montano and his co-defendant, songwriter and producer Kernal Roberts, who was found guilty on two assault charges, and those representing the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, made legal submissions.

### [Indian High Commissioner to T&T fears: Errors creeping into Hinduism](#)

January 6, 2013—Trinidad Express

(Indian High Commissioner Malay Mishra has expressed concern about errors creeping into Hinduism locally. “What I have seen is too much emphasis on ritualism, the ritual part of it. And sometimes with very shallow understanding of the philosophy of the religion,” he said.

He voiced his concerns at a media briefing on the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Indian Hindu monk and famed spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda held on Friday at the Indian High Commission in Victoria Avenue, Port of Spain.

Speaking about Vivekananda’s teachings he said the most important point is revision of the understanding of Hinduism.

“And I stress this point because a lot of confusion and errors have crept into understanding this religion not only in India but in Trinidad and Tobago among the so-called priests and pundits of this country about what Hinduism really amounts to,” he said.

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Trinidad and Tobago News

### [PNM wins all Tobago seats in historic result](#)

January 23, 2013 -(Trinidad Express)

The Peoples's National Movement (PNM) won all 12 seats in Monday's Tobago House of Assembly (THA) election.

It was a feat which not even ANR Robinson, the architect of Tobago self-determination, had achieved.

An historic victory for the Opposition party has enhanced the position of Dr Keith Rowley as leader and as a prime minister in waiting. The PNM improved on its previous position of eight seats against the Tobago Organisation of the People's (TOP) four. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Ashworth Jack were strongly rebuffed by the electorate. Jack lost his seat and his political career is in jeopardy.

### [T&T's economic outlook 'stable' -US-based ratings agency - Moody's](#)

January 19, 2013

United States-based ratings agency Moody's has reaffirmed the Baa1 government bond rating of Trinidad and Tobago, with an economic outlook regarded as "stable" for the country.

The New York offices of the company released the report on Trinidad and Tobago Wednesday on its website.

Key drivers of the rating action, Moody's said, were:

- Continued resilience of the government's balance sheet despite some deterioration of government debt.
- Significant fiscal savings in a sovereign wealth fund and a strong external position supported by persistent current account surpluses and a large foreign exchange reserve buffer.
- A challenging growth outlook contingent on the resumption of activity in the energy sector following a protracted recession.

### [T&T intensifies drive to deport illegals, Guyanese topped 2012 list](#)

January 19, 2012(Trinidad Guardian)

Over the last two years T&T has intensified its deportation of illegal immigrants and criminals as some 750 people were sent back to their respective countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Statistics from the Immigration Department also revealed the US deported 630 criminals to T&T between 2011 and 2012 after serving sentences for offences including drug trafficking, robbery, gun possession and rape....

In 2011, 272 illegal immigrants were deported to their various countries with Guyana topping the list with 121. "Among those deported in 2011 were 19 nationals from China, 27 nationals from the Dominican Republic, 16 Jamaicans, 14 Colombians, 11 from Ghana, 11 Indian nationals, seven Venezuelans, six Indonesians, five from St Vincent, four from Bangladesh and four Nigerians," Warner said.

### [T&T signs deal for largest ever IDB loan to English-speaking Caribbean](#)

January 21, 2013 - Trinidad Express

Government on Saturday signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the largest loan ever granted to any country in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Minister of Planning and the Economy Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie and president of the IDB Luis Alberto Moreno signed off on a US\$246.5 million facility, the first tranche of a US\$546.5 million loan, for a three-phase wastewater rehabilitation programme in the country.

The first phase that we are bringing today is very significant as it will increase access to wastewater collection and treatment services to a large segment of the population and therefore it will help decrease the uncontrolled discharge of the untreated wastewater into the environment.



Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Suriname Feature: "Paving the way to a prosperous future"



The Jules Wijdenbosch Bridge also called Suriname bridge, is a bridge over the Suriname river between the capital city of Paramaribo and Meerzorg. It was opened in 2000.

*"The idea of linking Suriname to its neighbors is part of the Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America." - Ramon Abrahams, Minister of Public Works*

### Suriname is gearing up to be a regional transportation hub, with the construction and rehabilitation of key infrastructure

Suriname's government is well aware that to rise to its full potential, infrastructure development is a must. When the 2012 government budget was approved in February, roads, bridges, public schools and housing were all designated as key areas.

Improved transportation infrastructure could likely transform Suriname into a major hub that could link several countries within the region. The country has approximately 28,000 miles of major and minor roads, although most are unpaved. Two main arterial roads run through, called the Northern East-West Link and the Southern East-West Link. The former stretches from border to border, while the latter leaves from Apoera on the Guyana front and winds its way up to Paramaribo.

As of yet, no roads link Suriname to its southern neighbor – making these two the only South American nations not directly connected by land – but there is a master plan to connect Paramaribo to Macapa in Brazil, via Pokigron in eastern Suriname and Brazil's Tumucumaque Park (the world's largest protected continuous piece of pristine rain forest). The new route, which would consist of both road and railway, would link up with the existing highway that runs through Brazil's Pedra Branca do Amapari and on to Macapa on the Amazon Delta.

A recent Business Monitor International report stated that the "most significant feature of the investment agreements are the plans to make Suriname a major transport hub linking northern Brazil

(and the Amazon) to the Caribbean. The deepwater port combined with road and rail links to the Brazilian border should make Suriname a focal point of trade in the region, particularly given that neighbor Guyana has so far proved unsuccessful in its plans to develop its own deepwater port."

The Suriname-Brazil land connection project has found financial backing in China. In 2010, Minister of Public Works Ramon Abrahams signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with two Chinese companies: Cheng Don International and China Harbor, for US\$6 billion worth of investments. Other projects include the construction of a new deep-sea harbor, a sea dam from Albina to Nickerie, a new highway from Paramaribo to the Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport, and 8,000 low-income houses.

Financing from other Chinese sources will go towards building bridges that will span the Corentyne and the Marowijne rivers, which form the natural borders between Suriname and Guyana and French Guiana, respectively. [\[Read More\]](#)

### Facts & Figures

LOCATION: Northern South America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between French Guiana and Guyana

AREA: total: 163,820 sq km CAPITAL: name: Paramaribo

CLIMATE: tropical; moderated by trade winds

NATURAL RESOURCES: timber, hydropower, fish, kaolin, shrimp, bauxite, gold, and small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum, iron ore

LANGUAGES: Dutch (official), English (widely spoken), Sranang Tongo (Surinamese, sometimes called Taki-Taki, is native language of Creoles and much of the younger population and is lingua franca among others), Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi), Javanese

RELIGIONS: Hindu 27.4%, Protestant 25.2% (predominantly Moravian), Roman Catholic 22.8%, Muslim 19.6%, indigenous beliefs 5%

POPULATION: 491,989 (July 2011 est.) country comparison -world: 173

GOVERNMENT TYPE: constitutional democracy

INDEPENDENCE: 25 November 1975 (from the Netherlands)

LEGAL SYSTEM: civil law system influenced by Dutch civil law; note - the Commissie Nieuw Surinaamse Burgerlijk Wetboek completed drafting a new civil code in February 2009

GDP (official exchange rate): \$3.682 billion (2010 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: agriculture: 10.8%; industry: 24.4%; services: 64.8% (2005 est.)

AGRICULTURE - products: paddy rice, bananas, palm kernels, coconuts, plantains, peanuts; beef, chickens; shrimp; forest products

INDUSTRIES: bauxite and gold mining, alumina production; oil, lumbering, food processing, fishing

EXPORTS: \$1.477 billion (2010 est.) IMPORTS: \$1.334 billion (2010 est.)

AIRPORTS: 51. PORTS AND TERMINALS: Paramaribo, Wageningen

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Suriname News

### [Bouterse: Educational system must turn Suriname into best in region](#)

January 23, 2013— (de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO -

Suriname's educational system must see to it that the country becomes the best in the region both qualitatively and technically. This system must be based on true love of the country and focus on the free development of Suriname's culture. It must also produce well-educated and well-trained citizens who can take advantage of the available technical opportunities.

President Desi Bouterse described his long-term vision on education with these words when he opened the conference of the political party VHP in the KKF building on Saturday. The VHP organized the conference as part of the celebration of its 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it was intended to start a debate on a long-term vision for Suriname's development.

### [Suriname businesses unite to fight Chinese competition](#)

January 15, 2013 (de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO —

Several big businesses in downtown Paramaribo, including Lucky Store, Kirpalani, HSDS, Uniqa, Beyrouth Bazaar and Steps have united to fight the competition by Chinese megastores.

The stores propose to stay open longer and have surprises for customers in order to make Paramaribo attractive again. 'We want customers to experience something different. In fact we'll turn downtown into the biggest mall in Suriname with the best quality products, service and a wide variety of affordable products', says an enthusiastic Pavan Bhojwani, of HSDS.

Almost all businesses downtown have the same complaint: 'Surinamese are weary of the busy traffic and the few parking lots. Chinese investors, who put up colossal malls at the outskirts of Paramaribo seem to attract most customers. They stay open late and are not troubled by busy streets and parking issues.

### [In 2012: Suriname deports over 200 Guyanese](#)

JANUARY 14, 2013 | FILED UNDER **NEWS**

PARAMARIBO – In 2012, Suriname deported 234 Guyanese, or nearly one-third of the 750 Guyanese citizens sent back by foreign countries to Georgetown. The Guyana Police Force (GPF), which released these figures, says cases involved drugs-related offences and other crimes, illegal border crossing, overstaying their visa and refusal of the refugee status. [...]

### [Paramaribo: From backward port to being named the best twice](#)

December 28, 2012 -(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO -

When John Defares retires as director of the Port Authority on 31 December, he will do so with a sense of satisfaction . During his twelve years at the helm, the port of Paramaribo has been transformed from a 'backward' one to one that has been named best in the region twice.

### [Caricom countries secretly protect industry – Suriname manufacturers head](#)

December 23, 2012

(de Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO – Surinamese producers are being hit by hidden measures by Caricom countries to limit imports. Several of these countries have special bodies that help their own business community export, and offer protection against foreign competition as well, says the Association of Surinamese Manufacturers (ASFA). ASFA delegations visited Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad earlier this year to find out how the governments there support the business community.

These three countries each also have special organizations that support the business community through tax measures or special privileges in ports. They help export companies with administration and financing. "Most Caricom countries have secret subsidies that are being hidden by such organizations," says the ASFA chairman.

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Other Regional News

### [Former Brazilian leader Lula likely to be investigated – papers](#)

January 9, 2013

BRASILIA, (Reuters) - Brazilian prosecutors will likely investigate former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's alleged involvement in a vote-buying scheme in Congress that led to the conviction of several of his closest aides for corruption, two newspapers reported today .

### [Worst drought in decades hits Brazil's Northeast](#)

January 5, 2013

SAO PAULO, (Reuters) - Brazil's Northeast is suffering its worst drought in decades, threatening hydro-power supplies in an area prone to blackouts and potentially slowing economic growth in one of the country's emerging agricultural frontiers .

### [Brazil's clean energy system could get dirtier amid threat](#)

January 16, 2013

SAO PAULO, (Reuters Point Carbon) - Brazil has long boasted about having one of the world's cleanest energy grids due to its heavy use of hydro power, but a recent threat to its water supply is sending the country to the brink of energy rationing, raising concerns that Brazil will turn to more carbon-intensive energy sources to fuel its growing thirst for energy .

### [Brazil wants Venezuela election if Chavez dies-sources](#)

January 15, 2013

SAO PAULO/BRASILIA, (Reuters) - Brazil is urging Venezuela's government to hold elections as quickly as possible if President Hugo Chavez dies, senior officials told Reuters yesterday, a major intervention by Latin America's regional powerhouse that could help ensure a smoother leadership transition in Caracas

### [Cuba cuts state payroll, private sector jobs grow 23 pct in 2012](#)

December 28, 2013

HAVANA, (Reuters) - Cuba's drive to slash state payrolls and spur private-sector growth picked up surprising steam in 2012 as President Raul Castro moved ahead with reforms to the Soviet-style economy, according to figures unveiled recently with little hoopla .

### [Cuba acknowledges 51 cholera cases](#)

January 15, 2013

Cuba is acknowledging 51 new cases of cholera in the capital, months after declaring the illness eradicated, the Associated Press reported today .

### [Haiti remembers 2010 earthquake in subdued anniversary ceremonies](#)

January 13, 2013

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Reuters) - Former US president Bill Clinton flew to Haiti yesterday to join the country's president, Michel Martelly, at an official commemoration of the third anniversary of the earthquake that decimated the capital and killed more than 250,000 people .

### [Turks and Caicos to seek extradition of former Premier from Brazil](#)

January 11, 2013

(Jamaica Gleaner) The Turks and Caicos Attorney General's Chamber has signaled its intention to submit a formal extradition request to have former Premier Michael Misick extradited

### [Dominica seeks to end ties with Privy Council](#)

January 3, 2013

(Barbados Nation) ROSEAU, Dominica –Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit says he intends writing Britain later this month seeking permission for Dominica to sever ties with the London-based Privy Council in order to join the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) .



Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles



## Other Regional News

### [A runway to the future for St Vincent and the Grenadines](#)



Published on January 5, 2013 - caribbeannewsnow.com

LONDON, England -- 2013 is set to be a year of development and change for St Vincent and the Grenadines. The long awaited Argyle International airport should be complete by the end of the year, bringing huge potential tourism benefits to the islands. However, caution is needed to ensure the opportunities are managed to the islands' gain.

Long considered some of the Caribbean's most unspoiled islands, St Vincent and the Grenadines have been somewhat held back in the development of their tourism industry due to relatively poor air links to St Vincent. [\[more\]](#)

### [Maduro stands in for Venezuela's ailing Chavez in key speech](#)

January 16, 2013 Stabroek News

CARACAS, (Reuters) - Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro gave a brief state of the nation address yesterday in place of his ailing boss, Hugo Chavez, who has not been seen in public since going to Cuba for cancer surgery more than a month ago

Maduro stood in for Chavez with a 10-minute speech to Congress in which he defended the president's decision to rule the OPEC nation from a hospital bed in Havana, despite opposition calls for him to step aside and name a temporary leader. [\[more\]](#)

### [Over 60,000 registered to vote Grenada elections on February 19, 2013](#)

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Thursday January 24, 2013 -

Supervisor of Elections, Judy Benoit has said that 62,152 Grenadians have registered to vote in next month's general election.

Grenadians go to the polls on February 19th to elect a new government. The main contenders are the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the Opposition New National Party (NNP). Nomination day will be on January 31.

The NDC will be seeking a second term while the NNP which was voted out of office in 2008, hopes to retake the reins of Government.

## ROCKLEY RESORT - BARBADOS

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E-mail me [salima.kola@hotmail.com](mailto:salima.kola@hotmail.com) -



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**About Blue Wave**

When Blue Wave first opened its doors in 1992 it introduced to the city what is now familiarly called the Blue Wave Experience. Blue Wave is centrally located in Georgetown within easy reach of a variety of tourist attractions including the [Dutch Bottle Café](#).

Situated on North Road, Bourda, the Apartments overlook the scenic Merriman's Mall - a shady promenade that many locals use for times of quiet reflection. Eastward lies the [National Zoo](#) nestled in the beautiful Botanical Gardens.

Or perhaps you may wish to experience the tropical atmosphere of the Bourda Municipal Market and sample some of the lush fruits that are part of the daily fare. Just a little further is the world's tallest wooden church, the [St. George's Cathedral](#) which is itself a "stone's throw" from the main shopping district.

So much to see and experience - and Blue Wave is strategically located to allow you to savour these sites.



## MOST POPULAR ON BLOG

TOP 30 - ALL-TIME - 31 months

1. [Famous People of Guyanese Heritage](#)
2. [The Mighty Sparrow – 100 songs and videos – continuous play](#)
3. [Guyanese Online – Introduction](#)
4. [Fruits of Trinidad and Tobago – and Guyana](#)
5. [TAKUTU BRIDGE – Rupununi. Guyana](#)
6. [GUYANA and CARIBBEAN RECIPES](#)
7. [Guyanese Parrots – comedy](#)
8. [Mitt Romney & the Mormon Curse Upon Black People – 3 videos](#)
9. [Real Old Guyana Calypso – Bill Rogers](#)
10. [Living in Guyana – slide show](#)
11. [Old Jet Magazines – from 1950 onwards](#)
12. [The End Of Johnnie Walker – reports inaccurate](#)
13. [Guyana – Original Folk Songs](#)
14. [“Go Brave! – Obama” by Singing Francine](#)
15. [Guyana Floods – March 2012 – pictures of floods in Georgetown](#)
16. [Come Visit Guyana – video](#)
17. [Barbados – Scotland's Sugar Slaves – 4 videos](#)
18. [Last Lap Lime 2011 – Toronto – Photo album](#)
19. [World Maps – This is a fantastic information tool](#)
20. [New Mega Shopping Center opened in Georgetown – video](#)
21. [Guyanese on People's Court](#)
22. [Bring Back Anansi-Diana Chapman-video](#)
23. [MASH 2011 Photos](#)
24. [“Little Richard” – the entertainer](#)
25. [ON THE STREET WHERE I LIVED in B.G.](#)
26. [Guyanese among 110 busted in mega credit card scam](#)
27. [Obama songs – 2012 Elections – 3 videos](#)
28. [No.1 hit: Obama, The Musical](#)
29. [Guyanese who died on 9.11.2001 Remembered](#)
30. [Trinidad Soca Parang Music – 90 videos – autoplay](#)

**Total views at January 28, 2013 = 965,585**

## BLOG ENTRIES - DECEMBER 2012

**Total views for December 2012 = 54,753**

1. [Happy New Year 2013](#)
2. [A Collective Tribute to Randall Mohan Butis-ingh – 1912-2112](#)
3. [Year 2012: Reflections](#)
4. [Trinis happy and have sexiest accents, says CNN](#)
5. [APNU wants Ramotar administration to honour Linden agreement](#)
6. [Looking back on 2012 – commentary](#)
7. [Seven persons arrested for Curacao gold heist](#)
8. [Ineffective interior security and the gold-mining industry](#)
9. [The Magnificent Essequibo River – by MG Joe G Singh](#)
10. [Tribute to Past Guyanese Teachers \(cont'd\) – By Lear Matthews](#)
11. [A Guyanese Christmas – by Ron Cheong](#)
12. [GCA of New York – December 2012 Magazine](#)
13. [The Magic of Christmas](#)
14. [Guyanese-Canadian Ned Blair Awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal](#)
15. [John Agard, awarded Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry](#)
16. [Guyana Masquerade](#)
17. [Food, Fuel, and the Global Land Grab](#)
18. [A NOSTALGIC GUYANESE CHRISTMAS – Dmitri Allicock](#)
19. [Guyanese Online Newsletter – Nov-Dec 2012](#)
20. [History Channel puts spotlight on Guyana gold – "Bamazon"](#)
21. [Slow-Rolling Massacre Unfolds in the Shadow ...](#)
22. [Guyanese-owned Jamaican Airline gets green light](#)
23. [Opposition APNU/AFC withholds funding of the Marriott Project](#)
24. [Documents – commentary on Guyana's politics](#)
25. [Doomsday 12.21.12](#)
26. [Violence in America – By Hubert Williams](#)
27. [Why ignore Cuba's welcome mat?](#)
28. [The Capybara or 'Watrush'](#)
29. [Eusi Kwayana's Letter to the Editor to newspapers in Guyana](#)
30. [EZjet Updates – December 2012 – 2 videos](#)
31. [Georgetown cleanup – Adding insult to injury](#)
32. [Lord Kitchener – top tracks – 60 videos – autoplay](#)
33. [Oldies selection – 26 music videos – autoplay](#)
34. [Tribute to Jan Carew – from Peepal Tree Press](#)
35. [FBI arrests EZJet boss Sonny Ramdeo](#)
36. [UG Council approves Dr Opadeyi as New Vice Chancellor](#)
37. [New York-based group helping to revive Guyana's masquerade](#)
38. [After Chávez – commentary](#)
39. [Ruimveldt Children's Aid Centre seeks support](#)
40. [Birds of Guyana – photos by Nigel Durant](#)
41. [EU to fund Guyana micro hydro-power system](#)
42. [Pamela Maynard – Musical tribute on December 21, 2012 – Toronto](#)
43. [British Guiana Colonists – Historical database of residents](#)
44. [Jan Carew – The Columbian Era + Black Seminoles – 23 videos](#)
45. [Miss Guyana Universe set for pageant in Las Vegas](#)
46. [Quick Study: Charles Morris on American industry](#)
47. [The Poetry of the President](#)
48. [10 Little Known Facts about Mahatma Gandhi](#)
49. [Fox News Viewers have lower than average US National IQ](#)
50. [Corruption – Brazil and Guyana – commentary](#)
51. [Toys Toys Toys by Rosaliene Bacchus](#)
52. [Tamandua – a true ant eater](#)
53. [Christmas songs – playlists for your Christmas party – 5 hours](#)
54. [Nat King Cole – 100 music videos – autoplay](#)
55. [Berbice Association New Year's Eve Dance 2012](#)

Continued on the next page



## BLOG ENTRIES - DECEMBER 2012 (cont'd)

Continued from the previous page

56. [Georgetown Mayor: environmental tax should be used to help clean up the city](#)
57. [US Ambassador Susan E. Rice at Howard University Convocation](#)
58. [Caribbean Airlines gains Guyana's flag-ship status](#)
59. [Government reacts to Transparency International Report – 2012](#)
60. [Jagdeo, Ramroop expand media empire](#)
61. [From the rice fields of Guyana to a Brevard County bench](#)
62. [Bishops-QC: A RED HOT 12th NIGHT – Toronto – January 5, 2013](#)
63. [British Guiana – British Empire Exhibition, Wembley -1924](#)
64. [The lottery of life – Where to be born in 2013](#)
65. [Chanderpaul returns to top of test match batting rankings](#)
66. [Jan Carew passes – novelist, playwright, poet, educator 1920-2012](#)
67. [COTAB Boxing Night Party 2012 – Toronto, Canada](#)
68. [Sir Ronald Sanders awarded the Order Of Australia](#)
69. [The Woman](#)
70. [Peter Halder's First Book – The Cat of Muritaro](#)
71. [Guyana ranks low again on Transparency's corruption index](#)
72. [Barbados moves on – commentary](#)
73. [New York City celebrates day without violent crime](#)
74. [Georgetown Technical Institute – address by MG \(ret'd\) Joseph G Singh](#)
75. [Public Servants – Opposition believes 5% increase is inadequate](#)
76. [Origin of gold stolen in Curacao unravelling](#)
77. [Egypt and the Strategic Balance – commentary](#)
78. [UNDERSTANDING THE FISCAL CLIFF – short video](#)
79. [Caribbean Airlines – non-stop Georgetown, Toronto Flights – video](#)
80. [Chinese-owned stores creating stiff competition in Guyana](#)
81. [Trinidad Soca Parang Music – 90 videos – autoplay](#)
82. [Christmas Carols and songs – 3 videos](#)
83. [SOCA – 157 music videos – autoplay](#)
84. [Guyana Recipes by Zorinaspace – 43 videos – autoplay](#)
85. [Trinidad Soca Parang Music – 90 videos – autoplay](#)
86. [Christmas Carols and songs – 3 videos](#)
87. [SOCA – 157 music videos – autoplay](#)
88. [Guyana Recipes by Zorinaspace – 43 videos – autoplay](#)
89. [Gridlock: Guyana's Legislature, Executive and Judiciary – 3 videos](#)
90. [Council battles to manage the City, while battling the Town Clerk](#)
91. [Flooding and garbage – commentary](#)
92. [The PPP and Challenges Ahead – by Ralph Ramkarran](#)
93. [Chris Brown & Domestic Violence in Guyana](#)
94. [Guyana: How happy are we?](#)

### Guyanese Canadian Cultural Association of BC

#### About GCCA BC:

Incorporated as a "Not for Profit" organization on March 31, 1989, the association is dedicated to serving our native land, our members and the community at large in British Columbia.

As a non-political organization, we facilitate involvement at national, provincial and local government levels as well as other interest groups with the goal of promoting unity among Guyanese-Canadians and our community, sharing the rich multi-ethnic composition of the Guyanese population, distributing information of interest, pursuing continuous improvement in education and training, encouraging the development of our youth and fulfilling our mission as responsible citizens to help the needy.

Check out our new website at link: [GCCABC](#)