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

237th Independence Day anniversary of the United States.



A Friendly Toast

No duelling, just a friendly toast: President Donald Ramotar (right) and US Ambassador to Guyana Brent Hardt in cowboy attire, toasting on July 2, 2013, at the US Ambassador's residence on the occasion of the 237th Independence Day anniversary of the United States. (GINA photo)

President Ramotar calls for non-interference at US pre-Independence Day celebration

July 3, 2013 - KNEWS

The fact that the relationship between Guyana and the United States has evolved since forging diplomatic ties in 1966, was highlighted last evening by President Donald Ramotar as he offered remarks at the **237th Independence Day celebration of the United States** hosted by Ambassador, D. Brent Hardt, and his wife at their residence.

However, even as he spoke of the friendly ties the two countries share, the Guyanese Head of State, in diplomatic style, emphasized the need for the relations to always abide within "the principals of mutual respect and understanding and non-interference in each other's affairs."

"These are the important principles laid down by the United Nations following the terrible consequences of the Second World War, which should always be our guide. That is the right of nations to self-determination. That is what our early leaders were trying to assert in the struggle for independence and in post-Independence Guyana." Moreover, he insisted that Guyana is ready to play its part in the revolution of global problems, even as he alluded to Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, which is aimed at combating climate change without compromising economic progress.

The President in his deliberations last evening (July 2), also disclosed that Guyana is ready to work in partnership with the United States to fight crimes, terrorism and trafficking in persons even as he underscored that the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative is also an important initiative as it has contributed to national efforts.

"We remain committed to the implementation of the various facets of that programme," said Ramotar as he highlighted what he described as the "valuable partnership of the United States with the Caribbean in advancing another element of our security agenda" which is the Region's Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy. [Read more]



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 37th edition of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. It culminates 39 months of publishing the Blog and monthly Newsletters.

Thanks for your support.....

E-mail address: cybryan@gmail.com

An Interesting summer **Editorial**

It is now summer in the North, and the Caribbean is expecting a busy hurricane season. North America, following a cold and long winter, is now dealing with devastating tornadoes, floods, potential high temperatures, melting Arctic ice, and maybe crop failures and raging wildfires in the fall. It is obvious that our natural environment is changing due to our lifestyles; and efforts to control weather may be making things even worse for mankind.

The world news is mostly negative. Chaos, hatred and fear have taken hold. Misinformation as to the real reasons for the economic collapse of Western economies abound. The "recovery" after the 2008 meltdown has not materialized, and there is fear that the stock markets will soon collapse, spurring inflation and further economic contraction. This is possible, since Japan has had a depressed economy for over 20 years, and some economists predict the USA going down that road. Europe is in even more dire straits with only Germany showing signs of stability. The Euro will become weaker as banks and distressed economies are bailed out. Social unrest could be the outcome as drastic downsizing and high unemployment becomes endemic.

In Guyana, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and remittances have helped its economic growth. However, these inflows are affected by the economies in the North. The increasing surveillance of tax evasion, drug trading, and money laundering, monitored by external entities like the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), could eventually reduce the inflow of funds, which account for over 50% of the GDP. Guyana will survive, however, as its underground economy is flourishing. The illicit goods trade and gold smuggling with Brazil in the south and Suriname in the east, controls a high percentage of the economic activity within the country. However, the growing underground economy and smuggling does not help the Government's coffers. Another hit for the Government's income could come from the falling world price for gold and a sugar industry that is in shambles... both being the major foreign exchange earners.

Guyanese Online

The Guvanese Online Newsletter and the Guyanese Online Blog Website are independent publications that are created, edited, produced and published by Cyril Bryan - cybryan@gmail.com Guyanese organizations are offered FREE advertising.

Blog: 30 Most popular - 30 days - June, 2013 Copy/paste to check the entries on the Blog/Website

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Buxton-Friendship Express June 2013

The results of this year's National Grade Six Assessment were released by Guyana's Ministry of Education earlier this month. Find out how the students of Buxton-Friendship performed and see the reaction of their teachers

Is CiMBUX in Turmoil? Board directors pen a response to Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus' column in the May Express.

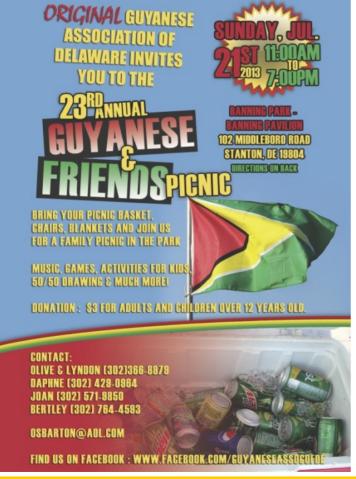
1. Check out the upcoming activities and events in our community.

Click on the following link to download:

http://buxtonguyana.net/Buxton-FriendshipExpress2013-06.pdf

You can download past issues of the newsletter from our web site at: www.buxtonguyana.net

Guyanese Association of Delaware





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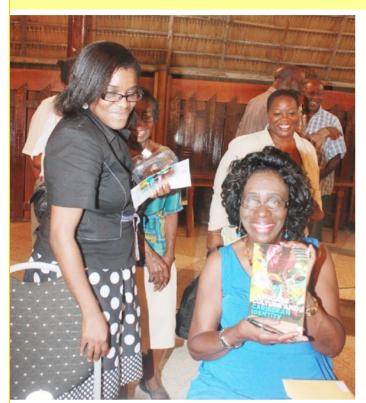
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"Language, Cultural and Caribbean Identity"

Dedicated to the work of renowned Caribbean Linguist Richard Allsopp.



Georgetown. Guyana:

BOOK LAUNCHING IN GUYANA

Dr Jeannette Allsopp co-editor of "Language, Cultural and Caribbean Identity" displays a copy of the book dedicated to the work of her late husband, renowned Caribbean Linguist Richard Allsopp.

The book pays tribute to Allsopp's work focusing on Caribbean lexicography and Creole linguistics. Various experts contributed to it by analysing language use in Caribbean folklore, literature and music.

RELATED CONTENT:

- <u>Late Dr Richard Allsopp's contributions</u> <u>hailed</u> (June 5, 2009)
- Richard Allsopp's work should be made available to all Guyanese (June 11, 2009)
- Breaking: Dr Richard Allsopp passes away (June 4, 2009)
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USA meddling in Guyana: "The shoe pinches"

The Guyana Government has accused the United States of meddling in its internal affairs. This editorial says that in earlier times the PPPC welcomed the intervention of the USA.

JULY 4, 2013 | EDITORIAL

Meddling in Internal Affairs

Within recent times there has not been an opportunity for Guyana to accuse a foreign power, particularly the **United States**, of meddling in its internal affairs. The most recent objection was voiced when the United States hosted an event to mark its 237th anniversary of its Independence. The venue was the home of the United States Ambassador to Guyana.

The Americans have not been kind in recent times when they addressed some of the shortcomings in Guyana. For example, one of the pet peeves of the United States of America is the issue of trafficking in persons or as they say, human smuggling. Until recently, Guyana has been denying that this scourge had reached its shores; that there was no need to amend the legislation.

Human Trafficking Allegations

This conclusion led to Guyana being penalized by the very Americans. This country was placed on the Tier Two Watch List. Needless to say, the administration raised a hue and cry, but it still rushed to pass human trafficking legislation. Guyana is once more on the **Tier Two Watch List**, this time because of the apparent inability to prosecute people involved in human trafficking.

At two recent fora the Americans have been talking about this and the Guyana administration has been saying to the Americans that they are no better and should not be so quick to be judgemental of others.

Not so long ago, the diplomatic community did not take too kindly to what passes for democracy in this country. They were quite outspoken and critical. Again the Guyana Government reacted in anger. The more bitter reaction by the Guyana Government followed charges by the diplomatic community of corruption. Since then no forum has passed without President Donald Ramotar reminding the Americans, and to a lesser extent the Canadians that they are not without blame

On Tuesday evening (June 2, 2013), at a reception hosted by American Ambassador Brent Hardt, President Ramotar made it known that he cherished the friendship Guyana shares with the United States.

However, he would prefer that the United States refrains from meddling in Guyana's internal affairs.

Roll Back the Clock

Roll back the clock to the late 1980s and 1990s, right up to 1994. Those were the years that the People's National Congress was ruling Guyana. That was the period of rigged elections and vocal charges of corruption by the then opposition People's Progressive Party. That was the period when the party that is now ruling Guyana campaigned extensively for the United States to intervene in the internal affairs of Guyana.

The then opposition political party was certain that its accusations had merit and that the international community should do everything to get the government out of office. There were campaigns that were considered hostile to the interests of Guyana, all led by the PPP. The result was that money destined to the country for development works was halted.

The Essequibo road never got underway until 1994 when it should have started in 1990. The reconstruction of the Soesdyke-Linden Highway never took place because the money for that project was also halted.

Jimmy Carter's Intervention

Above all, the party in power today besieged former President Jimmy Carter to come to Guyana to force the then government to change electoral policies. In fact, Carter ended up causing a two-year delay in the holding of elections to satisfy the demands of the People's Progressive Party.

Many things have happened through the intervention of the American Government, but not all these things have been for the good of the country. Corruption reached unprecedented levels, the Jagdeo administration refused to heed agreements brokered by Jimmy Carter and in the end, Carter publicly announced that he would never again come to Guyana. Nothing has changed since those days. Some people, even those close to the political administration, say that things have got worse. Ralph Ramkarran, a former Speaker of the National Assembly, now says that Guyana is the Kleptocratic Republic of Guyana. Ramkarran resigned from the People's Progressive Party just under two years ago.

For the government to talk about American meddling is to deny the role it played in encouraging the very action more than two decades ago.

Local Government

Western nations, civil society want local gov't elections this year



Office of the Elections Commission in Georgetown

Wednesday, 26 June 2013—Demerara Waves

Key Western Nations and several civil society organisations on Wednesday urged the passage of new and improved local laws and pledged their support to hold local government elections before year-end.

"Building on our established record of constructive engagement and support for effective and responsive democratic institutions, we look forward to supporting the Guyana Elections Commission, the Government of Guyana and civil society organizations as they move forward to prepare for local government elections this year," the diplomatic missions and non-governmental organisations said in a statement.

Statement issued by:

Issuing the statement were the British High Commission, Delegation of the European Union to Guyana, Embassy of the United States of America, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, Guyana Bar Association, Guyana Manufacturing and Service Association, Guyana Trades Union Congress, High Commission of Canada, Private Sector Commission and the Transparency Institute Guyana Inc.

Local Government in tatters

The local government system has been in tatters countrywide because city, town and neighbourhood councils are dysfunctional due to resignation, migration and death of councillors since the last polls were held in 1994. The result is that several areas are plagued by poor sanitation, clogged drainage systems, bad roads and general maladministration

Public Education on Local Government

They noted that is much work ahead to boost public knowledge of the local government election process, the role of local government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens and elected officials.

The entities praised Guyanese politicians for reaching agreement in the parliamentary select committee on the four bills that are necessary to establish a more modern and effective system of local governance. "This is a significant and positive step forward. We welcome this action on the part of Guyana's elected representatives to come together in the national interest," they said.

Local Government Amendments

With the way now clear for the 65-seat National Assembly to approve the Fiscal Transfer, Local Government Commission, the Local Government (Amendment) and the Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bills before the annual parliamentary recess begins on August 10, the missions and civil society called on stakeholders to move the process forward towards so that preparations for local government elections could be held.

Call for completion of Legislation

"We encourage all parties, with the support of civil society, to build on the constructive progress and goodwill thus far achieved to complete these vital pieces of legislation in the coming days so that technical preparations for local government elections can begin as soon as possible," they said in the statement.

CARICOM celebrates its 40th Anniversary



Heads of government at the opening ceremony of the CARICOM conference in Port-of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (GINA) -- The opening ceremony for the 34th meeting of the conference of heads of governments of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held on Wednesday evening in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Delivering opening remarks, CARICOM's secretary general Irwin LaRocque called on the leaders of member states to remember that, for 40 years, CARICOM has been building a foundation and has a base upon which they can build a sustainable future.

Much to Celebrate

"There is also much to celebrate at this milestone in our integration process. We have persevered. We have kept the faith. We have demonstrated clearly the benefits of our co-operation and collaboration. We have responded, time and again to whatever challenges were before us, and used our unity to exercise influence in the global diplomatic arena way above our size," he said.

LaRocque said the grouping could boast of being the longest surviving integration alliance among developing countries and second only to the European Union in global terms.

"The programmes of functional co-operation and common services have deepened and expanded in health, disaster management, agriculture, the environment and education to name a few. We have maintained the concept of negotiating as a bloc and have trade agreements as CARICOM with six countries as well as numerous technical co-operation agreements," he continued.

Efforts to Improve CARICOM

As part of efforts to improve CARICOM, a five-year strategic plan for the Community, the first in its existence, according to the secretary general, is being implemented.

"Relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, flexibility, responsiveness, innovation and creativity, all aimed at providing improved service to our people, is the goal of this reform process. The people centered approach to development is the driver of the change that we are striving to provide. It is at the heart of our integration arrangements and our agenda item at this meeting on treatment of persons with disabilities demonstrates our continued concern at the highest level for the welfare of our citizens," LaRocque said.

Haiti's president and outgoing chairman of CARICOM, Michel Martelly, called on member states to ratify a recently signed treaty to combat the trade of illegal arms so as to make it effective to fight increasing crime in the region. The momentum on the war against drugs has stepped up since the CARICOM summit in Haiti, a few months ago and his country is grateful for the assistance being given in this regard. He outlined some of the efforts being made his country, still recovering from the devastating earthquake. [Read more]

Venezuela and Guyana meet at CARICOM



A meeting with Maduro: Guyana's President Donald Ramotar (centre) with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (second from right) and Ministers of Finance, Dr Ashni Singh (right); Public Works, Robeson Benn (left) and Foreign Affairs Carolyn Rodrigues- Birkett at the 34th Caricom Heads of Government Conference in Trinidad. (GINA photo)

Guyana's Parliament

Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

CFATF gives Guyana until August to submit amended financial crimes law

Wednesday, 19 June 2013 - Demerara Waves

The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) has given Guyana two months to pass upgraded laws against financial crimes before the global watchdog considers the country's fate in November, Attorney General Anil Nandlall said June18, 2013.

Addressing the opening of a workshop on Guidelines for the 2009 Anti Money Laundering and Countering of Financing of Terrorism, he said the parliamentary select committee received a formal response from CFATF that Guyana has until August 26 to approve the amendments to the laws.

"A letter was dispatched by us to CFATF requesting the actual deadline for us to submit the bill as passed by parliament and we received a reply that indicates to us that August 26 is actually the deadline that we have to submit the amendment passed into law to the CFATF to have it considered at the November plenary meeting," he later told explained to reporters. Nandlall, who is also the Legal Affairs Minister, said the National Assembly might have to push back the commencement of its recess which is due to run from August 10 to October 10.



A. G. Anil Nandlall

He hoped that the opposition members of the parliamentary select committee would consider amending its schedule. Nandlall observed that already the opposition has decided that the committee would accept only one submission per say

from members of the public or interested personnel.

If Guyana does not complete its work by the stipulated deadline, according to the Attorney General, Guyana would unlikely escape sanctions if it misses this deadline.

Key Western Nations say money laundering is prevalent in Guyana but authorities here have done little or nothing to prosecute suspects who may be also linked to the drug trade.

If Guyana does not meet the August 26 deadline, CFATF sanctions could result in the cost of doing business here going up because there will be lots more stringent and time consuming measures in processing international money transactions. [More]

AFC calls for disclosure of billion-dollar contractors

27 June 2012

The Alliance for Change has called on the government to reveal all the awardees of billion-dollar con-



Nigel Hughes - AFC

tracts in the wake of recent accusations of corruption between high-ranking PPP officials and businessmen levelled by former party executive Ralph Ramkarran.

Party Chairman Nigel Hughes told reporters that the ruling PPP had been touting Ram-

karran as a paragon of integrity when they suggested him for the position of Speaker in the wake of the 2011 elections and that lends credibility to his charges.

"In light of Mr. Ramkarran's disclosure the AFC calls for the immediate release of all contractors and businessmen who have been beneficiaries of government contracts for sums in excess of one billion Guyana dollars and the publication of the circumstances in which they were awarded these contracts," he said. Ramkarran, a highly respected former Speaker of the National Assembly and attorney said in a recent article that the country would soon be known as the "Kleptocratic Republic of Guyana." According to him, there was widespread corruption in government with party leaders acting in collusion with businesspeople in some instances. He said the party benefited from those alliances.

"The AFC is of the opinion that the time has now come for Guyanese society to stand up, increase their agitation for the immediate establishment of the Public Procurement Commission as a matter of national urgency," Hughes said.

The AFC has tied its support for anti-money laundering legislation - which government says needs to be passed by August 26 - to the set up of the procurement commission.

Asked whether the party was mindful of those considerations in its heightened call for the Commission and whether they would work to meet the deadline Hughes said "the prospects of success is marginal."

APNU Chairman David Granger told Demerara Waves Online News later that they supported the AFC's position. [Read more]

US probing another visa racket at embassy in Guyana



USA Embassy in Georgetown. Guyana

July 3, 2013:(Demerara Waves): The United States (US) is probing another visa racket allegedly involving another Consular Officer, the State Department has confirmed."The Department of State is aware of allegations of improprieties relating to a Consular Officer formerly assigned to Georgetown, Guyana," according to a statement issued through the embassy here.

The State Department did not provide specifics of the allegation or the probe but stressed that the claims against the officer were being taken seriously and anyone found culpable would be penalised.

"The Department takes all allegations of misconduct by employees seriously. We are reviewing the matter thoroughly. If the allegations are substantiated, we will work with the relevant authorities to hold anyone involved accountable," the State Department added.

Well-placed sources said the Consular Officer was taken into the custody of federal agents several weeks ago immediately on his arrival for work inside the embassy compound.

The Consular Officer was also said to have been an associate of Imtiaz Roopnarine who was gunned down on January 24 while leaving the Cool Square Guest House, West Ruimveldt. Demerara Waves Online News (www.demwaves.com) was told that visas were sold for as much as US\$40,000.

If the US government's probe finds the claims to be factual, it would be the second time in 13 years that a US Consular Officer here in Georgetown would have sold visas. The first was in March 2000 when then **Consular Officer Thomas Carroll** was arrested for selling at least 800 visas for entry into the US for between US\$10,000 and US\$15,000. [more].

Countdown to PPP Congress 2013

....PPP denies party split

JULY 9, 2013 | BY KNEWS

The ruling People Progressive Party (PPP), ahead of an August forum to choose new leaders for the next three years, has insisted that it remained united despite attacks, especially from former senior members who have left.

It will be the first National Congress at which none of the Jagans, the party's founders, will be around. Dr. Cheddi Jagan died in 1997, five years after taking the party to power, while his wife, Janet Jagan, passed away in March 2007.

Admitting that the PPP made mistakes, and as a result lost its Parliamentary majority in the 2011 General and Regional Elections by not doing enough on



PPP's PR official Romel Roopnarine, Clement Rohee and Zulficar Mustapha, during the press conference July 8.

the ground, Clement Rohee yesterday made it clear that his party has since regrouped and is working to correct these mistakes. There are no factions or split in the party. Rohee, currently the Minister of Home Affairs, is a Central Committee member and Chairman of the party's National Congress Committee.

There were serious questions asked following the 2011 elections with senior executive stalwart Ralph Ramkarran, a former Speaker of the National Assembly, resigning from the party in July last year, reportedly citing failure by the party to address the issue of corruption.

Responding to media questions of criticisms that the party has veered away from the ideals of the Jagans, Rohee said that these criticisms were coming from "certain individuals" and "detractors" and "defectors" who have left and are constantly plugging that line. The allegations are never coming from current members of the party. [Read more]

Road fatalities up by 40 percent at June month end

July 9,2012 KNEWS

If the current trend continues Guyana's road fatality figure could climb to alarming heights this year. Up to the end of June the figure is an alarming 16 more than for the corresponding period last year. Figures released by the Guyana Police Force show that up to the end of June there were 56 road deaths from 53 accidents, compared with 40 deaths from 38 accidents for the same period in 2012.

The month of June alone accounted for 10 road fatalities, and this was only topped by February when 12 deaths were recorded. So far six children have perished on the roads, compared with only two last year.

As usual, excessive speeding continues to be the main cause of deaths on the roads, accounting for 41 of them so far this year. The roads of Georgetown and the East Bank of Demerara recorded a total of

One of the many car accidents that have occurred recently on Guyana's rroads

18 road fatalities, while the East Coast of Demerara recorded 15 and Berbice 11.



So far this year, 17 pedestrians were killed in road accidents, while motorcyclists and pedal cyclists with 10 each accounted for the next highest categories of road fatalities

This is in addition to seven drivers of motor vehicles, two pillion riders and 10 passengers of motor vehicles who lost their lives on the country's roads. All of this has occurred despite the traffic enforcement by the police during the period January to June 2013 resulting in a total of 43,688 cases being made against errant motorists. [Read more]

50th anniversary memorial site for Son Chapman explosion

JULY 9, 2013 | BY KNEWS | FILED UNDER NEWS

Some 49 years ago, on July 6th, 1964, on a sunny day, Son Chapman, a river launch that plied the Demerara River, exploded and sank, killing 43 passengers. There were reportedly 33 survivors. Now, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the incident which has been described as the single largest loss of life at any one time in Guyana, the town of Linden is getting ready to build a permanent memorial.

According to the Opposition a Partnership for National Unity (APNU) yesterday, a site has been selected for the permanent memorial to the victims of the Son Chapman tragedy.

The monument will be built on the West Bank of the Demerara River between Stewart Path and Bruce Path, Christianburg, Wismar.

Making the announcement at a solemn ceremony on the 49th Anniversary of what many consider the most gruesome act of political violence in our nation's history, Regional Chairman, Sharma Solomon on Saturday said the monument will be erected and ready for the 50th Anniversary of the tragedy next year.

Solomon, in asking those gathered to reflect on the terrible events of July 6, 1964, said the tragedy must be used as a source of strength. He urged that fear must not be allowed to conquer hope and called on Guyanese to not forget the incident but to remember

APNU's Leader, David Granger, laying a wreath in the Demerara River for the 49th anniversary of the Son Chapman tragedy



and use it as a dwell on what went wrong as a nation. Guest speaker, Opposition Leader Brigadier (ret'd) David Granger, MP, gave a historical analysis and recalled some of the events that led-up to the bombing o f the passenger launch. The Demerara River was liquid history of sacrifice of blood. It tells the story of Guyanese with the remembrance service and the laying of wreaths not an empty ritual, but a recommitment that such an atrocity should not happen again. He said: "Don't let hate consume your energy, let this river (the Demerara) not be a river of hate but a channel of commerce; a river of prosperity for the people of Linden and Region 10. Let the pain of the past propel us to peace and prosperity in the future."

At the ceremony, floral tributes were placed in the river by Granger, Sharma Solomon, Horace James of Linmine Secretariat, Joe Chapman – Son of the owner of the Son Chapman, a representative of the National Congress of Women (NCW) and the Guyana Youth and Student Movement (GYSM). [Read more]

The abolition of a flawed policy in Education

[KNEWS Editorial July 6, 2013]

No Child Left Behind

Two years ago the Education Ministry introduced a system that many said would actually remove learning from within the confines of the school. This system was one of no child being left behind. It meant that regardless of whether the child 'passed' or 'failed' that child would have to be promoted.

The system was more pronounced in the secondary schools where teachers claim that they are finding it difficult to discipline children. Some teachers reported that the children, particularly those who appeared not to be academically inclined, said that they need not study, as they would be promoted anyhow.

Of course, there were some schools who did not agree with the so-called no child left behind policy. One head teacher in Linden decided that he was not going to adopt such a policy in his school and attracted a sanction from the Education Ministry.

Relaxation in Educating children

For the greater part the schools were not excited about the apparent relaxation in trying to educate children. Whether they passed or not the children had to be promoted. On Thursday, the Head of St Stephen's Primary School reported that a mere thirty per cent of the children who wrote the Grade Two examinations were successful.

And using that school as a reflection of what passes in the education system, it transpired that three of the more than thirty children who write the National Grade Six Examination qualified for senior secondary schools

Discipline:-Teachers give up

In other schools where discipline was under threat. many teachers simply gave up and this affected entire classrooms. Coupled with poor supervision, the school was relegated to a place to keep children when they did not want to stay at home.

The decision to adopt the no child left behind policy, according to the education officials had some positives. The incidence of school dropouts was lessened. The officials attributed this to the reduced embarrassment to the poor performing children. They no longer had to sit in a classroom with younger children.

Excel at What you like

There was what the administrators called another plus. The children had a chance to excel at the subjects they did best without having to worry about those subjects that caused their grades to slide.

Yet one must answer some questions. National bodies do not readily institute measures without consulting with the intended beneficiaries. But this is what the Education Ministry did. In the end, two years after it took the decision, it found that the decision was unpopular. When even the children would not agree with the policy of automatic promotion it says something about measures implemented by the Education Ministry without consultation.

Those children who must work hard for their successes would not have been happy to see their less industrious colleagues simply moving along with them in the classroom.

Streaming system scrapped

The Education Ministry might not have found itself in this position had it maintained some of the good things from the previous administration. A long time ago, educationists found that all children do not learn at the same pace and that all are not academically inclined. That being the case there was streaming. Science-minded children were directed to those areas: technical students were sent to the multilateral schools and later, to the technical institutes. The system worked until a change in Government brought about a change in the education system and the scrapping of some of the institutions to the detriment of the very system.

Sanity is returning

Fortunately, some sanity is returning to the education system. The administrators now recognize that the children could be streamed to pursue those subjects in which they are strongest. But there is a marked silence if the child is one who has a learning disability. Guyana has no special schools.

The one good thing to come out of this is the insistence that every academic must be proficient in Mathematics and English. The other thing is that the Ministry might have created extreme laziness among teachers who might have grown accustomed to not really pressing the students because of the no child left behind policy

Guyana: Four years to 'fix' sugar industry

...as EU to end quota system in 2017

In what is being regarded as a compromise, Europe – the country's biggest bulk sugar customer – has agreed to end the quota system by 2017, giving Guyana just four years to fix the industry.

The decision was taken Wednesday June 26, 2013 during a critical meeting of the European Parliament, the EU Council of Ministers and the **European Commission** in Brussels, Belgium. The EU has decided that 2017 is the deadline for ending its sugar guota. [Read more]



€23.4M sugar support...EU stipulates conditions

JUNE 21, 2013 | BY KNEWS | By Leonard Gildarie

As emotions continue to run high over the state of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo), Government and the European Union (EU) yesterday signed off on a €23.355M financing agreement, but the country will have to meet set conditions first before drawing down.

Europe has over the years been this country's biggest customer of raw sugar, but an accumulative price cut of over 36% – starting seven years ago – had threatened to shut factories down. The EU decided, as part of its alleviation efforts, to help 20 of the sugar-producing countries from

the African/Pacific/Caribbean (ACP) grouping recover from the cuts by injecting cash. Initially the monies targeted specific sugar projects to improve efficiency, but the EU has started disbursing to the government itself.

The Enmore Sugar Packaging Plant is one of the projects.

The Opposition has been critical of the disbursements, saying that government is to be faulted for the state of the industry, as it did not use the EU monies to bolster the operations of GuySuCo which fell to a 20-year production low last year.

[Read more <u>€23.4M sugar support...EU</u>]

UK-funded Guyana Agri Diversification Program launched

The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) is providing financial support to Government's agriculture diversification and export promotion drive.

The organisation is providing Government with funding to the tune of £1.3M or US\$2M to support the Agriculture Diversification. [Read more]

Minister of Agriculture Dr. Leslie Ramsammy with British High Commissioner to Guyana Andrew Ayre, DFID's Senior Economic Advisor and Growth Team Leader Matt Butler and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) CARANA Corporation Eduardo Tugendhat at the launch of the DFID funded Guyana Agriculture Diversification Project at the Satyadeow Sawh Aquaculture Station, Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara.



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Note: Click on the headlines to read the articles

Miners press for fuel, duty free concessions as gold prices slide further

JULY 6, 2013 | BY KNEWS |

Miners, claiming pressure from a worrying fall in gold prices on the world markets, wants Government to relax duties on pickup vehicles and take actions against heavy equipment suppliers for price gouging. According to the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners **Association (GGDMA)**, the concessions are urgently needed to help maintain viability in the mining sector.

Members of the recently elected executive of the GGDMA led by their President, Patrick Harding, and President of the Guyana Women Miners' Organization (GWMO), Simona Broomes, met with Natural Resources Minister, Robert Persaud, senior officials of the Ministry, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) and the Guyana Gold Board (GGB) on Thursday to ask for relief.

"The aim of this meeting was to stress the GGMDA's call for some concessions and to identify additional measures to cushion the decline in the price of gold."

Among the issues discussed, the association said were the relaxation of import duties and taxes on new



Representatives of GGDMA meeting with Minister Robert Persaud and GGMC officials on July 4.

4-door pickup vehicles. "Safety for workers including women miners who would usually have to ride in the tray of these pick-up trucks was highlighted as good reason for the adjusting of the duty."

The miners also complained that suppliers of heavy equipment were involved in price gouging and not honouring warranties on equipment sold. [more]

Minimum Wage Order covers loopholes

JUNE 4, 2013 | BY KNEWS |

The National Minimum Wage Order 2013, containing the particulars governing the issuance of wages for regular working hours of all employees in Guyana has been finalized. It is available for the perusal of members of the public.

The Order is scheduled to take effect from July 1. It states that the minimum rate of wage to be paid to every person employed in Guyana must not be less than \$202 per hour; \$1,616 per day; \$8,080 per week or \$35,000 per month. [US\$1 = App G\$200]. Categories of workers that are addressed by the document include domestic workers, employees at cement factories, wash bays, saw mills, bakeries, ice factories, filling stations, security guards and watchmen and dozens of others.

It adds that if any employer is found guilty of a breach of this order, issuing wages or salaries in amounts less than the stipulated amounts, the person will be liable to a fine of \$35,000 for the first offence. For a second violation of the Order, a fine of \$70,000 and month's imprisonment will be enforced. Further, if an employee is in receipt of a wage that is higher than the wage prescribed in the Order, the amount received by that employee should not be reduced to match the rate that is set. Instead, the employer must continue to pay at the regular rate in which the employee is in receipt of.

According to the Order, a normal work week should comprise 40 hours and should not exceed five days per week. For hours of work beyond the normal hours, payment should be made in alignment with the rates set in the Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) Act of 1978; any other law or any collective bargaining agreement in force where workers are represented by a Trade Union. Moreover, if there is conflict between another existing minimum wage order that is found to be less advantageous than the new Order, the former is to be disregarded.

The introduction of a new national minimum wage for all workers is said to be the measure needed to put an end to underpayment across all sectors and lessen complaints of exploitation by employers.

According to the Minister of Labour, the Order seeks to remedy any existing financial exploitation of workers and is to prevail if there is any conflict with any other minimum wage Order.

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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

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TOP 30 - All-Time from Feb 2010 to present Links are operational—click to view

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- 2. GUYANA and CARIBBEAN RECIPES
- 3. Famous People of Guyanese Heritage
- 4. Fruits of Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana
- The Mighty Sparrow 100 songs and videos continuous play
- 6. Guyanese Online Introduction
- 7. TAKUTU BRIDGE Rupununi. Guyana
- 8. Old Jet Magazines from 1950 onwards
- 9. Guyanese Parrots comedy
- Mitt Romney & the Mormon Curse Upon Black People – 3 videos
- 11. Real Old Guyana Calypso Bill Rogers
- 12. Guyana Original Folk Songs
- 13. The End Of Johnnie Walker reports inaccurate
- 14. Living in Guyana slide show
- Guyana Floods March 2012 pictures of floods in Georgetown
- 16. "Go Brave! Obama" by Singing Francine
- 17. CHINESE ADVICE TO 50-YEAR OLDS & OLDER
- 18. Guyana's Grade Six Assessment ('Common Entrance') Results 2013
- 19. Come Visit Guyana video
- 20. Barbados Scotland's Sugar Slaves 4 videos
- 21. New Mega Shopping Center opened in Georgetown video
- 22. Last Lap Lime 2011 Toronto Photo album
- 23. Lighthouse Georgetown Guyana
- 24. World Maps This is a fantastic information tool
- 25. Guyanese on People's Court
- 26. MASH 2011 Photos
- 27. Bring Back Anansi-Diana Chapman-video
- 28. Heart Surgeon Admits Huge Mistake! By Dwight Lundell, MD
- 29. "Little Richard" the entertainer
- 30. ON THE STREET WHERE I LIVED in B.G.

Total views at June 30 = 1,375,308

Commentary: Delivering Medical Care in Guyana

JULY 3, 2013 | BY KNEWS | FILED UNDER EDITORIAL

Two seemingly unrelated recent reports in our newspapers raised the question as to whether there is any overarching plan to ensure that our medical system, in which we are injecting billions of dollars annually, delivers the optimum medical care to patients. There is an unfortunate tendency to equate medical care with the number of doctors per person available in a country. But while doctors play a critical part in the delivery of health care, they are simply one part of a very complex system.

Expired pharmaceuticals

The first report had to do with the discovery of large amounts of expired pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies in two hospitals. While the expired drugs might not all be stored in morgues, the problem is very widespread in all the hospitals and clinics in the country. And this is especially true at the bond at Georgetown Hospital. What is clear, then, is that there is no effective system of inventory control of stock that matches usage and requisitions/orders for new supplies.

Monitoring to avoid shortages

While there will never be a seamless fit between requisition and usage, better monitoring by the administrative staff should help to redistribute the supplies in a more efficient manner. Apart from the savings that would be generated, it might just address the endemic problem of unavailable supplies, since it is quite possible that the latter problem might just be an allocative one. Then again, even if this is not so, the savings generated can subsequently be used to purchase needed supplies

Better Inventory Control

What we need in Guyana is more attention and greater importance given to matters of inventory control. In these days of computerised records, handheld scanners and instantaneous transfer of data, the problem of expired drugs and out-of-stock supplies should not be so extensive. There has been a great deal of publicity given to the government acquiring its own warehouse for the storage of medical supplies. This is supposed to address the need for greater control of stocks, but as we are arguing, unless the manpower is properly trained and motivated, we will remain in the situation that presently

obtains, or maybe even worse. Already we have had reports of problems at the level of supervisory staff at the warehouse.

Nurses as independent professionals

The other news report concerned the advanced training of nurses in our health system. In Guyana, we are stuck at the retrograde level of only considering nurses as mere adjuncts or helpers to doctors. While they may be so in certain circumstances, nurses have a very wide range of independent duties in patient care. Nurses will have to be treated as independent professionals in their own right, both by the public and by those that administer the health system.

Specialist Nurses Training launched

It was very heartening therefore to learn that a programme has been launched in Guyana to train specialist nurses in such areas as critical care, anaesthesiology, neonatal care and psychiatry. This programme must be broadened in other areas such as paediatrics etc. In the developed countries this has been the trend in medical care and in fact, the salaries of some of these specialists have matched or even surpassed those of novice general-care physicians. It was somewhat surprising that the programmes have not been accredited as yet: whatever might be the reasons they must be resolved immediately. In the absence of such accreditation, which would lead to greater remuneration, we will lose these highly trained individuals to foreign medical systems.

Nurses salaries need improvement

It should go without saying that the well-publicised challenges in the Nursing School for new nurses must not be swept under the carpet. As was done with the programme in the Cyril Potter (Teacher) College of Education, the nursing programmes at all levels must be integrated within UG. Whatever lacuna might exist in reference to accreditation, can be rectified in such programmes that hopefully can be patterned on the established ones in the developed jurisdictions

Just as crucial as the training, however, is the recalibration of the doctor-nurse relationship in Guyana. While it may sound harsh, this will only be accomplished when nurses' salaries are significantly raised.



Fly Jamaica readies for NY and Toronto



Demerara Waves Online News (www.demwaves.com). -25 June 2013

Fly Jamaica is expected to begin flying from Guyana to New York and Toronto in the coming weeks, according to Tourism Minister Irfan Ali.

"Fly Jamaica has indicated to us at the Toronto Trade and Tourism Expo that by the end of July they would start flying to New York and by mid August they will commence operations to Toronto."

Guyanese authorities said Fly Jamaica first has to get approval from the United States and Canada before they could begin flying to and from Guyana. In addition, the airline first has to finalize the lodging of a bond to help refund passengers should the carrier cease operations here

Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Zulfikar Mohammed said his agency would have to ask his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart agency to provide Flight Operator's Specifications to Air Jamaica because this country does not have a inspector to perform such a task.

American and Canadian authorities would also have to grant approvals to Fly Jamaica before the carrier can begin serving the Toronto and New York routes to and from Georgetown.

Fly Guyana sets record straight

JULY 9, 2013 | BY **KNEWS** I

Fly Guyana Airlines says it is on board for the long term and it is committed to providing exceptional service to its Guyanese passengers come October, when it is scheduled to start services here.

The airline's representative, Harry Chowbey, restated his determination yesterday as he sought to correct misconceptions about allegations of fraud and embezzlement made against him by a California firm in 2005. Chowbey expressed shock over the July 5 Kaieteur News article, "Raised eyebrows over Fly Guyana rep,"[link] stating that it was, "at the least disingenuous." He said that the civil law suit which involved the Victorville Aerospace was withdrawn as quickly as it was filed.

Chowbey said that the matter with the foreign aviation company "was a business transaction that was not contracted and went by the way side. There were no charges filed by the city, county or state." He added that there had been no trial and no conviction. The online article referenced is an opinion with reference 'Arbitration'.

As it relates to his professional background, Chowbey described it as "flawless," He stated that a comparison between himself and airline operators in and out of Guyana is "unparallel." Chowbey said he has 30 years of aviation experience under his belt. That is with the United States Air Force, Continental /United Airlines, Delta Airlines; two of the largest airlines in the world and one of the most profitable.

Chowbey said, "Fly Guyana Airlines is here for the long term and will provide exceptional service for our passengers to and from Guyana. Customer Service, Operational Performance, Product and Pricing will be the best Guyana and the Caribbean has ever experienced." [Read more]

Website Links Hotels, Eco-resorts. etc

Adel's Rainforest Resort

Ariantze Sidewalk Hotel Café and Jazz Club

Banganara Island Resort

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El Dorado Inn

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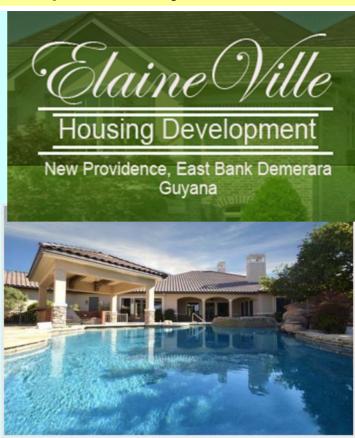
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Total views for June 2013 = 70.106

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- 1. Cricket: West Indies escape with thrilling win vs India
- 2. Cricket: Gayle in explosive form as West Indies destroy Sri Lanka
- 3. America's Student Loan Debt Crisis
- 4. Capitol News TV video Reports June 28, 2013
- 5. €23.4M sugar support...EU stipulates conditions
- 6. Guyana: Four years to 'fix' sugar industry
- 7. Capitol News TV video Reports June 27, 2013
- 8. Juan Enriquez: Will our kids be a different species?
- 9. Left brain versus right brain Daniel H. Pink
- 10. Rethinking taxing tourism Commentary
- 11. Guyanese must stand for Procurement Commission - says AFC
- 12. Helpful Tips for Sleeping Better Dr. Mercola
- 13. Capitol News TV video Reports June 26, 2013
- 14. Report: Guyana Independence Gala June 21,2013 - NYC
- 15. Capitol News TV video Reports June 25, 2013
- 16. Aruba to run solely on sustainable energy by 2020
- 17. Cricket: Bobby Ramroop takes control of CPL
- 18. Amanda Palmer: The art of asking TED video
- 19. Peter Attia: What if we're wrong about diabetes? -TED video
- 20. Cricket: On this day, June 25, 1963- Exactly 50 years ago
- 21. Brazil's Nationwide Protest Movement Enters Third Week – video
- 22. Capitol News TV Reports June 24, 2013
- 23. The Kleptocratic Republic of Guyana by Ralph Ramkarran

- 24. Scientist: 'Miami, As We Know It Today, Is Doomed"...
- 25. Six CARICOM countries on Watch List for human trafficking
- 26. US immigration reform: A political strategy that lacks humanity
- 27. More Suriname Cabinet ministers to face the axe ... for corruption
- 28. Top five regrets of the dying Bronnie Ware
- 29. Protests in Brazil editorial in Stabroek News
- 30. Protests in Brazil: The people have awakened
- 31. Caribbean Airlines now charges US\$1,400 for NY round trip
- 32. Great X- Factor Auditions USA and UK 50 videos autoplay
- 33. Danyl Johnson the best X Factor audition ever!!!!
- 34. The ITALIAN way to shop...... so much fun! video
- 35. The Prudential World Cup 1975 submitted by **Dmitri Allicock**
- 36. BRAZIL videos on the protests in Brazil June 2013
- 37. Weather Contol: "Why in the World are They Spraying?"
- 38. Derrick Abdul Salick "Douglas" in Trinidad and Tobago
- 39. Capitol News TV video Reports June 19, 2013
- 40. Minnesota: Twin Cities CARIFEST 20th Anniversary – July 26-27, 2013
- 41. Police likely to act after IDB fraud probe Minister Rohee – video
- 42. CFATF gives Guyana until August to submit amended financial crimes law
- 43. Feasibility study for new Demerara Harbour Bridge completed
- 44. What we're learning from online education Daphne Koller - video

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- 45. Want to help someone? Shut up and listen! Ernesto Sirolli video
- 46. Growing Up Black In China video
- 47. The real problem of GuySuCo Tony Vieira letter
- 48. My-story, the his-story and history" The 2011 elections Kissoon
- 49. <u>Political direction</u>, <u>leadership top issues for PPP Congress</u>
- 50. NY Tutorial Support Group Spring Fling Dance June 21, 2013
- 51. <u>BHS NY Tri-State Alumni Food Fair June</u> 23, 2013
- 52. A Father's Enduring Legacy
- 53. Father's Day: Hubern Isaacs fathered 43
- 54. Happy Father's Day by Alicia Anderson
- 55. <u>Traditional Home Remedies Of Guyana By</u> Dmitri Allicock
- 56. QC Alumni Florida Chapter Family Affair Brunch June 23, 2013
- 57. New York Tutorial Support Group Spring Fling June 21, 2013
- 58. FOR SALE: House in Bathway, Grenada. Caribbean.
- 59. Capitol News TV video Reports June 13.2013
- 60. <u>St Stanislaus College Alumni CARIBJAM August 2, 2013 Toronto</u>
- 61. Man invents machine to convert plastic into oil
- 62. <u>Guyana Trade Show & Tourism Expo June 28-</u> 30 City Univ. NY
- 63. <u>Dr. Walter Rodney (23 March 1942 13 June</u> 1980) 8 videos autoplay
- 64. <u>Colors of the Caribbean Show June 28, 2013 Hyattsville.MD</u>
- 65. Worldwide Honey Bee Collapse: A Lesson in Ecology
- 66. <u>Capitol News TV video reports 11th</u> June 2013
- 67. <u>India vs West Indies Champions Trophy- WI lose</u> by 8 wickets -video

- 68. <u>Capitol News TV video reports 10th</u> <u>June 2013</u>
- 69. <u>Kato schoolchildren fetching logs for hot meals controversy</u>
- 70. Pilot, analyst and administrator, Beverley Drake, is a 'Special Person'
- 71. <u>Tutorial High Alumni: Toronto 20th Anniversary</u> <u>Gala -10 August 2013</u>
- 72. Why America's "underbanked" are key to the growth of mobile payments
- 73. NSA whistle-blower revealed: 29-year-old former CIA staffer says he felt compelled to leak
- 74. <u>Cricket: WICB salutes Sunil Narine as he rises to top in ODI rankings</u>
- 75. <u>Guyana: Explosive book warns of Black rage –</u> Jamaica Gleaner Review
- 76. <u>East Orange NJ, celebrates Guyana's 47th Independence Anniversary</u>
- 77. <u>Our Credit Score: A Number that Defines & Di</u>vides Us
- 78. <u>140,000 Guyanese living in New York City survey</u>
- 79. West Indian Cricket Songs 15 videos autoplay
- 80. <u>Guyana's Grade Six Assessment ('Common Entrance')</u> Results 2013
- 81. <u>Peg Leg George of Sebacabra by</u> Dmitri Allicock
- 82. <u>"Trick Shot Titus" 2.5 yrs old basketball hoops</u> star video
- 83. <u>Cricket: West Indies win first match in Champions Trophy vs. Pakistan</u>
- 84. <u>Guyana Festival "A Taste of Guyana" June</u> 23, 2013 Toronto
- 85. Capitol News TV video reports 6th June 2013
- 86. Capitol News TV video reports 5th June 2013
- 87. Why has China snubbed Cuba and Venezuela? The Economist explains
- 88. <u>Shipping Containers The humble hero The Economist</u>

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- 89. <u>Guyana Tri-State Alliance Independence Celebrations June 21, 2013 Brooklyn. NY</u>
- 90. Fly Jamaica gets greenlight for New York, Toronto routes
- 91. <u>Violence against women—it's a men's issue –</u> Jackson Katz
- 92. <u>Local gov't elections "vital" this year –</u> US Ambassador
- 93. <u>Georgetown: World Environment Day walk not all eco-friendly</u>
- 94. AFC's approach to talks with Ramotar "strategic" Kissoon
- 95. THE BREMNERS Of Akyma-De Maria Elisabeth Dmitri Allicock
- 96. Capitol News TV video reports 4th June 2013
- 97. Capitol News TV video reports 3rd June 2013
- 98. <u>Turkey's Violent Protests in Context | Stratfor analysis</u>

- 99. <u>People Are Awesome Amazing Gymnastics Video</u>
- 100. China commits US\$3B to Caribbean in grants and loans
- 101. <u>Guyanese American Cultural Asso Central</u> <u>Florida- Family Day June 9, 2013</u>
- 102. <u>GTLIME 12 Hoedown and Banquet Florida –</u> June 7-8, 2013
- 103. <u>Dave Martins & The Tradewinds NYC August 17, 2013</u>
- 104. <u>COTAB Annual Caribana Dance Toronto August 3, 2013</u>
- 105. <u>Guyanese Association of Delaware- Annual Picnic- July 21, 2013</u>
- 106. <u>Guyanese Online Most Popular Entries May 2013</u>
- 107. <u>Guyanese Online Newsletter May 2013 + Latest Entries</u>





American Senate Passes Immigration Reform Bill

Immigration Reform Bill Survives First Real Test in the U.S. Senate

View YouTube video: Published on Jun 12, 2013 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3URmYk5q4xU

The US Senate has passed a broad immigration reform bill that includes a path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the USA.

The 68-32 vote comes after months of debate and a recent deal to boost border security spending significantly.

Tough Opposition in House

But the legislation faces a tough road in the more conservative House. House Speaker John Boehner has said he will not advance legislation that lacks support of most of his fellow Republicans, who remain resistant.

No stragglers

As the vote was held on Thursday afternoon, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid made the rare request of asking all 99 of his colleagues to be present and to vote from their desks.

"This is not a vote where people should be straggling in," Mr Reid said.

After the vote, members of the group that negotiated the original bill, known as the Gang of Eight, thanked the broad coalition that had backed immigration efforts

John McCain supports Bill

Senator John McCain, a Republican, said the Senate "stood ready to negotiate" with the House and called on them to act.

"We all share the same goal," said Mr McCain, "to take 11 million people out of the shadows".

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, said the bill's border security measures had "exceeded every expectation I had", and said the bill had "practically militarised the border". An amendment that added an additional 20,000 border security agents

President Barack Obama - top priority

President Barack Obama, who has made immigration reform a top priority for his second term, has urged Congress to act quickly on the legislation, with a goal of signing a bill into law by autumn.

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