

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







## Venezuela decrees new price controls to fight inflation 56.2 percent jump in consumer prices in 2013



Pres. Nicolas Maduro

(Reuters) - Venezuela on Friday 24 Jan 2014, decreed a new price control law that sets limits on company profits and establishes prison terms for those charged with hoarding or over-charging, part of socialist President Nicolas Maduro's efforts to tame inflation.

Madera, who was elected last year to succeed the late Hugo Chavez, blames a 56.2 percent jump in consumer prices in 2013 on an "economic war" led by political adversaries, while critics call it evidence of the failure of Venezuela's

state-driven economic model

The Fair Price Law, which carries out many of the same functions as the almost identically-named Fair Price and Cost Law of 2011, appears to unify a disparate set of controls that were first created by Chavez in 2003.

It sets a maximum profit margin of 30 percent and requires firms to obtain "fair price certificates" to access dollars through the country's currency control mechanism.

The law carries **prison sentences** of up to 14 years for crimes including hoarding, "destabilizing the economy" and food trafficking, which refers to people buying subsidized goods and reselling them mainly in neighboring Colombia.

A price enforcement agency called the National Superintendence for Defense of Socioeconomic Rights will be charged with "determining reasonable profit margins." [more]

Critics insist the OPEC nation's real problems lie in a torrid expansion of the money supply, inefficiency of state-run companies and a sluggish currency control system that affects business transactions.

## Foreign airlines suspend local currency ticket sales in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela -- On Friday January 24, three more international airlines joined the list of foreign carriers that have suspended local currency ticket sales in Venezuela, saying that the government owes them billions of dollars in unpaid fares.

US carriers American Airlines and United Airlines, along with Panama's Copa Airlines, said they were halting ticket sales in Venezuela as a result of the government's failure to pay arrears that as of last month totaled \$2.6 billion, according to a statement issued on December 12 by the International Air Transport Association, an airline trade group. [more]

## Guyana's Republic Celebrations - 2014

Mashramani 2014. Guyana's Carnival

Mashramani, often abbreviated to "Mash", is an annual festival that celebrates Guyana becoming a Republic in 1970. The festival, usually held on February 23 – Guyanese Republic Day – includes a parade, music, games and cooking and is intended to commemorate the "Birth of the Republic". [more -Wikipedia)

Mashramani 2014 will be celebrated on Sunday February 23.

Here are some pictures by Bryan-Max.com taken at Mashrami 2013. Click here or photo to view





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

#### Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter and Blog website

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My E-mail address is: cybryan@gmail.com

Editorial: By: Cyril Bryan. Editor and Publisher

#### **Editorial:**

#### VENEZUELA'S ECONOMY IS IN SHAMBLES - MAY AFFECT GUYANA



A happy, healthy and successful New Year to all our readers, blog subscribers, contributors, commentators and supporters of Guyanese Online. We look forward to bringing you more of the articles you

like, and to your ongoing support of the various Guyanese associations around the world.

In this issue we have featured the serious problems facing Venezuela at this time. We do so to bring your attention to the fact that these problems may eventually have grave consequences for Guyana's economy and politics. Also, if the USA becomes involved in any way with the unfolding Venezuela meltdown, then Guyana may surely become a base for their operations, whether the politicians shout "sovereignty," or not. We're already seeing steps in Guyana in this regard.

Venezuela finds itself in a tightening shortage of foreign currency due to falling oil revenues, inflation, and the dumping of its currency. Its foreign debt is rapidly increasing. For instance, Venezuela owes China over \$50B US and repays in oil. Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said in September 2012 that of the 640,000 barrels of oil a day that Venezuela exports to China, 200,000 went towards servicing the country's debt to Beijing. [BBC News 5 March 2013]

Over 240,000 barrels/day of free or discounted Venezuelan oil is shipped to Cuba and other Caribbean nations under PetroCaribe. [map-Venezuela's Oil Diplomacy]. Some 17 countries, including Guyana, pay with preferential long-term repayment plans and barter agreements. [more-Wikipedia]

These nations fear PetroCaribe oil shipments could stop with the deterioration of the Venezuelan economy, and the increased pressure from the Venezuelan political opposition to scrap it. Guyana's economy could be adversely affected in many ways if this agreement is scrapped. Some effects could be :-.

- Increased prices for over 5,000 barrels of oil and refined products now imported daily by Guyana.
- The loss or revisions to the barter arrangements for rice - Guyana's expanding rice industry was saved by the PetroCaribe barter payments.
- Smuggling from Venezuela to Guyana is endemic. Increased border security and currency controls by Venezuela could affect oil smugaling that especially services the gold mining industry. The effect could be rising production costs for gold. Guyana's largest industry, tax contributor, and foreign exchange earner. Depressed world gold prices could worsen the situation.
- Inflation in Guyana is rising and the Guyana dollar depreciating [now 215-1US]. Like Venezuela, in Guyana there is now a flight to the US dollar as protection against inflation and devaluation. There are also black-market activities for US dollars in Venezuela that could be affecting the rise in the Guyana/US dollar exchange rate.

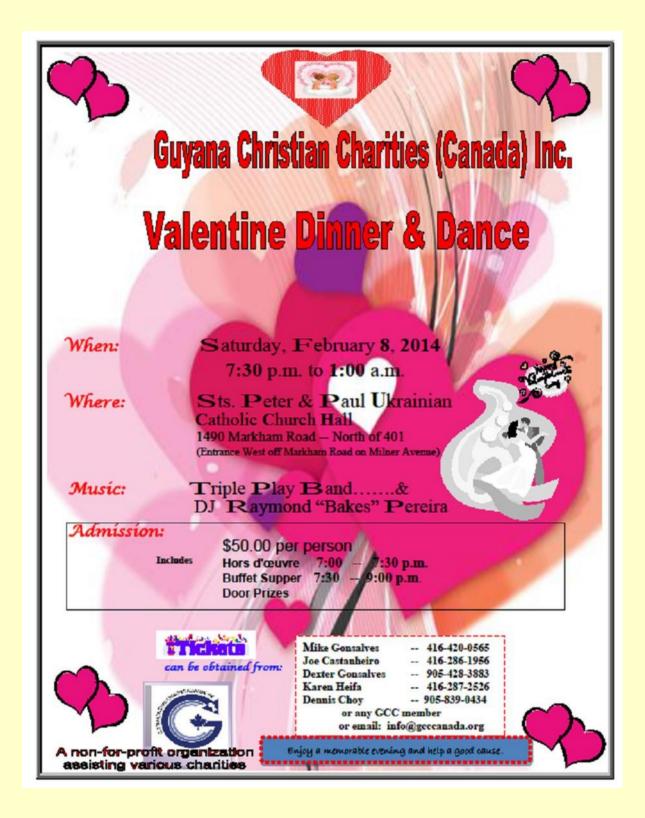
An unstable economic and political reality that could follow in Guyana is not in the interest of the US government. Guyana is important to the USA, being a neighbor of Venezuela and the only Englishspeaking country in South America.

The posting in September 8, 2011of a high-powered US Ambassador in the name of D. Brent Hardt is no accident. The USA call for speedy local government elections and pressures for better governance may be to ensure that Guyana is relatively stable if or when Venezuela collapses with potential civil war.

It is my belief that the pressures by the USA on Guyana's political parties will increase this year, and we may see some semblance of improved co-operation emerging for the potential betterment of Guyana. We shall see!

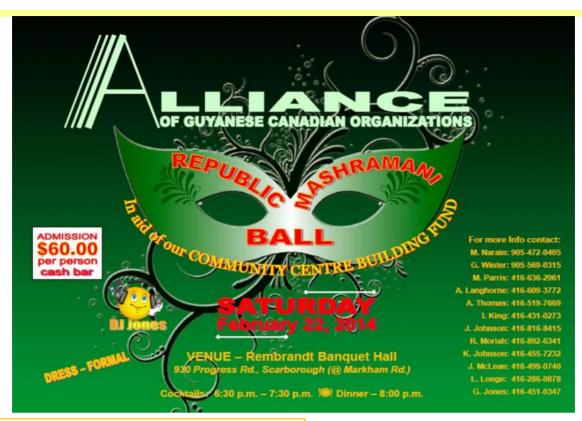


## **Guyana Christian Charities Valentine Dinner & Dance** February 8, 2014 - Toronto Canada





GACACF Vision 2014 - http://guyaneseonline.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/gacacf-vision-2014.pdf GACACF President's Message- http://guyaneseonline.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/presidents-message.pdf





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## Western diplomats visit Help and Shelter



December 9, 2013. Stabroek News

United States of America Ambassador to Guyana Dr. Brent Hardt, British High Commissioner Andrew Ayre, Canadian High Commissioner Dr. Nicole Giles and Head of the European Union Delegation Ambassador Robert Kopecky today visited Help and Shelter in observance of Human Rights Day which was commemorated on December 10, 2013. A release from the British

High Commission said that the main focus of the visit was to raise awareness and lend support to the work that Help and Shelter is undertaking in battling Domestic Violence in Guyana. The diplomats also used the opportunity to urge victims of Domestic Violence to contact organisations such as Help and Shelter and to those witnessing domestic violence to speak out against it. Photo shows the diplomats with Help and Shelter staff.

## **Lusignan-Good Hope Learning Centre**

DECEMBER 9, 2013 - STABROEK NEWS

Leader of the Opposition, Brigadier David Granger this morning paid a visit to the Lusignan-Good Hope Learning Centre, East Coast Demerara.

A release from APNU said that the centre which was established in 2009 by Sandra Shivdat and her brother Noel Naraine caters for the learning and developmental needs of more than one hundred and thirty five children from the Lusignan-Good Hope communities.

Director of the Centre, Sandra Shivdat, a New Jersey based accountant, told the Opposition Leader that the main reason for opening the facility was the acute poverty and alarming rates of illiteracy plaguing the area. This APNU photo shows Granger (second from left) with members of the centre.

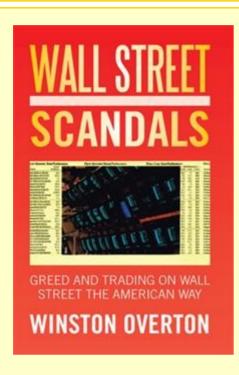


ARTS-CULTURE

## **Wall Street Scandals by Winston Overton**

## **Greed and Trading on Wall Street - The American Way**

Guyana- born Winston Overton gives his perspective of Wall Street Trading



## **Wall Street Scandals**

Read an Expose' on the operational indiscretions at Stock Exchanges in the United States. A compelling account of shady business practices and historical events as it affects the economy and the small investors on Wall Street.

Be informed about executives of megacorporations, Banks, and Mortgage Companies that inflate their egos with greed and illicit trading. Susan Shapiro in her writing advises,

• "People, who have too little faith in their potential or business acumen to attempt a business venture on their own, turn their money over to complete strangers to do that very thing". (Shapiro, Wayward Capitalists, 1984), 1

#### **Books by By Winston Overton**

#### Click here to read the Introduction to the book

Winston Overton was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, now officially known as The Cooperative Republic of Guyana.



He is the eldest child of the late Randolph Overton and Nova Eslyn Overton. He is followed by brother Aubrey Overton of Georgetown and a sister - the late Sgt. Shirley Overton-Campbell of New Amsterdam, Police Station, Guyana.

His dad also fathered other younger siblings in Wismar, Guyana. He boasts of having had the best grandmother one could ever have asked for - Mrs. Miriam Waldron. His late mother was his Queen of Hearts and often boasted that she had the best mother-in-law in Miriam Waldron one could ever have asked for.

Overton was a former employee in the drawing offices of the Hydrographic and Sea Defense Department of the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics in Kingston and the Geological Survey Department in Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana.

He was also as a contract cartographer with the government of the Republic of Zambia, Central Africa - a country he is proud to call his second home. At the end of that contract, he travelled extensively throughout Africa and Europe before migrating to the United States.

He worked at Chase Manhattan Bank and Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank in the late 1970's before joining the staff of the American Stock Exchange, finally retiring in 2002.

Overton was also a volunteer Mediator with the "Unified Court System of New York City" for thirteen years, and is an accomplished Interior Decorator.

Overton is the author of "Wall Street Scandals"

More about the book:

http://www.prweb.com/releases/WinstonOverton/WallStr eetScan

## A.J Seymour inducted in National Library's Hall of Fame

Picture: January 15, 2014.

A.J Seymour's daughter, Ms Joan Seymour, (third from left) with Chief Librarian (Ag), Emiley King (centre) and Petamber Persaud (next to her), and other Liberians during the unveiling of the Portrait of A. J Seymour at the National Library, Main and Church Street, Georgetown. Guyana.

#### A.J. Seymour's Birth Centenary

The National Library, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport has launched its 'Distinguished Lecture Series' where one of Guyana's literary icons, Arthur James Seymour was inducted in the Library's Hall of Fame as part of events to mark the birth

centenary of the late poet, essayist and memoirist.

A portrait was unveiled by Seymour's daughter, Joan Seymour, while a plague to commemorate the Library's Hall of Fame was also revealed by Chief Librarian (Ag), Emily King and writer, Petamber Persaud to mark the event held on January 15, 2014.

#### **Kyk-Over-Al Literary Journal**

A. J Seymour was the founder of **Kyk-Over-AI**, a literary journal named for an early Dutch fort on the Esseguibo River in 1945, and is also known for publishing and editing Guyanese poetry.

During a lecture on Kyk-Over-Al at the Library's Conference Room, Church and Middle Street, Georgetown, Professor Jacqueline De Weever lauded the Caribbean Press for republishing Kyk-Over-Al.

Professor De Weever said that the new edition is in recognition of the importance of not just literary studies, but for people in general to know about their heritage.

"Sometimes in these parts of the world, we think we don't have a literary heritage or a musical heritage in the sense that it is talked about in the north, but we do have our own, and we are the ones who have to keep it alive," the Professor pointed out.



**Kyk-Over-Al**, according to the Professor, was at the centre of Seymour's heart, noting that the book is quite significant since it has exceeded its reviews when it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1995, explaining that in the US a poetry magazine is vulnerable at 25 years.

"Kyk-Over-Al is at the start of my own intellectual life because there I met Caribbean writers... I look at the front cover of any issue of Kyk, shows names of writers who have achieved world recognition, including our very own Edgar Mittelholzer," Professor De Weever said.

Kyk-Over-Al reviews became a home, a place where writers were assured and are nurtured before their work became mainstream she said, and challenged the Ministry to continue on the tradition of the small Kyk-Over-Al reviews.

"The reviews must not be big, the small format encourages intimacy between the writers and the readers....the Ministry of Culture is republishing these books, which gives access and encourages scholars, writers and general readers who want a connection with a poem of their own time and culture and also simply for pleasure," she said.

A collection of the republished Kyk-Over-Al books was handed over to De Weever by prizewinning novelist, poet and playwright lan McDonald.



## Spare us the cynical New Year 'sentiments'

Stabroek News Editorial - January 7, 2014

#### **Politicians and Political Platitudes**

What politicians do, the decisions they make and the pronouncements which they place in the public domain have to do first and foremost with what they perceive to be best for their political fortunes. Their behaviour is a function of calculations that have to do with consolidating their power, never mind the platitudes which they customarily spout about 'putting the nation first.' Politicians are usually inclined to pay much keener attention to what we loosely describe as 'the national interest' in so far as that 'interest' is good for the enhancement of their own political fortunes.

#### A Timely Moment for Cynicism and Deception

The start of the year usually offers a timely political moment. The New Year is a time of fulsome opportunity for the outpouring of altruistic sentiments wrapped in carefully rehearsed messages. It is, after all, the beginning of a new year, a time when hope springs eternal, when much of the nation is assumed to be reasonably disposed to giving and receiving kind sentiments. It is open season for politicians.y

For politicians' New Year messages are, by and large, palliatives, contrived and repetitive pronouncements, dripping with cynicism. They are deceptions of the worst kind since they not only hijack the spirit of the yuletide season but, in fact, target their audiences with the entirely misleading notion, that something can come from nothing, that there is even a remote basis for believing that somehow, the year ahead will bring some dramatic improvement to the political climate.

#### Will 2014 be a Happy New Year? .. Unlikely!

We can judge for ourselves from the sharply drawn battle lines, the preponderance of political invective and the manner in which the National Assembly has been reduced to a cauldron of confrontation, that there is, at this time, no real basis for believing that politically at least, 2014 is likely to be a 'Happy New Year.' What is even less likely is that the underpinning in the messages about 'putting the nation first' will even be remotely realized in a society that is as politically divided as it ever was.

So that the New Year wishes emanating from our politicians ought not to fill us with any great optimism. In fact, the very sentiments expressed in those messages appear to be underpinned by the assumption

that we are a nation of fools, that we can, year in, year out, be victims of delusion, that we have learnt nothing from the previous years of similar unfulfilled sentiments. If only for the sake of our collective self-respect, ought we not to say this time around that the dichotomy between the sentiments expressed in the New Year messages of our politicians and the political reality on the ground is simply too great to have us believe that 2014 will be any different?

#### **Hopelessness Abounds**

Of course, there will always be those who will be drawn to the New Year messages about turning over a new leaf, though it is hard to believe that their interest arises out of anything more than a fear that, to ignore the messages, might cause them to become afflicted with a sense of utter hopelessness. After all does what the politicians say in their New Year messages not embody some measure of hope that we can, after all, work together for the good of the nation however unlikely the prospect of that hope being reaslised at this time?

#### **Orwellian creatures**

Nor is it that most of us have not seen through the fallacies in those messages. We endure them, however, mostly without murmur, out of a sense of tiredness, or worse, resignation, understanding that there is really no limit to the cynicism of politicians and that there is little that we can do to change the script. Over time we have become Orwellian creatures. We respond to the New Year messages by studiously ignoring them, understanding only too well that the sentiments which they seek to convey are really no more than pipe dreams. That way, we do not have to take them seriously.

#### Messages are Routine Political Curriculum

The real truth is — and our the politicians might even concede this in their quiet moments — that the New Year messages are part of a routine political curriculum. They are opportunistic public pronouncements that are, in effect, extensions of a seasonal 'feel good' interregnum. In reality, the customary forms of political behaviour simply refuse to change. Surely a point has now been reached where our politicians might wish to consider keeping their New Year sentiments to themselves, unless they are prepared to match their platitudes with a far greater measure of commitment to actualizing the 'wishes' and 'pledges' which they so readily commit to paper.

## New Ombudsman - Retired Judge Winston Moore sworn in

Monday, 13 January 2014.- Demerara Waves

Retired High Court Judge, Winston Moore was Monday sworn in as Guyana's first Ombudsman in almost 10 years, saying he was satisfied with efforts being made to provide resources to help the office function properly.

"I have no qualms or misgivings as to the level of resources... that would actually be provided," Moore said after taking the Oath of Office before President Donald Ramotar.

An Ombudsman examines complaints by members of the public who feel that they have been unfairly treated by public bodies. Guyana has not had an Ombudsman since Justice Sheik Mohamed retired in 2005.

Moore said that when he was first approached about taking up the constitutional appointment, he met with Public Service Minister, Dr. Jennifer Westford and a senior personnel officer of that ministry.

He recalled submitting a list of requirements and the minister saying that staff members at the Office of the Ombudsman would have been asked whether they wanted to remain or not. "Some of them chose to return."

President Ramotar, in brief remarks, said that while the Constitutional Court had been addressing some matters, having an Ombudsman is a key constitutional requirement.

"I would expect that the public should take advantage of the fact that we have an Ombudsman to take their issues or issues that fall within his remit so that we can have their issues dealt with and resolved." he said. The Guyanese leader pledged his government's "full support" to the Ombudsman in discharging his duties.

Attorney General, Anil Nandlall suggested that one of the priorities should be educating and informing Guyanese that there is an Ombudsman for them to take their grievances. "I suppose the Ombudsman is free to market his office and publicise his role and function," he said noting that Justice Mohammed had complained that very few persons had been taking advantage of the office.

Under Guyana's Constitution the President is not required to consult with the Opposition Leader on the appointment of an Ombudsman.



Left to right; Attorney General Anil Nandlall, President Donald Ramotar, Ombudsman Justice Winston Moore and Opposition Leader David Granger.

## Granger opposes confirmation of Chancellor and Chief Justice appointments

Opposition Leader, David Granger on Friday refused to divulge reasons not agreeing to the confirmation of Justices Carl Singh and Ian Chang as Chancellor and Chief Justice respectively.

"The constitution doesn't require me to divulge my reason," he said. "The President didn't have to give me reasons for his nominations. I didn't have to give the President reasons for my recommendation."

Asked whether Justices Singh and Chang have not acted in the interest of the opposition or the country in the past, Granger said he had not investigated that. He said then Opposition Leader, Robert Corbin had reasons for not granting approval.

From all appearances, the judges would not be substantively appointed to those positions in which they have been acting for the past eight years because President Donald Ramotar is insisting on confirming Singh and Chang after the constitutionally required "meaningful" consultations with the Opposition Leader.

Granger maintained that the posts should be advertised and suitably qualified and competent persons should be appointed. [Read more]

## NICIL earns \$7B in 2012, paid only \$1B to Govt.

Jan 20, 2013—KNEWS

#### sold its shares in Berbice Bridge for \$950M

The National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL), headed by Winston Brassington, raked out almost \$7B in profits for 2012 but paid over just \$1B to government. This information is contained in its latest annual report (2012) to be tabled in the National Assembly by Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh. According to the report, which was tabled in the House on Thursday last the company's revenue for 2012 was \$6, 965, 255, 955.

The report noted that its operating expense was just \$154M meaning that its profit was more than \$6.8B. According to the 2012 report, NICIL's assets in terms of property and equipment were just over \$1.4B while it holds another \$5B in investments.

Having never collected any dividends from the **Berbice Bridge Company Inc**, the report states that in 2012 NICIL sold all of its shares to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) for \$950M.

By the end of 2012, the company had also invested almost G\$3B in **Atlantic Hotel Inc**, which is building the Marriott Hotel in Kingston.

The report also documents that during the year 2012, NICIL also sold all of its shares in the **GT&T** for US\$30M. As at the end of 2012, NICIL received US\$25M with the remaining US\$5M payable in 2014.

The Directors for NICIL, at the end of 2012 were **Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh**, Head of the Presidential Secretariat, **Dr Roger Luncheon**, **Sonya Roopnauth**, a Director in the Finance Ministry's Budget Office, **Nigel Dharamlall** who is also the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Executive Director, Brassington.

In November last, A Partnership for National Unity's (APNU) Financial Spokesperson, Carl Greenidge had lashed out at the Finance Minister for failing to comply with the resolution which came out of the motion on NICIL that the opposition had voted for. That motion in the House had arose from general concerns about the unaccountability on the part of NICIL for a variety of actions; how it had taken decisions with Government resources in a number of projects and also because NICIL was originally established as a holding company which was intended to oversee the allocation of assets that came out of the privatization. [Read more]

## Local auto suppliers unable to detect radiation levels on Japanese vehicles

January 20, 2014—KNEWS

#### ...depends on foreign suppliers for assurances

Several automobile and spare part dealers have stated that they are in no position to ascertain radiation levels entering the country through the importation of Japanese vehicles. The dealers stated that internally, there are no mechanisms known to them to ascertain safe radiation levels, and they are relying solely on safety assurances provided by foreign auto dealers.

In light of revelations that some vehicles imported from Japan are being detected with **high radiation levels**, several car dealers have noted that they are trying to put measures in place to ensure that they are importing safe vehicles.

In 2011, Japan was ravished by a Tsunami that caused mass blackouts and damage to **the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant**. The plant is still sitting on a fragile makeshift cooling system that produces massive amounts of highly radioactive water coming out of the plant's wrecked reactors.

It has been reported by some regional and international media outfits that dangerous levels of radiation could be entering countries that import used Japanese vehicles and spare parts. Kaieteur News understands that since large numbers of Japanese vehicles are being imported, it is possible- "if slipped through the system"- that **contaminated vehicles** could be in the hands of unsuspecting vehicle owners.

One car dealer located at Hadfield Street, Stabroek, told Kaieteur News that all of his vehicles are imported from Japan. The Dealer told this publication that it depends on the supplier to conduct checks on the vehicles that are being shipped. In light of the recent developments, the car dealer said that requests are being made to their foreign suppliers to ascertain safe levels of radiation that are acceptable. [read more]

News item: 130 'radioactive' Japanese cars banned from entering Russia



#### GT&T inks \$9M tourism deal with THAG



GT&T Chief Executive Officer Mr. R.K Sharma presents a copy of the agreement to President of THAG, Mr. Kit Nascimento in the presence of other GT&T and THAG officials.

JANUARY 19, 2014 | BY **KNEWS** |

Executives of the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company, (GT&T) and the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) on Thursday signed a \$9M Sponsorship Agreement to assist in the development of Guyana's tourism sector.

The contract was signed by President of THAG, Kit Nascimento and Chief Executive Officer of the (GT&T), Mr.. Radha Krishna Sharma, in the presence of staffers of the two companies.

The deal will see both organizations strengthening their partnership over the next three years. GT&T is set to utilize \$3 million to sponsor THAG programmes and events each year. In return, brand and slogans of GT&T

will be displayed at international tourist activities in attendance by members of THAG. Nascimento explained that the new contract will support the general operation of THAG.

"Without this kind of corporate sponsorship, the operation could not have survived...the sponsorship will support our training programme, and marketing efforts done both locally and overseas. It will also contribute our attendance of international events such as the world tourism conference," Head of the organization added.

He said that supported the work of THAG in the past but this is its largest investment in the work of the tourism body . [Read more]

## Tri-engine propeller aircraft awaits permit to fly

Jan 16, 2014. KNEWS

A local company is to break new ground and will be the first to introduce tri -engine propeller aircraft for domestic use in Guyana. The company has introduced to internal air travelers the late 1970, early 1980, **Britten-Norman Trislander**.

The two 18-seat, three-engine pistonpowered civilian utility planes are scheduled to make internal trips to interior locations once authorization from the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) has been approved. The planes will be the first of its kind to operate in Guyana.

While the aircraft on other occasions, only passed through Guyana, it was never used for commercial purposes.



Retired Director of Aviation Safety Regulation, Paula Mc Adam remembered that several years ago the Trislanders were in Guyana, on display.

Head of the Civil Aviations Authority Zulfikar Mohamed told Kaieteur News that the company was in the process of acquiring its Air Operator Certificate and all documents relating to this has been submitted. [Read more]

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

Adel's Rainforest Resort

<u>Ariantze Sidewalk Hotel Café and</u> <u>Jazz Club</u>

**Baganara Island Resort** 

**Bradsville Apartments** 

Cara Hotels

El Dorado Inn

Evergreen Adventures

**Grand Coastal Inn** 

Herdmanston Lodge

Hurakabra River Resort

Hotel Tower

Iwokrama Canopy Walkway

<u>Iwokrara Forest -</u>

Kanuku Suites

Pegasus Hotel

Princess Hotel & Casino

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



## Muri Brasil scraps plans for survey in New River Triangle

Demerara Waves: 04 Jan 2014

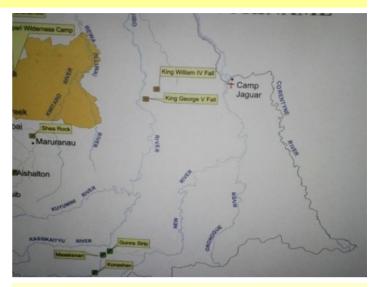
Muri Brasil Ventures Inc. on Saturday announced that it has scrapped plans to conduct a geographical and geophysical survey in the New River Triangle due to concerns being raised about the project in several quarters.

The decision came just about two weeks after Transport Minister, Robeson Benn announced that the company has been refused permission to build an airstrip in the area. Benn has confirmed that the existing government policy is that there would be no mining in the area.

Spokesman for the company, Alex Grahaam on Saturday told Demerara Waves that while the airstrip was critical to the project logistically it was not the major deciding factor.

Muri Brasil said it decided on December 30 no longer go ahead with the work under the PGGS granted to the company.

"Although the process was legal and transparent, this decision is due to the misinformation, prejudice and hostility to this proposed survey by persons and agencies which are fostering an adverse investment climate in Guyana," the company said in a statement.



Map shows the New River Triangle area where the surveys were being conducted by Muri Brasil Ventures Inc

Controversy swirled around the project after Minister of Natural Resources, Robert Persaud had failed to volunteer information that a PGGS had been granted to the company. At that time, he had been grilled by A Partnership for National Unity's Joseph Harmon at a meeting of the parliamentary committee on Natural Resources.

## Matthew's Ridge firm signs MoU with T&T for manganese processing plant

JANUARY 21, 2014 | BY KNEWS | FILED UNDER NEWS

Canadian-owned, Reunion Gold, the company which is now operating the Matthew's Ridge, Region One, manganese mine site, is exploring possibilities with neighbouring Trinidad to build a processing plant there.

The reasons, the company has said, include cheaper cost of power there. According to Reunion, it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Energy Corporation setting out the terms under which the parties will collaborate to evaluate the potential development by Reunion of a silicomanganese plant in Trinidad and Tobago.

Reunion said that following the release of the prefeasibility study of the Matthews Ridge Project in July 2013, it performed various desktop studies, including assessing the viability of reducing the output of the Matthews Ridge Project located in Guyana and converting the manganese concentrate into silicomanganese alloys in Trinidad and Tobago.

Picture: The Manganese Compound in Matthews Ridge Region One Guyana

"In addition to its proximity to Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago offers benefits numerous



including competitive power costs, deep sea port facilities, dedicated areas for industrial projects and proximity to silico-manganese markets.

David Fennell, Chairman of Reunion, stated: "This is a significant development for the company. While Matthews Ridge as a stand alone mining operation is an attractive investment opportunity, we believe that the construction of a silico-manganese plant in Trinidad & Tobago to be supplied by Matthews Ridge ore may allow us to create a vertically integrated operation which could become one of the world's lowest cost producers of silico-manganese." [Read more]

## Mahdia Gold to begin work in Omai property this month

January 15, 2014 – Demerara Waves

Work at the gold-bearing Omai area is expected to begin later this month, Mahdia Gold Corporation announced on January 15, 2014.

The company said its joint venture partner has already begun moving mining equipment from Georgetown, Guyana to Omai shortly in January 2014.

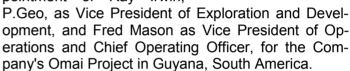
"The equipment is currently being assembled and is scheduled to be operational this month. There is expected to be a short period wherein the machinery goes through its initial break-in period and operators familiarize themselves with the operating methods and new equipment," the company said.

Mahdia Gold gets its name from a popular resource rich mining town located in central Guyana. Historically the central Guyanese region was made popular by the Omai gold mine. This mine produced approximately 4,000,000 ounces of gold from two pits.

Having identified the potential of this region, Mahdia Gold Corp. has acquired three compelling gold bearing concessions, namely, Omai, Tiger River and White Creek.

The company's vision is to be an aggregator of world class gold properties in the country of Guyana. This vision includes maximizing shareholder value and Mahdia Gold Corp. being the premier destination for investors looking to invest in the precious commodity known as gold.

Mahdia Gold Corporation also announced the appointment of Ray Irwin,



Mr. Irwin and Mr. Mason bring a wealth of experience and operational acumen to the Omai Project. With extensive experience in mining, both individuals have worked throughout the Americas . [Read more]



## Banks DIH records \$5.3B pre-tax profit in 2013

JANUARY 22, 2014 | BY KNEWS |

#### Chairman lauds excellent market systems, efficient pre-selling and distribution network

Against the backdrop of a sluggish global economic recovery and continuing tensions which continue to be manifested around the world, the Banks DIH Group recorded a pre-tax profit of \$5.340 billion last year compared to \$4.966 billion in 2012.

This was disclosed in the Chairman's Report for the fiscal year ended 30 September 2013. Chairman and Managing Director Clifford Reis underscored that the increase of \$374.0 million or 7% was because of the overall performance of the Group. He stated that profits after taxes for the Group attributable to shareholders, increased from \$2.812 billion to \$2.930 billion showing an increase of \$118.0 million or 4%. However, the profit after tax for the Company was \$2.543 billion, as compared to \$2.558 billion achieved in 2012.

The Company's profit before taxes was \$3.862 billion as compared with \$3.700 billion for the preceding year, an increase of \$162.0 million.

Chairman and Managing Director Clifford Reis

"Included in the profit after tax for the previous year was the one-off gain of \$167.0 million arising on the disposal of the Camp Street property to the banking subsidiary. After deducting the impact of that gain the Company's profit after tax would have increased by \$152.0 million or 6%...I previously alluded to the measured



global growth and by extension, the economies of many smaller countries.

Despite this influence, our improved results were possible in part due to increased production availability resulting from efficiencies garnered from our capital investments, and in part due to the strong demand for our products from our loyal customer base," the Chairman stated.

He added recognition should also be given to the excellent route to market systems supported by an efficient pre-selling and distribution network.

BREWERY MODERNISATION [Read more]

#### Amerindian cuisine restaurant Tuma Sálá launched

January 19, 2014 Stabroek News

Amerindian cuisine restaurant Tuma Sálá was launched on January 18 at the Umana Yana in Kingston.

#### Some of the Dishes

Items on the menu included Pepperpot made of either Wild Hog, Bush Cow or Labba; Cadakura Sauce with the same three meats or Lukanani or Hymara, Cassava Bread, Farine, Ground Provisions, Tapioca Porridge, a variety of 'bush' teas, Piwari and Parakari among other things.

Genuine Amerindian Handicraft was also on display.

Pictures from Stabroek News

#### Report from gotoguyana.org

Tuma Sala a Patamona Word meaning "Everyone Come, Let's Eat" is the name of the newest and first of it's kind Restaurant Launched today at the Beautiful and Historic Umana Yana.

Tuma Sala is unique because as the name suggests, it's the very First Amerindian Restaurant launched here in Guyana. Considering Guyana has nine Tribes of Amerindians, this is certainly a wonderful and welcomed Initiative and a way to celebrate the unique food and culture of our first people.

Mr. Michael Patterson, one of four Co-founders said in his opening remarks, that the idea for the restaurant came about when one year at an Amerindian Heritage month exhibition, he sampled the food of another Co-founder, Mrs Lolita Williams. He said each year after he would visit the annual exhibition not only to sample her food, but to talk business.

It Subsequently became a dream he said, of the Founders to open a restaurant where locals and visitors alike could come to enjoy various wild meats, Side Dishes & Amerindian Wines and Spirits. Today that dream was realized.

The Official opening date of the Restaurant is February 1st 2014 and the location of the Restaurant is Middleton and Campbell avenue.

Read more: from gotoguyana.org report



Natasha David's creative designs were on display on Saturday at the launch of the first Indigenous Restaurant at the Umana Yana.



Some of the dishes on display at Tuma Sala, the first ever indigenous restaurant, at the Umana Yana in Kingston.



Founding Members of Tuma Sala.



## **Cuba trains another 70 Guyanese Doctors**



.Guyanese doctors who were trained in Cuba at their graduation

Medical professionals

The Cuban Scholarship Programme continued to benefit the local health system, with the continued training of Guyanese. Seventy (70) trained Guyanese doctors were deployed into the health care system after completing their mandatory one-year internship programme under the guidance of experienced, local practitioners.

Additionally, over 276 doctors who were trained under this programme were deployed into the healthcare system in 2013.

The first batch of nurses graduated in Critical Care Nursing, the GPHC hosted a workshop on Family Planning for health personnel, 19 nurses completed Pediatric training, and 103 new nurses and nursing assistants joined the profession.

## Guyana: 11 children to go overseas for heart surgery

Georgetown, GINA, January 15, 2014

The Ministry of Health will be sending 11 children with life threatening cardiac problems to **Dominica** for surgery, as a result of a collaborative effort among the Calgary University, Baby Heart (an international Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) and the Ministry.

This decision was made after a team from Calgary University visited and conducted screening for cardiac related illnesses. The children were chosen among many diagnosed during this process due to the seriousness of their cases.

Minister of Health Dr. Bheri Ramsaran during a meeting with the children and their families highlighted that the Ministry, along with its two partners will be financing the surgeries.



Minister of Health Dr Bheri Ramsaran meets parents with the children who will be undergoing surgery,

He added the Ministry will aid the parents in obtaining their Passport, but they will have to undergo the process of acquiring visas. [Read more]



## Howard University medical team focuses on non-communicable diseases

Friday, 17 January 2014—Demeara Waves

A team of American doctors is here to exchange strategies and techniques in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) regarded as a leading causing of death in Guyana and the Caribbean.

"The focus of this medical exchange on **non-communicable diseases** could not be more timely or relevant, for we have made strides in addressing communicable diseases, NCDs have emerged as the leading threat to people in Guyana and the broader Caribbean," said **United States Ambassador to Guyana, Brent Hardt.** 

He was at the time speaking at a reception in honour of the visiting doctors under the aegis of the Howard University Hospital Medical Association (HUHMA). They are here for a January 16-21 symposium under the theme "Current Concepts in Health Care - 2014"

The American envoy singled out the need to **foster healthier lifestyles** as one of the most urgent challenges facing health care practitioners in the Caribbean. "I am confident that through exchanges such as this, our countries can continue to strengthen our professional relationships and advance our goal," Hardt added.

The presence of the HUHMA team has come less than one month after Guyana launched its Strategic plan for the **Integrated Prevention and Control of Chronic NCDs** and their risk factors strategy 2013-2020.

Globally, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases are responsible for the deaths of about 36 million people annually due to poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking and excessive alcohol intake.

Guyana-born physician, Dr. David Gooray has been lobbying HUHMA for a long time to dispatch a team to his native land. "As a Guyanese you always want to do something that not only get folks exposed to Guyana but to get involved in benefitting," said Ghoray who hails from Anna Regina.

Psychiatrist, Dr. Patricia Fair-Boot would be focussing on nutrients in medicine. She observed that while Guyana has the personnel it suffered other deficiencies in. "I think you all have a lot of people who are skilled but you don't have the medical supplies and medicines that you might need to help," she said. Fair-Boot preferred a return to natural remedies than conventional medicine some of which she said could contribute to renal failure.



Phillip Omohundro, M.D. Chariman of HUHMA Board of Directors, Phillip Omohundro chatting with US Ambassador to Guyana, Brent Hardt and Guyana's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr Shamdeo Persaud.

# New school building commissioned by govt at Ptolemy Reid rehab centre

President Donald Ramotar on January 20, 2013 commissioned a new school building, described as a world-class facility within the complex of the **Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre (PRRC)** on Carmichael Street. The building was erected by the Government of Guyana at the cost of over \$50M,(about \$250,000 US) - GINA said. (GINA photo)

Read report: Special needs school commissioned





## U.S. immigration reform advocates see new hope in 2014



By Richard Cowan - Reuters January 17, 2014

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Immigration reform advocates, who saw their hopes dashed in 2013 for major legislation, are encouraged by

stirrings in the Republican-led House of Representatives for taking up the issue.

The Senate last June passed a sweeping immigration bill that would give millions of undocumented immigrants a pathway to citizenship but the legislation has languished in the House. Over the past few weeks, however, there have been signs that leaders may soon offer a framework for reform.

House Speaker John Boehner informed his rankand-file on January 8 that leading House Republicans were preparing to lay out "principles" for immigration legislation, according to Republicans who attended the closed-door meeting. One Republican leadership aide said a framework for reform could be unveiled as early as next week.

"We're seeing a shift underway," said Frank Sharry, executive director of America's Voice, a group that has been pushing for reform. "It's now becoming clearer that the House Republican leadership...are

determined to move forward to floor action."

But 2013 began on a similarly upbeat note after President Barack Obama cruised to re-election the previous November with the support of more than 70 percent of Hispanic voters who have been clamoring for immigration reforms. By mid-year the Senate passed a comprehensive, bipartisan, bill setting a tough, 13-year course for undocumented residents to gain legal status and eventually citizenship.

That same June day, Boehner drove a stake through the Senate's bill, saving his chamber would not consider it and instead would "do our own bill" one that never materialized on the House floor in 2013. The senior Republican aide, who asked not to be identified, said the principles to be unveiled could discuss the need for better U.S. border controls and beefing up interior security so that companies cannot easily hire undocumented workers.

Improved procedures for hiring foreign high-tech specialists, as well as unskilled laborers to harvest crops and work on construction projects, also could be put into the mix, the aide said. Perhaps the most challenging principle to be addressed is what do about the 11 million already in the United States, many brought here as children. [Read more]

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## Terry Holder eulogised at thanksgiving service



Among the dignitaries at the Thanksgiving Service for Mr. Terrence Holder, seated from left (front row), are Prime Minister Samuel Hinds; Mr. Llewellyn John; APNU Parliamentarian, Mr. Basil Williams; Opposition Leader, Brigadier (ret'd) David Granger; Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Raphael Trotman, West Indies superstar batsman, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and his son Tagenarine (Sonell Nelson photos)

# - hundreds of mourners, sympathisers attend his funeral

A THANKSGIVING Service in celebration of the life of **Mr. Terence Ormonde Holder** was held, on Wednesday, at St. Andrew's Kirk, Brickdam and Avenue of the Republic. That followed a period of viewing of the body at Merriman's Funeral Home, Lime and Bent Streets, Work-en-Rust, also in Georgetown, earlier in the day.

The worship service gathered together hundreds of mourners and sympathisers, having journeyed from various destinations both within and without Guyana, all with one accord to share in the grief of the bereaved relatives and to pay their last respects to someone who was hailed as a champion broadcaster in Guyana, among other respected portfolios.

Holder, former Deputy General Manager of the Guyana Telephone & Telegraph Company Ltd (GT&T) and former President and Secretary General of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), died at his Lama Avenue, Bel Air Park residence on Wednesday January 8 last.

Among those at the Thanksgiving Service were Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds; Speaker of the National Assembly, Raphael Trotman; Leader of the Opposition, Brigadier (ret'd) David Granger, other A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) Parliamentarian, Basil Williams and overseas-based associates,

including Dr. Arlington Chesney, veteran broadcaster Rafiq Khan, (longtime friend of Holder) Brij Parasnath and others.

There was an outpouring of moving tributes by friends, associates and family members, including representatives of the Rotary Club of Georgetown, the Guyana Manufacturers Association, the GT&T, the GBC US-based chapter; the Guyana Cricket Board, as well as in song by 'The Circle of Love' and family members of Holder.

#### **GRACIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED**

Mr. Ramesh Dookhoo said Holder's contribution to the many organisations he belonged were graciously acknowledged. To the Guyana Manufacturers' Association (GMA), he was considered a valuable member, with a quiet sense of fair play and justice and one who always volunteered his time and resources to get things done.

He was a respected colleague, noble to the cause and always very steadfast and willing, credited as someone upon whom you could depend and a fillip to any organisation of which he formed part.

"We have lost a valuable member. Terence Holder will not be easily forgotten. Many years down the road, when faced with situations, we would still be asking: 'How would Terry Holder have handled this?' Dookhoo stated. [Read more]



Note: Click on the titles to read the blog entries

## **BLOG ENTRIES** - December 2013

#### Views for December 2013 = 92,040

#### Total views at December 31 = 1,805,801

- Education: Sugata Mitra accepts the TED Prize at TED2013
- 2. Christmas is Family By Dmitri Allicock
- 3. Gold price collapse worst for 30 years...now \$US1,200/ oz
- How can G\$56M restore Georgetown? asks Mayor Hamilton Green
- 5. A project for 2014 Save Georgetown's City Hall
- 6. Year 2013: Reflections
- 7. The international misrule of law By Brahma Chellaney
- 8. 2013: A year of lost opportunities for Caribbean countries
- 9. Black Santa: Racist to Keep St. Nick White?
- NYC Mayor-Elect Bill DeBlasio to be sworn in by Pres. Clinton
- 11. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014 from Guyanese Online
- 12. My visit to Cape Town, South Africa by Lear Matthews
- USAID Democracy Project: US project an affront -Luncheon
- USAID LEAD Project Controversy Commentary
- Guyana: History, Arts and Culture: The Arts Journal- 8 Flyer
- Guyana Cultural Assn of New York December 2013 Magazine
- 17. Guyana records highest ever gold declaration
- 18. Guyana-Born: 5th Largest Immigrant Group in NYC
- Valerie Amos: Syria and a woman from Wakenaam
- 20. Guyanese American Association of Northern California Old Year's Night Party
- 21. Ken Corsbie wins Gold Award at the CNCF Cayman Islands
- Trinidad Soca Parang Music 90 videos autoplay
- 23. A Merry Christmas to all from Guyanese Online
- 24. Ice, snow storm hits Central and Atlantic Canada
- 25. Slingshot Drepaul Christmas in Guyana music videos
- 'CHRISTMAS HAPPNIN' Mustard Seed Kids & Alison Hinds – Video

- 27. No Magic this Christmas
- 28. LFS BURNHAM his contribution on the liberation of South Africa
- 29. The Overseer of British Guiana by Gaiutra Bahadur
- 30. Bing Crosby Christmas Playlist 30 Songs autoplay
- Nat King Cole Christmas Album 19 tunes autoplay
- 32. Running Back Home to a Guyanese 'Crismus' by Hubert Williams (1975)
- 33. Remittances The inexorable two-edged sword commentary
- Strong economic growth predicted for Guyana IMF
- 35. Statement by Maj. Gen. (retd) Joseph G Singh on New River Triangle
- 36. Capitol News TV News Updates 19 Dec 2013
- 37. Hospitals in Guyana: A question of quality of care commentary
- 38. Caribbean, Latin American Immigrants top NYC Foreign-born Population
- 39. Why is India so angry over nanny dispute? (+video)
- 40. Barbados layoffs: "a gloomy time for CARICOM"Sir Ronald Sanders
- 41. Capitol News -TV News Videos 17 Dec 2013
- 42. Designing for a purpose By Tangerine Clarke
- 43. Barbados economy ...under the hammer commentary
- 44. The Truth About Treasure Island by Dan McNay
- 45. The Wonderful Demerara River By Maj. Gen. (retd) Joseph G Singh
- 46. Tessanne Chin of Jamaica wins on The Voice
- 47. Guyana-Suriname territorial dispute flares up
- 48. The Seawall, Tales of the Guyana Coast film
- 49. Guyanese Online Newsletter Nov-Dec 2013
- 50. Documentary on the Timber Industry in Guyana video
- 51. IMF supports job and pay cuts in Barbados
- 52. How to build with clay... and community video
- 53. André Rieu A Tribute To Nelson Mandela
- 54. The Dougla Defect by Sara Bharrat
- Remembering Bill Rogers "Weed Song" Dmitri Allicock
- 56. Christmas in Brazil: My "Secret Friend"
- 57. Capitol News- TV News Videos 13 Dec 2013
- 58. Addicted to Life by Ian McDonald

Continued on the next page

Note: Click on the titles to read the blog entries

Continued from the previous page

## **BLOG ENTRIES** - November 2013 (cont'd)

- 59. "SEE MORE POETRY": readings of poems by Arthur James Seymour Georgetown Jan 12, 2014
- 60. The Caribbean: Standing by Mandela by Sir Ron Sanders
- 61. Obama's Complete Nelson Mandela Memorial Speech
- 62. Best cities for young people a Canadian city tops the list
- 63. His Day is Done Poem for Nelson Mandela by Dr. Maya Angelou
- 64. The Pilgrims: America's First Mooches
- 65. NY Tutorial Support Group 12th Night Dinner Dance Jan 10, 2014
- 66. Christmas Is Coming by Dmitri Allicock
- 67. Protest will continue until government listens say public servants
- 68. Judge's ruling could force police to review 'stop and search' practice
- 69. Madiba South Africa Land by Roop Misir
- 70. Capitol News TV News Videos 09 Dec 2013
- 71. XGDF Association NY Xmas Party & New Year's Eve Ball -2013
- 72. Some inspirational quotations from Nelson Mandela
- 73. Pres. Ramotar departs to attend Nelson Madela's funeral
- 74. Guyana expo in Barbados
- 75. Nelson Mandela: A Light in the Darkness
- 76. Mandela documentary, interviews and speeches -8 videos
- 77. Andre Rieu I Will Follow Him music video
- 78. YouTube Mix Soca Parang Updated 2013 26 videos autoplay
- 79. Nelson Mandela a giant passes the long walk is over
- Christmas Soca Party Medley Byron Lee & The Dragonaires
- 81. Northern California Guyanese American Community Xmas Party
- **82**. Some of the Botanical Wonders of Guyana By Dmitri Allicock
- 83. Jamaica and Trinidad sign trade and movement agreement
- 84. New York: At de Blasio's City Hall, Expect an Outsize Role for His Wife
- 85. Women Lead the Way in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture

- 86. Transparency International ranks Barbados as least corrupt Caribbean country
- 87. Mighty Sparrow Caribbean Style Christmas Medley
- 88. Christmas Calypso Soca Parang Mix from Trinidad music
- 89. A Christmas Music Playlist 2013 Christmas Party videos
- 90. Reggae Christmas CD
- 91. Guyana Berbice Association Toronto New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance
- 92. Barbados is not just for rich British tourists, says minister
- 93. A new US policy for the Americas- By David Jessop
- 94. National Drama Festival 2013 winners receive awards
- 95. Trinis eligible for same incentives as Guyanese under agri MoU
- 96. The Finance Minister will answer for "unapproved spending" Granger
- 97. Barbados National honours for two Guyanese
- 98. Amerindians accuse mining company of exploitation
- 99. Gold trade in Thailand ... satisfying the Indian market
- 100.Georgetown: A MAN MADE DISASTER by Ralph Ramkarran
- 101.Guyana Cultural Association of New York Magazine Nov 2013
- 102.One day the PNC will say enough is enough Freddie Kissoon
- 103. Georgetown, Guyana A Political pawn
- 104.Capitol News TV News reports 29 November 2013
- 105.A Song of Joy by Miguel Ríos

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These newsletters are published monthly. Their main aim is to advertise the events and news of Guyanese Associations worldwide. Added to this, the newsletters highlight Guyana's general news, Arts and Culture, Agriculture, Medical, Business, Education, Tourism, Historical and a Legal Page.

Every month we publish an average of 100 Blog entries and these are listed in each newsletter and accessible by clicking on the items in the list.

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