

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

Mashramani 2014. Guyana's Carnival



Guyana's Republic Celebrations - 2014

National leaders come together for 44TH Republic anniversary flag raising ceremony

FEBRUARY 24, 2014 | BY **KNEWS** |

In spite of Guyana's turbulent political past and the recent struggles for agreement on nationalistic issues between the country's political leaders, yesterday's Republic Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony, served as a most sobering reminder of just how important it is for all citizens to channel their energies toward the development of the nation.

The momentous occasion which heralded Guyana's 44th year of having attained Republic status, was the first event to officially start off the Mash Day celebrations, was done in exceptionally fine style. The activity commenced at precisely 6:15am, with a parade of officers from the Joint Services who marched the almost 400 metres from the Ministry of Home Affairs on Brickdam to Parliament Buildings.

On lookers who stood outside continued to watch from a distance as they too were not only impressed by the officers but most importantly proud of them. The Parliament building itself was appropriately decorated with the bright colours of the National Flag, The Golden Arrow Head, which could be seen on its frontal exterior.

The event was well attended by members of the Government and Opposition as well as the Diplomatic Corps, and several Heads of local agencies. The Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds and President Donald Ramotar were given special salutes by the officers of the Guyana Defence Force.

They were welcomed at the Parliament's entrance by a special party which included the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dr. Frank Anthony. Following the special salutes, the Guard Commander then escorted President Ramotar to inspect the



President Donald Ramotar (on the dais). To his immediate right are Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds and Guyana Defence Force Chief-of-Staff Brigadier Mark Philips. To the President's left, Minister of Culture, Dr. Frank Anthony, Commissioner of Police, Leroy Brumell and Fire Chief, Marlon Gentle

Guard of Honour comprising ranks of the Police and Defence Forces. After this was completed, the Golden Arrow Head was hoisted. But just before this, those in attendance sang along to some of Guyana's National Songs. When the flag was finally hoisted at precisely 7:30am, it was accompanied by the recital of the National Pledge.

The moment itself also reinforced the point that apart from the glitter and glamour, and the frolic that would normally occur after the peaceful event, there is a lot to be thankful for. It also served for some in attendance, as a reminder of the ever so important need for our leaders to work harmoniously in helping to propel Guyana's growth and reduce the political instability. (Kiana Wilburg)

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

Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter and Blog website



This is the **43rd edition** of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. It culminates 48 months of publishing the Blog and monthly Newsletters. Our first Newsletter was published in March 2010.

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Cyril Bryan. Editor and Publisher - My E-mail address is: cybryan@gmail.com

Note: The Guyanese Online Blog achieved 2,000,000 views on March 15, 2014.

Editorial:

Guyana at the Crossroads - Politically and Economically

On February 23, 2014 Guyana celebrated its 44th anniversary as a Republic. On May 26, 2014, it will celebrate its 48th year as an independent state.

While there was the usual pomp and ceremony with the raising of the flag in front of Parliament Buildings and the revelry in the streets for Mashramani, there was a feeling of unease as to where Guyana was heading as a country. The deadlock in Parliament and conflict with the Executive President is ongoing.

Visually, there is a building boom in the country, fueled mainly by gold mining and increased remittances from the USA, Canada and the UK. Many are investing in hard assets rather than cash, fearing inflation and a depreciated Guyana dollar in the future. This fear is already becoming a reality.

The Venezuela political and economic meltdown will surely affect Guyana in the future irrespective of whether President Maduro goes or remains in power. The PetroCaribe oil arrangements with its low interest loans and attractive payment plans could be scrapped or adjusted, thus increasing oil prices.

Money Laundering Laws

Also, Guyana has two economies. The underground economy is over 60%. It flourishes mainly with smuggling, illicit drugs, unreported gold-mining and logging and money laundering. Much investment is financed by laundered funds from remittances. The fear is that with enforceable money laundering laws that these transfers will be monitored and reduced..

Also, with the new laws, persons may have to show the source of their "investments". There is a belief that there is a mad scramble now by many to set themselves up for the new reality..... thus the massive building boom before the laws are implemented. The real arguments in Parliament are to ensure that the laws are effective in their implementation.

Guyana's Politics Dead-end

Most Guyanese, at home and abroad, would like to see positive change in the political climate. The country has been in turmoil for over 50 years. The 1980 Constitution, whereby a minority party is the government, is a real problem as Parliament, with its majority is in direct conflict with the Executive presidency. In the Constitution, granted after Independence, this impasse would have been avoided as coalitions could have formed the Government.

The PPP Government is now talking about new General Elections to gain a majority parliament so that their policies and spending cannot be blocked. New elections may not change the deadlocked Parliament as the PPP might not win a majority, so the conflicts will continue if there is no compromise.

Local Government Elections

The Constitution mandates that Local Government Elections should be held every three years. The last elections were held in 1994. Why no elections?

The pressure for Local government elections is increasing. The ABC countries (America, Britain, Canada) have been calling for Local Government Elections. They feel that governance at the local level should be a priority in a democracy to give responsibility to 'locals' in managing their affairs. The Government says the country is not ready for local elections, as the populace needs "voter education".

Usually, the devolution of power, especially financial power to local authorities reduces the Central Government's influence in the awarding and execution of contracts at the local level. Maybe, the ongoing delay in holding local elections and giving increased powers to local authorities, like Georgetown, to increase and collect taxes and manage effectively is the real reason for the delays.

Guyana: 44th Republic Celebration - Flag Raising Ceremony



President Donald Ramotar, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds and heads of the Joint Services reciting the National Pledge at Republic Day Flag Raising ceremony



From left to right: Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, President Donald Ramotar, Youth , Sports and Culture Minister Dr. Frank Anthony, and heads of the Joint Services at the Republic Day Flag Raising ceremony

Mashramani 2014 Parade Pictures



President Donald Ramotar takes a moment for revellers from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport's contingent. (GINA)



Region Six's entry (Photo by Arian Browne) .



Part of the Region 10 Band parading at Mash 2014



The Mini of Amerindian Affairs' float 'Queen of the Rainforest' .



Ministry of Amerindian Affairs revellers



Mermaid: Part of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport's band

Digicel's band – Arabian Nights

After hours of trekking along the streets of Georgetown in an attempt to wow not only the judges but celebrating Guyanese on Sunday, the Digicel band is among this year's big winners of the **2014 Mashramani Costume and Float Parade**. [Photos by Arian Browne]



These four pictures depict the Digicel Band - Arabian Nights, as it paraded down the streets at Mashrami 2014 Sunday February 23, 2014



The Ministry of Education's float "The Legend of the Dutchman" wowed many at the Parade



The Ministry of Tourism's float "Keeping Culture Alive Through Folklore" depicted Guyanese folklore - Moon-gazer, Massacoramaan and Ole Higue .

The evolution of Mashramani - By Jairo Rodrigues

By Jairo Rodrigues - March 1, 2014 Stabroek News

Some people are arguing that there is no longer a Mashramani, not even in the traditional sense of the word. Last week I questioned why we really celebrate the actual holiday if we do not have much to celebrate after having done little to no work but this week I want us to look at the evolution of our local celebration of the carnival festival.

There I said it 'carnival' festival – that single word can cause uproar in society. Mashramani is not carnival, yes; we know that but Mashramani is a carnival festival. What do you call the celebration then if you will argue it is not, a road party?

Mix culture, folklore, costumes, music, stories, arts and throw it into a pot of celebration and festivities and you have yourselves a carnival. More so, include a moving festival parade and you have a carnival parade (seems familiar?) Dictionary.com describes a carnival as: "Any merrymaking, revelry, or festival, as a program of sports or entertainment. A fair, celebration, fete, holiday and more traditionally, the season immediately preceding Lent, often observed with merrymaking; Shrovetide."

Carnival

There are many sites online that confirm this. Wikipedia is not an accepted academic source but the vast knowledge of a carnival, including lists of where it is celebrated and why, on that site is impeccable.

Yes, Trinidad and Tobago still celebrates this tradition before Lent and it has no name for its festival but carnival. Guyana, meanwhile, choosing to celebrate the birth of the Republic held a carnival festival but under the name 'Mashramani' which is Arawak-native for... well you know by now, it's repeated so many times that it's becoming a bit clichéd to say "A celebration after hard work."

Even so this festival has swayed away from its original purpose. We no longer celebrate our people and our work but use it for merriment, music and alcohol, paying no attention to the annual themes, the calypso competitions, and the list goes on and on. Today's Mashramani looks nothing like it did in 1970. Then we have the J'Ouvert parties and the Mardi Gras. J'Ouvert, unlike Mardi Gras, is actually Caribbean born and as Guyana always boasts, being the bridge and blessed to be both Caribbean and



South American, of course we picked up their cultures too and merged it into our own.

I am told that J'Ouvert has always been a celebration as long as Mashramani was in existence but only for the past two years or so did they give it a traditional name. 'J'Ouvert' is a contraction of the French Jour ouvert, or dawn/day break since a group of people would party all night until dawn. Yes, we Guyanese have been partying all night for years but it has only been recently that we titled these parties to promote the carnival-like atmosphere and to become more in tune with the Caribbean traditions and culture.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras on the other hand means 'Fat Tuesday' in the French Language. We celebrate it any day with the J'Ouvert festivities. Mardi Gras is the name of a carnival, celebrated by the French who partied and ate excessively before the Lenten season where one would be required to fast from food and other merriments. Mardi Gras often involves wild parties where people would dress in costumes depicting folklore creatures, throw powder, paint their skins and wear bright colours. We Guyanese have morphed the two French-named festivals: J'Ouvert and Mardi Gras into a single celebration on the night of February 22 into the morning of February 23.

Maybe because we were once colonized by the French, it makes it easier for us to bring those festivals into our local Republic festivities, or maybe it's because we're foreign minded. Perhaps.

Continued on Page 7

Guyana Foundation distributes Solar-powered light kits at Breezy Point

March 12, 2014 - KNEWS

Over the weekend of March 8-9, 2014, a team from the **Guyana Foundation** visited 'Breezy Point' where **solar-powered light kits** were donated to needy families in the area.

Breezy Point is a village situated on the bank of a GuySuco canal, between Brusche Dam and Coldingen Dam, East Coast of Demerara. This village is accessed over makeshift bridges built by residents from scrap wood. There is no running water in the community and no electricity. Many of the children and elderly live in very poor conditions.

The Guyana Foundation started working in the village several months ago, donating solar-powered light kits to needy families in the area. During this recent trip, the entity completed the distribution of light kits to every home in the area.

According to residents, the light kits have been most useful. They have enabled school children to study after dark. Also, since the light receptacles are portable, residents are able to use them to cross the bridges at night, to use outdoor toilet facilities, and much more.



Breezy Point residents crossing the canal to get to their homes after receiving their solar-powered kits

To commemorate International Women's Day, the Guyana Foundation team also visited some of the elderly ladies in the community – like Miss Emelda who is 73 years old. She has twenty children, fifty-six grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Miss Emelda, stricken by poverty and ill-health, still managed to welcome and thank the Guyana Foundation team for the gifts brought to her community.

The evolution of Mashramani - By Jairo Rodrigues (cont'd)

Continued from Page 6

Party Trucks

Party Trucks: Pulse Entertainment, Hits and Jams and Banks DIH to name the most vibrant and most talked about. Party trucks are the physical evidence of how Mashramani has devolved from a festival of people and celebration to drinking and partying.

I can understand Pulse and HJ, they are entertainment companies, but Banks DIH has for years 'Mashed' through the streets of Georgetown, sponsoring the local carnival, and winning top prizes for its costumes and bands. This year it went the party truck route.

Carib Beer (Ansa McAl) and Banks DIH have always rivalled each other for best costumes, largest band and promoting the Mashramami atmosphere but neither came out this year as per tradition; Carib was nonexistent and Banks had a party truck. This spells trouble for the future.

The evidence is there that Mashramani is no more and that Mashramani Carnival is the evolution of the Republic Day festival.

But there is the argument of globalization that sums up all I have written about the evolution (and devolution) of Mashramani. Basically the world has now become so interlinked that it is a global village. It is okay for us to evolve our local carnival into a more familiarized festival to the rest of the world's festivals. We can't stay in the 70s forever.

We always ask for tourists to come during this time of year so maybe we should have placed the world on the streets in Guyana. But while we have done this we have lost the origins of Mashramani, and so we have lost ourselves. Source link:

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/ani/print/>

Also read:

[The Birth of Guyana's Mashramani – By Dmitri Allicock](#)

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Time: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Hall
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Brooklyn, New York 11225



Donation: \$25 Adults; \$15 Children under 12 years



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Guyana 48th Independence Festival - Toronto



March 4, 2014

GUYANA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS 2014 – SAVE THE DATES!

The year 2014 marks 48 wonderful years of independence for our beloved nation, Guyana. This year, there are a number of events taking place to help us observe our nation's achievement:

On May 24 at 7pm at Empire Banquet Hall (246 Brockport Drive, Unit# 30, Toronto, ON), there will be a grand Independence Dinner and Dance! It will be a night of enjoyment and celebration where we toast to Guyana's birthday – 48 years and going strong.

On May 26 at 11am at Toronto City Hall (Podium Room) (100 Queen St W, Toronto, ON), there will be a Flag Raising Ceremony. It will be a solemn and ceremonial tribute to our nation on its 48th year of independence, helping to recognize Guyana in the City of Toronto and its environs.

On June 22 at The Soccer Centre (7601 Martin Grove Road, Vaughan, ON), the 19th Annual Guyana Independence Festival will be held! Please note our new location – better than ever to help us hold one of the best Festivals ever. Bring your family and friends out and join us for a day of Guyanese culture, food, music, sports and all-round fun. An event for the whole family, this year being held at *The Soccer Centre!*

I personally invite you to these events, and hope that you can come out and help celebrate another year of proud nationhood with the Guyanese Community!

One People, One Nation, One Destiny – Happy 48th Guyana!

Sattie Sawh
Hon. Consul General of Guyana to Toronto

CONTACT INFORMATION: By Phone – 416-494-6040 ext 23,
By E-mail – info@guyanaconsulate.com, Online – www.guyanaconsulate.com

GUYANA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF GUYANA
PRESENTS

Guyana's 48th Independence Anniversary

Dinner and Dance

SATURDAY, MAY 24TH, 2014

EMPIRE BANQUET HALL

**246 BROCKPORT DR., UNIT#30, TORONTO
(HWY 27 AND BELFIELD RD)**

COCKTAILS: 6:30PM

DINNER SERVED: 7:30PM

DRESS: SEMI FORMAL

**MUSIC BY: VICTOR SHIM
& THE SUREFIRE BAND
& DJ RYAN**

DONATION: \$50.00

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**Guyana Berbice Association– Washington DC Chapter
31st Annual Dinner & Dance - April 19, 2014**



**THE GUYANA BERBICE ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER**

Cordially invites you to attend its

***31st Annual Dinner & Dance
on Saturday, April 19, 2014***

at

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7963 Annapolis Road

Lanham, MD 20706

8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. • Cocktail Reception

9:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. • Welcome & Dinner

***** Dinner will be served promptly at 9:00 p.m. *****

10:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m. • Dance

Donation: \$90.00 (Open Bar)

Please make check payable to GBA

Send check to:

LaToya Godette

1503 Foster Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

*****Please reserve by March 29, 2014*****

For ticket reservation and hotel information contact members below:

Contacts:

Joan Bryain (301) 445-2161

Anthony Burness (202) 468-9201

Stella Clarke (301) 322-2651

Michaela Godene (202) 726-2635

Shabiki Clarke (301) 509-7496

LaToya Godette (301) 437-0855

Neville Vogleson (301) 434-4259

Guyana Ex– Soldiers Association (Canada)
Annual Oldies Dance– May 24, 2014

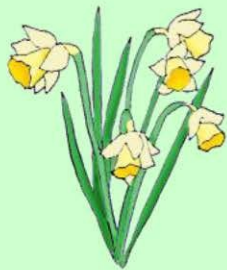


**GUYANA EX-SOLDIERS
ASSOCIATION (CANADA)**

FLING INTO



**AT THE GESAC
ANNUAL OLDIES DANCE**



**East Toronto Masonic Temple
15 Chisholm Ave.
(West of Main St. / North of Danforth)**

**Saturday
May 24, 2014**



FOR MORE INFO CALL:

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O. Rose – 905-686-9341 ✧ D. Allen – 905-567-4464

Red Thread's Karen De Souza cops Caribbean Award for Excellence

(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN). – February 22, 2014

Guyana's Karen De Souza of the women and children's rights organisation-**Red Thread**- is among three persons who are 2014 laureates of the Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence.

De Souza was awarded for Public and Civic Contributions.

The others are Professor Liam Teague of Trinidad in the category of f Arts and Letters and Dr. Richard Robertson of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the field of Science & Technology.

The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence (ANSCAFE) is the English-speaking Caribbean's leading recognition programme in Arts, Sciences, and Public and Civic Work. The Ansa McAL Foundation launched this awards programme in October 2005.

Up to 2010, the awards were made biennially but in 2011 the Caribbean Awards for Excellence became an annual event. Since 2006, when the first laureates were named, several sets of laureates have been presented with prizes: in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011 and annually thereafter in Port-of-Spain.

The goal of the Ansa Caribbean Awards for Excellence is to recognise significant Caribbean achievement, to encourage and to support the pursuit of excellence by Caribbean people, for the benefit of the region.

This is the first such recognition programme of its kind. It is privately funded, free of political and other influence, and offers tangible, significant benefit to the laureates. It is the most noteworthy philanthropic initiative by a Caribbean organisation in recent times.

KAREN DE SOUZA

Karen de Souza is a women's and children's rights activist from Guyana.

- Karen de Souza is a women's and children's rights activist from Guyana.
- She is the co-founder of **Red Thread**, an advocacy organisation which provides service and support, education, and advocacy for victims of rape and domestic and other forms of violence and for the low-est-waged sectors of women.

Red Thread's Karen De Souza



- De Souza and Red Thread also do research and have contributed to the drafting of laws and training for judicial officers to support protection of women and children and victims of human trafficking.
- They also participate in national, international and regional agency programmes on areas of interest, as well as taking education directly to the people.
- Since co-founding Red Thread in 1986, de Souza has worked tirelessly for the organisation in an entirely voluntary capacity.
- Her leadership has enabled the provision of services like face-to-face counselling in a drop-in centre for women and children and survivors of rape and abuse, and enabled the rescue of victims of domestic violence.
- The organisation participates in court proceedings, legislative initiatives and international conferences on women's and children's welfare.

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TO
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2014
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FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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US embassy honours Guyanese Woman of Courage



Zenita Nicholson receives US Embassy's International Woman of Courage Award from Charge d' Affaires, Bryan Hunt

Wednesday, 12 March 2014 CND

Guyanese civil society activist, **Zenita Nicholson** was on Wednesday, March 12, awarded the United States (US) embassy's first International Woman of Courage Award for her work against homophobia and fighting for women's rights.

"This award is about courage and leadership. Zenita Nicholson embodies these principles and exemplifies the traditions of personal freedom and equality that remain shared values between Guyana and the United States," said US Embassy Charge d'Affaires, Bryan Hunt before presenting her with the award.

Inscribed are the words "In Recognition of your exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and empowerment and raising public awareness to protect the human rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons." The award, in recognition of International Women's Day that was observed on March 8, was established in 2007 by the Secretary of State to honour women globally who have exemplified exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for human rights, women's equality and social progress often at great risk.

Nicholson was also credited for her work to improve the conditions of women and children through advocacy and education. The lobbyist is a volunteer with the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) and Country Coordinator for Caribbean Vulnerable Communities/ PANCAP Global

Fund Round 9 "Vulnerable Groups" project.

In her acceptance speech, Nicholson said the award was testimony to the support of others including her mother and children. She said her advocacy has been inspired by the LGBT community in Guyana- "a country where adult same-sex intimacy and cross-dressing are criminalized and highly stigmatized", "those whose daily lives are filled with violence, rejection, abuse and discrimination" and "those who are being denied their rights to work, health, education and freedom of expression, and other basic rights that many of us take for granted."

She dedicated the award to the LGBT Guyanese who fight daily struggles for their very existence, without recognition, reward or recompense. She also accepted the award in memories of Charcoe, Tiffany, Darshanie and others "whose lives were snuffed out due to hate and stigma".

Nicholson has lobbied and engaged government, local politicians, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, Guyana's Committee on Rights of the Child and the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to improve the lot of the LGBT community, children and women.

The New Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Main Street, Georgetown



THE Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery on Main Street, Georgetown, has been rebuilt after being demolished by a fire that struck on Christmas Morning 2004.

<https://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/2013/03/31/sacred-heart-church-to-be-reopened-in-december-2013/>

Paving the way for foreign drug lords

FEBRUARY 16, 2014 | BY KNEWS | EDITORIAL

IS GUYANA BEING TAKEN OVER BY NON-NATIONALS?

It really should come as no surprise that Brazilian bandits are operating in the Lethem area. What is not known is if they have engaged in similar activities in other parts of the country. We recall the murders of two serving members of the police force allegedly by non-nationals in the interior about two years ago.

Porous Borders

Therefore it is worth examining the likely challenges these portend for law enforcement. The fact that policing in Guyana is fraught with myriad difficulties not to mention resource constraints demands that a careful study be undertaken of this emergent phenomenon. Additionally, our porous borders tend to facilitate the influx of undocumented migrants from Guyana's neighbours.

This in and of itself is an untenable situation in which we find ourselves, and where we expect much from our under-endowed law enforcement officers.

Ineffective Immigration Policies

It is incumbent upon the administration to revisit its approach to several issues, not least of which is the urgent recapitalisation of the disciplined services in consonance with the vibrant enforcement of an immigration policy that is relevant.

It is not hard to imagine who might have been blamed for the attempted robbery if the Lethem three had not been caught especially in our stagnant yet volatile political environment. Maybe the relevant ministry can tell us how many non-nationals have been documented in the past year. This question is important in view of the fact that large numbers of Brazilians and Chinese can be seen in almost all areas of this country.

Proliferation of Non-Nationals

The proliferation of non-nationals in this country should occasion some degree of unease since among them are likely to be those seen as undesirable even in their country of origin. Of course the more recent revelations that Guyana is home to a Mexican cartel operating in concert with the Italian Mafia, is sufficient to raise our apprehensions that not enough is being done to monitor inward migration trends.

The fact that we welcome foreign investors does not preclude the exercise of due diligence in view of the possibility that this country could be vulnerable to the influence of gangs including the Chinese triads. More to the point is that right next door is Brazil which has been particularly impacted by gangs and transnational organized crime which pose serious national security problems for the Brazilian authorities with the illegal trafficking of narcotics.

Can Guyana Cope?

The issue that arises is whether Guyana has the appropriate coping mechanisms in place to deal with the potential presence of Brazilian gangs whose very existence poses a threat to the country's effective sovereignty.

The unimpeded flow of persons across national borders make countries like Guyana susceptible to transnational organized crime which also tend to undermine a state's sovereignty, authority, and capacity to confront the perpetrators of certain crimes against the state. Non-state actors in the form of violent criminal enterprises compromise a government's ability to perform its legitimizing functions.

Satellite of Brazilian gangs?

This is evident in the scale of execution-type murder, kidnapping, intimidation, corruption, and other means of coercion that are brought to bear upon public officials. All of this means that where these are allowed to go unchecked transnational gangs eventually appropriate to themselves portions of a nation's territory, assuming and directly performing the tasks of government effectively operating as states within a state.

As a matter of extreme urgency the government must take all necessary steps to ensure that we do not become a satellite of Brazilian gangs like the Red Command, Friends of Friends, and the First Capital Command.

This brings another troubling aspect of transnational criminal enterprise into focus, and that is the will and willingness to come into conflict with the influence of unlimited funds. The current non-passage of the anti-money laundering legislation is showing to the world a seeming inclination to facilitate the beneficiaries of the illegal drug trade, and ultimately the sponsors of terrorism.

Commissioners for COI into Walter Rodney's assassination sworn in

FEBRUARY 25, 2014 BY GINA

Three Caribbean jurists today took the Oath of Office before President Donald Ramotar as commissioners who will lead the inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of the late, Dr. Walter Rodney, a Guyanese historian and political activist, who was assassinated in Guyana in 1980

Caribbean Jurists appointed

The three-member commission comprises top Barbadian attorney, Queen's Counsel, Sir Richard Cheltenham, (the commission's Chairperson), Queen's Counsel Jacqueline Samuels-Brown from Jamaica and Senior Counsel Seenath Jairam from Trinidad and Tobago.

Rodney's 33rd Death Anniversary

The establishment of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) was first made by President Ramotar in June last, on the occasion of Dr. Rodney's 33rd death anniversary as per request by his family members.

The President said that it is the hope of the Government that the work and findings of this commission will bring conclusion to some of the outstanding issues surrounding Dr. Rodney's assassination.

"They will advise how ready they are in the process of evidence gathering and how many witness statements they have prepared, and if not, how soon they are likely to have enough prepared so that the inquiry can be started," the Chairperson said.

The commission is hoping to have over 100 witnesses coming forward in a process that will be open to the public and the press.

Meeting with GDF

Subsequent to the swearing in, the commissioners met with Police Commissioner, Leroy Brumell, Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), Brigadier Mark Phillips and members of the Private Sector Commission (PSC).

Dr. Rodney a political challenger to the then Forbes Burnham administration was killed on June 13, 1980 when an explosive device that was concealed in a walkie talkie radio detonated. The device was said to have been given to him by a former GDF Sergeant who later fled to French Guiana where he remained in exile until his death several years ago.



President Donald Ramotar and newly sworn-in commissioners, Senior Counsel Seenath Jairam (left), Queen's Counsel, Sir Richard Cheltenham and Queen's Counsel, Jacqueline Samuels-Brown

St. Stanislaus College Alumni - Toronto Spring Fling Saturday April 5, 2014



West Rouge Community Centre
270 Rouge Hill Drive
Toronto, Ontario Canada.
(Hwy 401/ Hwy 2 Port Union Drive)

Saturday April 5, 2014

Music by DJ Get Busy
Dinner served from 7- 9.00 pm
Catered by Rose D' Ornellas
Donation \$45.00

Download Flyer for full details and ticket info -
[SAINTS SPRING DANCE 2014 \(1\)](#)

Overpayments, financial irregularities by Ministries at intolerable level – Goolsarran

MARCH 6, 2014 | BY KNEWS | FILED UNDER NEWS

Former Auditor General, Anand Goolsarran

Several Ministries have been hauled before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in recent weeks based on financial irregularities documented in the reports of the Auditor General (AG).



Overpayments to Contractors

The AG Report has shown that among some of the glaring financial irregularities, there were instances where millions of dollars in overpayments were made to contractors for work that was not completed. Considering this, Former Auditor General, Anand Goolsarran is calling for the implementation of an organized internal audit system to police the accounting systems of Ministries daily. This is in an effort to prevent some of the financial indiscretions.

Just recently senior officials of Region One Barima-Waini were summoned before the body based on the examination of the 2011 Auditor General Report. The PAC blazed the Regional officers for an engineer who approved the overpayment of \$1M to add a new section to the Regional Administration Office at Mabaruma, which has not been done.

Previous reports said that the contract had been awarded to B. Boodhoo General Construction. The Regional Executive Officer (REO), Nigel Fisher, informed members of the Committee that the engineer, unfortunately, cannot be located.

Overpayment of salaries

Even the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, Mr. Alfred King, was made to face the music last month after an intense grilling by members of the Committee on the overpayment of salaries to staff members.

These monies are still to be recovered. According to the reports, 10 staff members were overpaid. King explained that rigid systems have been implemented since the incident. But he was unable to indicate whether the outstanding balance could be recovered.

Need for Accounting standards

PAC members from both the Government and the Opposition's side have been extremely critical of the Permanent Secretaries and other representatives of

the Ministries for the irregularities. They expressed clearly their disapproval for such intolerable behavior when monies are overpaid or cannot be found. In an invited comment, Goolsarran, a Financial Analyst said that based on these findings, it is a clear indication that there is a serious need for international accounting standards and an organized system of internal audit for the government agencies.

Firstly, Goolsarran explained that agencies of the state according to the Constitution have to be audited by the Auditor General (AG). [\[read more\]](#)

President meets police top brass over crime spike



President Donald Ramotar (left) meeting with Police top brass today to address the recent spike in crime and to examine measures to reduce it.

Also in photo are from right to left: Police Commissioner Leroy Brumell, Crime Chief Seelall Persaud, Assistant Commissioner Balram Persaud, Commander 'A' Division, George Vyphuis and Presidential Advisor and former Minister of Home Affairs, Gail Teixeira. (GINA photo)

FEBRUARY 21, 2014 · BY STABROEK NEWS · COMMENTS

President Donald Ramotar today met with the police top brass amid a spike in crime, the Government Information Agency said. It provided no further details. Yesterday alone, two murders occurred during robberies and another man was shot twice on Church Street and money stolen from him. There has been an upsurge in gun-related crimes and murders this year and the police have seemed unable to do anything about it. The continuing crime wave is occurring amid a year-old reform plan announced by Home Affairs Minister Clement Rohee on December 31st, 2012.

Keith Lowenfield, is new Chief Election Officer

March 13, 2014 - KNEWS

GEC Elections Commission (GECOM) has picked one of its top officials as the new Chief Elections Officer (CEO).

Keith Lowenfield is one of four persons shortlisted from 14 applications, GECOM confirmed yesterday. (March 12, 2014).

Lowenfield, a former army official, would have been given the nod ahead of Calvin Benn, the acting CEO who took over after the non-renewal of the contract of Gocool Boodoo early last year, but decided to pull out of the race earlier this month.

Benn and Lowenfield were among four shortlisted, along with Jamaican Danville Walker and Washington-based Savitrie Singh.

According to GECOM in a statement on the appointment, its Commissioners yesterday decided unanimously to appoint Lowenfield, said to be in his mid-50's, as the new Chief Elections Officer and Commissioner of National Registration. The decision was taken at a special meeting of GECOM yesterday.



Keith Lowenfield

GECOM said that appointment would bring to an end "a very lengthy and meticulous procedure" associated with the matter including advertising the vacancy locally and overseas and the shortlisting of suitable candidates from the 14 applications received. It also involved determining the procedures for the interviews and the actual interviews.

GECOM said that Benn, who served as the acting CEO, was not interviewed because he tendered a letter earlier this month, "informing regretfully that he was no longer interested in the post of Chief Elections Officer and that, by way of the said letter, he was withdrawing his application for the post."

Benn, according to GECOM, indicated that he had engaged in some serious reflection during a recent period of illness and had concluded that it would be unwise to compete for the position.

Following GECOM's decision, Lowenfield was summoned to before the Commissioners and informed of his appointment. [\[Read more\]](#)

Corruption laws not effectively implemented in Guyana

US State Department Report

MARCH 6, 2014 | BY [KNEWS](#)

Although the laws of Guyana provides for criminal penalties for corruption by officials, Government however, did not implement these effectively. This was one of the major concerns which were highlighted in the US Human Rights Report which was recently released by the State Department.

Corruption, according to the Report, remained a widespread public perception involving officials at all levels, including the police and the judiciary. Even the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators have assessed that Government corruption was a serious problem.

Even though under the Constitution, the Office of the Auditor General, Public Procurement Commission (PPC), and the Integrity Commission which all have mandated roles in the area of government transparency and accountability, two are yet to be established.

According to the Report, the Office of the Auditor General scrutinizes the expenditure of public funds on



behalf of Parliament and conducts financial audits of all publicly funded entities, including donor-funded entities, local government agencies, and trade unions, and reports to the National Assembly.

It notes however, that the work and effectiveness of the Audit Office remained limited, since Government may or may not act on the discrepancies noted in its reports. Moreover, the Constitution has called for the establishment of a PPC to monitor public procurement and ensure that authorities conduct the procurement of goods and services in a fair, transparent, competitive, and cost-effective manner.

There has been significant public criticism of the present system's ineffectiveness in awarding Government contracts in an equitable and transparent manner. Under pressure from Opposition parties in Parliament, the Government promised to establish the PPC by June 2012; however, it has not done so to date. [\[Read more\]](#)

Deplorable prison and jail conditions flagged in US State Dept Report

March 6, 2014 - KNEWS

The 2013 US Human Rights Report has not given Guyana a passing grade. The Report which was published last week, noted that the most serious human rights abuses involved suspects' and detainees' complaints of mistreatment by security forces, unlawful killings by police, and poor prison and jail conditions.

The Report said that other human rights problems included lengthy pretrial detentions, allegations of Government corruption, including police officials; excessive Government influence over the content of the national television network, and continued restrictions on radio licensing; sexual and domestic violence against women; abuse of minors; and laws that discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) persons.

Even though torture and other cruel inhuman treatment are against the law, the Report noted that these activities still occurred. It was noted that in 2012 the Police Complainants Authority received 36 complaints of unnecessary use of violence. The media, according to the Report had highlighted several

cases of random police brutality, arrest, and interrogation prior to investigation.

The Report singled out the Marudi police beating as one of the activities. "On March 2, police used force to clear protesters in the Marudi mining district and they allegedly used whips and sticks to beat local miners protesting their alleged unlawful removal from the area they claimed for their own use" the Report said.

It was noted that several protesters required medical treatment at a local hospital. On March 4, Natural Resources Minister Robert Persaud ordered an inquest into the alleged beatings by police. However as of October that inquest had not been performed. Another incident of alleged police beating was on May 19, when Natasha Blackman claimed police tortured her into falsely admitting that she knew Chaka Chase, who the police alleged killed policeman Romain Cleto back in April. [\[Read more\]](#)



Ministry of Home Affairs, Guyana

Road to Amaila Falls hydropower site nearly done

February 1, 2014 CND

The Amaila Falls Access road is on track to meet a March 2014 deadline, as it has reached a completion rate of 80 percent, 50 of which was done in 2013, Engineer attached to the Ministry of Public Works, Walter Willis told the media.

ON Feb 1, Willis gave the completion rates for the various sections as: Section 2A-89 percent; Section 2B-32 percent; Section 3-73 percent, Section 4-99 percent, Section 5-98 percent, Section 6 - 55 percent and Section 7 (the longest) - 74 percent, Willis said.

He said that what remains now to be completed on the road is placing a total of 120 kilometres of laterite on all the sections, an aspect of the construction that is very dependent on the weather.

There is also 2.5km in Section 2, (close to the Essequibo River, in the swampy section) which is being worked on at present. Other outstanding work relating to the road is the incomplete construction of several bridges across the creeks. He said there are outstanding crossings at Kuribrong and Butukari.

The bridges that remain to be done are; in Section 2- two of green heart, in Section 6- one greenheart that at the end of December, 2013 was 50 percent completed, and in Section 7, one steel bridge. Work on the bridges is expected to be completed in March 2014, he said.

The current contractor on the roadway is China Railway in Section 7, Mekdeci Machinery and Construction (MMC) in Section 2, Toolsie Persaud Quarries in Sections 3 and 4, Ivor Allen-Section 5, and Ivor Allen, and Dwarka Nauth Construction in Section 6.

The Kuirbrong bridge crossing is a separate contract from the roadway. Thus far, the design for this crossing has been completed by Dynamic Engineering, but funding has to be approved by the National Assembly, in order to move this aspect of the project forward.

Consideration is now on whether to have a fixed bridge or a pontoon crossing, while the annual maintenance manual is being compiled by consultant SRKN Engineering.

CONVIASA begins commercial flights to Guyana

February 15, 2014 Caribbean news Now
Guyana: **CONVIASA** launched its first commercial flight to Guyana on January 25, 2014.

The **Venezuelan-based** carrier is currently operating once weekly flights to Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) out of Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, where a large Guyanese community is based. Additional flights will be added once the passenger demand increases.

“CONVIASA’s entry to the Guyana’s aviation sector is a significant step for us,” stated Robeson Benn, minister responsible for transport. “It has always been our goal to have our travelling public undertake new regional connections at competitive prices.”

CONVIASA has been on a major expansion in Venezuela, South America



Conviasa 737-200

and the Caribbean – Guyana is the airline’s 10th international destination.

CJIA’s chief executive officer (CEO) Ramesh Ghir stated that CONVIASA’s presence is one step closer in the ministry of public works/CJIA’s plan to transform the Timehri facility into the ‘next generation hub’.

On February 8, the airline brought in and carried out 53 passengers on its flight.

COPA Airlines may shake up Guyana's aviation sector

[Commentary by By Ray Chickrie](#)

In 2011, I penned a letter to the media urging the government of Guyana to enter negotiation with **COPA airlines of Panama**, a member of the global giant, Star Alliance, to fly to Guyana. This will soon become a reality. COPA will add Guyana to its vast international network on July 11, which may shake up the Guyana aviation sector.

This is a significant achievement for Guyana’s foreign minister, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett who played a pivotal role behind the scenes in getting COPA to enter the Guyana market.

COPA has 90 planes in its fleet, and 46 Boeing 737-NG on order, and has the support of the government of Panama and Tocumen Airport. It is one of the fastest growing and profitable airlines in the world. In addition, with a hub like Panama City connecting Guyanese to 60 cities worldwide, and without having to travel to the USA to con-

nect to Latin America, Europe, and Asia, COPA’s announcement of entering the Guyana market is welcome news for Guyanese travelers since KLM, British Airways, Air France and Pan Am left Guyana.

Tocumen Airport in Panama City has comfortable lounges, many restaurants and superb duty-free shops. Guyanese travelers who are accustomed to Piarco Airport in Trinidad will be impressed. Connections will be fast and convenient because COPA offers 300 flights daily to 60 cities in South and Central America, the Caribbean, and North America. As well, this service will link Guyana to Europe more conveniently.

Panama offers a hub outside of the United States that can connect travelers to and from Guyana easily to Asia, Europe and South America without the hassle and difficulty of securing a US transit visa. [\[Read more\]](#)

Website Links Hotels, Eco-resorts. etc

[Adel’s Rainforest Resort](#)

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

[Baganara Island Resort](#)

[Bradsville Apartments](#)

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[Iwokrama Forest -](#)

[Kanuku Suites](#)

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[Rock View Lodge, Rupununi](#)

[Roraima Airways, Hotels and Companies](#)

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[Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](#)

[Status International Hotel](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)

Nursing education in the doldrums- Nurses Association

March 7, 2014—CND

The Guyana Nurses Association (GNA) on Friday called on the Ministry of Health to stop taking in more students at nursing schools countywide until overcrowding and poor teaching and learning conditions are addressed.

“For some time now, we remained silent while the powers that be consciously or unconsciously manipulated all affairs and aspects of nursing bringing our profession to what it is today,” the association said in a statement.

The GNA also flayed the Health Ministry for improperly implementing a new curriculum at the Georgetown School of Nursing in 2010 with 500 students rather than at the Charles Roza School of Nursing in Region 10 as a pilot programme. The association recalled that the pilot should have been conducted at a smaller school in keeping with a recommendation by a Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) consultant following a review. The GNA noted, however, that it was an un-reviewed draft curriculum that was implemented at all nursing schools as was instructed by the decision makers of the Ministry of Health.

Unlike the previous curriculum that had provided for two preliminary examinations, the PAHO model had continuous assessment that required clinical instructors and assessment tools; neither of which was put in place. The GNA said that led to the General Nursing Council introducing an Intermediate Examination to assess the level of competency of students.

The GNA lamented the shortage of clinical supervisors (part-time tutors) who assist students in clinical areas. Grave concern and outrage have been expressed by the GNA that the Ministry of Health was still enrolling students in the Schools of Nursing without meeting the stipulated criteria for implementation of the curriculum. “To date, three batches of students have since been enrolled in the three Schools of Nursing since the implementation of the current curriculum,” added the GNA.

The GNA recommended the cessation of intake until there is some form of stability and measures are put in place to remedy this situation so that unsuccessful students can be assisted. Other recommendations include a review draft curriculum currently being used by the schools, revisiting of the Procedure Manuals, recruitment and training of tutors, training and appointment of clinical instructors and the upgrading of skills lab.



The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation

The GNA is also demanding that the Ministry of Health and the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation ink a Memorandum of Understanding for designated wards to be used for teaching /learning purposes. They must also be fully equipped with all necessary tools for learning, said the association. That recommendation has been made against the background of concerns that there has been reduced bed capacity at the GPHC since that medical institution has been “down sized” to approximately 450 total bed capacity. At the same time, the GNA noted that there has been an increase in the number of students competing with other health professionals such as medical students, Medex students, interns and other nursing students from private institutions, and the GPHC’s “full time” staff, for learning experience.

The removal of direct control of Nursing Schools by the Ministry of Health, the GNA said, must be removed and placed in the hands of Boards of Directors and all matters pertaining to nursing must be managed by the competent nursing administrators such as Director of Nursing/ Matrons, Principal Tutors) in the various institutions. Also being recommended are a review of Student Policy and the enrollment of smaller batches twice per year.

Other concerns that the GNA want addressed are inadequate number of trained full-time tutors, inadequate teaching/learning materials, need for full-time counselors, ill-equipped small skills lab, reduced time spent on specialized areas (reduced from 1 month to 2 weeks), inadequate lighting and ventilation in the classrooms, gross indiscipline of students, alarmingly high absenteeism rate and very poor punctuality.

[\[Read more - View Student Tutor Population Chart\]](#)

Malaria Mosquito Control and Treatment in Guyana

Malaria is caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected mosquitoes. The vector-borne disease that affects the immune system of those infected, is the cause of thousands of deaths, worldwide, every year. Malaria mortality rates however, continue to fall as increased malaria prevention and control measures continue to dramatically reduce the impact of the disease.

In Guyana, efforts at combating the disease, driven through the Vector Control Services (VCS) of the Ministry of Health continue to bear fruit. According to the latest figures, for 2013, Guyana has seen a reduction by 15 percent in the number of malaria cases. There were 31,602 reported cases in 2012, as against 23,498 cases in 2013. The VCS is employing multiple interventions, but the prime focus remains, early diagnosis and treatment to prevent death.

Early Diagnostic and prompt treatments

The Hinterland locations, mainly regions mainly 1, 7, 8 and 9, continue to remain the most vulnerable to the disease. Within these regions, climatic and other conditions favour transmission. Transmission also occurs when people with low immunity move into the areas, for instance to find work and are negligent in taking protective measures such as sleeping under mosquito nets and using insect repellents.

The VCS concentrates most of its outreaches to

these regions. For 2013, it conducted field visits encompassing entire villages, mining and logging camps.

Going into these malaria affected regions, the health workers, first look for the disease indicators. They either conduct a mass smearing (mass blood examination for malaria) or chose to, depending on their assessment of the situation, conduct a fever case survey (fever test to determine malaria,) and then determine if persons with a fever, will get a smear. All smears are conducted on site and persons diagnosed as having malaria are treated. [\[Read more\]](#)



Vector Control Services staff, lead by Dr Reyaud Rahaman in Jawalla, Region 7

Sophia youths benefit from adolescent health fair

February 25, 2014 GINA

The Ministry of Health through the Adolescent Department, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), recently hosted an interactive session and adolescent fair at the Sophia Health Centre, allowing youths to have access to youth friendly services in health education.

The fair which is one of many to be held in several other communities featured exhibits to educate both youths and their parents through photos, posters, brochures, magazines and artifacts.

Minister of Health Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, speaking to the adolescents, pointed out that youth friendly services should not be only confined to health centres, but that there should be further development for more health activities being carried out in the area for the benefits of the youths. [\[Read more\]](#)



Children of Sophia viewing an exhibit at the Adolescent Health Fair at the area's health centre

New Venezuelan rice deal being finalized

... despite ongoing unrests in Venezuela –

February 27, 2014 - KNEWS

Government says that its rice exports to neighbouring Venezuela will not be affected by ongoing unrests there which left several dead in riots.

The situation has raised worrying questions whether the multi-billion dollar oil-for-rice deal between the two countries will be threatened as Venezuelans are calling for President Nicolas Maduro to pull back the economy decline of that country.

Petro Caribe Deal

One of the areas Maduro is under pressure for is the Petro Caribe oil concessions with 17 states, including members of CARICOM. Under the deal, the countries are sold oil cheap under concessionary rates and with options to pay over a 20 year period.

On February 27, Agriculture Minister, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy disclosed that a new rice deal is in its final stages with exports to Venezuela expected to

resume operation once all the logistics has been completed between the two Governments.

MOU signed for rice purchases

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, last week, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), was inked between La Casa, on behalf of the Venezuelan and Guyana's Ambassador to Venezuela, Geoff Da Silva.

"We have made progress in completing arrangements for shipment of rice to begin. There are three stages in terms of the annual shipment of rice to Venezuela... at year-end, we have a period of reconciliation in order for Venezuela to issue payment to the Ministry of Finance," Ramsammy said.

Last year, under the 2013 deal, Guyana had to deliver 140,000 tonnes of seed paddy and 70,000 tonnes of white rice, valued US\$128.8M.

With the MOA already inked, the final stage of the Guyana/Venezuela agreement is near completion.

GAWU voices grave concern over sugar

-calls for revamped GuySuCo board

FEBRUARY 21, 2014 · BY [STABROEK EDITOR](#) · [COMMENTS](#)

The main sugar union GAWU, today expressed grave concern over the state of the sugar industry and urged the revamping of the GuySuCo board.

GAWU Republic Anniversary message

In its Republic Anniversary message, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union said:

"From GAWU's perspective the most negative occurrence in the recent history of the Republic is the real, clear and present danger to Guyana's sugar industry which employs thousands of our members. The blame game can never restore the fortunes of this life line economic industry. A revamped GuySuCo board and management skill sets; motivation for harvesters and factory workers to returns to the fields and ancillary projects, among other things, all must combine to bring sugar back".

While traditionally closely aligned to the PPP/C, GAWU has taken an increasingly critical and independent line over the government's and GuySuCo's handling of the industry. Years of poor sugar production and financial results and intractable problems at

the intended flagship Skeldon factory have left analysts pondering the fate of the industry.

The union also called for political dialogue at the highest levels to settle the country's problems in a move that would also be seen as a divergence from the PPP/C line that the opposition has behaved irresponsibly.

The union said:

"Elsewhere in the Republic GAWU sees the need for political dialogue at the highest levels to resolve differences affecting the productive management of the state, its resources and governance.

Selfish "victories" should not prevent brilliant minds from both sides of the aisle, to bargain agreements to overcome parliamentary, budgetary, legislative or even judicial challenges. The 2011 electorate expects nothing less from our parliamentary legislators and political representatives."

GAWU's full message follows: [[click link below](#)]

[GAWU's 2014 Republic Anniversary Message](#)

Chinese shipyard at Coverden opened



President Donald Ramotar addressing the opening of the Chinese owned Zhanghao Shipyard in Coverden, East Bank Demerara

Georgetown, GINA, February 28, 2014

Partnerships are indispensable to spurring Guyana to its fullest economic heights, and as such President Donald Ramotar today extended a welcoming hand to all Chinese investors.

The President was at the time addressing the opening of the Chinese owned **Zhanghao Shipyard** in Coverden, East Bank Demerara, and also the launch and naming ceremony for a logging vessel christened the 'Yhan Heng freighter'. Also present were Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, Minister of Agriculture Dr. Leslie Ramsammy and Chinese Ambassador to Guyana Zhang Limin.

"I want to extend special greetings to the Chinese investors who have come here and to let them know that they are welcome in Guyana," President Ramotar said.

The President noted that China has tremendous capabilities, evident by the tremendous progress that the country has made in just over three decades. China's growth is also unmatched, when compared to equivalent countries in any part of the world, he said.

Yhan Heng freighter

Construction on the Zhanghao shipyard started in 2012, but it wasn't until late 2013 that construction began on the vessel that was meant to facilitate the transport of logs from Kwakwani where the company owns a logging concession.

The vessel, whose design and engine are Chinese, and its steel plates pre-formed in China as well, has



President Donald Ramotar, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, Minister of Agriculture Dr. Leslie Ramsammy and Chinese Ambassador to Guyana Zhang Limin with the owners of the Zhanghao Shipyard at Coverden, East Bank Demerara.

the capacity to carry 200,000 tonnes of logs and six crew members and will take about four days from Kwakwani to the shipyard in Coverden, laden with the logs. The vessel was constructed with efficiency and pace by the workers of the company with 95 percent of the work being completed in just over three months.

President Ramotar said that the Zhanghao investment has the potential to revitalise the local ship building which has declined in Guyana. "For me this is a really joyous occasion, because what we are seeing here is the expansion of our production capacity... this investment here will certainly help to stimulate other activities and allow the use of our rivers to cheapen transportation cost," he said.

Analysts give Qualfon (Guyana) high marks



Qualfon, a leading business process outsourcing (BPO) and call center service provider, recently hosted two Frost & Sullivan analysts in Guyana.

The purpose of the visit was to enable Michael DeSalles, Principal Analyst with Frost & Sullivan's Contact Center Group, and Stephen Loynd, Global Program Director, to see in person this emerging market in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry and to allow them the opportunity to have open access to Qualfon's contact center operations in Georgetown, the capital city of Guyana.

Getting to know Guyana

"We spent time getting to know Guyana and were impressed by what this country has to offer in terms of unique characteristics for outsourced services," Loynd was quoted by PR Newswire as saying during his visit to Guyana. "What we found is that, indeed, Guyana is strategically positioned to be a major player. Because Guyana's population speaks English as a first language, has a high cultural affinity to the USA, has a high literacy rate, and offers a cost structure that directly competes with India and the Philippines, it provides a real opportunity."

Meetings with Qualfon Executives

The analysts met with Qualfon executives and toured three of its locations, including two existing centers and the future site of Qualfon's contact center campus, which will employ 6,000 people and be one of the world's largest contact center operations.

"Qualfon gave us access to their operations, management team, and customer service agents. We listened to calls and then had a focus group with just the agents. I was very impressed with their customer service skills. The English is very neutral and there was no apparent language or cultural barrier in our discussions. The agents also had a passion for both their jobs and a strong loyalty to Qualfon," said DeSalles. "Qualfon is becoming a serious BPO contender, and when potential buyers approach them, they will come to understand how Qualfon's high agent retention rates provide a higher quality service

at a lower price. This is a very big part of an attractive value proposition. Also, their massive strategic investments in Guyana make it clear that Qualfon is committed to driving high growth in this market.

Meeting with Government Minister

"During the visit, Qualfon also introduced the analysts to Guyana's Minister of Finance, Dr. Ashni Kumar Singh M.P. They also had meetings with representatives from GO-Invest, the government-backed organization that provides tax breaks and assistance to foreign investors. "We enjoyed the friendly and open discussion we had with Minister Singh," said Loynd. "He is very knowledgeable about the BPO industry and is actively supporting its growth in Guyana. He also stated that Qualfon has been a valuable partner for Guyana and its people, and it is leading the way for future development."

"We were so glad that Stephen and Michael were able to join us in Guyana to see the country and experience Qualfon operations firsthand," said Brian Kearney, V.P. of Marketing at Qualfon. "We coordinated their visit at the same time as our company leadership summit in Guyana, so they could also spend some quality time with our executive leadership team. It was great for our executives to get Stephen and Michael's perspective on industry trends, and being able to understand how Qualfon's mission to 'be the best BPO and make people's lives better' embraced across our entire organization."

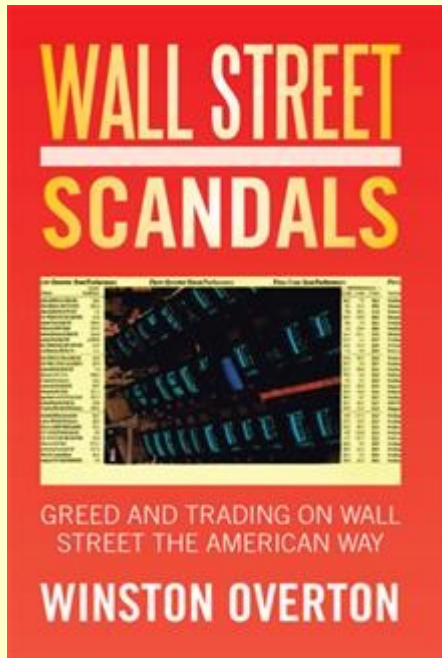
Strong Track record

Qualfon has a strong track record of customer service and back-office processing growth with experienced business processing outsourcing (BPO) leadership. We have been serving our BPO clients since our founding in 1996, and today, we are 10,000 employees serving an international base of clients. Qualfon operates in the Philippines, Guyana, Mexico, the United States, and China. Our mission is "Be the Best BPO. Make People's Lives Better." Qualfon invests in the well-being of our people who, in return, are taking better care of customers, clients, and communities. Our employee tenure is twice the industry average, which enables us to offer highly skilled and highly engaged people that provide a better customer experience. In addition, our lower employee attrition and strategic locations enable us to provide our services at a lower cost. <http://www.Qualfon.com>

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

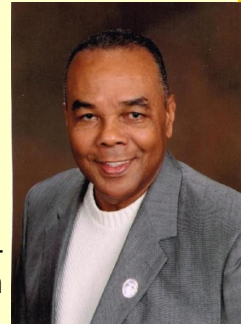
Read an Expose' on the operational indiscretions at Stock Exchanges in the United States. A compelling account of shady business practices and historical events as it affects the economy and the small investors on Wall Street.

Be informed about executives of mega-corporations, 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/WallStreetScan>

BLOG ENTRIES - February 2014

Note: Click on the titles to read the blog entries

Views for Feb-Mar 2014 = 73,134

Total views at February 28 = 1,962,826

1. Venezuelans Will Withstand Right-Wing Protests – commentary
2. Hot Hot Chutney Party Mix ! (Non-Stop Party & Dance Songs)
3. MASH 2014 – Guyana Calypso Monarch 2014 – “De Professor”
4. 2014 Carnival SOCA MIX – PT 1 of 7 (New 2014 releases)
5. MASH 2014 – SOCA releases – music videos
6. Spouses of Caricom Skilled Nationals can now work freely in Guyana
7. Pavi Metha: Being Compassionate and Giving – 2 videos
8. BBC Radio British Guiana politics in the 1960’s – radio documentary
9. Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) – interview & documentary – 2 videos
10. Can White People Play Black Music? By: Dr. Arthur Lewin
11. Political violence in Venezuela, a game with no clear end
12. Jamaica to decriminalise marijuana by year-end
13. What the Modern World Owes Slavery – commentary
14. Mash Day Float Parade entertains thousands – photos
15. Ports, the Panama Canal and the Future
16. Former President Jagdeo ill, flown overseas
17. In Pursuit of a Husband
18. World Bank VP pays tribute to Laurence Clarke
19. Major companies pull out of Mash Day float parade
20. Major probe launched into remigrant vehicle racket
21. Guyana: PPP says Local Gov’t elections not possible by August
22. Justice Patricia Bernard retires from Caribbean Court of Justice
23. Cricket: Clive Lloyd wants players to show passion for the sport
24. Lewis Hamilton joins Top Gear Festival Barbados line-up
25. NBC’s Brian Williams Raps “Rapper’s Delight” – video
26. Twelve Black Actors With Caribbean Roots – News Americas Magazine
27. Mighty Sparrow to receive prestigious Order of T&T award
28. CIMBUX – Buxton Pride Magazine – January 2014
29. The Beatles – Greatest Hits – 50th anniversary US TV debut
30. The Best Of Santana – Full Music CD
31. What’s going on in Venezuela? + video – commentary
32. Statistics About The Drugging Of America – Too Crazy To Believe
33. The Mighty Sparrow is back in Trinidad – performs at Carnival tent
34. Strong earthquake strikes northeast of Barbados
35. Tourism: The Caribbean’s ten sexiest bars
36. Wade Davis: Dreams from endangered cultures – TED video
37. Researcher seeks information on Afro-Guyanese culture – letter
38. Guyana: Less than 15% of nurses pass exams
39. **Mashramani Brunch – February 23, 2014 – Hyattsville. MD**
40. MASH 2014 – Spectacular children’s parade attracts hundreds
41. Educator William McDonald Laid to Rest – by Francis Quamina Farrier
42. Africa Rising – New realities in business & development – 2 videos
43. Part One: The Legacy of Walter Rodney - Rosaliene Bacchus’ Blog
44. Latest ‘Guyana Where and What’ published in English and Portuguese
45. MASH 2014 – Eleven finalists in the Calypso Competition – video
46. First Rupununi Music, Arts Festival a big success
47. Colonial Guyana stamp to auction for US\$10-20 million
48. Guyana: Police Brutality: The Colwyn Harding case – 2 videos
49. Cocaine: Guyana Gov’t not aware of Mafia links – 2 videos
50. Guyana’s link to Mafia ring...US Ambassador stresses need for local DEA office
51. Bizarre Foods – A Taste of the Tropics – video

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BLOG ENTRIES - February 2014 (cont'd)

Note: Click on the titles to read the blog entries

52. Amiri Baraka – The Importance of African-American History – 2 videos
53. "Too black to be Prime Minister": the shackles of mental slavery
54. Memorial Service for Terrence Holder – Feb 23, 2014 – Brooklyn NY
55. Tales of the Rupununi Cattle Trail – By Dmitri Allicock
- 56. After Easter Dance featuring Jahrusalem – April 26, 2014 – Toronto**
57. Capitol News – TV News videos – 11 Feb-Mar 2014
58. Guyana consolidating ties with Islamic bloc
59. Queen's College and Guyanese Musical Life 1844 – 2014
60. Guyana linked to Italian Mafia-like cocaine syndicate
61. Does the govt really want to pass the anti-money laundering Bill?
62. Bizarre Foods: Trinidad and Tobago – video
63. Guyana – Sugarcane – video
64. Stuart Hall's cultural legacy: Britain under the microscope
65. Gratitude: The Gift Of Life – by Louie Schwartzberg – video
66. Marie-Joseph Angélique, exected in 1734 for burning Montreal
67. Guyana: Youth crime upsurge a serious problem – report
68. US embassy warns citizens about flying on Caribbean Airlines
69. LIAT leadership asleep at the wheel again – Commentary
- 70. St. Stanislaus Alumni Spring Fling – April 5, 2014 – Toronto**
71. We Shall Overcome
72. "Colorism" - Who is Black in America? - CNN Documentary
73. Thank you Martin Luther King Jr.
74. Guyana: Main Street centre to handle British visa applications
75. Black History Month TV Specials 2014
76. BBC: Top Gear Festival Barbados May 17-18, 2014
77. Book: Duke: A Life of Duke Ellington – by Terry Teachout.
78. List of African-American inventors and scientists – Wikipedia
79. 20 Significant Technology Innovators In Black History
80. Guyana Gov't to amend CARICOM Skilled Nationals Act – video
81. Why So Much Anarchy? – By Robert D. Kaplan – commentary
82. How Benedict Cumberbatch's family made a fortune from slavery
83. Last Train Home – By Dmitri Allicock
84. UK's January flooding surpasses 247 years of records
85. Gold prices, sugar slump will lower Guyana's growth this year – IDB
86. Corentyne River Bridge... Suriname, China to arrange financing
87. "Making Quiltwork" - Poem by Simon J. Ortiz
88. The Good Old Days – not so long ago!
89. Guyanese Online – MOST POPULAR ENTRIES – January 2014
90. Guyana: The Procurement Commission – by Eusi Kwayana
91. GCA New York Magazine – January 2014
92. We Should Fear the Worst from Fukushima – 50 Reasons + videos
93. Clairmonte Taitt Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the Earl Warner Foundation. (Barbados)
94. EU to give G\$4b for sea defences but conditions have to be met
95. KARMA II – by Naraine Datt
96. The Puzzlin' Box – by Ron Persaud
97. NYC to Reform Stop-and-Frisk, End Racial Profiling
98. Black History Month TV Programming – 2014
99. Guyana has me scratching my head – commentary
100. Anti Money Laundering Bill: Guyana tops list of 55 defaulting countries
101. Cricket: Sarwan aims to resurrect career
102. Guyana: Budget tangle
103. Brazil: Working with Import/Export Agents
104. A Sanctified Bridge – By Dmitri Allicock

Note: Click on the titles to read the articles

BLOG ENTRIES - January 2014

Note: Click on the titles to read the blog entries

Views for January 2014 = 83,884

Total views at January 31 = 1,889,684

1. The Guyanese and Trinidadians of NYC – population analysis
2. The EU's Changing policy towards Cuba – by David Jessop
3. Caribbean historian not optimistic about regional integration
4. The Chief Justice and the "Separation of Powers" – Eusi Kwayana
5. Byron Lee & The Dragonaires – Classic Soca Medley
6. Time for a radical shift in the sugar belt – By Moses Nagamootoo
7. Six Caribbean countries eligible for US visa programme
8. A SUCCESSFUL AJ SEYMOUR CENTENARY by Francis Quamina Farrier
9. Ziggy Marley bags Grammy for Best Reggae Album
10. South Africa: Soweto Gospel Choir- 3 videos
11. Dr. Doobay's Annandale Renal Centre- by Eusi Kwayana
12. Black History Heritage Assn- Film on Mandela- Feb. 22, 2014 – Toronto
13. Wooden cultural iconic edifices of Georgetown – by Francis Quamina Farrier
14. The danger of a single story – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
15. Guyana- Lindeners vow to hold Govt. accountable – video
16. A Guyana connection in the Cocaine from Trinidad found in Virginia?
17. Sugata Mitra's TED winning Talk – Child-driven Education
18. Wealth Inequality in the USA – 2 videos
19. Guyana: A bubbling cauldron – commentary
20. Cricket: ICC proposes sweeping changes for the game
21. Guyanese Online Newsletter – January 2014
22. On the Road to Santa Cruz
23. Super Bowl's Baby Clydesdale: A Budweiser Story – video
24. Time's Person Of The Year: Pope Francis
25. Connecticut, US: Guyanese convicted swindler dies before sentencing
26. Guyana: Local Government Minister resigns
27. An upbeat and Tearful Sparrow stirs Fans in Brooklyn – inc video
28. Green Valley of Guyana – by Dmitri Allicock
29. Guyana: Lost Cities of the Arawaks – Neil L. Whitehead
30. Guyana Legislators approve laws to reduce real estate fraud
31. All That Jazz: From New Orleans To New York
32. Haters/ By Maya Angelou
33. Copa Airlines to fly Panama- Guyana route
34. Classic rock playlist – Good old music – 63 videos autoplay
35. **GACACF – Republic Anniversary – Dinner & Dance Feb 22, 2014 . Orlando FL**
36. The Medicine wheel.
37. What Does the Merger of American Airlines and US Airways Mean for Barbados?
38. Guyana: APNU looks to draft flood plan – video
39. The Second World War in color – Documentary
40. The Crisis of the Middle Class and American Power – commentary
41. Tribute to Terence Holder – by Rafiq Khan
42. US authorities seize \$96,000 from two women heading to Jamaica
43. Drought Emergency declared in California. Residents urge end to fracking
44. Guyana's jungle a treacherous place for aviators
45. The Collapse of The American Dream Explained – Animation video
46. The Difference between the United Kingdom, Great Britain and England Explained
47. Should We Be Concerned About the TPP? – by Rosaliene Bacchus
48. 'Slingshot' to launch 'Guyana Get Fit' band for Mash 2014
49. Guyana authorities worried at high rate of suicides
50. **Mashramani Dinner/Dance - Feb 22, 2014 - Lithuania. Georgia**
51. Police Brutality: Harding incident must be investigated – Eusi Kwayana
52. Capitol News – TV Video Reports– 17 January 2014.
53. Selling Caribbean Citizenship – by David Jessop
54. Neil Pasricha: The 3 A's of AWESOME – TED video
55. Georgetown, Guyana: An inundated city once again

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BLOG ENTRIES - January 2014 (cont'd)

Note: Click on the titles to read the blog entries

56. Health Ministry to probe possible importation of radioactive Japanese vehicles
57. Is choka the key to a healthy diet? – by Ron Persaud
58. Guyana: 'Life beneath the Canopy' – By Dmitri Allcock
59. Making House Calls, To People Without Homes – video
60. Active Resistance
61. Guyana: Outside Parliament Buildings – the homeless and garbage
62. Life Of Manchester's Black Hero Celebrated In New Project
63. In the Shadows of the Jaguar – The Legendary Por-knocker – By Dmitri Allcock
64. History of the Maroons in the Caribbean and South America
65. A Caribbean Connection at the Golden Globes Awards
66. Dieting, Obesity, Diabetes – some new insights – TED videos
67. Dennis LeBlanc: Trip to Guyana shakes his worldview
68. The Lynching of President Barack Obama – by Frank Schaeffer
69. The People vs Winter – Videos
70. Canada: B.C.'s history of racism – pursuit of a white man's province
71. **Guyana Christian Charities – Valentine Dinner Dance – Feb 8, 2014 – Toronto**
72. Diplomatic Minutes in Making of South American History – by Odeen Ishmael
73. Brazil: Visit of Cut-and-Sew Client – The Other Side of Outsourcing
74. Guyana: Domestic Violence: Women are the key =20
75. Guyana's Public Servants: That Sunday morning market basket
76. NAFTA and the Future of Canada, Mexico and the USA
77. TravelSpan saves the day for snow-bound Guyanese
78. Colder Winters Caused by a Warmer Planet – commentary
79. Hope Canal gets another deadline extension
80. Veteran broadcaster and administrator, Terry Holder, dies
81. Cricket: Edwards, Bravo set up WI's crushing win over NZ
82. "The Clock" – Poem by João Cabral de Melo Neto
83. Cholesterol drugs: Do you need them, or not? – commentary
84. Guyanese Canadian Organizations – Mashramani Ball - Feb 22, 2014 – Toronto
85. The Mackenzie High School and John Joseph Cummings – By Dmitri Allcock
86. Guyana: New D.D.L chairman – Kumar Samaroo, sworn iin - video
87. Crabs of Guyana & South Pacific – by Peter Halder
88. WALTER RODNEY'S REMOVAL – 33 years later – by Eusi Kwayana
89. World Bank ranks Guyana second poorest in Caricom - per ca
90. What Can I Do For You? – by Rosaliene Bacchus
91. Tribute to Retd Deputy Comm of Police, Derrick Thompson – by Maj.Gen. Joseph Singh
92. Football: Guyana-born Andrew Watson – the first black international
93. Canada – After the storm – commentary
94. **Mashramani Dinner/Dance – Feb 22, 2014 – Lithuania. Georgia**
95. Guyanese Online – TOP BLOG ENTRIES FOR 2013
96. Guyana's Sugar Industry – GuySuCo in deep financial crisis
97. Guyana: Striving to build a united country – Commentary
98. Educating the Heart and Mind – Sir Ken Robinson
99. Colorado Legalizes Marijuana Sales, Dispensaries Now Open
100. HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2014: GDF Fireworks, Georgetown. Guyana

GUYANESE ONLINE BLOG and NEWSLETTERS

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.

Visit the BlogYour comments are welcome!

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