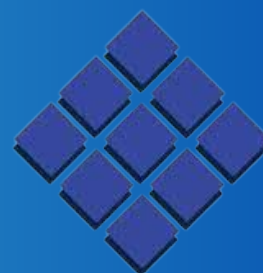


JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

# PSC HIGHLIGHTS

Official Newsletter of the Private Sector  
Commission Guyana Limited



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## PRIVATE SECTOR RALLIES TO PROVIDE AID TO GRENADA

The official hurricane season in the Caribbean runs from June 01 to November 30 each year. Historical data indicates that the peak of the season is generally observed in August and September, as warmer ocean waters provide ideal conditions for storm development. During early August, Hurricane Beryl intensified at an explosive rate to become the earliest Category 5 Atlantic hurricane on record. Hurricane Beryl hit the southern Windward Islands at Category 4 strength on the Saffir Simpson scale on July 01. It made a direct hit on Grenada and had major impacts on St Vincent and Grenadines and other Caribbean islands and parts of the southern United States.



As news of the devastating impacts of Hurricane Beryl hit the airwaves, Chairman of the PSC, Komal Singh swiftly convened an emergency meeting of the membership on July 01 to discuss how the private sector could contribute towards providing relief to those affected. In response, the private sector throughout Guyana generously contributed much needed food and sanitary items, building materials, and other in-kind donations, as well as cash donations which were personally delivered to the Government of Grenada by the Chairman and members of the Guyana Defense Force.

## PRIVATE SECTOR RALLIES TO PROVIDE AID TO GRENADA

The Private Sector Commission once again extends its sincerest appreciation for the kind contributions of the following individuals and businesses:

5 Star Trading  
A&F Foam Factory  
Abbas Farouk and family  
Ansa McAl Guyana Ltd.  
Edward B. Beharry & Co. Ltd.  
Beepats  
Bhola Sawmill  
Bulkan Timber Works  
Central Corentyne Chamber of  
Commerce  
DDL  
EMC  
Fazeela Farouk Trading  
GAICO Construction  
Gafoor Inc.

Global Commercial Import and Transport Inc.  
Ganshyam Mahase and Mahase Lumberyard  
Guybiz Establishment  
Household Perfection  
IET Group Global  
JAPARTS Construction  
JD Investments Inc.  
JSB Investment  
Latitude Geospatial  
Mabura 5 Sawmill  
Massy Distribution  
Memorex

NAMILCO  
Nand Persaud and Company Inc.  
N. Hussain and Son Enterprise  
Puran Brothers  
Pure Harvest  
Rayo Traders  
R. Prashad Industries  
Roraima Group of Companies and Malabar Foods Guyana  
S. Jagmohan Construction and General Supplies  
S. Khan Trucking  
Super Shingles and Wood Products  
TMK 2020 Inc.



# PSC HIGHLIGHTS

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# PSC HIGHLIGHTS

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Prime Minister Mark Phillips and PSC Vice Chairman, Gerry Gouveia Jr. inspecting goods being loaded for transport to Grenada





## PSC welcomes Grenada delegation

A collaboration between the Private Sector Commission and the Grenada Tourism Authority saw the successful hosting of a twenty-five member trade delegation to Guyana in August. The delegation included government officials, executives from the Grenada Tourism Authority, the Grenada Investment Development Corporation, the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and various business leaders.

The trade mission was aimed at improving trade relations between the two CARICOM countries, and with the specific purpose of accelerating the movement of people, goods, and services with the launch direct flights between Guyana and Grenada. The mission also coincided with the launch of a direct flight route between Grenada and Guyana by interCaribbean Airways, scheduled to start around September 28th, 2024. This weekly flight is expected to enhance trade, tourism, and cultural exchange between the two nations.

The trade mission commenced with a networking dinner hosted at the Pegasus Corporate Suites in Kingston. In his feature address, Prime Minister Hon. Dickon Mitchell stated that, “This mission represents not just a step, but a leap forward in our efforts to build stronger, mutually beneficial relationships within our region. The success of this delegation is a testament to the power of collaboration and the shared vision we have for a prosperous future for Grenada and Guyana.”

During the visit, the Grenadian delegation engaged in productive discussions with the Private Sector Commission, capitalising on the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations. These discussions facilitated valuable business connections across a variety of sectors, including construction, marine, mining, medical, waste management, education, aviation, finance, hospitality, consultancy, manufacturing, wholesale/retail distribution, agriculture, and industry.

The ‘Spice Island’ was on showcase during the Pure Grenada Expo which was hosted on Thursday August 29 at the Marriott Hotel, showcasing a range of items and cultural displays.



# PSC HIGHLIGHTS

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# PSC HIGHLIGHTS

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## PSC HOSTS ILLICIT TRADE CONFERENCE

Following the launch of its Illicit Trade Desk, the Private Sector Commission organized an Illicit Trade Conference with various businesses and government entities.

Chairman of the PSC, Komal Singh in his remarks stated that the market share of smuggled goods currently captures in excess of 25-50% in some sectors and if nothing is done to stamp out smuggling, the numbers would rise. Mr. Singh also remarked that the illicit trade has been making it difficult for small and medium scale businesses in Guyana to thrive, and these challenges are however also impact large businesses, including household names. He reminded the gathering of the existence of the PSC's Illicit Trade Desk which was established in July to gather and pass along information on illicit trade to the enforcement agencies.

GRA Comptroller, Mr. Rohan Beekhoo spoke of the agencies increased anti-smuggling operations for targeted commercial goods, done with international support and with assistance from the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU), the Guyana Police Force (GPF), and the Guyana Defense Force (GDF) Coast Guard. The GRA recognizes the impacts of illicit trade on Guyana's economy and notes that some of the offenses that form part of the illicit trade include tax evasion. He appealed for the business community to provide intelligence so that action could be taken against offenders, and welcomed the opportunity to work with the PSC to reduce illicit trade.

Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, Matthew Langevine was also present at the Conference and shared that there were 180 suspicious transactions from reporting agencies over the past four years, of which not more than 10% of those referrals were associated with the illicit trade. Mr. Langevine emphasized the need for cooperation between the relevant stakeholders to eliminate illegal trade.

In delivering the feature address, Minister Robeson Benn expressed that "the outcomes of the Conference are expected to contribute significantly to Guyana's ongoing efforts to safeguard its economy, protect legitimate businesses, and ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens."

Presentations from six private sector entities revealed that the widespread illicit trade in Guyana is not only reducing their market share and reducing revenue, it is costing the government more than \$6B GYD in revenue and posing serious threats to consumers' health, from the sale of counterfeit pharmaceuticals to household goods and personal care products. Further, the entities represented also noted that illicit trade affects the brand reputation for the international and regional distributors, and undermines their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts which have far reaching impacts on the lives of Guyanese. Experiences were shared from regional and international partners in countering illicit trade with presentations being delivered from Crime Stoppers, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA), and c-Analysis.



## PSC HOSTS ILLICIT TRADE CONFERENCE





## PSC HOSTS ILLICIT TRADE CONFERENCE





## NATIONAL CLEANUP EXERCISE

Solid waste management is a global issue and remains a local challenge despite numerous programs and campaigns over the years. Evidence of this challenge is often seen most in urban areas - in the capital city and along the coast, where most of the population resides. In seeking to bring viable solutions to address the issue of littering and illegal dumping, the Ministry of Public Works engaged private sector bodies in planning a National Cleanup Exercise - this time with the mission to have strict enforcement. On August 17, private sector representatives lent their full support by way of labour and equipment, to the National Cleanup which was hosted in all ten administrative regions.





## Tips for good waste management



Dispose of your waste in a bin - if a bin is not close-by, wait until you get to one.

Ensure that your home and business have appropriate waste receptacles to contain the amount of waste produced.

Compost your biodegradable kitchen and yard waste to reduce organic waste going to the landfill



Where possible, provide reusable shopping bags for customers and provide incentives to use them.



Aim as much as possible to reduce the amount of waste you produce.



Support organizations working to reduce waste and protect the environment



## Keep Guyana Beautiful




## Diplomatic ENGAGEMENTS


# HM Trade Commissioner meets with the PSC to discuss UK Export Fund

British High Commissioner, Jane Elliot OBE and a delegation comprising Jonathan Knott, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean met with the Private Sector Commission and other BSOs to discuss the utilization of the UK Export Fund. Earlier this year, it was announced that the Fund, which provides financial support for development projects, has been expanded from 750M pounds to 2.1B pounds.

The Fund is available to both the public and private sectors, and thus the private sector was encouraged to utilize the Fund which requires 20% UK local content, and can be used to fund projects in various economic sectors. Guyana is the UK's largest trading partner in the Caribbean, and Mr. Knott shared that the UK is seeking to upscale trade between the two countries.



 The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), branded as UK Export Finance (UKEF), is the export credit agency and a ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom. It was established in 1919 to promote UK exports, lost during the submarine blockade of World War I.

 ECGD's aim is to benefit the UK economy by helping exporters of UK goods and services to win business, and UK firms to invest overseas by providing guarantees, insurance and reinsurance against loss, taking into account HM Government's wider international policy agenda.



## Government ENGAGEMENTS

### MARAD



The Governance and Security Subcommittee, along with other representatives of the Private Sector Commission, met with Mr. Stephen Thomas, Director General of the Maritime Administration Department. The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including operational challenges and recent developments within the maritime sector. Additionally, they explored opportunities for collaboration, emphasized the importance of information sharing, and discussed strategies for enhancing communication and capacity building. These discussions aimed to strengthen the partnership between the private sector and the maritime administration for improved operational efficiency and sector growth.



## Government ENGAGEMENTS

### Ministry of Labour

The PSC met with the Minister of Labour, Hon. Joseph Hamilton and the technical management team at the ministry on labour concerns. Topping the discussion was the matter of accommodation for migrant workers, a critical component of Guyana's international obligations. Companies are required to provide decent living conditions for migrant workers, and the ministry will be moving to ramp up inspection of these spaces. Minister Hamilton encouraged the private sector to utilize the Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency to recruit local candidates to fill vacancies.

Chairman of the PSC, Komal Singh, while commending the government for re-establishing the Ministry of Labour, advocated for greater enforcement and public awareness, particularly in the area of occupational health and safety. Both entities committed to enhance communication and collaboration for the benefit of all stakeholders.



Members of the Commission and related BSOs in July participated in a National Stakeholder Workshop for the ILO Decent Work Country Diagnostic for Guyana. The two day Workshop aimed to further develop, refine and ultimately validate the main findings of a diagnostic exercise conducted by the ILO team.

During the session, the Chairman in his remarks took the opportunity to speak on the need to train unskilled workers and boost the capacity of the Guyanese labour force. He also spoke of the need for all stakeholders to focus on workplace safety, a sentiment echoed by Minister Joseph Hamilton who also delivered remarks at the event.





## PSC MEETS WITH GRA COMPTROLLER - SHARES CONCERNS REGARDING BARRIERS TO SMOOTH CONDUCT OF BUSINESS



In doing business, the Guyana Revenue Authority is recognized as a primary partner. The Private Sector Commission through its Trade and Investment Sub Committee met with Guyana Revenue Authority's Comptroller, Rohan Beekhoo to discuss concerns and share queries related to the work of the Customs Department. Mr. Beekhoo was joined by senior officers Gavin Lowe, Seon Browne, Gerald John, and Rajandra Singh.



The PSC commended the GRA on measures implemented to enhance its operations, ensuring the smooth flow of trade, including capacity building initiatives for staff, and the digital infrastructure to modernize processes. Chairman of the Trade and Investment Sub Committee, Clinton Urling informed the team of the recently established Illicit Trade Desk, a PSC initiative intended to complement the efforts of the government in tackling illicit trade, through raising awareness and channeling reports of incidences of illicit trade.





## *Dave Martins* *Musician, Cultural Icon*



Guyanese musical legend Dave Martins, who was a pivotal part of the award-winning Tradewinds Caribbean string band, and whose song "Not a Blade of Grass," became an anthem to bring nationals together against Venezuela's claim to Essequibo, died on Aug. 19 in Georgetown. He was 90.

Martins' journey took him from Guyana to Toronto, Canada, where he honed his craft and became a pioneer in the Caribbean music scene. In 1966, he founded The Tradewinds, a band that would go on to become a symbol of Caribbean pride and resilience.

In 2022, Martins was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Guyana. Dave Martins, who attended the prestigious St. Stanislaus College in Georgetown, will be remembered for his stirring commentary, jovial spirit, and legendary music that touched every corner of his homeland.

Source: <https://www.caribbeanlife.com/legendary-guyanese-musician-dave-martins-passes-at-90/>





## *Sir Shridat 'Sonny' Ramphal* Diplomat



A regionalist, educator, and author, Sir Shridath was a Guyanese national who served as the Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (1989-2003), Commonwealth Secretary General (1975-1990), Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana (1972-1975), and Assistant Attorney General of the British West Indies Federation (1958-1962). He also held the post of Chairman of the West Indian Commission (1990-1993) and was the first Director-General of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery, currently known as the CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiations.

Sir Shridath also harboured a deep commitment to human rights and was once a member of the International Commission of Jurists. After his time as Secretary General for the Commonwealth ended, he then went on to serve as head of the World Conservation Union and was a key member of the Earth Summit in 1992 where he doubled down on his desire for international economic reform.



# Upcoming Events



The poster features a dark blue background with glowing circuit lines and a red-to-blue gradient on the right. At the top left is the GCCI logo (a shield with 'GCCI Est 1889'). At the top center is the GMSA logo (Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association). At the top right is a diamond-shaped logo made of smaller diamonds. The main title 'TECHNOLOGY' is in large, glowing, outlined letters, with 'CONFERENCE' in red below it. The theme '#CyberStrong with AI' is in teal. The dates '24 - 25 October, 2024' are next to a calendar icon. The location 'The Pegasus Hotel, Corporate Centre' is next to a location pin icon. The time '8:30AM' is next to a clock icon. At the bottom are three contact options: a WhatsApp icon with '+592 656-1423', a phone icon with '223 7405/6', and an email icon with 'info@gmsagy.org'.

**GCCI**  
Est 1889

Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association  
**GMSA**

**TECHNOLOGY**  
**CONFERENCE**  
Theme: **#CyberStrong with AI**

**24 - 25 October, 2024**  
📍 **The Pegasus Hotel, Corporate Centre**  
🕒 **8:30AM**

📞 +592 656-1423    📞 223 7405/6    ✉ info@gmsagy.org



# Upcoming Events



The Private Sector Commission of  
Guyana



## LOCAL CONTENT *Forum*



**25 OCT, 2024**



**8:30 AM -  
1:00PM**



**MARRIOTT  
HOTEL**

**RSVP:**



Call:  
**225-0977**



Email:  
**office@psc.org.gy**



## OUR MEMBERS – CORPORATE

|                                                   |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Action Invest Caribbean                           | Japarts Construction                            |
| Air Services Limited                              | JD Investments Inc.                             |
| AGM Inc.                                          | John Fernandes Limited                          |
| AJM Enterprise                                    | JSB Investments Inc.                            |
| Ashoka Buildcon Inc.                              | Keen 360                                        |
| Assuria                                           | Kestrel                                         |
| Berbice Bridge Company Inc.                       | LEHR Inc.                                       |
| Banks DIH Limited                                 | MHM Holdings Inc.                               |
| Bosai Minerals Group Guyana                       | M. P. Insurance Brokers & Consultants Limited   |
| BK International Inc.                             | Massay (Guyana) Limited                         |
| B.M. Soat Auto Sales                              | Serenity Court                                  |
| Caribbean Surgery                                 | Muneshwers Limited                              |
| Cevons Waste Management                           | NAMILCO                                         |
| Comfort Sleep                                     | National Hardware Limited                       |
| Correia Group of Companies                        | N M Trucking Auto Sales and Agri Parts          |
| Correia & Correia Limited                         | New Bombay Fashion                              |
| DAI Guyana Inc.                                   | PBS Technologies Inc                            |
| Dalip Trading Limited                             | P.eter P. Imports and Exports                   |
| Demerara Tobacco Company Limited                  | Premis Electrical Store                         |
| Digicel Guyana                                    | Pomeroon Oil Mills                              |
| Durable Wood Products                             | Pure Harvest                                    |
| Edward B. Beharry and Company Limited             | Puran Brothers Disposal                         |
| E - Net                                           | Qualfon Guyana Inc.                             |
| Environmental Management Consultants              | Queens Atlantic Investment Inc.                 |
| Esso Exploration & Mining Guyana Ltd.             | Queensway Security Service                      |
| Excel Guyana Inc.                                 | Ram & McRae                                     |
| First Change Builders Inc.                        | Roraima Airways Group of Companies              |
| GAICO Construction and General Services           | Rubis Guyana Inc.                               |
| Gafsons Industries                                | Sheriff Security                                |
| German Restaurant                                 | S. Jagmohan Construction                        |
| Giftland Office Max                               | SOL Guyana Inc.                                 |
| Global Commercial Import and Export               | South Atlantic Logistics & General Services     |
| Grace Kennedy Remittance Service (Guyana) Limited | Sparkle Laundromat                              |
| Guyana Shore Base                                 | Starr Computer Inc.                             |
| Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited    | Textila American University                     |
| Guyana Gold Fields Inc.                           | The Hardware Depot                              |
| Guyana Deep Water Exploration                     | TLC Guyana Inc.                                 |
| Guysons Oil, Gas and Logistics                    | Toolsie Persaud Limited                         |
| Impressions                                       | Toolsie Persaud Quarries Inc.                   |
|                                                   | University of Excellence, Management & Business |



## WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PSC?

**Here's what you'll need:**

- MEMBERSHIP WITH TWO OTHER BSOS
- MUST BE A GUYANESE REGISTERED BUSINESS
- COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM ALONG WITH:
  - BUSINESS REGISTRATION
  - FINANCIAL AUDITS
  - BYLAWS/RULES OF THE BUSINESS






## OUR MEMBERS – SECTORAL

Our company is committed to giving back to the community. This month, we have partnered with The Jamet Organization to volunteer & support their mission. We encourage our employees to get involved and make a difference in the community.

1. Aircraft Owners Association of Guyana Limited
2. Bartica Chamber of Commerce and Industry
3. Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association
4. Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce
5. Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry
6. Essequibo Chamber of Commerce and Industry
7. Forest Products Association
8. Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry
9. Guycraft Producers Association
10. Guyana Association of Bankers Inc.
11. Guyana Custom House Brokers and Clerks Association
12. Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association
13. Guyana Association of Private Security Organizations
14. Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association
15. Region 1 Chamber of Industry and Commerce
16. Region 3 Chamber of Commerce and Industry
17. Region 5 Chamber of Industry and Commerce
18. Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
19. Guyana Rice Exporters and Millers Association
20. Institute of Private Enterprise Development
21. Linden Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Development
22. Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
23. Shipping Association of Guyana
24. Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
25. Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Guyana

## Contact Us

 157 Waterloo Street, Georgetown



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www.psc.gy

Get social with us

