



THE GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY
SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

From: The Office of the Commissioner-General

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Topic: **GRA ENCOURAGES NEW STAFF TO BE SINCERE IN THEIR DUTIES AND TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRITY**

The Commissioner-General of the Guyana Revenue Authority, Mr. Khurshid Sattaur said that the GRA will start screening persons months in advance before they are employed with the organization. He made this remark while giving the opening address to new employees at an induction/orientation seminar which was recently held at the Customs Training Room on November 26th, 2009. The new staff members were encouraged to be honest, loyal, and to inculcate the principles of integrity by not indulging in corrupt practices that would tarnish the image of the GRA like some staff previously did.

The GRA is the Prime Revenue Collection Agency that is responsible for collecting 90% of the total revenue of the country, therefore as the custodians of the revenues collected, when employees steal the money collected from taxpayers, it brings distrust, since taxpayers like to know how their tax dollars are spent. "The stealing of state revenue is one of the most heinous and obnoxious crime one can commit, it is an act of treason" the Commissioner-General pointed out.

According to Mr. Sattaur, the GRA has implemented a new information technology system which safeguards it against fraud and corruption and which has security features capable of tracking any unauthorized use of the system. Despite the negative comments made against the organization, the Commissioner-General stated that he is satisfied with the performance so far. "We have managed to sustain high levels of revenue inflow for this year despite the global financial crisis and I would like to thank those honest staff for making this achievement possible, they are employees that must be emulated" the Commissioner-General further stated.

Many opportunities are available for staff of the Guyana Revenue Authority once they show commitment and dedication to their jobs. Training is on going in various areas for staff to improve their all round efficiency, both at the senior and junior levels of the organization.

Mr. Clement Sealey, Deputy Commissioner-General of the GRA was also present at the orientation seminar and contributed some remarks concerning the historical overview and significance of the GRA.