



THE GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY

SECRETARIAT

357 LAMAHA & EAST STREETS

PHONE #: 22-78814, FAX#: 22-78347

From: Office of the Commissioner General

To: All Media Houses

Date: February 10, 2009

Subject: **GRA to commence field exercise to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Intoxicating Liquor licence Act Chapter 82:21**

Commissioner-General of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) Mr. Khurshid Sattaur said the organisation will soon be commencing a field exercise to ensure that persons engaged in the selling of various types of liquor on their premise are in possession of the required licence under the Intoxicating Liquor licence Act Chapter 82:21.

The Communication and Tax Advisory Services Division will also intensify its campaign to sensitise persons on the requirements and procedures for the issuance and transfer of liquor licences.

The various types of licence under the act are:

1. Occasional Liquor and Tobacco
2. Malt and wine
3. Second Class Off-Liquor
4. Restaurant liquor
5. Hotel
6. Members' Club

Mr. Sattaur said that holders of licences, first time applicants and persons wishing to renew their licence need to ensure that they meet the requirements for the granting of such licence. He pointed out that an application may be refused based on the character or history of the applicant or the condition, circumstances, or locality of the premises in the interest of the community.

An application for a certificate for any of the above mentioned licence may be refused if, in case of first time applicants, the premises is deemed unfit, if the applicant is a person of bad character, the premises is likely to be a nuisance to the neighbourhood, the applicant is below the age of eighteen or there is a sufficient number of premises already licensed to meet the needs of the neighbourhood.

Where a person was a previous holder of a licence and has allowed their premises to become a nuisance to the neighbourhood, the applicant can be refused a renewal.

The Commissioner-General noted that members of the public with knowledge of illegal practices by applicants can object to granting or transfer of licence to such persons when or prior to their names being lawfully published.

According to subsection (4) of Section 12 of the Intoxicating Liquor licence Act Chapter 82:21 “no premises shall be deemed to be fit for the purposes of a tavern or spirit shop which contains any dwelling or living room having an internal communication with that part of the premises wherein intoxicating liquor is sold”

Persons with their living quarters adjoined to their spirit shop should ensure that the two are separated by a partition built from floor to roof. Where the premises was altered after the licence was granted so that it no longer complies with the provisions of the Act, such licence will be deemed cancelled.

Persons caught selling intoxicating liquor with out the required licence will be fined when convicted.