



**THE GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY
COMMUNICATION AND TAX ADVISORY SERVICES DIVISION**

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From: The Public Relations Unit

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Subject: **GRA's proud record highlighted at orientation exercise**

On Monday, March 29, 2010 the Guyana Revenue Authority conducted an Orientation/Induction exercise to welcome over twenty-five new employees from various divisions within the Agency. The overall objective of the Orientation is to familiarize new employees of the mandate, mission, vision, core principles, policies, structural changes and the critical functions and competencies of key departments/divisions within the Guyana Revenue Authority. It also serves the purpose of educating employees of their rights and obligations.

Speaking to the inductees at the orientation exercise, Commissioner-General Mr. Khurshid Sattaur enlightened the gathering on some key issues of Guyana's main revenue collection agency, whilst highlighting aspects of its creation, development and structural changes, as well as the essential role of the Governing Board in formulating policies and monitoring the performance of GRA.




According to Mr. Sattaur, the younger employees are the future of GRA, as such; a lot of what is being done requires to be carried forward by those who are currently being employed. He made it clear to the new employees the necessity of revenue collection which includes the payment of salaries to all public workers, this he pointed out amounts to roughly \$25B.

Mr. Sattaur stated that the Guyana Revenue Authority accounts for seventy percent (70%) of what the state uses as revenue. Noting that the national budget for 2010 is roughly about \$143B, the projected target for GRA's collection for 2010 is \$94B. This target is a significant increase from the year 2000 when GRA became functional, in 1999, revenue collection was \$33B compared to \$89B collected in 2009, representing a significant increase of 170 percent. The main reason for this increase, Mr. Sattaur noted, is the specific mandate of GRA with significant input from central government.

Giving the inductees a dose of reality, Mr. Sattaur pointed out that the success of GRA has not been without challenges, a major one being the then limited amount of specialized resources. This issue has since been rectified as the staffing capacity of GRA has increased from approximately five hundred to over one thousand; complimenting this is a number of infrastructural increases and modification.

Explaining the integrated network of GRA, Mr. Sattaur, told the inductees that in order to collect taxes and reach projected targets, there is a need for many departments such as the Human Resource Management Division and Communications and Tax Advisory Services Division which lends support to each other.



Mr. Sattaur said that within the agency there is scope for career mobility, since there are over fifteen different functional areas, including Law Enforcement, Intelligence, Audit and Verification among others.

In closing Mr. Sattaur beseeched the new recruits to conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to the organization. He implored them to uphold the integrity of the agency, this he noted can only be done if there is self respect. Further, he told them to be ethical and proud of the agency whilst maintaining its ideals.

The inductees were also exposed to a number of other sessions including GRA's human resource policies, integrity and tax operations. To ensure the induction was rounded, presentations were also done by NIS, the Ministry of Labour presented on Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace and the responsibilities of managers and workers. A peer educator from GRA also held an interactive session on HIV/Aids at the workplace. Fire safety and prevention, the mandate of Customs and Trade and communication strategies employed within the GRA and externally were also discussed.

