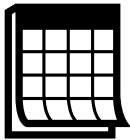


VOLUME 24
JULY 2024



NEWSLETTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Georgetown
Chamber of Commerce & Industry



JULY IN REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



MEMBER OF
THE MONTH



IN THIS ISSUE

- » GCCI MEETS WITH U.S., CHINESE, AND BELIZEAN AMBASSADORS
- » GCCI AND CLBD COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE PROCUREMENT TRAINING FOR MEMBERS
- » GCCI FACILITATES AGRICULTURE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP WITH GSA STUDENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

True to our value of 'collaboration', the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce engaged a number of stakeholders in July, inclusive of the U.S Ambassador to Guyana, the High Commissioner of China to Guyana, the High Commissioner of Belize, as well as several groups of investment-related delegations.

In these engagements, the thematic areas of discussion remained common—access to opportunities for local businesses through increased trade relations, partnerships and training, as well as the maintenance of an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

We facilitated capacity building for our members through a partnership with the Centre for Local Business Development, and moved to sign an agreement with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) to support the development of the accountancy profession to counter the human resource shortage being experienced by members in relation to these skillsets. Our efforts to bolster the agriculture sector also continued, with the outreach programme benefiting students of the Guyana School of Agriculture and farmers in Little Biaboo, Mahaica.

There are just a handful of the many meaningful initiatives undertaken in the past month. The Chamber also deliberated on pressing matters of national concern which have implications for the private sector, and lent its voice to the conversation on the reduction of accidents through interventions that are geared at preventing unsafe use of the roadways, as well as issues surrounding revelations of corruption within the Guyana Police Force.

The GCCI continues its work in advocating the interests of the business community, and by extension, the nation—and as such, the Chamber will continue to use its reach to lobby for a lawful society with adherence to regulations, characteristics which lend themselves to attractive investment environments. We look forward to continuing our work as the voice of Guyana's business community.

Regards,
Kester Hutson
President – Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry



WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In July 2024, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry embraced its newest cohort of members. We would like to take the opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to:

Itika Social Media Marketing	ALBECH Future Inc.
Resysco by Sj Inc.	Classic Curve Boutique and Classique Cleaning Services
Diamond Ocean Energy (Guyana) Inc.	ThinkNChange
Flowcatalyst Technology and Consulting Inc.	MANASH Freight Forwarding
Acarai Logging Inc.	Lewks
Premium Eats Supermarket	Sheriff Cleaning Service
Logistics and Transport	Market Magnet

EVENTS

GCCI participates in consultation on amendments to Sexual Offenses Act



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry on July 3, participated in the National Stakeholders Forum on the amendment to the Sexual Offenses Act. Councillor Priyanka Sookraj represented the GCCI at the consultation which provided an opportunity for the perusal of and feedback on the proposed amendments. Among the proposed amendments is the updating of the provisions for legal protection for victims and the judicial processes for sexual offenses.

GCCI participates in Caribbean Investment Forum



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) participated in the Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF) that was held from July 10-12, at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

During the three-day event, which featured both a conference, as well as an investment village and exposition, the Chamber engaged a number of Caribbean businesses on navigating Guyana's business environment as well as the investment opportunities in the country. Local businesses were also apprised of the benefits of membership and the process to join the GCCI.

GCCI and ACCA sign MoU for development of accountancy profession



Addressing the challenge of a deficit in human resources facing the accountancy profession is among the areas that will be addressed through a collaboration between the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

On July 9, the two organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see the GCCI and ACCA working together to promote the development of the profession, support educational initiatives and grow the pool of accountants in Guyana, among other initiatives. The agreement also seeks to advocate for policies that promote a favourable business environment and address challenges facing the two entities, while utilising their joint networks to propel the developmental agenda of MoU.

The MoU was signed by Junior Vice President of the GCCI and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, and Director for ACCA's Europe, Eurasia, the Americas, and the Middle East (EEMA) region, Mrs. Magda Krupa-Hernandez.

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Understanding your target market is fundamental to any business. Identifying who your ideal customers are and how to reach them effectively can significantly impact your marketing strategies and overall business growth.

SVP Kathy Smith mentors women in business at AccelerateHer bootcamp



In keeping with the objective of developing entrepreneurship in Guyana while supporting women-led businesses, Senior Vice President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Kathy Smith supported the Centre for Local Business Development (CLBD) AccelerateHer 2024 Programme as a mentor.

The two-day event saw Mrs. Smith and other mentors providing professional mentoring to Guyanese women entrepreneurs that was aimed at growing their businesses. Thirty women benefited from the programme., which featured tailored workshops, access to one-on-one business advisory services, mentoring, pitch development, and a strong and supportive peer-learning environment.

GCCI engages Caricom Youth Ambassadors on entrepreneurship



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on July 11 engaged the Caricom Youth Ambassadors who are part of the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME) Attachment Programme.

The Ambassadors were on an official visit to Guyana, and Chairperson of the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committee, Mrs. Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran delivered a presentation to the delegation on entrepreneurship. Mrs. Kanhai-Gurchuran, in the interactive session, iterated the need for understanding the market and demand, as well as the importance of mentorship and strong support systems. She also provided insight into Guyana's local content requirements and some of the requirements for establishing businesses in Guyana.

GCCI participates in U.S. - Guyana Trade and Investment Roundtable



On July 11, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) joined several private sector organisations and government agencies for an engagement with a team from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on advancing trade and investment opportunities between Guyana and the U.S.

This engagement was geared towards identifying challenges to trade and investment as well as understanding the available opportunities and resources. President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson, and Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith participated in the discourse, which provided an opportunity to discuss problem-solving ideas on coordinated and concerted action toward advancing bilateral trade between the two nations.

The meeting provided a platform for agencies including the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the U.S. Agency for International Development to discuss issues related to access to capital for local companies, data, and communication with the local private sector as well as the Ministry of Finance and the Guyana Office for Investment.

Ultimately, it had the objective of understanding the respective opportunities, mandates, and resources prioritized by the local private sector, the government of Guyana, and the U.S. agencies; identifying the challenges—whether informational capacity, process, or policy—that if addressed would generate more viable leads for consideration, and agreeing on modes of communication and cooperation to pursue the increase of effectiveness of the organisations and agencies involved.

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Do your market research: Market research is the cornerstone of identifying your target market. This involves gathering data about your potential customers, their demographics, preferences, behaviors and needs. One effective way to conduct market research is through surveys, focus groups or analyzing existing data.

GCCI partners with stakeholders for capacity-building session at GSA



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), in furtherance of its objective of contributing to food security and diversification of the economy, is continuing its capacity-building initiatives in the agriculture sector.

On July 16, the GCCI once again partnered with the World University Service of Canada and several other stakeholders to empower students of the Guyana School of Agriculture and farmers with information and skills geared towards improving their knowledge, particularly in the business arena.



Chaired by Councillor and Chairman of the GCCI's Agriculture Committee, Mr. Brian Edwards, the event saw over 50 participants and included remarks from Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Richard Blair, as well as presentations from the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, the Guyana Food Safety Authority, the New Guyana Marketing Corporation, the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, the Small Business Bureau, and the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI).

Vice Chairperson of the GCCI's Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committee, Ms. Natasha Waddle also delivered a detailed presentation on business compliance and record-keeping, stressing the importance of documentation, especially as it relates to accessing financing. Participant and entrepreneur, Ms. Dixie Calder also shared her experience in establishing her small business that specialises in producing liqueurs, and spoke of the support she received from GMC in commissioning her operations and later expanding.

This activity follows several similar sessions across various regions that are in keeping with the GCCI's work programme for the development of the agriculture sector.

GCCI and CLBD partner for procurement workshop



On July 18, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Petroleum Committee and the Centre for Local Business Development partnered to provide a two-day procurement training workshop for members of the Chamber.

Twenty-eight participants were introduced to teaming arrangements in procurement, types of contracts, bid evaluation and award, invoicing errors, and Requests For Proposals.

GCCI hosts annual BBQ and Mixer



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (GCCI) Annual Barbeque and Mixer was held on July 21 at Palm Court, and saw our members networking while supporting our fundraising initiative!

Special appreciation is extended to our sponsors: Bounty Farms Limited, Beharry Automotive Limited, Windsor Estates, Dover Waterproofing Incorporated, Vitality Accounting and Consultancy Incorporated, Royal Chicken Incorporated, Palm Court, Guyana Beverage Incorporated, P.S Shipping and Custom Brokerage Incorporated, Ricks and Sari's Agro Industries Limited, Pharma-X Consultancy Limited, and Beacon Café.

Reinvigorating capacity building among farmers towards sustainable agriculture

-GCCCI supporting capacity-building of Upper Mahaica River Farmer's Development Group



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has partnered with the Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean Project funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by World University Service of Canada for the reinvigoration of the Upper Mahaica River Farmer's Development Group through capacity-building.

On July 31, this initiative was commemorated with a ceremonial rededication of a new sign on the building that houses the group at Little Biaboo, Mahaica. Chairman of the GCCCI's Agriculture Committee, Mr. Brian Edwards at the event stated that the event represents the growth, progress, and future potential of the group.

"The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry applauds the efforts of all the members of the Little Biaboo Farming Group. Your contributions to local agriculture and the community set a strong example of what can be achieved when we work together towards a common goal," he posited.

GCCI and partners take capacity-building programme to Little Biaboo

On July 31, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and its partners took the agriculture capacity-building programme to Little Biaboo, Mahaica River where over 50 persons benefited from the session and described it as the largest stakeholder collaboration to grace the community.

The Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean Project funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by World University Service of Canada, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, the Guyana Food Safety Authority, the New Guyana Marketing Corporation, Green Agro Services, Xpress Business Solutions, and the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board all delivered presentations to farmers and community members in the areas of good agriculture practices, climate-smart agriculture, and value-added production as well as agriculture as a business.

Chairman of the Farmer's Development Group, Mr. Kamal Persaud stated that the activity was the first of its kind for the community, as there was never a collaborative initiative involving so many agencies in Little Biaboo before.



GCCI attends Shipping Association of Guyana's Business Luncheon



President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry , Mr. Kestr Hutson on July 31 attended the Shipping Association of Guyana's Annual Business Luncheon. The event saw insights being provided into the challenges and opportunities within the industry, with key remarks being delivered by Prime Minister, Brigadier Mark Phillips.

Aiden by Best Western welcomes first guests



The Aiden by Best Western Midtown Hotel welcomed its first guests in July during the Caribbean Investment Forum. With nine floors and 150 rooms, this modern and sophisticated structure boasts supreme comfort with the convenience of its central location.

Developed by Arimu Investments Incorporated, the hotel also features smart rooms and restaurants that offer a fusion of flavours, with an unparalleled view of the city.

MEETINGS

GCCI pays courtesy visit to China's Ambassador to Guyana



With the aim of building closer relations between the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Guyana and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), a delegation from the Chamber on July 5, paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency, Ambassador Guo Haiyan.

President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; and Councillors Mr. Richard Rambarran and Mr. Devon Seeram engaged the Ambassador and her team on developing a better platform for economic relations. The GCCI team acknowledged the tangible contributions by Chinese companies to Guyana, particularly as it relates to infrastructural development. Noting the importance of engagement, the GCCI Executives spoke on the need to further collaborate with the Chinese Embassy with the aim of increasing trade and investment.

The discussions also delved into exploring information sharing on Chinese suppliers, cultural exchange programmes, capacity-building opportunities for Guyanese entrepreneurs, and a closer relationship with the Association of Chinese Enterprises in Guyana. There is also keen interest in partnering in the areas of agricultural development and renewable energy use.

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Gather direct customer feedback: Directly engaging with your customers through surveys, reviews, feedback forms or one-on-one interviews can provide invaluable insights into their needs, preferences and pain points. Actively listening to customer feedback allows you to tailor your products, services and strategies to meet their needs better.

GCCI pays courtesy call on High Commissioner of Belize -Discusses potential collaboration for expansion of trade



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on July 8, paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner of Belize to Guyana, Her Excellency, Gale Miller Garnett. President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith and Councillor, Mr. Richard Rambarran engaged the High Commissioner on several areas, including room for collaborating through a Trade Facilitation Council and the removal of Non-Tariff Barriers to trade in the Caricom region.

Mr. Rambarran enlightened the High Commissioner on the Chamber's rich history, noting the strides made in representing a wide range of sectors and advocating crucial matters of interest related to membership and the business community. The diplomat was also introduced to some of the key functions of the GCCI, such as the use of its good offices to settle disputes involving members of the local commercial and industrial community. The GCCI Executives extended an offer to support a Trade Facilitation Council that can be aligned with the expansion of economic and trade relations between Guyana and Belize. The GCCI also raised the issue of Non-Tariff Barriers as an impediment to food security in the region, and the importance of eliminating this hindrance in the interest of agricultural trade.

H.E Garnett shared that there is a notable there is a Belizean diaspora in Guyana, particularly in the medical field and those undergoing officers' training with the Guyana Defense Force. In terms of trade relations and the potential for expansion, she explained that there is an opportunity for Guyanese products to benefit from market access to the Free Trade Zone in Central America through collaboration with Belize. The two parties also examined the promotion of agricultural diversification through a collaborative effort.

GCCI advocates local content with visiting French business delegation



Encouraging partnerships with local businesses, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on July 9 met with a delegation of over 14 French businesses that are currently in Guyana scoping out potential investment opportunities.

These companies operate in a wide range of sectors and services including aerospace technology, helicopter manufacturing, aircraft maintenance, metal structure manufacturing, ICT, construction, energy management, electronics, transportation, and pharmaceuticals.

President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith, and Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran engaged the companies on the benefits of partnering with local companies for investment. Mr. Hutson posited that the visit to Guyana is a strategic one as he outlined the role and history of the GCCI. Mrs. Smith also provided an overview of the Chamber's contributions to business and national development, while introducing the delegation to the GCCI's advocacy role. Meanwhile, Mr. Rambarran presented an economic overview of Guyana, the current investment climate, and the benefits of entering the market, describing the country as "an investor's paradise."

With a strong emphasis on local content utilisation, the Executives also introduced the delegation to some of the services being provided by members of the GCCI and encouraged the French businesses to engage these reputable local companies.

SMALL BUSINESS TIP

Tap into social media insights: Social media platforms can offer useful insight into your target customers' behaviors, interests and preferences. Analyzing metrics such as engagement rates and audience responses can provide invaluable information about who interacts with your brand and how they perceive it.

Monitor competitor strategies: Keeping an eye on your competitors can provide valuable insights into their target market and marketing tactics. Analyse their advertising campaigns, social media presence and customer interactions to identify gaps or opportunities in the market that you can capitalise on.

GCCI engages Brava on business solutions



As the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry continues to promulgate digitisation and ease of doing business in Guyana, engagements with stakeholders who can propel this mission are continuing. On July 3, President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson and Members of the Executive Committee, Mr. Richard Rambarran and Mr. Brian Edwards, met with a team from Brava—formerly GTT Business Solutions—led by Brava Guyana Sales Director, Mr. Hilton Wong.

Discussions centered on business solutions being offered by the company that can positively impact the local business landscape, including Medium and Small Enterprises. The Brava Guyana team introduced a catalogue of products and services that can support productivity and efficiency, and the GCCI team expressed interest in exploring these solutions for the benefit of members, particularly small businesses



GCCI participates in activation on NACEN Technical Working Groups

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) today, July 18 participated in a joint meeting on the activation of the National Advisory Committee on External Negotiations (NACEN) Technical Working Groups (TWGs). Councillor and Chairperson of the GCCI's Trade and Investment Committee, Mr. Devon Seeram, and Councillor and Treasurer, Mr. Brian Edwards represented the Chamber at the meeting which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

These Technical Working Groups, which include both public and private sector representatives, are tasked with examining trade and trade-related issues applicable to their respective focal areas. Representing the GCCI, Mr. Seeram is part of the Market Access TWG, and Mr. Edwards serves on the Agriculture and Fisheries TWG. Councillor and Executive Member Mr. Richard Rambarran is also part of the Emerging Trade Policy Issues TWG, while Mr. Colin Moore is the representative in the Services, E-Commerce and Investment Facilitation TWG.

GCCI engages with stakeholders on enhancing trade relations with Belize



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on July 15 engaged in a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Guyana and Belize on renewed and enhanced bilateral cooperation.

Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran, and Councillor and Chairman of the Trade and Investment Committee, Mr. Devon Seeram represented the Chamber at the meeting, which sought to examine areas for cooperation between the two countries in relation to agriculture and food security, trade and investment, tourism, education, energy security, infrastructure, technology, and climate change.

A proponent of region trade and collaboration, the GCCI highlighted several potential benefits of partnering with Belize, including access to Free Trade Areas in Central America, as well as the opportunity to utilise the country as a logistical hub to expand Guyana's trade reach. The Councillors also pointed to lessons that can be garnered from Belize in the areas of tourism and energy, while encouraging business-to-business engagements with the Belizean private sector.

GCCI participates in CPSO AGM

President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mr. Kester Hutson on July 25 attended the virtual Annual General Meeting of the CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO). This was the first time the GCCI participated in the AGM since joining the CPSO-a service organization that mobilises and advances private sector participation within the Caribbean Community- in 2022.

Among the areas discussed was increasing advocacy for support for the business community, the potential for a regional stock exchange, improving trade and trade treaties, and digitisation of the Caribbean.

GCCI and Protected Areas Trust discuss collaboration for enhancement of protected areas



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on July 30 engaged the Protected Areas Trust, with discussions centring on collaborating for increased public awareness that is ultimately geared towards supporting the enhancement of protected areas.

Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George, and Chairman of the Green Economy Committee, Mr. Delmar Walcott met with Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Trust, Mrs. Melanie McTurk, and Executive Director, Ms. Oleta Williams at the GCCI's Secretariat.

There were also discussions on collaborating to garner private sector support for a project geared towards the upcycling of plastics. The two organisations agreed to proceed in exploring the areas discussed by way of a closer partnership and continued engagements.

Smart Steel Colombia visits GCCI

On July 3, Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith met with a team from Smart Steel Colombia, led by Mr. Dewi Jones. The company executes large-scale projects, and designs, manufactures and assembles steel structures, and the firm's officials expressed an interest in investing in Guyana.

Mrs. Smith shared information about Guyana's current business and investing climate, while introducing the contingent to the work of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

GCCI Executives pay courtesy call to U.S Ambassador Nicole D. Theriot



The Executive Management Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on Thursday, July 18 paid a courtesy visit to U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole D. Theriot during which a number of issues related to bilateral trade and investment, and collaborating in the areas of capacity-building opportunities and trade mission were discussed.

President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Junior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Secretary, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George; Treasurer, Mr. Brian Edwards, and Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran met with the U.S Ambassador, as well as the Political and Economic Chief, Mr. Russel Zalizniak; Senior Commercial Officer for Guyana, Mr. Daniel Gaines; Commercial Specialist, Ms. Amanda Edmondson, and Commercial Assistant and Budget Analyst, Ms. Tocomia Alexis.

The GCCI delegation introduced the U.S. Embassy Guyana officials to the history and role of the GCCI, while providing insights into the Chamber's accomplishments. Among the areas discussed were a U.S. – Guyana bilateral tax treaty, collaborating to connect the local private sector with U.S. companies for the expansion of trade, as well as fostering opportunities for both inbound and outbound trade missions. Discussions also delved into the country's investment climate, political stability, and the issue of the shortage of foreign exchange as well as the labour deficit in Guyana.

These engagements are in keeping with the GCCI's advocacy role as the leading Business Support Organisation in Guyana.

GCCI discusses illegal vending and garbage challenges in Georgetown with M&CC

On July 31, in response to a request from the Georgetown Mayor and City Council (M&CC), the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) engaged city officials on issues of illegal vending and the garbage disposal challenges plaguing the city. President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Junior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Treasurer, Mr. Brian Edwards; Executive Member,



Mr. Timothy Tucker, and Councillors, Mr. Keon Howard, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott, and Mrs. Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran met with Mayor Alfred Mentore, Town Clerk, Ms. Candace Nelson, and City Councillors Mr. Jai Narine Singh, Mr. Steven Jacobs, Mr. Clayton Hinds, and Mr. Kyle Solomon, as well as Director of the Solid Waste Department, Mr. Walter Narine.

The GCCI and M&CC previously signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration for cooperation related to development within the city, and it was on this basis that the conversation delved into potential joint initiatives targeting the encouragement of proper garbage disposal in Georgetown and solutions to illegal vending.

The M&CC highlighted challenges being experienced including unreliable waste disposal contractors and the failure of some businesses in the city to equip their facilities with waste receptacles. The GCCI highlighted efforts being made to advocate the use of proper waste disposal receptacles among its members, particularly through the Advocacy and Green Economy Committees. President of the Chamber, Mr. Kester Hutson stated that the GCCI is committed to operating as the conduit between the Council and the business community in lobbying for a cultural shift towards proper garbage disposal. Calls were also made by the GCCI's Councillors for the strategic placement of waste disposal units around the city.

The GCCI contingent also stressed the importance of enforcement of vending regulations and the establishment of dedicated spaces for vendors, so as to have a balanced approach to the issue that caters to the need to maintain order in the city, while also allowing vendors to preserve their livelihoods. Among the key points raised by the Chamber was the importance of stakeholder collaboration, particularly among the M&CC and Central Government, as well as the private sector, to effectively tackle these issues.

The Chamber reiterated its support for the development of the city and committed to supporting initiatives geared towards the reduction of litter in the city, while stressing the importance of enforcement of laws and regulations by the governing authorities.

JULY 2024: MEMBER OF THE MONTH EMBERS FINE CIGARS



Established in October 2022, Embers Fine Cigars is an online store that sells exceptional imported cigars, as well provides pop-up shops as needed. Founded by Mr. Sherwin Bart, Embers promises to ignite the senses, tantalise the palate and leave a lasting impression on cigar aficionados and those seeking a first-time experience.

"At Embers Fine Cigars, we strive to create an unforgettable experience that transcends mere indulgence. What sets Embers apart is firstly, the founder's decade-long experience as a cigar aficionado, and our flexible pick-up/delivery service for customer's convenience," Mr. Bart stated.

Over the years, the business' presence has become a common feature of prominent events, with Embers providing the cigar lounge at Horizon Events' Secret Garden Brunch 2023 and the Cigar Bar in the VVIP Section of the 2023 CPL Mega Concert.

The Founder, Mr. Bart, is an alumnus of Saint Stanislaus College, the Government Technical Institute and the University of Guyana. It was during his time studying Chemical Engineering at Polytechnico José Antonio Encheverría in Cuba that he developed a taste for cigars, and decided to bring the experience to Guyana's shores. Mr. Bart is also co-founder of Zippy's Transportation Service and Livity Projects Incorporated.

Passionate about providing the highest quality service, with a focus on maintaining a standard of excellence and integrity in all his undertakings, Mr. Bart was also the first runner up in the 2018 Scotiabank Vision Achiever Business Plan Competition.

MESSAGES & STATEMENTS



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mr. Kester Hutson

July 19, 2024

STATEMENT *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *in*

Support of Police crackdown on illegal sirens and emergency lights

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) is in firm support of the campaign launched by Traffic Chief, Senior Superintendent Mahendra Singh against the use of illegal sirens and emergency lights by unauthorised persons.

Emergency lights and sirens are prescribed for use by the Guyana Fire Service, the Guyana Police Force, and ambulances; however, recently, there has been increase in private vehicles bearing these equipment for the purpose of bypassing areas with congested traffic. These actions are not only illegal but pose a risk to road users as they can cause confusion, and use of same by drivers not trained in defensive driving can result in accidents.

With the growing number of road fatalities in Guyana, the GCCCI applauds these measures being taken by the Traffic Department to curb these practices. Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort that also addresses access to these items. As such, it is crucial that conditionalities be placed on their importation. The GCCCI is therefore urging the Customs Authority to place restrictions on the import of lights and sirens, limiting access strictly to the agencies authorised to use same.

The Chamber also wishes to emphasise the importance of responsible use of the roadways by all motorists and pedestrians

-END-



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mr. Kester Hutson

July 22, 2024

STATEMENT *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *on*

Corruption and financial impropriety within the Guyana Police Force

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has grown increasingly concerned over recent revelations of a high level of corruption and financial impropriety within the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and calls for an immediate independent investigation.

As the body responsible for upholding and enforcing the laws of Guyana, it is repugnant that the very individuals who have been empowered to maintain law and order in the country are engaging in malpractices, which brings to fore questions of the GPF's credibility and objectivity.

If the agents of the state who are responsible for maintaining stability and lawfulness are engaged in malfeasance, then they can no longer be trusted to uphold the standards that they ought to be enforcing. The Guyana Police Force must not operate with impunity—in fact, the members of the Force must be held at a higher degree of accountability. Failure to act can be viewed as assenting to corruption, and this can lead to a descent into lawlessness.

Furthermore, an independent probe is needed in the interest of objectivity and transparency, as the Special Organised Crime Unit, which has been tasked with investigating these issues, is an arm of the GPF. These circumstances are abhorrent and untenable; therefore, the Chamber calls for it to be dealt with swiftly, and for those found culpable to face the brunt of the law.

MESSAGES & STATEMENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS**May**

Offshore Technology Conference
Mixer

Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO)
Mission

Cave Shepherd Group Trade Mission

June

EPA Green Walk
Econome 3
Pride Month Mixer

July

Annual Barbecue & Mixer
Caribbean Investment Forum 2024

August

Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports
National Sports Awards Dinner

UPCOMING EVENTS**September**

National Small Business Week
Business Guyana Magazine Launch
Petroleum Luncheon

October

Agriculture Expo
Cancer Mixer
Jamaica Stock Exchange Investments &
Capital Market Conference

November

Business Development Forum
Cuba Chamber of Commerce Mission
Brazilian Trade Mission

December

Annual Awards Presentation & Gala Dinner

**Please note this document is subject to change*