



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION**

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSION  
for 2018**

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## **1. Chairperson's Remarks**

In 2018, the Commission continued to build on previous successes by ongoing public engagements and delivering training suitable for Indigenous leaders to be able to manage their communities proficiently.

We continued to value stakeholders on various initiatives and we ensured that in our representation, the protection of the rights of our people.

Gratitude are extended to the Government, and all stakeholders especially the leaders and residents of Indigenous Communities for your aid and collaboration. We are grateful for the opportunities to empower our Indigenous communities.

I wish to thank my fellow Commissioners for their continuous teamwork and the secretariat for their invaluable work.

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission values all of your contributions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Doreen Jacobis", written in dark ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Ms. Doreen Jacobis**

**Chairperson**

**Indigenous Peoples' Commission**

## **2. Executive Summary**

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission (IPC) is one of four Rights Commissions established under Article 212 G of the Guyana Constitution and tasked, inter alia, with setting up mechanisms to enhance the status of Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples' Commission has the mandate to empower this population and advocate for their economic, social and cultural enhancement and Risk Reduction.

Established in September 2010, the IPC became functional during the latter part of 2011 with the appointment of staff in September 2011. The overall strategy is to create an enabling environment by building the competence of strategic stakeholders to deliver services based on the needs and demands of the indigenous peoples and congruently educate the indigenous people to make them aware of their rights and processes of the enabling environment to realize their full potential.

In realizing this, the Commission focused on training, capacity building, and public awareness in successfully executing its work program for 2018. However, for the year, the Commission met ten times; eight - monthly meetings and two discussions.

Despite the challenge of not having any field activities between March to August, 2018 due to the contesting of the Village Elections and the subsequent National Toshaos' Conference, the Secretariat was still successfully implementing the work plan 100% for 2018.

In January, the Commission commenced the coordination of a National Essay Writing Competition.

In February, with support from the Department of Labour, Ministry of Social Protection, the Commission successfully conducted a one-day employment workshop in Port Kaituma, Region 1.

In September, an outreach was done at Waipa, Region 8.

In October, the Commission facilitated a Trafficking – in – Person workshop at Batavia with support from the National Task Force on Trafficking–in–Person

Cluster capacity-building sessions were held at the Karrau, Region 7, and in the Karasabai sub-district, Region 8 in October and November respectively.

In December, outreaches were conducted at Capoey, Wakapoa, and Kabakaburi in Region 2.

On November 26, the 2019 estimates were approved successfully in the National Assembly.

### 3. Major Activities 2018

#### *3.1 National Essay Writing Competition*

As part of the work plan for 2018, the IPC coordinated a National Essay Writing Competition opened to all Secondary schools in Guyana. The topic for the competition was “**The Amerindian Act and its current relevance to the Amerindian Communities**” and consisted of no more than 3000-3500 words. The competition offered prizes for the first, second, and third places being one laptop + \$100,000, one 10-inch tablet + \$75,000, and one 7-inch tablet + \$50,000 respectively. In addition, there were also three consolation prizes comprising one 7-inch tablet + \$20,000 each.

It commenced during the month of February and while the deadline for submissions was on April 30, 2018, the submission date was extended to May 31, 2018. The Commission through the Secretariat packaged and distributed copies of the rule sheet, information sheet as well as copies of the Amerindian Act to all secondary school + primary tops across the ten regions of the country, during the first two weeks of February. Assistance was also provided through the Ministry of Education, Chief Education Officer, Regional Chairmen, Regional Executive Officers, Regional Education Officers, and Toshaos respectively. Upon request for sponsorship, Starr Computer donated a Lenovo 10-inch Tablet and the Ministry of Education donated \$100,000 in cash towards the prizes.

There was a total of twenty-three entries received via email and hard copy by the Secretariat. Following an approved criterion by the Commission, the essays were assessed by Commissioners James Singh and Aston Simon along with the Chief Executive Officer of the Rights of the Child Commission, Mr. Amarnauth Panday, and the IPC Secretariat.

Upon completion of the assessment, the following winners were declared:

Name	Place	School	Region №	Prize
Lucas Kiran Jonas	1st	Queens College	4	\$100,000 + Laptop Computer
Tamia Dodson	2nd	Bygeval Secondary	5	\$75,000 + Tablet (10 inch)
Terrie Viva Julia Ma Rae	3rd	St. Ignatius Secondary	9	\$50,000 + Tablet (7 inch)
Vishani Ragobeer	Consolation Prize	Queens College	4	\$20,000 + Tablet (7 inch)
Omadevi Narain	Consolation Prize	Bygeval Secondary	5	\$20,000 + Tablet (7 inch)
Kecia Thomas	Consolation Prize	DC Fox Secondary	7	\$20,000 + Tablet (7 inch)

These prizes will be awarding to the aforementioned names in 2019.

### ***3.2 Employment workshop***

The Commission in planning its work program for 2018 noted the importance of conducting a workshop to deal with employment issues in Port Kaituma. This workshop was planned as a result of a request made by employees at a previous capacity-building workshop, the Commission conducted for village leaders in 2017 and in keeping with one of the Commission's objectives in the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (212T (h)). The Commission met with GGMC through Commissioner Newell Dennison, GFC through Ms. Sonia Reece, and the Department of Labour through Chief Labour Officer, Mr. Charles Ogle which resulted in a contact person from each agency being identified to liaise with the IPC with regard to pertinent issues and support for the workshop. Mr. Ogle also appointed one of his staff to join the team to be the resource person at this workshop. **(Appendix 1).**



### ***3.3 Sensitization Workshop on Trafficking – in – Persons (TIP)***

This workshop was hosted and coordinated by Commission in collaboration with National Task Force of trafficking-in-persons.

It was held at Batavia Region 7 on November 17, 2018, from 09:00hrs to 16:00hrs.

The objective of the workshop was to fulfill an earlier obligation that was made to Toshao Oren Williams of Batavia who had made a request for this training to be provided in his community.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide information and to generate awareness on “What is Trafficking-in-Person and its impact on our community.

The facilitators were: 1. CEO Neil Bacchus

2. Mr. Narine Ramroop from the Ministry of Communities

3. Ms. Angelica Forbes from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission  
Inc

There were 50 participants.

Topics discussed included the following:

- Defining and understanding human trafficking
- The distinction between human trafficking and human smuggling
- Child trafficking
- Causes and consequences of human trafficking
- Trafficking in Persons laws in Guyana
- Examples of intervention to raise awareness and reduce trafficking
- Roles of the Village Council and residents on the best practices in combating trafficking in persons

At the end of the presentations, questions and comments were entertained.

Brochures, posters, bags, water bottles and bookmarkers, and copies of the TIP Act 2005 were presented to the participants courtesy of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Inc.



Toshao Williams making a point



Presenting Toshao Williams with posters

At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their gratitude for helping them to understand TIP and its impact on their community. They have pledged to support the fight against TIP by sharing information and being aware of any such practices.

### ***3.4 Ethnic Relations Commission***

At the meeting held on July 26, 2018, Mr. Ashton Simon attended the meeting and introduced himself as the Ethnic Relations Commission's (ERC) Representative on the Indigenous Peoples Commission (IPC) in keeping with the correspondence that was received from that Commission. Subsequently, Commissioner David James was nominated to be the IPC Commissioner on the ERC. A meeting was held on December 20, 2018 at 9 am ERC Boardroom with the ERC which came off successfully. The Commission was represented by Vice-Chairperson Yvonne Pearson,

Commissioners Gerry Gouveia, Marco De Souza, David James, Matilda Williams, and CEO Neil Bacchus. Both sides recognized the need for collaboration as the work of the ERC mandate extends across the entire country including indigenous communities. It was noted that the ERC sitting Commissioner on the IPC, Mr. Ashton Simon, and the IPC sitting Commissioner on the ERC, Mr. David James will bridge the gap in enabling the ERC and the IPC to support each other in fulfilling their mandates as constitutional agencies

### ***3.5 National Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference 2018.***

On July 16, the Commission through its CEO, Neil Bacchus in accepting an invitation from the NTC attended and made a presentation to Village leaders who were present. The presentation focused on the role and mandate of the Commission. The Commission was later presented with a plaque for outstanding support given to the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs.



### ***3.6 Indigenous Heritage Month Celebrations***

On September 15, 2018, Vice Chairperson Yvonne Pearson and Commissioner Marco De Souza participated in the village celebrations for Indigenous Heritage Month at Shulinab, Region 9.

#### ***4. Outreaches***

##### ***4.1 Waipa***

Commissioner Marco De Souza along with the CEO visited the village from September 19 - 21, 2018. Meetings were held with the Village Council and the villagers both at Waipa and its satellite village, Sandhills.

With support of Food for the Poor (Guyana) Inc., three bags of rice, 20 footballs, and 20 basketballs were donated to the village. (**Appendix 2**).

##### ***4.2 Region 2***

Commissioner Marco De Souza along with CEO successfully conducted an outreach to Capoey, Wakapoa, and Kabakaburi from December 5 -8, 2018 in Region 2. Meetings were held with the Toshao and Village Council Members as well as with the residents of each of the villages. The concerns raised were documented (**Appendix 3**)

##### ***Cluster Capacity Building Workshops***

In October, the Commission in keeping with its work plan regarding to promote empowerment of indigenous peoples hosted a capacity-building workshop of Village Leaders and Council for 20 members of 3 villages at Karrau in Region 7.

A similar workshop was conducted in November at Karasabai in Region 8 for Village Leaders and Council members for 5 villages located there. The workshop focused on leadership, management, financial, employment, and TIP skills. The participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge shared and have pledged to implement the training so as to make them more effective in the execution of their duties (**Appendix 4**)

#### ***6.0 Participation in different Committees and activities***

##### ***6.1 Amerindian Development Fund***

The Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) is established to provide support for the socio-economic and environmental development of Amerindian communities and villages, through the

implementation of Community Development Plans (CDPs). The proposed projects cover agricultural production and processing, village infrastructure, tourism, manufacturing, village business enterprise, and transportation, among others.

CEO Neil Bacchus attended one meeting on Monday, January 15, 2018, at the UNDP office where the Project team presented a report for 2017 and a work plan for 2018. It was reported that the project is expected to end in September 2018. It was unanimously voted that the ADF project be extended to December 2018 and the project came to an end in December. There were no more meetings for the year nor was any submission made for the 2018 report. However, an evaluation report was circulated in November and December for comments and inputs from board members.

## ***6.2 National Technical Working Group***

On November 23, 2018, Guyana signed the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Union under the EU-FLEGT VPA following 6 years of negotiation. This led to the National Technical Working Group being replaced with a new National Technical Implementation Group that was proposed to lead the implementation process under the EU-FLEGT VPA by the EU-FLEGT secretariat. It was noted that the IPC will now sit on one of the technical sub-group. The Commissioners proposed that Vice-Chairperson Yvonne Pearson be its nominee on this sub-group.

## ***6.3 Amerindian Land Titling Project***

For 2018, a new Project Coordinator was hired and at a meeting attended by CEO Neil Bacchus on December 20, 2018, the main aim was to strategize in seeking a 5-year extension to the project. There was a change in implementing the New Guidelines in that the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission (GLSC) had completed the demarcation of 4 Miles village with the issuance of the Absolute Grant to follow shortly. It was noted that this case of 4 Miles will serve as an example of how future land titling will be conducted. In the past, the Absolute

Grant was issued then demarcation was completed which cause many problems, therefore, the new agreement with and commitment from the GLSC is demarcation first then Absolute Grant. Sixty (60) persons from across Region 9 were trained in Mediation through Mediation Services International.

#### ***6.4 Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons***

Guyana is equipped with the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act Chapter 10:06 which provides the legal basis for law enforcement actions with regard to trafficking in persons. In accordance with Part V, Section 30 (1) of the aforementioned Act, Guyana established a Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons on February 6, 2007. The Task Force was created to facilitate the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national strategies in response to trafficking in persons. scale.

As a member of the Task Force, CEO Neil Bacchus attended the monthly meetings, participated in the activities, and incorporated TIP in the capacity-building training for Indigenous Leaders.

On July 18, 218 the CEO made a presentation at the opening of a two-day training in Trafficking in Persons for the Corps of Wardens attached to the Ministry of Natural Resource and on July 30, co-hosted a Poetry Competition in celebration of World Trafficking-in-Persons Day and organized by the Taskforce which saw over 40 persons participating.

The CEO also made presentations at a few secondary schools on the East Bank of Demerara and to 4 hotels during the month of July

#### ***6.5 ICT Access and E-Services for Hinterland, Poor, and Remote Communities Project***

On April 28, 17 the Commission through its CEO attended the first meeting of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC). However, on August 23, 2018, at 10:00 am, the Commission was invited to attend the inaugural meeting at Arthur Chung Conference Centre. The Administrative Assistant, Ms. Surajdai Chung attended this meeting.

## ***7.0 Complaints***

During the reporting period, the Commission received one complaint; details are as follows in Table 1.

Date	Complainant's	Complaint/Concern	Action Taken	Status	Remarks
01-10-2018	Toshao Norbert Andrews	<p>Nicholita Shanira Raymundo, Replacement Birth Certificate needed. Her previous Birth Certificate was damaged.</p> <p>Shonnete Tracy Albert, Never Register for a Birth Certificate. First-time Registrant.</p> <p>Anisha Ursuline Samuels, the Baptism date was used on Birth Certificate and NOT the day of Birth</p> <p>Magielly Raymundo, Born in Brazil but lives in Guyana, never register in Brazil nor in Guyana.</p>	<p>Letter done to the Deputy Registrar requesting replacement certificate for Nicholita S. Raymundo, Birth Certificate for Shonnete T. Albert, Corrected date of birth and a new certificate for Anisha Ursuline, and Birth Certificate for MAgielly Raymundo</p>	<p>Nicholita Shanira Raymundo and Anisha Ursuline Samuels received birth certificates which were dispatched to the Toshao. Also, a request for more information has been made through the Toshao for the processing of the others.</p>	<p>Toshao has been requested to provide more information as required by the General Register Office to facilitate the processing of the others.</p>
14-09-2018	Toshao Charlie Pearson	<p>Ms. Ramona Pearson has not received a letter of introduction despite several applications made to the TSC, and continues to teach at the Santa Cruz Primary School since April 2017 date</p>	<p>Contact was made with the Vice Chair of the TSC Ms. Avil Crawford who investigated the matter but found no application or file for Ms. Ramona Perarson, Commissioner Debra Thomas of Region One also made checks and reported that nothing was found for MS. Pearson. She advised that Ms. Pearson apply again through the system and also that she send a copy of the said application to the</p>		<p>Ms. Ramona Pearson has reported that she has received her letter of introduction from the TSC.</p>



			TSC for reference.		
19-09-2018	Toshao Oren Williams	Seeking intervention to stop illegal mining in Batavia by Mr. Ricky Ramnarine on titled village land.	<p>Calls were made to Mr. Mc Kenzie at the MNR for an updated map of the area</p> <p>Calls were made to Honorable Minister Mr. Sidney Allicock and Minister Ms. Valarie Garrido-Lowe but they were not in the office at that time and messages were left with a brief update on the matter at hand.</p>	A meeting was held between Honourable Minister Mr. Sidney Allicock, the Batavia Village Council, and miner Mr. Rickey Ramnarine on October 8, 2018.	As per an article in press (Kaieteur News) on October 10, 2018, the parties involved agreed to firstly address the demarcation of both mining blocks so that villagers are aware of the area in question. Mr. Ramnarine agreed to conduct a private survey of the blocks with representation from both GGMC and the villagers' full involvement.
13-04-2018	Email: Laura George (APA)	<p>Seeking intervention for the residents of Anarika, Region 10 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reopening of the school in the community</li> <li>▪ Supply of goods to families</li> <li>▪ Hot meals prepare for the school children</li> <li>▪ Vehicle to transport school children to the nearest school in Rockstone.</li> </ul>	It was noted that Government had interven by sending a team to the village	Commissioner David James will give an update at the next meeting on what the government intervention has done so far to address the concerns raised by the APA.	
19-03-2018	Toshao Ellis James	In 2015, Four Miles Village had received its Title Certificate without demarcation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the last ALT board meeting held on April 25, this matter</li> </ul>	Demarcation will take place within the next three months	Information was relayed to Former Toshao James who will pass on this

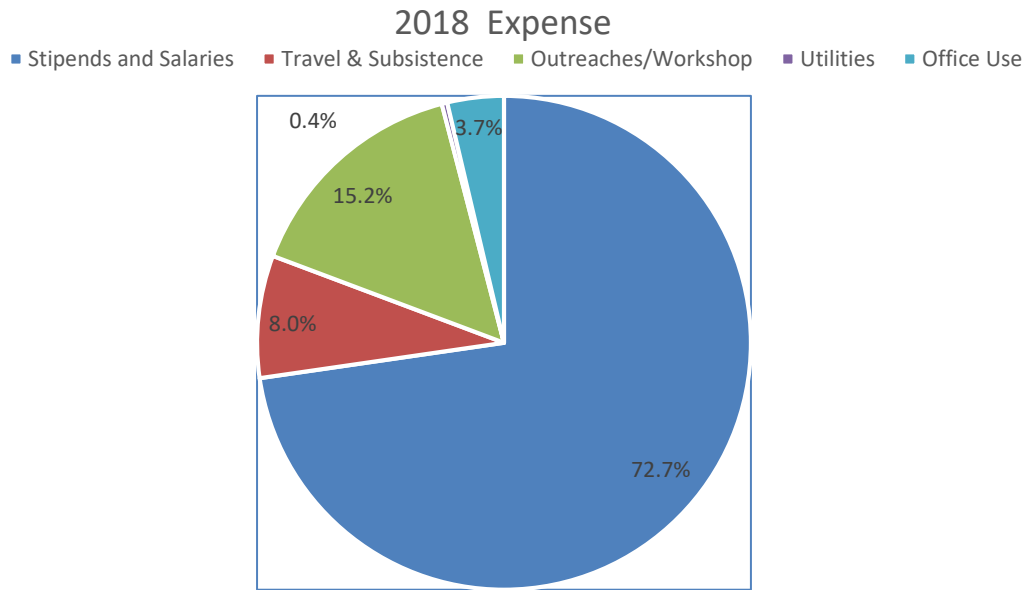
		and the call is for urgent demarcation.	was raised and it was noted the immediate next project for the ALT Project Team is to demarcate Four Miles Village		information to the new Toshao
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Table 1: Complaints received in 2018

### ***8.0 Financial Statement***

As a constituted body, IPC follows all the accounting procedures of the government and therefore has a reliable financial management system. All financial transactions were processed by the Rights Commission Secretariat through its Finance Department.

The total sum of G\$25,683,000 was allocated as its approved budget for 2018 which reflected an increase of 5% of the allocated amount for 2017. The amount of \$G23,346 was returned to the consolidated fund as the unspent sum at the end of the year. The distribution of the total expenditure was as follows:



The Commission 2018 financial statements were audited by the Audit office of Guyana.  
**(Appendix 5)**

In 2018, Commissioner Damian Fernandes presented two cheques amounting to \$412,146 to the Secretariat. This amount was deposited in the Commission's bank account at Bank of Guyana Inc. A donation of \$ 100,000 made by the Ministry of Education towards the National Essay Writing Competition which was also deposited into the bank account. On June 18, 2018, Mr. Fernandes formally resigned as Commissioner on the Indigenous Peoples' Commission.

**Year: 2018**

Opening Balance b/f		470,886.00
Additions		
June		288,000.00
November		124,146.00
November - MOE		100,000.00
Activities		-
Bank Deposit Books		(725.00)
Closing Balance c/f		982,307.00

## 8.0 *Proposed activities for 2019*

Description of Activities	Intended Output/Outcomes
Three community visits as necessary to follow up specific issues in Region 1, 7 and 9	Root cause of concerns / issues ascertained for better resolution and policy guidance
Participate in media interviews	Public Awareness
Participation in national events such as World Indigenous Peoples' Day and Amerindian heritage month	Public Awareness
Hiring of Consultant	Amerindian communities strengthened with respect to leadership, management, community and human development and in oil and gas
Training in Amerindian Act (2006) and human development in 1 cluster area at Mahdia and in Region 2	Amerindian communities strengthened with knowing and understand their rights and benefits therefrom as well as respect to leadership, management, community and human development

## 9.0 *Challenges and Recommendations:*

### 9.1 *Challenges*

The main challenge in 2018 was the hosting of the Toshaos' elections and the NTC conference. However, this did not affect the Commission from achieving its objectives in completing its workplan.

### 9.2 *Recommendations*

- 9.2.1 The formal establishment of the Human Rights Commission
- 9.2.2 A revamping of the mapping unit at the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission with integral input from key stakeholders and agencies such as the GFC, GGMC and PAC
- 9.2.3 A review of all of the health centers in Amerindian Communities regarding its infrastructure.

## **10.0      *Appendices***

Appendix 1: Employment Workshop

Appendix 2: Outreach to Waipa, Region 8

Appendix 3: Outreach to Region 2

Appendix 4: Report of the capacity building workshops at Karrau and Karasabai

Appendix 5: Audit Report.

**Appendix 1**  
**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION**  
**Report on Employment workshop**

**Date of Activity:** February 15, 2017, from 11:00 hrs. to 14.30 hrs.

**Venue:** Community Center, Port Kaituma, Region 1

**Facilitators:** Commissioner Patricia Singh

CEO Neil Bacchus

Senior Labour Officer Michelle Baburam

**Number of participants:** 43

**Villages/Communities participated:**

- Seaby Village Council
- Four Miles Village Council
- Canal Banks CDC
- Citrus Grove CDC
- One Mile CDC
- Fitzberg CDC
- Oronoque CDC
- Port Kaituma Central

**Purpose of the workshops:**

- for both employers and employees and as well as stakeholders to be aware of the employment practices related to indigenous peoples regarding their rights.
- to promote training and technical assistance to support initiatives by and for indigenous peoples

**Expected outcome:**

- Amerindian people are competent as natural leaders & have the management capacity to function as councilors while effectively collaborating with the local government system.
- Concerns of Amerindians documented to guide policy considerations of the IPC to benefit the demands and needs of indigenous peoples.

**Activities**

A participatory approach was taken by Ms. Baburam who in a dynamic presentation allowed for maximum interaction while enabling a learning environment. The topics discussed were directed at enhancing the participants' abilities to understand aspects of the Labour and Termination and Severance Act. Information was shared on

**1. Rights of workers****2. Duties of Employers****3. Child Labour****4. Holidays with Pay Act****5. Termination of Employment and Severance pay Act.**

At the end of each topic presented, questions and comments were entertained.

Brochures from GGMC, complaint forms and Labour Posters and the presentations were distributed to all present.

On February 16, 2018, Vice Chairperson Yvonne Pearson along with Commissioner Patricia Singh made a presentation at the Port Kaituma Secondary School regarding the Commission's Essay Writing Competition followed by a meeting with the Four Miles Village Council.

**Conclusion:** The participants expressed their appreciation for the timely intervention made by the Commission in helping them to understand their rights regarding employment. A call was made for a permanent Labour Officer to be stationed in Port Kaituma.



Participant making a point



## APPENDIX 2



**September 19-21, 2018**

## **A. Background**

The Commission in 2018 approved as part of its annual work program to visit the Community at Waipa Village in Region 8. There was a general consensus that where opportunity exists the Commission capitalized on these opportunities to interface with Communities. Contact was made with the Toshao, Norbert Andrews who facilitated a village meeting with residents of his village.

### ***Expected Outcome***

- To have social interaction and for the community to be sensitized about the establishment of the IPC and its functions and for villagers to share key concerns experienced at the village level.
- The Commission has an appreciation of how the Village Council operates and what its major challenges are with respect to rights and the rule of law.

## **B. Interactive engagement between IPC and Village Council and residents of Waipa village**

- (i) The Commission met with 90 residents including the Toshao and four Council members. The process of the engagement entailed the following activities:

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Neil Bacchus along with Commissioner Marco De Souza shared with the residents, the purpose and functions of the Commission and how communities could benefit from the mandates of the Commission. Lunch was prepared for those present.



20 footballs and 20 basketballs along with 3 bags of rice were donated to the community through the kind courtesy of Food for the Poor Guyana Inc. Toshao Norbert Andrews received donation on behalf of the community.



**(ii) *Meeting with Sand-hill***

CEO Neil Bacchus and Commissioner Marco De Souza met briefly with 40 residents and two council members at the Satellite village at Sand-hills shared with the purpose and functions of the Commission and how communities could benefit from the mandates of the Commission. The concerns raised were documented.



**(iii) Capacity Building with Village Council**

CEO Neil Bacchus along with Commissioner Marco De Souza facilitated a brief session with the Toshao and 4 Village Council Members in the area of governance at the Village Council level and functioning effectively as a council member. Their concerns were documented.



**C. Concerns expressed by Residents**

The concerns expressed by residents are presented at C. below and in the Appendices. The main concerns were related to, health, education, and economic activities within the village that could assist the HEYS recipients.

- Shonnete Tracy Albert – 19 years- never register for a birth certificate
- Anisha Ursaline - 6 years - Baptism date was used on birth certificate instead of date of birth which was two years prior.
- Magielly Raymundo – 6 years - born in Brazil but never registered in Brazil nor in Guyana.
- Shanita Nicholita Raymundo – 3 years – Birth certificate damaged
- Lya Rhonda Torres – 5 years – Name spelt wrong on birth certificate
- Hilary Norton Andrew – 20 years - assistance with a TIN certificate
- Expansion of the water system
- Urgent need an Assistant Health worker. 2 Applications were sent to the Regional Office at Mahdia, Region 8. To date, the RHO has not responded.
- Need insecticides and fogging machine
- Urgently need a four-wheel cruiser. Children have to spend many hours to walk to their secondary schools at Kato.
- Need basic Agricultural tools such as wheel-barrows, cutlasses, shovels etc.
- Stipend for radio operator.
- Need 12 volts batteries and chargers

#### **D. Conclusion:**

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission agreed to provide support with respect to all the concerns. It was agreed that the CEO will raise some of these concerns urgently with the relative agencies and provide a feed back to the village. The residents also thanked the Commission for their timely visit.

## APPENDIX 3



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**December 5-8, 2018**

#### **D. Background**

The Commission during 2018 approved as part of its annual work program to visit three Communities in Region 2. There was a general consensus that where opportunity exists the Commission capitalized on these opportunities to interface with Communities. Contact was made with the Toshao; Ralph Hendricks of Capoey village, Howard Cornelius of Wakapoa village, and Sherman Lyte of Kabakaburi village who each facilitated a village meeting with residents of their respective villages and with members of their Village Councils.

#### ***Expected Outcome***

- To have social interaction and for the community to be sensitized about the establishment of the IPC and its functions and for villagers to share key concerns experienced at the village level.
- The Commission has an appreciation of how the Village Council operates and what its major challenges are with respect to rights and the rule of law.

#### **E. Interactive engagement between IPC and each Village.**

The Commission met with:

- 70 residents including the Toshao and five Council members at Capoey.
- 60 residents including the Toshao and seven Council members at Wakapoa.
- 40 residents including the Toshao and three Council members at Kabakaburi.

(iv) The process of the engagement entailed the following activities:

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Neil Bacchus along with Commissioner Marco De Souza shared with the residents, the purpose and functions of the Commission and how communities could benefit from the mandate of the Commission. Their concerns were documented. Lunch was prepared for those present.



Meeting with Village Council members and residents at Capoey





Meeting with Village Council members and residents at Wakapoa



Meeting with Village Council members and residents at Kabakaburi



**(v) *Capacity Building with Village Council***

At each village, CEO Neil Bacchus along with Commissioner Marco De Souza facilitated a brief session with the Toshao and the Council Members in the area of governance at the Village Council level and functioning effectively as a council member. Their concerns were documented.

**F. Concerns expressed by Residents**

The concerns expressed by residents are presented below. The main concerns were related to, health, education and economic activities within each village.

**i. Capoey Village**

- Application for Extension on land which includes the village SPF.
- Environmental permit and authorization are needed to renew SFW
- Need technical support for long-term income generation project for sand mining
- Health building has no electricity and toilet issues
- Need support to rehabilitate trestle and calls for GWI to provide service in extending waterlines to newly developed housing areas.
- The road needs major work
- Need support for fogging and a fogging machine
- Medical Doctor visits once a month but checks only for general issues such as hypertension and diabetes. All other sicknesses are referred to the Suddie Hospital.
- Payment to Police, GRA, EPA GFS and the Court whenever a social event is held on the beachfront resort
- Issue with having youths having a competition with other communities without the permission of the Village Council in the front part of the village on a ground that is not sanctioned by the village council.
- Calls for pure drinking water
- Call for capacity building and training for the Village Council

**ii. Wakapoa Village**

- Calling for the land issue with Akawini to be resolved and reconstruction of the bridge that was destroyed.
- Call for e-governance and internet services
- Call for farm management including farm maintenance, use of chemicals and organic crops
- Issue with a resident who is very threatening to other residents; destroyed his neighbor's fence; Police were notified.
- Call for a bridge to connect other communities within the titled area as well as boat and engine to transport school children living in the outer area.

- Call for the construction of a new secondary school to be built in a more central area.
- Asking for an increase in subvention
- Call for support for persons to be appointed as teachers
- Call for an audit to be conducted on the Village Council
- Call for capacity building and training for the Village Council

**iii. Kabakaburi Village**

- Call for support in Farm management including drainage and irrigation. Noted that with such support, this village can provide food for the entire country.
- Issue with Guyana Forestry Commission which refused to recognize village boundary and has been fining the community excessively.
- Issues with the school regarding thrift society – The matter is under investigation.
- Call for a community boat and engine
- Urgent call for pure drinking water – the death of two children under age 10 recently
- Support for the improved Health services including for a resident doctor and malaria smears.
- Call for a working sector to be established
- Call for sports gears
- Call for the replacement of pit latrines
- Improvement in the school feeding program
- Poor area selected for construction of a new secondary school
- Call for capacity building and training for the Village Council

**G. Conclusion:**

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission agreed to provide support with respect to all the concerns. It was agreed that the secretariat will raise some of these concerns urgently with the relative agencies and to provide a feed back to the village. The residents also thanked the Commission for their timely visit.

## **Appendix 4**

### **INDDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION**

#### **Report on Cluster Training workshops**

##### **Workshop 1**

**Date of Activities:** October 22-24 from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

**Venue:** Karrau, Region 7

**Facilitators:** Vice Chairperson Yvonne Pearson  
CEO Neil Bacchus

**Number of participants:** 14

##### **Villages/Communities participated:**

- Karrau Village Council
- Batavia Village Council
- River's View Village Council

##### **Workshop 2**

**Date of Activities:** December 3-6, 2017 from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

**Venue:** Karasabai, Region 9

**Facilitators:** Commissioner Marco De Souza  
CEO Neil Bacchus

**Number of participants:** 20

##### **Villages/Communities participated:**

- Karasabai Village Council
- Rukumuta Village Council

- Pai Pang Village Council
- Tiger Pond Village Council
- Tipuru Village Council

**Purpose of the workshops:**

- to promote the empowerment of indigenous peoples, especially with regard to the village council in the local government system and the scope and authority of the Council of Toshaos
- to promote training and technical assistance to support initiatives by and for indigenous peoples

**Expected outcome:**

- Amerindian people are competent as natural leaders & have the management capacity to function as councilors while effectively collaborating with the local government system.
- Indigenous people are competent in taking their initiatives and making them into lucrative and sustainable opportunities.

**Activities**

For both workshops, a participatory approach was taken by the facilitators so as to allow for maximum interaction while enabling a learning environment. The topics discussed were directed in enhancing the participants' abilities to function more efficiently and effectively at the level of their village and community councils. These topics were:

**IPC**

- The existence of the IPC as a constituted body
- The mandate of the IPC as set in the constitution
- The objectives of the IPC
- The general functions of the IPC
- Accomplishments
- Challenges

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- Who is employee
- What is employment
- Who is employer
- Termination
- Rights

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

- What is Administration
- Critical Administration Tools
- Meetings
- Chairmanship
- Minute Taking
- Sample of formats for minutes
- Record Keeping
- Public Speaking

## **LEADERSHIP**

- Objectives
- What makes a good leader
- Objectives
- Leadership
- Qualities of a good leader
- The role of a leader
- External Jobs of a Leader
- Exercise
- Models of Leadership
- 5 W's and H
- Elements of Good Leadership

## **TEAMWORK**

- Our identity
- What makes you the person you are
- Our Identity
- Types of teams
- Team Dynamics
- Factors that affect the performance of the team
- Characteristics of Team
- Factors that affect the performance of a team
- Conflict Resolution
- What is conflict Features of conflict
- People's styles in a conflict
- Competitive
- Compromising Collaborative
- Accommodating
- Avoiding
- Negotiation
- Common response to conflict
- Healthy way to approach conflict
- Conflict Resolution Process
- Gather information
- Set the scene
- Agree the problem
- Brain Storm Possible solutions
- Negotiate Solutions

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- Objectives
- What a treasurer does
- Treasurers
- Financial Terms

- Record Keeping
- What is a receipt
- Examples of receipts
- Book Keeping
- Income Vs Profits
- Cash Book
- Examples of cash book
- Bank Book
- Assets Book
- Monthly Reports
- Budgeting

## **UNDERSTANDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

- What is Human Trafficking?
- Trafficking
- Trafficking vs. Smuggling/Irregular Migration
- What is the difference between trafficking and exploitation?
- Majority of Trafficked Victims
- Human Rights Approach
- Account must be taken of
- Factors that render victims liable to trafficking
- Three Elements of Trafficking in Persons
- Process, Means and End
- Understanding the terms
- Force, Fraud and Coercion
- Examples of Coercion
- Abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability
- Trafficker's Methods (examples)
- Labour violations and other crimes
- Why do Traffickers do it?

- Why do people let themselves be trafficked?

### **What are people trafficked for?**

- People are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation
- People are trafficked for Labour
- Potential Sectors for Trafficking in Guyana
- Traffickers can be different kinds of people
- Recruitment Methods
- What draws victims?
- Risk factors for trafficking
- Extra risk factors for child trafficking

### **Guyana's National Response**

- The Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 2005
- Government ministries responsible for combating human trafficking
- General Identification Principles
- Questions to find out if someone is trafficked
- Case Studies- what would YOU do?

### **WHY ARE YOU IMPORTANT IN THIS FIGHT AGAINST TIP?**

- Who should you contact?

At the end of each presentation, questions and comments were entertained.

Brochures, complaint forms and copies of the Amerindian Act 2006 and the presentations were distributed to all present

**Conclusions:** At both workshops, the participants expressed their appreciation for the timely intervention made by the Commission in helping them to become better leaders. They have pledged to put into practices what they have learnt so as better manage their



villages and communities. They have also called for follow up workshops within their respective communities.



Training at Karrau



Training at Karasabai

Prepared and submitted by:

Neil Bacchus

Secretary/Chief Executive Officer

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

## **Appendix: 5**



## *Audit Office of Guyana*

*P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana*

*Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>*

AG:129/2022

12 July 2022

### REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

#### *Opinion*

I have audited the financial statements of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2018, Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission as at 31 December 2018, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs).

#### *Basis for Opinion*

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and the Audit Act 2004. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Guyana, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### *Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with GAAPs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.



### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of my audit in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



AUDIT OFFICE  
63 HIGH STREET  
KINGSTON  
GEORGETOWN  
GUYANA

***Indigenous Peoples' Commission***  
***Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2018***


			Restated
ASSETS	Notes	2018	2017
<hr/>			
Non-Current Assets			
Furniture and equipment	4	756,180	756,180
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents		-	-
<hr/>			
TOTAL ASSETS		756,180	756,180
<hr/>			
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity			
Capital contribution	4	756,180	861,280
Returns to consolidated fund	7	-	(105,100)
<hr/>			
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITY		756,180	756,180

The notes form an integral part of the financial statement

***Prepared By:***

  
 .....  
 Abiola Halley  
 Finance Officer  
 Human Rights Commission

***Accounting Officer***

  
 .....  
 Neil Bacchus  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Indigenous Peoples' Commission

***Indigenous Peoples' Commission  
Statement of Receipts and Payments  
For the year ended December 31, 2018***

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>G\$</b>	<b>Restated</b>
		<b>2018</b>	<b>G\$ 2017</b>
<b>Government Subvention</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25,683,000</b>	<b>24,457,013</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Operating expenses	<b>6</b>	25,659,654	23,239,990
Returns to the Consolidated fund	<b>7</b>	23,346	1,217,023
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>25,683,000</b>	<b>24,457,013</b>
<b>FUNDS TO BE REIMBURSED</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The notes form an integral part of the financial statement.

## ***Indigenous Peoples' Commission***

### ***Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2018***

#### **1. Identification**

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission became a constitutional agency with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015 under the following budget agency details:

Budget Agency:	61 Rights Commission of Guyana
Programme:	611 Rights Commission of Guyana
Chart of Account:	6231 Subsidies and contribution to local organisations

#### **2. Principal activities**

According to the Constitution (Amendment No. 3) Act 2001, 212 S (1) The Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall establish mechanisms to enhance the status of Indigenous Peoples and to respond to their legitimate demands and needs.

#### **3. Significant accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

- The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs).
- The income and expenditure is accounted for using the cash basis of accounting i.e. funds are recognised when cash is received or disbursed rather than the occurrences of these transactions.



## ***Indigenous Peoples' Commission***

### ***Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2018***

#### **4. Furniture and Equipment**

Items of furniture and equipment are measured at cost.

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>G\$</b>	<b>G\$</b>
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
January, 1	756,180	581,280
Additions	-	174,900
December, 31	756,180	756,180

The amount represents furniture and equipment that were acquired over the years.

#### **5. Government Subvention**

The expenditure of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall be funded by a direct charge upon the consolidated fund in accordance with article 222A of the constitution.

<b>Currency</b>	<b>IPC</b>	<b>IPC</b>
	<b>G\$</b>	<b>G\$</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Subvention (Current)	25,683,000	24,457,013
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,683,000</b>	<b>24,457,013</b>

## *Indigenous Peoples' Commission*

### *Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2018*

#### **6. Operating Expenses**

<b>Currency Year</b>	<b>IPC G\$ 2018</b>	<b>IPC G\$ 2017</b>
Statutory expenditure	10,185,546	10,129,548
Employment cost	8,471,273	7,644,053
Materials, Equipment and supplies	895,104	136,430
Rental and Maintenance of Building	-	70,950.00
Transport Travel and Postage	3,900,821	3,136,730
Utility charges	92,596	96,618
Other Goods and Services Purchased	619,945	464,668
Other Operating Expenses	1,494,369	1,560,993
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,659,654</b>	<b>23,239,990</b>

#### **7. Return to Consolidated Fund**

Current	23,346	1,217,023
Capital	-	105,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,346</b>	<b>1,322,123</b>



## *Audit Office of Guyana*

*P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana*

*Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>*

232/SL:72/2022

8 July 2022

Ms. Colleen Branford  
Administrative Officer  
Indigenous Peoples' Commission  
66 Peter Rose & Anira Streets  
Queenstown.

Dear Ms. Branford,

**AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE**  
**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

The audit of the Financial Statements of Indigenous Peoples' Commission for the year ended 31 December 2018 has been completed. The findings hereunder were discussed with the accounting personnel within your Commission and are now forwarded for your appropriate action.

2. The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Federation of Accountants, the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Audit Act 2004. These standards require that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements.
3. The main purpose of the audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements and to evaluate the operations of the Commission to ascertain whether:
  - (i) The financial statements have been properly prepared, in accordance with applicable laws and properly present the operations and affairs of the Commission.
  - (ii) The accounts have been faithfully and properly kept.
  - (iii) The rules, procedures and internal management controls were sufficient to secure effective control on the assessment, collection, and proper allocation of revenue.
  - (iv) All monies expended and charged to an account have been applied to the purpose or purposes for which they were intended.

- (v) Essential records were maintained, and the internal management controls, rules and procedures established and applied are sufficient to safeguard the control of stores and other public property.

**A. Statement of Financial Position**

**Non-Current Assets: \$756,180**

4. The amount of \$756,180 was reflected on the financial statements as Non-Current Assets as at 31 December 2018. During the year, there was no addition to fixed assets and the expended amount was accurately verified in the records of the Commission.

**Operating Expenses**

**Statutory Expenditure - \$10,185,546**

5. The sum of \$10.186M represents the amount reflected as Statutory Expenditure on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2018 which was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission and there was no material finding.

**Employment Cost - \$8,471,273**

6. During the audited year, the amount of \$8.471M represents Employment Cost on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2018 which was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission and there was no material finding.

**Materials, Equipment and Supplies - \$895,104**

7. The sum of \$895,104 represents the amount reflected as Materials, Equipment and Supplies purchased on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2018 which was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission and there was no material finding.

**Transport, Travel and Postage - \$3,900,821**

8. Amounts totalling \$3.901M represent the amount reflected as Transport, Travel and Postage on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2018, which was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission and there was no material finding.



Utility Charges - \$92,596

9. The sum of \$92,596 represents the amount reflected as Utility Charges on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2018 which was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission and there was no material finding.

Other Goods and Services Purchased - \$619,945

10. During the year, the sum of \$619,945 was expended on Other Goods and Services Purchased as at 31 December 2018. The expended sum was verified with records maintained by the Commission, and was properly brought to account. There was no material finding.

Other Operating Expenses - \$1,494,369

11. The sum of \$1.494M represents the amount reflected as Other Operating Expenses Purchased on the financial statement as at 31 December 2018. The amount was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission.

12. In the audited year, the Local Bank Account № 1624004500 at the Bank of Guyana was operated by the Commission for its ordinary imprest with a float in the sum of \$1.5M. The

**B. General**

15. The Audit Office wishes to express its gratitude for the cooperation given to its Officers during the course of the audit.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Marcel Pinder  
Audit Manager (ag)  
For Auditor General

c.c. Sukrishnalall Pasha  
Finance Secretary  
Ministry of Finance

c.c. Ms. Jennifer Chapman  
Accountant General  
Accountant General Department

