

## Report of Multi-Stakeholder Forums held in Region Three

This report has two parts:

- **Part One** (pages 1-8) comprises a summary of the 17 conversations held at the community level between March 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 and April 8<sup>th</sup> 2006.
- **Part Two** (pages 9-16) is a summary of the outcomes of the Regional Conference held on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2006 for Region 3 as well as the points raised at the community level.

The information in this report is based on the information discussed at the community and regional conversations. The information has not been verified through any research or follow up enquiries

### PART ONE

#### SUMMARY OF LOCAL COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Total Number of Consultations Held: 17

Total Number of Participants: 353

Average attendance: 20.7

#### Summary Table of participation

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
Vreed-en-Hoop	Vreed-en-Hoop Primary School	4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	17
Greenwich Park	Greenwich Park Primary School	20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	6
Parika	Parika Primary School	20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	20
Zeeburg	Zeeburg Secondary School	22 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2006	19
Zeelugt	Zeelugt Primary School	22 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2006	50
Leonora	Leonora Primary School	24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	9
Cornelia Ida	Cornelia Ida Primary School	24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	25
Santa/Aratak Mission	Interactive Centre	26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	25
Windsor Forest/Nova Flanders/La Jalousie/ Pakistan	Windsor Forest	27 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	15
Den Amstel	Den Amstel Primary School	27 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	45
Canal No. One	McGillvary Primary School	29 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	15
Bagotville	Bagotville Community Centre	29 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	19
Sans Souci – Wakenaam	Sans Souci Primary School	1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2006	12

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
Leguan Island	Leguan Secondary School	1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2006	8
Canal No. 2	Kawall Primary School	4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2006	11
Wales	Wales Community High School	4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2006	19
Hogg Island	Hogg Island West Primary School	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2006	38

### 1. What does Region Three celebrate as positives in Guyana:

People in Region Three celebrate the interest, skills and resources, both local and from overseas, which are put into development of the communities. Despite many complaints people seem to recognise that infrastructure in certain areas have improved. Other positive areas are the presence of natural resources, the hospitality of the Guyanese and the freedom of expression people experience. People are happy that there is no racial disunity in the region. There are no high crime rates. A number of conversations did not mention any positives to celebrate.

### 2. What are Region Three's Elements of a vision for Guyana:

The major themes in the region's vision are racial harmony, religious and political unity and equal opportunities for all citizens. Furthermore, people envisage a crime free Guyana with better vocational prospects and an end to migration. The hope, expressed in one of the conversations, is that Guyana can become a leading country in the world using all its natural potential.

### 3. Key issues raised by residents/participants:

See **Summary Table of Issues** on page 4

Many conversations mentioned the issue of **infrastructure**. People complain about *poor water supplies* as well as problems with the *drainage* in most areas. Furthermore, many communities are dissatisfied with the state of the *sea-defenses* in the region and *poorly organized garbage disposal* is a source of much frustration.

**Limited employment opportunities for youths**, particularly those with limited qualifications, are a constant worry.

**NIS** came under a severe criticism in some communities.

Lastly, people are very much looking for **investment in manufacturing** in the region.

The participants of the conversations identify several areas as harboring **potential for violent conflict**. Those are:

- a. Limited and unequal job opportunities,
- b. Unfair distribution of land and house lots,

- c. Poor discipline and idleness among the youth,
- d. The handling of domestic violence,
- e. Alleged corruption in the handling of flood relief,
- f. Inactive police,
- g. Poor garbage disposal, and,
- h. Limited access to clean water.

#### **4. Residents'/Participants' feelings about and expectations from the conversations**

Most participants felt relieved and satisfied after the conversations and looked forward to the results. There is a strong anticipation of further conversations and, indeed, access to the reports.

Many are thankful to the ERC and applauded the good coordination and the orderly meetings.

However, some participants raised the issue that 'talk is cheap' and that the conversations were a waste of time. Some even raised the concerns that this has been a political trick, which will yield no follow up.

#### **5 Process Issues:**

Attendance in the communities was never more than moderate and poor in few instances. In one forum a sizable contingent of youth made their welcome presence felt. Reports from Zeelugt and Leonora were not received in time for this Regional Report.

## 4. Summary Table of Issues:

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Poor state of public buildings, e.g. schools	Wales, Den Amstel, Windsor Forest	Improvement in fencing and toilet facilities must be kept high on the agenda
Poor street lighting	Wales, Canal No. 2, Bagotville, Cornelia Ida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GPL must expedite electricity connections.</li> <li>- Local recommendation is that lights need to go up in the direction of Wales from the Harbor Bridge</li> </ul>
Need for improved water facilities and supply	Parika, Wales, Sans Souci, Canal No. 2, Bagotville, Den Amstel, Santa/Aratak Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More pumps, treated water in all communities, larger and deeper wells.</li> <li>- Water authorities may have to rotate the distribution of water to all villages until improvements have been made</li> </ul>
Difficulties in transportation	Parika, Wales, Sans Souci, Leguan Island, Canal No. 2, Hogg Island, Bagotville, Den Amstel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More bridges, together with improvement of existing streets and bridges. This is particularly important because it helps children getting go school.</li> <li>- More reliable and frequent speedboat service is necessary. Public transportation system has to be re-introduced</li> </ul>
Poor drainage	Sans Souci, Leguan Island, Canal No. 2, Hogg Island, Canal No. 1, Bagotville, Den Amstel, Vreed-en-Hoop, Cornelia Ida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More regular drainage and irrigation. Canals should be cleaned when it is dry.</li> <li>- Buildings should not be erected where they can create serious drainage problems.</li> <li>- Fix the La Bagatelle access drain culvert that collapsed many years ago (nothing has been done to fix it so far)</li> </ul>
Badly enforced sea-defenses	Sans Souci, Leguan Island, Greenwich Park, Hogg Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repair collapsed sea-defenses.</li> <li>- Keep constant checks</li> </ul>
Lack of a post office in an area	Canal No. 2	
Need for functioning recreational and sport facilities	Hogg Island, Den Amstel, Vreed-en-Hoop, Santa/Aratak Mission	
Poor telecommunications	Cornelia Ida, Santa/Aratak Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GT&amp;T must accelerate the introduction of basic telephone facilities.</li> <li>- A functioning public phone service is considered to be critical</li> </ul>

<b>Present local conflicts/ areas of tension</b>	<b>Communities which raised issue</b>	<b>Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges</b>
Lack of a cemetery	Cornelia Ida	
<b><i>Social Inclusion/Cohesion</i></b>		
Allegations that improvements in infrastructure is based on ethnicity	Greenwich Park, Sans Souci, Den Amstel	
Unequal job distribution	Sans Souci, Cornelia Ida	Skills and qualifications must be the only concern in hiring people
No cohesion between political parties	Sans Souci, Leguan Island	
Allegations of political endorsement of racism	Sans Souci	Politicians should look to the population where there are minimal acts of racism
Religious disrespect	Leguan Island	
Insufficient unity in community	Hogg Island	Assistance from the government with the development of communities
Exclusion of community members in decision making	Vreed-en-Hoop	
<b><i>Social Issues</i></b>		
Late night alcohol consumption	Sans Souci	Rum shops should be closed at the required time
High incidence of drug sellers and users	Leguan Island, Bagotville, Cornelia Ida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Counseling and guidance for users and sellers.</li> <li>- The police must carry out more frequent raids on suspected sellers</li> </ul>
Street children	Parika	Address the issue to begin with
Need for day care centers	Canal No. 2	
Domestic violence	Canal No. 2	Visits from social workers to communities
Teenage pregnancy	Den Amstel	
HIV / AIDS	Den Amstel	
<b><i>Access to Opportunities and Resources</i></b>		
Limited employment opportunities for youths	Leguan Island, Hogg Island, Den Amstel, Santa/Aratak Mission	Establish institutions for vocational training
Allegations that land and house lots are unfairly distributed	Parika, Cornelia Ida	Allocations and processing must be expedited. The Ministry of Housing must set time frames.
Little employment for people with no academic qualifications	Greenwich Park	Build factories in food processing and garment making
Need of functioning health care centers with	Windsor Forest, Vreed-en-	

<b>Present local conflicts/ areas of tension</b>	<b>Communities which raised issue</b>	<b>Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges</b>
trained personnel	Hoop	
<b><i>Youths</i></b>		
Insufficient discipline	Parika, Wales, Hogg Island	Encourage more community parenting
Need for after school activities	Wales	
Child labour	Zeeburg	Children should never be taken out of schools to work
Early school dropouts	Canal No. 2	Establishing skills training centers
Limited involvement of youth in decision making	Santa/Aratak Mission	Young people should not be excluded from leadership positions. There needs to be training opportunities in governance for them
<b><i>Morals/Values</i></b>		
Insufficient honesty and lack of other virtues in the society	Santa/Aratak Mission, Canal No. 2, Vreed-en-Hoop	Introduction of a proper moral education in schools. Adults should lead by example in the communities
<b><i>Law and Order</i></b>		
Inactivity of the police, especially during the night	Wales, Sans Souci	Recruit more ranks. Keep police points open at all times
Allegations of biasness and bribery in the police force	Parika, Sans Souci	
Ineffectiveness of Community Policing	Sans Souci	Leaders of the church can counsel conflicting persons
Illegal alcohol selling	Parika	
Squatting	Parika	Needs to be treated fairly and evenly
Lack of police cooperation when people report incidents	Zeeburg	
<b><i>Environment</i></b>		
Littering and poorly organized garbage disposal	Parika, Leguan Island, Windsor Forest, Canal No. 1, Bagotville, Vreed-en-Hoop, Santa/Aratak Mission	More disposal sites, local authority needs to provide bins and vehicles
Aggressive street dogs	Sans Souci	

<b>Present local conflicts/ areas of tension</b>	<b>Communities which raised issue</b>	<b>Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges</b>
Disturbances caused by a sawmill	Sans Souci	Better monitoring from the Department of Forestry and the EPA
Sea walls badly cleaned	Leguan Island	Regular cleaning, fine those who litter
The reek of pit latrines	Windsor Forest	Availability of flush toilets, especially. in the school
Mosquito nuisance	Vreed-en-Hoop	Spraying
<b><i>Economy/Markets</i></b>		
Lack of vision for tourism	Leguan Island	Historical sites, e.g. St Peter's Anglican Church, can be repaired
High cost of agricultural machinery	Canal No. 2	
Farmers need more training	Canal No. 2	
Need for employment opportunities	Canal No. 2, Den Amstel	Establishing a canning factory, opening up for investment in agriculture and manufacturing
Local contractors not getting contracts	Vreed-en-Hoop	
Difficulties in transporting products	Hogg Island	New Wharf needs to be erected
<b><i>Education</i></b>		
School accommodation inadequate	Wales, Greenwich park	Begin construction on allocated land
Shortage of qualified teachers	Parika, Bagotville, Vreed-en-Hoop	Increase teachers salaries
Insecure and noisy school areas	Greenwich Park, Wales, Zeeburg, Parika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Begin repairs on schools.</li> <li>- Fencing has to be improved in order to keep children away from water, streets, markets and industrial sites.</li> <li>- School in Wales needs to be relocated due to the noise from the sugar factory.</li> <li>- Environmental and welfare officers need to visit school lots</li> </ul>
Need for an Information Technology introduction at primary school level	Canal No. 2	
Dire need of adult education programmes and encouragement of reading	Bagotville, Canal No. 2	Establish a Public Library
Lack of electricity is having impact on education	Santa/Aratak Mission	
<b><i>Public Administration</i></b>		
Allegations of less than proper distribution of pension books	Sans Souci, Windsor Forest, Canal No. 2	More organized manner of distribution is needed

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
Allegations that the Food for the Poor Committee is not functioning properly	Sans Souci	Dissolving the committee
The function of the billing system for the GPL	Sans Souci	The time until the paid bills are processed in Georgetown needs to be shortened
Disappointment with issues related to the NIS	Leguan Island, Canal No. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NIS should give all contributors/subscribers a document educating them on the full benefits and legal rights under the NIS scheme.</li> <li>- Annual statements should be issued</li> </ul>
NDC alleged inability to work for the benefit of all residents	Leguan Island	
Too exorbitant fees for land surveying	Hogg Island	
Allegations of a mishandling of flood relief	Canal No. 1	

## **PART TWO**

### **SUMMARY OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2006  
**VENUE:** West Demerara Annex  
**ATTENDANCE** 70

#### **1. Key issues repeated from the Local community conversations**

- Lack of and poor quality of water
- High cost of agri-machinery
- Need for training and opportunities in farming
- Increased employment opportunities with a greater emphasis at the local level
- Difficulties and cost of transportation
- Repair and monitoring of sea defence
- Poor drainage and irrigation
- Poor street lighting
- Better education, with a greater focus on teachers and teaching at the regional level
- Significant social issues with an emphasis on alcohol and drugs
- Problems in the public administration with a focus on the National Insurance Scheme at the regional level and corruption at the local level.

#### **2. Other and new issues:**

- a. ERC Commissioners strongly advised participants about their responsibility as the electorate to inform the politicians of what they wanted them to do for the citizens.

#### **3. Participants' Reaction to the Regional Conference:**

None observed

#### **4. Process Issues:**

- The Deputy Chairperson of the Regional Development Council opened the proceedings with remarks, followed by remarks by the Chairman of the Ethnic Relations Commission who emphasized the need for teamwork.
- Facilitators then explained the objectives of the exercise, the ground rules and agenda. They also explained how the summary regional reports compiled.

- In keeping with the original objectives of the MSF process, facilitators explained that the conversation sought:
  - i. To create a safe space for Guyanese to agree on strategies for overcoming ethnic and other differences; and
  - ii. To focus on how best Guyanese can contribute to the development of their community and country.
- Three participants presented the summary report (Part 1 of this report) by reading major sections of the report.
- Facilitators encouraged participants to break up in smaller groups around topics of their choice. These themes for the small group discussions were:
  - Education and Access to opportunities
  - Social Issues and Drugs and Alcohol
  - Infrastructure, Economy and Markets
  - Public Administration and Law and Order
  - Social Inclusion Cohesion

**SUMMARY TABLE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON ISSUES**

KEY ISSUES HIGH LIGHTED	WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES	WHAT RESIDENTS NEED HELP WITH		WHAT RESIDENTS NEED OTHERS TO DO FOR THEM	
		Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist
<b>Education</b>					
Lack of involvement by parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents need to take more interest in their children's education</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase number of welfare officers</li> </ul>	
Improve the quality of teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers should qualify themselves more</li> <li>Teachers who are not committed should be let go</li> <li>Teachers should keep up to date with strategies and techniques</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ qualified teachers</li> <li>Increase the eligibility of teachers in the training college</li> <li>Employ at least three (3) teachers in a multi grade school in the interior and islands</li> <li>Establish standards for employing teachers</li> </ul>	Teaching Service Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous training and financial incentives to teachers to train others in riverain areas.</li> <li>Enforce training laws</li> <li>Integration of applicable and practical subjects in schools</li> <li>Build a library and resource center</li> </ul>	
Low salaries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase salaries and resources</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase stipend for student teachers</li> <li>Financial incentives to teachers to train others in riverain areas.</li> </ul>	
Physical resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supply electricity to improve education</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repair schools and fix fences to keep children away from water and street</li> </ul>	
Special needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remedial programmes should be done by professionals</li> <li>Remigrants should be integrated and should be taught English</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage reading</li> </ul>	
Adult education				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide adult education</li> </ul>	
Morals – insufficient honesty and lack of other virtues in the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults should lead by example</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a proper moral education in schools.</li> </ul>	
<b>Access to opportunities</b>					
Employment opportunities for youths				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create employment opportunities for youths</li> </ul>	
Fair distribution of land and house lots				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure fair distribution of land and house lots.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Housing

KEY ISSUES HIGH LIGHTED	WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES	WHAT RESIDENTS NEED HELP WITH		WHAT RESIDENTS NEED OTHERS TO DO FOR THEM	
		Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time frames must be set</li> </ul>	
Need for functioning health care centers with trained personnel					
<b>Social Issues, Drugs and Alcohol</b>					
Guidance and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents should guide and monitor their children concerning drugs</li> <li>Residents can be role models for the children</li> <li>Residents can organize seminars on drugs, alcohol, sexual abuse and child molestation</li> <li>Organize activities for youths to be involved in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help with education</li> <li>Monitoring of children and parents who keep children away from schools</li> <li>Providing equipment for programmes which assist children</li> </ul>	NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counseling and guidance for drug users and sellers</li> <li>Closing rum shops at the legal time</li> <li>Conducting of more raids on suspected sellers of drugs</li> <li>Visits from social workers to communities</li> </ul>	NGOs  Police
Rehabilitation				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing rehabilitation centers</li> </ul>	
Street children		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the issue of street children</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening of day care centers</li> </ul>	
Teenage pregnancy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of teenage pregnancy</li> </ul>			
Domestic violence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of domestic violence</li> </ul>			
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Water:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treat water with bleach in containers</li> <li>Use rain water</li> <li>Develop a local filtration system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blowing out of water hoses and treat potable water</li> </ul>	GW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More pumps</li> <li>Larger and deeper wells</li> <li>Obtaining people to seek funding from donor agencies to obtain a new well and water treatment plant</li> <li>Rotate the distribution of water</li> </ul>	
Transportation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in high cost</li> <li>More reliable and frequent speed boat service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public transportation should be reintroduced</li> <li>Additional bridges, plus improvements to existing bridges and streets</li> </ul>	
Sea Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor sea defence better to determine patterns</li> <li>Community can install sand bags</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep constant checks</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical advice for sea defences</li> <li>Repair collapsed sea defence</li> </ul>	Dutch Engineers

KEY ISSUES HIGH LIGHTED	WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES	WHAT RESIDENTS NEED HELP WITH		WHAT RESIDENTS NEED OTHERS TO DO FOR THEM	
		Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist
Drainage and Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop dumping garbage in canals</li> <li>• Keep surroundings clean</li> <li>• Pay rates and taxes to pay for maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desilting of canals</li> </ul> <p>Buildings should not be erected where they can create serious drainage problems</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More drainage and irrigation</li> </ul>	
Poor Street Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay rates and taxes</li> <li>• Mobilize and lobby to provide better facilities</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expedite electricity connections</li> </ul>	GPL
Telecommunications				Improved both private and public telecommunications	GT&T
Sports and recreational facilities				Build recreation and sports facilities	
Cemetery				Establish a cemetery	
Lack of a post office in the area					
Poor state of public buildings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in fencing and toilet facilities must be kept high on the agenda</li> </ul>			
<b>Environment</b>					
Littering and poorly organized garbage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More disposal sites</li> <li>• Provision of bins and vehicles</li> </ul>	Local Authority		
Aggressive street dogs					
The reek of pit latrines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flush toilets needed, especially in the school</li> </ul>			
Disturbances caused by a sawmill				Better monitoring	Department of Forestry and the EPA
Sea walls badly cleaned		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular cleaning, fine those who litter</li> </ul>			
Mosquito nuisance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spraying</li> </ul>			

KEY ISSUES HIGH LIGHTED	WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES	WHAT RESIDENTS NEED HELP WITH		WHAT RESIDENTS NEED OTHERS TO DO FOR THEM	
		Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist
<b>Economy and /Markets</b>					
Tourism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical advice</li> </ul>	Go-Invest Elected accountable leaders		
Agriculture and farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for agri-drive to create employment</li> <li>• Pay attention to diversification and phasing of crops because many times there is an overabundance of certain items</li> <li>• Lobby for extension services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and advice</li> <li>• Training of farmers</li> <li>• High cost of Agricultural machinery</li> </ul>	Key agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for extension services</li> <li>• Difficulty in transporting products - new wharf to be erected</li> </ul>	
Employment opportunities				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop opportunities for investment in agriculture and manufacturing</li> </ul>	
Lack of job opportunities				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of factories</li> <li>• Contracts for contractors</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Administration</b>					
Dissatisfaction with NIS	Check with NIS to ensure payments are documented to prevent the lack of sick benefits and other benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspectors should make periodic checks with employees to determine if they made their payments</li> <li>• Employers should ensure employees are paid proper salaries</li> <li>• Defaulting employers should be dealt with according to law</li> </ul>	NIS  Employers  Minister of Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers must ensure contributions are documented and sent to NIS</li> <li>• Organized distribution of pension books</li> </ul>	NIS
Local Government Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for NDC elections to get a new management in local government</li> </ul>				
Electrical Billing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of electric billing system</li> </ul>	GPL
Land Surveying				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce exorbitant fees for land surveying</li> </ul>	
Distribution of Food Relief				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper distribution of flood relief</li> <li>• Dissolving of Food for the Poor Committee</li> </ul>	

KEY ISSUES HIGH LIGHTED	WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES	WHAT RESIDENTS NEED HELP WITH		WHAT RESIDENTS NEED OTHERS TO DO FOR THEM	
		Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/- Agency to Assist
<b>Law and Order</b>					
Improvement of the Guyana Police Force		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased police cooperation when people report incidents</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit more ranks</li> <li>Open police posts at all times</li> <li>Training in ethics for the police force</li> <li>Police should stop the illegal selling of alcohol</li> <li>Increase in salaries</li> </ul>	
Allegations of biasness and bribery in the police force					
Ineffectiveness of community policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders of the church can counsel conflicting persons</li> </ul>				
<b>Social Inclusion Cohesion</b>					
Inclusion in decision making and fairness				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of community members in decision making</li> <li>Fair job distribution</li> </ul>	
Ethnic and racial issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unity of community</li> <li>Show religions respect to residents</li> </ul>	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve cohesion between political parties</li> <li>Removal of ethnicity as a constraint on improvements in infrastructure</li> <li>Removal of political endorsement of racism</li> </ul>	
<b>Youth</b>					
Insufficient discipline	Encourage more community parenting				
Need for after school activities Child labour	Children should not be taken out of schools to work				
Early school drop outs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish skills training centers</li> </ul>			
Limited involvement of youth in decision making		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people should not be excluded from leadership positions. There needs to be training opportunities in governance for them</li> </ul>			

