

Report of Multi-Stakeholder Forums held in Region Four

This report has two parts

- **Part One** (pages 1-15) comprises a summary of the 17 conversations held at the community level between March 11th 2006 and April 16th 2006.
- **Part Two** (pages 16-26) is a summary of the outcomes of the Regional Conference held on June 1st 2006 for Region 6 as well as 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 CONSULTATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Each of the ten Administrative Regions of Guyana participated in an exercise that was labelled the "Multi - Stakeholder Forum". Generally, every Region was expected to conduct a prescribed number of sessions under the guidance of at least two facilitators, per session. The specific objective of the activity was "To create a safe space for Guyanese to agree on strategies for overcoming ethnic and other differences and to focus on how best they can contribute to the development of their community and country.

This report focuses on the conversations that were conducted in 30 of the 38 local points of Region # 4 Demerara-Mahaica. These took place in various geographical areas within the Administrative district, between March 5 and April 30, 2006.

The details of these efforts are presented here under - with regard to the number of conversations planned, number of persons participating and reports received

Total Number of Consultations Planned	38
Total Number of Reports Received	34
Total Number of Participants	744
Average	22

Summary Table of Participation

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
Soesdyke	Soesdyke Community High School	March 5, 2006	24
Houston, McDoom, Meadow Bank	Houston Community School	March 18, 2006	05
Kuru Kuru	Kuru Kuru Training Centre	March 19, 2006	50
Agricola	Agricola Primary School	March 19, 2006	12
Kuru Kururu	Kuru Kururu Primary School	March 19, 2006	08
National Gymnasium - Georgetown	National Gymnasium	March 22, 2006	18
Georgetown	St Pius Primary School	March 23, 2006	48
Diamond	Diamond Community Centre	March 25, 2006	18
Grove/Samata Point	Grove Primary School	March 25, 2006	19
Cane Grove	Virgina Primary School	March 26, 2006	37
Ann's Grove	Ann's Grove Community High School	March 26, 2006	03
Mahaica	Helena Primary School	March 26, 2006	04
Charlestown, Georgetown	Charlestown Secondary School	March 28, 2006	07
Kitty - Municipality	F. E. Pollard Primary	March 29, 2006	08
Cummings Lodge	Cummings Lodge Secondary School	March 30, 2006	05
Ogle Community	Ogle Community Centre	April 1, 2006	14
St. Cuthbert	St Cuthbert's Primary School	April 1, 2006	87
Enmore	Enmore Hope Primary School	April 2, 2006	41
Supply, EBD	Supply Primary School	April 2, 2006	13
Craig	Craig Primary School	April 2, 2006	14
Better Hope/LBI	Better Hope Community Centre	April 6, 2006	29
Georgetown	Georgetown City Hall	April 8, 2006	24
Mocha	Mocha Primary School	April 8, 2006	09
Buxton/Friendship	Buxton Community High School	April 8, 2006	18
Bladen Hall, ECD	Bladen Hall Secondary School	April 9, 2006	23
South Ruimveldt	South Ruimveldt Primary School	April 9, 2006	16
Paradise	Paradise Secondary School	April 9, 2006	20
Beterverwagting	Beterverwagting Primary School	April 22, 2006	22
Cove & John	St Andrews Primary School	April 22, 2006	11
Kairuni to Adventure	Silver Hill Primary School	April 23, 2006	16
Dora	Dora Primary School	April 23, 2006	52
Lusignan	Lusignan Primary School	April 23, 2006	16
Friendship	Friendship Secondary School	April 23, 2006	23
Sophia	Sophia Primary School	April 30, 2006	30

The Conversations that were planned for the West Ruimveldt Primary School (March 24), Providence Primary (April 8), and the Demerara Harbour Bridge, were aborted.

General Observations

Herein are the participants' perspectives of the positives as well as the areas of concern. There are statements in relation to their vision of Guyana, areas of conflict, the possibility of the escalation of these concerns, and recommendations for improvement in those areas. They also expressed some views on some situations that they considered uncomfortable.

On the whole, the areas of Infrastructure, and Social Issues seemed to be their main source of bother, while Governance and Democracy as well as Morals and Values seemed to be the least. A few conversations offered views that were peculiar to their own communities.

Further analysis suggests that the residents of Sophia and those who contributed to conversations at the National Gymnasium and Buxton / Friendship were the greatest contributors, whereas those of Cane Grove, Cummings Lodge and South Ruimveldt identified the least number of issues. Recommendations were offered with regard to correcting some of those issues

1. What does Region Four celebrate as positives in Guyana

A few of the participants regarded the conversations as a non-profitable exercise. Some saw it as an opportunity to identify problems and find solutions and proceeded to highlight events and activities, which gave rise to celebration. In some cases the views were found once, while in other cases they were repeated.

According to the participants, there are some community-minded citizens who are **willing to work together** for the development of the community and country. There are **organizations** that are eager to support projects that would cultivate the skills in citizens. **Youths** are willing to pool their skills and create self-employment, or work on a Project, once the necessary support is given. Today there is the Youth initiative and **youth employment scheme**, which engage the attention of the youth. Women are involved in self-help activities.

However, the residents are conscious of the ethnic differences in the communities and plan to make a concerted **effort to bring about greater unity** among them. Some participants stated that Guyana's success could be realized through unity of the six races, as well as the utilization of Guyana's resources, for example, the use of the vast expanse of land for cultivation of crops and animal rearing. There is also a strengthening of **international relationships** - more Guyanese can seek medical assistance abroad.

Among Guyana's **other achievements** are improved school buildings and hospitals; and telecommunication services. Among those issues, which occurred with less frequency, are racial harmony in Ogle; modernization of education; the

presence of the PPP administration; tourism; preparation for International Cricket World Cup in 2007; and the lighting up of the East Coast Highway.

Guyanese are **helpful, hospitable, spiritual, and creative**. There is **freedom** of speech and freedom to practice religion. The participants are **hopeful** that Guyana can make progress despite its setbacks. They said that there is a **love for this country**.

2. What are Region Four's Elements of a Vision for Guyana

The majority of the reports seem to point to the need for an improved Guyana, a Guyana that is unified, peaceful, progressive, truly cooperative and free of prejudices—a country where there are more opportunities given to youths so that they could be in a better position to make contributions to their communities and to Guyana. They also wanted to live in a crime free community, where there are educated persons and opportunities for education as well as the practice of living through the knowledge of God. The specific responses are presented in the following categories

2.1 Access to Opportunities and Resources

People see a Guyana where job opportunities are available, adequate and accessible, particularly for the young. Young people are exposed to skills training and offered recreational facilities in order to experience all round development. Contracts will be awarded to persons who are dependable. Finally, more women would be seen in decision-making positions.

2.2 Economy/Markets

The vision of Guyana is one where foreign investment that is of greater benefit to the people flow into the country. They envisaged a lower cost of living and an improved wage package. The country would have leaders who could utilize the country's resources and take it out of its financial crisis. The currency exchange rate would be reversed. The main dream is that the country would be productive and enjoy a stable economy, with Guyana once again becoming the "bread basket of the Caribbean".

2.3 Equity

People would have better working conditions. They would live in a country which is without victimization; a country where there is respect for all regardless of age, race, or religion. Squatting areas as well as legal housing schemes have access to affordable electricity. Every citizen living in a society should have access to the same opportunities. Guyana would have a welfare system that would give support to the homeless, needy, and sick people. Shelters for young women are operating. Wealth and resources are equitable and wisely distributed as all people are equality before the law.

2.4 Governance/Democracy

Guyana would have a government that takes care of all its citizens; a government that is sensitive to the needs of its people; where there is no corruption among high officials; and a Guyana where leaders don't use race to divide a nation. Political candidates would be better known to the community. NDC affairs are managed will and are be beyond suspicion. Nobody will be accused of financial mismanagement, and if such accusations are made, an investigation is conducted without fail. A national government of unity is in place and no elements of discrimination are evident in the attempts at governing. Democracy is the guiding principle of life.

2.5 Infrastructure

The people's vision of a country is one where roads are well maintained; good quality water supplied to all; people enjoy affordable electricity and an enhanced and preserved environmental. Government and people control pollution, and a systematic approach to the disposal of garbage is in place. Guyana makes use its rich natural resources and the infrastructure is positively attended.

2.6 Law and Order

Everybody is united throughout the country to reduce and/or end crime. Guyanese are free from fear of crime. The Guyana Police Force would give support to the community policing groups and they would bring an end to the drug trade. Police officers would respect persons when making arrest and should be more attentive to all. Music in all moving vehicles would be banned. There would be an improved judicial system; and stricter laws in relation to crime. Finally, there would be a police outpost in specific communities, such as Supply, on the East Bank.

2.7 Morals/Values

It is expected that Guyana would be a moralistic and religious country - a racially harmonious country with politicians who are of good character, who are responsible and display friendly qualities. There should be a government that is guided by Godly principles; is able to manage its problems, particularly the social; and demonstrates equal rights and justice for all Guyanese.

More so, there should be a withdrawal of the abortion bill, and music played on the airwaves should be conducive to the development of morals and values. Guyana should then be seen in a positive light internationally.

2.8 Social Inclusion/Cohesion

People expect to live in an atmosphere of peace, happiness and love for each other. People would adhere to the national motto - to be one people, one nation with one destiny. There would be no ethnic discrimination. Amerindians' voices would be heard. There would be racial harmony and peace for all Guyanese. They would stop migrating and stay in Guyana to earn a living. There would be national political healing and reconciliation. Healing would also be

experienced with the introduction of more sporting facilities in the communities.

2.9 Social Issues

The issues that were ventilated included education, youth, health, and recreation, in that order of frequency. People long for a developed standard of **education** developed; a resuscitated technical system; free education from nursery to university; and better provision for early school leavers. Children would be properly educated with their parents' wholehearted support and professional teachers train handicapped children. More better equipped government schools would be established, reducing the need for private schools. Poor intelligent children would receive scholarships. Schools would have been returned to the religious communities; the authorities would have gotten rid of the community high schools and teachers are earning a better salary. People dream about a Guyana where illiteracy is something of the past.

Young people would have an opportunity to qualify themselves or to function properly in their position of employment. They would live a life that is free from crime and drugs and demonstrate respect for themselves and others. They would be afforded facilities to encourage them to be healthy and responsible.

In relation to the question of **health**, people have a vision of expanded services, particularly those offered to communities that are far away from the centre of the city. More qualified persons would be employed and efforts made for the reduction of illnesses, particularly the HIV/AIDS. The health workers would be resident, regular and punctual at their posts.

The Guyana of the future would have systems in place to act as deterrent to **drug use**, criminality, and prostitution.

All efforts would be made to promote **systems of ease** such as transportation and communication. **Senior citizens** live comfortable lives and **children** are no longer left alone throughout the day or into the night.

3. Key points to note on residents'/participants' issues

A number of issues were raised during the conversations, but they were all treated with the same type of urgency. They are therefore a part of the information offered in the last table. The recommendations were slated by more than one set of persons and the need to have them addressed was also emphasized. Three of the conversations stated that there was no issue that was regarded as potential for violent conflict.

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

Some participants felt concerned about the way in which their contributions would be used. They wanted to see an end to some of their social problems. Others said that Amerindians' voices would be heard. Others, particularly the young people, were fed-up, and disheartened and showed little interest in the conversation.

The majority of the conversations hoped for positive changes. They appealed for an improved education system, the practice of counseling and observable improvements for example, with regard to electricity supply. They wanted

action, but they urged that residents should pay their rates and taxes thus causing more finances to be available for the NDC to carry out works in the community. Some residents are willing to start a co-op to cater for their community needs but they need financial support.

The conversations were generally cordial, and gave opportunities for sharing experiences.

5. Process Issues Mobilization & Attendance

Generally, the sessions were not very well attended, but for Kuru Kuru Training Centre where there was a captive audience of student residents. In one instance, there was a shooting incident about an hour and a half before the conversation started, consequently, only five persons attended. The discussion was described as a success. It was also stated that the meeting was not properly advertised. Additionally, there was a clash between the time for the conversation and other planned and advertised activities.

6. Any other observations

Some residents felt that if more persons from the community were present, the authorities would have realized how serious the residents were about the state of affairs in their communities and their response might have been early and positive. Others felt that they might have to get up and fight for what they needed. They were happy for the opportunity to meet and hold discussions with such ease. They also thought that similar exercises should be held, but adequate notice must be given.

Summary Table of Issues

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
INFRASTRUCTURE	29		
Electricity & Water - Absence/Inadequate	4	Cane Grove Diamond, St Pius (Geo) Friendship (East Bank)	- Public facilities to be developed and maintained - Bring in another power plant
Electricity - Unfair access	6	Diamond Mahaica Beterverwagting, Paradise, St Cuthbert, Better Hope	- Authorities should correct the unfair access that some have to electricity - Regularize the supply of electricity
Water - Poor quality - Absence, inadequate supply of - Irregular supply	12 6 8 4	Houston, BV, National Gymnasium, St Pius, Ann's Grove, Mahaica, Grove/Samata Point, Cove and John, Silver Hill, Supply (East Bank) BV, Mahaica Better Hope, Grove/Samata Point, Sophia, Paradise, BV,Buxton/Friendship,	- To work with the CDC to try to rectify the situation - A well should be installed in the community or well water should be supplied directly to the community through pipelines - Replace pump - There should be proper water storage and the regularization of the supply
Roads - Impassable roadways	19 19	Kuru Kururu, National Gymnasium, BV, Diamond, Grove/Samata Point, Mahaica, Cummings Lodge, Enmore, St Cuthbert, Buxton/Friendship Mocha Arcadia, Bladen Hall, Better Hope, Cove and John, Friendship (EB) Dora, Sophia, Paradise, Craig	- Institute repair roads urgently - Check with SIMAP about the building of roads - Repair road and crossroads in the community - before the rainy season begins
Drainage - Poor drainage and irrigation	12	Soesdyke, National Gymnasium, Diamond,	- Build a larger culvert and clean blocked drains Repair sluices - Prevent people from building houses on Government reserves - Clean drains and make them of concrete

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
- Sea Defences		Better Hope, Dora, Paradise, Craig Enmore Supply (East Bank), Beterverwagting, Georgetown, Bladen Hall, Lusignan Cove and John,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve drainage system to reduce flooding - Koker door should be repaired or replaced - Re-dig the canal to the Lamaha - Keep reserve dams clear to facilitate the cleaning of drains and canals - Dig drains on the reserves and clear trenches
- Trenches	3	Buxton/Friendship Mocha Arcadia Cummings Lodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning could be a self-help activity - NDC must focus on the maintenance of infrastructural works
-Garbage	7	Lusignan, Kitty Soesdyke Enmore, Lusignan Diamond, Cummings Lodge Better Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce proper garbage disposal practices - Residents must change their attitude towards garbage disposal - Those persons responsible for garbage dumping should be prosecuted - Make adequate arrangements so that the garbage of everyone can be collected regularly - Remove septic tank
-Animal control	2	Enmore, Ann's Grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise better control over animals
ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES	15		

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Lack of recreational facilities - Lack of job opportunities 	<p>9</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Houston Soesdyke, St Pius - Geo, Charlestown, Enmore Supply (East Bank) Friendship Sophia</p> <p>Kuru Kuru, Kuru Kururu, St Pius - Geo, Charlestown, Craig</p> <p>Enmore Supply (East Bank), Buxton/Friendship, South Ruimveldt, Agricola,</p> <p>St Cuthbert</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have more workshops for youth to assist in their education and total development - Institute a team to manage the ground - Establish a playground for the children - Provide sporting gears and facilities - The private sector should make more jobs available - Establish equal opportunities for all young people regardless of their location - Discontinue the practice of marginalization, - Create opportunities for the development of skills - A management change in some areas might result in the creation of more jobs - Desist from geographical discrimination - Better use made of local resources to provide more employment and economic development - Empower people in the community
ECONOMY/MARKETS	15		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of resources 	5	<p>Kitty, Mahaica</p> <p>Georgetown - City Hall</p> <p>St Cuthbert</p> <p>Better Hope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A survey should be done of the type and utilization of resources - People who lost their crops due to flooding should be compensated - Issues related to wage and salary increase should be positively addressed - Vacation package should not be taxed - Find markets for Amerindian craft - Form self help groups then apply for funding to conduct community improvement projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Markets are neglected 	2	<p>Kitty, Friendship (EB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City council should aid stall holders/shoppers - Establish farmers' markets

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
- Job opportunities	5	Charlestown, Buxton/Friendship South Ruimveldt, Sophia, Dora, Buxton/Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End marginalization - Present youths with interesting apprentice programmes and a skills training centre for children and parents - Support needed from Government for persons to become selfemployed - The Private Sector could help to create jobs
- Pricing commodities	2	Ann's Grove, Geo - City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better prices are needed for farmers' products - More technical support should be given to farmers - Price Control Systems should be put in place
- Cost of living	1	National Gymnasium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stabilize and bring the Guyana dollar to match the US dollar, this would bring down the cost of living
-Discrimination	6	Ogle, Dora, Friendship (EB) Buxton/Friendship Beterverwagting Paradise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institute statutory rules re payment of old age pension, and adhere to them Offices should be within the community - Young qualified persons must be granted the opportunity to work along with the more seasoned, in order to gain experience - Need for ERC to function in a neutral manner - Consultation must go before budget submission
EQUITY	15		
- Religion	2	Mocha Arcadia, Sophia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A campaign is needed to promote diversity at the school level - Respect must be given to all
- Decision Making	3	Mocha Arcadia Beterverwagting, Sophia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community members must make a contribution at regular NDC meetings - Council NDC must be more involved in decision making
- Discrimination	10	Supply, Dora Charlestown, St Cuthbert, Beterverwagting Ann's Grove/Clonbrook Georgetown,Charlestown, Buxton/Friendship Friendship (East Bank), Diamond, Better Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The authorities must treat each citizen and community as fairly and equally as they should - Lands and financial resources should be evenly distributed - Jobs should be fairly distributed by NDC members - A deliberate effort should be made to work against discriminating - Legislation should be passed to reduce the problem of discrimination - Introduce the practice of equity - if a squatting area could have electricity, then a legally established housing scheme should be granted the commodity - Investigate the members of the CDC - Respect must be shown by the governing and the governed

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
		Kuru Kuru, Paradise, Clonbrook/Ann's Grove Beterverwagting	
LAW & ORDER	18		
- Level high crime rate	10	St Pius, National Gymnasium, Houston, Soesdyke Grove Samata Point, Bladen Hall Sophia Ogle, Enmore Georgetown - City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whipping and flogging must be re-introduced for certain criminal acts - Social workers could discourage the carriage of weapons Institute relevant curriculum - Establish a vibrant policing group More and regular police patrols are needed, particularly at election time - Introduce street lights - Investigate crime as it relates to child abuse
-Disrespect for the rule of law	8	Mocha Arcadia, Friendship, Supply (EB) Kitty, Craig National Gymnasium Bladen Hall, Kitty, Buxton/Friendship Diamond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refurbished police station must be used for the intended purpose - Build a police outpost urgently - Judicial system should be free from political interference - Re-vitalize justice system - Establish a balanced law enforcement agency - Police and military must desist from power abuse - Better training for law enforcement officers - Collaborative work must be done between the Community Policing Group and the Police
- Police Harassment	4	Diamond, Bladen Hall Buxton/Friendship, Grove/Samata Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspects must be civilly treated at Police Stations - Members of the community must not be driven into their homes because of fear of the police - Harassment of bus conductors must stop
- Judiciary	1	National Gymnasium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An end must be brought to unfair treatment in the courts
- Illicit drugs	3	National Gymnasium, Buxton/Friendship, Kuru Kururu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop drug abuse - Police must react more promptly when help is sought - Seek international assistance
MORALS/VALUES	7		
- Leadership	4	Kuru Kururu, Dora Cane Grove, Paradise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National leadership must set the example - Practice basic social principles such as respect - one for another - Youths once employed must be encouraged to behave in a professional manner, eg leadership positions must be so demonstrated
- Standards	9	Diamond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moral standards of the youth must be encouraged

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
		Ogle Mocha Arcadia Lusignan, Kuru Kuru Diamond, Kuru Kuru, Sophia, Craig, Dora National Gymnasium Mahaica, Friendship, Silver Hill, St Cuthbert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops and seminars on better living should be held for youths and their parents - Reduction in the area of religious tension - - The authorities have planned to rename "Bucktown" and to address the issue of segregation as regards Amerindians - Get the church involved - Introduce the atmosphere of competition to induce a different level of participation - Community representatives must be chosen by the residents - All citizens need to take care of all the children in their community - Ethnic Relations Commission should be involved in community issues - Extend love to all - A difference in political persuasion should not impede the progress of the community
SOCIAL ISSUES	29		
- Youth	11	Grove/Samata Point National Gymnasium Sophia, Diamond, Paradise, Craig, Sophia Cane Grove - Virginia, Sophia, Bladen Hall Georgetown - City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Touts must be prevented from harassing schoolgirls when they attempt to get transportation - Reintroduce National Service - Offer young people an opportunity to develop themselves - Train local people to teach dropouts - Introduce a library and a reading programme - Need to be disciplined and committed - Set up an arm of the national library - Advise on teenage pregnancy
- Education	19	Grove/Samata Point Kuru Kuru, Lusignan, Better Hope ,Paradise, Craig, National Gymnasium Sophia, South Ruimveldt Friendship (EB), Dora, Agricola, St Cuthbert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrest absenteeism in schools - Provide facilities for dropouts and involve the Parent Teacher Association - Ensure an adequate supply of textbooks - Re-introduce religious education in the school system - Protection for teachers - Reintroduce free and quality education from Nursery to University - Need for a security hut; build a secondary school with facilities to teach technical skills - The canteen needs to be supervised

Present Local conflicts/areas of tension	No of Com	Name of Community	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
		Sophia Mocha Arcadia, Kuru Kururu, Silver Hill Enmore Cane Grove - Virginia Kuru Kururu, Silver Hill, St Pius	- Improve the curriculum and employ trained teachers Re-introduce corporal punishment
- Drug Use	5	Grove/Samata Point, Lusignan, Silver Hill McDoom, St Cuthbert,	- Stamp out drug use and gambling - Establish a drug rehabilitation centre
- Transportation - Communication	5	Grove/ Samata Point, Mocha Arcadia, Sophia, Silver Hill, St Cuthbert,	- Investigate the high cost of travel - There is need for public transportation - A weekly postal service must replace the fortnightly
- Senior Citizens	3	Sophia Soesdyke Better Hope	- Take care of senior citizens - More help should be given to senior citizens - Cause their pension to be adequate
- Parenting	2	Sophia Soesdyke	- Assist single parents to get their children to school - Should not leave children unsupervised
- Prostitution	2	Mocha Arcadia Kuru Kururu	- School age prostitution must be curbed
- Health	5	Silver Hill Buxton Friendship Georgetown - City Hall Mocha Arcadia, Agricola Kuru Kuru, Dora, Friendship(East Bank)	- Need for a qualified, resident health official - Garner support for HIV prevention from governmental and non-governmental bodies - Random checks should be done by MOH at hospitals - Adequate health care services must be provided - Emergency cases should be given priority - Reduction in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS - Authorities must write the guilty party about the insanitary state of the pig pens
- Recreation	5	Enmore, Bladen Hall, Charlestown, Agricola, Soesdyke, McDoom, Dora, Craig, Paradise	- The community must help to keep the playground rehabilitated and secured - Institute playing fields and extra curriculum activities within every community - Public spirited persons can contribute sports gears

PART TWO

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE REGION 4

DATE 3rd June, 2006.

VENUE The Convention Centre, Ocean View International Hotel.

FACILITATORS Chrishna Persaud, Rajkumarie Singh, Karen Vansluytman-Corbin, Arlene Dinally, Rohan Sagar, Dauren Ganga, Treena Dundas

ATTENDANCE 130

1. Key Issues Repeated From the Local Community Conversations

Many of the issues that were raised at the initial stages of the conference were repetitious of those that were aired at the discussions at the local level. Among them were

- **Social issues** such as the demonstration of an understanding of each other's culture, spiritual knowledge, the promotion of religious tolerance – especially on the television and radio – and the unbiased recognition of people of **diverse ethnicity**.
- They also uttered the view once more that **parents** should pay more attention to their children and set positive examples. However the community as well as government can provide **recreational grounds and facilities**. Besides this, government should restructure the **education** system. Career training should match projected job market needs. However, one must make oneself eligible for employment.

2. Other and new issues

Some of the old views were expanded, like those that relate to discrimination, and the provision of skills.

Among the new issues are, the following

- The Ministry could help with the problem of **truancy**.
- Government should reintroduce **national service**.

- They should address the issue of **regulatory framework**, and monitor the **quality of products** used.
- With regard to **law and order**, relevant authorities should
 - Investigate so labelled corrupt officers
 - look into malpractices
 - Speed up trials and give fair judgements and consistent verdicts.
 - Offer overseas training to police officers.
 - Make things happen faster insofar as investigations and police action are concerned
 - Improve and exchange knowledge on intelligence gathering

3. Participants' reaction to the Regional Conference

The report indicated that the residents/participants were somewhat agitated, but they were tempered by the reminders that they were all trying to establish an atmosphere of peace, love and unity, rather than moving towards division. The ground rules, too, afforded a measure of control and gave a firmer sense of direction.

An issue that appeared to cause them some concern was the fact that some of those persons who had attained retirement age were still employed; consequently the younger persons were denied employment, or promotion.

The conference was reminded that current problems – real or imagined – were to be examined and solved. Problems of politics and ethnicity should not be over-powering.

4. Process Issues

- Facilitators then explained the objectives of the exercise, the ground rules and agenda. They were reminded that they were all equal, and all ideas were valid. There should be no cross-talking, and all should listen respectfully. They also and explained how the summary regional reports compiled.

- In keeping with the original objectives of the MSF process, facilitators explained that the conversation sought to achieve the following:
 - 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

The conference was not well attended, but those who were there were encouraged to participate fully, fearlessly and with clarity. They were reminded that they were all equal, and all ideas were valid. There should be no cross-talking, and all should listen respectfully.

5. Any other observations

The members of conference were reminded that the purpose of the meeting was to gather information that would be collated and submitted to the Government of the day, one hundred days after elections. These efforts are intended to build a better Guyana for the young ones.

6. Summary Table of Action to be taken on Issues

Key Issues Highlighted	WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES	WHAT RESIDENTS NEED HELP WITH		WHAT RESIDENTS NEED OTHERS TO DO FOR THEM	
		Issues	Person/Agency to Assist	Issues	Person/Agency to Assist
Social Issues					
Weak leadership	Demonstrate leadership qualities; show regard for each other, and for self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others can conduct workshops to teach the qualities, as others monitor the outcomes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence or absence of leadership qualities 	
Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote religious tolerance Parents should recognize and respect diverse religious principles and sects 				
Drug Use				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a drug rehabilitation centre 	
Senior Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community must take care of senior citizens 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure senior citizens have adequate pension 	
Parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist single parents to get their children to school 				
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community must help to keep the playground rehabilitated and secure Public spirited persons can contribute sports gears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute playing fields and extra curriculum activities within every community 			
Prostitution		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School aged prostitution must be curbed 			
Education					
Truancy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement systems to monitor truancy Re-introduce religious education in the school system Re-introduce corporal punishment 	The Ministry of Education		
Facilities and Curriculum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate supply of textbooks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need security hut Build a secondary school with facilities to teach technical skills 	

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Job related training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualify ourselves in order to move into the job market Evaluate situations and make changes to our attitude Employment - get those who qualify to work in their community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a Government framework for employment policies 	Ministry of Labour and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is need for Government incentives Train scholars The education system and career preparation Restructure the system to provide adequate skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government The private sector
Health					
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write guilty parties about the unsanitary state of the pig pens 	Authorities		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random checks should be done by MOH at hospitals 	Ministry of Health		
Heath personnel				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for a qualified, resident health official 	
HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garner support for HIV prevention from governmental and non-governmental bodies 				
Public Administration					
Corruption		Change the system of having to know somebody before you get help All decisions should be made by merit		Investigation needs to be done into corrupt officers who prevent us from achieving what we need to achieve	
Accountability				Accountability - hold someone accountable for broken promises	
Efficiency		Cut the red tape	Relevant authorities	NDCs should sit with communities and listen to their problems	NDC
Access to Resources					
Value added investments	Less exportation of raw materials and more value added needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of value added investment 	Government Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality control - monitor the quality of products used 	Government

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Recreational facilities	Communities can provide grounds and recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in making land available for recreational purposes Institute a team to manage the ground Establish a playground for the children 	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide sporting gears and facilities 	
Job opportunities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities for the development of skills Better use made of local resources to provide more employment and economic development Empower people in the community Establish equal opportunities for all young people regardless of their location 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make more jobs available Discontinue the practice of marginalization, A management change in some areas might result in the creation of more jobs Desist from geographical discrimination 	The private sector
Inclusion and Cohesion					
Workshops		Seminars on better living should be held for youth and their parents			
Renaming Bucktown				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are plans to rename Bucktown 	
Discrimination	Highlight discriminabry experiences on air			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put a legal framework in place to address the issue Lack of confidence in each other - discourage race-based politics 	Government ERC
Community Development					
Assistance with infrastructure	Minor road repairs and the payment of taxes			Pay visits to areas and make direct observations	Authorities
Skills survey		Establish a data base of skills in the communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing capacity Assistance in resource management for the next ten years 	
National Service				Reintroduce National Service	Government
Governance					

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Participation	Participate at NDC level				
Political environment		Create a better political environment	Political Leaders	More responsive to local environmental conditions	NDC
Self Help	Community members can get together to fix things in the community				
Conflict resolution				The ERC should not be involved in disputes between management and unions	
Law & Order					
Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the criminals See crime as crime regardless of who commits it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities are more effective in the arrest of criminals Exchange of intelligence is crucial Monitoring visit communities on an hourly basis Collaborative work must be done between the Community Policing Group and the Police 	Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reward police for excellence in fighting crime Speedy trial and fair, consistent judgment to be implemented Implement current laws Financial help Build a Police Outpost 	Government and private sector
Drugs	Parents should pay more attention to their children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tougher drug laws 			
Training	Skills training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents need to have knowledge about the law 	Education on the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas training for police officers 	
Police Harassment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspects must be treated civilly at Police Stations Stop harassment of bus conductors 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbished Police Station must be used for the intended purpose 	
Infrastructure					
Electricity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public facilities to be developed and maintained 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring in another power plant Correct the unfair access with respect to electricity Regularize the supply of electricity 	Authorities

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Water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality water- residents to work with the CDC to try to rectify the situation Absence, inadequate supply of - there should be proper water storage and the regularization of the supply 	CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A well should be installed in the community or well water should be supplied directly to the community through pipelines Replace pump 	
Roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with SIMAP about the building of roads 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair road and crossroads in the community before the rainy season begins 	
Environment					
Drainage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent people from building houses on Government reserves Clean drains and make them of concrete Keep reserve dams clear to facilitate the cleaning of drains and canals Dig drains on the reserves and clear trenches 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a larger culvert and clean blocked drains Repair sluices Improve drainage system to reduce flooding Koker door should be repaired or replaced Re-dig the canal to the Lamaha 	
Trenches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning could be a self-help activity 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the maintenance of infrastructural works 	NDC
Garbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents must change their attitude towards garbage disposal Those persons responsible for garbage dumping should be prosecuted Make adequate arrangements so that the garbage of everyone can be collected regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce proper garbage disposal practices Remove septic tank 			
-Animal control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise better control over animals 				

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ECONOMY/MARKETS					
Use of resources	Form self help groups then apply for funding to conduct community improvement projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey should be done of the type and utilization of resources • People who lost their crops due to flooding should be compensated • Find markets for Amerindian craft 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues related to wage and salary increase should be positively addressed • Vacation package should not be taxed 	
Markets are neglected		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City council should aid stall holders/shoppers • Establish farmers' markets 	City Council		
Job opportunities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End marginalization • Support needed for persons to become selfemployed • Create jobs 	Government The Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present youths with interesting apprentice programmes and a skills training centre for children and parents 	
Pricing commodities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better prices are needed for farmers' products • More technical support should be given to farmers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price Control Systems should be put in place 	
Cost of living				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize and bring the Guyana dollar to match the US dollar, this would bring down the cost of living 	
Budgeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation must go before budget submission 			
Old age Pension				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute statutory rules re payment of old age pension, and adhere to them Payment Offices should be within the community 	

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Discrimination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young qualified persons must be granted the opportunity to work along with the more seasoned, in order to gain experience 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for ERC to function in a neutral manner 	
Equity & Social Cohesion					
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect must be given to all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A campaign is needed to promote diversity at the school level 			
Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members must make a contribution at regular NDC meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council NDC must be more involved in decision making 			
Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A deliberate effort should be made to work against discriminating Respect must be shown by the governing and the governed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the practice of equity - if a squatting area could have electricity, then a legally established housing scheme should be granted the commodity Investigate the members of the CDC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lands and Jobs should be fairly distributed by NDC members financial resources should be evenly distributed The authorities must treat each citizen and community as fairly and equally as they should Legislation should be passed to reduce the problem of discrimination 	
Morals & Values					
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice basic social principles such as respect for one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National leadership must set an example 			
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moral standards of the youth must be encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers must stop demanding money from children Squatters must be prosecuted for lewd and lawless behaviour Those parents who uplift vouchers for uniforms but don't use the vouchers should be punished 			

