

Report of Multi-Stakeholder Forums held in Region Five

This report has two parts:

- **Part One** (page 1-7) comprises a summary of the 15 conversations held at the community level between March 5th 2006 and April 30th 2006.
- **Part Two** (pages 8-17) is a summary of the outcomes of the Regional Conference held on May 31st 2006 as well as the local community consultations

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: 15
Total Number of Reports received: 15

Total Number of Participants: 403 **Average Attendance: 27**

Summary Table of participation:

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
Rosignol	Rosignol Primary School	5 th March 2006	13
No. 5 Village, West Coast Berbice	No 5. Primary School	19 th March 2006	36
Novar, Mahaicony	Novar Secondary School	19 th March 2006	22
No 8 Village, West Coast Berbice	No 8 Primary School	26 th March 2006	43
Hopetown	Hope Town Primary School	26 th March 2006	35
Mahaicony	Mahaicony Secondary School	26 th March 2006	19
Bush Lot Village, West Coast Berbice	Bush Lot Secondary School	2 nd April, 2006	14
Bath Settlement Areas	Zealand Primary School	2 nd April 2006	26
Moraikobai Village	Meeting Hall, Moraikobai	8 th April 2006	70
Zealand	Zealand Primary School	9 th April 2006	15
No. 29 Village, Berbice	No 29 Primary School	9 th April 2006	17
Lichfield	Lichfield Primary School	23 rd April, 2006	28

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
De Hoop	De Hoop Primary	23 rd April, 2006	7
Beladrum	Beladrum Primary	30 th April 2006	20
Mahaicony	Wilbus Primary	30 th April 2006	38

1. What does Region Five Celebrate as Positives in Guyana?

In at least fifty percent (50%) of the conversations, residents celebrated their **living in unity**, and their desire to continue living this way with each other.

Participants throughout this region felt a sense of **hopefulness** that there will one day be a better Guyana.

Participants also thought that the opportunity given by the **conversations** to air their views freely and work on solutions was positive.

Another key positive identified was the fact that residents in most of the communities in the region were very interested in the **development** of the community and Guyana.

In a few instances, participants also highlighted **improvements in infrastructure** and the assistance received from **outside agencies** to improve the development of the region as positives to be celebrated.

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

The desire to see Guyana **crime free** topped the list of things that participants in all the conversations wanted for Guyana. A total of eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) communities listed this as important in their vision of Guyana, making specific references to the **security** of the population and the role of the police service.

This was followed by the **desire for peace, unity and harmony** among all Guyanese.

Third on the list was the desire for more **national pride** among Guyanese. There were several references to Guyanese living by the national motto and the reintroduction of national service.

Regarding access to opportunities and resources participants wanted to see a Guyana where there were **sufficient opportunities for employment** and **training** that will eventually make out of school youth employable.

3. Key issues raised by residents/participants:

The number one issue raised by the communities in this region was the **absence of electricity**; eleven (11) out of the fifteen (15) communities listed this as an issue.

Other common issues (six or more communities highlighted this as an issue) were: **high crime rate** and absence of security; **limited job opportunities for youth** in the communities; **flooding and poor drainage**; and limited or no **communication infrastructure**.

Three or more communities also raised issues such as **poor water supply**; **poor garbage disposal**; **inadequate compensation** for damages experienced by the flooding; **poor health facilities** which are inadequately staffed; **inequality** in job allocation and the school system; **poor educational facilities** (technology, furniture and teaching equipment) as well as **insufficient teachers**; insufficient assistance given to farmers in the area of **cash crops**; inadequate **safety and security**; and the absence of a Community Development Council (CDC) in the area.

Those issues, which were identified as having potential for violent conflict, were very varied among the communities. However, the more common ones were:

- The poor administration of the NDC
- Perceived lack of support after the flood and the inequitable distribution of flood relief finances and commodities
- The exclusion of citizens from decision making on serious issues
- Inequality of access to basic services and other forms of discrimination
- Sense of insecurity

Notably, six communities were unable to identify any issue as having the potential for violent conflict

In coming up with **concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges**, participants were able to offer the most solutions to their problems relating to the environment – garbage disposal and flooding. Communities were also able to offer solutions to address youth delinquency, the lack of consultation on important issues affecting residents and on the oversight of the schools in the community.

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

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

Generally speaking participants were a bit apprehensive about the usefulness of this conversation and wondered how this was different from other forums. Some expressed concerns about trust in the process.

However, others felt it was still an opportunity to express their views and were hopeful of some positive results and that their issues would be dealt with speedily by the relevant authorities.

5. Process Issues:

The attendance by the communities in this region varied greatly, there was one community with as many as 70 participants; this was then followed by attendances of 43, 38, 36 and 35. However there were 7 communities with less than 20 members attending the forum; one community had an attendance of 7.

In one or two instances poor attendance resulted from the clashes with community events such as funerals as well as miscommunication about the purpose of the meetings. It was felt that more groundwork was needed in the communities to facilitate the mobilization of the community.

In two instances the high degree of organization and the interaction between the facilitators and the community was commended.

Summary Table of Issues

Present local conflicts/areas of tension	No. of Com.	Name of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
INFRASTRUCTURE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of electricity (Poor Street Lighting) Electricity rates to high 	11	Bath Settlement, Moraikobai Village, Bush Lot's New Scheme, Onderneming, No.8 Village WCB, Novar, No.5 Primary School (High price), Rosignol, De Hoop, Beladrum	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone (absence of) 	6	De Hoop, Mahaicony, No. 5 Primary , Zealand, Beladrum, Lichfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone lines should be run throughout the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor water supply 	3	De Hoop, Wilbus, Bush Lot	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage 	6	Bush Lot, Mahaicony, Bath Settlement, Zealand Beladrum, No 29 Village Berbice	
ENVIRONMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor garbage disposal Poor cleaning Poor sanitation in schools 	3	Bush Lot No. 8 Village No. 5 Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The formation of a group to weed the school's compound Proper garbage disposal Garbage disposals/bins at strategic points Put up a 'no dumping' sign at the site where garbage is currently being dumped Residents should clean areas in and around house lots
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular flooding leading to poor roads, drainage problems, loss of poultry and 	7	Wilbus, Bush Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a committee for Disaster Preparedness Form a community group to address drainage

Present local conflicts/areas of tension	No. of Com.	Name of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
crash crops		Mahaicony, Bath Settlement, Zealand Beladrum No. 29 Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More consultation on drainage matters • All trenches in the community should be dug • MMA/ADA needs to clean canals • Community should come together to clear the drains • Re-survey rice land to solve drainage problems • Build Sea defence for Mahaica/Mahaicony area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No compensation for flooding damages 	4	Hopetown, Lichfield, Bushlot, No. 8 Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable access to flood relief moneys and commodities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise 	2	Zeeland, Mahaicony	
ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited job opportunities for women and youth 	10	De Hoop, Rosignol No. 5 Village, Hopetown, Mahaicony, Beladrum, Bath Settlement Zeeland, Lichfield	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of skills training facilities 		No. 29 Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish educational facility for youth school leavers, including vocational training – practical opportunities for learning a trade
HEALTH			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The absence of a health centre • No proper accommodation for patients; • No blood testing unit 	4	Wilbus, Rosignol, Bush Lot, Moraikobai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install Blood testing unit urgently • Establish Eye Surgery clinic for pensioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals have no drugs 	2	Rosignol, Zealand	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequately staffed health facilities 	4	Novar Mahaicony, Bush Lot, Beladrum, No. 29 Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a resident Medex at the Health Centre
SOCIAL COHESION/			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality in job allocation and school system (ethnic discrimination) 	4	No. 8 Village, Bush Lot, Lichfield, Zealand	

Present local conflicts/areas of tension	No. of Com.	Name of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voices of people in Strath Campbell not being heard 	1	Mahaicony	
YOUTH			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The behaviour of youths is poor; Loitering on the roads; Consuming marijuana 	3	Wilbus, Rosignol, Bush Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church leaders should have more inclusive programmes for young people to prevent them from getting involved in drugs Establish a Programme to investigate the drug problem and provide counselling Need voluntary organizations to help teenagers and adults by providing information and education about drugs and developing life skills and healthy family values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for out of school youth 	3	Rosignol, No. 29 Village, Lichfield	
EDUCATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improper accommodation to house Nursery School 	2	No. 8 Village, Moraikobai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recruitment and appointment of more teachers at Novar Nursery School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor facilities in schools - computers/technology; furniture; teaching tools 	4	De Hoop, Bush Lot, Mahaicony Secondary, Moraikobai, Zealand	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient oversight by the Ministry of Education 	2	De Hoop, Wilbus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education investigates and visits schools regularly PTA should meet more regularly and parents should be allowed to voice their concerns freely
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Teachers with the required skills 	4	Novar Mahaicony Bush Lot, Mahaicony Secondary, Moraikobai	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Secondary School 	2	Moraikobai, Nb 29 Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Secondary School in the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat transportation of School children is difficult because of fuel shortages Poor access roads for nursery school children 	2	Moraikobai, Beladrum	
ECONOMY/MARKETS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient assistance to farmers 	3	Wilbus, Novar Mahaicony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDC needs to acquire more equipment to assist farmers

Present local conflicts/areas of tension	No. of Com.	Name of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
especially in the area of cash crops		Bath Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Regional Community Co-operative to assist farmers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No industrial site in Bath 	1	Bath Settlement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient marketing of handicraft 	1	Moraikobai	
LAW AND ORDER			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bandits on the loose; Business people feel targeted and fearful and Residents fear for their lives Lack of police support Police officers involved in corruption Poor judicial system 	8	Rosignol, Novar Mahaicony, No 8. Village Bush Lot, Mahaicony Secondary, Bath Settlement, No. 29 Village, Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 24-hour community policing
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrimination in the award of contracts and in the distribution of compensation from the last flooding 	2	De Hoop, Hopetown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lateral rotation of public officials with a view to curbing corruption Establish a term limit for certain public offices Equitable access to flood relief monies and commodities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no Community Development Council in the area 	3	Wilbus, Hopetown, Beladrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work through the CDC to make representation for development of the community There should be more community consultations Return to village council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor Management at NDC 	2	Zeeland, Lichfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better communication and collaboration between the government, NDC/Regional Authorities Village office needs to be re-opened

PART TWO

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE REGION 5

DATE: May 31st 2006
 VENUE: Forth Wellington Board Room
 ATTENDANCE: 140

1. Key issues repeated from the local community conversations

In large measure those issues raised at the local community level were raised at the regional level again. These included:

- Infrastructure concerns in the area of *electricity, water, drainage and telecommunications*
- Environmental concerns related to *improper garbage disposal, poor sanitation in schools and flooding*
- *Social cohesion* issues relating to the education system and employment
- In the area of education, inadequate numbers of *trained teachers and lack of oversight by the Ministry of Education* were highlighted as key. However vivid descriptions were given of the *lack of infrastructure in schools*, when it was highlighted that there were instances that children had to carry their furniture to sit on.
- Law and order - *the police's inability to respond quickly to the escalating crime*
- Public Administration – *award of contracts and poor management at the NDC*
- Industrial site at Bath

2. Other and new issues

- *Inaccurate information regarding health issues.* Health officials indicated that four issues raised in the report presented were not true: the “absence of health care”; “no proper accommodation” for health workers, the report that there were “no drugs in hospitals”; and inadequately staffed health facilities” (see page 5 above). All the communities that were mentioned in this regard have health centres and staff. With respect to accommodation, participants indicated that there was accommodation, but if the report stated “inadequate” accommodation, they could live with it this. They further advised that some blood tests could be done locally. Those tests that cannot be done locally are done elsewhere. They have access to drugs, and when supplies run out, replenishments are sent quickly.
- People expressed the fear that the *proposed VAT system* will bring further hardship to people living in depressed communities. Some of these communities have not yet recovered from the January floods.

Someone asked whether the introduction of this bill was a calculated strategy to keep people poor. They recommend that when this law comes into place, food stuff should be exempted.

- **Outbreak of diarrhea** was a new issue highlighted by participants. They indicated that there is need for a water purification system.
- Another new issue highlighted was the **absence of a fire-station** in Region 5.

3. Participants' reaction to the Regional Conference:

- Participants' reactions to the conference were mixed. In some instances participants were heartened by the response to the conference and it invoked in a participant the desire to express his views of voting based on ethnicity as opposed to voting based on issues.
- Participants also felt the need to continue the conversation across communities with a view to building relationships and a vision for Guyana. One participant said *"We have it in our power to create safe spaces where everyone of us and future generations can live in happiness and pursue Guyana as our paradise."*
- Some participants were to some extent skeptical of the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) and questioned previous announcements on issues laid before the ERC. There was some concern that participants were being hurried to speak on "deep" issues that needed to be dealt with in a manner where information and statistics were used to justify statements. It was suggested that the ERC should have an information and statistical unit. It was however, noted that the ERC was a young organization and was already doing research on scholarships, employment practices, land allocation. Participants were also reminded that they also had responsibility to bring the relevant information on discrimination to the ERC.

4. Process Issues:

- The forum commenced with religious prayers and a cultural presentation. The Regional Chairman, who gave remarks related to the current social climate in Guyana and the need to promote cohesiveness, opened it. This was followed by remarks from the Chairman of the ERC, who encouraged participants to focus on what was good about Guyana, and the need for communities to take responsibility for their development.
- Facilitators then explained the objectives of the exercise, the ground rules and agenda. 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:
- To create a safe space for Guyanese to agree on strategies for overcoming ethnic and other differences; and
- 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

5. Any other observations

There were no business persons present at the conference.

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	
		Issue	Person/Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/Agency to Assist
Law and Order					
Information gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist police in giving information about bandits Form a ladies group to give information to the police 				
Recruitment and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons should encourage each other to join the Guyana Police Force (GPF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen new candidates and recruit only suitable people for the GPF More police needed at the stations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train persons to become supernumerary constables Police prosecutors must have legal training 	
Resources and equipment		Need for transportation for the police so that they can service communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephones in the GPF should also be able to make out going calls Police should have proper communication systems More protective gear for the police – bullet proof vests and helmets 	
Professional Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for confidentiality Introduce a system of first come first serve in the bus lines – a more disciplined approach needed. 	Police should assist with the bus lines, “otherwise people will tear each others’ clothes and break persons’ bones”		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police should act immediately Police should be careful where they frequent in police uniforms Police prosecutors must have legal training Police officers must take action on domestic violence reports, immediately Police Complaints Unit should be strengthened 	
Vigilance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid keeping large amounts of cash and jewellery at home; wear less jewellery Business people need to secure their premises better 	Use media to sensitise the public		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More police presence at the markets 	
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form Community Policing group 	Police need to interact more with the			

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		Issue	Person/Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/Agency to Assist
involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have "watch dog" committees 	community			
Public Administration					
System of awarding of contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure criteria on the awarding of contracts is made public People in the communities should have a say at the meetings where the contracts are awarded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be regular meetings between the NDC and the community to inform and share information 	NDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reputable leaders should decide on contract awards When contracts are given, contract documents should also be in the hands of the CDC so that they can know what to be on the lookout for 	CDC
Garbage disposal system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each community should have a proper garbage disposal system Identify dumpsites and set standards 			
Local Government Elections		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities must elect councillors according to competence, not "familyism." 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections for NDCs should be held regularly, immediately NDCs should be reduced to size in order to work more effectively 	
CDCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CDCs are not present, they should be formed by the residents 		RDC		
Revenues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates and taxes should be raised and paid. 		Councillors should be given stipends to encourage involvement	
• Infrastructure					
Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use energy saving bulbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower electricity price in new housing areas 	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop the billing system based on estimation Put a system in place to reduce theft Introduce hydro-electricity 	Government
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay water bills promptly Report leaks to GUYWA 				
Telephone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GT&T must pay for land that it wishes to establish telephone exchanges on 	GTT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone lines should be run throughout the community 	
Drainage and Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop littering 				

KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED	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
Environment					
Poor cleaning and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get garbage bins and dispose of garbage in a proper manner Residents should be disciplined and inculcate the right values in children Educate children on proper garbage disposal Put up no dumping signs The formation of a group to weed the school's compound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools for cleaning from the relevant authorities Regular inspections by environmental officer to schools 	NDC, RDC and MME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant authorities should honour their responsibilities These authorities should be more involved in improving the school sanitary system Prosecute those who litter 	NDC, RDC and MME
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a community group to address drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Committee for Disaster Preparedness All trenches in the community should be dug Re-survey rice land to solve drainage problems Clean canals 	MMA/ADA		
Noise					
Social Cohesion and Inclusion					
Ethnic Discrimination (including job allocation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak up and get vocal Build up self esteem Address problem at the right level (don't run straight to the Minister) Have respect for one another, be respectful and respectable 			Establish a national complaints commission (for issues that have no ethnic undertones)	
Women representation on Disaster Relief Committee		Have at least two mothers on the Disaster Relief Committee			
Economy and Markets					
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to teacher's services commission, the RDCED committee, and seek help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish cottage industries Assistance with budgeting and financial 		Establish vocational training centre	

KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED	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"> Residents must get themselves qualified in a competitive manner and apply for jobs 	management			
Limited Job opportunities for women					
Farming		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Assistance to prevent over-production (especially in the area of cash crops) 	Ministry of Agriculture		
VAT System (Lichfield)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed VAT system will bring further hardship to people living in depressed communities. Some of these communities have not yet recovered from the January floods They recommend that when this law comes into place, food stuff should be exempted 	
Industrial Site in Bath					
Health					
Drugs and alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak to young people about the dangers of drug use 				
Health Centre				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a health centre at Woodley Park at #8 village. The current one is too small and uncomfortable 	
Community Health Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community health education and health education in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with health issues Visit schools more regularly (it is already being done, but needs to be improved, e.g. nurses to check every child in the school. They are usually called when there is a crisis in the school. 			
Visits by health inspectors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visits to the communities (every home) on more regular basis. 	Public health		

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		Issue	Person/Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/Agency to Assist
			inspectors		
Health infrastructure and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek donations to improve seating accommodation at health facilities 		Health officers Business Gov't	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide vehicles for health officers 	
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise youths in groups to perform community health services being guided by adults Self help groups to clean the community Establish firstaid groups in communities Community members should visit bed-ridden patients and volunteer to become CBRs for disabled people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained first aid volunteers Trained CBR volunteers for persons with disabilities 	Community policing groups Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train more tutors in the health sectors who can train others More health staff should be employed and deployed 	
Drugs at the hospital					
Education					
School governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the PTA to include everyone – this will minimise victimisation of children if hard issues are raised Better relationships between teachers and parents to improve the system 				
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide transport system for school children: some children travel from Rosignol to Mahaicony 	Ministry of Education (MOE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a training facility in Region 5 	
Lack of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeal to the NDC if the PTA is strapped for cash, then the RDC and then the Minister. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the pay package for teachers - if teachers are better paid, they won't leave the job so easily. 	Government
Duplication and overlapping re. school uniform vouchers				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of uniform vouchers, etc 	MOE should collaborate with MLHSS

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		Issue	Person/Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/Agency to Assist
Truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents need to monitor children's departure and arrival; 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finances should be made more available for effective implementation of efforts to reduce truancy Get a national programme in each region to combat truancy. 	
Maintenance of schools				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay regular visits (on spot-check basis) to schools - see to it that schools are properly equipped and maintained 	Central MOE officials
Youths and Access to Opportunities					
Lack of Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create own employment Residents can make themselves marketable by aiming for goals and being self disciplined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities can link up to a regional body where there are representatives from all the communities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a technical training institute. Region 6 has three, Region 5 has none Establish factories and organisations to employ youths Introduce mini-scholarships for students who are not academically gifted 	Government
Idle youth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational facilities to combat loitering and increase activities for young people Prevent loitering 	Police		
Adult Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and teachers can work together to train people who are academically gifted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national strategy for adult education 	Government, RDC and private sector bodies
Social problems of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults must set an example and lead by example for instance in the area of drug abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of a unified effort to stop problems with youth 	Min of Culture, Youth and Sports		
Adult/Youth relationship and supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach moral values at all levels Parents should monitor the films that children are watching Develop good adult-child relationships, 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-introduction of national service Assistance with centres and workshops for parenting skills. There has to be a training institute for parental training. 	Funding agencies

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		Issue	Person/Agency to Assist	Issue	Person/Agency to Assist
	based on respectful communication. "Our children talk to others instead of to us as parents" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek professional help if a problem is beyond control 				