

Report of Multi-Stakeholder Forums held in Region Six

This report has two parts:

- **Part One** (pages 1-12) comprises a summary of the 17 conversations held at the community level between March 11th 2006 and April 16th 2006.
- **Part Two** (pages 13-25) is a summary of the outcomes of the Regional Conference held on June 1st 2006 for Region 6 as well as those from the community conversations

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: 23

Total Number of Participants: 771

Average attendance: 33.5

Summary Table of participation:

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
Tain, Corentyne	Tain Primary School	11 th March, 2006	54
Rose Hall	Rose Hall Community Centre	18 th March, 2006	19
Albion	Albion Community Centre	20 th March, 2006	55
Betsy Ground, Canje	Betsy Primary School	22 nd March, 2006	32
Orealla/Siparata	Community Benab	27 th March, 2006	33
Fortland Ordinance, Berbice	Fortland Ordinance Primary School,	28 th March, 2006	58
Skeldon	Skeldon Primary School	1 st April, 2006	6
Rosehall	Lutheran Hall	2 nd April, 2006	4
New Amsterdam	Berbice High School	2 nd April, 2006	25
Fryish	Fryish Abdul's Residence	8 th April, 2006	56
No 19 Corentyne, Berbice	Bohemia's Primary School	9 th April, 2006	50
Auchlyne	Achlyne Primary School	19 th April, 2006	39
Manchester	Manchester Secondary School	23 rd April, 2006	20
Kildonan Village	Kildonan Primary School	26 th April, 2006	27
Wellington Park	Wellington Park Primary School	27 th April, 2006	34
Eversham	Eversham Primary School	1 st May, 2006	24

Area	Venue	Date	Attendance
Black Bush Polder	Black Bush Secondary School	4 th May, 2006	65
No 48	No 48 Primary School	10 th May, 2006	25
No 68 Corentyne	No 68 Primary School	10 th May, 2006	79
No 63 East Coast Berbice	Tagore Memorial School	12 th May, 2006	4
No 56 Corentyne	No 56 Primary School	12 th May, 2006	28
Line Path	Skeldon Secondary School	16 th May, 2006	6
Crab Wood Creek	Crab Wood Creek Primary School	16 th May, 2006	28

1. What does Region Six celebrate as positives in Guyana:

Many participants in Region Six celebrate the richness in ideas, the interest and the commitment towards further development of Guyana by Guyanese. They celebrate the opportunity to speak out and participate in open conversations.

Furthermore, despite the many problems they have, a number of participants in the conversations celebrate the positive things in modern Guyana, which they never experienced before.

Inter-racial communities and marriages can prosper in Guyana and religious tolerance is widespread. Another such example is the fact that all races are recognised in the national holidays.

Lastly, many participants in the region celebrate the fact that Guyana has today only suffered minor environmental damage and manages to produce quality food.

Three conversations could not identify any positives to celebrate.

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

People in Region Six long for a **peaceful** Guyana; a country without racial tension and discrimination.

They hope that all citizens can expect to be treated with **respect** and that people can **trust** each other.

Furthermore, they ask for **political unity** and **honesty**.

Security issues are also very much part of the region's vision. People hope for a future with **less drug abuse**, better equipped and more committed **police** and more efficient **judicial system**.

Lastly, among the most important elements of the participants' vision for Guyana are **more jobs** and **improved educational and health** systems.

3. Key issues raised by residents/participants

[See Summary Table o Issues on page 5 for details]

The **poor infrastructure and services** in the region features heavily in the conversations. Total lack of electricity is a major concern in some areas. Other areas, which are supplied with electricity, ask for more street lighting. Furthermore, inadequate drainage is a constant worry for some areas and a reliable access to potable water is out of reach for many. So is access to telephone services. In general, people in Region Six are asking for a robust investment in the infrastructure with the construction of new dams, trenches and bridges, together with better maintenance of existing constructions.

Negative attitude towards the **youth** is a constant theme, although participants also point out that very little is done for this group. Hence, they ask for rapid development of schools and recreational facilities.

Another key issue is the **environment**, in particular the disorganised garbage disposal system and stray animals.

The threat from **criminal activity** is also an issue participants want to see an improvement on, but many have little faith in the police. Drug and alcohol abuse is widely seen as a cause of this criminal activity.

Participants are generally disappointed with the state of the **education** and **health** systems in the region.

Lastly, people ask for more investment and **job creation**. In particular they ask about an **industrial site** that has been in the discussion for some time and a **new bridge** across Berbice River, which has been promised.

Participants of the conversations identified several issues that may lead to **violent conflict**. These are:

- i. Limited and unequal job opportunities,
- ii. Inadequate education,
- iii. Apparent need for guns among residents,
- iv. Irregularities regarding NIS,
- v. Squatting,
- vi. Noise nuances,
- vii. Allegations of corruption and lack of transparency in governance,
- viii. Unfulfilled promises regarding the infrastructure,
- ix. Decreasing police support and allegations of police brutality,

- x. Racial tension – sometimes fuelled by the media, and
- xi. Drug addiction.

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

In general participants were both eager to express the issues they came to discuss, and eager to see speedy results and actions. This willingness even took the form of impatience in some instances. In one conversation this willingness to help improve Guyana was exemplified when all the participants hugged and sang together.

However, some suspicion was aired in a few of the conversations that this was yet another politically motivated "talk shop", which would yield no results.

All agreed, nevertheless, that a safe space had been created for participants to express their views and that hesitant people was offered encouragement to come forward. People were not simply "talked to" in these meetings, which were proper conversations according to participants. Indeed, there was an opportunity for everyone to ask questions in each forum. One such noticeable question was on the meaning of "ethnicity".

5. Process Issues:

Attendance in the communities was overall encouraging. Only four of the conversations had disappointing attendance. Lack of proper information about the conversations may be to blame. Participants in one conversation said for example that they had only been informed of 'a meeting', no further details were given.

Two of these poorly attended conversations were, nevertheless, particularly noticeable. Of six participants in Line Path, five were students of Sheldon Secondary School. These students voiced their concerns intelligently and had a lot to contribute to the wider discussion in the region. Furthermore, the participants from Village No. 63 gave an impression of a problem free and idyllic existence within their community.

Summary Table of Issues

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
INFRASTRUCTURE			
Leakages of pipelines. ("Guyana Water Inc is asking not to waste water and they are doing just that")	2	Albion, No 19 Corentyne,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper repairs of breakages • Residents should not be told off for fixing breakages, when the GWA personnel do not do it in a timely manner
Shortages and poor quality of water	11	Albion, No 19 Corentyne, Betsy Ground, Fortland Ordinance, Kildonan Village, Crab Wood Creek, Black Bush Polder, No 68 Corentyne, No 56 Corentyne, Fryish, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination in the distribution of water should not be tolerated • People should not have to pay bills for twelve months supply of water when a six months supply closer to reality
Shortage and lack of electricity	10	Albion, No 19 Corentyne, Auchlyne, Orealla, No 68 Corentyne, Line Path, Crab Wood Creek, Black Bush Polder, Wellington Park, Eversham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of electricity connection must go down • GPL transformers need more regular servicing • Proper meter reading is essential if people are expected to have faith in the limited service • Energy saving bulbs need to be distributed to all homes
Blocked and limited drainage system	12	No 19 Corentyne, Rose Hall, Fortland Ordinance, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne, Line Path, Black Bush Polder, No 56 Corentyne, Fryish, Wellington Park, Eversham, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many trenches need to be re-dug • Make sure that cattle and pigs do not damage the system • Drains must be cleared of garbage • There needs to be a continuous maintenance of the drainage system • The government should look to other countries for technical solutions
Poor state, and lack of investment in, of roads, bridges and dams	11	No 19 Corentyne, Auchlyne, Betsy Ground, Fortland Ordinance, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne, Line Path, Black Bush Polder, No 56 Corentyne, Fryish, Manchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that cattle cannot damage dams • The community must be knowledgeable about planned repairs before work commences • Residents must be involved in the supervision • Heavy duty vehicles should be restricted to few main streets • The promised new bridge over the Berbice river must be constructed

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
Structures causing floods	2	No 19 Corentyne, Auchlyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDC office must remove residents who build on reserve land Fish ponds can affect drainage
Lack of street lights	10	Auchlyne, Betsy Ground, Kildonan Village, Fortland Ordinance, Line Path, Crab Wood Creek, Black Bush Polder, No 56 Corentyne, Manchester, Wellington Park	
Lack of land phones	10	Auchlyne, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne, Black Bush Polder, No 56 Corentyne, Fryish, Albion, Wellington Park, Eversham, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone applications should always be properly recognised
Isolated villages around Skeldon	2	Orealla, Line Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads must be constructed Cheaper boats must be made available
Lack of a burial ground	1	Crab Wood Creek	
Absence of an Air Strip in East Berbice	1	Manchester	
<i>Social Inclusion/Cohesion</i>			
Endangerment of persons by ethnicity	1	Albion	
Loss indigenous culture	1	Orealla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government must help the community to get back in touch with its roots and culture
Amerindian sentiments of being second class citizens	2	Orealla, Rosehall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnic discrimination and stigma must stop in the wider society
Strained relations between individuals of different ethnic groups, e.g. at election time	4	Skeldon, Tain, No 56 Corentyne, New Amsterdam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERC needs to address conflict during election period Racial slur should not be accepted Potential leaders should not behave irresponsibly People should not be afraid of voicing opinions Security around elections needs to be tight The media should not air programmes that fuel tensions Ethnic relations should be taught at school

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
Unresolved political issues	3	Skeldon, Tain, New Amsterdam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion needs to take place on shared governance • No governing party should serve more than two terms • The insecurity of Africans, real or perceived, should be addressed • Political party needs to be established that cuts across all racial divisions • Political leaders should not be allowed to incite hatred
<i>Social Issues</i>			
High incidence of HIV/AIDS, together with stigma and discrimination	2	Albion, No 68 Corentyne	
Pensioners have difficulties in receiving pensions	4	No 19 Corentyne, Auchlyne, Tain, Fryish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC office instead of the Post Office could distribute pension
Lack of public awareness of social rights	2	Skeldon, No 68 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens should be educated about civil laws • Women in particular need to be educated about their rights
Unemployment of women, e.g. widows	1	No 68 Corentyne	
Trafficking of Amerindian girls	1	Line Path	
<i>Access to Opportunities and Resources</i>			
Poor access to health services and insufficient treatment	7	No 19 Corentyne, Auchlyne, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne, Crab Wood Creek, Black Bush Polder, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good hospital is needed in Berbice • Skeldon Hospital needs doctors and nurses • Necessary drugs should be provided at all times • Doctors need to be more considerate when listening to complaints
Inadequate medical assistance at the Port Mourant Hospital	1	Auchlyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hospital needs to have a scanning machine
Amerindian communities are excluded from sport development projects	1	Orealla	
Exclusion from community benefits associated with certain types of communities	1	Orealla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orealla needs to be classified as a 'hinterland' community
Migration of the workforce	1	Orealla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs are needed locally
Problems with access to mortgage	1	Orealla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal ownership may need to be revised • Similar access as one can find in Moruca could help

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
Unequal and limited access to job opportunities	9	Skeldon, Tain, Rose Hall, Fortland Ordinance, Rosehall, No 68 Corentyne, Crab Wood Creek, No 56 Corentyne, New Amsterdam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions of unemployment need to be addressed • Those willing to engage in self-employment should receive financial support
<i>Youths</i>			
Teenage pregnancy	2	Albion, Black Bush Polder	
Idleness among youths	14	No 19 Corentyne, Orealla, Tain, Rose Hall, Betsy Ground, Rosehall, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne, Crab Wood Creek, New Amsterdam, Manchester, Wellington Park, Eversham, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playfields should be developed and sporting equipment provided by the government • Technical training, and counselling, for youths needs to be provided • A programme is needed for school drop outs • A form of National Service needs to be established • Library for youths should be established • Stalled President Youth Choice Projects are not acceptable
Lack of employment opportunities for youths	7	Auchlyne, Orealla, Crab Wood Creek, Fryish, Wellington Park, Eversham, No 48 Corentyne	
Youth crime rate	1	Tain	
Lack of facilities for handicapped children	1	No 68 Corentyne	
<i>Morals/Values</i>			
The 'get rich quick syndrome'	1	Albion	
Lack of virtues in the society	4	Skeldon, No 68 Corentyne, New Amsterdam, Eversham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be religious and ethical education in schools • Parents should get training in developing their attitudes
Lack of discipline and respect in the society	5	Rose Hall, Rosehall, No 68 Corentyne, Black Bush Polder, Eversham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents need to accept more responsibility • Corporeal punishment can be introduced in schools

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
<i>Law and Order</i>			
Lack of confidentiality in the Police Force and inequality of justice	10	Albion, Skeldon, Fortland Ordinance, No 68 Corentyne, Line Path, Crab Wood Creek, Black Bush Polder, No 56 Corentyne, Eversham, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero tolerance against bribery • Key persons in the community should own licensed firearms • Police officers should be given the opportunity to elevate themselves educationally • Civil forum for complaints needs to be established • Police needs to act on complaints, e.g. on disturbances from rum shops
Drug use and alcohol abuse	11	Albion, Orealla, Skeldon, Rose Hall, Betsy Ground, Rosehall, No 68 Corentyne, Black Bush Polder, Crab Wood Creek, Manchester, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol must not be sold to youths and children • Community services should be issued to drug users • Age limit for alcohol consumption should be 21
Insufficient police protection	10	Auchlyne, Tain, Betsy Ground, Rosehall, No 68 Corentyne, Crab Wood Creek, No 56 Corentyne, Fryish, Manchester, Wellington Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More police stations are needed • More police vehicles are needed • Police should be better paid • All communities need police patrols at night • Armed policing groups, accompanied by a police officer, need to be established in many areas. Already established policing group need more support from the police • The background of the personnel of policing groups needs to be checked
Apparent need for residents to arm themselves	1	Betsy Ground	
Prostitution	1	Line Path	
Speeding on public roads	1	No 56 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic police needs to be more vigilant
Squatting	1	Manchester	
<i>Environment</i>			
Noise nuances	1	Albion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offenders should be penalised
Poor collection of garbage and littering	12	Albion,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage bins should be allocated and placed at the head of

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		No 19 Corentyne, Orealla, Rose Hall, Betsy Ground, Rosehall, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne, Line Path, Crab Wood Creek, Fryish, Wellington Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> every street Specific days for the collection should be set Persons who clean their own surroundings should be awarded tax-breaks In Orealla, residents take great pride in their collective, weekly cleaning of the community. Perhaps other communities can learn from their efforts
Abandoned houses	2	Albion, No 68 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These houses should be eradicated
Road blockages by animals, parked trucks and piling of construction material	8	Albion, Auchlyne, Betsy Ground, No 56 Corentyne, Manchester, Wellington Park, Eversham, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political affiliation should not allow individuals to let their animals roam the streets Stray catcher s are needed Pasture for cows needs to be provided
Snakes and alligators near homes because of uncut bush	2	No 19 Corentyne, No 56 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bush needs to be cut regularly near houses
Poor environmental inspection	1	No 19 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitary Inspectors need to work more than just one day per week
Destruction of the foreshore and poor sea-defences	3	Auchlyne, Wellington Park, No 48 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutting of the mangrove trees need to be limited Dam needs to be built at the seashore in order to keep the sea water out
<i>Economy/Markets</i>			
Need for a boost in industries	4	Albion, Rose Hall, No 68 Corentyne, No 56 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more delays in investment in an industrial site in Berbice Canneries and garment factories should be established Red tape must be removed
Lack of technical support for job creation	1	Orealla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government must provide the necessary support
Dependence on logging	1	Orealla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be more support for diversification
Lack of market facilities and opportunities for farmers	4	Kildonan Village, Crab Wood Creek, Manchester, Eversham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field officers should be appointed in order to educate farmers International marketing of fruits should be explored
Problems facing farmers, e.g. late payments to farmers from the rice mills	4	Black Bush Polder, No 5 6 Corentyne, Manchester, Eversham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage farmers to cultivate the crop at the same time Combines should be provided in order to assist farmers with the harvesting Pricing system needs to be constructed

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice mills should pay interests on late payments
Poor wages of GUYSUCO workers	1	Crab Wood Creek	
Education			
Shortages of teachers	2	Albion, Auchlyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers need to be better paid
Absence of a nursery school	1	Albion	
Absence of secondary school	1	Orealla	
Absence of opportunities for slow learners	1	No 68 Corentyne	
Distances to training collage	1	No 68 Corentyne	
Lack of scholarships for capable, but economically challenged, students	2	Albion, No 68 Corentyne	
Children from squatting areas not attending school	1	Albion	
Violent behaviour of students towards teachers	1	Auchlyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System must be put in place to allay the fears of teachers who discipline students in the schools
Education is not receiving proper importance and the standard of the schools is poor	8	Auchlyne, Orealla, Tain, Rose Hall, Betsy Ground, No 68 Corentyne, No 56 Corentyne, Eversham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions should be laid against parents who do not send their children to school The distances between schools and homes must be shortened Local schools bring commitment to education Local school need to be better supervised by official from the Ministry of Education Dress code should be established for children and teachers Bus system for school children needs to be introduced
Inappropriate relationships between teachers and children	1	Line Path	
Lack of school books	1	No 68 Corentyne	
Public Administration			
Controversial appointments of community leaders and other key persons in the society	1	Albion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More transparency in the appointment processes is essential
Doubts that allocated money for youth programmes is properly spent	1	Albion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building for the youth group in Belvedere Block X should carry on as the funds have been allocated

Present local conflicts/ areas of tension	No. of Communities	Names of Communities which raised issue	Concrete commitments and ideas towards overcoming challenges
Poor function of SIMAP Projects	1	Albion	
Conflicts between NDC officers and residents. Criticism of NDC	4	No 19 Corentyne, Fortland Ordinance, Kildonan Village, No 68 Corentyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings need to be held • Interaction between NDC and communities needs to improve
Allegations of discrimination in the development of the infrastructure	1	Auchlyne	
Allegation that politicians are more concerned about power than the people	2	Skeldon, Fortland Ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The administration must be more honest, efficient and transparent
Poor handling of members of the public by public servants	1	Skeldon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public servants should be sent on courses to improve their public relation skills
Long wait for passport requests to be granted	1	Kildonan Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government must address the issue of passports urgently
Need to strengthen and sort out irregularities in connection with NIS	4	Manchester, No 56 Corentyne, New Amsterdam, Tain	

PART TWO

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Date: June 1st 2006
Venue: Albion Community Centre
Facilitators:
Number of participants: 188

1. Key issues repeated from the Local Community Conversations

- . Need for improved **infrastructure**
- . Economy and markets
- . Social inclusion/cohesion
- . Corruption: **law and order**
- . Public administration
- . **Youth** problems
- . Lack of **education** opportunities and poor **morals**
- . Lack of access to **opportunities**

2. Other and new issues:

There were no other major issues raised; the regional conversation emphasized many of the same issues as in the local conversation.

3. Participants' Reaction to the Regional Conference:

Bikers Uniting Guyana (BUG) applauds both UNDP and ERC for this initiative. The organization has taken the position that "whatever our differences we must unify on the issue of peace and harmony".

4. Process Issues:

- The 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 to move away from blaming politicians.
- Participants were then explained the objectives of the exercise, ground rules and the agenda. They were then divided into groups.
- The circle process was not used.
- It was noted that there were no attendees from the Corriverton and Rosehall Municipalities and no attendee from the police force.

5. Any other observations:

Young people played an active and important role in the conversation. The discussions were lively and animated.

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
Infrastructure					
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit a person to advocate our plight in the media about water problems Do not waste water People should be allowed to fix breakages – GWA does not do it in a timely manner 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair leakages of pipes No discrimination in the distribution of water People should not have to pay for 12 months supply of water when they only receive 6 months 	
Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be more proactive Residents can do minor work on the drainage Make sure cattle and pigs do not damage the system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More funding Clearing of garbage from drain 	NDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for drainage Continuous maintenance of draining system Redigging of trenches Seek technical solutions from other countries 	Government
Squatting				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give house lots to young people and regularize the land in three years Increase the number of affordable house lots Construct play grounds and other amenities 	
Roads, Bridges and Dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure that cattle cannot damage dams The community must be knowledgeable about planned repairs before work commences Residents must be involved in the supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy duty vehicles should be restricted to few main streets 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Berbice bridge by year end Roads must be constructed and cheaper boats made available to deal with isolated villages around Skeldon 	
Sea Defences				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the cutting of mangrove trees to prevent poor sea defence 	

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"> • Building dams to keep sea water out • Establish a functioning sea defence board 	
Telecommunication		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone applications must be promptly attended to 			
Electricity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper meter reading is essential if people are expected to have faith in the limited service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of electricity connection must go down • GPL transformers need more regular servicing • Energy saving bulbs need to be distributed to all homes 	
Lack of a burial ground					
Absence of an air strip in East Berbice					
Environment					
Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report noise pollution to the police • Cooperate with other communities to improve our environmental structure • In Orella, residents take pride in weekly cleaning of community. Perhaps other communities can learn from their efforts • Landlords should keep surroundings clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police to monitor noise pollution • Providing bins for garbage • Education about garbage • Specific days for collection should be set up • Persons who clean their own surroundings should be awarded tax breaks • Abandoned houses should be removed 	Police NDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise offenders should be penalized • Start an animal tax system • Political affiliation should not be used in determining whether animals should be allowed to roam the streets • Increase the number of days for environmental inspection by sanitary inspectors • Cutting of bush regularly to prevent snakes and alligators from getting close to houses 	
Poor environmental inspection				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary Inspectors need to work more than just one day 	

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
				per week	
Destruction of the foreshore and poor sea-defences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutting of the mangrove trees need to be limited 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam needs to be built at the seashore in order to keep the sea water out 	
Economy and Markets					
Taxes	Pay rates and taxes			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine those who do not pay taxes 	
Farming		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storing facilities for crops Provide combines for farmers Rice mills should pay interest on late payments Constructing price system 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open overseas markets for our fruits and vegetables Government marketing agency should be on site Appoint field officers to educate farmers 	Government
Logging		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for logging 			
Copyright issues				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass strict legislation to prevent copyright violation of local artists Prevent overseas artists from flooding markets 	
Industrial Estate and boosting of other industries				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of delays and red tape to allow investment in an industrial site in Berbice Canneries and garment factories should be established 	
Technical Support for job creation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide necessary support 	Government		
Social Inclusion/Cohesion					
Respect, harmony and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect each other's culture Understand the true meaning of our motto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious groups should hold forums to explain what their religion is about Religious groups (interfaith) meet once a week 	Religious leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System to educate and teach children to accept each other Media should not air programmes that fuel tensions 	
Governance and unresolved political				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decentralized parliamentary representatives. The person we 	

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issues				elect from our NDC should represent us at the national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political leaders should not sow hatred • There should be discussions on shared governance • Governing party should not service more than two terms 	
Discrimination				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political affiliation should not be used in determining whether animals should be allowed to roam the streets • Ethnic discrimination and stigma must stop 	
Elections and strained relations between ethnic groups				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address conflict during election period • Insecurity of Africans real or perceived should be addressed • Political parties that cuts across all racial divisions should be established • Stop racial slurs • Political leaders should behave responsibly • People should not be afraid to voice opinions • Security around elections need to be tight • Ethnic relations should be taught at school 	ERC Political Leaders
Amerindian Development	Amerindians should have themselves registered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help community to get back in touch with its roots and culture 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop discriminating against Amerindians • Develop land in Amerindian communities to play sports 	Ministry of Youth Sports and

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					Culture
Law and Order					
Lack of confidence in police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop accepting and paying bribes • Educate the community on the importance of emergency vehicles • Ask the police to respond promptly to complaints • We have to be more alert about who breaks the law • We should become better law abiding citizens and show respect for the law • We can help with information gathering • We can give accurate and precise information to the police • We must keep information confidential • Key persons in the community should own firearms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help from the police to assist in drug abuse 	Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police should respect themselves and be more professional • Increase the wages and salaries of the police • Turn off police sirens so as not to alert criminals • Provide police with the tools to help them perform their duties • There should be more plain clothes police • Army should assist the police • Police should be given the opportunity to educate themselves • Civil forum should be established to handle complaints 	
Insufficient police protection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed policing groups accompanied by police officers should be established • Already established policing groups need more support from the police 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More police stations and vehicles needed • Communities need police patrols at night • Check the background of the policing groups • Police should be better paid 	
Apparent need for residents to arm themselves					
Speeding on public roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic police need to be more vigilant 			

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Social Issues					
Drug and alcohol abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents must take more responsibility for their children Parents must be spiritually involved 	Continuous education on drug and alcohol abuse		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More public and positive education through the media Police must enforce the law Judiciary must treat people equally and consistently in sentences Minimum age for the consumption of alcohol should be 21 There should be more recreational opportunities Alcohol must not be sold to youths and children. The age limit for alcohol should be set at 21 Introduce community services for drug users. 	
High incidence of HIV/AIDS, together with stigma and Discrimination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens should be educated about civil laws Women need to be educated about their rights 			
Lack of public awareness of social rights					
Trafficking of Amerindian girls					
Prostitution					
Public Administration					
Transparency in the award of contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents should boycott and stop paying taxes if there is a controversial award of a contract or appointment Residents can report irregularities in contracts and ask for audits 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility and criteria for appointment should be clearly stated and transparent Regular audits should be conducted Contracts should be shown to all 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities to monitor the contractor's work 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality in the administration of justice Impose sanctions on those who break contracts Projects should be executed at all times – not only at election time 	
Conflict between officers and residents		There should be collaboration between the NDCs and the community	NDCs		
Problems with NIS				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a better system to reduce the long waiting time at the passport office and NIS Reduce the pay out time from 60 to 55 years at the NIS Better record keeping at NIS Remove irregularities at NIS 	
Pension Administration				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDC Office instead of the Post Office could distribute pension 	
Allegations of discrimination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve the community in the development of infrastructure Checking into the allegation that politicians are more interested in power 	ERC and Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating the public service to become professional 	
Controversial appointments of community leaders and other key persons in the society				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More transparency in the appointment processes is essential 	
Doubts that allocated money for youth programmes is properly spent		Building for the youth group in Belvedere Block X should carry on as the funds have been allocated			
Poor function of					

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SIMAP Projects					
Allegations of discrimination in the development of the infrastructure					
Allegation that politicians are more concerned about power than the people				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The administration must be more honest, efficient and transparent 	
Poor handling of members of the public by public servants				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public servants should be sent on courses to improve their public relation skills 	
Long wait for passport requests to be granted				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the issue of passports urgently 	Government
Youth					
Teenage pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate ourselves on the effects of teenage pregnancy Be confident and have self respect Find good role models Avoid peer pressure, stand up to things and say no Be obedient to parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train tutors to help train others Counselling from health and social workers Removal of barriers from church and mosques so that people can speak about these issues Leaders can help us on the issue of teenage pregnancy 	NGOs and Government Religious leaders		
Idleness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get involve in clubs and organisations Become involved in sports activities Involve self in meaningful activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should give more support to children when they seek jobs 	Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need job opportunities We need recreational facilities We need financial support for youths to attend courses Bring back National Service 	Government and private sector Government and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get counseling to help find some direction in life • Open up communication with parents to get them to help us achieve something • Make a timetable for ourselves 				private sector
Lack of Employment/opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can manage business • We can educate ourselves • We can develop good practices 				
Exclusion from Community benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people should make themselves known to show they are responsible • We should show our abilities 				
Youth crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should love one another • We should forgive each other • We should be involved in religions activities • We should not imitate TV 	We should seek help to control self	Counsellor Family counselling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should be more approachable and open to youths • Parents should not take advantage when children confide in them 	Parents
Youth Crime rate					
Health					
Health education	Form health groups and educate ourselves on the issues of health				
Inadequate health facilities and resources				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase health services • Increase the amount of drugs at hospital and clinics • Better salaries and incentives • Overseas help e.g Cuban doctors 	
Lack of facilities for handicapped children				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need good facilities and opportunities 	
Economy and Employment					
Mortgage problems				Establish criteria for loans which does	Business

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				not depend on experience	Banks
Mitigation of Work Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees should stand up for their rights instead of leaving 			Trade Unions must stand up and fight for their members	Trade Unions
Unemployment of women (particularly widows)					
Education					
Lack of qualified educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should seek out retired teachers who can assist in subject areas 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall retired teachers Improve teacher salaries and better working conditions 	
Truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying those who do not attend school Parents responsible for preventing school dropouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents who do not send their children to school should be punished 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to create opportunities for slow learners 	
Parents' involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should be involved in their children's welfare Parental guidance in school curriculum development 		Government	Provide adult education classes	Ministry of Education Volunteers
General problems in the education system		Provide land and lumber to build secondary schools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidize transportation costs of children and those who work in the education sector Need for nursery school System should be put in place to stop violent behaviour towards teachers There should be a dress code for children and teachers 	Government Ministry of Education
Lack of scholarships for capable, but economically challenged students					

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Children from squatting areas not attending school					
Distance between schools and homes				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus system for school children needs to be introduced 	
School supervision				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local school needs to be better supervised by officials 	Ministry of Education
<i>Access to Opportunities and Resources</i>					
Poor access to health services and insufficient treatment				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good hospital is needed in Berbice • Skeldon Hospital needs doctors and nurses • Necessary drugs should be provided at all times • Doctors need to be more considerate when listening to complaints 	
Inadequate medical assistance at the Port Mourant Hospital				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hospital needs to have a scanning machine 	
Amerindian communities are excluded from sport development projects					

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Exclusion from community benefits associated with certain types of communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orealla needs to be classified as a 'hinterland' community 			
Migration of the workforce		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs are needed locally 			
Problems with access to mortgage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communal ownership may need to be revised Similar access as one can find in Moruca could help 			
Unequal and limited access to job opportunities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions of unemployment need to be addressed Those willing to engage in self-employment should receive financial support 			
Morals/Values					
The 'get rich quick syndrome'					
Lack of virtues in the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should get training in developing their attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be religious and ethical education in schools 			
Lack of discipline and respect in the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents need to accept more responsibility 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporeal punishment can be introduced in schools 	