



THE ENHANCER

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REPORT DISCRIMINATION

A format for reporting all discrimination against Persons with Disabilities is now available. Such matters can be reported to the Commission's Secretariat at 49 Croal Street, Georgetown.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NCD?

NCD Representatives meet GECOM Officials

Officials of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) met with Representatives of the National Commission on Disability (NCD) on January 8, 2015 at GECOM's Head Quarters 41 High Street, Kingston to discuss measures of effectively facilitating Persons with Disabilities in Guyana's upcoming National and Regional elections.

According to GECOM's Chairman Dr. Steve Surujbally, the blind, deaf and wheel chair users were key on GECOM's agenda in order to ensure that Persons with Disabilities are able to vote privately and independently;



NCD Representatives & GECOM Officials on January 8, 2015 Meeting

in keeping with their Rights.

For the blind GECOM has given the undertaking to put into use a specially structured template that would be placed over the ballot paper. This instrument would assist the elector in voting. NCD's Commissioner Ganesh Singh who is blind, devised this type of assistive aid after visiting Disable blind groups in Trinidad and Tobago.

To cater for the deaf, NCD was requested by GECOM to provide a team of sign language interpreters who would work along with GECOM's officers in getting all voting guidelines and other pertinent information

disseminated to the deaf population through the media.

Accessibility for wheelchair users was assured by Mr. Keith Lowenfield—GECOM's Chief Elections Officer who posited that to date all new GECOM offices have ramps to ensure easy access to buildings. Additionally, polling stations in areas where a number of wheel chair users are registered; the possibility of having portable ramps would be explored by GECOM.

Other areas of concern that were highlighted included: -

- Height adjustment of voting compartment for wheel chair users and other Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
- Available assistance (if needed) to PWDs at polling stations
- Public Awareness sessions to educate the entire population on the voting process

NCD's Chairperson: Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton thanked GECOM's team for making progressive efforts in ensuring relevant provisions are in place to facilitate Persons with Disabilities in the voting process.

This meeting was a follow-up to a previous one held in October, 2013 to assess the current status of preparation by GECOM during registration and Elections.

NCD was represented by Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton: Chairperson, Ms. Vidushi Persaud: Vice Chairperson, Mr. Ganesh Singh: Commissioner, Mrs. Beverly Pile: Executive Secretary and Ms. Avonel Corrica: Advocacy & Communications Officer. Meanwhile, GECOM's officials were: Dr. Steve Surujbally: Chairman, Mr. Keith Lowenfield: Chief Elections Officer, Mr. Vishnu Persaud: Deputy Chief Elections Officer, Ms. Juanita Barker: Legal Officer and Mr. Richard Francois: Public Relations Officer.

SENSITIZATION on PWD

ACT

The National Commission on Disability (NCD) facilitated this year's first Sensitization session on the Disability Act on January 6, 2015 at the Guyana Nursing Council located at 320 East Street, North Cummingsburg.

A total of ten of the twelve Administrative staff attended the session. These included Nursing Tutors, Librarian among others.

Components of the session included:-

- NCD's Roles
- Disability Etiquette & Advocacy and;
- The Disability Act, 2010

The two hour session proved to be very interactive with facilitators Mrs. Beverly Pile—Executive Secretary: NCD and Mrs. Simone Poole Receptionist / Clerk: NCD who successfully engaged participants through discussions and activities demonstrations.

The National Commission on Disability continues to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through sensitization sessions with supervisory level staff of various agencies.



Participants on February 6, 2015 Sensitization session

Cuban Delegation Meets NCD's Representatives

Ambassador of Cuba to Guyana Gonzalez Marchante and four members met with The National Commission on Disability (NCD) representatives Ganesh Singh: Commissioner, Mrs. Beverly Pile; Executive Secretary and Ms. Zoan Williams; Deputy Executive Secretary on March 12, 2015 at the Commission's Office, 49 Croal Street, Georgetown.

Thus, the purpose of the meeting was to garner information on the Commission's Database which would help in the planning phase of project. The delegation expressed enthusiasm, after the meeting, in the commencement of the project and explained the importance of such a project to Guyana.

It was noted that the finalized site for construction of the fa-

tive of the collaboration as continuous efforts are being made to improve the lives of Persons living with disabilities.

Two recently published books entitled Inclusive Education & Special Education and Development of Communication Skills in Children with Hearing Implants, were also donated to the Commission by one of the authors Dr. C. Santiago Rodriguez.



Cuban Delegation & NCD Representatives on March 12, 2015

The Government of Guyana in collaboration with the Cuban government would be embarking on a project that entails the construction of a Diagnosis and Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

city would be at the West Demerara Hospital, West Coast Demerara. This facility will also be the Training Centre in Special Education.

The Commission is apprecia-



Ganesh Singh; of NCD (Left) with Dr. Rodriguez & Interpreter

Bitter sweet moment at NCD

The National Commission on Disability (NCD) Deputy Executive Secretary: Ms. Zoan Williams resumed duties on March 10, 2015 after completing her Masters in Public Management in China, which lasted for one year.

In a 'surprised' farewell

recognition, the Commission thanked Ms. Sonja Adonis who diligently fulfilled her duties as Deputy Executive Secretary (AG.), during the period June 10, 2014 to March 9, 2015.

Mrs. Beverly Pile: Executive Secretary—NCD expressed thanks to Ms. Adonis for being apart of the Commission's team and welcomed Ms. Williams back. A token of Appreciation was also given to Ms. Adonis; while staff shared moments of laughter and enjoyed a tasty brunch.

In attendance were Ms. Barbara Lawrence: Director (Ag.) Rehabilitation Services and two staff along with NCD's team.



Sonja receiving token from Ms. Pile & Zoan sitting : March 10, 2015



Zoan & Sonja



Surprised Zoan & Sonja

Braille Project for the Blind and Visually Impaired

The Ministry of Education and Young Voices Guyana in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Braille Project continues in 2015.

A Braille workshop was held on January 12–20, 2015 at the Special Needs for Life Centre in Kilcoy, Corentyne Berbice.

Coordinator Mr. Ganesh Singh who are both blind; engaged the participants throughout the session. According to Singh, this project is a component of a wider one in which Braille and Computer Skills for blind, deaf and intellectual impaired persons are offered

and members of Young Voices Guyana in New Amsterdam attended.

Georgetown sessions commenced on January 26, 2015 at the Guyana Society for the Blind (GSB) Head Quarters, 44 High Street, Werk-en-Rust. Participants include GSB students of the Caribbean Secondary Examination Council (CSEC) Programme, teachers from the Ministry of Education Resources Unit for the Blind and members of Young Voices Guyana.

The Ministry of Education continues to work assiduously to ensure inclusive education is delivered to Persons with Disabilities throughout Guyana.



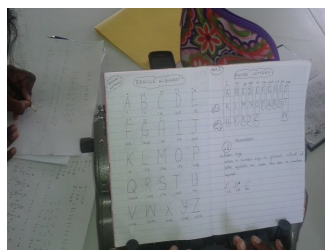
Project Coordinator, Facilitator & participants on Jan. 20, 2015

A total of twelve participants including blind and visually impaired, parents and teachers of region six were taught Grade 1 and 11 Skills training in Reading and Writing in Braille.

Facilitator Mr. Roydon Maynard and Project

to enhance their knowledge base.

Previous sessions of this nature were done in New Amsterdam during the period December 13, 2014–January 6, 2015. A total of nineteen students attached to the New Amsterdam Special Needs School



Braille Alphabet

SBB Grant Awards & Partnership Ceremony

In recognition of the successful achievement of client's access to grants and loans to grow and sustain their businesses, the Small Business Bureau (SBB) held an Awards Ceremony on January 30, 2015 at the Guyana International Conference Centre (GICC), Liliendaal, East Coast Demerara.

The ceremony depicted the achievements of the bureau's endeavor to grow the Small Business Sector while building, improving and sustaining the livelihood of clients throughout Guyana.

President Donald Ramotar in his feature address

Expressed appreciation of the contributions small businesses make to Guyana's economy. The Head of State further alluded to the fact that "...many experts in the field relate that substantiality of economic development and progress in any society is directly linked to the development of small businesses".

Meanwhile, Christina Samaroo - Research & Marketing Officer of SBB explained that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would contribute to the facilitation of small businesses benefitting from partnership arrangements and enter the formal business economy.



Signatories of the MOU (Deeds Registry, GRA, NIS, Republic Bank (Guy) Ltd & GBTI on January 30, 2015)

SBB Grant Awards & Partnership Ceremony

(continue)

The Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) Development and Building Alternative Livelihoods for Vulnerable Groups Project was launched in October 2013. The Project is administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), monitored by the Ministry of Finance with oversight of Office of the President and executed by the SBB.

Training is an important component of the process.

To date, over nine hundred (900) clients have accessed training and eighteen (18) have benefited from the low interest (6 % per annum) mutual guarantee facility, totalling Ninety Five Million Dollars (G\$95,000,000). More than Sixty (60) Grants of approximately Twenty Million (G\$ 20,000,000.00) have been approved for disbursements, according to SBB.



President Donald Ramotar & Grant Recipients

Businesses of the project included Craft, Eco-tourism, Entertainment, Farming-fruits & vegetables, Low carbon manufacturing-concrete blocks, Rearing of broilers; among others.

Guyana Society for the Blind Renovated

National Commission on Disability

49 Croal Street, Stabroek,
Georgetown

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SEND US YOUR STORIES!

We believe in sharing information between all Disability organizations and other concerned parties, and we are happy to publish all relevant stories in The Enhancer. If you have any stories you would like us to write about, please contact NCD Secretariat at the above number and e-mail addresses.



Renovation works at The Guyana Society for the Blind (GSB) Head Quarters at 44 High Street, Georgetown has been completed. The Government of Guyana with a grant from the Caribbean Development Bank funded the project through Basic Needs Trust Fund with the Ministry of Finance as the Executing Agency.

The estimated cost of the project is G\$13,724,190.00

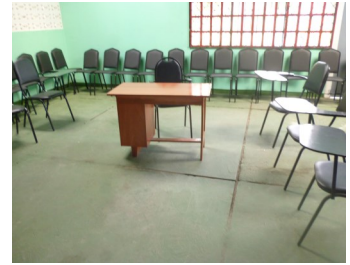
According to GSB's President Mr. Cecil Morris, the project commenced on September 22, 2014 and was completed on December 22, 2014.

Areas of the building that were renovated included: -

- Two rooms (One computer & one for CSEC students)
- Painting of the entire building interior & exterior
- Fencing
- Water & Electricity systems rectified and;
- Office Plaque reconditioned; among others.



Interior section of GSB



Donated Office furniture

Morris also stated that the Society benefited from a donation of computers, chairs and other office furniture from



Renovated GSB

Cheshire Home offers additional Services

Residents of Cheshire Home now have a wider range of services that were implemented by Peace Corps Response Volunteer Ms. Kera Murphy, who ended her stint in January, 2015.

As an Occupational Therapist Murphy's dedication in Guyana at Cheshire Home enhanced the livelihood of residents. She transformed a once storage room into a useful space of an Occupational therapy room, in which residents can exist and perform various tasks such as; play games, use the computer, art work and even sooth and calm down when upset, especially those with intellectual and communication disabilities.

Murphy stated, "Sometimes when some of our residents get upset, the thing to do

would have been try to restrain them, but what an Occupational therapy room does is to provide



Resident using computer

an opportunity to offer help in a different way". Activities such as playing with toys, use of hammocks for swings, perform art work among others are all available in the room.

Additional services included:-

- The implementation of a Resident Care Sheet for Nurses to monitor care given to residents.
- Semi-independent living facility; among others.

Cheshire Home was established in 1972 as a home for persons with severe disabilities. A total of 25 residents currently occupy the home.



Nurse & Peace Corps Volunteer