

**COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF

THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT GUYANA (2015-2018)

**FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT**

OF THE

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE**

ON

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

(TENTH PARLIAMENT)

RESOLUTION No. 19 of 2003

**PERIOD:**

MARCH 16, 2012 – JANUARY 29, 2014

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON

6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2018

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1.0 **DECLARATION**

This is the Fourth Periodic Report to the National Assembly on the status of the work of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources, pursuant to the requirements of paragraph 4 (ix) of Resolution 19 passed by the National Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.

1.1 **BACKGROUND**

**The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources (PSCNR)**

1. The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources (PSCNR) is one of four (4) Sectoral Committees of the National Assembly that was established in 2003 in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 19 dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003 of the National Assembly of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana.
2. The Resolution gives effect to the provisions of Article 119 (B) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana which states that:
  - i. There shall be Parliamentary Sectoral Committees established by the National Assembly with responsibility for scrutiny of all areas of Government policy and administration including-
    1. Natural Resources
    2. Economic Services
    3. Social Services
    4. Foreign Relations
  - ii. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of each Parliamentary Sectoral Committee shall be elected from the opposite sides of the National Assembly.
3. Standing Order 86(1) specifically provides for the establishment of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources.

## 1.2 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Paragraph 1 of Resolution No. 19 of 2003 and Standing Order 86, the Committee of Selection appointed seven Members of the National Assembly to be Members of the PSCNR on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 and in keeping with the Standing Order 86(3) the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are rotated on an annual basis.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 the following Members were nominated by the Committee of Selection:

### **Members from the People's Progressive Party/Civic (P.P.P./C.)**

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P.

Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., (Alternate)

### **Members from A Partnership For National Unity (A.P.N.U.)**

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine M.P.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., (Alternate)

Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P.

### **Member from the Alliance For Change (A.F.C.)**

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

#### 1.4 **Change in Membership**

On Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 the Committee of Selection met and made changes to the membership of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources.

The membership of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources was as follows:

##### **Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)**

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Alternate)

##### **Members of the A Partnership of National Unity (APNU)**

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Lt. Col (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P.

Ms. Vanessa N. Kissoon, M.P. (Alternate)

##### **Member of the Alliance for Change (AFC)**

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

## **1.5 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

At the Second Meeting of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, the Committee elected Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P. and Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P. as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, respectively.

## **2.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The work of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources during the reporting period was in consonance with its mandate and the list of functions stipulated in Resolution No. 19 dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.

A work programme was formulated by the Committee. It defined the areas of focus for the Committee within a time frame over the years. The document laid out the framework for the Committee's work in the Tenth Parliament. There was an understanding that some flexibility would have been exercised in order to allow the Committee to examine matters of urgent interest.

## **2.1 MANDATE**

The Mandate of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources was derived from Paragraph 3 of Resolution No. 19 which stipulates that:

*"The Committee shall, in the discharge of their scrutinizing role, examine all policies and administration, for each sector, to determine whether the execution of government policy is in consonance with the principles of good governance and in the best interest of the people of Guyana".*

In order to discharge that mandate, the Committee was empowered to scrutinize all areas of government activity, as well as to summon Ministers of Government and all other public officials to provide information, to answer questions and give evidence.

It is imperative to note that the work programme focused the Committee's attention to Government policies, justification and performance in the given areas of responsibilities.



3 **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMITTEE**

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources has been assigned responsibility for the oversight of the following sectors and activities.

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - GGMC (other than Petroleum Division)  - Guyana Gold Board  - Guyana Forestry Commission  - Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission  - Environmental Protections Agency (EPA)  - Protected Area Commission National Parks	1. Natural Resources (Administration)  2. Mining  3. Bauxite Industry  4. Precious Metals (Non-Ferrous) Trade  5. Forestry (Administration)  6. Land Administration/Use  7. Environmental Protection (Administration)  8. Protected Areas
Ministry of Housing and Water       -Guyana Water Inc.	1. Housing and Water  2. Acquisition and beneficial occupation of non-beneficially occupied lands in the City of Georgetown, the Town of New Amsterdam and other Towns.  3. Water Resources
Ministry of Agriculture	1. Agriculture, Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock  2. Acquisition/transferral and occupation of non-beneficially occupied lands other than non-beneficially occupied lands in the City of

<p>-Hydrometeorological Division</p>	<p>Georgetown, the Town of New Amsterdam and other Towns</p> <p>3. Hydrometeorology</p>
<p>Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with Responsibility for Energy</p> <p>-GEA</p>	<p>1. Energy (Thermal and Hydro Power, Renewable and Non Renewable Energy)</p> <p>2. Fuel Marking</p>
<p>Office of the President</p>	<p>1. Natural Resources and Environment (Policy)</p> <p>2. Environmental Protection and Protected Areas (Policy)</p> <p>3. Forestry/Forest Policy</p> <p>4. Wild Life Trade, Management and Scientific Authorities</p> <p>5. Land Titling</p> <p>6. Climate Change</p> <p>7. Sustainable Development</p> <p>8. Science and Technology</p>

#### 4.0 MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee agreed to convene statutory meetings twice per month. During the period of reporting, the Committee convened nine (9) statutory meetings:

<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Date of Meetings</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup> March, 2012
2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> February, 2013
3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> February, 2013
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2013
5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013
6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2013
7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2013
8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	27 <sup>th</sup> November, 2013
9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	29 <sup>th</sup> January, 2014

5.0 **APPROACH/MODE OF OPERATION**

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources, during the period under review, adopted a consensus approach to optimise its scrutiny of government policy and administration within the framework provided by its mandate.

Within the broad framework provided by its mandate to facilitate its oversight functions, the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources (PSCNR) invited various Ministers and Public Officials to make presentations on priority issues identified by the Committee. Relevant reports and documents supported the work of the Committee and there were instances, where the documents were requested prior to Hearings. The convening of Hearings/Meetings with various entities provided the Committee the opportunity to address urgent issues and developments within the sectors.

The Committee focused primarily on Mining, Bauxite Industry, Precious Metals Trade, Forestry, Land Administration/Use, Environmental Protection and Protected Areas, housing development, Guyana Water Inc., National Drainage and Irrigation and Agriculture, Energy and Hydro Power and Guyana Power and Light.

## **6.0 INFORMATION REQUESTED AND RECEIVED**

In keeping with its mandate, the Committee requested information from agencies that were being scrutinised and/or from any other entity that is in possession of information which would have assisted the Committee to expedite its work.

### **6.1 Documents requested and received**

- Guyana Power Sector Policy and Investment Strategy
- Development and Expansion Programme 2011-2015
- Development and Expansion Programme 2012-2016
- Development and Expansion Programme 2013-2017
- Annual Reports of the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011
- Corporate Governance Code 2010
- Organisation Chart of Executive Management of GPL
- General Organisation Chart of GPL
- Analysis of Electricity Tariff Structures in Guyana-Fernando Lecaros, 2010
- Audited Financial Statements of GPL 2012
- Major Statistics on GPL in 2012
- Power Point Presentation on GPL's performance 2012
- Customer Services Standards 2013-2014 (GPL)
- Customer Survey Reports 2010-2012 (GPL)
- Study on Prioritization of Loss Reduction Investments-PPA 2006 (GPL)
- Management Support for Guyana Power and Light's Loss Reduction Investment Program Franciso Alonso, 2010
- Project Completion Report Power Sector Support Program
- Project Completion Report Unserved Areas Electrification Program
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
- Annual Reports of the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) for the years 2007 to 2012
- Strategic Plan for the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) 2012-2016

- The impact of subsidized electricity for pensioners in relation to the Ministry Services programme- GPL
- By geographical location, the amount of electricity theft and the related loss of revenue- GPL
- The number of employees recruited over the past five years, both permanent and contracted- GPL

## **6.2 Outstanding Documents**

- List of names of the Board of Directors and members of the Strategic Planning and Administration, Natural Resource Management and Environmental Management agencies.
- Report on Bai Shan Lin
- Status of the mining of laterite in Moblissa
- Updated Strategic Plan for the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA)
- Reports on Royalties paid by BOSAI to the Government of Guyana
- Guyana's Deforestation Levels

## 7.0 PRESENTATIONS

### 7.1 **Presentation by the Hon. Prime Minister and Team**

The Hon. Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister and the Board of Management of the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) appeared before the Committee, at the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Meetings held on the 26<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013, respectively.

The Team comprised:

Hon. Brindley H. R. Benn	-	Minister of Public Works
Mr. Winston Brassington	-	Chairman (GPL)
Mr. Marvon S. Persaud	-	Board Director (GPL)
Mr. Aeshwar Deonarine	-	Deputy CEO (GPL)
Mr. Carvil Duncan	-	Deputy Chairman (GPL)
Ms. Morsha Johnson	-	Electricity Regulatory Advisor to the Prime Minister
Mr. Renford Homer	-	Senior Divisional Director
Mr. Colin Singh	-	Senior Divisional Director- Operations/Projects
Mr. Elwyn Marshall	-	Divisional Director- Operations
Mr. Kumar Sharma	-	Divisional Director- Loss Reduction
Mr. Balgobin Persaud	-	Divisional Director- Human Resources
Ms. Mariah Bancroft	-	Corporate Secretary (GPL)
Mr. Mahendra Sharma	-	Chief Executive Officer- Guyana Energy Agency
Mr. R. K. Sharma		
Mr. Dola Persaud		

**The Prime Minister highlighted the following areas during his presentation:**

- ❖ The provision of electricity by GPL- in relation to tariffs, prices and cost domestically, Guyana compared well to other Caribbean countries;
- ❖ Challenges faced with regard to geography- when compared to other Caribbean countries, GPL faced greater challenges in relation to cost to the network and providing electricity to consumers;
- ❖ The consumer base was approximately 155,000 customers- 150,000 being domestic with relatively small intakes of electricity; when compared to other countries this was far less;
- ❖ Technical and Commercial Loss- a major concern for GPL has been and continues to be high losses at both technical and commercial levels. At present losses were approximately 15% for both categories;
- ❖ Management of GPL and GEA- with regard to the management of GPL, the IDB has been consistently alongside the Government. In preparation for the Amaila project there have been many reviews of the electric utility and various factors of GPL; however, recent focus was on the corporate development of GPL;
- ❖ Since 2003 the suppression of tariffs had cumulated to GYD\$27.883 Bln.;
- ❖ With respect to improvement of transmission there was an ongoing project. A loan from the Exit Bank in China, a programme totaled \$42M was provided to upgrade the transmission system. This has led to the establishment of seven substations in the network and upgrade of three substations at the generating point at the main control centre in Sophia;



- ❖ Cost of generating electricity- GPL is petroleum based and in the case of diesel generation cost was from 30 cents to 35 cents per k/w hour, while Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) unit was at approximately 25 cents per k/w hour. The average cost of generating electricity was approximately 26 cents per k/w hour;
- ❖ Amaila Hydro Project- the arrangement with Amaila would provide a cost that would not exceed 12 cents per k/w hour, the average payment over the 20 year period currently would be 10 cents. However, this could increase to 12 cents.
- ❖ In terms of payments to be made by GPL, currently the annual cost for fuel was 100 to 200M. In relation to Hydro the payment predicted over the 20 year period would be around 100M per year with a peak of approximately 120M in payments for Amaila;
- ❖ Moving towards hydro would reduce cost by half and large companies would see reduction in tariffs; and
- ❖ The effect of high losses results in an increase in the cost of generating electricity.

At the end of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification.

## 7.2 Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment and Team

The Hon. Minister Robert Persaud and Team appeared before the Committee at its 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 to make a presentation on the functioning of the Ministry and the respective agencies/departments within its purview, in keeping with Government's policy framework; the work-plans of these respective agencies/departments and the time-lines and budgetary allocations for the implementation of these work-plans.

The Team comprised of:

Mr. Joslyn McKenzie	-	Permanent Secretary (MNRE)
Mr. Doorga Persaud	-	Commissioner (GL&SC)
Mr. Newbell Dennison	-	Deputy Commissioner (GGMC)
Ms. Geeta Devi Singh	-	Director, EMP
Mr. Dhanraj Persaud	-	Director, EPA
Mr. Jagdesh Singh	-	Director, FRMD
Mr. Pradeepa Bholanath	-	Head of Planning and Development, GFC
Ms. Alona Sankar	-	Head, Wildlife Division
Mr. Veetal Rajkumar	-	Head, Policy Planning Unit
Mr. Donald Singh	-	Manager, GGMC
Ms. Ndibi Schwiers	-	Technical Officer (MNRE)
Mr. Ashram Simone	-	MNRE
Ms. Anankram Balram	-	GGB
Ms. Kara Duffeyhudah	-	GGMC

Ms. I. Ramdass - EPA

Mr. Jermaine Clarke - EPA

**The Minister highlighted the following areas during his presentation:**

- ❖ The Ministry was reviewing the regulations and policies for the various Agencies to ensure that all regulations were in keeping with international standards;
- ❖ A new Occupational Health and Safety Regulation which would address issues of accidents and safety associated with mining;
- ❖ The Environmental Protection Agency would be looking at air and water quality, noise management and hazardous waste management more closely in 2014;
- ❖ The Ministry has “earmarked” on a budget of \$25 million for the 2014 Budget to equip staff at the Environmental Protection Department; and
- ❖ The Ministry would be working along with the University of Guyana and other stakeholders to develop a Geographical Information System Policy.

At the end of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification.

### 7.3 Presentation by the Hon. Prime Minister and Team

The Hon. Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister and the Board of Management of the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) appeared before the Committee, at its 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 to make a presentation on issues relating to, but not limited to, Guyana Energy Agency and GPL.

The Team comprised of:

Mr. Mahendra Sharma	-	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Laurian Bancroft	-	Corporate Secretary GPL
Mr. Winston Brassington	-	Chairman GPL
Mr. Bharat Dindyal	-	Chief Executive Officer GPL
Mr. Renford Homer	-	Senior Divisional Director GPL
Mr. Colin Singh	-	Senior Divisional Director
Mr. Horace Williams	-	CEO Hinterland Electrification Unit
Mr. Elwyn Marshall	-	Divisional Director GPL
Mr. Bal Persaud	-	Human Resources GPL
Ms. Morsha Johnson	-	Electricity Regulatory Advisor to
Prime Minister		
Mr. Aeshwar Deonarine	-	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Carvil Duncan	-	Deputy Chairman GPL

**The Minister highlighted the following areas during his presentation:**

- ❖ Realising a Wind Farm- this was an aspiration for more than twenty years, there were discussions on the establishment of a Wind Farm. Presently work has begun and has being conducted at Hope Beach.
- ❖ GPL has been encountering both technical and commercial losses. The document showing information on the amount of losses that was incurred was not accurate. The network in place does not have the capacity to provide accurate information.
- ❖ The Guyana Power and Light Company aims to improve its distribution network which could be more costly than the transmission upgrade programme which has been focused on seeking to put arrangements in place so that geographical losses could be identified.
- ❖ In medium to long term the company was looking towards Hydro power at Amaila falls hydro project which holds the potential to significantly reduce the cost of electricity generation. This would replace heavy fluid oil and a little bit of diesel with hydro power.

At the end of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification.

8.0 **VISIT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO HOPE CANNAL – EAST COAST DEMERARA WATER CONSERVANCY**

The PSCNR commenced a programme of visits to agencies/districts and activities which fall within its purview.

During the First Session of the Tenth Parliament the Committee visited the East Demerara Water Conservancy Northern Relief Channel at Hope/Dochfour and the Hope Canal in Region Four (4) on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.

**Issues Discussed:**

- ❖ Inadequate capacity of the Conservancy to discharge excess water during prolonged and intense rainfalls.
- ❖ Estimated time of completion of the Hope Canal Project
- ❖ Excessive rainfalls- resulting in flooding thus affecting the progression of work.

*(See Appendix I for Report on the visit to the Hope Canal Project)*

The Committee had planned to visit Mining Companies such as RUSAL, BOSAI Mineral Incorporated and Bai Shan Lin in Region No. 10, to observe/examine the developments in the mining industry, its impact and effects, if any, on the environment and the people who live within the communities. The visit was cancelled due to:

- (i) Inclement weather; and
- (ii) Unavailability of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment and some Members of the Committee.

## 8.1 ISSUES/CONSTRAINTS/PROBLEMS

- Difficulties were encountered as it relates to summoning of some agencies to appear before the Committee to provide oral evidence; and
- Agencies were unable to meet with the Committee for various reasons expressed and some agencies failed to respond to the Committee's request.

## 9 CONCLUSION

The Committee's work for the reporting period was successful. However, based on the nature of the work of the Committee it is recommended that more meetings and visits can empower the work of the Committee.

## 10 ADOPTION

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources of the Eleventh Parliament, now, therefore, accordingly hereby submits the Report and Motion for consideration and adoption by the National Assembly.



*Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.  
Chairperson  
Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on  
Natural Resources*

# APPENDIX

## I





**REPORT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (PSCNR) WHICH VISITED THE HOPE CANAL PROJECT ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2013**

**Introduction**

On Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, a delegation consisting of Members of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources and support staff from the Parliament Office visited the East Demerara Water Conservancy Northern Relief Channel at Hope/Dochfour and the Hope Canal in Region Four (4).

**The Delegation**

**The Members of the delegation were:**

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P., (A.P.N.U.)	- Chairman
Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P., (P.P.P/C)	- Member
Lt. Col (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., (A.P.N.U.)	- Member
Ms. Jennifer Wade, M.P., (A.P.N.U.)	- Member
Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P., (A.F.C.)	- Member

**Members of Staff**

Ms. Sherene Warren	- Clerk of the Committee
Ms. Sueanna Reynolds	- Assistant Clerk of Committees
Mr. Michael Munroe	- Research and Documentation Officer (Ag)
Ms. Michelle Chung	- Research and Analytical Assistant
Mr. Maurice Veacock	- Technical Adviser to the Committee

**Purpose of Visit**

The purpose of the visit was to examine the progress of works at the Head Regulator (HR), the Bridge at Hope Public Road and High Level Sluice Outfall Structure (HLSOS) in Region Four (4).

## **The Visit**

### **Arrival at Flag Staff Conservancy**

The delegation was received by Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Hon. Minister of Agriculture and his team which included Mr. Lionel Wordsworth, C.E.O. of National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (N.D.I.A.) and Mr. Raymond Latchmansingh, Team Leader for CEMCO/SRKN Engineering.

After reciprocal introductions, the Chairman of the Committee's delegation Dr. Roopnarine explained the origin and purpose for the establishment of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources and the specific purpose of the visit.

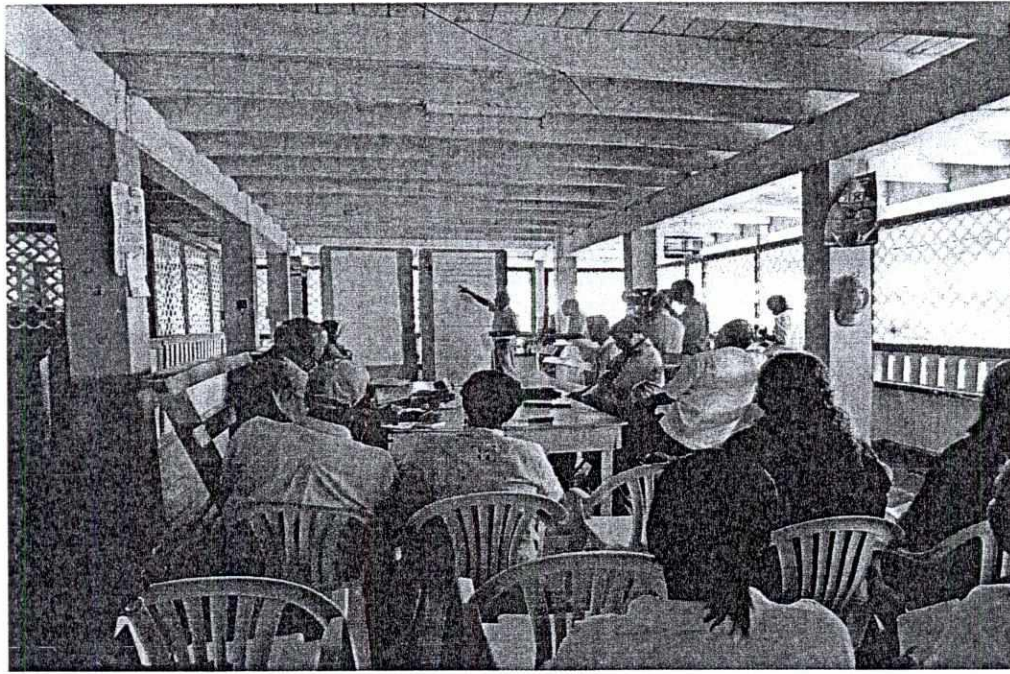
### **Presentation**

A brief presentation was done on the EDWC Northern Relief Channel and Component Projects by Mr. Lionel Wordsworth, C.E.O of N.D.I.A and Mr. Raymond Latchmansingh, Team Leader for CEMCO/SRKN Engineering.

A project design (map) was used by the presenters to illustrate the three components that are under review.

Mr. Lionel Wordsworth in his opening presentation indicated that over the years the Conservancy has been suffering from inadequate capacity to discharge excess water during prolonged and intense rainfalls.

He pointed out that detailed study has been done both hydrologically and reservoirically to determine the kind of relief that was needed to discharge excess water and in doing so, without having downstream effects.



**Picture illustrating Mr. Lionel Wordsworth during his presentation**

Mr. Wordsworth indicated that the effectiveness of the Northern Relief Channel is dependent on three structures. These include: the High level Sluice Outfall Structure, the Conservancy Head Regulator and the Public Road Bridge.

He further stated that the Northern Relief Channel consists of an earthen channel of three major soil types: clay, mixed clay and pegasse. It is 10.3km in length, beginning at the sea defense embankment at Hope/Dochfour and extending to the East Demerara Water Conservancy, which will enhance the outflow from the East Demerara Water Conservancy during periods of prolonged intense rainfall, reducing the risk of the EDWC overtopping.

He went on to say that the relief channel was designed to have a bed width of 30m at an elevation of 14 metres GD, side slopes 1V:2H, a berm width of 4m at 16 metres GD and an embankment crest with a width of 5m at elevation 18.29 metres GD with side slopes 1V:2H and 1V:1.5H at the front and back respectively.

### **The Head Regulator**

Mr. Wordsworth indicated that the Head Regulator is being constructed at the south end of the Hope canal and approximately 40% of the work has been completed. This sluice will have an opening of 17m with three timber doors, each door having width of 5.5 metres and a height of 5 metre. The doors will be manually operated and supported by the gantry platform via the gantry columns.

### **The Public Road Bridge**

Mr. Wordsworth informed Members of the Delegation that the Bridge will measure 74.4 m long by 14.7 metres wide and is being constructed on reinforced concrete stub abutments and piers and supported on pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete piles. He explained that it will be better to describe the work that is being done when the delegation visited the site.

### **The High Level Sluice Outfall**

Mr. Wordsworth noted that the High Level Sluice Outfall which is being constructed at the northern end of the Channel behind the existing sea defences will be an eight door sluice which will facilitate the discharging of the excess water into the Atlantic Ocean which is about 33% completed.

After Mr. Wordsworth brief presentation, Mr. Raymond Latchmansingh made some brief remarks. He said that he is the Team Leader for the joint venture which is CEMCO/SRKN and that Mac McDonald and his firm were responsible for the ideological modelling, designing and now the provision phase.

Mr. Latchmansingh indicated to Members of the delegation that the company he is working for supervises the equipment that undertakes the works which is contracted to the Ministry of Agriculture.

He went on to elaborate on what was said by Mr. Wordsworth, that because of the inclement weather; the works were delayed on the HR and the HLSOS.

Mr. Latchmansingh further stated that the most challenging part of the work is between the Crown Dam and the Conservancy Dam to build the embankment with clay.

He also stated that the Hope Canal Project will not be completed by its extended August 31, 2013 deadline but before the end of December 2013.

### **Visit to the Head Regulator Site**



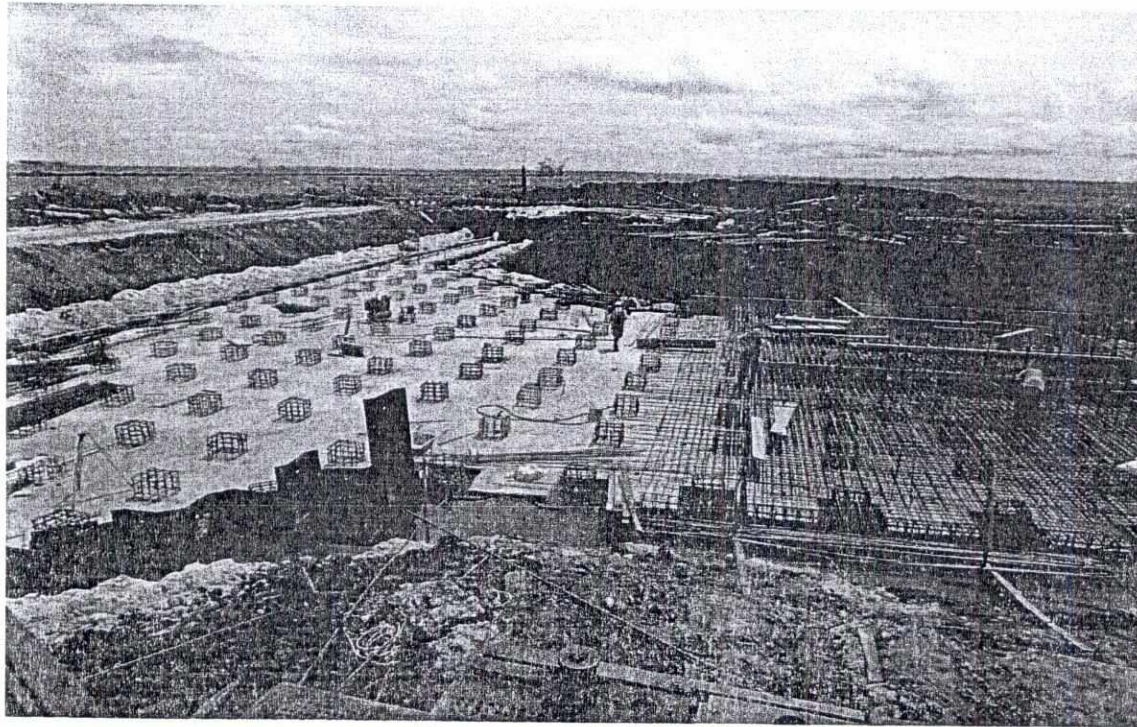
#### **Construction at the Head Regulator**

On arrival at the Three Door Head Regulator, Mr. Raymond Latchmansingh informed the delegation that the area where the HR is being constructed was a swamp and getting to the location was a difficult task. However, by working within the confines of the weather they were able to have the HR at a 40% completion stage.

He further informed the delegation that all timber piling and sheet piling works are completed. He said that because the soil type is pegasse, the bearing capacity had to be borne by another mean, which means timber piles were being driven and then the use of tanking piles (which are steel piles) that surrounds the structure more or less allows the structure itself to bear on the solid soil below. This ensures the integrity of the sluice in terms of its positioning.

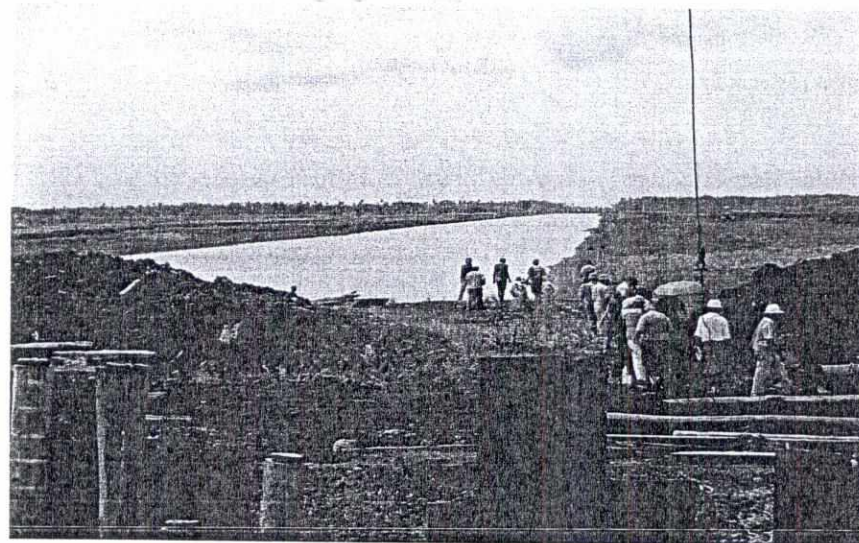
Mr. Latchmansingh went on to say that BK International Inc. is responsible for the construction of the structure.

One member of the delegation enquired whether the completion of the structure is on time, to which a representative from BK International Inc. Mr. Charles Sobers indicated that they have submitted a justification for an extension of time. He estimated by the end of December 2013 for the completion of the structure.



Works on going on the Head Regulator

### Northern Relief Channel



## The Northern Relief Channel

According to Mr. Wordsworth 76.4% of the works are completed at the Northern Relief Channel. He said that both sides of the embankment would be built with clay and the clay would have to be sourced. He further stated that there is a depth of three feet of clay before pegasse reached on the ground. The three feet of clay would be taken and stock piled allowing tyre equipment access during the dry weather, in order to continue building the dam to the Head Regulator.

A Member of the delegation raised a concern relating to the environment. He pointed out that because of the digging and stock piling clay being done there, what were the provisions in place to deal with the environmental concerns?

Mr. Latchmansingh informed the Members that a pond for fishing can be created or the hole can be filled up.



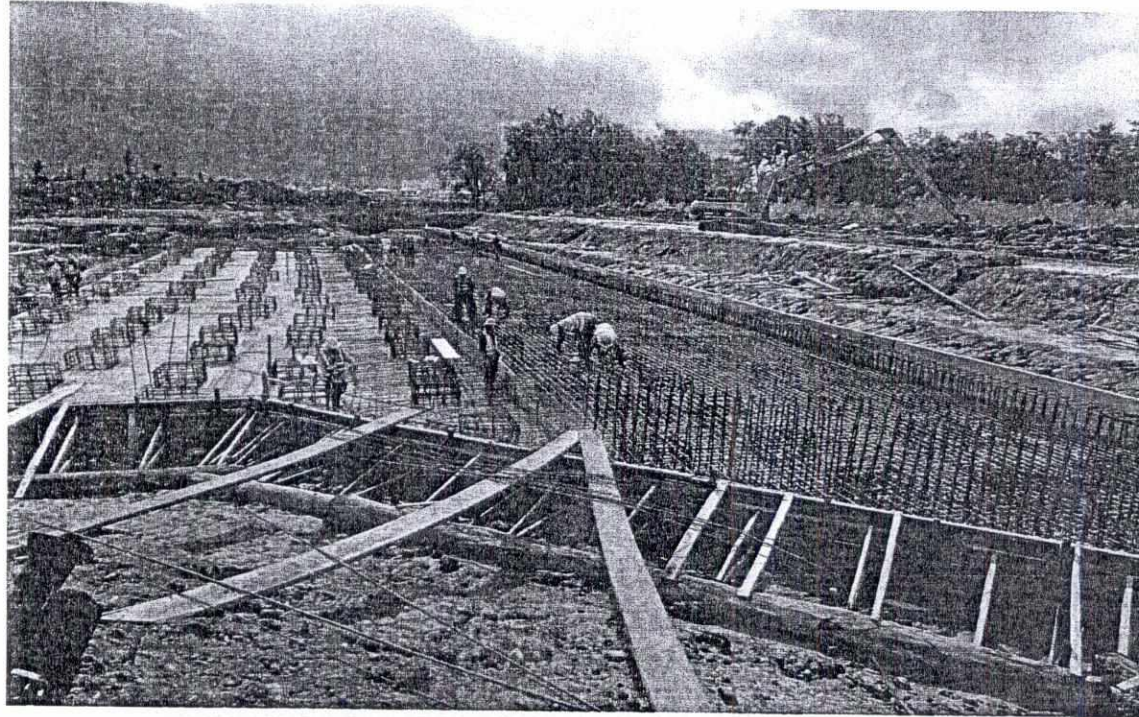
Members being brief at the Channel



Another Member of the delegation pointed out that with the advent of the canal being managed by the Drainage and Irrigation Department; whether the Ministry planned to have these lands created for agricultural development purposes over the long term?

Dr. Ramsammy informed the delegation that the land up to the Crown Canal has been designated as agricultural land and part of the land is being develop. He said Hope farmers will move to the west with additional lands. In addition, to the eastern land they will have the land on the western side. He further stated that the question relating to lands between the Crown Dam and the Conservancy is one that consultants (engineers) are examining at the moment but there is a plan to develop some of that land into agricultural land.

#### **High Level Outfall Sluice**



#### **Works ongoing at the High Level Outfall Sluice**

Mr. Latchmansingh explained that the High Level Outfall Sluice structure will have eight (8) gates and would discharge at a high elevation of 16 metres GD level into the Atlantic Ocean.

He further informed the delegation that the foundation is much larger than the Head Regulator but similar in that all sheeting and tanking piles have been driven; piles have been casted and are in place.

He said as it relates to this particular job, the foundation once completed, will become fairly straight forward in dealing with the walls, gates and so on.

He further indicated that because of the excessive rainfall, this resulted in flooding in the work pit from time to time, it affects the progression of the work. Once there is dry weather workers will be able to work longer hours in keeping with the completion date.

Mr. Lionel Wordsworth pointed out to Members of the delegation that the structure is at a stage where the binding is completed, steel reinforcement for pile caps are partially completed and the placement of steel reinforcement for casting of slab is also completed. He also indicated that the structure would be the largest of its kind in Guyana.

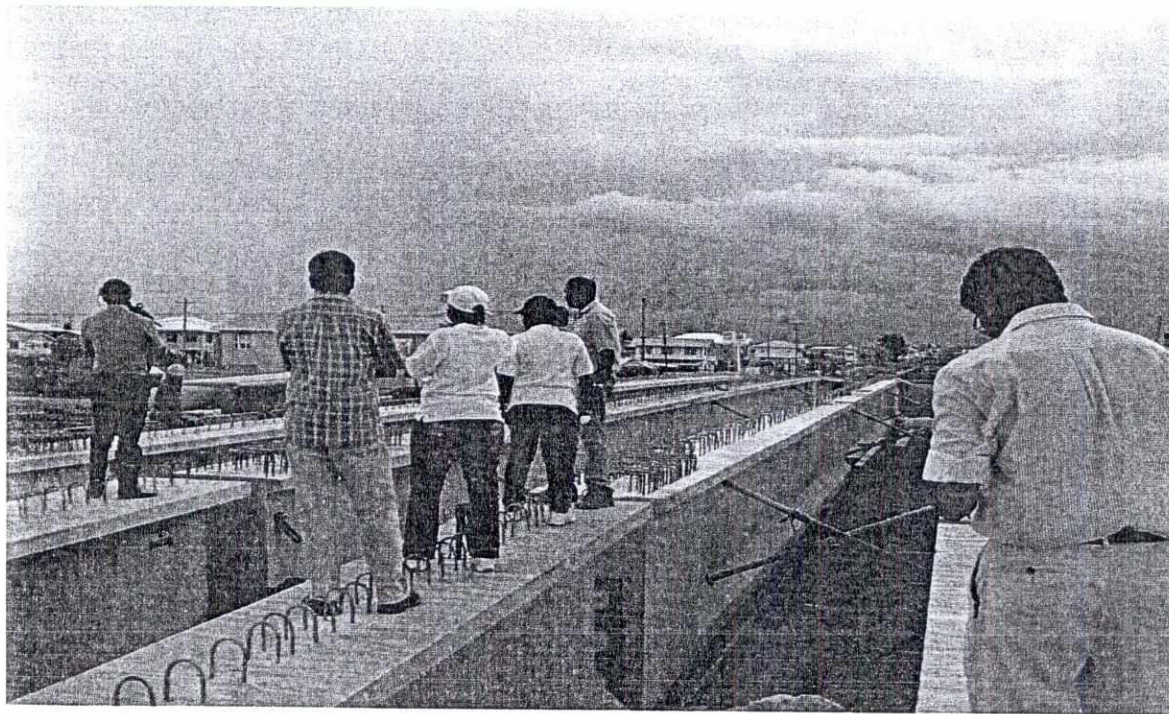
A Member of the delegation asked about the projected time of completion, Mr. Latchmansingh said he estimates within 4-5 months but it is up to the contractors to indicate when it will be done.

The contracting firm for this structure is Courtney Benn Contracting Services Ltd.



**Members of the Delegation being brief on the progress of the High Level Outfall Sluice**

## Public Road Bridge

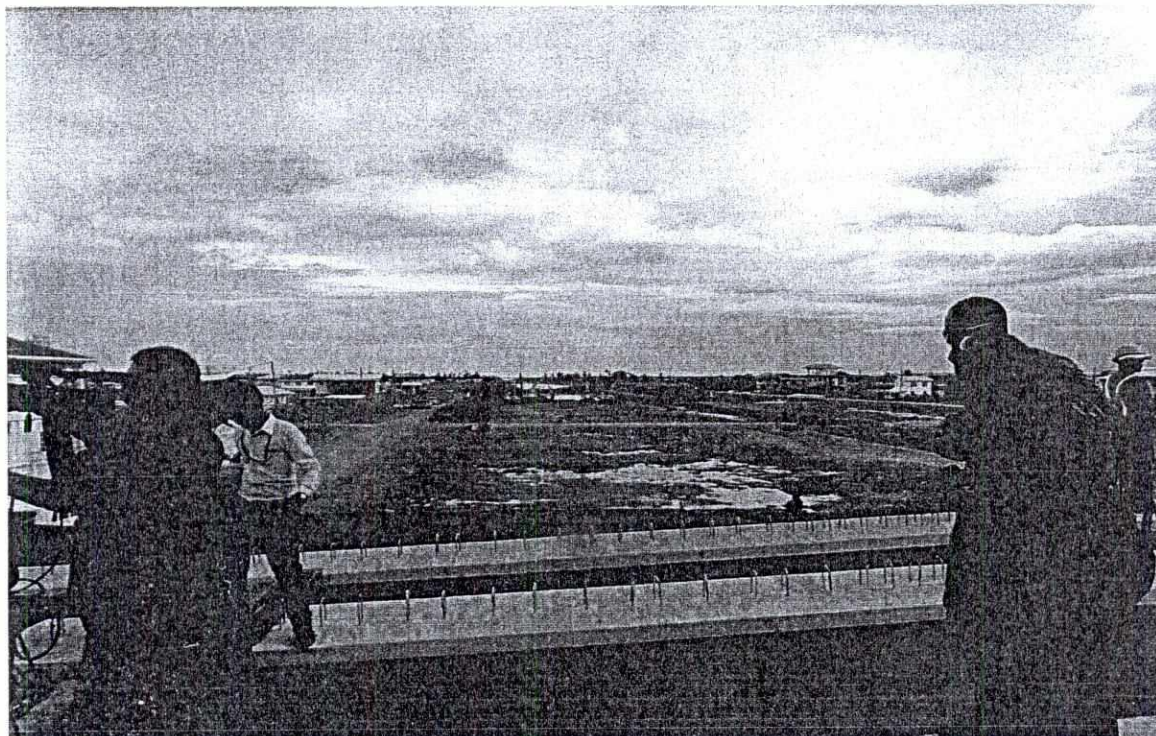


### Works ongoing on the Bridge

During the visit to the Bridge, Mr. Latchmansingh said that works are 76.4% completed and the contracting firm is DIPCON Engineering Services Ltd.

Mr. Wordsworth also outlined the works that were completed included the manufacture and driving of 110 No. pre-stressed concrete piles, casting of Piers and Abutments including Wing Walls and 12 No. 17.05m long pre-stressed concrete girders.

Members of the delegation were impressed by the works that were completed to the Bridge.



**A view from the top of the Bridge**

### **Departure**

The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Roopnarine along with the Members thanked the Minister of Agriculture and his team for facilitating the visit and indicated that the Committee will be following up with the progress of the Project.