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EMANCIPATION ANNIVERSARY 2024

The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) joins with all Guyanese in commemorating the 186th anniversary of Emancipation. Emancipation Day, August 1, marks the abolition of slavery in Guyana and serves as a reminder of the enduring strength, resilience, and contributions of Guyanese of African descent.

For over two centuries, Africans were forcibly taken from their homeland, subjected to brutal, inhumane and harsh conditions, and deprived of their fundamental human rights. The abolition of slavery on August 1, 1834, marked a significant turning point in history, symbolizing the triumph of justice, humanity, and freedom over oppression.

Emancipation Day is not only a time to honour the struggles and sacrifices of our ancestors but also to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and achievements of our brothers and sisters of African descent who have excelled in the critical sectors of the judiciary, education, health, national security, politics, sport, arts and culture, among others, and whose contributions continue to make an indelible impact on Guyana's advancement.

On this Emancipation Day, the ERC joins with the rest of Guyana as we celebrate the sacrifices and invaluable contributions of our African brothers and sisters. We believe that the lessons of the past must guide our efforts to build on the significant achievements and strides we have made as a multicultural nation in fostering respect and ethnic tolerance.

The Commission holds the firm view that Emancipation Day serves as a powerful reminder of the triumph of human spirit over oppression and adversity. As we celebrate this important day, let us join together in promoting harmony and good relations amongst all Guyanese.

The ERC invites all to join in the Emancipation Day celebrations and to reflect on the shared values that bind us together as one nation.

Ethnic Relations Commission
August 1, 2024