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Press Release

ERC concludes impactful stakeholder outreach in Region 6

The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) conducted an extensive stakeholder's engagement in Region 6, Berbice, across the three Towns of New Amsterdam, Rose Hall, and Corriverton on Monday, November 4, 2024 and further into Orealla on Tuesday November 5th, 2024.

These impactful exercises were led by ERC's Chairman Shaikh Moeenul Hack and Commissioners Mr. Norris Witter, Pandit Krishn Sharma, Reverend Rodwell Porter, Mr. Neaz Subhan, Ms. Chandrowtie Sarran and Mr. Deon Dick (Ras Khafra) along with Secretariat staff of the Commission.

The Commissioners and staff were divided into three teams for the Outreaches on the 4th.

The ERC's outreach began in New Amsterdam with visits to the New Amsterdam Technical Institute, Berbice High, and Tutorial Academy Secondary Schools. A Stakeholder Meeting was also held at the New Amsterdam Mayor and Town Council Hall. This meeting provided a platform for open discussions on community challenges and strategies for promoting harmony.

In Rose Hall, the ERC conducted interactive sessions at Lower Corentyne Secondary School and Corentyne Comprehensive High School, where students had the opportunity to learn about the Commission's role and the importance of fostering positive inter-ethnic relationships.

Another Stakeholder Meeting then followed at the Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce. This meeting allowed stakeholders to discuss ways to address community issues collectively within Rose Hall.

The ERC's final stop on November 4th was in Corriverton, where the team engaged with students from Skeldon Line Path, Skeldon Secondary and the Islamic Institute at Number 74, before engaging in a stakeholder's meeting in the afternoon at the Corriverton Recreational Park.

On the 5th, the full team ventured into Orealla where engagements were held with the Toshao, Councilors and residents from Orealla and the neighbouring village of Siparuta under the Orealla Benab. Attendees were edified on the role, functions, work plan, and efforts of the Commission in the furtherance of its Constitutional mandate.

The ERC also utilized the opportunity to engage with students from Orealla Primary and Secondary Schools.

All of the school engagements conducted in Region 6 were centered around discussions on respect, tolerance, and inclusivity, with an emphasis on educating our youths about the importance of living in harmony with all of the ethnic groups residing in Guyana.

The ERC also invited the Guyana Police Force (GPF) to join in these school visits and stakeholder sessions to deliver brief presentations on road safety in recognition of road safety awareness month in November. The presence of officers was also instrumental in providing clarity on matters within their remit.

Concerns were raised and addressed throughout all the interactions that were held with the hundreds of stakeholders engaged in Region 6. Moreover, concerns that fell outside of the constitutional mandate of the Commission were also noted, with the ERC giving its commitment that the relevant agencies will be engaged to provide relief.

Throughout the engagements, Chairman Hack reiterated the ERC's vision of a unified Guyana, where issues are addressed from a standpoint rooted in the collective well-being of all citizens.

“Our goal is to build a Guyana where people work together beyond racial and ethnic lines for the good of the country,” the Chairman stated.

Since being reconstituted in March of 2023, the ERC's Board of Commissioners held several engagements with regional officials, and stakeholders during outreaches to Regions across Guyana.

The ERC remains steadfast in its mission to promote understanding, combat discrimination, and advance tolerance throughout Guyana.