

66 Peter Rose and Anira Streets, Queenstown Georgetown, Guyana

Tel: 231-6265, 231-6281, Tel/Fax: 231-6246

Email: peau@erc.org.gy Website: www.erc.org.gy

## ERC CONDEMNS BLASPHEMOUS AND OBSCENE DEPICTION OF HINDU DEITY

The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) strongly condemns the recent circulation of a song by the performer known as *Baby Skello*, which portrays the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi in a vulgar, sexually explicit, and blasphemous manner. This content constitutes a deeply offensive act that strikes at the heart of the Hindu community's religious beliefs and is wholly unacceptable in a society that values mutual respect and coexistence.

The ERC firmly believes that freedom of expression carries with it the responsibility to respect the religious and cultural traditions of all groups in Guyana. Any content that mocks, insults, or degrades sacred religious figures undermines social harmony and offends the values of decency and tolerance that Guyanese society upholds.

As part of its response, the ERC formally requests that *Baby Skello* remove the song from all digital platforms and cease all forms of public dissemination of the material. The Commission views this action as a necessary step toward mitigating further harm and signaling that such expressions have no place in our plural society.

The ERC also affirms that it will explore all legal avenues available under the laws of Guyana in addressing this matter. Discussions are underway with the relevant authorities to determine appropriate legal action and ensure accountability.

In addition, the Commission will intensify its efforts to engage with stakeholders, including artistes, producers, and media platforms—to promote awareness of the importance of religious respect. Educational campaigns will be launched to reinforce those values, especially among younger audiences and content creators.

The ERC remains steadfast in its mandate to protect the rights, dignity, and beliefs of all Guyanese and to ensure that acts of religious disrespect are met with decisive and lawful responses.

Ethnic Relations Commission May 8, 2025