

Revenews

HIGHLIGHTS of PROGRESS



GUYANA
CERTIFICATE OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION
Section 4, The Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act Chapter 58:02

Effective Date	Chassis No.	Year
Model		Wattage Power/Ton
Effective Date	Type of Vehicle	Condition
Seating Capacity	Registration	Colour
Issue Date	Expiry	Wheel Count
Signature		



Revenews

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VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of the Guyana Revenue Authority is to gain recognition and respect from its clients and other stakeholders, through its integrity and fairness in administering high quality, yet affordable programmes.

The Authority's good standing will be earned through:

- Quality services and client education that meet the needs of our diverse client base;
- Responsible enforcement of the laws based on the application of sound risk management principles and practices;
- Fair, impartial and timely redress processes;
- Our sensitivity to the effects of administrative and legal requirements we must impose on clients and our efforts to ease the burden and cost of compliance;
- Skilled, knowledgeable and professional people, working in an environment that encourages and supports their personal and professional development; and
- Our commitment to, open, transparent and accountable administration.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Guyana Revenue Authority is to promote compliance with Guyana's Tax, Trade and Border Laws and regulations, through education, quality service and responsible enforcement

programmes, thereby contributing to the economic well being of the people of Guyana.

CORE VALUES

The Guyana Revenue Authority's goal is to provide the best possible service at an affordable cost. The Guyana Revenue Authority will achieve this goal by the following core principles:

- Providing accessible, dependable and timely service;
- Being fair and respectful;
- Providing effective communication;
- Managing our resources effectively and economically,
- Being responsive and committed to improvement



by Marcia Harris
 Manager (ag) Public Relations Unit

The Image We Portray

As human beings, we all portray a certain self image, an outward showing that seeks to impress upon the minds of on lookers a picture of who we are, and how they should view us. There are those of us who can be taken at face value, in that, what you see is what you get. However, there is the flip side, those who mask the true self, the hidden self that surfaces with the right stimuli. For some of us that stimulus can be an irate boss, a power drunk person or an angry customer. Hence the image we portray is not always seen.

The same can be said for organisations. The image they wish to portray is not the one that is always seen. This can be fatal to the achievement of the entity's goals, since there is no direct control. Organisations are dependent on their employees to project the right image because their organisations have no personalities of their own. Without the people, there is no organisation. Hence, public perception is drawn from what is projected by the employees of an organisation. Therefore, as an employee or representative of the Guyana Revenue Authority, it behooves each of us to project the right image, a positive image to the various stakeholder groups or constituents that is in-keeping with the goals and mission of the organisation.

Our goals and plans in themselves may not project a good image given the nature of the organisation (no one likes paying taxes), and we must not be complacent enough to think that people will pay their taxes because there are always laws that say they must, or because we are the only entity providing the service. The various statistics show that there are persons who are earning an income and are not paying taxes. Based on the numerous

complaints received and the negative articles written about the organisation, it can be said that the organisation's image in the eyes of the public is not a positive one. Since the era of the Roman Empire, tax collectors have been given a bad name. They were regarded as extortionist and were disliked by the citizenry. This stereotypical view continues today, where the whole is viewed by the actions of some of its parts.

A negative image is portrayed when we ask persons to pay for services that are free, and when we delay or lengthen a process to receive some form of inducement. A negative image is projected when taxpayers walk in and find us reading novels or listening to music, or conducting manicures and facials or resting on the desk during working hours. A negative image is portrayed, when in the execution of our duties, we forget to pay the most basic of courtesies to persons visiting the organisation or when we give answers such as "I don't know or GRA ain't paying me fuh duh". The tide must be turned in the interest of the Corporate Image.

Custodian of the Corporate Image

Shall we continue to say that the protection of the Corporate Image is the responsibility of a particular division? In the words of Stephen Howard, Author of Corporate Image Management, "the management of the organisation's image is critical and should be given the same attention and commitment by senior management as any other vital issue". This is even truer for an entity such as the GRA which is open to public scrutiny. All, from the Cleaner to the Board, should understand that they are custodians of the corporate image. All must understand that "everything an organisation does or does not do, affects the perception of the organisation and its performance and services. These perceptions affect its ability to recruit the people and partnerships necessary to attain goals and objectives," says Howard.

We would not serve up delicacies in a butter bowl if we are hosting a dinner. So let's pretend that every day is a dinner date with stakeholders (internal and external) and serve up our best in all that we say and do, because the corporate image is the sum of the perceptions invoked by what the organisation projects.

Marcia Harris

EIGHT THOUSAND SCANNED AND COUNTING

GRA's Container Scanner Maintaining the Integrity of Exports



With the operationalization of the container scanner in May 2011, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) expanded its mandate to include drug interdiction activities. This resulted in the establishment of a Scanner Operations Unit, the main aim of which is to meet the certification requirement of the United States of America's Maritime Laws which requires items arriving at ports of entry in the USA to have already completed a non-intrusive examination prior to entry.

What has been happening since its establishment...

Since its establishment in May 2011, staff of the Scanner Operations Unit have been hard at work ensuring that the mandate of the Unit is carried out. That is, to ensure the consistency of declarations and goods, while aiding the GRA in its fight against tax evasion.

At the end of February 2012, an average of eight thousand

(8000) containers has effectively been scanned according to strict guidelines and in keeping with the Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) of the Scanner Operations Unit.

The process of scanning a container begins when an export or import is profiled for scanning. The Unit is then alerted by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the GRA that the profiled containers are ready. On arrival at the facility, Customs Declarations are verified and the scans are then conducted in accordance with established SOP.

When containers are scanned, the result may be positive or negative. So what happens when a scan is positive versus negative? When a container is scanned and the result is good, the results are certified and the container is released to the wharf for loading. However, if an anomaly is detected within a container, the container is referred to the physical examination team which comprises officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) and the Goods Examination Unit (GEU).

To date, the Scanner Operations Unit has been proving quite effective in assisting the Guyana Revenue Authority with revenue protection and container integrity. Having already scanned an estimated eight thousand four hundred (8,400) containers thus far, one hundred and twenty (120) were referred for checks. Of those containers referred for further checks, a quantity of narcotics were discovered in one and three were found to have contained goods that were not in keeping with the information contained on the Customs Declaration Form. In these cases the relevant parties were informed and the matters are pending.

Based on scans conducted, it is clear that the container scanner has been effective at deterring illicit shipments and can be lauded as a good initiative on the part of the GRA and the Government of Guyana. The GRA's Scanner Operations Unit is located at the Container Scanner Terminal, Guyana National Shipping Corporation Wharf, Lombard Street Georgetown.

The Liability Certificate and Pension Schemes

THE GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY
INTERNAL REVENUE
G.P.O. BUILDING • ROBB STREET • GEORGETOWN PHONE: 226-3189 • FAX: 225-5588

APPLICATION FORM
FOR ISSUE OF Liability Statement

1. Name of Applicant Mr. _____
BLOCK LETTERS Mrs. _____
 Miss _____

2. Present Address: _____

3. Name and Address of Present or Last Employer _____

The Liability Certificate is a document issued to taxpayers stating that they are in compliance with the Tax Acts administered by the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA). This simply means that the taxpayer has submitted all of his/her Tax Returns and has paid all taxes to the GRA, or in some cases, has made satisfactory arrangements with the Commissioner General to comply with the Tax Acts.

Application for the Liability Certificate is usually made by a person when he/she is retiring or resigning from a job, more so when the individual is entitled to a pension or gratuity. For others, a Liability Statement, as it is commonly called, is required when applying for naturalisation, a Firearm Licence, Duty Free concession for the Manufacturing Sector or a Cambio Licence.

In order to obtain a Liability Certificate for pension purposes, the applicant should have a letter from the company that manages the pension scheme, and ensure that all Tax Returns are submitted and any outstanding taxes paid. A letter of indebtedness is issued to the applicant if he/she owes the GRA for any period and cannot pay the amount at the time of

applying for the Liability Certificate. If an employee retires from the job, the employer's contribution to the pension scheme and interest accumulated are not taxed. However, before the pension is given to the employee, any outstanding taxes owed by that employee is deducted and remitted to the GRA by the holder of the pension scheme. On the other hand, if the employee resigns from the job, the employer's contributions and any interest accumulated are taxed. Similarly, any outstanding taxes are deducted and remitted to the GRA and the remainder is given to the employee.

The validity period for the certificate differs. For example, if the Liability Certificate is issued before April 30 in a calendar year, then it would be valid up to April 30 of the same year. If it is issued after April 30, then it would be valid up to April 30 of the following year. Liability Certificates are processed at the Internal Revenue Division, located in the GPO building in Robb Street, Georgetown, or at GRA Regional branch offices in Linden, Anna Regina, Corriverton and New Amsterdam.

Counterfeiting and Piracy

Guyana's unique story



The issues of piracy, sale of counterfeit goods and smuggling are common to most countries. However, Guyana's porous borders and the lack of substantial legislation relative to these issues, present a unique scenario. Guyana is located on the north eastern shoulder of the South American continent between Latitudes 1 and 9 and Longitudes 57 and 61. It is bordered by Suriname on the East, Venezuela on the West, Brazil on the South and Southwest and the Atlantic Ocean in the North-Northeast. This unique geographical layout is a haven for smugglers and persons who are bent on utilising these porous shores to evade taxes.

While it is a known fact that smugglers often choose terrains which are difficult to traverse, this action is more pronounced in Guyana since the riverine areas and the interior locations are not easy to navigate or as in the case of Guyana's interior locations, mostly unexplored. This potentially leads to delays

in intercepting smugglers based on intelligence garnered. Additionally, smugglers are finding innovative ways to transport their consignment. For example, vehicles designed for transporting rice, are converted to transport alcoholic beverages and other uncustomed items. In one such instance, in 2011, a vehicle was converted to aid in the smuggling of fuel; a situation that posed great danger, especially given the quantity of fuel that was being transported.

Although this may not seem exceptional, Guyana's situation is accentuated by its laws which in some instances are outdated and were created to deal with the issue of counterfeiting within Guyana and not with the importation of counterfeit goods. Existing laws do not allow for the confiscation of goods that appear fake or counterfeit in nature. Thus, despite the prevalence of counterfeit goods which are imported and openly sold in the markets, Guyana's Customs and Trade

Administration is incapacitated.

A wide range of goods are smuggled into Guyana annually. Interestingly however, in Guyana the bulk of goods seized are 'high end' alcoholic beverages, which are often resold to clubs and other entities that are unable to provide proper purchasing documents to the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) during enforcement operations. During the year 2011, revenue collected from the seizure of uncustomed goods, totaled a whopping G\$107.4 million dollars. This astronomical figure is a clear indication of the level of anti smuggling activities conducted by the Guyana Revenue Authority's Law Enforcement and Investigation Division, which coincidentally, was expanded in 2012 to include a Drug Enforcement Unit. Guyana may not be able to boast of sufficiently utilizing the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) and the Interface Public Members (IPM), but the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has made tremendous strides in partnering with its counterparts, particularly Suriname, to stem the flow of cross border smuggling. The Guyana/Suriname (Nickerie/Corriverton) border is considered to be very porous and is severely impacted by smuggling. Apart from telephone linkages, information is also exchanged via the internet on a daily basis. All correspondence received from the Suriname Customs Authority is accessible by the relevant senior officials of the GRA.

As a consequence, cross border trade between Nickerie and Corriverton has now been regularized. Further, in an effort to raise awareness on the issue of smuggling, the general public was also sensitized of the requirements as prescribed in the Customs Laws for boats leaving Corriverton for Nickerie. This is further enhanced by GRA's Intelligence Hotline, which is available for the public to anonymously provide information to the agency, as it relates to the smuggling of goods.

However, realistically, there are persons who would still seek to evade the system of checks and balances. As such, the GRA has established key check points in outlying areas. Additionally, the agency's Law Enforcement and Investigation Division works in conjunction with the Intelligence and Risk

Management Division which is tasked with intelligence gathering and risk management activities. In 2011, the risk management activities were boosted with the introduction of the Random Selection for Examination process, which randomly selects consignments for a 100% manual examination in the presence of Senior GRA officials (not related to the Customs operations), Private Sector officials, and other stakeholders. The primary objective of the Random Selection process is to enhance transparency and efficiency in the examination process.

The GRA also collaborates with external agencies such as the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), which takes on the role of ensuring standards are adhered to. This agency conducts routine checks on goods imported into Guyana and subsequently puts out releases and notices when goods are found to be lacking in health and safety security. Officers of the GNBS officers are stationed at some ports in Guyana. The GRA also has strategic links with the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs, to collectively address the issue of smuggling.

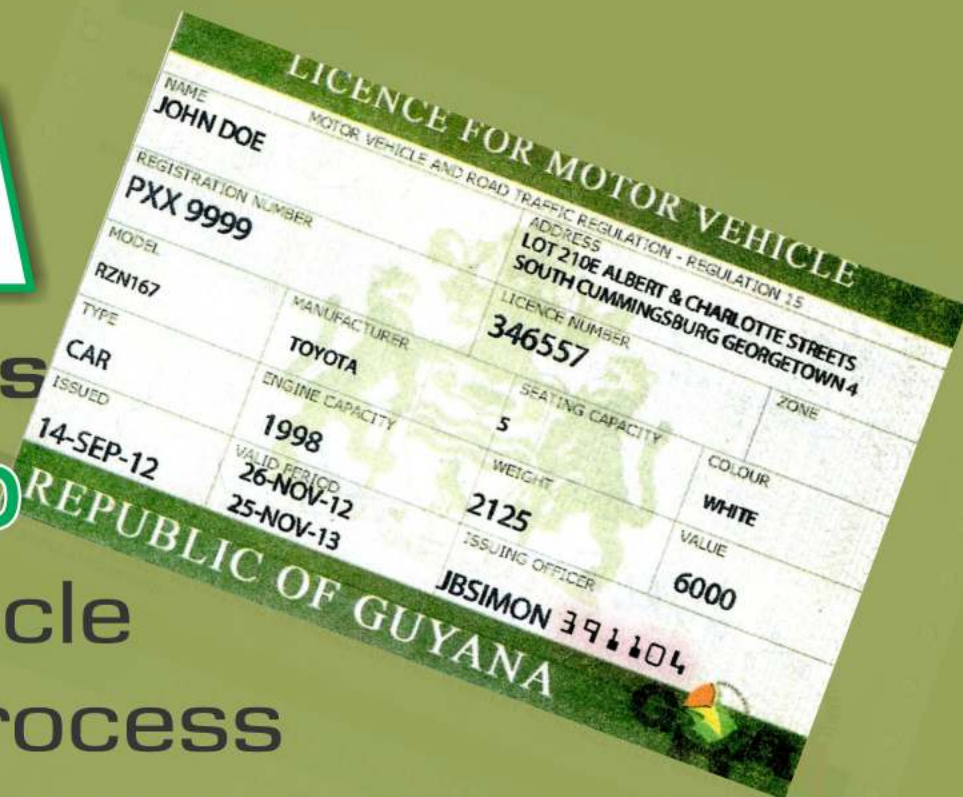
Given Guyana's unique situation and the evolving patterns of piracy, counterfeiting, and smuggling, the GRA will continue to partner with relevant stakeholders and seek innovative ways to address these issues.



GRA

Implements IMPROVED Motor Vehicle Renewal Process

makes system more 'taxpayer-friendly'



As the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) continues to make changes to ensure its services are more convenient to taxpayers, a significant change was implemented on January 3, 2012 when a new system for the issuance of Motor Vehicle Licences (MVLs) system was introduced.

The system is designed to reduce the congestion at the Licence Revenue Office (LRO) and to enable the process of motor vehicle licence renewal to be much more simple for vehicle owners. MVLs would be valid for a period of one (1) year effective from the anniversary date of the first registration of the motor vehicle. For Example, a new motor vehicle owner who registered his vehicle on June 15, 2011 would need to renew the vehicle's licence on or before June 15, 2012. Under the previous system, MVLs were valid for one calendar year (January to December).

Since implementation of the new system, there has been a significant reduction in the processing time for motor vehicle licenses, as well as reduced congestion at GRA offices selling licences. Addressing the issue, Commissioner-General Mr. Khurshid Sattaur noted that the new system has improved the quality of service provided to the public and reduced the strains and frustrations felt by the staff of the GRA and the

public.

Motor Vehicle Owners would find favour with the new system since those who renewed MVLs during 2011 are only required to produce a copy of their Motor Vehicle Registration when purchasing their 2012 Motor Vehicle Licences. However, owners of 'enclosed goods vehicles' and 'yellow' cabs are still required to present their vehicles for mandatory inspection by the Licencing Officer.

In addition to the improvement made to the system, the GRA has been issuing written notices via mail, to motor vehicle owners reminding them of the due dates for the renewal of the MVLs for the vehicles registered under their names. Moreover, the LRO is facilitating a process whereby businesses or individuals who own or control in excess of 20 vehicles can schedule a date on which they could purchase or renew all of their MVLs.

According to Mr. Wayne Austin, Senior Manager, LRO, "it was difficult for the GRA to ignore the frustration expressed by some taxpayers regarding our MVL process. We expect that this approach and other measures which will complement it, will manifest in a friendlier service being delivered to the public."



DEU

The Guyana Revenue Authority's newest unit

New to the Guyana Revenue Authority (DEU) is the Drug Enforcement Unit, commonly referred to as the DEU. But what is the function of the DEU and what necessitated the creation of this Unit?

Since its establishment in 2011, the DEU has been at the core of the Guyana Revenue Authority's efforts to execute its mandate in relation to combating the trafficking of narcotics, surveillance and monitoring of exports at the various ports in Georgetown.

Despite being in its infancy stage, the DEU has proved quite effective, having already intercepted illegal drugs on a number of occasions. However, in order to effectively conduct its operations, staff of the DEU are expected to carry out thorough investigations and surveillance activities. In many instances, this entails the involvement of the GRA's Surveillance and Anti-Smuggling Unit (SASS) and its Marine Operations Unit (MOU).

Additionally, the Unit collaborates with external agencies inclusive of the Guyana Police Force and the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU). Further, the DEU is also responsible for securing any vessel, container or package found to contain

narcotic drugs or substances suspected to be illegal drugs.

Why was the DEU established?

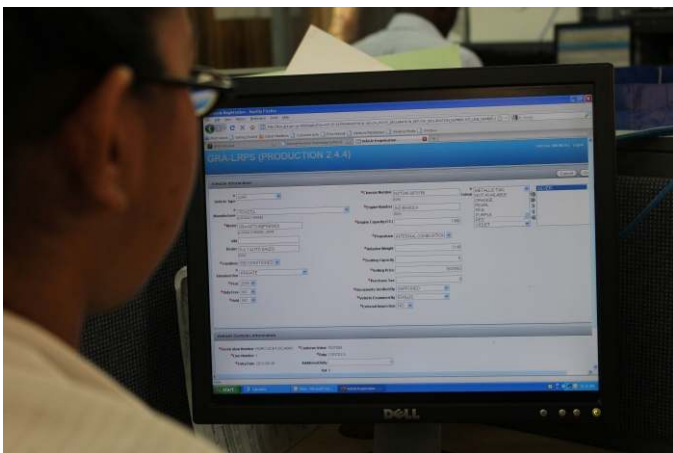
The DEU was established after Cabinet decided that the mandate for anti-narcotics monitoring, surveillance and examination of exports should be assigned to the GRA. It was further decided that this responsibility would fall under the Law Enforcement and Investigation Division (LEID).

Accordingly, the DEU operates as a complementary unit to the newly established Scanner Operations Unit which is mandated to meet the certification requirement of the United States of America's (USA) Maritime Laws. The DEU has the responsibility of discharging the expanded mandate of the GRA, assumes the exclusive responsibility of profiling all exports for narcotics or psychotropic substances concealed therein; and also profile goods imported by high risk importers for revenue collection and protection purposes.

Despite being in its infancy stage, the DEU continues to build its capacity, database and intelligence gathering in its effort to maintain the integrity of exports leaving Guyana.

Know Your Organisation:

The Tax Operations & Services Department



Over the years, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has undergone several changes in order to better serve the taxpaying public. One of the major changes was the creation of the Tax Operations and Services Department in October of 2008.

This saw the merger of the Value Added Tax and Excise Tax Department and the Inland Revenue Department, the creation of the Central Data Processing and Registration Unit and the de-linking of the Licence Revenue Office from the Excise Tax Department.

The Tax Operations and Services Department is mandated to develop a culture of voluntary compliance among clients of the GRA, by ensuring that they are aware of and fully understand their obligations and entitlements under the Law, through taxpayer education and assistance, further affirming the public's confidence in the fairness and integrity of the Department. The Department is also expected to administer a fair, effective, and efficient assessment of taxes and licenses under the agency's control. Despite some challenges, this move along functional lines has seen a number of accomplishments in the execution of this mandate.

Recently, the Tax Operations and Services Department increased its reliance on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), thereby reducing dependency on manual systems and the time spent to complete transactions. The investments made in the automation of services offered at the Licence Revenue Office (LRO), such as the Licence Revenue Processing System (LRPS), were meant to assuage the burden faced by taxpayers who frequent that Office.

In this edition of Revenews we take a closer look at the Central Data Processing and Registration Unit, which comes under the direct control of Ms. Hema Khan, Director (ag), Tax Operations and Services Department.

The unit is tasked with receiving and processing all Tax Returns inclusive of Returns for Individual and Company Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Tributors, Premium and a Travel Withholding Taxes to name a few. Tax Returns, once received are keyed into the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (TRIPS), and then forwarded to the Filing Room. A TRIP automatically generates Notices of Assessment based on the data contained in the returns. These notices are printed and sent to the respective taxpayers.

The Registration of this unit now includes an Input Verification Unit which handles the registration of taxpayers for all tax types and the issuance of the Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN) and Value Added Tax (VAT) certificates. With such an intense work load, this unit employs some forty persons who are stationed at the agency's Albert and Charlotte Street location and is tasked with the responsibility of eliminating duplication within the system, as well as updating taxpayers' registration information.

ADVANCE

BINDING RULINGS & TRADE FACILITATION



Trade facilitation is enshrined in the mission of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), along with the promotion of compliance with the tax, trade and border laws and regulations. As a result, the GRA is putting systems in place to introduce a new service that will be beneficial to owners of small and medium size businesses. This aspect of trade facilitation will allow such businesses the ability to determine beforehand, the feasibility of importing an item based on the rate of duty and taxes applicable to the item.

Currently, the Customs and Trade Administration is responsible for administering the tariff based on the classification, origin and valuation, used under the Harmonized System. For example, a tariff classification ruling helps traders obtain the correct tariff classification for goods they plan to import or export. This is an important factor given that the

tariff heading of the goods determines the rates of duties and taxes applicable to the commodity, as well as the application of different legal provisions such as import/export licences, rules of origin and security standards.

The Advance Binding Rulings or Advance Rulings as it is commonly called will provide advance, yet consistent, tariff advice to importers and exporters in order to facilitate compliance with Customs requirements.

To this end, the GRA will be establishing a committee to process all applications for Advance Rulings. The applicants will be required to apply for the ruling six months prior to importation or exportation of the commodity. After a decision on the ruling has been reached by the members of the committee, the applicants will be informed of same in writing.

Notwithstanding, there are some instances where a ruling can become null and void. For example, the ruling becomes null if the World Customs Organisation (WCO) changes the Customs Tariff Heading or Harmonized System classification for the item. Additionally, if the law governing the importation or exportation of a particular item changes in the respective jurisdiction, the ruling can also become null and void. In the case of Guyana, the GRA will inform all stakeholders.

Once implemented, Guyana will be the third country in the Caribbean to introduce the Advance Rulings. At present, Barbados and Trinidad are the only two countries in the Caribbean to have an Advance Ruling System available to traders.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

Paving the way for Effective Tax Administration in Guyana.

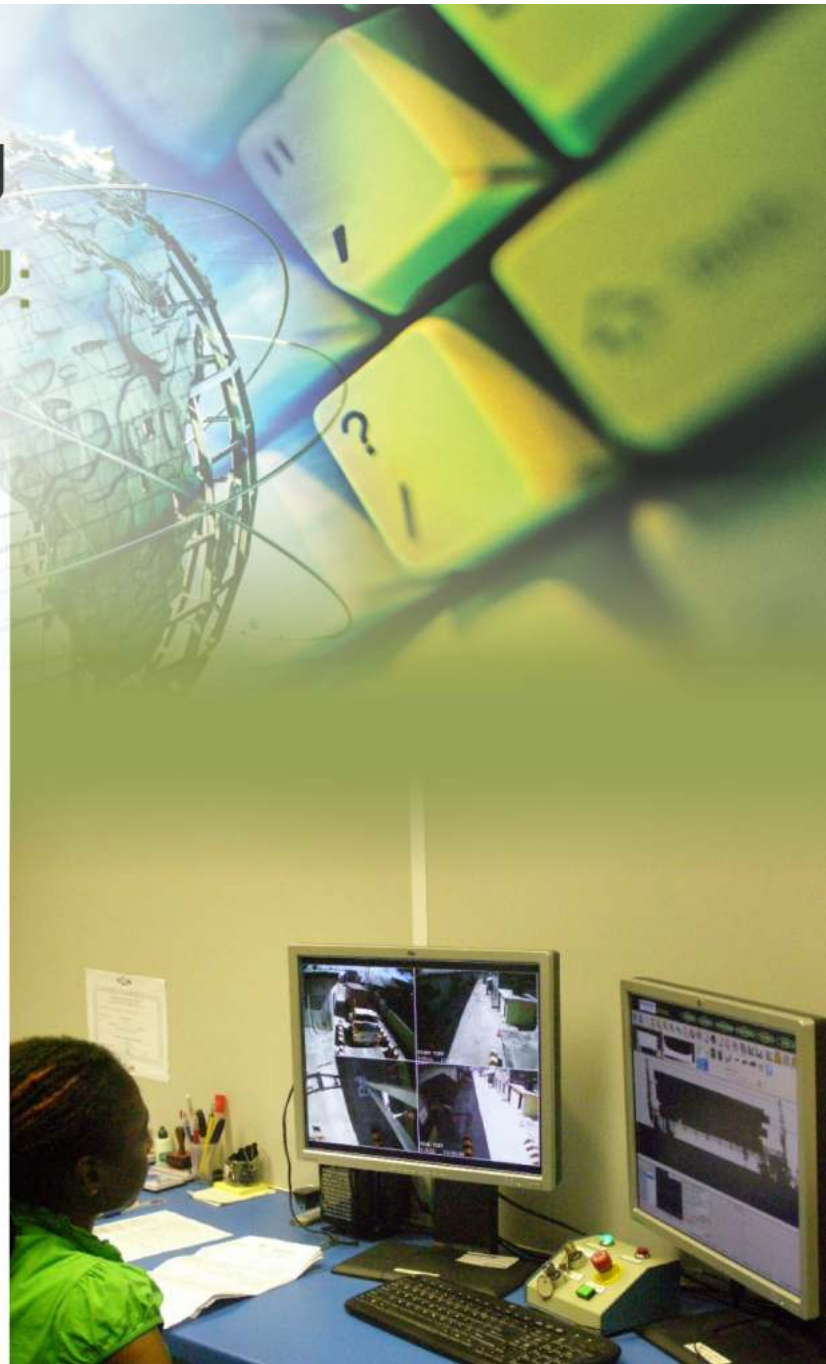
The term 'Information Technology' has ballooned to include many aspects of computing and technology, and is more recognisable today. Information Technology professionals perform a variety of duties that range from installing applications to designing complex computer networks and information databases. In this regard, the Information Technology (IT) Department of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) is no different. The introduction of the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (TRIPS) in 2007 signaled the agency's movement towards modernising tax administration. The IT Department plays a key role in improving the services at the GRA through the development of several software programmes, the most recent being, the Licence Revenue Processing System (LRPS).

The LRPS aims to facilitate a transparent service, targets an increase in licencing compliance and, reduction in processing time provides for centralised management and improved security features, while enhancing the licencing services at LRO. Further to this, several licences have been automated, including the registration process for Motor Vehicle and Trade & Miscellaneous Licences.

With the automation of the Motor Vehicle Licensing and Registration process, the GRA is now able to verify each stage of a transaction, and by extension notify taxpayers of the renewal date of their Motor Vehicle Licence. Further, this new technological infrastructure allows Senior Officers to validate the information entered into the database and make necessary adjustments before transactions are processed. As such, security features have been enhanced tremendously, and accountability is ensured.

The implementation of several software programmes and automated systems have paved the way for the Guyana Revenue Authority to effectively administer taxes in Guyana.

Additionally, the Guyana Revenue Authority has also been working on improving its technological advancements in tax administration, through collaborative efforts with several international organisations, such as, the Canada Revenue Agency, the Inter-American Center of Tax Administration (CIAT) and the Caribbean Organisation of Tax Administrators (COTA).



Taxpayers' Services



Interfacing with Guyana

Many of us may have heard of the Tax Operations and Services Department, and may know of the service available at that department. However, what many may not know is the location of some divisions within that department and the documents required to transact business with some of those divisions.

The Tax Operations and Services Department comprises the Internal Revenue Division; Revenue Accounting and the Central Data Processing and Registration Division; Objections and Appeals Division; and the Value Added and Excise Taxes Division which includes the Licence Revenue Office. The Department was formed in October 2008 following the merger of two departments, namely the Value Added Tax and Excise Tax Department and the Internal Revenue Department. The formation of the Tax Operations and Services Department was in keeping with the change in the organizational structure of the GRA from a tax type organisation to a functional organisation. The common functions and administrative activities of the two previous departments were merged to reflect a more transparent and efficient tax administration.

The Taxpayer Services Section focuses mainly on taxpayers, and as the name suggests, provides invaluable services such as the issuance of Compliance and Liability Certificates, acceptance and processing of applications for Value Added Tax (VAT), Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and Excise Tax registration, and the collection of Tax Returns just to name a few. Heading the Tax Operations and Services Department is Ms. Hema Khan, who is assisted by Ms. Deanah Mathias, and Mr. Robert James, Deputy Heads. Some aspects of the operations of the department are executed at the Tax Operations and Services Building at 210 E, Albert and Charlotte Streets, Georgetown, while others are carried out at the General Post Office (GPO) building in Robb Street, Georgetown.

Since its formation in 2008, the Department has been transformed to better serve the changing needs of taxpayers through the automation of several divisions within the Department.

CONGENITAL CATARACT



In our previous edition of **Health Tips** we covered **Cataract** as it relates to age and other factors. This edition will bring insight to another form of Cataract which is called **Congenital Cataract**. A Congenital Cataract is a clouding of the lens of the eye that is present at birth. The lens of the eye is normally clear. It focuses light that comes into the eye onto the retina.¹

Causes, Incidence and Risk Factors

Unlike most cataracts which occur with age, congenital cataracts are present at birth.

Congenital cataracts are rare. In most patients, no cause can be found.

Congenital cataracts often occur as part of the following birth defects:

- Chondrodysplasia syndrome
- Congenital rubella
- Conradi syndrome
- Down syndrome (trisomy 21)
- Ectodermal dysplasia syndrome
- Familial congenital cataracts³
- Galactosemia
- Hallerman-Streiff syndrome
- Lowe syndrome
- Marinesco-Sjogren syndrome
- Pierre-Robin syndrome⁴
- Trisomy 13

Symptoms

Congenital cataract usually looks different than other forms of cataract.

Symptoms include:

- Gray or white cloudiness of the pupil (which is normally black)
Infant doesn't seem to be able to see (if cataracts are in both eyes)
- "Red eye" glow of the pupil is missing in photos, or is different between the two eyes
- Unusual rapid eye movements (nystagmus)

Signs and Tests

To diagnose congenital cataract, the infant should have a complete eye examination by an ophthalmologist. The infant may also need to be examined by a pediatrician who is experienced in treating inherited disorders. Blood tests or x-rays may also be needed.

Treatment

If congenital cataracts are mild and do not affect vision, they may not need to be treated, especially if they are in both eyes.

Moderate to severe cataracts that affect vision, or a cataract that is in only one eye will need to be treated with cataract removal surgery. In most (noncongenital) cataract surgeries, an artificial intraocular lens (IOL) is inserted into the eye. The use of IOLs in infants is controversial. Without an IOL, the infant will need to wear a contact lens.

Patching to force the child to use the weaker eye is often needed to prevent amblyopia.

The infant may also need to be treated for the inherited disorder that is causing the cataracts.

Expectations (prognosis)

Removing a congenital cataract is usually a safe, effective procedure. The child will need follow-up for vision rehabilitation. Most infants have some level of "lazy eye" (amblyopia) before the surgery and will need to use patching.

Complications

With cataract surgery there is a very slight risk of:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Inflammation

Infants who have surgery for congenital cataracts are likely to develop another cataract, which may need further surgery or laser treatment.

Many of the diseases that are associated with congenital cataract can also affect other organs.

Calling your health care provider

Call for an urgent appointment with your baby's health care provider if you notice that the pupil of one or both eyes appears white or cloudy, or if the child seems to have trouble seeing.

Prevention

If you have a family history of inheritable disorders that could cause congenital cataracts, consider seeking genetic counseling.

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¹The retina is the light-sensitive layer of tissue at the back of the inner eye. The retina is normally red due to its rich blood supply.

²Ectodermal dysplasia is a group of conditions in which there is abnormal development of the skin, hair, nails, teeth, or sweat glands.

³Galactosemia is a condition in which the body is unable to use (metabolize) the simple sugar galactose.

⁴Trisomy 13 (also called Patau syndrome) is a genetic disorder in which a person has three copies of genetic material from chromosome 13, instead of the usual two copies. Rarely, the extra material may be attached to another chromosome (translocation).

⁵Amblyopia, or "lazy eye," is the loss of one eye's ability to see details. It is the most common cause of vision problems in children.



MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” Abraham Lincoln

Revenews wishes to extend a happy and belated birthday greetings to all staff who celebrated their birthdays during the period of January 1 to September 30, 2012.

NEW ARRIVALS

Just to let you know we share in the happiness of the beautiful new life you have created. Revenews wishes to congratulate all staffers who may have had additions to their families during the period of January 1 to September 30, 2012. Warm wishes are especially extended to Shonis Rodney Adams of the Communications and Tax Advisory Services Division on the safe arrival of her new born baby boy.

CONDOLENCES

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a

memory no one can steal. Revenews wishes to express heartfelt sympathy to all those who would have lost a loved one during the period of January 1 to September 30, 2012.

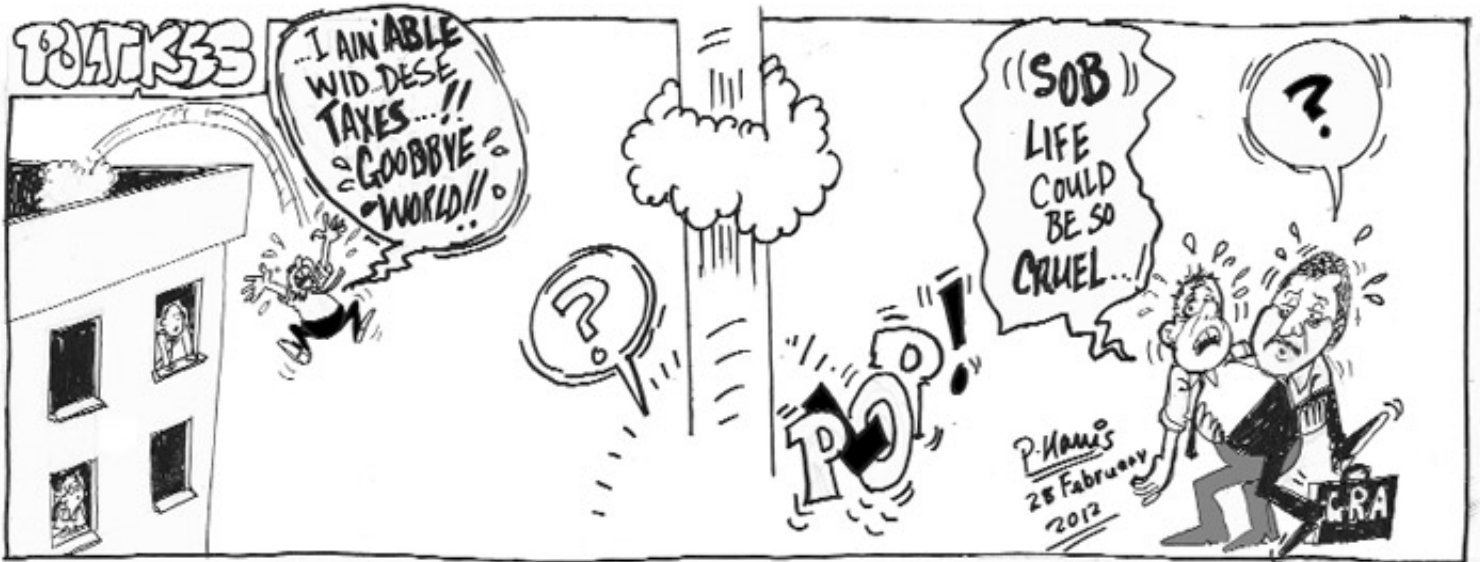
CONGRATULATIONS

Revenews wishes to congratulate staff members who recently celebrated their marriage, wedding anniversary, or would have completed University or graduated from any other Institution during the period of January 1 to September 30, 2012. It is hoped that their achievements will see significant growth and development in their lives.

Revenews also wished to extend congratulations to staff members who would have received promotions and confirmation of acting positions during the period of January 1 to September 30, 2012. It is hoped that you will continue to strive for the best. Revenews wishes to highlight the following persons:

PROMOTIONS

Employee Promoted	New Designation
Olaine Quick	Internal Auditor
Yoganand Singh	Site Manager
Riyad Sattaur	Systems Engineer
Mollyanda Kajram	Clerk III/Cashier
Sumintra Singh	Clerk III/Cashier
Ryan Persaud	Clerk III/Cashier
Natasha Bishamber	Clerk III/Cashier
Shafiza Deochand	Cashier
Prince Vantull	Clerk III/Cashier
Aseefa Sattaur	Clerk III/Cashier
Michelle King	Clerk III/Cashier
Imtiaz Kazim	Cashier
Parbattie Singh	Cashier
Satish Singh	Cashier
Arisanaquib Azim	Clerk III/Cashier
Kamal Kabool	Cashier
Denise Samaroo	Tax Specialist
Nokolo David	Publication Officer
Hemwatie Madhoo	Human Resource Officer
Tyrome Anthony	Communication Officer
Nickeisha Duncan	Cashier
Dexter Bowen	Clerk II
Yannick Hinds	Clerk II
Thanza Wright	Clerk II
Mutema Adams	Clerk II
Marcelene Fields	Inspector of Taxes
Lettyann Shaw	Senior Clerk
Mark Laing	Clerk II
Ricky Jairam	Clerk II
Allister Pinder	Clerk II
Raoul Fowler	Clerk II
Roland Persaud	Clerk II
Floyd Fordyce	Clerk II
Hosaly Lowenfield	Clerk II
Lloyd Arjune	Mechanic
Mahendra Satram	Legal Officer
Latoya Martin	Senior Clerk
Shanella Evans	Supervisor
Azhuman Bourne	Clerk III/Cashier
Natasha George	Clerk III/Cashier
Candace Samuels	Clerk III/Cashier



Adopted for Stabroek Newspaper February 28, 2012

AROUND

H	A	R	M	O	N	I	Z	E	D	Q	W	F	C	A	V
B	T	C	L	A	S	S	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
T	R	A	D	E	Y	M	H	M	R	A	N	D	O	M	B
C	O	M	M	O	D	I	T	Y	I	D	D	U	T	Y	P
J	P	H	N	T	A	R	I	F	F	B	R	D	F	H	L
I	M	P	O	R	E	X	A	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
B	I	N	D	I	N	G	E	T	N	F	T	I	J	L	I
H	J	D	A	E	X	P	O	R	T	N	E	N	T	R	Y

Harmonized

Commodity

Tin

Tariff

Classification

Rate

Binding

Examination

Duty

Import

Random

Entry

Export

Trade

CUSTOMS

GRA'S TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMES

BRADCAST SCHEDULE



PROGRAMME	CHANNEL AIRED / STATION AIRED	TIME AIRED	REBROADCAST
Focus on GRA	CNS/ CH 6	SAT -17:30hrs	Thurs-20:00hrs
Focus on GRA	HBTV / Ch 9	SUN -9:30 am	Mon-19:00hrs
Focus on GRA	NCN/ CH 11	SUN 14:00 hrs	Wed-12:30hrs
Focus on GRA	MTV/ CH 14\ Cable 65	SUN 18:00hrs	Tues -19:00hrs
Focus on GRA	RCA/ CH 8 Essequibo Coast	MON 18:00 hrs	MON 22:30 hrs
Focus on GRA	TARZIE CH 5 Bartica	MON 19:30hrs	MON 22:00 hrs
Let's Talk Tax	NCN/ Ch11	SAT 19:05 hrs	—
Let's Talk Tax	CNS/ CH 6	WED 17:15hrs	Tues 21:00 hrs
Let's Talk Tax	MTV/ CH 14\ Cable 65	THURS 21:30hrs	Tues 18:00hrs
Let's Talk Tax	HBTV / Ch 9	TUES 17:00hrs	Fri 8:00hrs
Revenue Update	V.O.G		

* You can also join us on **"Let's Gaff"** Thursdays at 11:00hrs. on VOG

JAMAICAN PATTIES

Pastry:

- 2 c. flour
- ¼ c. solid shortening
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ c. (1/2 stick) margarine
- ½ Tbsp. curry powder
- 1/3 c. cold water

Sift the flour, curry powder and salt into a large bowl. Cut in the shortening and margarine until crumbly. Add the cold water to make a stiff dough. Lightly flour a wooden cutting board and roll out the dough until about 1/8-inch thick. Cut out 8-inch circles. Cover with wax paper or damp cloth until ready to use. You can place the dough in the refrigerator overnight. If you do refrigerate, remove the dough at least 15 minutes before using.

Meat Filling:

- 2 Tbsp. margarine
- ½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 small white onion, finely chopped
- ½ tsp. curry powder
- ¼ tsp. chopped scotch bonnet pepper
- ½ tsp. dried thyme
- ¼ c. breadcrumbs
- ½ lb. lean ground beef
- ¼ c. beef or chicken stock
- ½ tsp. salt



- 1 egg, beaten
- ¼ c. water

In a heavy skillet, melt the margarine and sauté the onion and Scotch Bonnet pepper until they become limp. Add the ground beef, salt, pepper, curry powder and thyme and mix well. Brown the meat for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the breadcrumbs and stock and combine, stirring occasionally. Add the breadcrumbs and stock and combine all the ingredients well. Cover the skillet and simmer for about 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. When all the liquids have been absorbed, the filling is ready. It should be moist but not watery. Remove the skillet from the stove and preheat oven to 400. Uncover the dough circles and place 2 to 3 tablespoons of filling on half of each. Moisten the edges of the dough with water and fold the dough circle over the meat filling. Pinch the edges closed with a fork. Lightly brush the pastry with a mixture of the egg and water.

General Information



The Guyana Revenue Authority was established on January 27, 2000 and consists of:

- GRA Secretariat
- Customs & Trade Administration
- Tax Operations and Services Department

The Principal Officers are:

- Commissioner-General – Mr. Khurshid Sattaur
- Deputy Commissioner-General – Mr. Clement Sealey
- Director – Tax Operations and Services Department – Ms. Hema Khan
- Deputy Head – Customs and Trade Administration – Ms. Karen Chapman
- Director – Corporate Services – Ms. Ingrid Griffith

Business Addresses:

Commissioner-General & Deputy Commissioner-General

GRA Secretariat
357 Lamaha & East Streets, Georgetown
Tel: 227-8814 or 227-8787

Director – Tax Operations and Services Department

Tax Operations and Services Department
210 'E' Charlotte & Albert Streets, Georgetown
Tel: 227-7310, 227-7672 or 227-7929

Deputy Head – Customs & Trade Administration

Customs House Building
34 Main & Hope Streets, Georgetown
225-6931 or 225-4698

Director – Corporate Services

GRA Office
216-217 Lamaha Street, Georgetown
Tel: 227-3885



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REVENEWS NEEDS YOU!!

Is there something you want us to feature?

Is there something you want to tell about us?

Are you a GRA staff member who
wants us to feature you or your unit?

Are you a great cook and want to share a recipe? Great!

We want to make Revenews more about you.

**Send us an email at
grapublicrelations@gmail.com
and you never know.....**

You may appear in the next issue of Revenews!

Revenews

