



19TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM DR. LEYLAND LUCAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

On the occasion of the 19th Anniversary of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), I am honoured and delighted to be extending congratulations to the management and staff. Your contributions to the task of tax administration and revenue collection are a reflection of your commitment and dedication to the organisation.

It was the passage of the Revenue Authority Act that paved the way for the formation of the Revenue Authority. The journey began on January 27, 2000 and, like every other organisation with a proud history, I am sure that the road to nineteen, was met with its share of highs and lows. Despite these experiences, today the GRA is a vibrant organisation, well-positioned to address the needs of the future.

The Board is mandated under Section 11 of the Revenue Authority Act of 1996 to review the policy and monitor performance of the Authority; as well as the discipline and control of all members of staff. The Governing Board sits atop the organisational structure of the Authority and is integrally involved in the Authority's affairs. At times, tough decisions are made that may not be favourable to all parties, but must be done in accordance with the law and in the best interest of the organisation.

Let me say that I hold you, the staff, in very high esteem and am committed to providing you with the tools needed to effectively and efficiently perform all duties. I also recognise that there are challenges which we all must confront and am committed to ensuring that GRA treats you with the utmost respect. After all, you are more than staff to us. You are the PEOPLE who make this organisation the success that it is and will continue to be. Your continued commitment to GRA should be guided by HONESTY, COMMITMENT, TRUST, and INTEGRITY.

I look forward to and expect to be very much a part of the scheduled observances during the month of January; the interfaith service, the anniversary social and the engagement with the taxpaying public.

As the Chairman of the Governing Board, I also look forward to the task before me and the inevitable exigencies that will come with the job. I therefore commit myself to the task at hand and look forward to the support of the staff. The continued success of the GRA depends on us ALL.

Reflecting on the past is necessary. There is the common statement that 'He who forgets his past is bound to repeat it.' You have to know where you've been to better understand where you're going. Occasions like these should encourage us to objectively reflect on our past, acknowledge that we have either been part of and/or have been impacted by the organisation; and recognise the indelible mark we and our organisation have played in shaping Guyana's history. The occasion should also remind us of our obligations to administer the country's tax and trade laws fairly, and to honour our obligations to pay taxes as law abiding citizens.

I am confident that the GRA is on track to exceed its targets for the current fiscal year. The surpassing of revenue targets over the past three successive years is evidence that a precedent has been set. My desire is to build on the gains set before me by my predecessors over the course of those nineteen long years. As part of this process, we will continue to focus on the necessary reforms that will aid in your effective and efficient performance. These reforms will embrace modern business practices to improve business processes; promote efficient Information Communication Technology solutions and infrastructure; and ensure the integrity and confidentiality of taxpayer information.

As we move towards the end of our second decade, let us recommit ourselves to excellence. We will be resourceful in pursuing our objectives to provide the taxpaying public with a hassle free, timely and convenient service. In as much as revenue collection is central to our mission, so too is the wellbeing of our staff. Providing them with a comfortable and safe work environment remains a priority. The fair and equitable treatment which taxpayers deserve and the lawful administration of the tax laws can only come through your commitment and professionalism in this organisation.

The Governing Board stands by those committed to serve and will continue to place emphasis on staff development as the demands on the Authority grow.

Once again, let me say CONGRATULATIONS to the GRA.

Dr. Leyland Lucas

Chairman, Governing Board