



# Message by Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance  
on the occasion of GRA's 21st Anniversary (*January 27, 2021*)

The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) celebrates its twenty-first anniversary on January 27, 2021. Established in 2000 as a result of the merger of the Inland Revenue Department and the Customs and Excise Department, the GRA is responsible for collection and accounting for tax revenues and ensuring compliance with Guyana's Tax, trade, and border laws and regulations.

The GRA continues to see expansion and evolution of its operations in achieving its vision of providing quality service and client education, responsible enforcement and timely redress processes under openness, transparency and accountable administration. It continues to improve its services while building and strengthening capacities in important areas such as the country's emerging oil and gas sector.

With its role as the Government Agency responsible for collecting taxes from oil and gas companies, the GRA has an integral role to play in Guyana's emerging oil and gas sector. A Customs Petroleum Unit has been established as part of the GRA's approach to preparing for the sector and the GRA continues to strengthen its capacities to execute this function. As Guyana moves towards becoming an oil producer and exporter, the Government recognises that fiscal challenges would be encountered that would include careful and sustainable management of the country's finances. GRA will play an important role in this, as well as in continuing its current role in domestic revenue mobilisation which remains a priority, despite the oil and gas revenues that will be collected, as the non-oil sectors will also be prioritised by the Government.

There is going to be a rapid physical and economic transformation of our country which must be accompanied with the delivery of quality services by both the private and public sector. The GRA has a key role in trade facilitation, which requires the modernisation of services being delivered to taxpayers, including the need to move towards electronic tax-payer services along with more client-friendly delivery of services. To this end, Government has prioritised an Electronic Single Window for trade so as to improve trade facilitation and ease of doing business.

On December 16, 2020, I visited the Headquarters of the GRA and wharves, where I was able to inspect the facilities, as well as meet with key staff. In my meeting with the Senior Management, I charged the team with aiming to make the GRA a world-class tax administration.

I congratulate the Governing Board, Management, and Staff of the GRA on the achievement of its twenty first anniversary and I wish them continued success in the months and years ahead.