

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HAAGS BOSCH SANITARY LANDFILL

Continuing from the last week's edition on Solid Waste Management, in the pursuit of a "Clean and Green Economy for Sustainable Development" for our beautiful Guyana, MLGRD under the mandate of the PPP/C Government continues to explore avenues which can support the objective of economic growth by contributing to sound environmental management thereby sustaining economic growth.

MLGRD has established within its structure, a Solid waste Department tasked with the responsibility of improving the quality of life of the populace through sustainable solutions to solid waste management issues. This Department was conceptualized with the objectives of:

1. *Closing of "Dumpsites"* – the PPP/C Administration is shifting from this form of environmentally unfriendly approach of solid waste management to a more structured and regulated sanitary landfill site that will mitigate effects from hazardous waste that pose threat to human's health, animal and plant life existence.
2. *Mitigate Environmental effects* – improper solid management can lead to an environmental crisis that can have negative impact on the populace, in the form of flooding due to waste filled canals; thereby it is mandatory for strategies for proper collection and disposal of waste.
3. *Support Guyana's National Development Strategy* - "Eradicating Poverty and Unifying Guyana" calls for the development of new landfill sites that avoid seepage into groundwater supplies and observe other environmental requisites.
4. *Supporting the Universal Policy of the Millennium Development Goals* – with the notion of "Ensure Environmental Sustainability by halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015". MLGRD through the Department intends to make contributions to the macro strategy by implementing sustainable solutions that ensures the populace rights are satisfied and maintained.

One of the projects out of this Department is the "**HAAGS BOSCH SANITARY LANDFILL**" (**HBSLF**), this project is funded by the PPP/C Government of Guyana in a partnership loan agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The program main aim is to provide a sustainable solution to the solid waste collection and disposal problems in Georgetown and participating (15) Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) through: (i) strengthening the capacity of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Department of the Municipality of Georgetown for the overseeing of solid waste management and disposal, and improve collection logistics and cost recovery at Georgetown and NDCs; (ii) raising public awareness within Georgetown and the NDCs for a better management of solid waste among households,

industries, commerce, etc.; (iii) implementing the HBSLF, with the participation of a specialized operator from the private sector; (iv) providing resources to study and define technologies to treat health care and hazardous waste; (v) implementing a more efficient waste collection at the NDCs participating in the project; and (vi) providing additional resources to rehabilitate and close the Mandela landfill.

The HBSLF is located 4km south of geographical centre of Georgetown and was constructed and operated by a private sector operator (Co-Operator). The CO operator would receive and dispose the health care waste and hazardous material at the landfill. MLGRD budget allocation for the HBSLF for 2013 will be expending G\$ 732 Million for improved sanitation. The Ministry budgetary allocations will seek to make provision for;

- Institutional strengthening and capacity building
- Public awareness and community participation
- Construction and Operation of Haags Bosch Sanitary Landfill
- Waste collection and disposal from 14 NDCs and the Municipality of Georgetown
- Treatment and disposal of health care and hazardous waste.

By and large, the program is a work in progress, with social economic benefits in the indicative years ahead. With the view of targeting inhabitants of Georgetown and the 15 NDC's, with adequate disposal of solid waste that will improve their way of life, especially among health risk groups which are informal sector workers in the segregation and recycling of materials.

To this end in 2013, the PPP/C Government, under this project has expended G\$ US\$185,122.50 for the provision of a total of 825 collection bins as follows: 240 liters –84ea, 660 liters - 36ea and 1100 liters – 705ea. The large garbage receptacles which will be placed at strategic locations in communities, especially public space, such as markets whilst the small garbage receptacles allocated to public buildings in the Municipality of Georgetown and the 15 NDCs has commenced the Distribution has commenced and will be concluded by end of October 2013. Below is a breakdown of the distribution of garbage bins:

Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
Distribution of garbage bins to NDCs

NDCs	No of collection Bins and size			
	240l	660l	1100l	Total
East Bank				
Soesydyke/Huis t' Coverden	1	4	15	20
Caledonia/Good Success	1	1	19	21
Diamond Grove	1	2	36	39
Herstelling/Little Diamond	1		10	11
Mocha	3		3	6
Eccles Ramsburg	2	2	34	38

East Coast Demerara				
Cane Grove	5		13	18
Unity	6		36	42
Haslington/Grove	6	2	45	53
Enmore/Hope	4	2	16	22
Buxton /Foulis	2	6	35	43
Mon Repos/La Reconnaissance	3	1	49	53
Beterverwagting/Triumph	2		22	24
Better Hope/LBI	1	2	21	24
Industry/Plaisance	3	4	37	44
Total				458

Similarly the sum of G\$ G\$93,000,000 was expended to purchase two specially designed trucks (of size 21 m³) to move and transport these huge garbage receptacles to the Landfill Site. Further the purchase of 1 small truck to move and transport these small receptacles is in process.

A very well designed Public Awareness programme is being developed and implemented across Region # 4 by GUY ENTERPRISE at a cost of US\$ 420,000, among the objectives of this programme is to create and rekindle in every Guyanese a sense of patriotism and pride in maintaining a CLEAN AND HEALTHY environment in every community in this beautiful Guyana.

For further information on the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development you are invited to visit its website at <http://www.mlgrd.gov.gy/>