



## WHAT'S INSIDE



New Board: Three New Appointees



Our People



Alcoholism



Health & Safety



# EU DENOUNCIATION OF SUGAR PROTOCOL: -Insensitive and Disappointing

The decision of the EU Council to notify the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) sugar supplying states of its move to denounce the Sugar Protocol in its market access offer, effective October 1, 2009 is described as brutal, insensitive and untimely by the affected regions.

The action is considered untimely since the ACP grouping of sugar suppliers are still in negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) – which is anticipated to come into effect from January, 2008 - would have been successfully concluded and a joint statement on the Sugar Protocol (SP) thereafter declared.

The EU's action provokes the question of whether it is negotiating in good faith and with the intention of finalizing an agreement that safeguards the benefits of the ACP-EU SP as required by the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. The mechanism that will transpose the benefits of the SP, namely access, price and unlimited duration, into the EPAs is not yet finalized.

In recent months, both sides have been heavily engaged in technical and political consultations to determine a framework for future trade in sugar that supports the developmental and poverty alleviation focus of the EPAs. The EU's denunciation of the SP can only foster hostility and mistrust, and the Council has demonstrated grave insensitivity at a crucial time. GUYSUCO, therefore, commends the ACP Ministers for refusing to be involved in a joint declaration with the EU on this matter.

The EU's market access offer, in the absence of the essentials of the Sugar Protocol, is for the most part "grey" in addressing the price guarantees, and there is much speculation on the commercial consequences for ACP sugar exporters, EU beet growers and sugar manufacturers and EU refiners of ACP sugar. What was once a straightforward all-ACP agreement for the sale of raw sugar to the largest sugar refiner in the EU, Tate and Lyle, will now be fragmented to bilateral commercial contracts. GUYSUCO is therefore assessing all the options going forward in what appears to be an open market for sugar trade in the EU after 2015.

The Corporation had worked closely with the workers' unions and the Government of Guyana in the preparation of the Guyana National Action Plan (GNAP) for Accompanying Measures for Sugar Countries Affected by the Reform of the EU Sugar Regime. The execution of projects outlined in the GNAP is well underway and will deliver the transformation of the industry, harnessing the benefits to be derived from the wider utilization of the sugar cane plant and the multiplicity of products that can be commercially produced in a sustainable manner.

The Skeldon Sugar Modernisation Project and the Enmore Packaging Plant are priority activities that will bring positive results in cost reduction and value addition. The Corporation joins with the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Robert Persaud, M.B.A, M.P in urging the EU to at least stay true to its commitment to timely and adequate compensation to ensure that the GNAP is delivered.

# Developments

# New Board

- Three New Appointees

**From left:** Dr. Raj Singh, Mr. Donald Ramotar, Mr. Roger Speddy, Mr. Badrie Persaud, Chairman; Mr. Ronald Ali, A. A., Mr. Errol Hanoman, Dr. Dindyal Permaul, Mr. Keith Burrowes, and Chief Executive; Mr. Nick Jackson



**NEW**  
Board of Directors



**Raj Singh**

joined the Sugar Industry in 1975 as the Industrial Relations Officer at the Demerara Sugar Company Ltd. After the nationalization of Booker Sugar Estates and the merger of Demerara Sugar Company in 1976, Dr. Singh was appointed as the Assistant Industrial Relations Manager with the Guyana Sugar Corporation Ltd. He was later promoted to the position of Regional Industrial Relations Manager and before his departure, served as Acting Chief Industrial Relations Manager.

Over the last twenty two years, Dr. Singh was employed by several Universities in the United States including Columbia University, William Paterson University, New York Institute of Technology and City University of New York where he served as Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Associate Provost, Vice President for Campus Operations and currently as a Senior Administrator at City University of New York.

Dr. Singh holds a BA in Economics, MA in Industrial Relations and Ph.D in Industrial Relations and Human Resources Management.



**Badrie Persaud**

**Badrie Persaud**

began his working career as a Management Trainee at AINLIM, a subsidiary of the Neal & Massy group of companies. He was later confirmed as Service Manager. He later joined GUYSUICO as a Maintenance Manager where he remained until 2006.

Persaud a former member of the Board of Directors for GUYOIL until 2006, is a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Managing Director of GUYOIL and has been appointed member of the Board of Directors for GUYSUICO and Hope Coconut Estate.

Mr. Persaud holds a MSc in Agricultural Engineering.



**Keith Burrowes**

**Keith Burrowes**

was previously Finance Manager for the Guyana Co-operative and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK), General Manager for Guyana National Co-operative Bank (GNCB), Finance Director for Building Community Capacity Project (BCCP) which was funded by the Canadian Government, Administrator for PAHO/WHO and has served on several boards including GAIBANK and the Small Business Development Finance.

Mr. Burrowes is currently the Executive Director at the Health Sector Development Unit (managing IDB, World Bank and Global Funds), Chairman (Ag) to the Board of Directors for Guyana Office for Investment (GOINVEST), Chairman to the Board of Directors for Guyana National Newspaper Limited (GNNL) and a member of the Board of Directors for GUYSUICO.

Mr. Burrowes holds a Diploma in Public Management, a B.Sc. in Management, and is currently doing his M.S in Public Management Policy at the University of London.

**To Do:** *Change*

"The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress."

Charles F. Kettering

# Our People



**Ms. Janet Juman**

Ms. Janet Ann Juman, who is better known as Ms. Janet, is a coffee maid at the Head Office location. She has dedicated twenty-seven (27) years of her life to Sugar.

At 27 years she began her work life as a cleaner at the Ogle Diagnostic Centre (ODC) where she spent ten (10) years. She was later transferred around the industry until she ended up at Head Office where she remains.

Ms. Janet, a single mother of three works hard to maintain and support her children ensuring that they got the education that she missed out on during her younger days.

She laughed as she reminisced of the years at the Ogle Diagnostic Centre. As a young woman she was considered by others to be very flashy with her long hair, nails and high heels. She even recalled that many thought that she was not going to be with the Corporation for very long, but she soon proved them wrong with her twenty- seven years of service.

Ms. Janet takes pleasure in her job but she somehow cannot forget the "good old days" as she called it, working over at the Ogle Diagnostic Centre where she felt that everyone made a special attempt to make her feel welcomed when she started working there at such a tender age.

When asked if she could go back in time to change anything in her life, Ms. Janet responded "yes, I would go back to school and get my education because it is an important aspect of life, that's why I tried with my children to ensure they get a proper education." She continued "being the tenth child out of sixteen, it was difficult for my mother to send all of us to school to get an education, that's why I try with mine now."

# Health & Safety



This is the virus carried by the Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes and it is making its way in Latin America and the Caribbean creating havoc among the huge populations in those countries.

GUYSUCO, which is the largest single employer of the Caribbean, organised information sessions in mid-October to heighten employees awareness of the disease and means through which it can be identified and prevented.

The medical staff on locations are meanwhile on hand to give assistance where necessary.

Chief Medical Officer and Facilitator Dr Kissoon provided predictions of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) which reflect that by the end of 2007, one million people will be affected by Dengue Fever in Latin America and the Caribbean. Already so far this year, 630,356 cases have been registered, 11% more than 2006. Of this total, 12,147 were of severe hemorrhagic type (bleeding from gums, nostril and internal organs) and 183 people died.

Because treatment of Dengue is only symptomatic and there is no vaccine to prevent the disease, experts rely on fumigation and destroying the habitat of the Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes. Also mosquito repellants and protective clothing are additional protective measures.

The disease is characterized by high fever (up to 41°C), severe headaches, eye pains, lower-back ache and generalized severe muscular pains.

Children and adults should seek medical attention as soon as they experience the first signs of the disease.

The mosquito which causes this deadly transmission is found mostly in the tropics and lives in water receptacles. (empty container, uncovered water tanks, vases filled with water, old tyres, axils of plants etc.)

## DID U KNOW THAT...



Sugar production is a major agricultural and economic activity in Guyana since the 1600's? The Industry was privately managed by two companies -Booker Sugar Estates (9 factories, 78% output) and Demerara Co. Ltd. (2 factories, 16% output) with independent farmers accounting for 6% output. In 1976, industry was nationalised - two companies consolidated into GUYSUCO.

The Industry now comprises a Central Administrative Unit, Head Office and 5 Estates, that oversee the operations of 8 factories and their respective cultivation.

# ALCOHOLISM

By Dr. Pradeep K. Balram  
Medical Officer- ODC

Alcoholism is a chronic illness which is characterized by the consumption of alcoholic beverages at a level that interferes with mental and physical health, and family, social, or job responsibilities. Alcoholism is a form of drug addiction. There is both physical and psychological dependence. This disorder is also known as Chronic Alcoholism, Alcohol Abuse, or Alcohol Dependence. In the most severe form of this disorder, alcoholics usually experience tolerance, a need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol to achieve intoxication or the desired effect. Withdrawal symptoms are also experienced when alcohol is discontinued or intake is decreased. There is also evidence of alcohol-related illnesses.



There is no common cause of Alcoholism, although several factors can be associated with its development. These factors are: Genetic, Psychological and Social. A person of an alcoholic parent is more likely to become an alcoholic than someone whose immediate family does not have an alcohol-related problem. Psychological factors include a need for relief from stress or anxiety, depression, conflicts, and low self-esteem. Availability of alcohol, stressful or too social lifestyles, peer pressure are some of the more common social factors.

There are many serious medical effects on the body as a result of Chronic Alcoholism. Many of the body's organs and systems can be affected. The most common complications are: Cirrhosis of the liver, Peptic Ulcer Disease, Acute and Chronic Pancreatitis, Sexual Dysfunctions, Alcoholic Cardiomyopathy, Peripheral Neuropathy and Epilepsy. Many chronic diseases, e.g. Diabetes and Hypertension, are exacerbated by alcohol intake.

The social effects and problems arising out of Alcoholism can be significant. People under the influence of alcohol can be in dangerous or compromising situations where they would not be had they remain sober. Alcohol is the main factor in 50% of deaths in motor-vehicle accidents, 50% of homicides (murders), and 25% of suicides. Impaired judgement can profoundly impact all forms of relationships. Marital discord and divorce can be a result of such affected spousal relationships which are further compounded by sexual dysfunctions. Many instances of domestic violence can be attributed to an alcoholic's aggressive behaviour.

The effectiveness of treatment for Alcoholism is quite varied. Alcoholic Anonymous, support groups, counseling and rehabilitation programmes are some methods being used. The availability of such methods in Guyana is very scarce. A variety of medications can be tried as part of the treatment. The effect of most of these medications is to have the alcoholic abstain from drinking. Some of these medications include: Disulfiram, Naltrexone, Piracetam, Acamprosate, Baclofen and Sodium Oxybate.

# Production Watch



At the end of October, Sugar Production for the Second Crop had advanced to its 16th week with our eight factories amassing in excess of 121,000 tonnes of sugar.

This production is almost 15,000 tonnes below the target and Management urges that workers remain resolute in achieving their estate's target.

Unseasonal rainfall was seen as the major contributing factor to the non-achievement of crop targets at most locations, the other major hindrance to production was strike action taken by workers over issues which included pricing, work conditions, deductions and dismissal.

The three-day industry-wide strike protest by approximately 80 percent of the workforce represented by the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) in September over wages negotiations, cost the Corporation millions of dollars lost in revenue.

The matter was resolved when the Union and the Corporation agreed on an 8.5% increase in wages with effect from January 1, 2007.

With 12 weeks of grinding remaining, the call is for everyone concerned to consider the industry's current position and work together to ensure that all the canes are harvested in the remaining time available.

"Let's focus on maximizing production because we need all the sugar we can get," Marketing and Trade Director, Mrs. Nisa Surujbally encouraged, indicating that her Department had already sold forward the anticipated 182,000 tonnes of sugar that is targeted for the Second Crop. "And if we can produce more than this, we will find markets for it quite easily," she added.

Second Crop Sugar Production at the end of October, 2007 exceeds 121,000 tonnes:

Skeldon	11 340	Enmore	16 146
Albion	23 057	LBI	13 839
Rose Hall	16 433	Wales	15 557
Blairmont	16 401	Uitvlugt	8 878

