

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER GUYANA

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEBATE ON
BUDGET 2013
BY THE HON. CLEMENT J. ROHEE, M.P.
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker, Today, I would like to dedicate my presentation to the memory of two colleagues, two friends of mine and two former Members of Parliament; Rev. Dale Bisnauth and Pandit Reepu Daman Persaud.

Also, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance and his team for being so consistent in their Budget presentations. The targets set for 2013 will be accomplished in the same way as was the case in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable colleague of mine, Minister Irfaan Ali described the Honourable Member Carl Greenidge's contribution to the Debate as rambling. He said Mr Greenidge appeared to be "feeling his way around" in an effort to respond to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, soon after Mr. Greenidge's intervention, I had cause to travel into the countryside. During a walk about in one of the Villages, I met a senior citizen by the name of Mr. Rampersaud. In his own style Mr Rampersaud drew a parallel with Greenidge's presentation as a result of what he saw on the television. I was amused at the way in which he drew the parallel and made the analogy.

He said that it appeared as though Mr. Greenidge was feeling fowl batty for eggs. He said he came to that conclusion because of the way Greenidge appeared to be feeling his way around as was described by Irfaan Ali. Later in the day, I met an elderly woman, whose name is Kowsilla, she gave me her view on Mr. Greenidge's presentation; she

said it reminded her of Nat King Cole's famous song "Rambling Rose". So much for the presentation by the opening batsman from the Opposition benches.

Mr Speaker,

As I listened to the contributions in this 2013 Budget Debate, it occurred to me that both, or rather, all the political parties in Parliament are committed to a market economy.

From all appearances it appears that we have little or no differences that a market economy is the pathway for the economic and social development for Guyana.

We all seem committed to the role and place of the private sector as the engine of growth for the national economy.

We all welcome foreign direct investment, as well as foreign and local investors in partnership with each other.

Moreover, we seem to be committed to the diversification of the agricultural sector.

Further, it appears that we are all committed to the sustainable development of the forestry, mining and indeed the natural resources of our country.

At the international level from what has been said in and out of Parliament there appears little that sets us apart since the end of the cold war and the virtual disappearance of non-alignment in a world that is now basically a global village driven by the dynamics of globalization and the emergence of the Brazil, Russia, India, China

and South Africa (BRICS)..and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Nations (CELAC).

If there are any differences between the Government and the Opposition it is at the political level. Politics, it is said, is a concentrated form of economics. Thus, the economic policies of the PPP/C Administration is grounded in the exigencies of the Guyanese political and social realities which cannot be vastly different from that of the political opposition. However, it is here that the Opposition, at the political level continues to play the role of the elusive willow-the-wisp.

Our differences however, seem to be more of a tactical rather than of a strategic nature.

We differ here and there from a tactical perspective as regards the road to the economic and social development of Guyana. But this is not uncommon in an emerging or mature democracy. In fact, in most democracies this is not short of the norm.

In most democracies, charges against Government about corruption, lack of inclusivity etc; are quite common place. The point however is for both Government and Opposition to fight these maladies real or imagined.

To get to the bottom of the politics of Guyana, it is necessary to do so from a class perspective. The social stratification of Guyanese society is quite easily discernable for the purposes of scientific analysis.

From a class perspective, the various classes and social strata whom the Opposition represent are not very dissimilar from the classes and social strata represented by the PPP/C.

Moreover, the nature of the state in Guyana is one that defends and represents the interests of all classes and social strata in our society, that is why we in the PPP/C have patiently and persistently worked to establish a National Democratic State.

This National Democratic State, that I speak of is reflected in our country's consistent struggle for economic independence, peace and social progress against the pitfalls of globalization and marginalization, upholding the broad democratic rights and freedoms of the people, participation of the people in determining Government's policy, initiating social changes and the involvement of all progressive, democratic and patriotic forces in the struggle for enhanced prosperity and democracy.

The PPP/C as a political party represents all social strata and classes in society i.e. the workers; farmers, the progressive businessmen, progressive intellectuals, patriotic military and police men and women.

The progressive middle strata has a place in the National Democratic State and the 2013 Budget is a good example that demonstrates how the economic interests of this social strata manifests itself within the governance structure obtaining in the country.

The popular acclaim that there is something in the Budget for everyone is indeed a true reflection of how the interests of all classes and social strata is reflected in

the National Democratic pathway which the PPP/C has traversed since its assumption to office in 1992.

Mr Speaker,

This consultative process which is a central element of a National Democratic State continues to produce the desired results and they have had a salutary impact on policy formulation at the Central Government level. In fact, there are many aspects of this consultative process reflected in the 2013 Budget presented to this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, the policy initiatives of the PPP/C Administration have seen transformative changes in the country as well as in the lives of the Guyanese people.

We should give support to these initiatives to allow them to work and to succeed and not to throttle the process simply because these wide ranging reforms are being initiated by the PPP/C Government.

With the success of these reforms all will benefit, the entire country will benefit. My question therefore to the Opposition is “why be indifferent to these initiatives and the inherent changes?”

Why be like the five foolish virgins in the Bible who found themselves wanting, by having their lamps without oil so that when the bridegroom passed by they were unprepared to receive him.

Mr Speaker,

Consultative democracy is an integral part of the functions of the National Democratic State. The PPP/C does not await general and regional elections every five year nor annual budget debates to canvass the view of the people at the National level.

In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture has held consultations with artisanal fishermen, on major policy issues and the Ministry of Health held national consultations on a National Health Strategy.

The Prime Minister Samuel Hinds held consultations on electricity sector, the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs held consultations on the Low Carbon Development Strategy; the Ministry of Housing and Water held consultations on a National Housing Policy, The Ministry of Finance held consultations on Implementation of Infrastructure Projects, the Ministry of Environment held national consultations with stakeholders on the Environment while the Ministry of Home Affairs held national consultations on Crime and Security. Consultations are currently taking place on a National Drug Strategy Master Plan.

In contrast to this democratic process which is Government driven, the Opposition continues to engage in actions aimed at criminalizing and demonizing Government functionaries. This practice was exemplified in the Opposition shenanigans in respect to the Minister of Home Affairs.

In this regard, Mr Granger has shifted his position from casting the Minister in the role of the Rogue in Four One Act plays to a rogue in a single play:

The first play had to do with the allegation by APNU that \$90M went unaccounted for at the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect to monies allocated for the Police for election purposes.

The Auditor General's investigation and Report subsequently published, revealed that all the monies including the \$90M was fully accounted for.

The second play had to do with the events at Linden.

The Report from the Commission of Inquiry completely exonerated the Minister of Home Affairs from any involvement in the shooting incident;

The third play had to do with my Constitutional Right to speak in the National Assembly.

Here again the Constitutional Court and the Speaker of the National Assembly reaffirmed my Right as an elected Member of Parliament to speak in the National Assembly.

And the final One Act Play had to do with a shift regarding my involvement in a single event to what Mr. Granger described as my involvement in "a pattern of events" in respect to Crime and Security in Guyana.

From my vantage point, I am fully aware that the road to success is not strewn with lavender nor roses.

Neither did I arrive at any of the Ministries I served and now serve looking for plaudits by virtue of “stellar performances” nor “signs of approval”. For me, the approval or disapproval of the common man or woman is quite sufficient. And they do that every five (5) years.

When I looked at the Budget I saw what I liked and from what I understand thousands of Guyanese have found things in the Budget that they like as well. Someone spoke about making people happy to my knowledge there are thousands of our countrymen and women out there who are happy with the Budget.

Mr Speaker,

In light of the persistent criticisms by the Opposition of Government’s policy on Public Safety and Security and its efforts at conveying the impression that Crime has spiralled out of control and there is a breakdown in Law and order, it is apposite to refer to the Hansards of previous Parliamentary Budget Debates.

Regrettably, since the Hansards for the period 1985 to 1992 cannot be found at the National Assembly’s archives, reference can only be made to the 1981 to 1983 period for the purpose of comparative analysis and in order to appreciate the scope of the problem under the PNC compared to the PPP/C.

In this regard, I wish to draw attention to certain excerpts I have extracted from the Hansard on previous Budget debates in the National Assembly which I believe will help us understand what existed then and to compare with what exists now.

In this way we can determine whether we are worst off today in so far as Crime and Security is concerned.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

1981

11th Sitting 2 p.m. Thursday, 5th March 1981

Cde. Collymore

We note from the newspapers – from reports – that Guyana is up to its ears in crime and it seems that it is paying.

Cde. Collymore,

Cde. Chairman, I would like to bring to the Minister's attention that robberies appear to be very, very prevalent, and according to last year's report which was submitted to this Assembly, it seems as though the vast majority of the robberies are committed in urban areas. It means that the police force should be more equipped and more alert in urban areas.

Cde. Collymore

Cde. Chairman, I would like to bring to the Minister's attention that between 1970 and 1976 there were 744 women raped; 744 women are raped in this country. For the Minister's attention, the detection rate of rape in 1976, the last year of the report, was only 11.7 per cent. It is the poorest detection rate and the reason is primarily because the women are embarrassed to come forward.

Cde. Chairman, we are also very much perturbed over murder. We know only recently that two youths were killed and dumped in the Lamaha Canal at the back of the Gardens.

..... people must walk the land in peace. People cannot walk the land in peace.

..... some armed robberies which have resulted in killing and many people at a large say – I would like the Minister note this in particular – that these bandits are dressed in G.D.F uniforms. This is of great concern to us.

We would also like the Minister to say, in view of the serious crime situation, what his Ministry is doing to enlist the co-operation of the people to stamp it out.

Mr Stanley Moore

But it would be puerile, it would be simplistic, it would be naïve to assume that even with the most vigilant and resourceful Police Force in the world we would eliminate crime, as my friend on the other side is attempting to suggest. In the most wealthy countries in the world, in the most powerful nations on earth, there is crime and the Police can do no more than to contain crime to acceptable limits.

Mr Stanley Moore

..... So I invite my friends on the other side of the Assembly to join those committees and encourage others to do so because it is common ground between us that the police cannot do it all and any help which is forthcoming from the public is welcome.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORTS

(Vol 9)

1982

8th Sitting 2 p.m. Tuesday, 1982-04-06

Cde Collymore

..... We have to state at this point that we are very much concerned with the degree of crime which is taking place and we have been apprised that policemen are in great danger, particularly those policemen who actually have to go and apprehend criminals. Criminals are armed with sub-machine guns and policemen are sometimes at a great disadvantage.

We are particularly concerned about the increase in the use of firearms.

Since these gangsters are well armed I am concerned about the policemen

This is very serious. I had to point out that it would appear that we are losing the war against crime. I want the Minister to get up in this House and say that we are not losing the war. Of course, they won a few battles. Some people have been shot, some are in hospital. It does not

appear that we are winning the war. Therefore this is one of the points I wished to raise under Security Precautions, that the nation is insecure.

The letter also has to deal with instances of torture, instances of deaths in the police custody.

The question of the immobility of the police force bothers us. We would like to have more vehicles and again we appeal to the members on the other side if they have vehicles which they wish to make available we would welcome those. But we have begun to deploy horses in areas which are suitable, particularly in the rural areas, to traverse places where even vehicles cannot go, to deal with cattle rustling and that sort of thing, and praedial larency and therefore the overall mobility of the police force has improved. If a policeman found himself without transportation and used his resourcefulness in order to hitch a ride from a public spirited citizen, I would commend him for his present mindedness in the circumstances

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1982

2nd Sitting 2 p.m. Monday, 25th January, 1982 (Vol 9)

Cde M.A. Abraham

Citizens fear for their lives in today's Guyana as the crime rate spirals. You and I are aware of the spate of burglaries along the coast in recent times. Often these burglaries end in death of the homeowners. Survivors of gun-shot wounds in the hospital say many of the bandits appeared in G.D.F. outfits. Choke-and-rob thrives in the city unabated.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

1982

9th Sitting 2 p.m. Wednesday, 1982-04-07 (Vol 9)

Cde. Collymore

.....Only yesterday we were talking about the police and the use of maximum force in certain respects but there are those who use maximum force when there is no justification for that force.

Cde. Speaker, right now there are lots of arms at large in the country. We feel that more and more arms are at large in our society does not mean greater security for the nation.

..... the police force should take the necessary steps to see that stringent control is kept on weapons, particularly firearms.

We are urging the Minister to compile a list of the people who have firearms so that the nation will be able to review that list. People want to carry out criminal activities and therefore, rent their weapons to carryout such activities. The business community is fearful and afraid and many of them are pulling out. It appears as though the criminal gangs are concentrating their activities on businessmen.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

1983

5th Sitting 14:00 hrs Friday, 1983-02-18 (Vol 10)

Cde Collymore

..... Now what is the reason for the anti-crime efforts being so poor? Cde. Speaker, poor police pay, low morale, criminals being in the rank of the Police Force. The Commissioner promised me to weed them out but if he weeds out ten twenty fresh ones come in. Lack of public confidence in the Police Force, poor or no transportation, inadequate crime intelligence. The criminals have better intelligence than C.I.D. because they can know where the money is, when the money is coming out of the bank and when the sale is made.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1983

10th Sitting 14:00hrs Thursday, 1983-04-14 (Vol 10)

Cde Collymore

..... there is a new dimension of crime which is driving fear into the hearts of every citizen. I suppose at some time or the other, or even now, it is necessary for this high forum to make a pronouncement of our concern, of our alarm and probably of our alertness to let those know – those who are bent on making our lives miserable for other people and creating conditions of insecurity where people and their family and their children cannot just sleep and rest and walk the road in peace – that this forum will be ever watchful and if it becomes necessary legislate, to take the necessary action for all the law enforcement institutions to move with greater speed and if they are moving already, to move with greater positivity and with greater speed to bring this kind of situation which is developing and growing out of proportion in our country to a halt.

..... I think I speak for the majority of the citizens in this country at this moment – express a view on the alarming state of crime in this country so that citizens can see that we are not sitting idly by here allowing inertia to take us over, but we are remaining ever watchful over this serious development of crime and particularly the new dimension of crime in this country.

Mr Speaker,

In so far as the current Public Safety and Security situation is concerned, we have to always ensure that we strike the right balance between law enforcement and human rights.

This critical balance is to be found first and foremost in our Constitutional arrangements, in the Laws of Guyana and in the best practices of good governance carried out by the Executive in so far as the day to day lives of our people is concerned.

Any radical shift in the delicate balance between law enforcement and the fundamental human rights of the citizenry can result, on the one hand, in trampling on the rights of others or on the other hand, abuses by law enforcement against the citizenry.

The PPP/C has always sought to rigorously maintain this delicate balance between these two fundamental governance issues.

Fighting crime is but one expression/manifestation of public safety and security. It is but just one component of the bigger and the much more holistic framework of public safety and security. Once the crime fighting component is plucked for whatever reason from

the total picture we will obviously end up with a distorted picture of the true state of affairs as regards the public safety and security environment.

If we wish to determine Government's effectiveness in maintaining public safety and security; it would be wrong to take crime fighting as the sole determining factor.

Mr Speaker, listening to or reading Opposition spokespersons pronouncements on the crime situation, I am left to wonder which country they are talking about.

But I also worry, Mr. Speaker, why? Because while I accept that there must always be room for improvement in any situation, we need to be careful that in seeking to "improve" the public safety and security situation in our country we do not adopt measures reminiscent of the 1977 to 1982 period when we witnessed the implementation of certain draconian measures such as the National Security Act and the Preventative Detention Act, allowing for persons to be kept in detention by the Police for three months without trial and/or tried by a Tribunal. And further when the detention of a person for three months had ended it could be extended for another three months in an effort to bring a "greater sense of control" in favour of public safety and security.

Mr Speaker, Were this to come to pass under any future APNU/AFC Administration, I am afraid that this would disrupt the balance so carefully constructed under the PPP Administration.

Mr Speaker, There is an inter-action and inter-connection between Public Safety and Security and production and productivity at the national level.

Is there widespread fear of crime in the country? The answer is an unequivocal No!

Mr Speaker, if there is such a tremendous fear of crime in the land as the Opposition is trying to make out, how do you explain growth in the economy in general and in those critical productive sectors in particular. Take for example;

- ❖ Rice Production: We saw a five (5) percent increase in production to the tune of 422,052 tons. This is an indication that our rice farmers are hard at work and do not allow the fear of crime to prevent them from producing;

- ❖ Non Traditional Agri: The same applies to this sector. This Sector grew by 5.3 percent. This is another example which demonstrates that our cash crops

Farmers are hard at work and do not pay attention to negative propaganda on the crime situation by the Opposition;

- ❖ Also, Livestock Production grew by fifteen and one-half (15.5) percent. Another good example to show how Livestock Farmers are pushing ahead irrespective of the sensational propaganda on crime in sections of the Media.

In addition, Fisheries production grew by fifteen and one-half (15.5) percent. A clear demonstration that our fisher folk are hard at work and not daunted by acts of piracy, which affect them from time to time;

- ❖ Mining and Quarrying grew by fourteen and one-half (14.5) percent while Gold production was the highest in the history of the gold industry. These are all clear indications that notwithstanding the challenges in the interior of our country the workers in the forestry sector as well as the miners, pork knockers and all the workers in the mining industry are producing and not running away out of fear from the interior to the coast land.

Further, Manufacturing grew by two and one-quarter (2.4) percent. This shows that factory workers and other workers in the manufacturing sector are turning out to work and producing, notwithstanding the negative propaganda on the crime situation by the Political Opposition and sections of the Media.

And finally, the Services Sector saw positive growth another clear indication that workers in the services sector are hard at work and paying no attention to the sensationalization of the crime situation in Guyana.

Mr Speaker, If there was so much fear in the country and a breakdown in law and order, as the Opposition and sections of the Media are seeking to make out, how do you explain the increase in production and productivity in these key sectors? How do you explain the workers and farmers coming out in their numbers putting their shoulders to the wheel, and by dint of hard work contributing to significant increases in production and productivity resulting in another growth in the GDP.

Mr Speaker, clearly, this cannot be compared with the era under the PNC when workers were told to “produce or perish” and that there was “nothing to offer but hard work”.

I would like to remind that there was a time in that very era when some of us on both sides of the House campaigned for “People’s Power – No Dictator”.

Mr Speaker, let’s talk about “incompetence” and “ineffectiveness” at the Ministry of Home Affairs since this seems to be the mantra of the Opposition in respect to the Government’s handling of Public Safety and Security Sector.

Mr Speaker, let’s take the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is self-evident that the Ministry has experienced transformative changes over the past six years. Never in the history of

this country has that Ministry experienced such dramatic changes. Here are a few examples;

- ❖ Institutional Modernization of the Ministry of Home Affairs; at the time I came to MoHA in 2006 the complement of staff was twelve (12) however, between 2006 – 2012 the staff complement increased from twelve (12) to one hundred and twenty-seven (127). One hundred and fifteen (115) persons were recruited within six (6) years.

During the course of these six (6) years, we have established the following at the Ministry;

- ❖ A Task Force on Narcotics and Illegal Weapons;
- ❖ A Task Force on Fuel Smuggling and Contraband;
- ❖ The Task Force on Trafficking in Persons;
- ❖ A Treaty Section to address issues pertaining to Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) matters;
- ❖ The CJIA Security Committee;
- ❖ The Ogle Airport Inc Security Committee;
- ❖ A High level Policy Committee of the Crime and Social Observatory;
- ❖ The Stray Catchers' Programme, (since the introduction of the programme 2,817 animals were impounded at various Police Stations);
- ❖ The Firearms Licensing Approval Board;

Further, the Ministry has;

- ❖ Introduced the Electronic Crime Reporting System using BBM, Facebook and the internet;
- ❖ Established a Hotline for receiving complaints and concerns from the public;
- ❖ Launched the “Ipaid a bribe” website encouraging persons to report on the basis of anonymity, information on payment of a bribe for a public service rendered;
- ❖ Commenced the consultative process to formulate a successor National Drug Strategy Master Plan;;
- ❖ Adopted of an Anti-Piracy Strategy;
- ❖ Launched the first batch of Traffic Wardens to assist the Traffic Department of the Guyana Police Force;
- ❖ Expanded the Ranks of Neighbourhood Police;
- ❖ Expanded the Ranks of Community Policing Groups. Currently there are 254 groups with 4,082 members;
- ❖ Introduced the new Machine Readable Passport;

Under the Citizen Security Programme (CSP) the Ministry will soon commission the first ever state of the art Forensic Laboratory in Guyana. Fourteen civilian specialists will be recruited to work at this facility;

And eighteen (18) of the twenty-two (22) Police Stations were remodelled at a cost of \$296,599,731 under the said Programme;

Further, under the Citizen Security Programme (CSP), the Ministry of Home Affairs has provided skills training to one thousand, three hundred and seventy-seven (1,377) young people in twenty-four (24) skills in Regions 4 and 6;

- ❖ At the sametime, the MoHA has already commenced computerization of the General Register's Office;
- ❖ The Ministry will soon establish ten (10) Houses of Justice in ten (10) Villages in Regions two and three;
- ❖ To address issues of Cyber Crime and Computer Hacking, the Ministry will soon establish a National Computer Incident Response Team;

The Ministry launched an aggressive campaign against noise nuisance between 2008 –2013. During this period four hundred and sixty-five (465) cases were prosecuted;

Never in the history of the MoHA has so much data been generated by the Ministry on a monthly basis. Apart from data generated by the Guyana Police Force (GPF), the Crime and Social Observatory, established at the Ministry generates data on murders, serious crimes, sexual violence, traffic deaths and suicides, etc;

Historical, though it might be, the data provides a reliable basis for analysing trends and assisting with policy formulation.

- ❖ The Ministry has published twenty-six (26) Advisories in sections of the Media and the MOHA website. The aim is to educate citizens on their rights and obligations within the meaning of the Laws of Guyana.

In addition to the above, the MoHA has for the benefit of the public, taken the following initiatives to make available electronically, applications for Firearms Licence; applications for Machine Readable Passports; applications for Tint Waivers; and applications for employment, business, visitors and student visas on arrival.

In the not too distant future, the Ministry will make available on-line:

- applications for Birth Certificates;
- applications for Extensions of Stay, Work Permits as well as applications to be registered to be a Guyanese Citizen or a Naturalized Guyanese;

Moreover, in fulfilment of its five (5) year Strategic Plan, the Ministry will soon establish;

- ❖ A Research, Documentation and Evaluation Unit;
- ❖ A Legal and Legislative Unit;
- ❖ A Public Security Unit;
- ❖ An International and Regional Affairs Unit;

The Ministry will employ six (6) Civilian Specialists to assist in implementing the Strategic Plan of the MoHA.

As far as the Guyana Police Force is concerned, the Ministry of Home Affairs has;

- Built and commissioned four (4) new Police Outposts at a cost of \$45,252,307 bringing the number of Police Outposts to thirty-seven (37);
- Two (2) additional Police Outposts are scheduled to be completed before year end (2013);
- Purchased one hundred and ten (110) vehicles at a cost of \$520,812,772;
- Purchased seventy-two (72) motor cycles at a cost of \$47,955,778;
- Purchased twelve (12) ATVs at a cost of \$23,170,000;
- Purchased one (1) Water Cannon at a cost of \$20,800,000.00;
- Purchased nineteen (19) boats and seventeen (17) outboard motors costing \$67,098,092
- Purchased one (1) Specialised Police Outpost costing \$20,034,161.00;
- Commissioned two new Computer Laboratories in Georgetown and Berbice at a cost of \$33,676,081;

During these six (6) years the Ministry has introduced and had passed in the National Assembly;

- Twenty-six (26) pieces of Anti-Crime Legislation including ;
 - a) The Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) (Amendment) Act No. 19 of 2007 (lodging or harbouring of wanted persons);
 - b) The Hijacking and Piracy Act No. 8 of 2008;

- c) The Interception of Communications Act No. 21 of 2008;
- d) The Fugitive Offenders (Amendment) Act No. 30 of 2009 (extradition to third countries);
- e) The Private Security Services Act No. 32 of 2009;
- f) The Intoxicating Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2010 (increase in fines for having persons under sixteen (16) on licensed premises and for selling or supplying intoxicating liquor to young persons);
- g) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act No. 18 of 2011 (traffic wardens)

In addition to the above, the Ministry has played a key role with respect to:

- The installation of forty-eight (48) traffic lights at major junctions in the City;
- The installation of one hundred and thirty-two (132) cameras at key points in the City;

With the assistance of the IDB, the Ministry of Home Affairs has:

- Established the Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS) linking through a wide area network forty-eight (48) of the seventy-two (72) Police Stations across the country with Force Headquarters, CANU, the Guyana Prison Service Headquarters, all prison locations as well as with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Added to this, the MoHA has established a Crime and Social Observatory to gather and analyse data on serious crime, as well as the social impact and the causes of crimes;

In addition to the above, the MoHA in collaboration with the Guyana Police Force launched a five (5) year Strategic Plan for the Force. In this regard, ten (10) civilian specialists will be employed to roll out the said Plan.

Under the Citizen Security Programme (CSP) the Ministry has completed the construction and will soon commission a new Police Officers' Training Academy in Kingston;

The Ministry in collaboration with the Guyana Police Force has resuscitated the Felix Austin Police Training Schools at Adventure on the Corentyne and at Suddie on the Essequibo Coast;

Polygraphing of more than three hundred (300) Law Enforcement Officers has taken place over the past four (4) years on the initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs;

The Ministry has commenced steps to establish for the first time, an Aeronautical Branch of the Guyana Police Force;

On the initiative of the Ministry, Cabinet has approved the renaming of the Guyana Police Force to the Guyana Police Service;

The Ministry of Home Affairs facilitated through the OAS the procurement of Firearm Marking Equipment for the GPF. To date, two thousand, eight hundred and eighteen (2,818) firearms belonging to civilians were marked;

In respect of the Guyana Fire Service between 2006 – 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs

- ❖ Commissioned three (3) new Fire Stations at a cost of \$58,351,767;
- ❖ The Ministry is in the process of a building of a new Training School at Leonora which has attracted a cost of \$68,829.849 thus far. Phase 111 of this project will commence in 2013;
- ❖ Procured thirty-three (33) new Fire Trucks costing G\$278,446,618 In addition, two hundred and seventeen (217) new Recruits were enlisted to the Guyana Fire Service; including eleven (11) Apprentices. As a consequence, the fixed establishment of the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) moved from 368 to 511;

After an absence of thirty-six (36) years, the Ministry initiated the establishment and recruitment of Auxiliary Ranks for the Guyana Fire Service. Six-four (64) trained Auxillaries are now in place at various outposts across the country.

Further, the Ministry initiated the establishment for the first time of a Welfare Department at the Guyana Fire Service;

On the initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Cabinet approved a change of name from the Guyana Fire Service to Guyana Fire and Rescue Service. Between 2006 and 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs procured equipment for the Guyana Fire Service to the tune of G\$276,005,000. Moreover, G\$126,980,000 worth of items for the stores was procured for the Guyana Fire Service.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member Winston Felix delivered a lecture to this Honourable House about the Fire Service.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to advise this Honourable House what the Fire Service under the PNC Administration.

Currently, the Ministry is working with the GFS to develop a New Strategic Plan for the Service.

Finally, as regards the Guyana Prison Service, the Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the procurement and placement for the first time of CCTV cameras at all Prison locations;

Further, for the first time in the history of the Guyana Prison Service (GPS) scanners were procured and placed at the reception of all Prison locations.

The Ministry secured funds for the construction of a new Prison Block at the Georgetown Prison. This new Block has since been completed;

The construction of a first ever Training School building for the Guyana Prison Service was completed in 2012.

Further, the Ministry has provided funds for the rehabilitation of Trade Shops at all Prison locations. The rehabilitation of the Trade Shops is ongoing..

In addition to the above, the Ministry has provided the resources for the employment of School Teachers at all Prison locations. This has since been realized. Moreover, Medical Doctors are being recruited with the approval of Cabinet at all Prison locations;

On the initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Trade Instructors have been employed at all Prison locations;

Over the recent years the Ministry of Home Affairs has encouraged the GPS to place greater emphasis on Correctional Services, while not de-emphasizing its Custodial Services.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided the funds for the rehabilitation of the kitchen facilities at all Prison locations. Steps have already been taken to implement this measure.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided increased resources to the GPS with a view to increasing agricultural production to make the Prisons self-sufficient in food production.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has worked with the Guyana Prison Service to establish for the first time ever a Sentence Management Board; an Agricultural Development Board and a Training Board.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs a five (5) year Strategic Plan for the GPS was formulated and adopted. In this connection, four (4) civilian Specialists are to be employed to assist with the implementation of the said Plan;

The Ministry of Home Affairs has encouraged the Guyana Prison Service to relocate all Remand and First Time Offenders, eighteen (18) years and above to the Lusignan Prison. It is the objective of the Ministry to have the Lusignan Prison transformed to a modern Remand Prison.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Cabinet has approved the renaming of the Guyana Prison Service to the Guyana Prison and Correctional Service.

Mr Speaker this is the first Budget Debate that is taking place since the Linden events and the wrongful accusations that were levelled against me. I wish to rest my case and to quote from an Indian movie called "Sholay" a movie associated with the celebration of Phagwah. In that movie one friend tells the other, "If you want to be an honourable man you have to pay a price. Mr. Speaker, "I am prepared to pay that price". Thank you.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

#	SUBJECT	AMOUNT
1	For the last eight years of PNC Government – 1985-1992	\$2.2 billion
2	For the first eight years of PPP/C Government – 1993-2000	\$14.8 billion
3	The second eight years of PPP/C Government – 2001-2008	\$38.4 billion

EXPENDITURE FOR THE TOTAL SECURITY SECTOR

#	SUBJECT	AMOUNT
1	For the last eight years of PNC Government – 1985-1992	\$3.9 billion
2	For the first eight years of PPP/C Government – 1993-2000	\$26.1 billion
3	The second eight years of PPP/C Government – 2001-2008	\$68.2 billion

TOTAL SECURITY EXPENDITURE

(as a percentage of the National Budget)

#	SUBJECT	AMOUNT
1	For the last eight years of PNC Government – 1985-1992	4.7 percent
2	For the first eight years of PPP/C Government – 1993-2000	7.3 percent
3	The second eight years of PPP/C Government – 2001-2008	9.6 percent