

## **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana**

Today's activity is very significant not only for Guyana but for the Private and Security Sectors of the Country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, conscious of the need for better collaboration with the Tourism Sector of Guyana, initiated action in 2009 to develop meaningful cooperation between the organization representing the Tourism Sector, (the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is conscious of the contribution the Tourism Industry is making to the development of this country.

Further, the indications are that this sector is growing at an appreciable rate. In order to aid the development of tourism in the country, there must be in place adequate security arrangements to protect our tourists. This would require our Law Enforcement Officials to be trained in addressing issues that may affect the wellbeing of our visitors.

Additionally, members of the Security Sector must be sensitized of the peculiarities of tourism. We have to ensure that our security environment is conducive to the attraction of tourists

Concomitantly, we have to ensure that our Tourism Sector is not exploited by unsavory elements. This would require the establishment of systems and procedures by the Tourism Sector and the Security Sector of the country to protect the tourism product.

The challenge we in Guyana are likely to face, is the uniqueness of our strategy on tourism which is largely focused on eco tourism. The presence of the high representatives of THAG at this signing ceremony is a demonstration of the commitment of that organization to the development of cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs and THAG.

This Memorandum of Understanding, which also has the full support of the Ministry Tourism, Industry and Commerce of Guyana and the Guyana Police Force, will set the tone for an increased level of cooperation which will benefit all stakeholders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs avails itself to provide support to THAG in its efforts at making Guyana a significant tourist destination in our Region.