



Welcome to the

GYEITI

NEWSLETTER

In this issue, we will update you on the following:

- 1. Consultations held in preparation for the report for Fiscal Year 2020**
 - GYEITI Secretariat with Government Agencies
 - Independent Administrator with Guyana Revenue Authority
 - Independent Administrator with Government Agencies
- 2. EITI Board Lifts Guyana's Suspension**

GYEITI SECRETARIAT WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

On Tuesday, January 31, a consultation was done by the GYEITI Secretariat with Government Agencies in preparation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Report. This session was done at the Guyana Forestry Commission Multiplex.

This session was attended by over 30 participants from ten Government Agencies as outlined below:

1. Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA)
2. Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
3. Guyana Gold Board (GGB)
4. Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA)
5. Ministry of Finance (MoF)
6. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
7. National Insurance Scheme (NIS)
8. Pesticides and Toxic Chemical Control Board (PTCCB)
9. National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL)
10. Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
11. Department of Fisheries (DoF)

The main objective of this session was to brief the Government Agencies on the requirements in preparation for the visit by the Independent Administrator (IA) who will be preparing the FY 2020 Report.

It must be noted that Guyana was temporarily suspended by the EITI Board on February 01, 2023, for failing to publish its FY 2020 EITI Report which was due on December 31, 2022.

Based on the EITI Standard, an agreement was made to lift the suspension if the EITI Board was satisfied that the outstanding EITI Report was published within six months of the deadline. Hence the deadline was June 2023.

Thus, the session with Government Agencies was essential for preparatory works to begin so as to avoid any delays.

Essential outcomes from the session are outlined below:

- The identification of two liaisons from each Government Agency and obtaining their contact details
- The commitment by the identified liaisons to attend the IA Workshop
- Briefing the heads of each agency as to the necessary preparation, magnitude of work, deadlines and obtaining a commitment for their cooperation
- Identifying challenges from previous FY Reports
- Edifying all participants on the EITI and GYEITI

The presentations outlined the following:

- Overview of EITI and GYEITI
- Overview of the Multi Stakeholder Group (MSG), their roles and functions
- Timelines for the arrival of the IA and subsequent consultations
- Role of the Reporting Templates used by the IA
- Findings from Guyana's 2019 Validation Assessment Report
- Corrective measures identified from the Validation Report

Some challenges identified by participants are:

- Templates are tedious to fill and forms are complex
- Formatted data not readily available
- They are not in a position to sign off templates
- They never had one-on-one with consultant or IA
- They did not participate in preparatory workshop with the consultant or IA



- The MSG / Secretariat can create a template for the senior managers to use for the purpose of signing off on data submitted
- They cannot afford to allocate a dedicated staff as there are other critical matters to address and their human resources are limited
- The need to build capacity at the agency
- They cannot cross reference with the data base e.g., NIS and Deeds Registry use different identifiers for the same business / company
- The matter of confidentiality of information by the GRA has to be addressed

A commitment was given by GYEITI Secretariat to have all issues addressed and the necessary communication channels were established to action same.

The session was very successful and all participants committed their full cooperation in getting the FY 2020 Report published so that Guyana's suspension could be lifted.





INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR WITH GUYANA REVENUE AUTHORITY

On Wednesday, March 01, a consultation was done by the IA with senior members of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) in preparation for the FY 2020 Report.

This meeting was held at the Deputy Commissioner General's boardroom and attended by:

GRA:

- Miss Hema Khan - Deputy Commissioner-General
- Miss Nicole Williams - Assistant Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Programme Planning, Risk Management & Advisory Large Taxpayers Division
- Miss Jevina McLennan - Manager
- Miss Sharon Carrington - Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue

BDO LLP:

- Mehdi Mellah - Junior Manager, IFI Maghreb (Middle East Desk)
- Rakesh Latchana - Managing Partner, BDO Guyana

GYEITI Secretariat:

- Miss Rajdai Jagarnauth - Senior Administrator
- Mr. Renrick Ramgobin - Information and Data Analyst

Main points discussed:

- GRA's role in the FY 2020 Report
- Use of Taxpayers' Identification Numbers (TIN) as a unique identifier
- GRA's Confidentiality Clause
- The need for waivers for companies within the scope
- Timely submission of data
- Need for disaggregated data submission
- Need for agency heads to sign off on data submission

The meeting was very productive as pertinent issues were communicated and a commitment was given by all parties involved to ensure the necessary work is done in a timely manner to have the **FY 2020 Report published before the deadline.**

Note: Similar meetings were held with other Government Agencies such as the Ministry of Finance, NIS, EPA etc.



INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

On Monday, March 06, the IA held an interactive workshop with all Government Agencies that were required to submit Reporting Templates for FY 2020 Report. The main purpose of the workshop was to edify the participants on how to correctly complete the Reporting Templates.

During a series of prior meetings held by the IA, it was discovered that there was difficulty in understanding the complex Reporting Templates.

Hence, this workshop sought to address those issues and to offer clarity on the very important task of completing the Reporting Templates.

This session was held at the Herdmanston Lodge oval room and was facilitated by Mr. Mehdi Mellah of BDO LLP and Mr. Rakesh Latchana of BDO Guyana. Other senior members of BDO LLP also participated via zoom and the GYEITI Secretariat provided logistical support.

Thirty-two participants attended this session from the Government Agencies listed below:

- GRA
- GGMC
- GGB
- NIS
- EPA
- BoS
- NICIL
- DoF
- GFC

Some points raised during the workshop are outlined below:

- Formatting issues with the Reporting Template e.g., incorrect fiscal year
- Some parts of the Reporting Templates were not applicable to all reporting agencies
- The Reporting Template was difficult to print
- Clarity sought on who should sign the Reporting Template
- Protocol for submission of the Reporting Templates sought
- Clarity on the role of the Auditor General sought
- Numerous agencies highlighted the need to simplify the Reporting Templates for future reports
- Sufficient time to complete the Reporting Templates was requested
- Support sought for future clarifications and queries with respect to completing the Reporting Templates

This consultation was very successful as pertinent issues highlighted were addressed and open lines of communication were established to facilitate additional support.





EITI BOARD LIFTS GUYANA'S SUSPENSION

Guyana was temporarily suspended by the EITI Board on February 01, 2023, for failing to publish its FY 2020 EITI Report which was due on December 31, 2022.

Based on the EITI Standard, an agreement was made to lift the suspension if the EITI Board was satisfied that the outstanding EITI Report was published within six months of the deadline.

Guyana successfully published its FY 2020 EITI Report on June 30, 2023, and as a result, the EITI Board lifted Guyana's suspension. This was done via:

- Decision reference 2023-30 / BC-338
- Decision basis, EITI Articles of Association 2016-2019, Article 12

Hence, Guyana is no longer under temporary suspension and work has commenced on publishing the FY 2021 EITI Report on or before Sunday, December 31, 2023.

See details at: <https://eiti.org/board-decision/2023-30>

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Thank You for Reading!