**Meeting Notes**

**Date:** 24th July 2025
**Subject:** Meeting with Amerindian Affairs Permanent Secretary
**Start Time:** 11:25 AM

**Attendees**

**Amerindian Affairs:**

* **Ryan Toolsiram** – Permanent Secretary (PS)
* **Miriam Andrew-Ming** – Attorney-at-Law

**Regional Project Officers:**

* **Adreana Welcome** – Region 10
* **Elisa Basca** – Acting Project Coordinator, Region 7
* **Nasium Mohammed** – Region 8
* **Kurt Perum** – Officer for Coastal Areas

**Secretariat:**

* **Dr. Prem Misir**
* **Anele Barton**
* **Richard Budhu**

**Meeting Highlights**

* Dr. Prem Misir introduced the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI).
	+ Emphasized that GYEITI functions as an independent administrator but receives funding via the Ministry of Natural Resources.
	+ Discussed the origins of the EITI, the concepts of corruption, Dutch Disease, and the Natural Resource Curse, and how GYEITI’s work helps counter these issues.
	+ Outlined EITI requirements and the validation process.

**Discussion Points**

* Permanent Secretary (PS):
	+ Found the information valuable.
	+ Recommended that campaign-related communication be led by either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Natural Resources.
	+ Stated that Amerindian Affairs has been submitting GYEITI-related reports since March 2018.
	+ Noted no payments have been received from the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) to date.
	+ Shared that in 2020, GYD 1.7 billion was allocated to the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) as a COVID-19 investment relief.
	+ Suggested Elisa Basca be the designated officer to present on the ADF.
	+ Will follow up with GYEITI on scheduling this presentation.
* **Dr. Misir:**
	+ Confirmed that GYEITI’s "champion" is the Minister, agreeing with the PS’s comments.
	+ Mentioned that USD 5 million was allocated to the ADF.
	+ Proposed that a designated staff member present details on the ADF.
	+ Encouraged greater integration of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MOAA) into the GYEITI process.
	+ Suggested MOAA representation in the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) meetings.
* **Miriam Andrew-Ming:**
	+ Highlighted that the Ministry has compiled reports on mining.
	+ Raised concern that the realities on the ground are not widely known, especially regarding resource authority in villages.
	+ Emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in all projects concerning the MOAA.

**Meeting Ended:** 24th July 2025