

BRIEFING BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. BRINDLEY HORATIO ROBESON BENN, MP TO OFFICERS OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE, THE GUYANA PRISONS SERVICE AND THE GUYANA FIRE SERVICE AT THE POLICE OFFICERS' TRAINING CENTRE AT 09:00 HRS ON SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST, 2020

On Saturday 15th August, 2020 at 09:00 hrs the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Brindley Horatio Robeson Benn, MP, held a brief at the Police Officers' Training Centre, Camp Road, Georgetown. Present at the briefing were Commissioner of Police (ag) Mr. Nigel Hoppie, DSM, Director of Prisons Mr. Gladwin Samuels, DSM, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Kalamdeen Edoe, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Paul Williams, DSM, Deputy Director of Prisons, Mr. Nicklon Elliot, (ag) Deputy Commissioner 'Operations', along with Divisional/Branch Commanders and other Senior and Junior officers drawn from the three organisations first mentioned.

The main purpose of the Minister's brief was to outline his Policy for the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Prisons Service and the Guyana Fire Service with emphasis on the Guyana Police Force. In outlining his policies, the Honourable Minister elaborated on the following points:

- i. Police posture and conduct during the COVID19 pandemic and the need for ranks to exercise consideration in dealing with the Public at all times, while simultaneously protecting themselves and citizens from COVID19.
- ii. The need for Police to exercise impartiality and sensitivity in the execution of their duties, noting that Guyana is made of people from diverse religious, social and racial background. The Honourable Minister charged that all, without exception, be treated fairly and equally - embracing Guyana's motto of "One People, One Nation, One Destiny".
- iii. The need for Police to continuously re-assess their performance and set targets to consistently improve their output and effectiveness.
- iv. The implementation of a 10-points improvement strategy for all Divisions, Branches and Departments within the three Services. The Honourable Minister also urged that the strategy be cascaded to every Station and every section within the three Services.
- v. The need for consistent individual improvement through introspection and appropriate corrective action.
- vi. The need to implement a mechanism that allows feedback from members of the public as to their perception of the quality of service offered, especially by the Guyana Police Force.
- vii. The need to assess and improve on the treatment of prisoners in custody.
- viii. The need to retrain and reengage errant ranks for behavioural correction as a first step.
- ix. The need for the Guyana Police Force to improve and build on the Public's confidence.

- x. The need for ranks to be equipped with the appropriate tools and training when responding to scenes of accidents and incidents.

The Honourable Minister reassured the officers attending of his Government's commitment to equipping the organisations under his Ministry with the right tools and targeted training to guarantee improved service delivery to all Guyana.

The Honourable Minister thanked everyone in attendance and wish them well.

In response to the Minister's charge and policy outline for the organisations present, Commissioner of Police (ag), Mr. Nigel Hoppie, DSM, on behalf of the officers and ranks of the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Prisons Service and the Guyana Fire Service, thanked the Honourable Minister for his attendance and sought to assure him that his brief has been noted and very much appreciated.

Mr. Hoppie went on to indicate to the Honourable Minister that as early as the new week, he and his team will craft an action plan for operationalization of the policies set out by him and his Ministry. These policies according to Commissioner of Police (ag), will certainly boost the Force's five point strategy of Operations Improvement, People and Infrastructural Development, Improved and Increased Partnership and Performance Evaluation as set out in the strategic plan of 2019 – 2021.