



Private Sector Commission of Guyana Ltd.

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PRESS RELEASE

PSC Intensifies Fight Against Illegal Trade Through Informative Session and Equipment Handover

Georgetown, Guyana, July 17, 2026: The Private Sector Commission of Guyana Ltd. (PSC), through its Illicit Trade Desk, hosted a targeted informative session and equipment handover aimed at strengthening enforcement capacity and enhancing collaboration among the private sector, government agencies, and other stakeholders in the fight against illegal trade.

The event, held yesterday at the Roraima Duke Lodge, brought together representatives from the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU), and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), along with representatives of leading private sector companies, including Demerara Tobacco Company (DEMTOCO), Banks DIH, Massy Distribution, and the ANSA McAL Group.

The session focused on equipping enforcement officers with the practical knowledge and tools needed to identify illicit and counterfeit products, understand supply chain vulnerabilities, and strengthen intelligence-sharing practices. Industry representatives delivered comprehensive presentations featuring recent market research, case studies, and insights to help attendees better understand the growing challenge of illicit trade in Guyana, its impact on businesses and consumers, and effective methods for detecting and responding to illicit trade activities.

Speaking at the event, Chairman of the Private Sector Commission, Capt. Gerald Gouveia Jr., emphasized that illegal trade continues to pose significant challenges to legitimate businesses, consumer protection, and national economic development.

"Combating illegal trade requires a coordinated and sustained effort from both the public and private sectors. The Private Sector Commission remains committed to working alongside government, enforcement agencies, and our private sector partners to strengthen enforcement, improve coordination, and promote practical solutions that protect businesses and the wider economy," Chairman Gouveia said.

A key highlight of the event was the formal handover of operational equipment, including tactical suits, flashlights, flotation and ballistic vests, safety boots, and LED traffic wand batons.



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The equipment is intended to enhance operational effectiveness, improve situational awareness, and strengthen the capacity of officers engaged in anti-illicit trade activities.

Representatives from participating companies reinforced the importance of collaboration in addressing the challenges posed by illegal trade within their respective industries and highlighted the value of sustained engagement between industry and enforcement agencies.

The PSC reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its work with government agencies, enforcement authorities, and private sector stakeholders to develop sustainable solutions that strengthen enforcement, improve coordination, and reduce the impact of illegal trade in Guyana. The Commission also looks forward to continued dialogue with the enforcement agencies on this issue and to the establishment of a dedicated task force to advance coordinated action against illegal trade.

The event concluded with a networking reception, providing participants with an opportunity to foster stronger partnerships, continue discussions on the issue, and identify future areas of collaboration.

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