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Chambers

*Director of Public Prosecutions,
P.O. Box 1031,
Georgetown,
Guyana*

29th May, 2024

DPP'S CHAMBERS PRESS RELEASE – New \$65M DPP's Office Commissioned in Region 2

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mrs. Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC has commended the Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for bringing to fruition a new office space and housing facility for the DPP's Chambers on the Essequibo Coast, Region 2.

Situated at Onderneeming, the \$65 million two-storey building will house the resident State Counsel who is prosecuting in the Essequibo Criminal Assizes and an office to accommodate members for the public who wish to seek redress on criminal matters.

In her brief remarks to commission the building on May 29, 2024, Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs. Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC, spoke of benefits that the spanking new office will bring to residents of the Essequibo Coast and its Riverine communities. *"No longer will they have to travel for long hours, they will not have to cross two rivers, the Essequibo and the Demerara Rivers to get to our office at Kingston Georgetown to file complaints and seek our assistance on criminal issues, they will be able to do so now in comfort, right here on the Essequibo Coast."* The DPP explained that as the need arises, the DPP's Office Communications Officer will travel to the Region to meet one-on-one with complainants and other aggrieved residents on **criminal** issues to take their complaints.

The DPP expressed her sincere gratitude to the Government of Guyana and the IDB for recognizing the need to establish an office in Region 2 where in recent years, there has been an upsurge in criminal activities involving Murders and Domestic Violence including Sexual Violence.

During her remarks to the gathering which included school children, Madam DPP urged them to focus on their education and not to get involved in criminal activities. *"Do not commit any wrongs and find yourself in conflict with the law,"* she admonished them.

In his opening remarks at the simple but significant ceremony, Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Mohabir Nandlall, SC, spoke of the importance of the newly commissioned Office in Region 2.

He noted that all across the country, thousands of Guyanese seek justice, fair treatment, equal in treatment and justice in accordance with the law. Justice and the Rule of Law, he said, are as important and indispensable as any other right and freedom to which citizens are entitled, *"that is why we have to*

ensure you have access to the institutions and the adjunct institutions and the Office of the DPP is one of those institutions.”

IDB’s Country Director Lorena Salazar stated that the new building aligns with the IDB’s commitment to support the GOG’s efforts to improve access to justice and ensure that the administration of justice can be seen and experienced throughout every corner of Guyana.

She pointed to the 2023 Needham’s Point Declaration on Criminal Justice Reform, which focused on the administration of the criminal justice, including unreasonably long periods spent on remand. She noted that a piece-meal approach to criminal justice reform will not effectively address the increasing levels and complexity of criminality and will not produce effective and sustainable improvements to the criminal justice system.

This IDB funded project culminates in helping to achieve and to improve the state’s capacity to effectively and efficiently indict and sanction offenders through the Department of Public Prosecution. This new building symbolizes the dedication to these reforms. It provides an efficient space where legal professionals can work towards fairer and more effective justice for all.

The Declaration urged for provision of adequate human, financial, and other resources to criminal justice institutions and agencies including and in particular, the police, the judiciary and prison services and prosecution services.

Officiating at the simple ribbon-cutting ceremony were Minister of Legal Affairs, Attorney-General Minister Anil Mohabir Nandlall, SC, Madam DPP, Mrs. Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC and IDP’s Director Lorena Salazar.

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