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Chambers

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

25th July, 2024

DPP's CHAMBERS - OUTREACH TO MOCURA, SUB-REGION 1

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on Monday 22nd July, 2024 collaborated with the Canadian based Justice Education Society (JES) to conduct a one-day Outreach Meeting with the newly elected Toshao and Senior Councilors of Santa Rosa, Mocura in Sub-Region 1.

During the presentation, Communications Officer Liz Rahaman presented copies of the Sexual Offences Act and the Domestic Violence Act to Toshao Raul Hendricks, who expressed his deep appreciation and undertook to read and discuss the Acts with his Village Councilors to sensitize them and by extension, the villagers, on what the Acts stipulate in relation to Sexual and Domestic Violence.

State Counsel Joy Williams explained in simple terms the elements that constitute sexual offences. She touched on the more prevalent acts of *Rape, Sexual Activity with a Child Family Member, Sexual Activity with A Child Under 16 years, Sexual Activity with a Child by Abusing A Position of Trust, Meeting a Child under 16 Years following Sexual Grooming and Close in Age Defence*

She further spoke to the offence of Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

Based on the numbers of police files that are forwarded to the DPP's Chambers for legal advice, Sexual and Domestic Violence are common, especially in rural and remote riverine communities.

Ms. Williams stressed the importance to Toshao Hendricks and his Councilors of reporting all criminal activities that occur in the Santa Rosa Community to the police at the Acquero Police Station. Crimes must be reported, they must be investigated thoroughly by the police and then the police file will be sent to "us" for legal advice, she emphasized.

Councilors expressed their concern on the length of time it takes for police investigations to conclude and by extension, matters to be proceed with for prosecution in the courts. These concerns were adequately addressed by Ms. Williams when she explained the procedures that must be adhered to when criminal matters are placed before the courts for prosecution.