

Hon. Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali
Executive President of Guyana
Office of the President,
Shiv Chanderpaul Drive
Bourda
Georgetown

May 22, 2023

Your Excellency

Re: Request for an urgent meeting with representatives of the African Guyanese community

The African Guyanese cluster of seven main organizations as identified by Parliament is seeking an urgent meeting with you to discuss the current political, social and economic state of affairs of Guyana, our position within it, and how we can work together with our government in a context of mutual respect, trust and confidence to address the problems that confront our people and country.

As the official elected representative of the cluster I've called for a new non-political, non-confrontational approach to engaging with our government on issues that affect the African Guyanese community and have asked the organizations to identify and send forward representatives who can function within that context, whose names I've attached.

Given the recent intervention by the government, at the request of a large portion of the membership, into the affairs of the International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly Guyana IDPADA-G and the subsequent protestations of IDPADA-G's executive to the United Nations Human Rights Council at Geneva, the national and international perception of your government that is being crafted is one that does not wish to see African Guyanese come together to organize ourselves for progress and development and is prepared to crush any attempt in that direction.

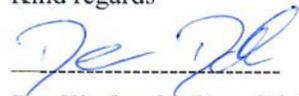
We do not subscribe to that view and think that there exists on your part the essential goodwill to see the community progress, however, you find yourself in the same predicament that the previous government faced, a problem that even they with the power and resources at their disposal could not solve, that is, a community that lacks the essential and relevant internal organization and leadership that could collaborate with the government to help the community.

Consequently, we would like to propose a solution to our mutual benefit, one that would see us counter that negative national and international perception of our government and bring the

African Guyanese community in line with the national program for development. We suggest that the President meets with the representatives of the African Guyanese community to set up an African Guyanese Development Committee with oversight by the Ministry of Governance that would have several important functions; namely, spend the first six months crafting an African Guyanese development plan that will be fully aligned and integrated into the government's national development plan and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, which in addition to its own projects and programmes, would then invite, approve, and monitor, project proposals from the African Guyanese community in line with that plan; serve as a conduit for channeling African Guyanese into programmes and projects being executed under all the relevant ministries of government; and propose policy adoption and implementation that can benefit the African Guyanese community etc.

This will send a strong message to the naysayers within the African Guyanese community, turn the table on those protesting at the United Nations, allow us to reach and mobilize the African Guyanese community within the context of your program for national development and more importantly remove the community from the influence of their previous political misleadership.

Kind regards



Ras Khafra aka Deon Dick
Commissioner
Ethnic Relations Commission

Cc: Hon. Ms. Gail Teixeira, Minister of Governance & Parliamentary Affairs

List of Names of African Guyanese Representatives to Meet with Government

1. Ras Khafra - Ethnic Relations Commission ERC
2. Ms. Nicole Cole - Women & Gender Equality Commission WGEC
3. Dr. Eric Phillips - African Cultural & Development Association ACDA
4. Ms. Pearl McClean - Pan African Movement Guyana PAN-AF
5. Ras Richard Taylor - Guyana Rastafari Council GRC
6. Ras Oswald Rogers - House of Nyahbinghi HoN