



### **36 Land Leases Distributed to Kildonan/Nurney Residents**

**Georgetown, Guyana- (February 20, 2020)-** Thirty-six residents of Nurney/Kildonan, in region six, on Thursday received leases from Commissioner and Chief Executive of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission Mr. Trevor L. Benn, and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Commission, Mrs. Paulette Henry.

The leaseholders will now have access to state lands aback Nurney/Kildonan known as third and fourth-depth.

Mr. Benn and a team from the Commission first engaged the residents in 2016 after letters were sent by the residents requesting the Commissioner to look into their concerns. Most of the residents have been waiting for their applications to be processed under the previous land tenure regularization programme during the early 2000s.

Delivering remarks to the new leaseholders, Commissioner and Chief Executive of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Mr. Trevor L. Benn said after several rounds of consultations to verify the claims made by the residents, the Commission began to process applications for the residents. “Unfortunately, we were not able to deliver to everyone who made a claim, we had to verify these claims, we had to go through the system to understand what is going on on the ground and so on, but I am happy that for most of you we are able to give you some hope for your future.” Mr. Benn said.

Commissioner Benn, reminded the residents that title to land is important to their economic well-being. “Once you are in receipt of these titles for the land, it is an expectation that you will put it to economic use, it is for your benefit and we hope that you will ensure that it is productively utilized.” Mr. Benn charged.



Photo Caption: Commissioner and CEO of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Mr. Trevor L. Benn, to his left, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Commission Mrs. Paulette Henry, and Mr. Durwin Humphrey, Manager of the Commission's Secretariat

Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Commission, Mrs. Paulette Henry in Brief Remarks, said that she is pleased that the Commission was able to address the concerns of the majority of the residents in such a short space of time. "I am extremely pleased that the Commission has been able to deliver, I know many of you had the issue of not having your leases and access to your land, but we are very pleased that we were able to fix this for you. I am urging you to kindly start working the land to ensure that it is properly utilized, this is the President's vision." The board chair said.



Photo Caption: Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Commission, Mrs. Paulette Henry

### **First time leaseholders**

The new leaseholders expressed gratitude to the Commission for addressing their issues after years of waiting. Mr. Campton Collins a first-time leaseholder from Kildonan, said it was an emotional day for him. As a farmer, Mr. Collins said he has been waiting to be a landowner to expand his business. "I feel so happy right now, I cannot explain how I feel to have my lease for the very first time." Mr. Collins related.



Photo caption: first time leaseholder Mr. Campton Collins receiving his lease from Commissioner Benn and Chairperson Mrs. Henry.

Another first-time leaseholder Ms. Marphy Albert was elated to receive her lease for the very first time. The eight-four-year-old woman said she is into farming but will pass the baton to her children and grandchildren. “The plan for the land is that the young ones can make use of it, work the lands and feed the family and make a living.” “I am the old one and I fight to get it so now it is for the younger ones to make use of it.” Ms. Albert added. Another resident, Mr. Michael Patterson, said he feels that he was well rewarded having gone through the process to get his lease. “There were lots of uncertainties involved along the way but I am satisfied and I feel elated to know that we are now recipients and guardian of our ancestral lands.”



Photo Caption: Ms. Marphy Albert receives her lease from Mrs. Paulette Henry



**Some of the new leaseholders pose for a photo with Mr. Trevor Benn, Mrs. Paulette Henry and Mr. Durwin Humphrey.**

The other leaseholders expressed gratitude to Commissioner Benn and team. Mr. Benn, has also announced that a similar exercise is plan for the neighboring village of Limlair.

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