

2020

The Supreme Court of Judicature Annual Report



Supreme Court
Georgetown

❖ **OUR MISSION**

To uphold the rule of law and provide access to and timely delivery of justice in a fair, transparent and efficient manner.

❖ **OUR VISION**

Encouraging and maintaining public trust and confidence through an independent, effective and accountable judicial system.

❖ **CORE VALUES**

- ACCESSABILITY
- FAIRNESS
- EQUALITY
- INTEGRITY
- TIMELINESS
- IMPARTIALITY
- RESPONSIVENESS

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THE LEADERSHIP OF THE JUDICIARY



Hon. Justice Mme. Yonette Cummings-Edwards, OR, CCH, The Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag)

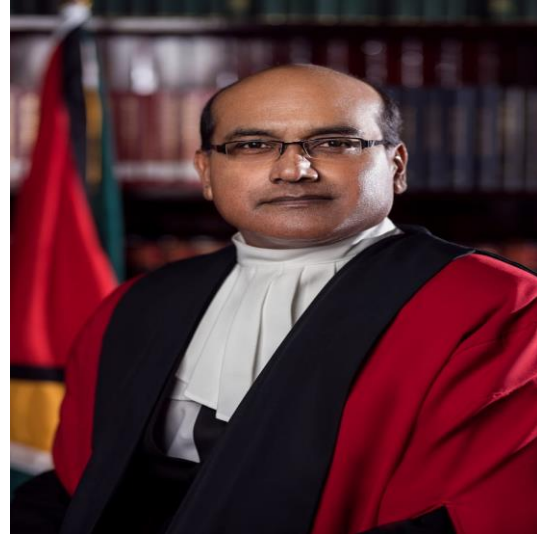


Hon. Justice Mme. Roxane George, CCH, SC, The Chief Justice of the Judiciary (ag)

THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL



Hon. Justice Dawn Gregory, Justice of Appeal



Hon. Justice Deo Rishi Persaud, Justice of Appeal

COURT OF APPEAL



The Court of Appeal, Kingston Georgetown- Guyana

THE JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURTS



*Hon. Justice Brassington
Reynolds, Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Diana Insanally,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Franklyn Holder,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Nareshwar
Harnanan, Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Navindra Singh,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Sandra Kurtzious,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Priya Sewnarine-
Beharry, Puisne Judge*



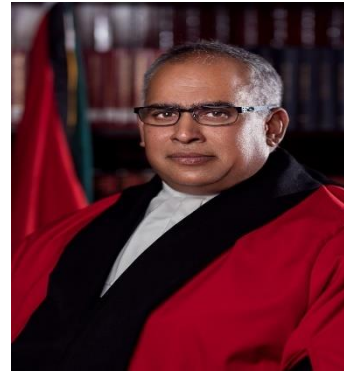
*Hon. Justice Jo-Ann Barlow,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Gino Persaud,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Simone Morris-
Ramlall, Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Sandil Kisson,
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Damone Young
Puisne Judge*



*Hon. Justice Fidela Corbin-Lincoln,
Puisne Judge*

THE HIGH COURTS OF GUYANA



The Victoria Law Courts, Georgetown Guyana



The Essequibo High Court, Suddie-Essequibo, Guyana



The Berbice High Court, New Amsterdam, Berbice Guyana

THE COMMISSIONERS OF TITLE



COT- Ms. Priscilla Chandra-Haniff



COT- Ms. Nicola Pierre

REGISTRAR AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE

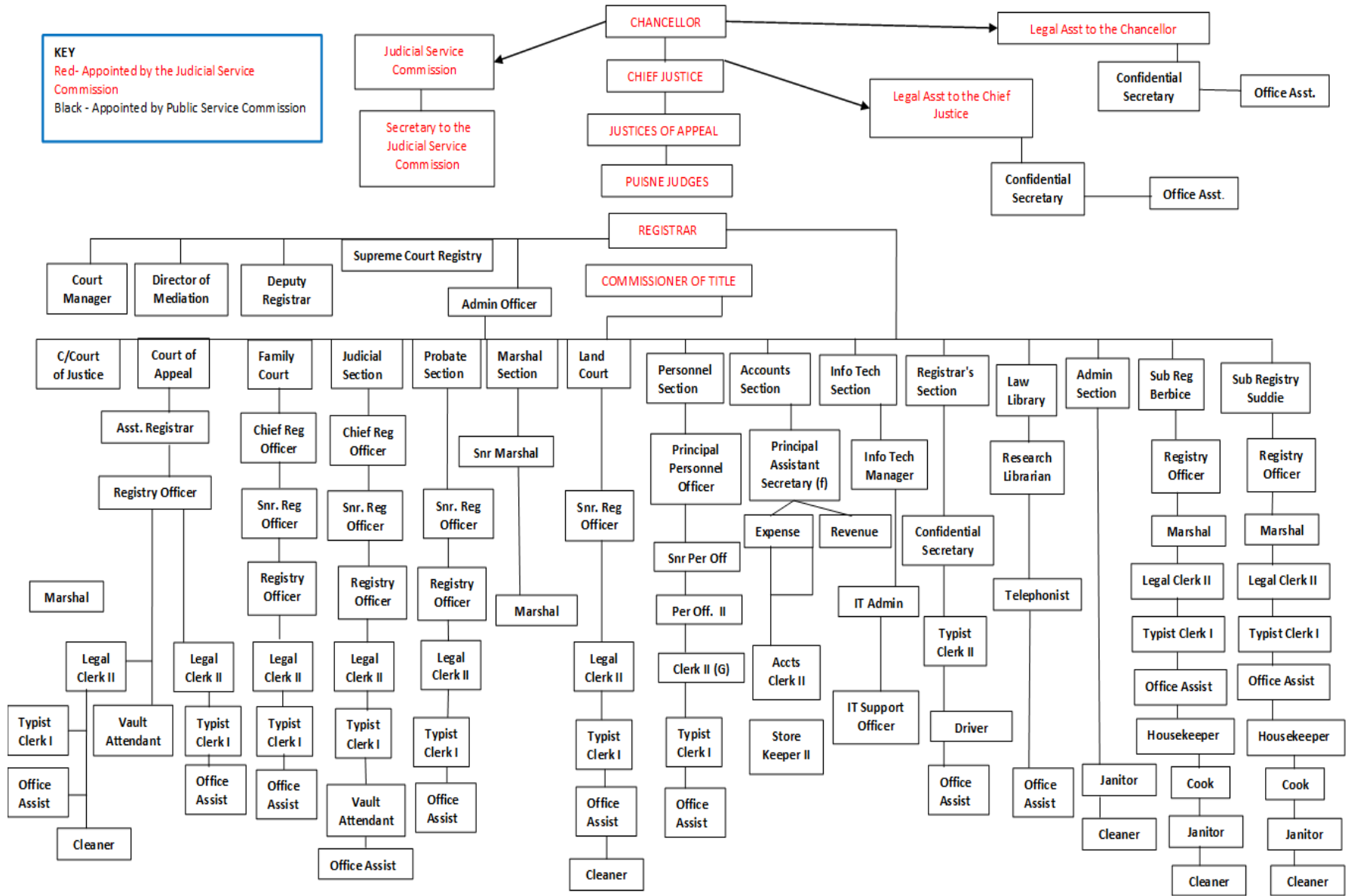


Mrs. Sueanna Lovell, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature



Ms. Alicia Lowenfield Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature

ORGANISATIONAL CHART- SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE



CHANCELLOR’S MESSAGE

The year 2020 has been a challenging year for us all, especially for those working in the Judiciary. The advent of the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic created a great onslaught on almost every institution. The pandemic came like an urgent application without notice and sought to injunct the very core functions of the court. Fortunately for us, we were able to weather the storm. The pandemic steered the Judiciary into uncharted territories in the quest to keep the wheels of justice turning during this global crisis.

With contributions from our regional and international partners, we were able to develop and implement a public communications campaign themed- ‘We can still hear you’.

This means all of our judicial officers- Judges, Commissioners of Title, Magistrates, Registrars- together with our supportive staff continued to work by adjusting our courtrooms through the means of blended hearings- mixing virtual and in-person hearings; all the while doing so in a safe environment without compromising the health and safety of our staff and court users.

The introduction to our website – www.supremecourt.gy- was another step to ensure we could still meet the needs of our court customers. The website allowed us to implement an e-filing mechanism that reduced the need for visits to the court to file matters during the pandemic.

The introduction of our social media pages- Facebook and YouTube helped the Judiciary to engage, inform, and to broadcast historical cases which set a precedent in the landscape of our local jurisprudence.

These platforms assisted the judiciary tremendously in communicating Court information to the public at large.

The Judiciary looks forward to continuing to serve you in 2021. We aim to ensure better access to justice throughout the length and breadth of Guyana.

With High Courts in each county Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice, and Magistrates Courts in almost all the regions, we are on our way to reaching our goal in providing access to justice for all. We have added another Magistrates Court to our Georgetown Magisterial District when we officially opened our Diamond/Grove Magistrates Court on January 22, 2020, before the pandemic hit the shores of Guyana. In 2021, we hope to add in the other districts with the opening of the Bartica, Mahdia, and Kwakwani Magistrate Courts.

We also launched virtual container courtrooms at the Camp Street and Lusignan Prisons this year, to provide better access to the incarcerated while reducing caseloads and backlogs which have been extended due to the pandemic.

In December 2020, we also introduced the public to our Public Education Programme which seeks to engage the public on how to access justice in the courts and the services the court system provides.

Great things are in store for the Judiciary in 2021.

I would like to use the opportunity to thank my fellow Judicial Officers, our staff, members of the public, and the media for staying the course and remaining understanding at times when you felt the Judiciary fell short in doing everything possible in ensuring that justice was neither delayed nor denied.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The year 2020 began with great expectations for the Supreme Court. The Diamond/Grove Magistrate's Court was opened on 22 January, 2020, setting the tone for what we anticipated would be a year of delivering on the promises made for improved access to justice and enhanced delivery and quality of service to our customers.

Before we knew it Covid-19 hit the shores of Guyana and the day-to-day operations, the landscape and court settings changed from interpersonal hearings to virtual and remote hearings and rotational work.

From the outset our goal was to successfully have our court doors remain open for the dispensation of justice and critical court services while protecting the health and safety of employees and court users.

In response to the pandemic, the Chancellor crafted and issued practice directions for judicial officers, staff, stakeholders, and citizens to follow.

For a while, in-person hearings including jury trials as well as other court processes such as execution sales, etc. were suspended. The Supreme Court was faced with retooling and changing the court format to achieve its set goals.

These changes were met with some pushback in some quarters from stakeholders but we were undeterred. Significant financial outlay was required in order to make the technological advancements necessary for the court to deal with remote hearings, and all the other novel demands that presented themselves; still the court forged ahead with its plans.

Those plans entailed, equipping each court i.e., Magistrates, High Courts, and Appeal Courts with cameras, HD monitors, microphones, computers, increased internet bandwidth, chairs, sanitization stations, plexiglass, handheld thermometers, personal protective equipment for cleaners and staff, covid-19 signage, etc.

The Judiciary also collaborated with the Ministry of Health for training on Covid-19 with staff and for the employment of Community Health Workers to manage our entrances by taking temperatures and ensuring everyone who entered the compound was sanitized.

In May and June 2020, the Supreme Court embarked upon Covid-19 Sensitization programs to raise staff awareness of the pandemic. The first of these sessions was facilitated by Clinical Psychologist Dr. Nadine Ramsarran while the second was facilitated by Dr. Reeta Gobin, Director of the University of Guyana School of Medicine.

The court also embarked on a Criminal Case Management System (CMS) project in the magistrates' court- a software-based mechanism that will enhance the courts' ability in service delivery which includes features such as an automatic case numbering system that will make information retrieval on a case quicker and easier. The CMS is funded by the government of the United States of America in collaboration with the National Centre for State Courts (NCSC) through the U.S Department of States Bureau of International Law Narcotics and Law Enforcement.

The Judiciary of Guyana CMS Project Steering Committee was established in the second half of 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project Committee began working at the beginning of August 2020. The CMS Project Steering Committee is responsible for all aspects of the preparation, development, testing, and implementation of the CMS Pilot Project for the criminal cases in the Georgetown Magistrates' Court.

Also, in December 2020, the Judiciary in collaboration with the Government of Guyana and the Guyana Prison Service launched Virtual Courtrooms at the Lusignan Prisons on the East Coast of Demerara. This was done on the 28th of December.

The Virtual Courtrooms or the Container Courts are an integral part of a solution to ensure those incarcerated at the prisons across the country can still access justice in a timely and safe manner during the pandemic. A total of 33 Container Courts

were equipped with skype, monitors for video conferencing will be placed at all the prisons across the country, i.e., New Amsterdam, Camp Street, Mazaruni, and Timehri.

Highlights

FEBRUARY

The court inaugurated a celebratory competition in honour of the nation's Republic anniversary wherein the high courts and magisterial districts competed to decorate the buildings in national colours. The event saw robust and spirited competition among the departments and resulted in team building and camaraderie between the staff.

Another novel team building and beautification exercise was the inaugural Supreme Court Horticultural Competition which again saw magisterial districts pitted against each other and the High Court and Court of Appeal battling it out for the chance to prove whose thumb was the greenest! The results were simply beautiful and left us all in awe of what we are capable of.

OCTOBER

The Court, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month made a generous contribution towards the GTT Pinktober drive- a campaign that raised awareness and funding for Breast Cancer. Staff received the signature pinktober bottles during the intimate event.

Also in October the Supreme Court donated a collection of All England Law Reports to the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic. I made the presentation in company of Ms. Rhonda Barnwell our Chief Librarian, and Ms. Tiffany Hohenkirk, the Legal Assistant to the Chancellor on behalf of the Chancellor to Ms. Shellon Boyce, Managing Attorney of the Legal Aid Clinic.

October also saw the High Court safely and successfully resuming Jury Trials. The Judges presiding over those trials were Justices Brassington Reynolds, Priya Sewnarine- Beharry, and Navindra Singh. Jury Trials were suspended in March 2020

due to the pandemic. This resumption was a monumental achievement as many jurisdictions worldwide have yet been unable to restart this essential judicial service and we were the first jurisdiction in the Caribbean to resume jury trials during the pandemic. A number of measures have been put in place for the safe conduct of cases. For instance:

- Judges, Jurors, court staff, attorneys-at-law and all court users are physically distanced.
- Cameras, video link and video conferencing facilities have been installed.
- Plexiglas has been placed around witness boxes, desks and other furniture.
- Jury boxes were removed and replaced by individual chairs.
- Sanitizing dispensers are in all courtrooms and constant sanitization of jury seating, court furniture, exhibits and the courtroom will be done.
- Temperature screening will also be conducted upon entry of everyone to the court compound.
- The summoning of a jury panel is staggered to allow for social distancing.
- Court corridors have been utilized to accommodate the empaneling of juries.
- The media is allowed to report on the trials remotely by audio visual link.
- The members of the public especially relatives of accused or victims may also view trials by video link. These measures are dealt with extensively in our protocols for the resumption of jury trials during the Covid 19 pandemic.



Registrar, Sueanna Lovell addressing the Jury panel from the western court corridor



Members of the jury panel physically distanced and observing the proceedings on TV screens

SCENES FROM MODIFIED COURTROOMS DURING JURY TRIAL



NOVEMBER

Amidst the pandemic, a safe show must go on! In November, The Supreme Court held its Annual Rangoli Competition for the Diwali Celebrations. The winning entry was submitted by the Court Reporting Unit and for the first time, that creation entered the local Dharmic Sabha's Rangoli Competition and earned 2nd place.



DECEMBER

In December the Supreme Court in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Jurist Project launched Guyana's Public Education and Engagement Program. A program that seeks to educate and highlight various roles and responsibilities of the Court and Judicial System.

Also in December, the Supreme Court held two separate Full Court sittings, one in Berbice and the other in Georgetown to accept Senior Counsel Mr. Mursaline Bacchus, Mr. Stanley Moore, Ms. Jamela Ali, Mr. Timothy Jonas, Mr. Roysdale Forde, and Mr. Mohabir Nandlall to the inner bar. The Attorneys-at-law were celebrated by the Judiciary, family, friends, and colleagues on their preferment of silk.





The Special Full Court sitting which was conducted in Berbice was the first of its kind to be held in the Ancient County.



We are thankful that we all remained safe through this treacherous year. The pandemic has taught us all how to swim and not drown in perilous waters. The Supreme Court has stayed afloat during the flood with integrity, great leadership, and support from the staff, Government, Regional and International partners, and stakeholders.

Registrar,
Sucanna Lovell

COURT PERFORMANCE

COURT OF APPEAL REPORT

STATUS OF MATTERS DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT OF APPEAL

NUMBER OF MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE YEAR 2020

During the reviewed period a total of one hundred and fifty-five (155) appeals and applications were filed. The following categories of matters were received as follows:

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL APPEALS

A total of one hundred and nine Civil Appeals were received and twenty-eight Criminal Appeal were filed. The following table shows a summary of matters received during the reviewed period.

YEAR	CIVIL APPEALS	CRIMINAL APPEALS	TOTAL
2020	109	28	137
TOTAL %	80	20	100

CIVIL APPEALS

The following table reflects a summary of Civil Appeals disposed of by the Court of Appeal for the period under review

GRANTED

A total of fourteen (14) appeals were granted. This shows as an aggregate of twenty (20) percent of appeals heard was granted for this period.

LEAVE TO APPEAL

A total of three (3) Applications by way of Notice of Motions were dispensed with. This shows an aggregate of four (4) percent of Applications was dispensed with for this period.

WITHDRAWN

A total of four (3) Appeals were withdrawn. This shows an aggregate of four (4) percent of Appeals was withdrawn for this period.

REFUSED

A total of four (4) appeals were refused. This shows an aggregate of six (6) percent of appeals heard was refused for this period.

DECISION

A total of thirty (30) appeals decisions were delivered. This shows an aggregate of forty-three (43) percent of decisions for this period.

DISMISSED

A total of 12 (twelve) appeals were dismissed. This shows an aggregate of seventeen (17) percent of appeals heard was dismissed for this period.

SETTLED

A total of 3 (three) appeals were settled. This shows an aggregate of four (4) percent of appeals heard was settled for this period.

HEARIN DE NOVA

One (1) appeal was referred to the High Court for re-hearing. This shows an aggregate of two (2) percent of appeals for re-hearing for this period.

FULL BENCH PROCEEDINGS	GRANTED	LEAVE TO APPEAL	WITHDRAWN	REFUSED	DECISION	DISMISSED	SETTLED	HEARING De NOVA	TOTAL
Civil Appeals	7	0	0	0	17	10	1	1	36
Civil Appeals Motions	7	3	3	4	13	2	2	0	34
TOTAL	14	3	3	4	30	12	3	1	70
TOTAL %	20	4	4	6	43	17	4	2	100

CRIMINAL APPEALS

The following table reflects a summary of Criminal Appeals disposed of by the Court of Appeal.

GRANTED

A total of twenty-two (22) appeals were granted. This shows as an aggregate of forty-seven (47) percent of appeals heard was granted for this period.

WITHDRAWN

A total of four (4) Appeals were withdrawn. This shows an aggregate of eight (8) percent of Appeals was withdrawn for this period.

DECISION

A total of sixteen (16) appeals decisions were delivered. This shows an aggregate of thirty-four (34) percent of decisions for this period.

DISMISSED

A total of five (5) Appeals were dismissed. This shows an aggregate of eleven (11) percent of Appeals was dismissed for this period.

FULL BENCH PROCEEDINGS	GRANTED	LEAVE TO APPEAL	WITHDRAWN	REFUSED	DECISION	DISMISSED	SETTLED	RE-HEARING /De NOVA	TOTAL
Criminal Appeals	10	-	1	-	13	3	-	-	27
Criminal Appeals Motions	12	-	3	-	3	2	-	-	20
TOTAL	22	-	4	-	16	5	-	-	47
TOTAL %	47	-	8	-	34	11	-	-	100

CHAMBERS SUMMONS AND APPLICATIONS

The following table reflects a summary of Applications disposed of by the Chambers Court - Court of Appeal:

	APPLICATIONS GRANTED	APPLICATIONS DISMISSED	WITHDRAWN & DISCONTINUE	APPLICATIONS REFUSED	DECISION	APPLICATIONS SETTLED	APPLICATIONS STRUCK OUT	TOTAL
	14	10	12	19	19	1	1	76
TOTAL %	19	13	16	25	25	1	1	100

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL APPEALS PENDING AND DISPOSED OF IN 2020.

The following tables below outlined the number of cases disposed of by the Court of Appeal for JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2020.

	CRIMINAL APPEALS	CRIMINAL MOTIONS	CIVIL APPEALS	CIVIL MOTIONS
Pending at the end of 2019	248	9	1152	32
Filed in Jan – Dec, 2020	28	13	101	41
Disposed of in Jan-Dec, 2020	13	17	19	20
Pending at end of 2020.12.31	263	5	1234	53

CHAMBERS SUMMONS AND APPLICATIONS PENDING AND DISPOSED OF IN 2020

	APPLICATIONS FOR STAY	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL	APPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY FOR COSTS	APPLICATIONS FOR INJUNCTION	PETITIONS FOR BAIL
Pending at the end of 2019	20	2	0	1	0
Filed in Jan-Dec, 2020	52	0	0	1	1
Disposed of in Jan-Dec, 2020	53	2	0	2	1
Pending at end of 2020.12.31	19	0	0	0	0

Judicial Registry Report- Georgetown/ Demerara

Introduction

Over the past year, the staff of the Judicial Registry has worked diligently to accept all documents intended for filing and subsequent hearing before the High Court and its Appellate Jurisdiction of the Full Court and the Court of Appeal and also to acquire other relevant information through request forms from members of the public. This integral process can be seen through Table 1 and Figure 1a intake of matters to the Judicial Registry.



Table 1:

Source of Referral	No. of cases filed in 2020	Pending in 2020 only	No. of cases filed & concluded in 2020	No. of cases Concluded & in 2020 but not filed in 2020	Total No. of cases concluded in 2020
Statement of Claim	285	264	21	29	50
Fixed Date Application	1367	548	819	209	1028
Full Court Appeal	52	42	10	5	15
High Court Appeal	1	1	0	0	0
Judgment Summons	54	35	17	7	24
Adoption Summons	13	9	4	4	8
Criminal Cases	68	63	5	92	97

Figure 1a:

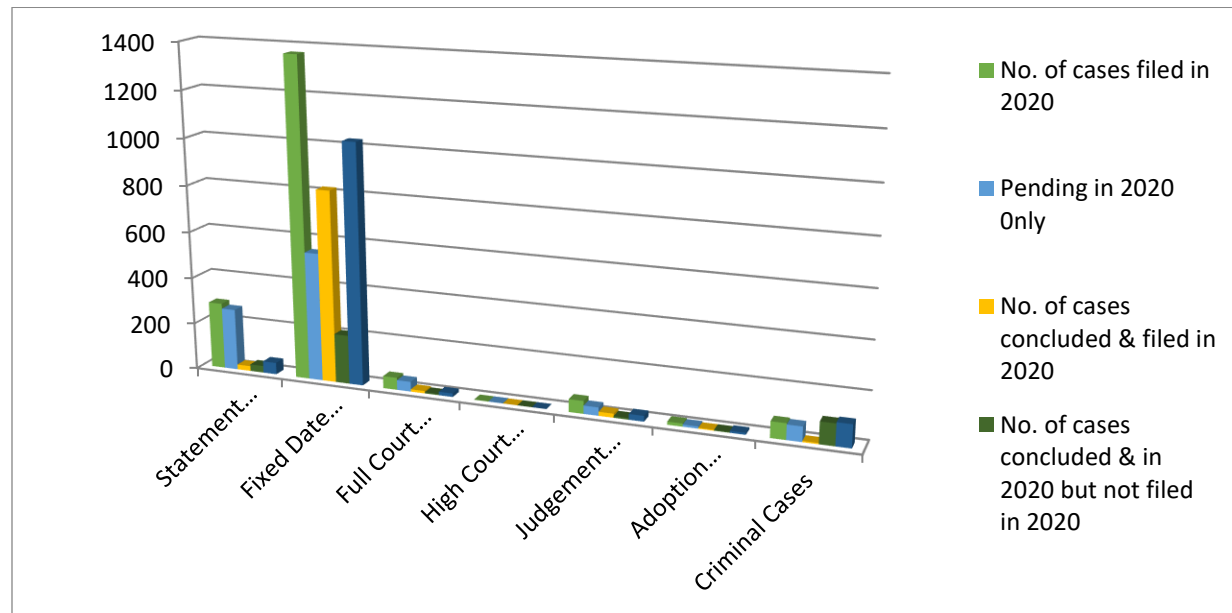
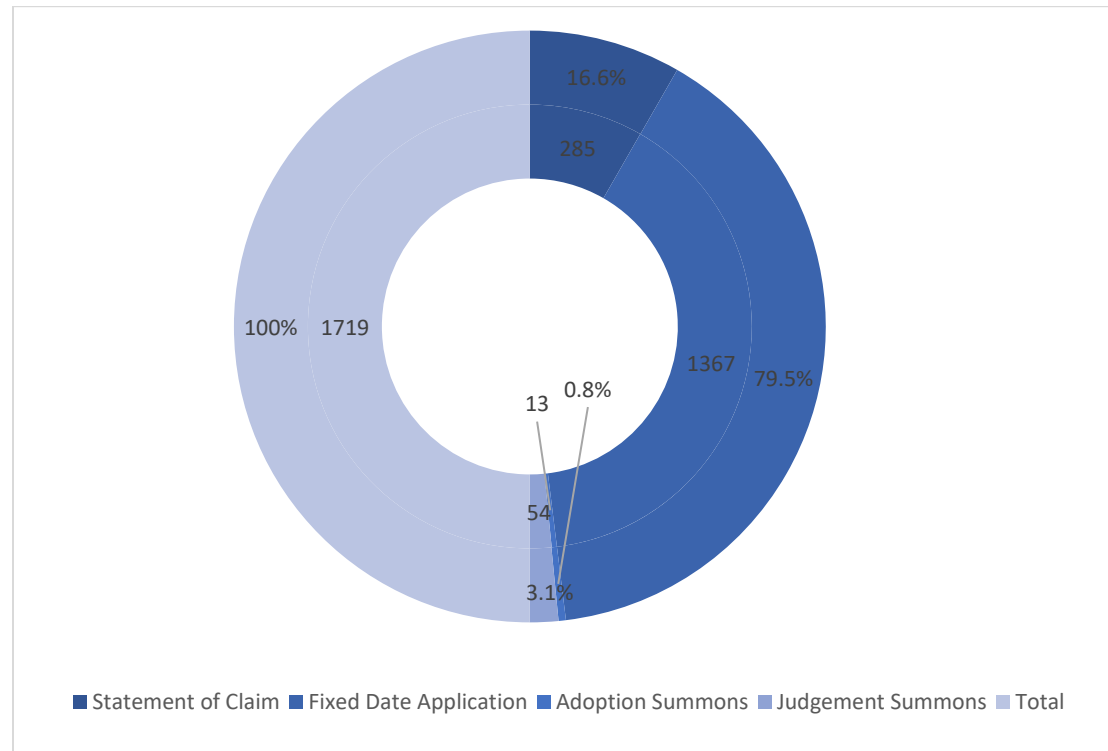


Table 2a & Figure 2b: Shows the contrast between Statement of Claim, Fixed Date Application, Adoption Summons and Judgement Summons over twelve (12) months - (January- December, 2020).

Table 2a:

Intake Matters	Amount	Percentage
Statement of Claim	285	16.6%
Fixed Date Application	1367	79.5%
Adoption Summons	13	0.8%
Judgment Summons	54	3.1%
Total	1719	100%

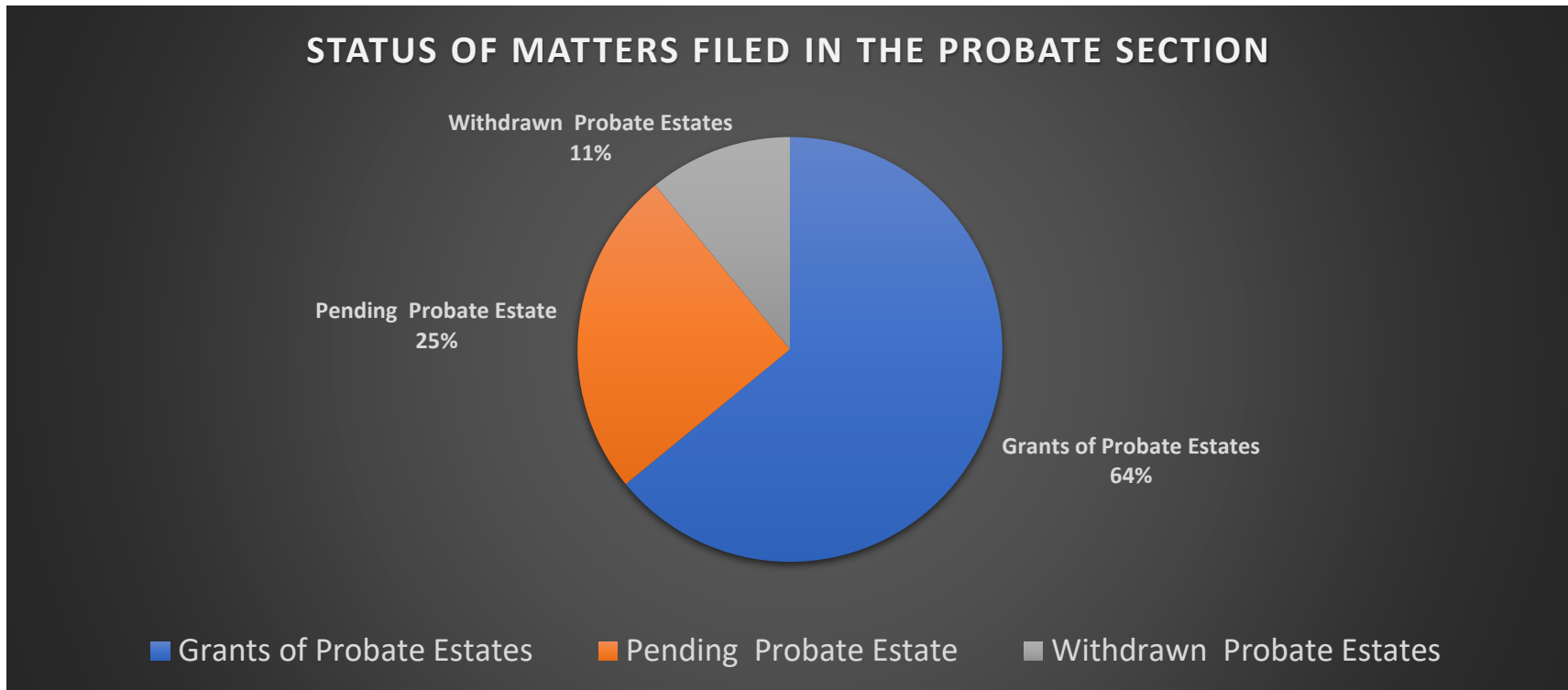
Figure 2b:



ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES/ PROBATE SECTION REPORT- GEORGETOWN/DEMERARA

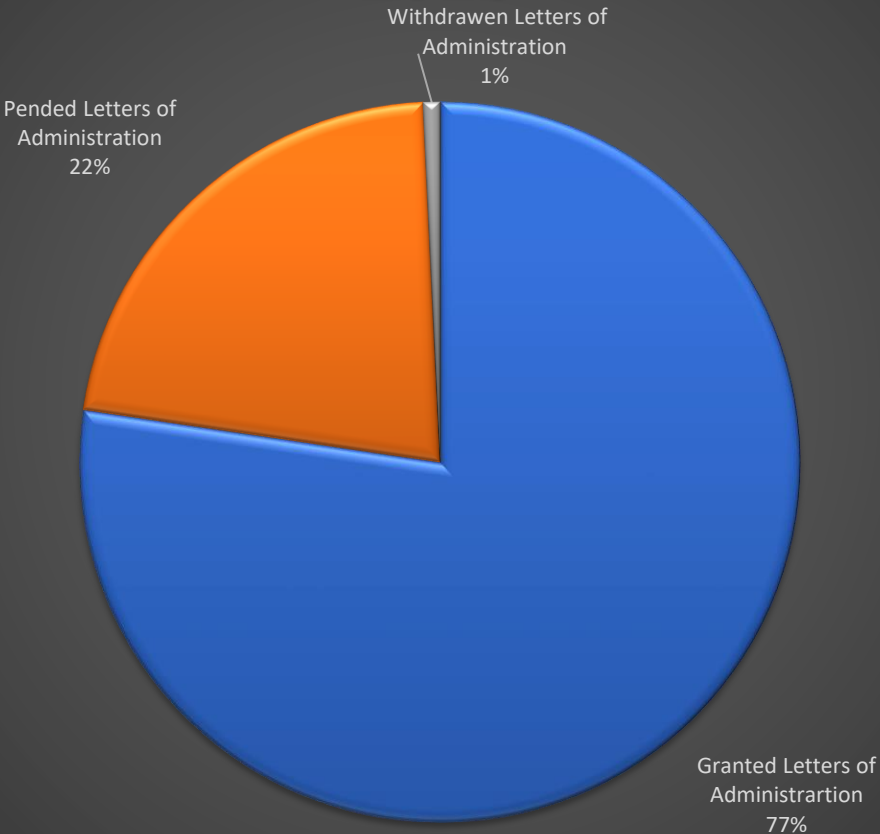
The Probate Section is called the Estate's Division and deals with Letters of Administration, Probates, Wills, Caveats, Citations and Affidavits verifying accounts.

PIE CHART SHOWS STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE PROBATE SECTION AND WORK DONE DURING 2020



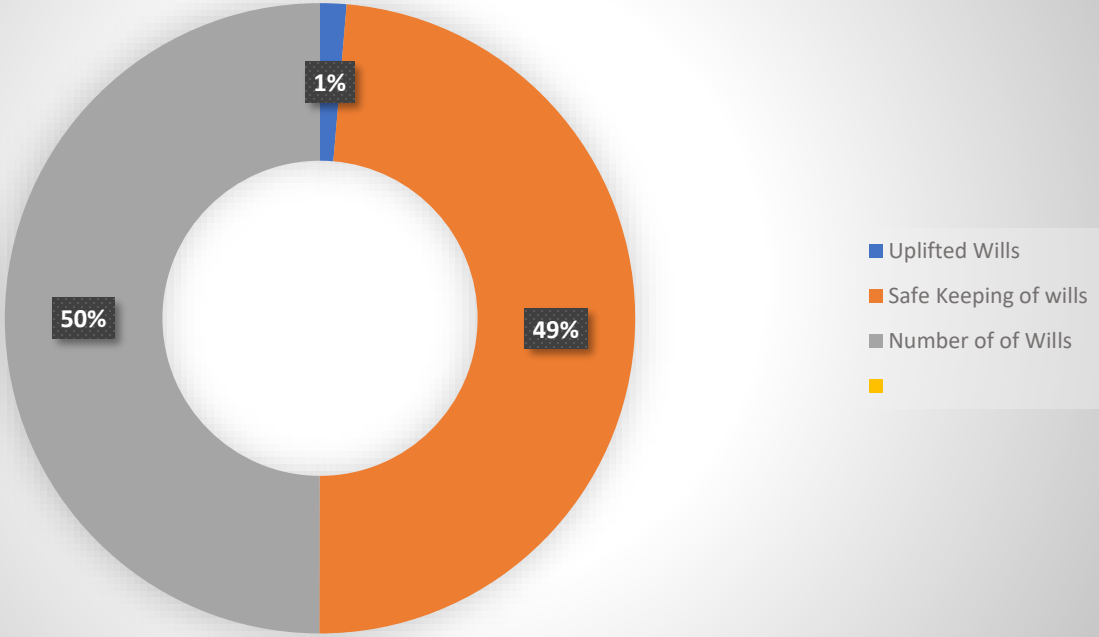
Letters of Administration for the year

2020

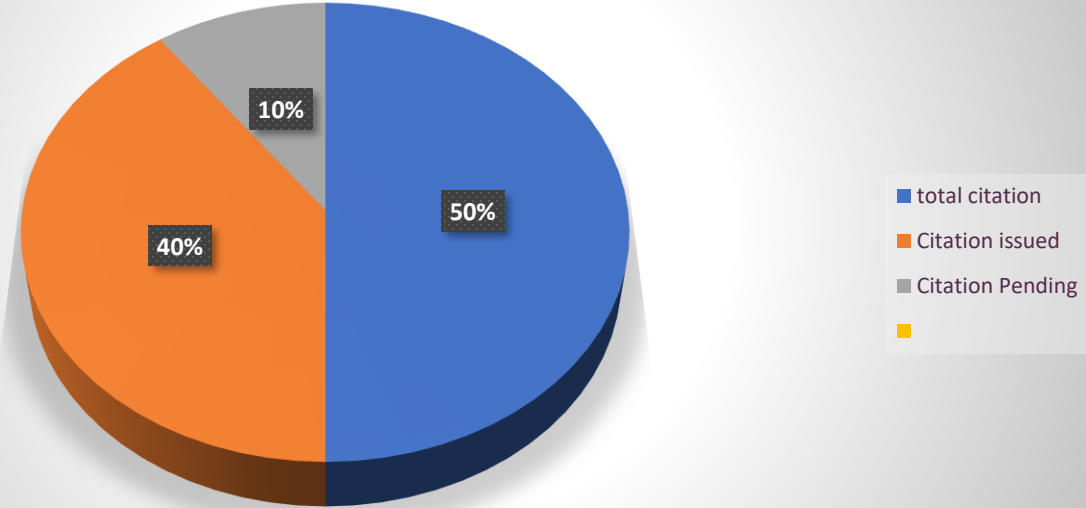


■ Granted Letters of Administration ■ Pended Letters of Administration ■ Withdrawn Letters of Administration ■

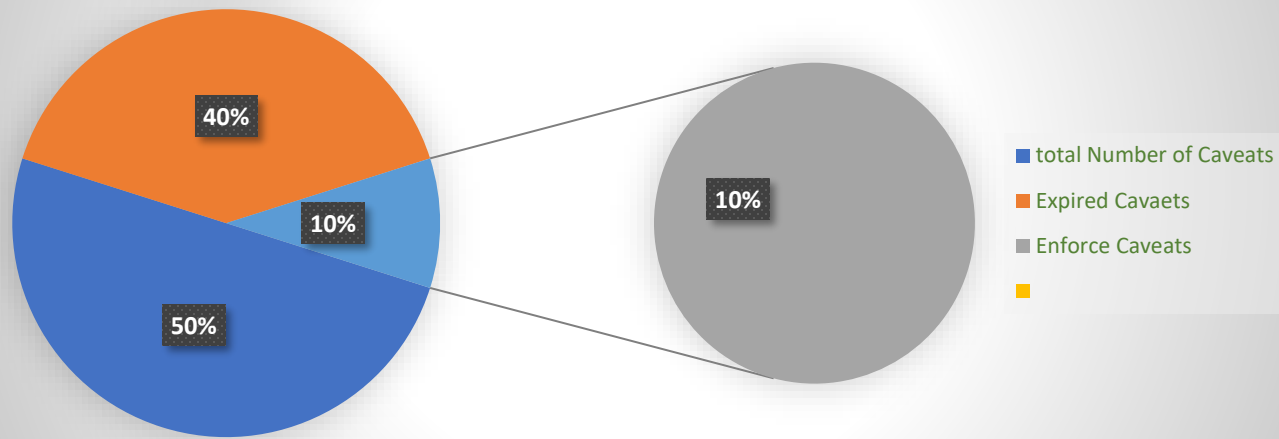
Wills for the Year 2020



Citation for the year 2020



Caveats filed for the year 2020



MARSHALS' SECTION REPORT

DEMERARA

Execution Auction Sales held by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial year 2020 to date

Months	Dates	Total Properties Advertised	Total Sales
January	30-01-20	15	6
February	25-02-20	8	6
March	03-03-20	11	1
April	-	-	-
May	-	-	-
June	-	-	-
Total		34	13

BERBICE

Execution Auction Sales held by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial year 2020 to date

Months	Dates	Total Properties Advertised	Total Sales
January	-	-	-
February	17-02-20	8	2
March	27-02-20	6	2
April	-	-	-
May	-	-	-
June	-	-	-
Total		14	4

THE FAMILY COURT



Introduction

The Family Court which commenced operation on the 6th day of June 2016, is a Division of the Supreme Court of Judicature that interprets and applies the Family (Proceedings and Procedures) Rules (FPPR). The Family Court also prepares various Applications for walk-in Applicants, who cannot afford to solicit the services of an attorney.

Table 1 and Figure 1a shows the various category of matters dealt with at the Family Court and Orders granted.

Table 1:

Category	Amount	Nisi Orders	Withdrawn /Dismissal	Struck Out	Concluded	Pending
Divorce	959	244	78	-	532	427
Division of Property	21	-	4	3	7	7
Application Relating to Children	120	-	12	6	71	31
Form 11 Applications only	7	-	2	-	-	3
Total	1107	244	96	9	610	468

Figure

1a:

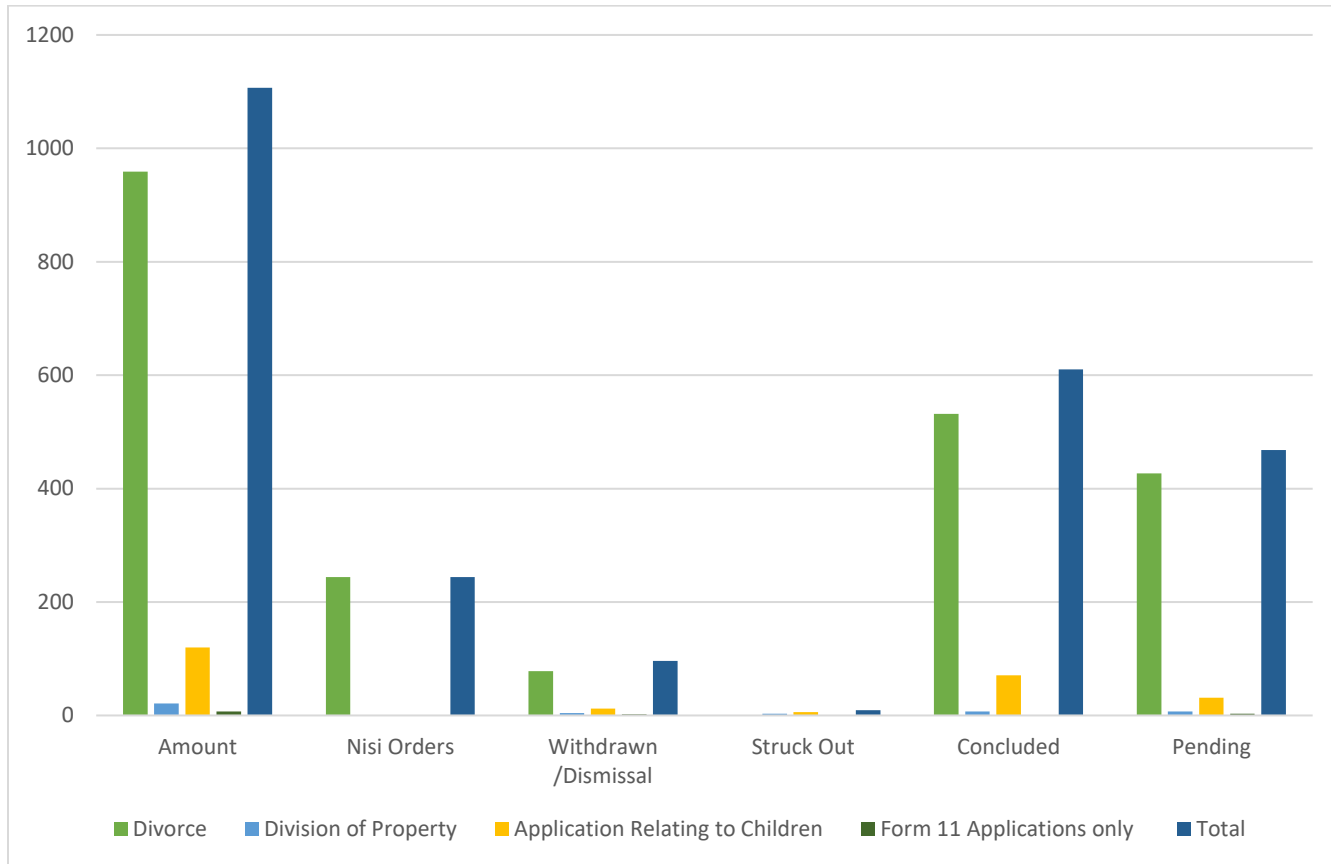


Table 2a & Figure 2b: Shows the contrast between Custody, Access with Maintenance &

Division of Property, Custody, Access with Maintenance and Custody with Access Applications over twelve (12) months - (January-December, 2020) period which highlights a noticeable increase in comparison to the total numbers filed for 2019.

Table 2a:

Intake Matters	2019 Amount	2020 Amount	Variance 2019-2020	Percentage
Custody, Access with Maintenance & Division of Property	201	1	200	2
Custody, Access with Maintenance	22	7	15	0.15
Custody with Access	63	83	20	0.2
Total	286	91	235	2.35

Figure 4b: Intake Matters

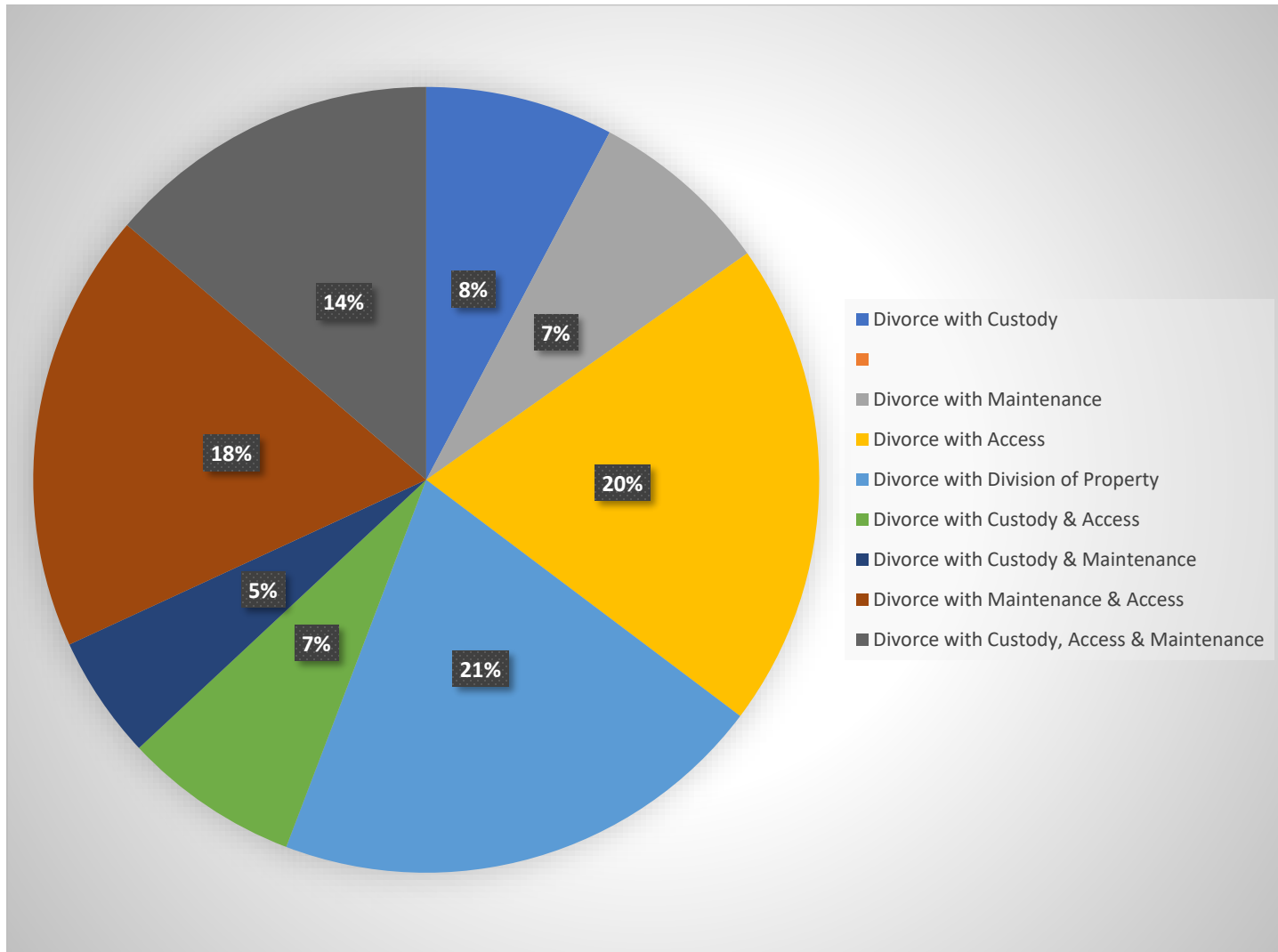


Table 5a & Figure 5b: Shows the comparison between Divorce, Custody, Maintenance, Access and Guardianship Applications over period of twelve (12) months (January-December, 2020). When compared with the previous year (2019) a reduction can be seen.

Table 5a:

Intake Matters	Amount 2019	Amount 2020	Variance 2019-2018	Percentage
Divorce	1300	897	403	4.03
Custody	132	85	47	0.47
Maintenance	65	3	62	0.62
Access	42	8	34	0.34
Guardianship	15	3	12	0.12
Total	1554	996	558	5.58

FAMILY COURT CHILD CARE FACILITY



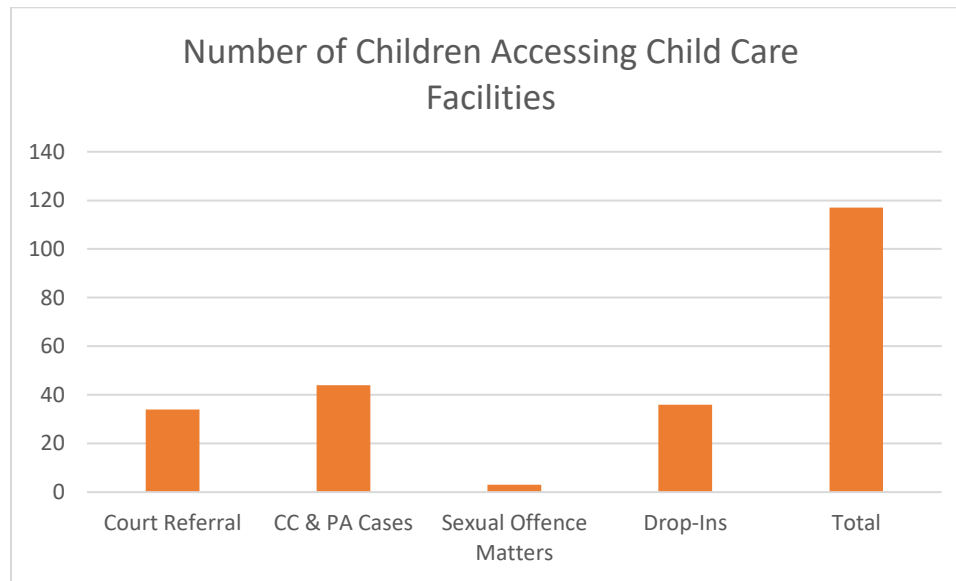


Figure 6a & 6b: Shows the number of children accessing the Childcare Facilities for a twelve (12) months period - (January-December, 2020).

Figure 6a:

Source of referral	Number of Children Accessing Child Care Facilities
Court Referral	34
Child Care & Protection Agency Cases	44
Sexual Offence Matters	3
Drop-Ins	36
Total	117

Figure 6b:



LAND COURT REPORT

2020 Land Court Concluded Matters = 188							
PETITIONS				LAND REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS			
Demarara Petitions	Essequibo Petitions	Berbice Petitions	Total Petitions all counties	Demerara LR	Essequibo LR	Berbice LR	Total LR applications all counties
87	54	24	165	12	11	0	23

Land Court Petitions and Land Registration Applications Summary 2020						
	PETITIONS			LAND REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS		
	Demerara	Essequibo	Berbice	Demerara	Essequibo	Berbice
Pending at 31 December 2019	580	185	687	50	25	925
Filed Jan-Dec 2020	160	20	148	11	4	87
Total	740	205	835	61	29	1012
Concluded in Jan - Dec 2020	87	54	24	12	11	0
Pending at 31 December 2020	653	151	811	49	18	1012

VERBATIM COURT REPORTING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Table 1 (Sexual Offences Court)

Date of Recording	Number of Cases
January	15
February	21
March	11

Chart illustrating the number of cases recorded in the Sexual Offences Court

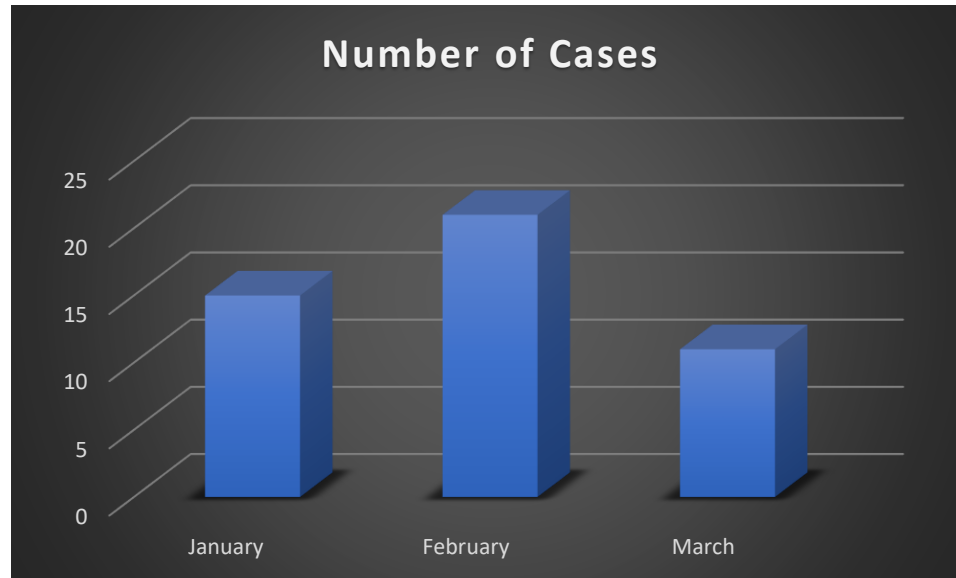


Chart illustrating the number of cases recorded at Court of Appeal

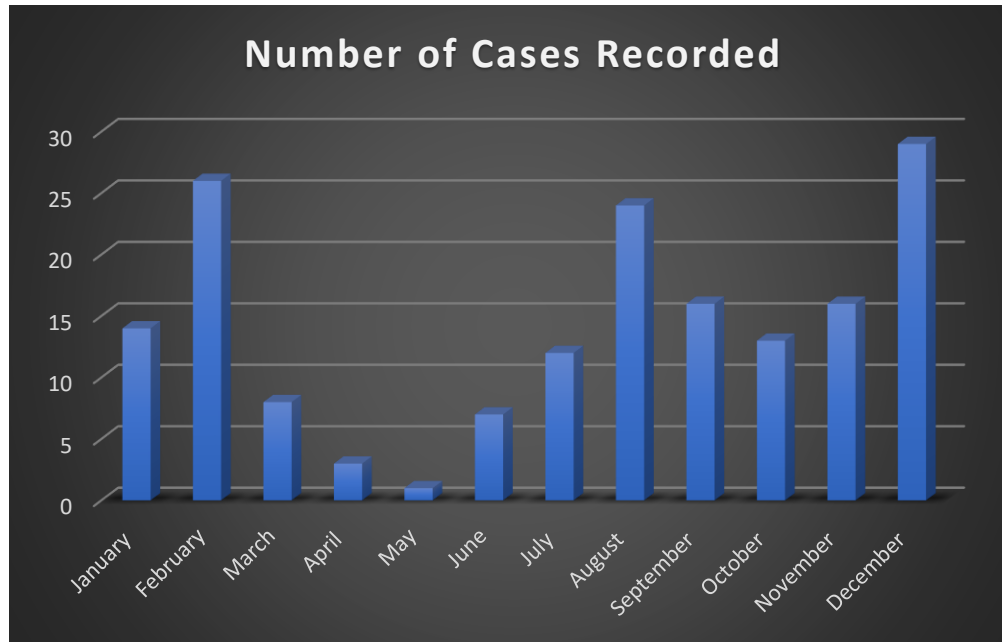


Chart illustrating the number of cases recorded in Court 2 at the Georgetown High Court

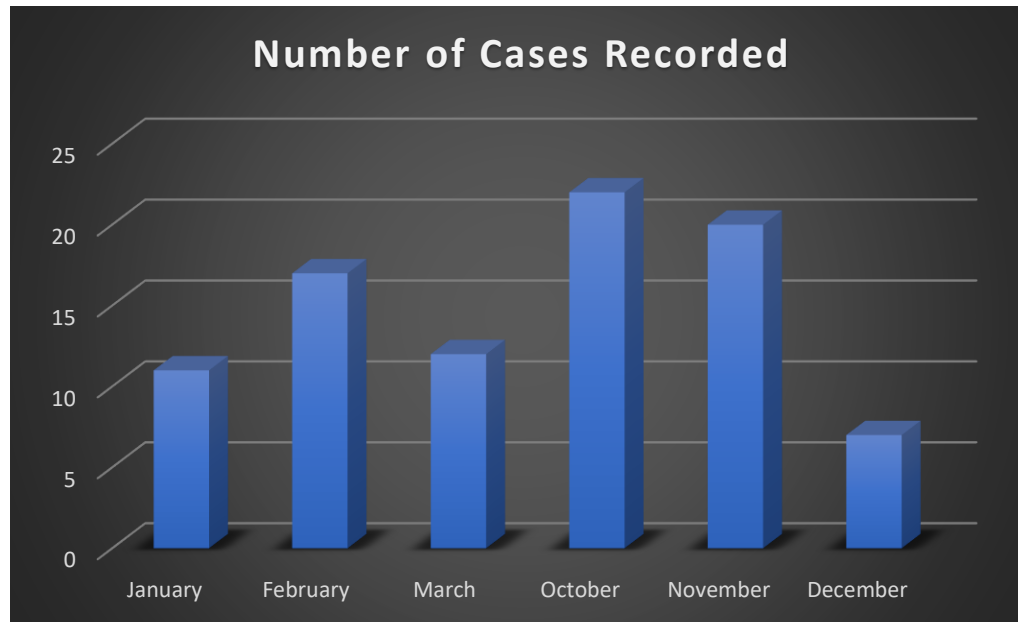
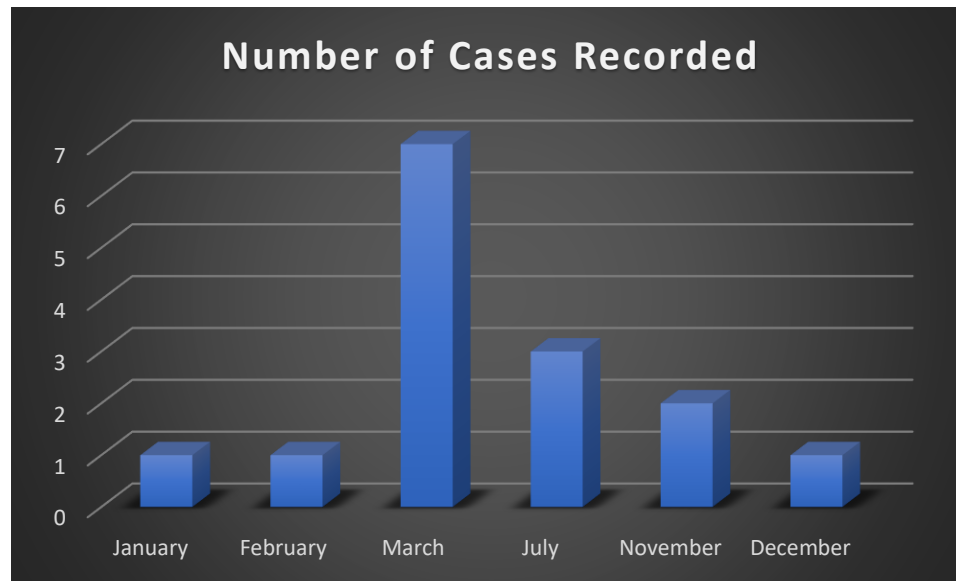
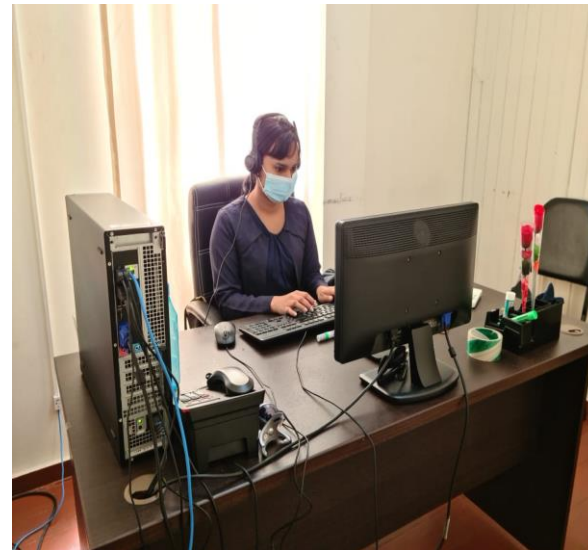


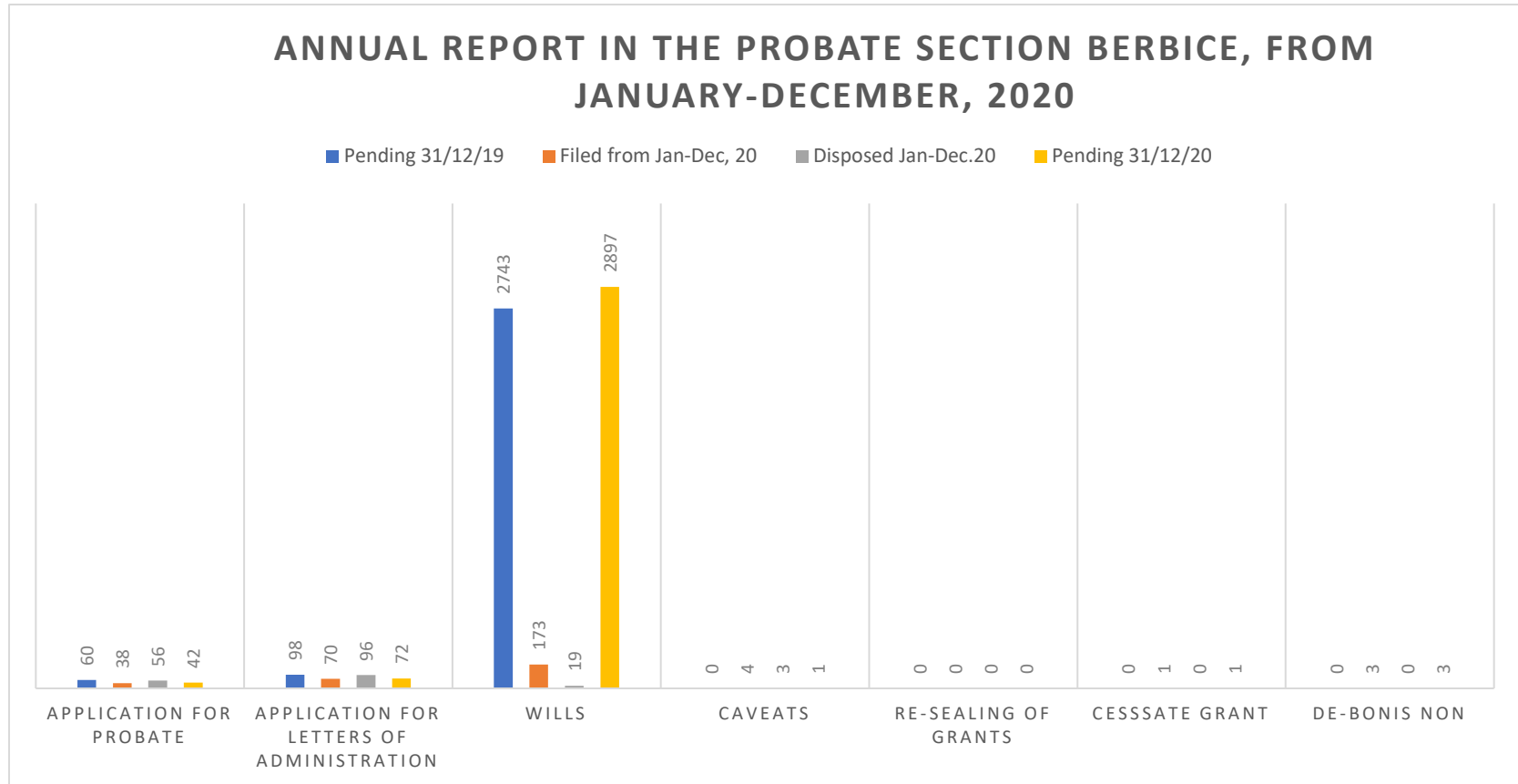
Chart illustrating the number of cases recorded in the Chief Justice Court



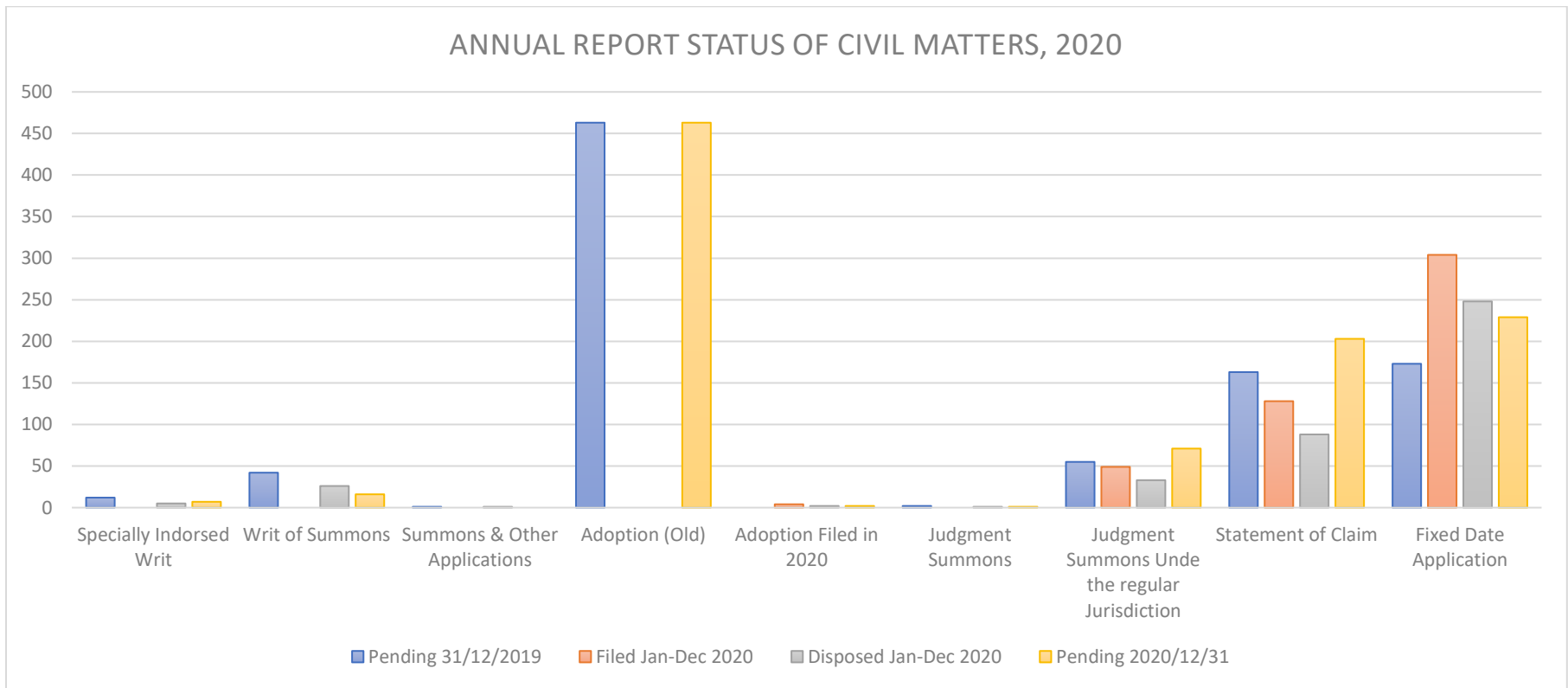
Images of a few of our staff at work



BERBICE SUB-REGISTRY REPORT

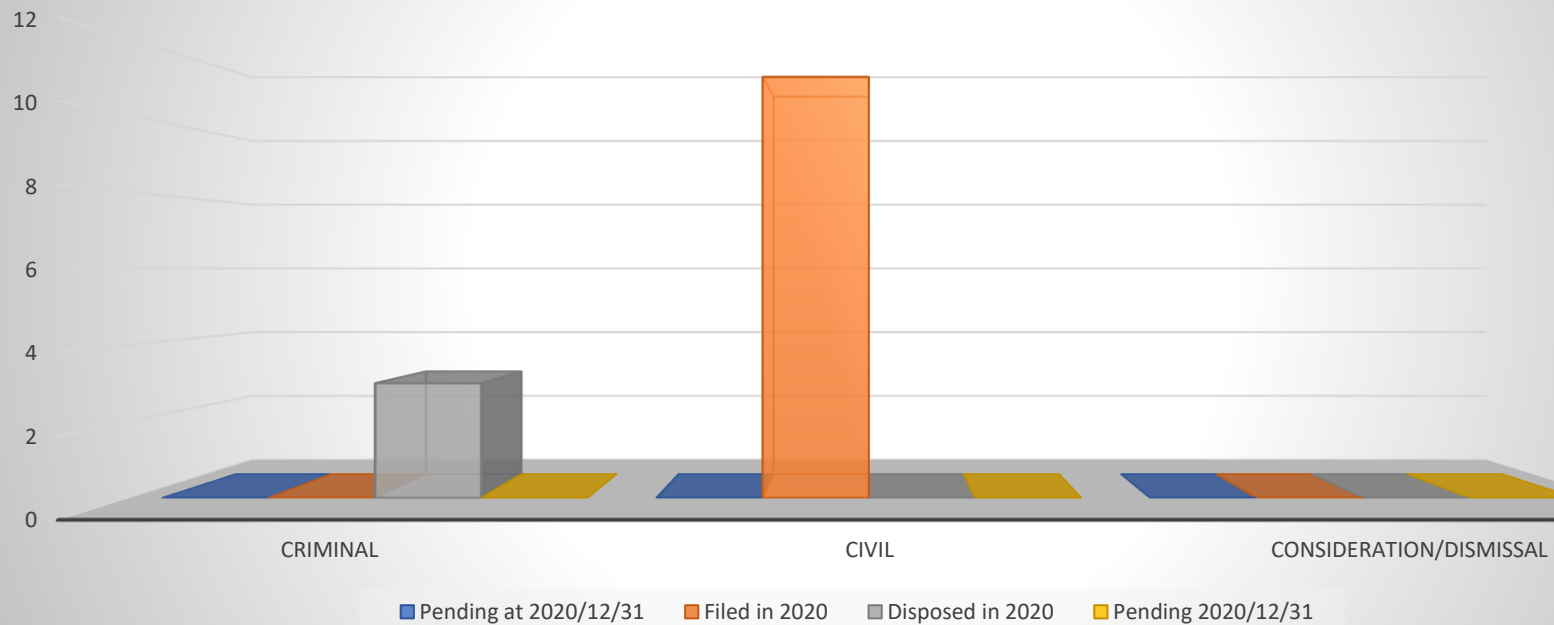


	Pending 31/12/19	Filed from Jan- Dec, 20	Disposed Jan- Dec.20	Pending 31/12/20
Application for Probate	60	38	56	42
Application for Letters of Administration	98	70	96	72
Wills	2743	173	19	2897
Caveats	0	4	3	1
Re-Sealing of Grants	0	0	0	0
Cessate Grant	0	1	0	1
De-Bonis Non	0	3	0	3

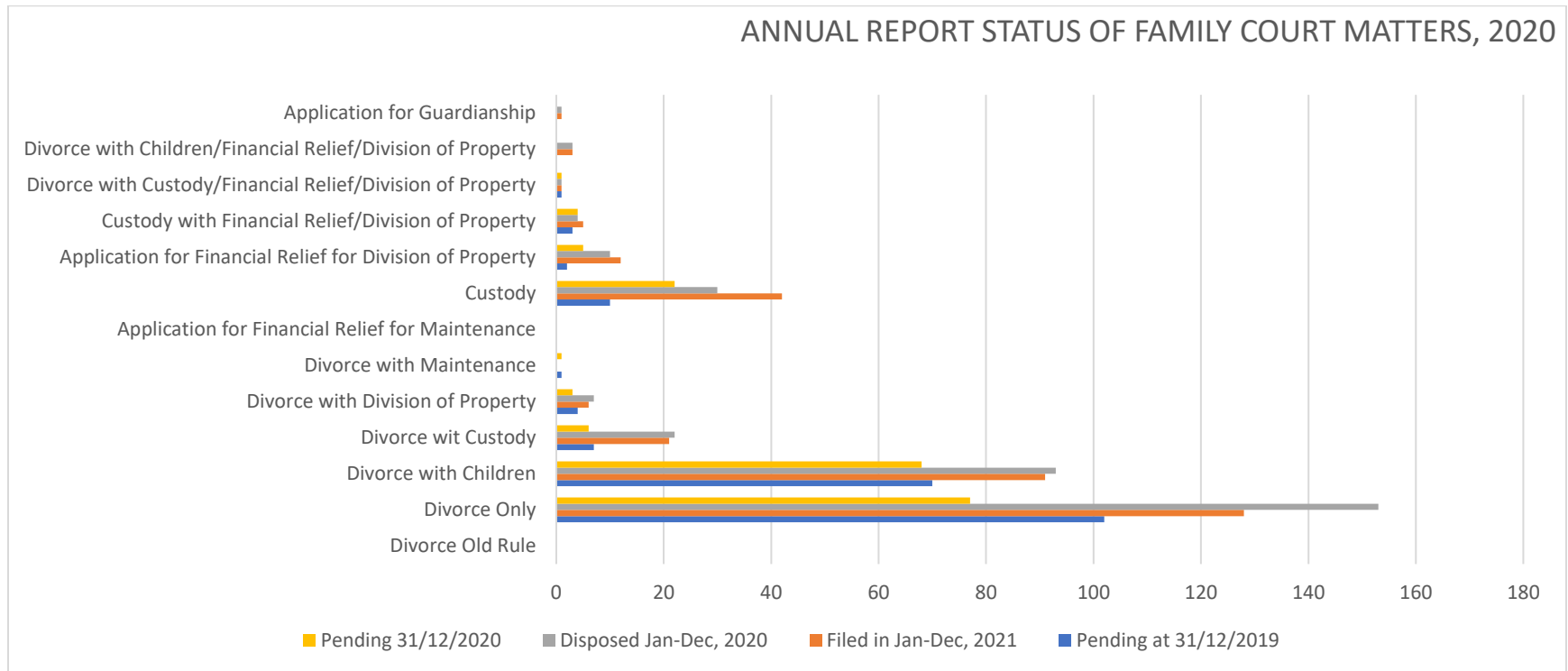


	Pending 31/12/2019	Filed Jan-Dec 2020	Disposed Jan-Dec 2020	Pending 2020/12/31
Specially Indorsed Writ	12	0	5	7
Writ of Summons	42	0	26	16
Summons & Other Applications	1	0	1	0
Adoption (Old)	463	0	0	463
Adoption Filed in 2020	0	4	2	2
Judgment Summons	2	0	1	1
Judgment Summons Under the regular Jurisdiction	55	49	33	71
Statement of Claim	163	128	88	203
Fixed Date Application	173	304	248	229

ANNUAL REPORT STATUS OF MATTERS BEFORE THE FULL COURT



	Pending at 2020/12/31	Filed in 2020	Disposed in 2020	Pending 2020/12/31
Criminal	0	0	3	0
Civil	0	11	0	0
Consideration/Dismissal	0	0	0	0



	Pending at 31/12/2019	Filed in Jan-Dec, 2021	Disposed Jan-Dec, 2020	Pending 31/12/2020
Divorce Old Rule	0	0	0	0
Divorce Only	102	128	153	77
Divorce with Children	70	91	93	68
Divorce wit Custody	7	21	22	6
Divorce with Division of Property	4	6	7	3
Divorce with Maintenance	1	0	0	1
Application for Financial Relief for Maintenance	0	0	0	0
Custody	10	42	30	22
Application for Financial Relief for Division of Property	2	12	10	5
Custody with Financial Relief/Division of Property	3	5	4	4
Divorce with Custody/Financial Relief/Division of Property	1	1	1	1
Divorce with Children/Financial Relief/Division of Property	0	3	3	0
Application for Guardianship	0	1	1	0
TOTAL	200	310	324	187

ESSEQUIBO- SUB REGISTRY REPORT

CRIMINAL

TABLE SHOWING CRIMINAL MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

Pending at December 31 st , 2019	142
Filed in 2020	4
Disposed in 2020	7
Pending at December 31 st , 2020	139

CIVIL

TABLE SHOWING CIVIL MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Specially Indorsed Writ	Writ of Summons	Summons and other Applications	Fixed Date Applications	Judgment Summons	Divorce	Family Division	State ment of claim	Total
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	27	18	1	7	3	24	32	23	135
Filed in 2020	-	-	-	20	6	-	43	13	82
Disposed in 2020	15	5	-	20	7	24	44	21	136
Pending at December 31 st , 2020	27	13	1	7	2	-	31	15	81

PROBATE

TABLE SHOWING PROBATE MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration	Wills Deposited	Caveats Entered	Citations	Application to Sell by Private Treaty	Affidavit Verifying Accounts
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	8	22	272	19	7	-	-
Filed in 2020	18	17	18	-	-	-	-
Disposed in 2020	6	5	11	-	-	-	-
Pending at December 31 st , 2020	20	34	279	19	7	-	-

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY

CRIMINAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

YEAR	SESSION	NO. OF CASES LISTED	NO. DISPOSED	CON-VICTIONS	ACQUITTALS	NOLLE PROSQUI
2020	February	65	4	2	2	2
2020	May	-	4	3	1	-
2020	October	65	-	-	-	-
		130	8	5	3	2

Note: Forty-Eight (48) cases on the list keep recurring. They are cases where Arrest Warrants were issued for the Accused.

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY – CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

OFFENCE	MALE	FEMALE	CONVICTED	AQUITTED	NOLLE PROQUI
Rape of a Child Under 16 Years	-	-	-	-	2
Rape	-	-	-	-	-
5 Manslaughter	6	-	3	3	-
2 Murder	2	-	1	1	-
Sexual Activity with a Child (Family Member)	-	-	-	-	-
Attempt Murder and Wounding with Intent	-	-	-	-	-

THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS REPORT



The Sparendam Magistrate's court

The Magistrates of Guyana



Chief Magistrate, Ann McLeannan



Magistrate Allan Wilson



Magistrate Sherdel Issacs-Marcus



Magistrate Faith McGusty



Magistrate Judy Latchman



Magistrate Alex Moore



Magistrate Zamilla Ally-Seepaul



Magistrate Clive Nurse



His Worship Sunil Scarce
Senior Magistrate



Magistrate Dylan Bess



Magistrate Robindranauth Singh



Magistrate Rhondel Weever



Magistrate Alisha George



*Magistrate Anette Singh
Mittleholtzer*



Magistrate Renita Singh



Magistrate Christel Lambert



Magistrate MARRISA



Magistrate Peter Hugh

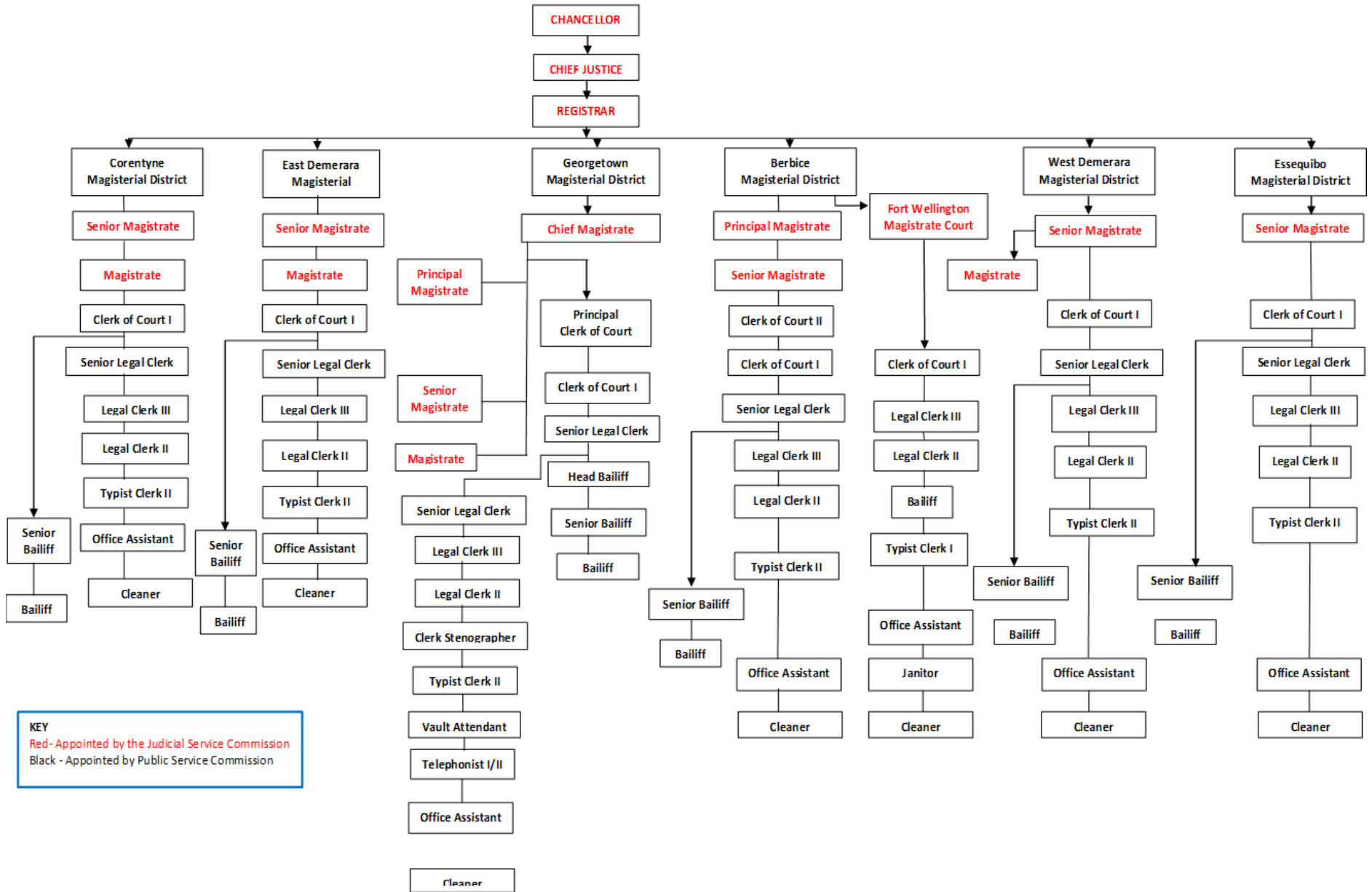


Magistrate Wanda Fortune



Magistrate Esther Sam

ORGANISATIONAL CHART -MAGISTRATE'S COURTS





The Georgetown Magistrates' Court

MAGISTRATES' COURTS: OVERVIEW

The Magistrates' Courts have been divided among ten (10) Magisterial Districts for administrative purposes, which are governed through Head-Offices. These offices can be found in the following Magisterial Districts:

1. Georgetown Magisterial District with a sub-office Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Court with head office at Georgetown.
2. Corentyne Magisterial District with its head office at Whim.
3. Berbice Magisterial District with its head office at New Amsterdam.
4. East Demerara Magisterial District with its head office at Vigilance.
5. West Demerara Magisterial District with its head office at Vreed-en-hoop.
6. Essequibo Magisterial District with its head office at Suddie.
7. North West Magisterial District is administered at Georgetown.
8. Rupununi Magisterial District with its head office at Lethem.
9. West Berbice Magisterial District with its head office at Fort Wellington.
10. Upper Demerara River Magisterial District with its head office at Linden.

These ten Magisterial Districts are served by twenty-four Magistrates.

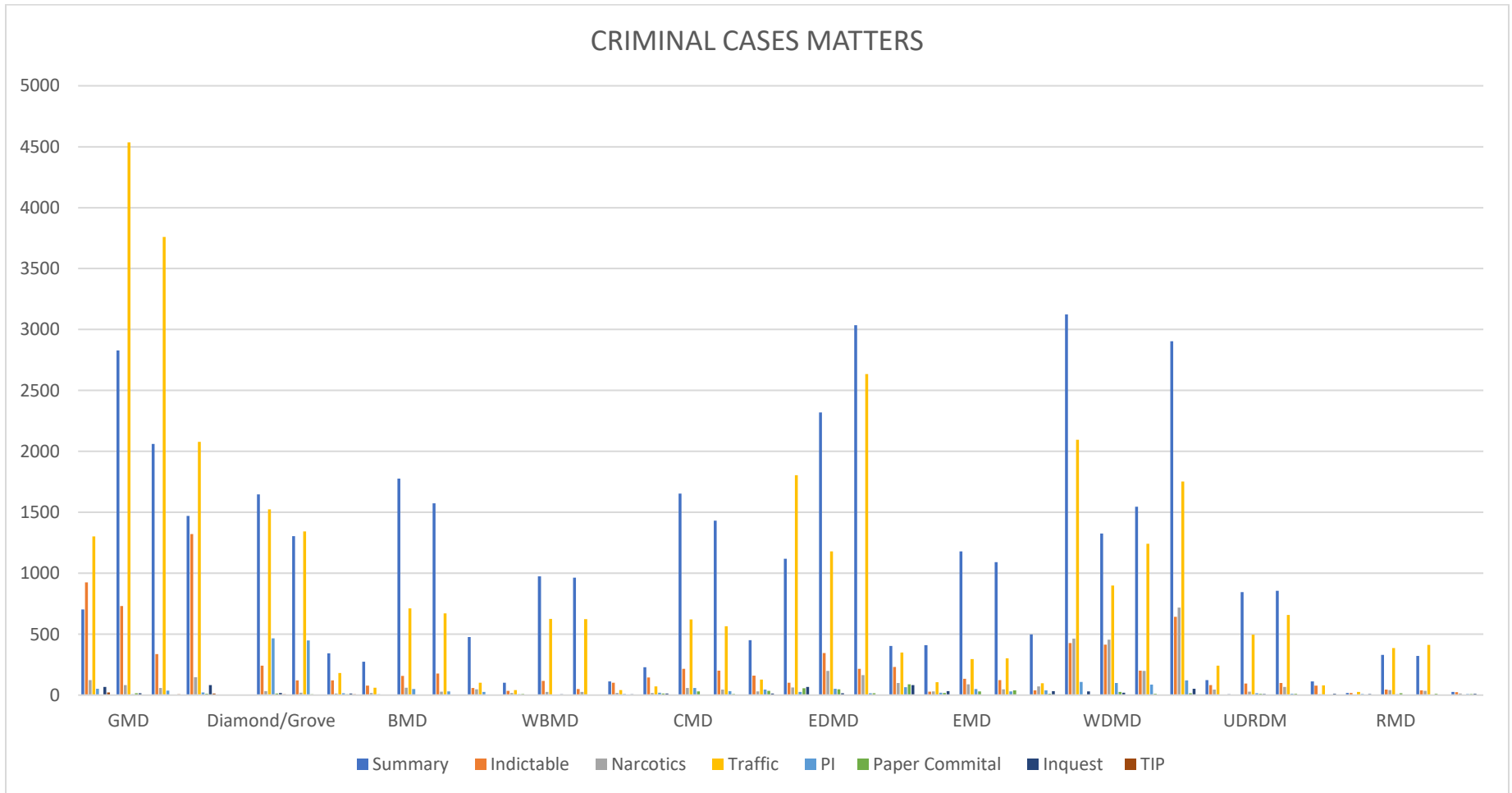
The Magisterial Districts are in charge of accepting all civil and criminal documents for hearing by the sitting Magistrates of the various Courts. They are also in charge of safeguarding all records of all proceedings adjudicated by the Magistrates, issuing certified copies of proceedings and case jackets in completed matters, as well as issuing orders of Court and other documents required by attorneys-at-law, litigants, and other members of the public, and informing the public about pending matters. The separate Magisterial Districts' head offices undertake the same functions, which can be classified as follows:

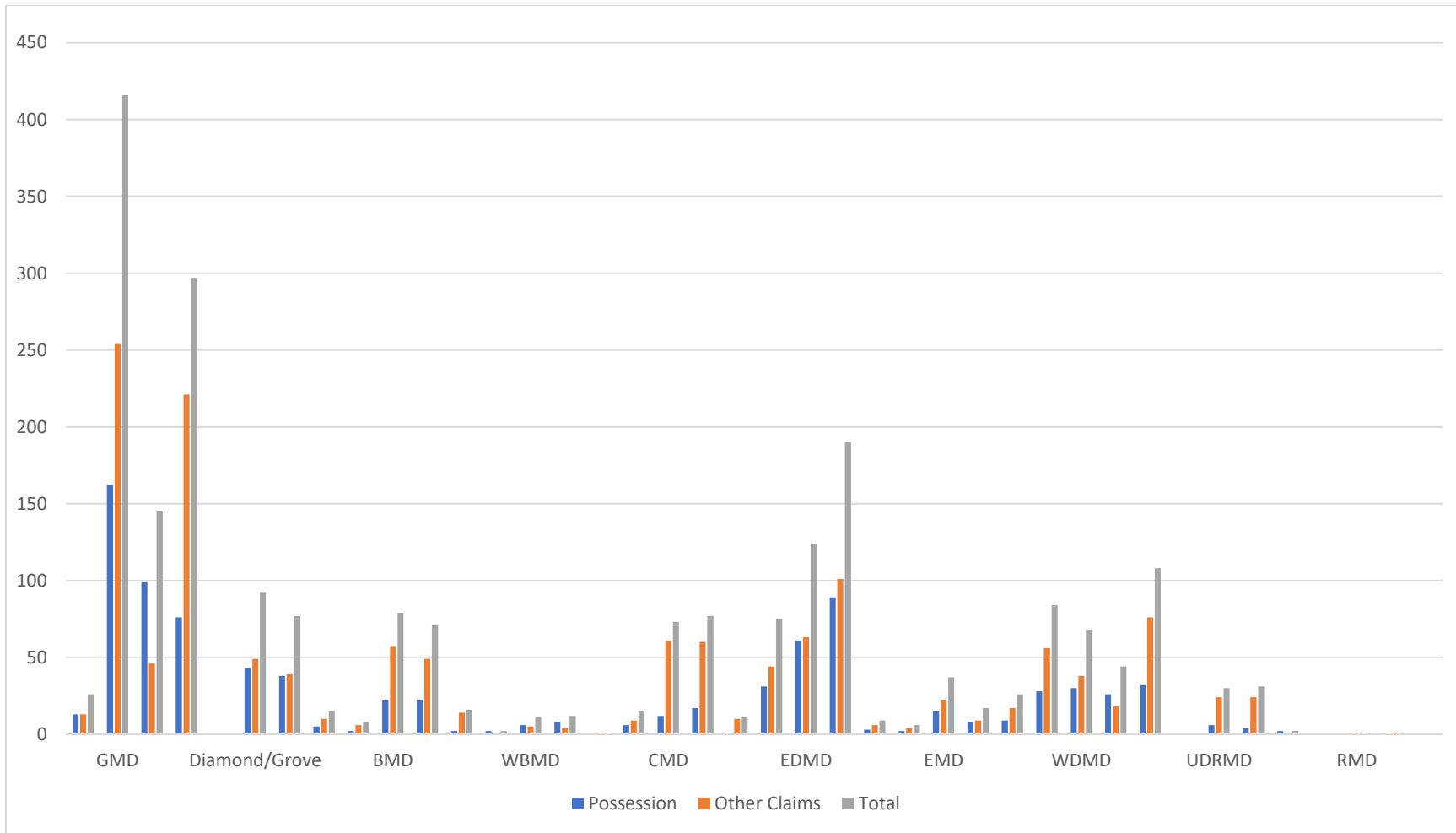
- (i) Judicial
- (ii) Financial

(iii) Collecting Office

(iv) Bailiff

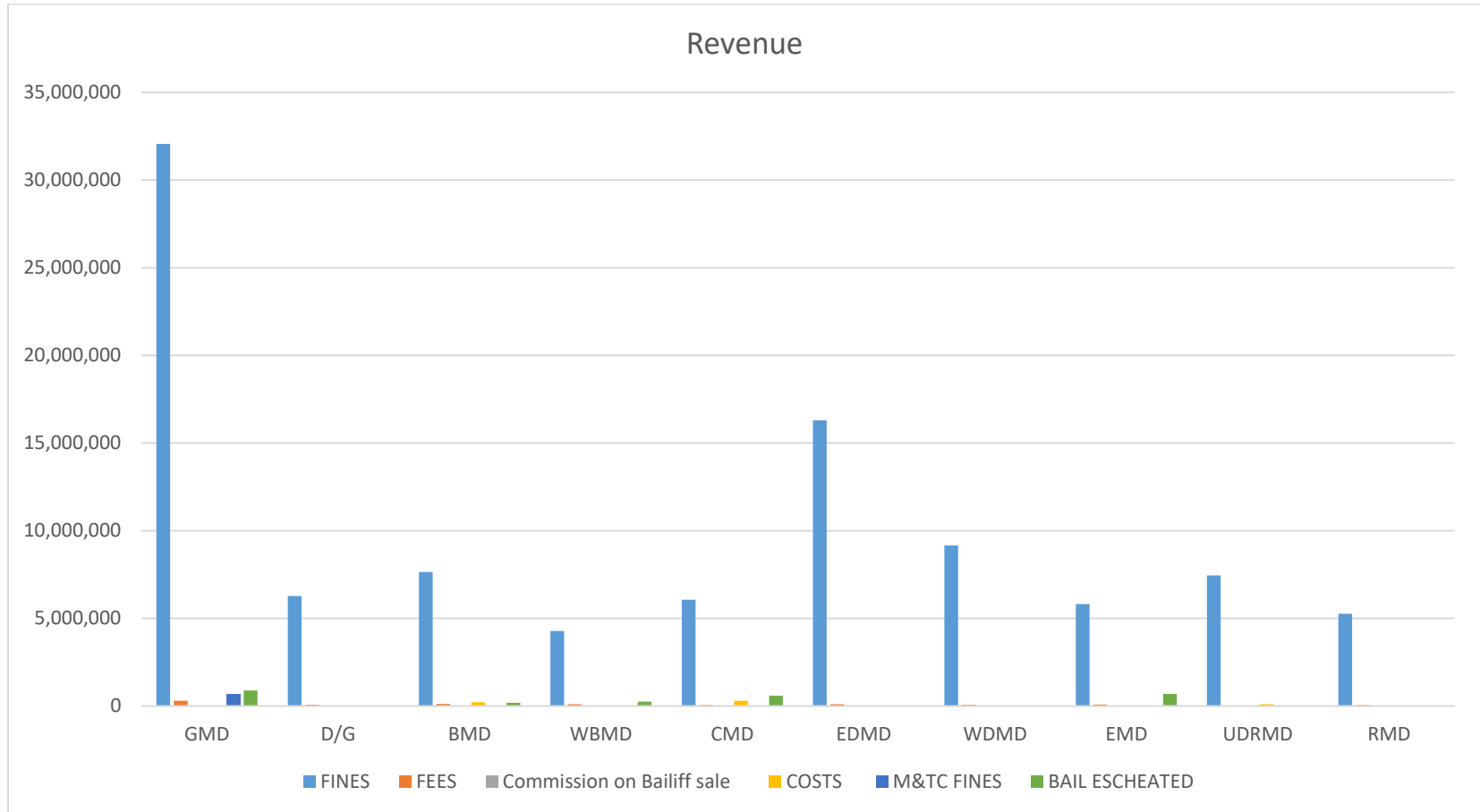
(v) Appeals and Depositions

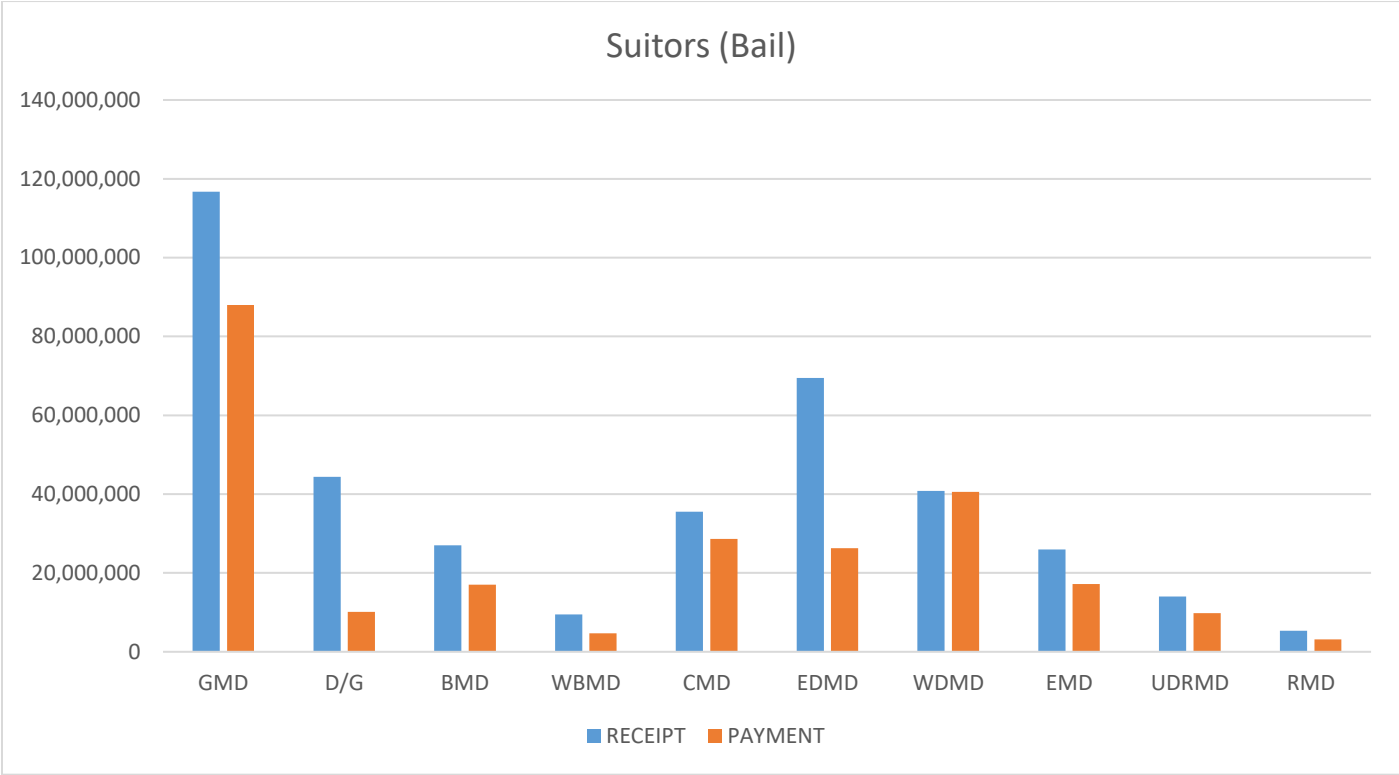


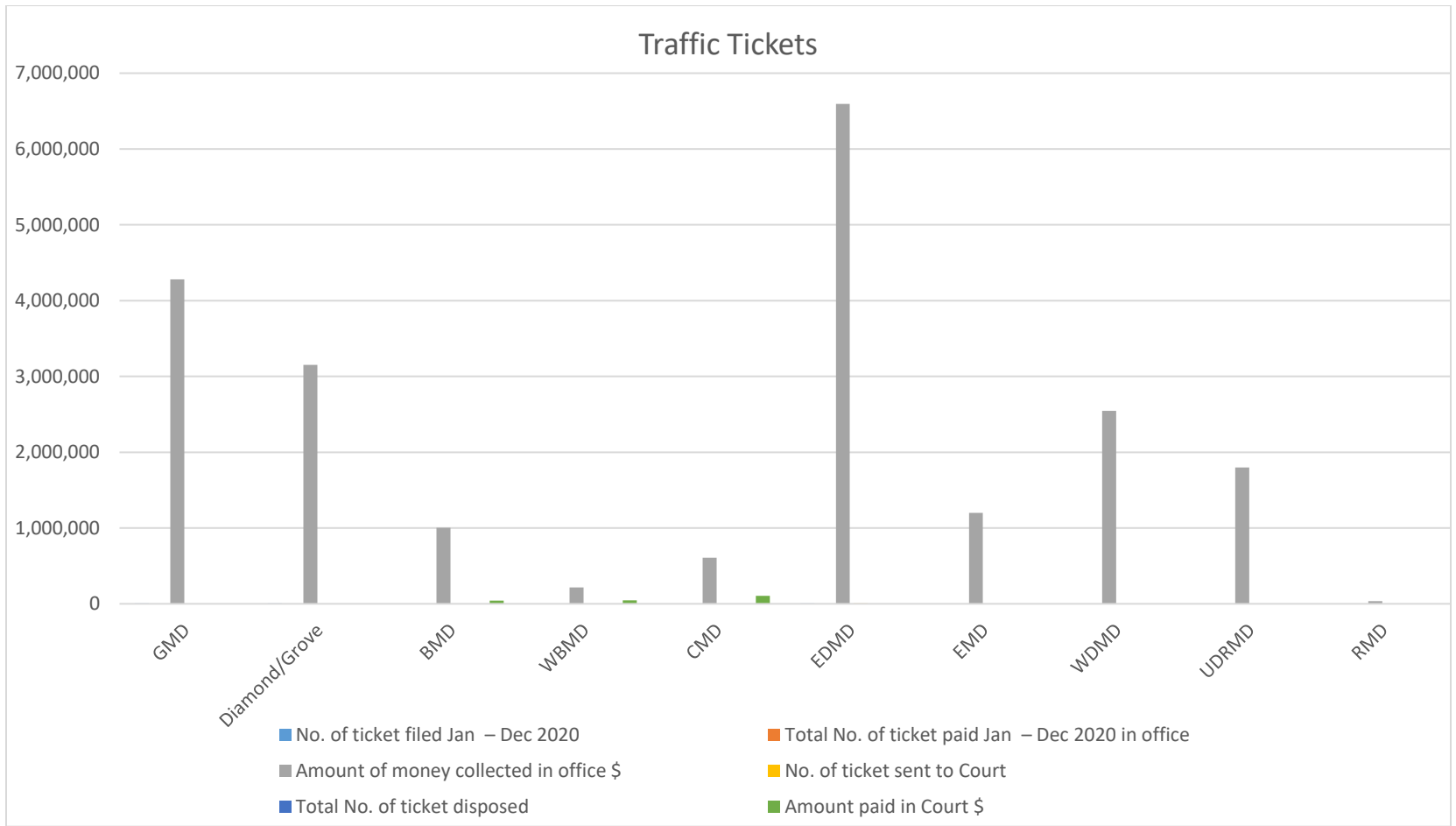


Financial

The following charts show the amount of fines (revenue), bail (suitor) and tickets collected in the various Districts.

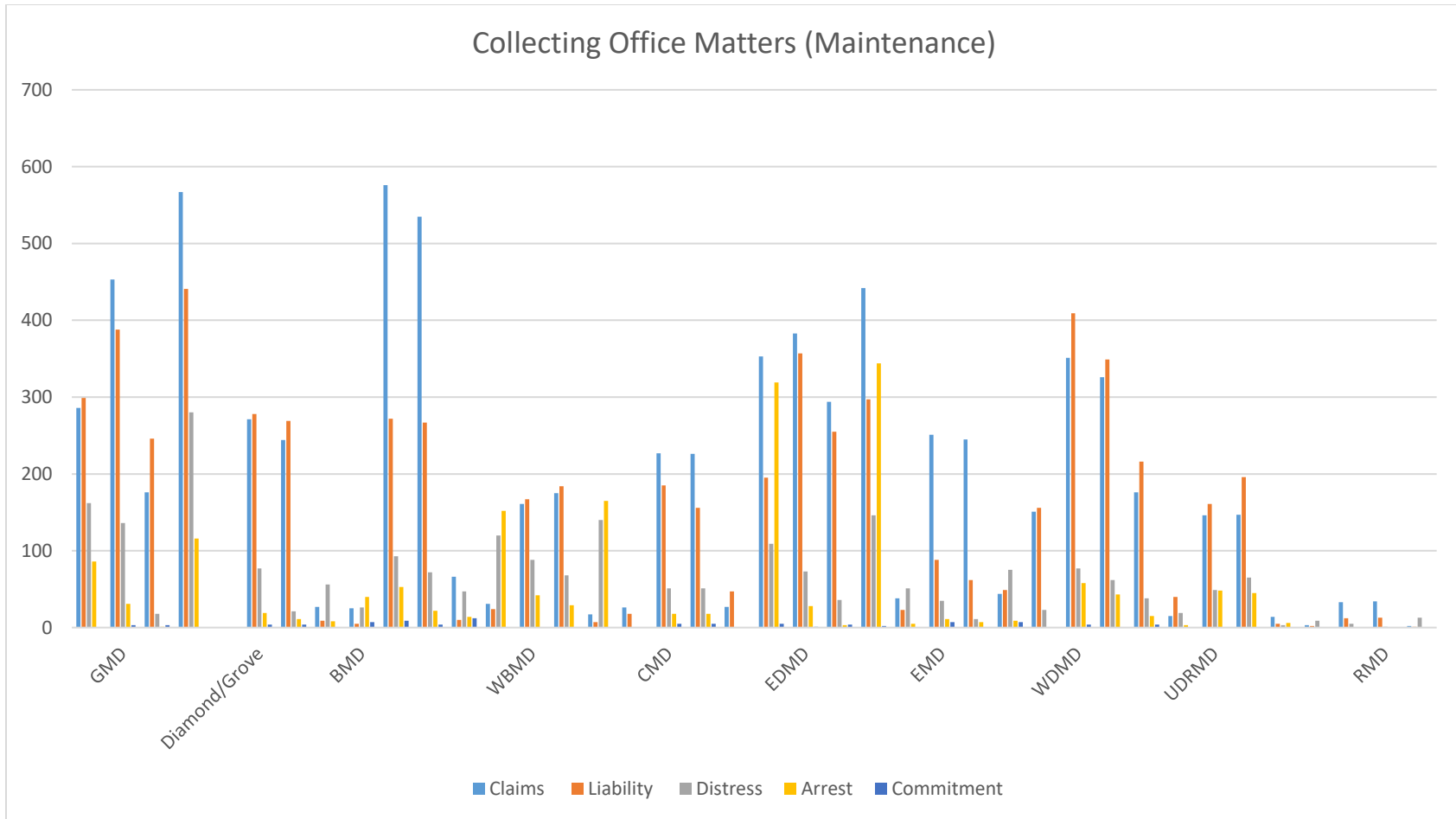


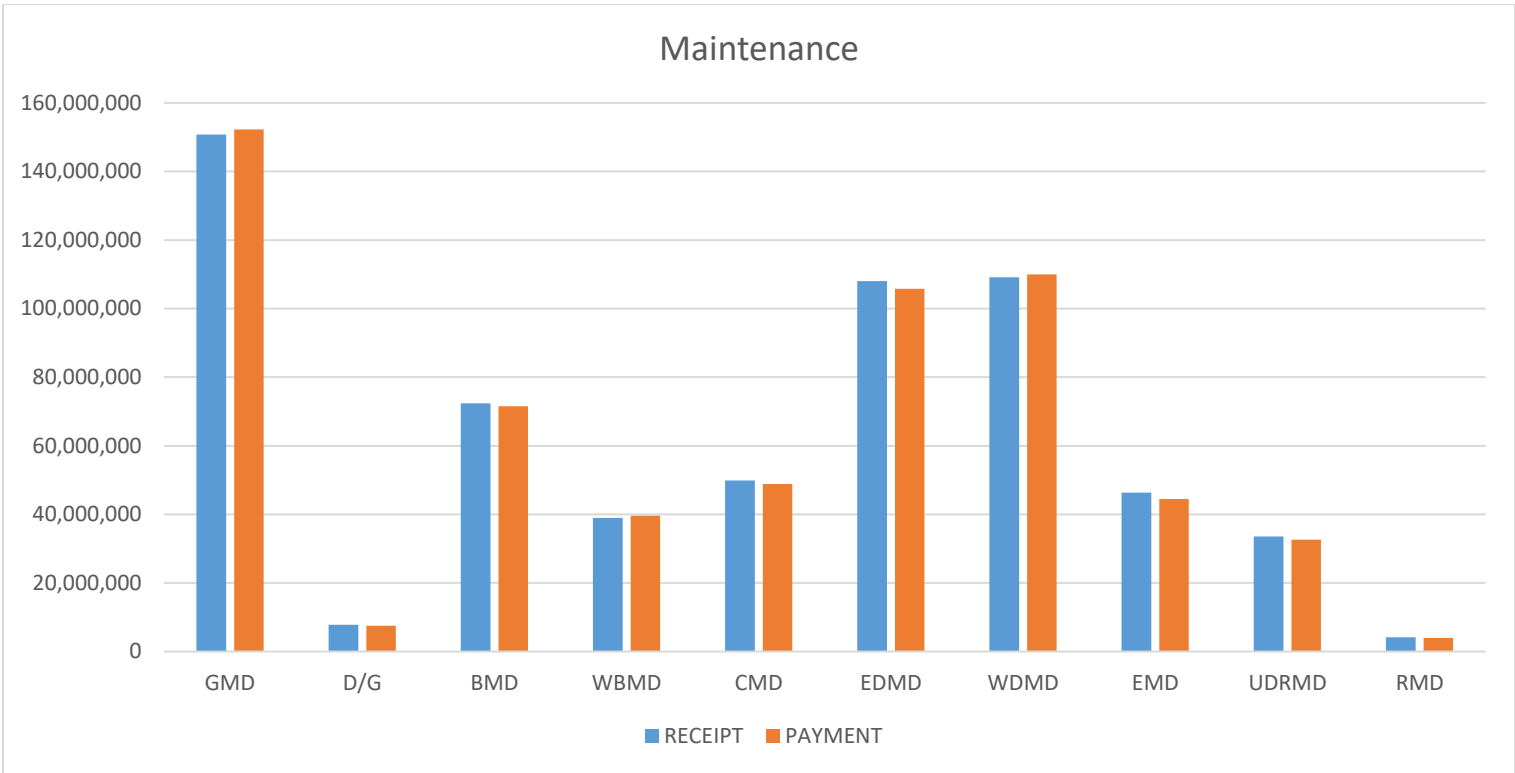




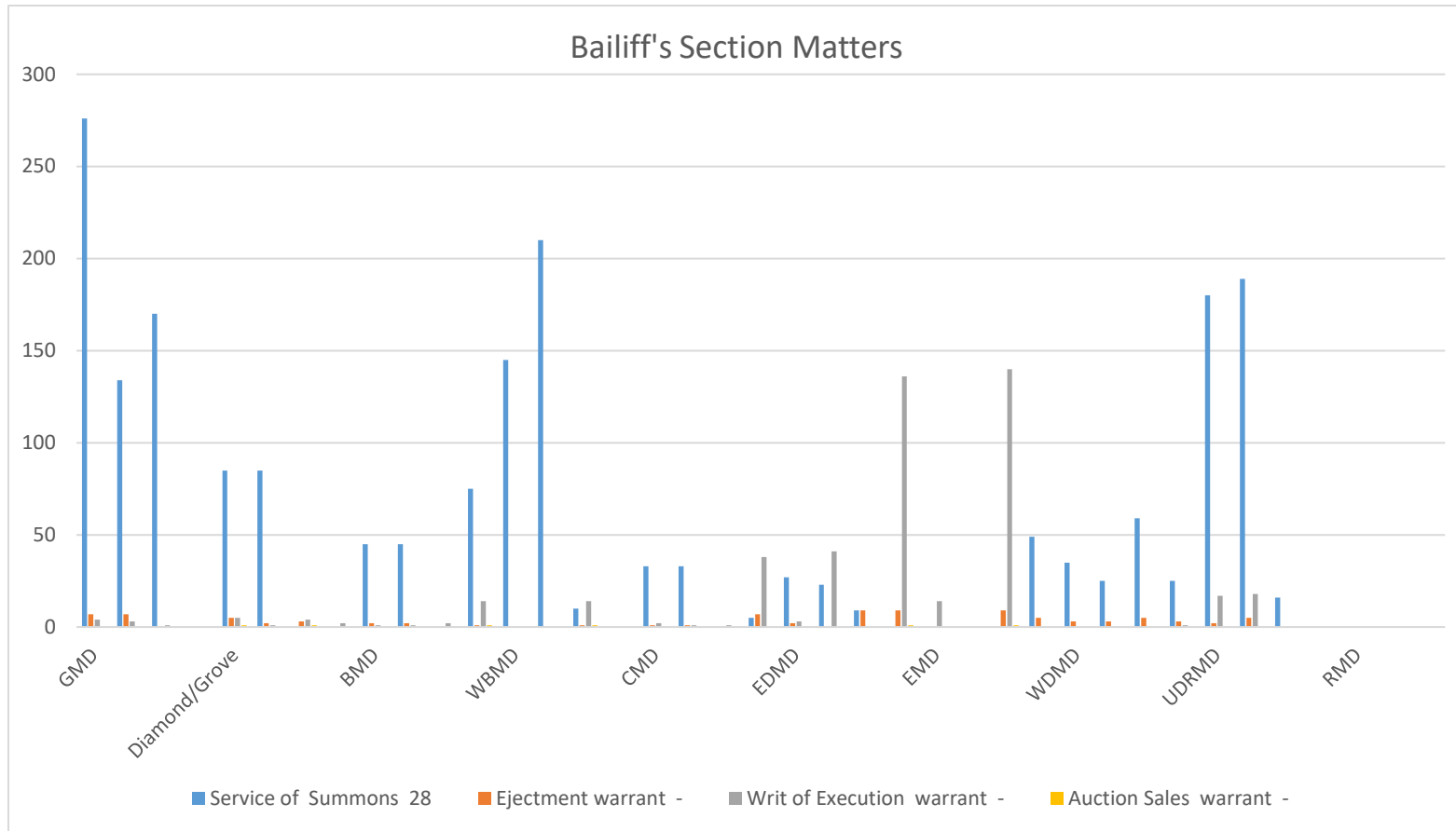
Collecting Office

These charts show the status of matters filed and the number of monies collected and paid over in the various Districts.





Bailiff



Obituary

It is with deep sadness that the Judiciary of Guyana learned of the passing of Mr. Keith S. Massiah, SC, OR, on Friday 24th April 2020.



*Former Chancellor of the
Judiciary, Keith Massiah*

The late Mr. Massiah dedicated his life to the law and served his country with distinction. His long and illustrious career saw him holding the positions of Chancellor of the Judiciary, Attorney General, and Professor of Law.

He was a true legal luminary whose indelible contribution to the jurisprudence of Guyana is known throughout the Caribbean and the Commonwealth. He will always be remembered for his intellectual prowess, and his rich, passionate, and poetic judgments. His many landmark judgments in constitutional and public law, as well as criminal cases, changed the legal landscape of Guyana.

As Chancellor of the Judiciary, he conducted himself and his court with admirable grace, decorum, and integrity. He was an inspiration to us all.

The legal fraternity has lost a great jurist, orator, teacher, and friend. Our heartfelt condolences to his widow, Mrs. Maureen Massiah, MS, their beloved family, relatives, and all who mourn the loss of this dear son of the soil.

2020 Events in Pictures



Handing over of law books- October 2020



Supreme Gives back to GTT Pinktober Cancer Awareness Drive-October 2020





Opening of the Container Courts-December 2020



Launching of the Public Education Program-June 2020



Diamond/Grove Magistrate Court Opening-January 2020



Court Reporting Unit being awarded with second place in the Dharmic Sabha's Rangoli Competition-November 2020





Republic Celebration Building Decoration Competition





Horticulture Competition



Scenes from Christmas around the courts



PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Personnel Department found 2020 to be an unprecedented challenging year given the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding, the Department was able to surmount them and report a fairly positive period.

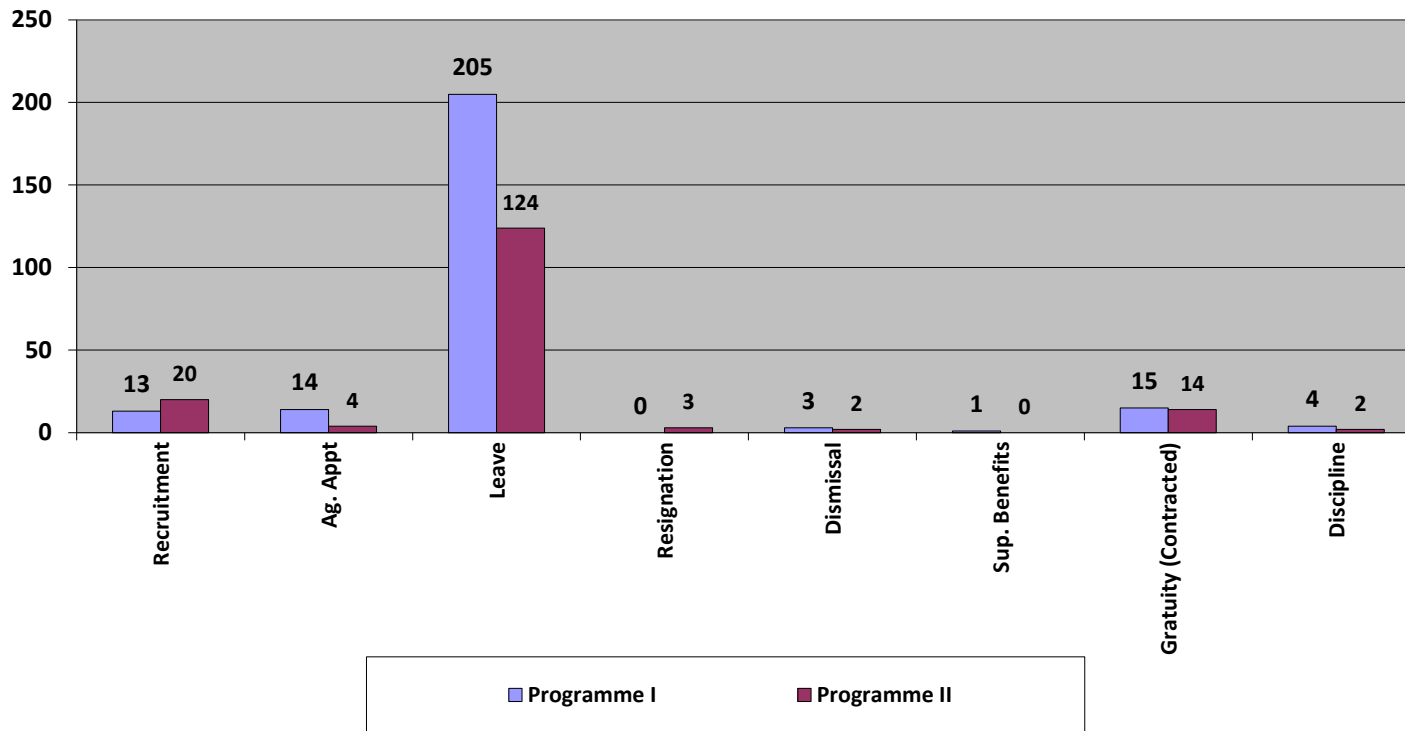
Interviews were carried out for the following departments:

- Supreme Court (Georgetown)
- Georgetown Magistrates' Court
- Sub-Registry, Essequibo
- Essequibo Magisterial District
- Sub-Registry, Berbice
- Corentyne Magisterial District
- East Demerara Magisterial District

As a result of the interviews done, twenty-nine (29) persons have been employed in 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the many challenges experienced during 2020, the Personnel Department was able to process the following matters as summarized in the chart below:



ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT



On the 17th August 2020, the Supreme Court submitted its budget proposal for the year 2020 due to the election's crisis and COVID-19 pandemic to the Ministry of Finance for the sum of two billion four hundred and forty-three million, one hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars (G\$2,443,164,000) for both recurrent (operational) and capital (developmental) expenditures.

The National Assembly approved the entire sum on the 1st September, 2020 with a breakdown as follows:

-Recurrent expenditure (Salaries and other charges)-	(G\$2,012,861,000)
-Capital expenditure (buildings, land & water transport & furniture & equipment) -	(G\$ 430,303,000)
Total lump sum	(G\$2,443,164,000)

This approved amount represents 21.64% of the total estimates of eleven billion two hundred and eighty-five million eight hundred and seven thousand dollars (G\$11,285,807,000) approved for Constitutional Agencies Budget 2020 and 0.74% of the national budget of three hundred and twenty-nine billion five hundred and forty-five million one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars (G\$329,545,132,000) approved by the National Assembly for Public Sector for current and capital expenditures.

After carefully reviewing this lump sum of G\$2,443,164,000 via preparation of cash flow and other analysis, it was clear that this amount was sufficient to meet our proposed expenditures for employment and other charges cost for the year 2020. Additionally, the elections imbroglio in the country from March to August 2020 coupled with the COVID-19 Pandemic which started in March 2020 in Guyana, led to offices being closed, staff rotation, and reduced working hours all resulted in reduced activities hence, savings in programs.

These savings were utilized towards offsetting expenditures relating to COVID-19 measures, e.g., installation of Plexiglas/screens in offices, counters, and courtrooms, purchase of sanitizing agents, spray cans, testers, protective gears, installation of handwashing sinks, and dispensers, purchase, and rental of tents and chairs, assistance to staff members by providing care packages/hampers, virtual courtrooms and devices/equipment to support the reopening of courts, etc. By these measures, the Supreme Court was able to satisfy its obligations towards employees, customers, contractors, etc. for the year 2020.

For the Fiscal year ending 31st December 2020, additional funds were received from the Ministry of Finance through Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants to meet the following expenditure:

- IDW# 2502 – eleven million and six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$11,625,000) from chart of account 6141- Other Employment Cost, to meet the expenditure for the one-off cash grant payment to public servants for the year 2020.

Summary of Funds Received for 2020

Approved Budget

Current Subvention Approved	G\$ 2,012,861,000
Capital Subvention Approved	<u>G\$ 430,303,000</u>
Total Approved Budget	G\$ 2,443,164,000
Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants	<u>G\$ 11,625,000</u>
Total Approved Budget 2020	<u>G\$ 2,454,789,000</u>

Statutory Cost

To fulfill our obligations with respect to remuneration for Puisne Judges, Justices of Appeal, Chief Justice (ag) and Chancellor (ag) the Supreme Court expended the sum of three hundred and fifty-three million nine hundred and fifty thousand eight hundred and ninety dollars (G\$353,950,890) on statutory expenditure or 14.41% of total funds received for 2020. This amount also represents a decrease of eight million three hundred and eighty-nine thousand and thirty-six dollars (G\$8,389,036) or 2.31% from 2019. This is as a result of the retirement of one (1) Puisne Judge with effect from 31st October 2019 where the position is still vacant to date. This saving was used to offset the payment of salary in lieu of leave for six (6) judges in 2020 yet giving an overall decrease in expenditure from 2019 to 2020.

Employment Cost

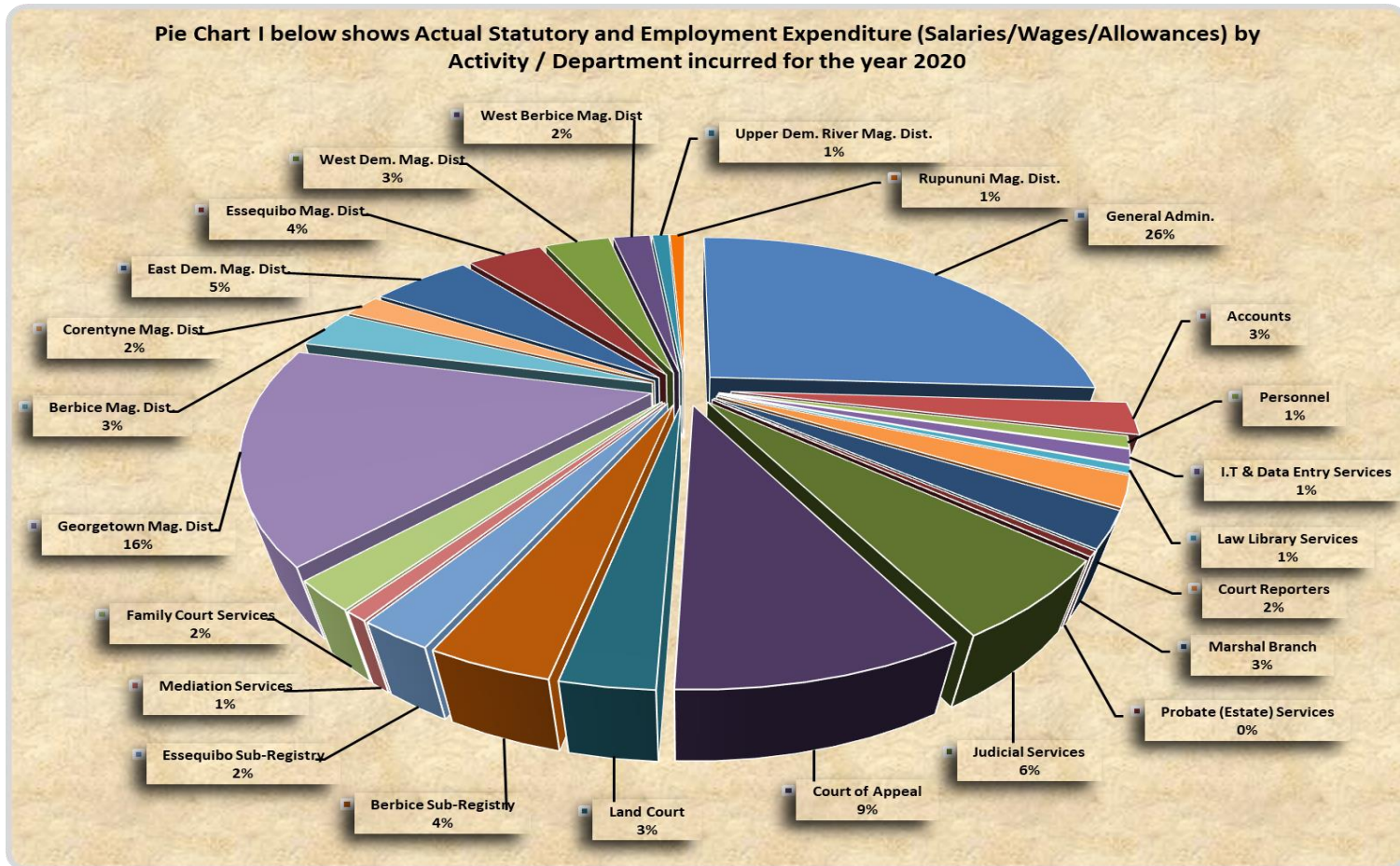
The Supreme Court expended the sum of eight hundred and eighty-seven million, one hundred and twenty-one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars (G\$887,121,858) or 36.13% of total funds received for 2020, towards the payment of salaries and other emoluments for administrative, clerical, semi-skill & un-skilled, contracted and temporary employees. This amount represents an increase of twenty million, one hundred and thirty-five thousand, eight hundred and fifty-four dollars (G\$20,135,854) or 2.32% from 2019. This increase resulted from the employment of twenty-four (24) new staff members and netted off with resignations and increases in salaries from the prior year 2019 catering for the entire year.

Table I below shows Actual Statutory and Employment Expenditure (Salaries/Wages/Allowances) by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2020

No.	Activities	Actual Payroll Expenditure
1	General Administration	311,429,867
2	Accounts Services	30,450,717
3	Personnel Services	10,956,434
4	I.T & Data Entry Services	13,593,965
5	Law Library Services	6,697,255
6	Court Reporters	26,927,567
7	Marshal Branch	31,872,783
8	Probate (Estate) Services	4,636,405
9	Judicial Services	69,182,295
10	Court of Appeal	103,139,676
11	Land Court	33,368,861
12	Berbice Sub-Registry	44,515,096
13	Essequbio Sub-Registry	27,018,075
14	Mediation Services	8,813,191
15	Family Court Services	25,936,279
16	Georgetown Magisterial District	197,938,571
17	Berbice Magisterial District	37,474,773

18	Corentyne Magisterial District	22,467,089
19	East Demerara Magisterial District	61,898,809
20	Essequibo Magisterial District	48,161,708
21	West Demerara Magisterial District	41,973,900
22	West Berbice Magisterial District	24,135,743
23	Upper Demerara River Magisterial Dist.	10,738,164
24	Rupununi Magisterial District	9,439,104
	Total	1,202,766,327

Pie Chart I below shows Actual Statutory and Employment Expenditure (Salaries/Wages/Allowances) by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2020



Other Charges

The Supreme Court expended the sum of seven hundred and thirty-nine million, five hundred and eighty-three thousand, nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars (G\$739,583,939) or 30.12% of total funds received for 2020, towards the daily operations of the High Court, Georgetown, the two Sub-Registries in Berbice and Essequibo, the Court of Appeal, Land Court, Family Court, Mediation Centre, Personnel, I.T & Data Entry, Law Library, Court Reporting Unit and the nine (9) Magisterial Districts for the year 2020, including the newly opened Diamond / Grove Magistrates' Court.

This amount was used to satisfy payments for goods and services, consultancies, maintenance, and rehabilitation works geared towards the improvement and proper upkeep of court buildings, daily functioning of the registries and departments.

Savings were accumulated from employment costs due to non-hiring of staff by the Public Service Commission (PSC) that were budgeted for and the closure of offices, courts (including interior), rotation of staff, reduction in working hours and activities due to COVID-19 and were utilized towards putting in place measures to curb the spread of the pandemic.

This amount represents an increase of fifty-one million four hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and ninety dollars (G\$51,442,390) or 7.47%% from 2019.

Breakdown of Expenditure by Chart of Accounts

➤ Overseas Travelling for Judicial Officers

The Supreme Court expended the sum of six million, eight hundred and twenty-four thousand and twenty-seven dollars (G\$6,824,027) for overseas traveling for Judicial Officers attending overseas conferences, seminars, meeting, workshop/training for the year 2020, even though we had budgeted G\$20M under this Activity. This reduction or fall short was a consequence of borders and airports being closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, overseas travel was suspended or postponed and trips booked eventually canceled.

➤ **Training**

During the year 2020, the Supreme Court expended the sum of seventeen million, thirty-nine thousand, six hundred and sixty-nine dollars (G\$17,039,669) for conducting several cohorts of training/workshops for Judges, Magistrates, and staff members to elevate their knowledge and skills towards the job. These trainings were conducted virtually during the last half of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and additional fund were reallocated for induction training for new judges online by the Singapore Judicial College, supervisory training for Heads and senior staff, and training for Registry staff, etc. and for the introduction of the new criminal case management systems set to launch in 2021 by the judiciary in collaboration with National Centre for State Courts (NCSC).

➤ **Operating and Court Related Expenses**

The Supreme Court expended the sum of seven hundred and fifteen million, seven hundred and twenty thousand, two hundred and forty-three dollars (G\$715,720,243) on operating and court related expenses as follows:

❖ Drugs and Medical Supplies	- G\$ 2,194,469
❖ Field Materials and Supplies	- G\$ 7,379,019
❖ Office Material and Supplies	- G\$ 44,927,016
❖ Print and Non-Print Materials	- G\$ 51,203,118
❖ Fuel & Lubricants	- G\$ 5,856,122

❖ Rental of Building	- G\$ 13,590,000
❖ Maintenance of Buildings	- G\$ 37,564,138
❖ Janitorial & Cleaning Supplies	- G\$ 40,246,729
❖ Maintenance of Other Infrastructure	- G\$ 30,182,767
❖ Local Travel and Subsistence	- G\$ 45,430,207
❖ Postage, Telex & Cablegrams	- G\$ 948,444
❖ Vehicles Spares and Service	- G\$ 8,623,912
❖ Telephone Charges	- G\$ 38,817,083
❖ Electricity Charges	- G\$ 56,852,104
❖ Water Charges	- G\$ 17,151,752
❖ Security Services	- G\$ 60,020,877
❖ Equipment Maintenance	- G\$ 24,095,377
❖ Cleaning and Extermination Services	- G\$ 25,288,063
❖ National and Other Event	- G\$ 9,783,398
❖ Refreshment and Meals	- G\$ 32,168,800
❖ Other	- G\$149,286,062
❖ Rates & Taxes	- G\$ 14,110,786

Table II below shows Actual Other Charges Expenditure by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2020

No.	Activities	Actual Other Expenditure
1	General Administration	250,256,675
2	Accounts Services	20,235,574
3	Personnel Services	5,201,997
4	I.T & Data Entry Services	5,627,099
5	Law Library Services	4,483,672
6	Court Reporters	2,684,011
7	Marshal Branch	14,868,909
8	Probate (Estate) Services	2,391,248
9	Judicial Services	19,546,996
10	Court of Appeal	40,441,496
11	Land Court	7,100,975
12	Berbice Sub-Registry	42,870,446
13	Essequbio Sub-Registry	29,916,133
14	Mediation Services	4,589,490
15	Family Court Services	5,418,045
16	Georgetown Magisterial District	108,463,095
17	Berbice Magisterial District	25,214,774
18	Corentyne Magisterial District	19,734,967
19	East Demerara Magisterial District	21,822,430
20	Essequbio Magisterial District	39,649,122
21	West Demerara Magisterial District	17,645,424
22	West Berbice Magisterial District	17,036,748
23	Upper Demerara River Magisterial District	19,629,145
24	Rupununi Magisterial District	14,755,468
	Total	739,583,939

Pie Chart II below shows Actual Other Charges Expenditure by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2020

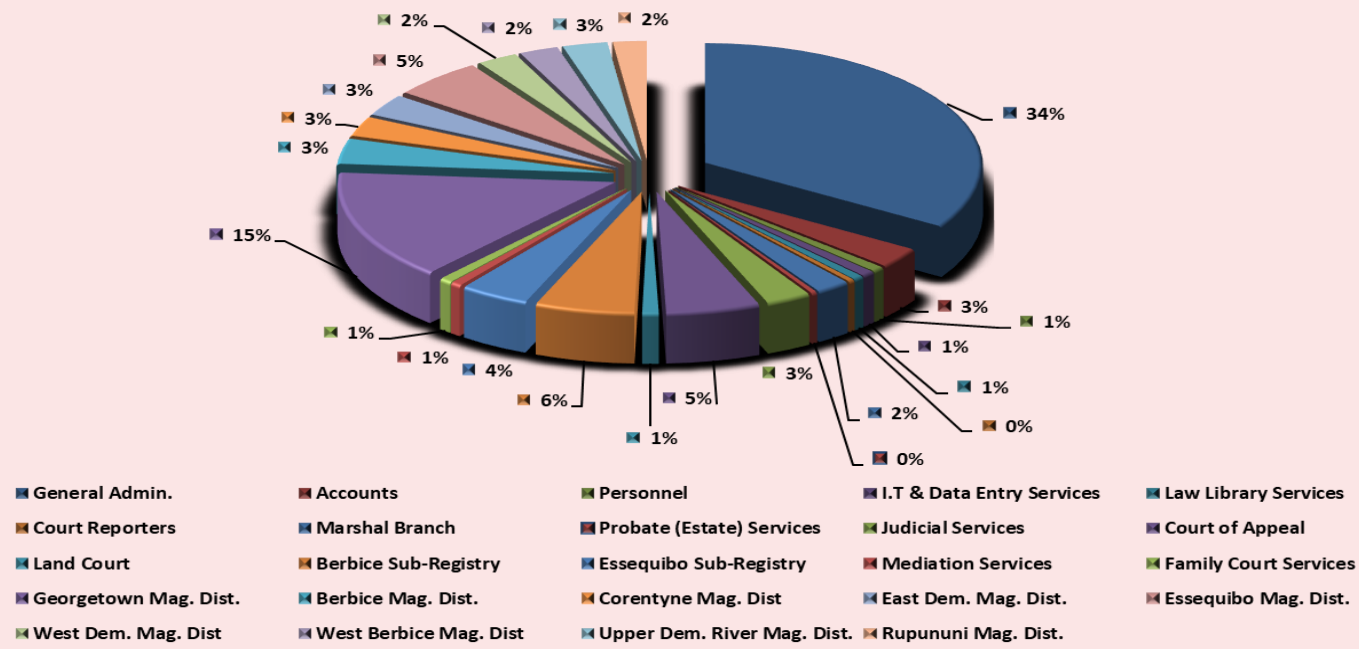


Table III below shows a Summary of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) incurred for the years 2016-2020

No .	Line Item/Chart of Account	Actual Expenditure				
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	Statutory Cost	353,950,890	362,339,926	362,242,223	298,689,702	330,821,364
2	Employment Cost	887,121,858	866,986,004	783,435,638	728,302,230	663,650,520
3	Other Charges	739,583,939	688,141,549	614,014,777	564,966,459	532,151,118
	Total	1,980,656,687	1,917,467,479	1,759,692,638	1,591,958,391	1,526,623,002

Cone Chart Below Shows A Comparison of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) By Category Incurred For The Years 2016-2020

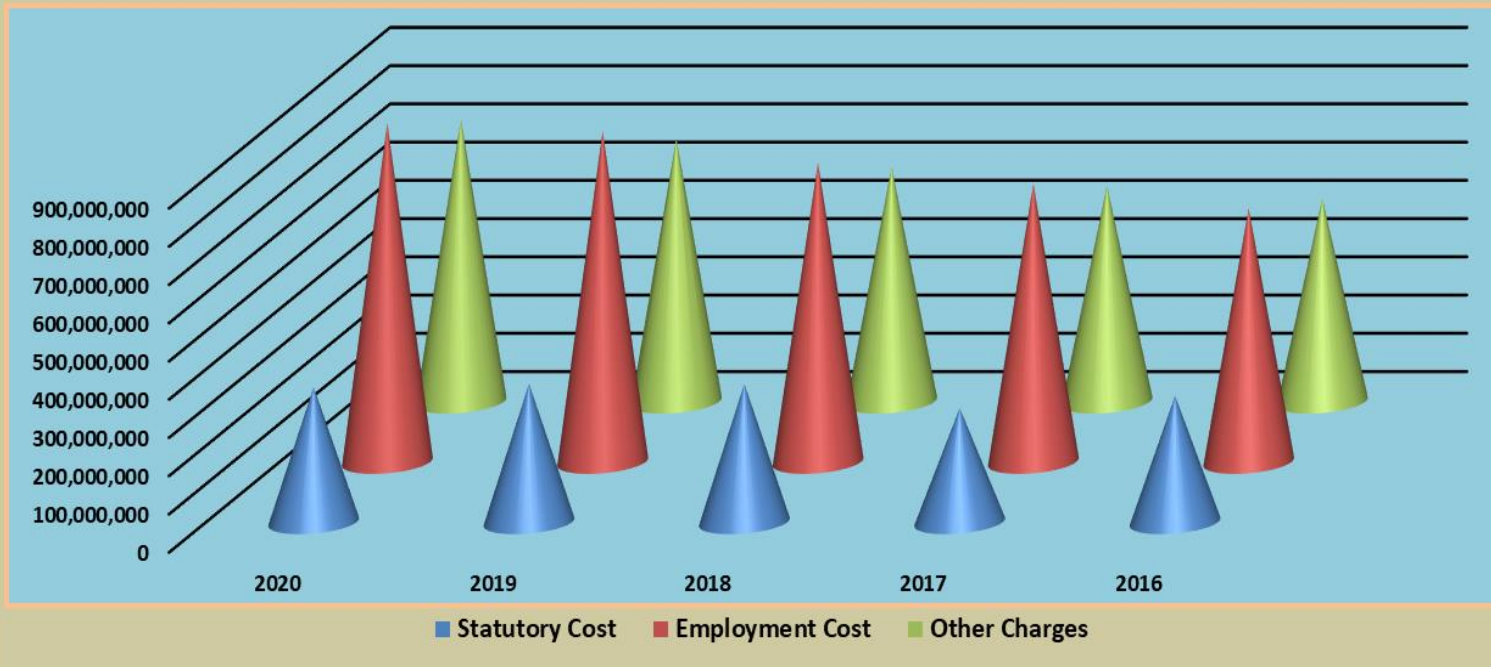


Table IV below shows the comparison of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) by Line Items incurred for the years 2016 - 2020

No.	Line Item/Chart of Account	Actual Expenditure				
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	Total Statutory Cost	353,950,890	362,339,926	362,242,223	298,689,702	330,821,364
2	Total Employment Cost	887,121,858	866,986,004	783,435,638	728,302,230	663,650,520
3	Total Other Charges Cost	739,583,939	688,141,549	614,014,777	564,966,459	532,151,118
		1,980,656,687	1,917,467,479	1,759,692,638	1,591,958,391	1,526,623,002

Summary For 2020 – Receipts & Payments (Current)

Receipts

Subvention Current Budget 2020 - releases	G\$2,012,861,000	
6141 – Revision of wages & salaries	<u>G\$11,625,000</u>	G\$2,024,486,000

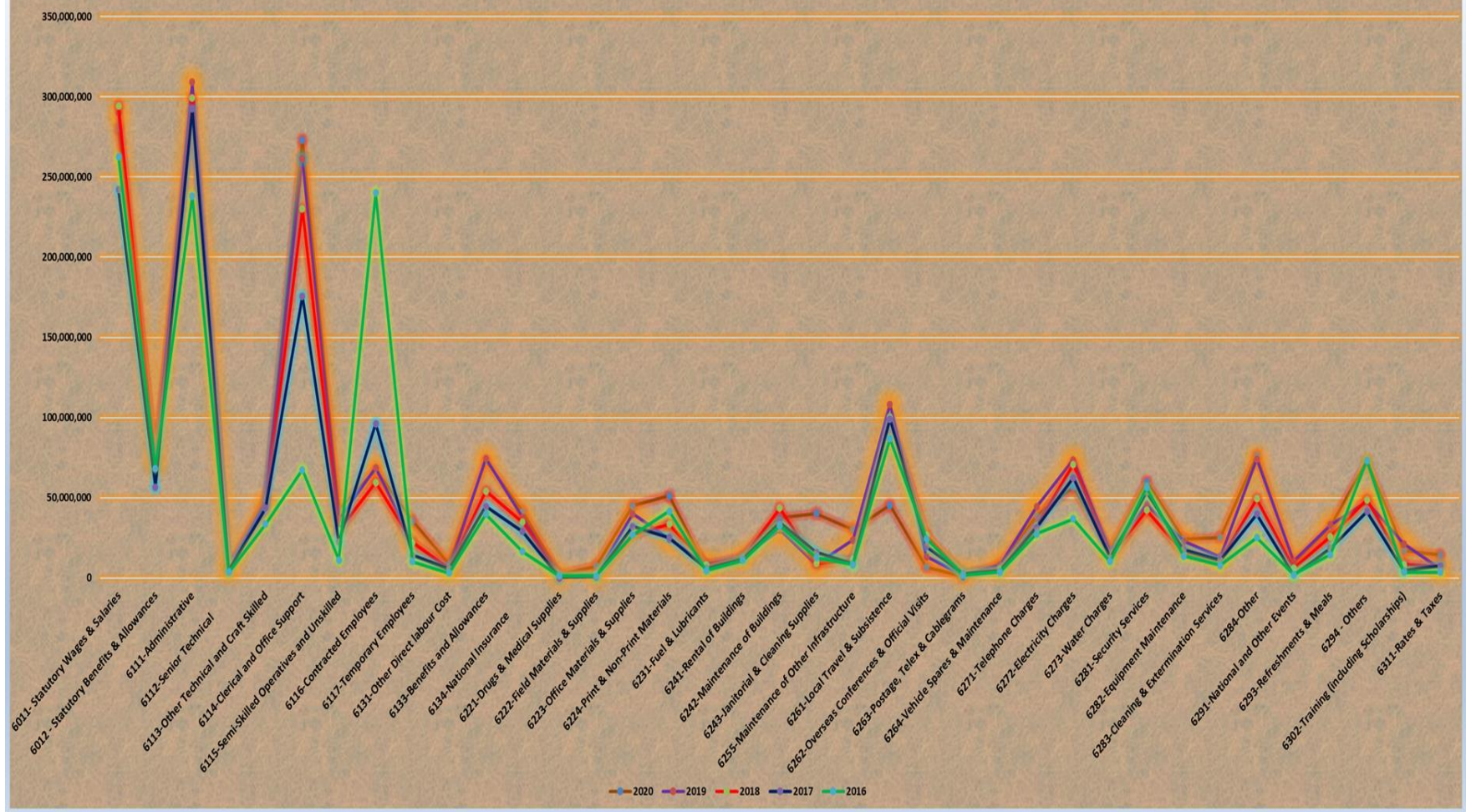
Payments

Statutory Cost	G\$353,950,890	
Employment Cost	G\$887,121,858	
Other Charges	<u>G\$739,583,939</u>	<u>(G\$1,980,656,687)</u>
Balance returned to consolidated fund on line item 6323		<u>G\$43,829,313</u>

Breakdown of returns

1. 6323 Constitutional Agencies – current budget	-	G\$ 38,429,276
2. 2502 – IDW – one off cash grant to public servants	-	<u>G\$ 5,400,037</u>
Total Returns to Consolidated fund	-	<u>G\$43,829,313</u>

Line Chart Showing Comparison of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) incurred for the Years 2016-2020 by Line Item



Capital Expenditure

The Supreme Court expended the sum of four hundred and thirty million, three hundred and three thousand dollars (\$430,303,000) on Capital expenditure or 17.52% of total funds received for the year 2020. This represents a decrease of twenty-eight million one hundred and seventy-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars (G\$28,174,999) or 6.14% from 2019.

The main reasons for such a decrease were primarily due to the large rollover / multi-year projects 2019-2020 and the late approval of the budget 2020 due to National Elections and COVID-19 pandemic, hence, fewer funds were requested and approved.

Table V below shows Actual Capital Expenditure by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2020

No.	Activities	Actual Capital Expenditure
1	General Administration	128,861,746
2	Accounts Services	206,930
3	Personnel Services	585,000
4	I.T & Data Entry Services	336,360
5	Law Library Services	415,405
6	Court Reporters	17,900
7	Marshal Branch	228,000
8	Probate (Estate) Services	1,039,110
9	Judicial Services	1,995,651
10	Court of Appeal	1,675,556
11	Land Court	82,714
12	Berbice Sub-Registry	32,526,638
13	Essequibo Sub-Registry	10,737,117
14	Mediation Services	982,110

15	Family Court Services	2,224,466
16	Georgetown Magisterial District	122,790,589
17	Berbice Magisterial District	1,126,370
18	Corentyne Magisterial District	97,755
19	East Demerara Magisterial District	15,645,458
20	Essequibo Magisterial District	84,686,059
21	West Demerara Magisterial District	2,376,946
22	West Berbice Magisterial District	2,695,916
23	Upper Demerara River Magisterial Dist.	18,859,204
24	Rupununi Magisterial District	110,000
	Total	430,303,000

Pie Chart III Below Shows Actual Capital Expenditure by Activities / Departments Incurred for the Year 2020

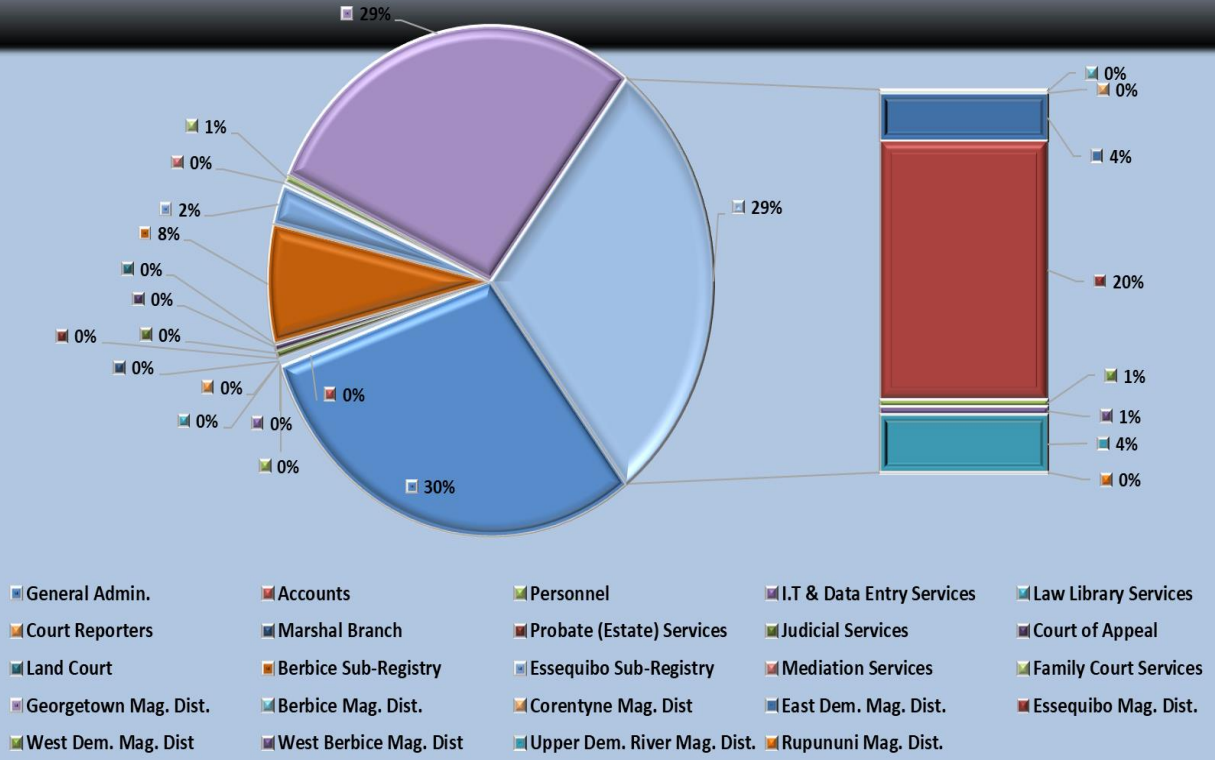
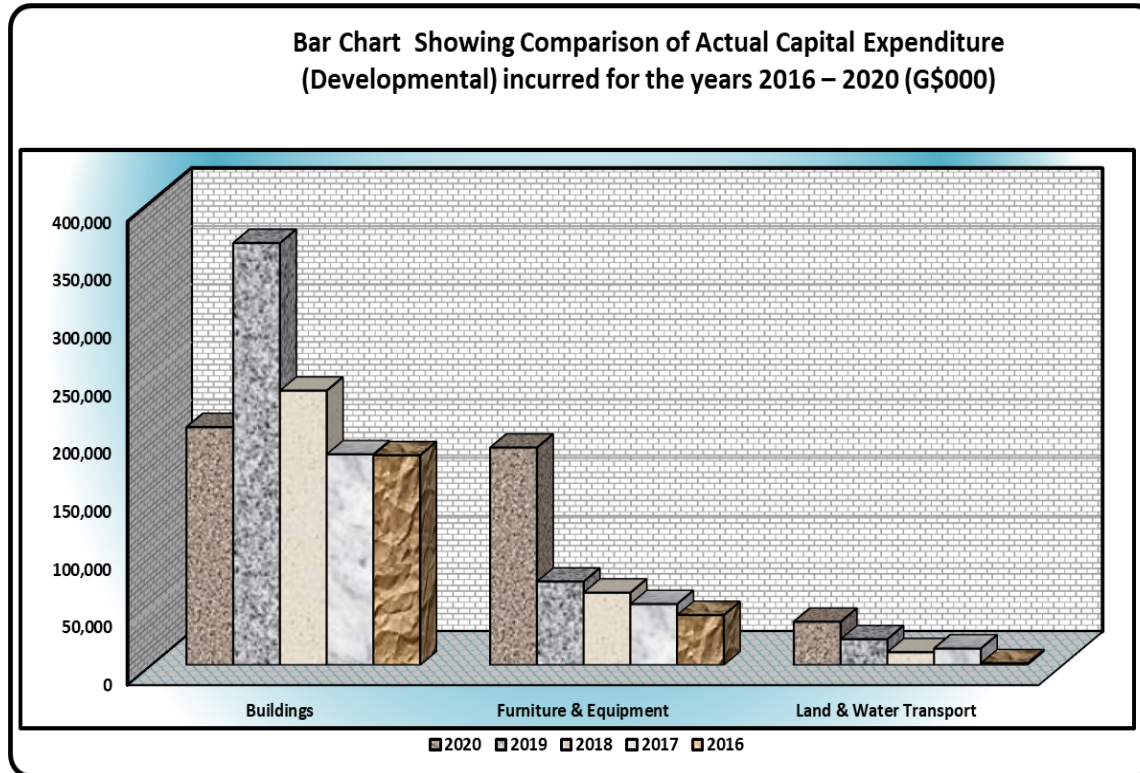


Table VI below shows the comparison of Actual Capital Expenditure (Developmental) By Project Component incurred for the years 2016 – 2020

No.	Line Item/Chart of Account (Project Component)	Actual Expenditure				
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	Building	205,258,358	364,112,713	236,759,065	181,854,027	180,983,928
2	Furniture & Equipment	187,631,126	72,015,377	62,515,123	52,666,023	43,135,539
3	Land & Water Transport	37,413,516	22,349,909	11,101,798	14,279,562	1,592,606
	Total	430,303,000	458,477,999	310,375,986	248,799,612	225,712,073



Summary For 2020 – Receipts & Payments (Capital)

Receipts

Subvention Capital Budget 2020 - releases G\$430,303,000

Payments

Buildings	G\$205,258,358	
Furniture & Equipment	G\$187,631,126	
Land & Water Transport	<u>G\$ 37,413,516</u>	<u>(G\$430,303,000)</u>
Balance returned to consolidated fund on line item 7011		G\$ <u> 0</u>

Buildings

The amount of two hundred and five million, two hundred and fifty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty-eight dollars (\$205,258,358) was expended on Buildings. The following are major works (projects) that were rolled over (multi-year) 2019-2020 and new projects undertaken in 2020:

Roll-over projects for 2019-2020

1. Construction of Diamond Grove Magistrate's Court Region # 4
2. Construction of Bartica Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 7.
3. Construction of Mahdia Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 8.
4. Retrofitting of an old building to a Magistrate's Court & Quarters at Kwakwani, Region No. 10
5. Construction of a Magistrate's & Commissioner of Title's Living Quarters at N/A Berbice Region No. 6
6. Construction of Remaining two (2) side Fence to yard next to Suddie Magistrate's Court Region No. 2
7. Supply & Installation of Standby Generator at the Linden Magistrate's Court & Quarters, Region No. 10

New Projects 2020

1. Construction of Guard Hut and Covid-19 recovery room (Social Worker room) at New Amsterdam Mag. Court, Region No. 6
2. Construction of a three (3) story Water Trestle at Mahaicony Mag. Court, Region No. 5
3. Construction of Eastern Side Fence at Diamond Grove Mag. Court, Region No. 4
4. Construction of Port Kaituma Mag. Court & Living Quarters, Region No. 1
5. Construction of Mabaruma Mag. Court & Living Quarters, Region No. 1

Furniture & Equipment

The amount of one hundred and eighty-seven million, six hundred and thirty-one thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars (\$187,631,126) was expended on the purchasing of office furniture and equipment for the various sections/offices, courts, and Magisterial Districts within the Supreme Court of Judicature.

The increased sum was due to the purchase of furniture and equipment (photocopiers, cabinets, computers, printers, backup batteries, skyping units, digital audio recording units, HP scanners with Service pack, cubicles, CCTV cameras, etc.) to improve security, accommodation (aesthetic and comfort of staff), efficiency (inputting case files into the data file management system for safekeeping and easy retrieval) and aid the various registries, courts and offices in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Land & Water Transport

The Supreme Court did not estimate to purchase any motor vehicles in our 2020 budget submissions, due to the short time the estimates were prepared for the last quarter of the year after National Elections Declarations were given.

However, in December 2020, due to savings from our Capital Buildings projects we were able to purchase via single source procurement 1 Toyota Hilux 4x4 Vigo for the Bartica Magistrate's Court and 2 Toyota Land Cruiser – 1 for Kwakwani / Linden and 1 for Mahdia Magistrate's Courts.

These vehicles will be used to transport clerk (s) to bank revenues, suitors and maintenance monies, transporting of records and safety of court personnel and monies collected in outer courts, serving of notices, summons etc. for the ear marked courts.

The total sum of thirty-seven million, four hundred and thirteen thousand, five hundred and sixteen dollars (\$37,413,516) was expended to purchase the above-mentioned vehicles from Beharry Automotive Ltd.

Summary For 2020 – Receipts & Payments (Current & Capital)

Receipts

Subvention Current Budget 2020 - releases	G\$2,012,861,000	
Subvention Capital Budget 2020 – releases	G\$ 430,303,000	
6141 – Revision of wages & salaries	<u>G\$ 11,625,000</u>	G\$2,454,789,000

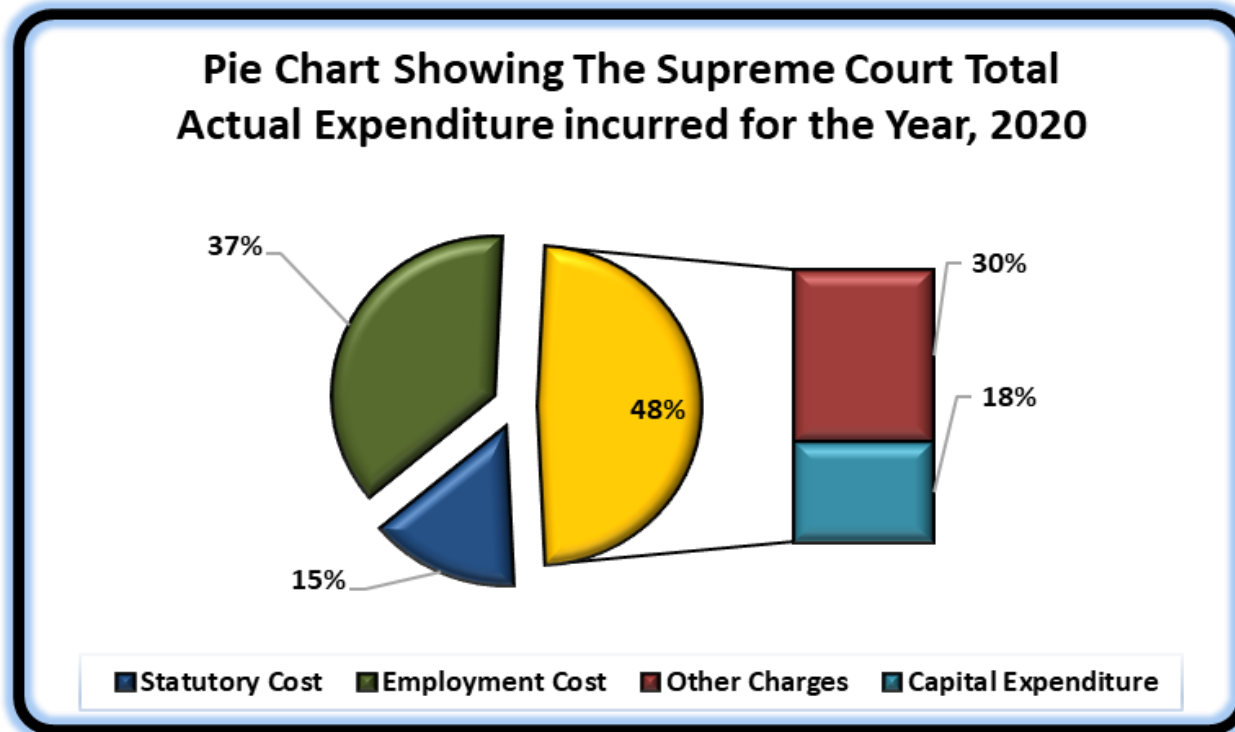
Payments – Current & Capital

Statutory Cost	G\$353,950,890
Employment Cost	G\$887,121,858

Other Charges	G\$739,583,939	
Buildings	G\$205,258,358	
Furniture & Equipment	G\$187,631,126	
Land & Water Transport	<u>G\$ 37,413,516</u>	<u>(G\$2,410,959,687)</u>
Balance returned to consolidated fund		<u>G\$ 43,829,313</u>

Breakdown of returns

1. 6323 Constitutional Agencies – current budget - G\$ 38,429,276
 2. 2502 – IDW – one off cash grant to public servants - G\$ 5,400,037
- Total Returns to Consolidated fund - G\$43,829,313**



Others Receipts – Deposit Fund Line Item

Balance brought forward on Deposit Fund Line Item in IFMIS as of 1st January 2020 is five million seven hundred thousand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars (G\$5,700,748).

On 11th March 2020, the sum of four million, six hundred and twenty thousand dollars (G\$4,620,00) was received via cheque and deposited into the Consolidated Fund, and entered into IFMIS under the deposit fund line item 2457 – Others. These funds were donated by UNICEF for Strengthening of the Family Court, Domestic Violence & Other Support 2020.

As of 31st December 2020, the sum of seven million, three hundred and thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and ninety-six dollars (G\$7,337,996) was expended leaving a remaining balance of two million nine hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and fifty-two dollars (G\$ 2,982,752) rolling over as at 1st January 2021.

REVENUE

The Supreme Court Registry is a revenue earner. The Registry earns revenue in the form of fees that are required to be paid in accordance with the scales of fees contained in the Rules of Court for the performance of duties and execution of processes by officers of the court.

The Magistrates' Courts are also revenue earners. They collect revenues in the form of fees that are required to be paid in accordance with the scales of fees contained in the Rules of Court for the performance of duties and execution of processes by officers of the court.

The Magistrates' Courts also earn revenue from fines and costs imposed by Magistrates from the outcome of cases and in some cases where bail is escheated by the Magistrates.

Table VII below show a comparison of actual revenue collected for the years 2016 – 2020.

Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Actual Revenue Collected				
		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	154,930,461	226,574,008	253,945,145	270,167,910	169,602,604
5327	State Cost	629,705	1,058,525	1,527,300	2,719,150	4,197,011
5419	Other Loans & Advance	13,188	17,827	34,353	25,244	27,148
5616	Sundries	226,359	755,977	856,462	395,413	1,622,528
5715	Sale of Asset	0	1,185,000	600,000	4,100,000	-
	Total	155,799,713	229,591,337	256,963,260	277,407,717	175,449,291

Cone Chart shows the comparison of actual revenue collected for the years 2016 - 2020 (G\$000).

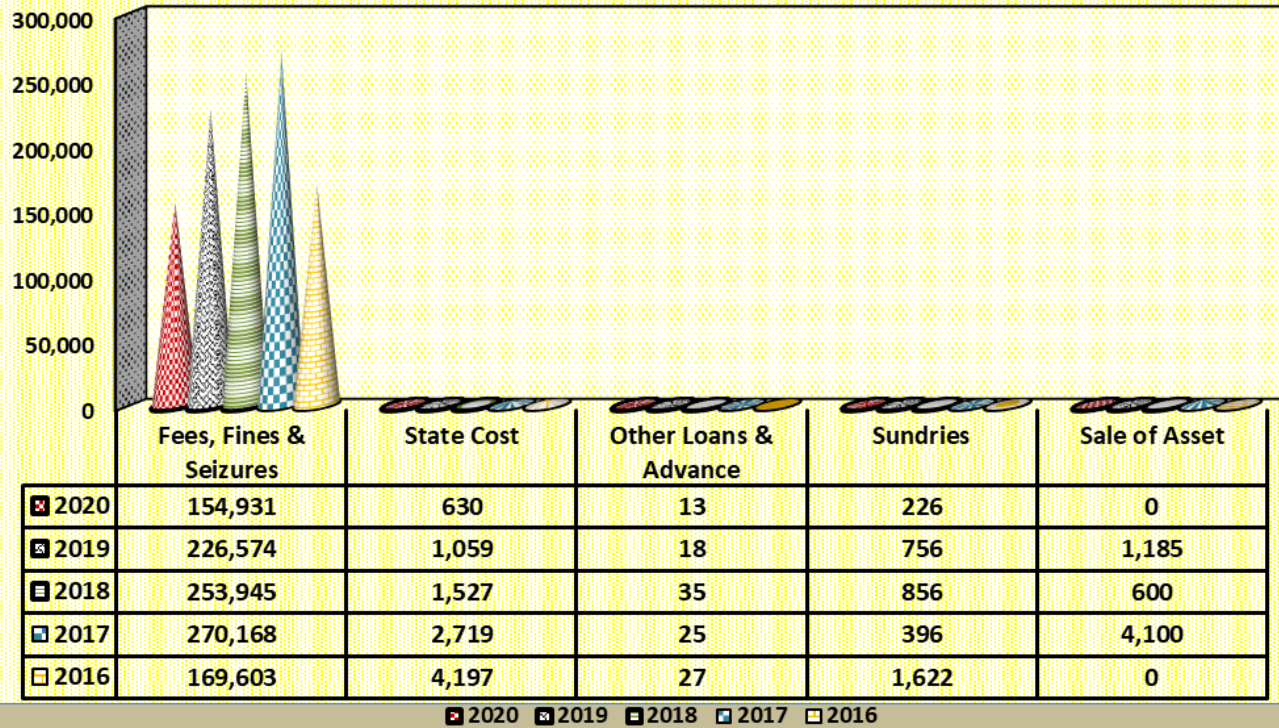


Table VIII below shows actual revenue collected for the year 2020 as against revised estimates.

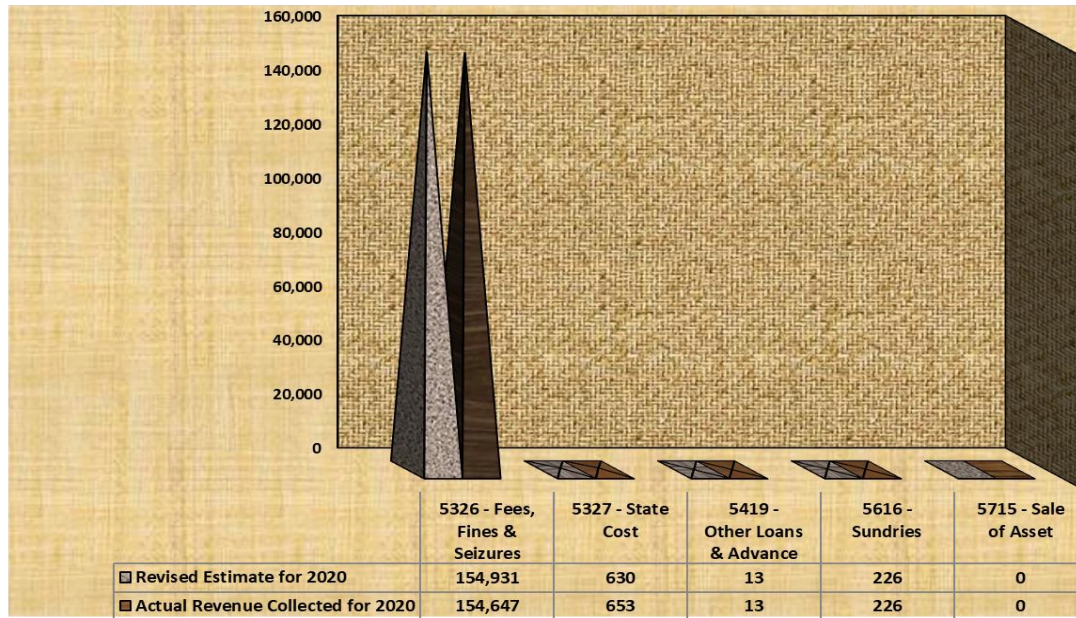
Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Approved Budget 2020	Revised Budget 2020	Actual Revenue Collected for 2020	Variance
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	137,058,000	154,647,000	154,930,461	283,461
5327	State Cost	769,000	653,000	629,705	(23,295)
5419	Other Loans & Advance	-	13,000	13,188	188
5616	Sundries	-	226,000	226,359	359
5715	Sale of Asset	-	-	-	-
	Total	137,827,000	155,539,000	155,799,713	260,713

The Supreme Court had budgeted to collect a total of one hundred and thirty-seven million eight hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars (G\$137,827,000) in revenues from fees, fines, seizures, and state costs. This low projection was based on lower revenue collections during the period March to June 2020 which was a result of the closure of courts (including the interior court), staff rotation, and reduction of working hours as a consequence of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This figure was later revised upwards to one hundred and fifty-five million five hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars (G\$155,539,000) since offices gradually reopened, normal hours of work resumed, and the reopening of interior courts in the last quarter of 2020.

This resulted in an overall increase in revenue of two hundred and sixty thousand seven hundred and thirteen dollars (G\$260,713) or 0.16% from the revised estimate.

Pyramid Chart Showing Actual Revenue Collected Against Revised Estimates For the Year, 2020 (G\$000)



Revised Estimate for 2020
 Actual Revenue Collected for 2020