



SUPREME COURT OF GUYANA

Annual Report 2023



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2. SECTION 1

1.1 OUR MISSION:

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

1.2 OUR VISION

To encourage and maintain public trust and confidence through an independent, effective, and accountable judicial system.

1.3 OUR CORE VALUES

- INDEPENDENCE
- COMPETENCE
- EQUAL JUSTICE
- DIVERSITY AND RESPECT
- SERVICE
- ACCOUNTABILITY

1.4 MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR (AG): HON. JUSTICE MME. YONETTE CUMMINGS-EDWARDS, O.R, CCH, THE CHANCELLOR OF THE JUDICIARY.



As we reflect on the year under review, it is with great joy and humility that I share the successes, challenges and future plans for the Judiciary.

This Annual Report is a testament to our collective efforts, resilience, adaptability, and commitment to pursuing excellence in court processes and service. Our organization has achieved significant milestones and continues to advance our mission, vision and core values with purpose and intentionality.

Accomplishments

Over the past year, we have made measurable progress across several key areas. We have increased efficiency and delivered more modern courthouses, while enhancing the quality of our services. We also partnered with key justice sector stakeholders and worked on customer relations program. We sought to reinforce the trust and confidence of the public whom we serve. This is truly a foundation for our success.

We have also continued the path to enhancing access to justice and modernising court services. This year saw the commissioning of a new Magistrates' Courts at Vigilance. The Judiciary also turned the sod for the construction of two magistrates' courts at Friendship and Timehri.

In our quest for digital transformation, the Judiciary launched its pilot electronic Case Management System at the Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Courts. This Case Management System will revolutionize the filing and case management processes of the Court and lead to more efficient disposal of cases. When the pilot project is completed, the system will be implemented in all of the Magistrates' Courts across the country.

Another area of accomplishment is Judicial education and training which is a constant feature on our calendar. The staff were exposed to in-house, external, regional and international training.

Challenges

No year is without its setbacks. Some programs which we intended to roll out were delayed. However, stringent efforts are being made to address these setbacks and remove the constraints. Our focus, adaptability and dedication to duty remain strong. Our team remained focus, adaptable, and formulated solution-driven techniques.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, we are energized by new opportunities for growth and innovation. Our goal is to have 7-year Strategic Plan which will include expanding our reach, investing in human resources, management systems and technology, digital transformation. This will enable us to advance growth, sustainability and carrying out our core functions in upholding the rule of law. We are committed to delivering a justice system of quality and excellence that caters to the needs of those we serve. We intend to align our Judiciary with universally accepted core values and join the International Consortium for Court Excellence.

We thank all our judicial officers, hardworking and committed staff, our justice sector partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and dedication to duty. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient, people and justice centric Judiciary.

2. SECTION 2

2.1 LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT



Hon. Chancellor (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards,
OR, CCH



Hon. Chief Justice (ag) Madam Justice Roxane George, CCH,
SC

2.2 JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL



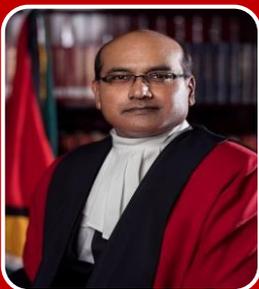
Hon. Chancellor (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, CCH, OR



Hon. Chief Justice (ag) Madam Roxane George CCH, SC



Hon. Madam Justice Dawn Gregory



Hon. Mister Justice Deo Rishi Persaud

2.3 JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT



Hon. Chief Justice (ag) Madam
Roxane George C.C.H, S.C



Hon. Mister Justice Nareshwar
Harnanan, Puisne Judge



Hon. Mister Justice Navindra Singh
Puisne Judge



Hon. Madam Justice Sandra Kurtzious
Puisne Judge



Hon. Madam Justice Priya Sewnarine
Beharry
Puisne Judge



Hon. Madam Justice Jo Ann Barlow
Puisne Judge



Hon. Mister Justice Gino Persaud
Puisne Judge



Hon. Madam Justice Simone Morris-
Ramlall
Puisne Judge



Hon. Mister Justice Sandil Kissoon
Puisne Judge



Hon. Madam Justice Damone Younge
Puisne Judge



Hon. Madam Justice Fidela Corbin Lewis
Puisne Judge

2.4 THE COMMISSIONERS OF TITLE



COT. Mrs. Nicole Pierre



COT. Mrs Priscilla Chandra-Hanif

2.5 REGISTRAR & DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE

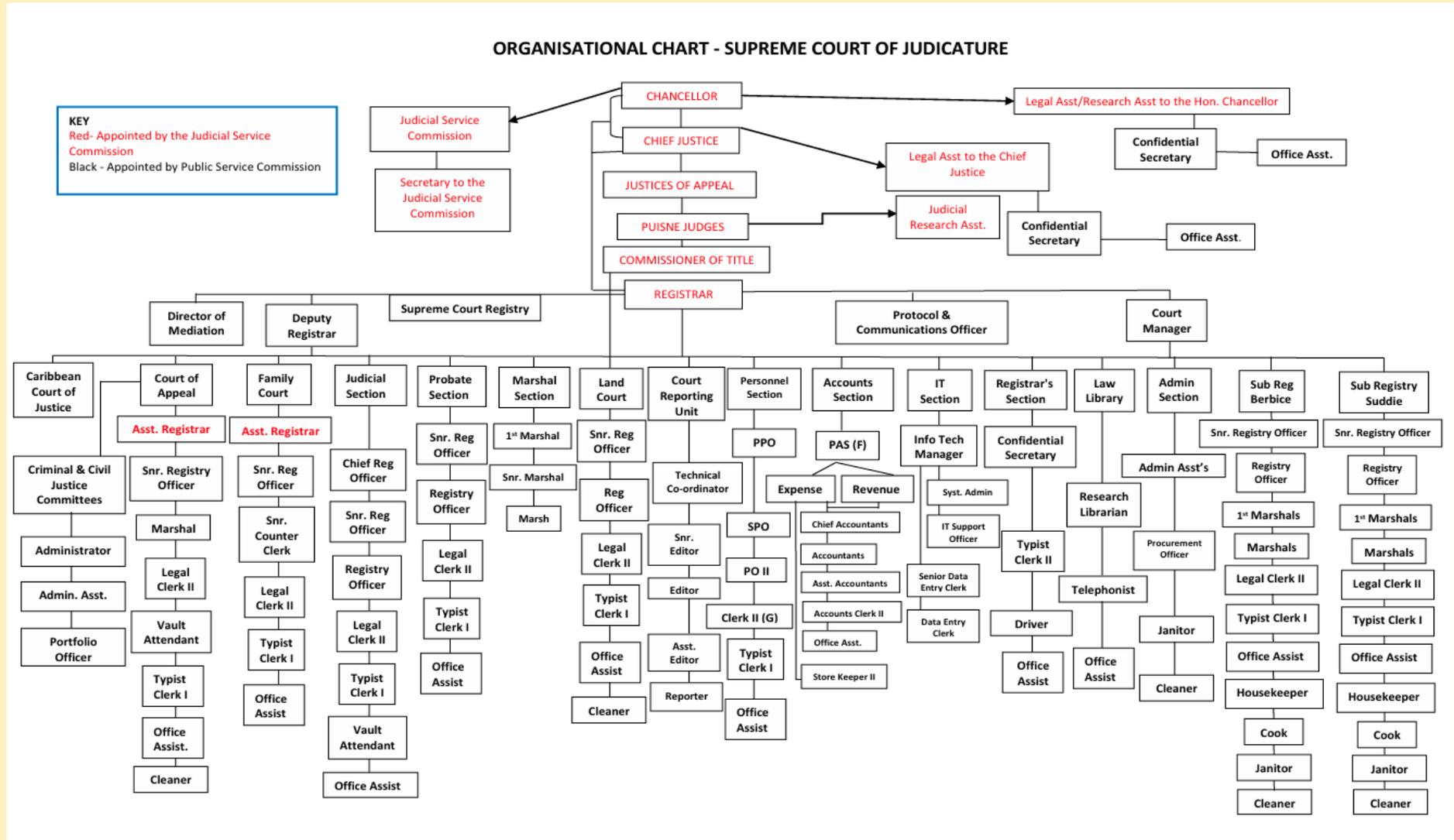


Madam Registrar Sueanna Lovell



Madam Deputy Registrar Alicia
Lowenfield

2.6 ORGANISATIONAL CHART – SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE



2.7 THE MAGISTRACY



Chief Magistrate, Ann McLennan



Principal Magistrate, Allan Wilson



Principal Magistrate, Sherdel Issacs-Marcus



Principal Magistrate, Faith Mc Gusty



Principal Magistrate, Judy Latchman



Senior Magistrate Fabayo Azore



Senior Magistrate Leron Daly



Senior Magistrate Zamilla Ally- Seepaul



Senior Magistrate, Clive Nurse



Senior Magistrate Sunil Scarce



Magistrate Dylon Bess



Temporary Magistrate Rabindranauth Singh



Magistrate, Rhondell Weever



Magistrate, Alisha George



Magistrate Rushelle Liverpool



Magistrate Annette Singh



Magistrate Renita Singh



Magistrate Christel Lambert



Magistrate Marissa Mittelholzer



Magistrate, Peter Hugh



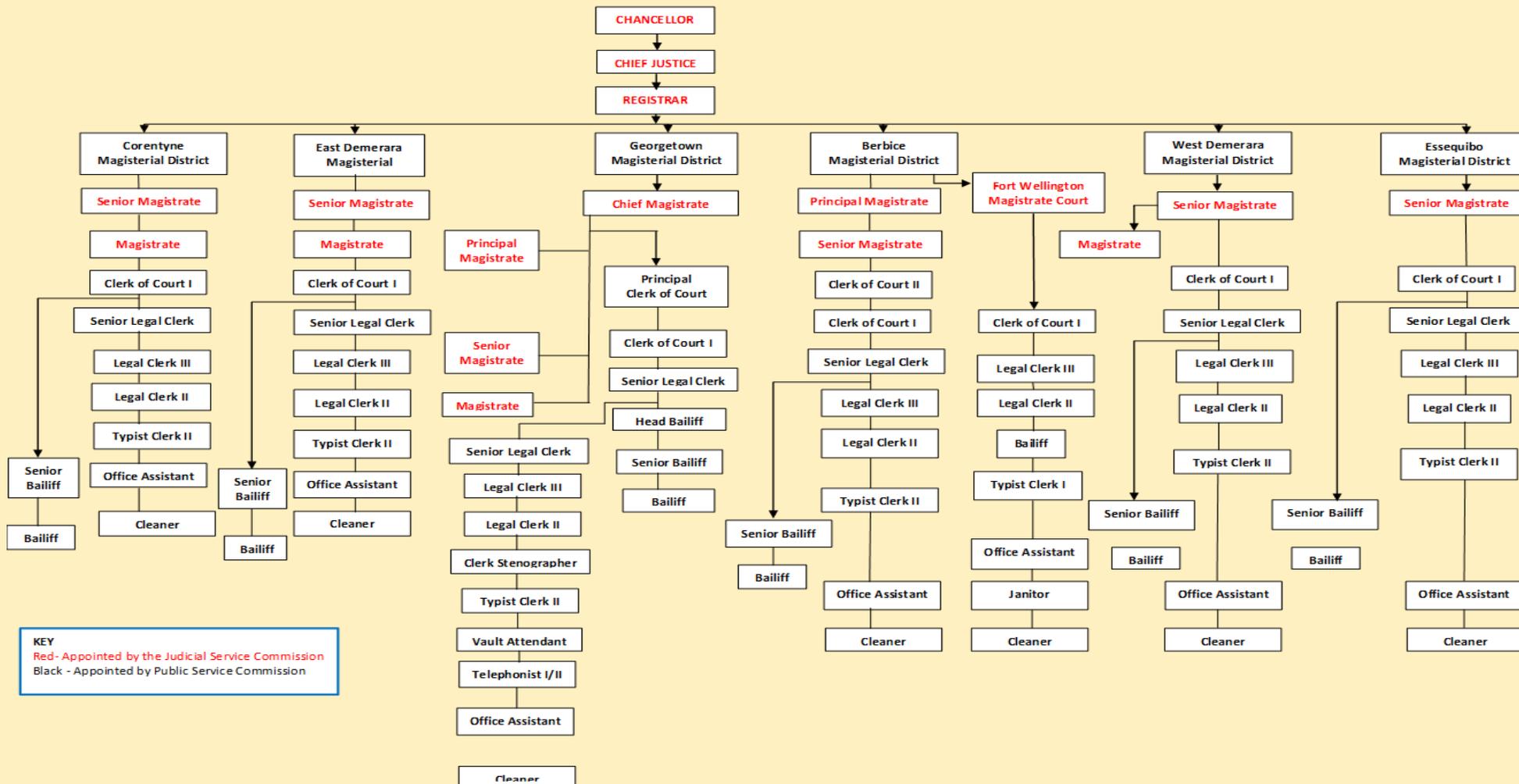
Magistrate Wanda Fortune



Magistrate Esther Sam

2.8 ORGANISATIONAL CHART – MAGISTRATES’ COURT

ORGANISATIONAL CHART -MAGISTRATE'S COURTS



2.9 RETIREMENTS

2.9.1 Her Worship Chief Magistrate R'td Col Ann McLennan



Her Worship R'td Col Ann Elizabeth McLennan, Chief Magistrate has retired after serving sixteen (16) years at the Judiciary of Guyana. Her Worship officially retired on 15th May 2023.

The Supreme Court of Judicature is grateful for her stellar service provided over the years. We extend

best wishes for her retirement and future endeavours.

2.9.2 His Worship Senior Magistrate Mr. Clive Nurse



His Worship Senior Magistrate Mr. Clive Nurse retired from the Judiciary after serving as a Magistrate for over eleven (11) years. His retirement took effect from 1st May 2023.

Before His Worship retirement, he was the presiding Magistrate of the Traffic

Court and provided excellent service to the Judiciary. The Supreme Court of Judicature sincerely thanks His Worship for his stellar contribution and service throughout the years and wishes him success in his future endeavours.

Happy Retirement!!!

SECTION 3 – OVERVIEW & PERFORMANCE

3.1 OVERVIEW

The Judiciary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is the third arm of the State and functions independently of the Executive and Legislative arms following the principle of the separation of powers as provided for in the Constitution of Guyana in Article 122 A (1) that:

“All courts and all persons presiding over the courts shall exercise their function independently of the control and direction of any other person or authority; and shall be free and independent from political, executive and any other form of direction and control.”

Article 123 of the Constitution also provides for the establishment of a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of the Court of Appeal and the High Court, Guyana. Further, in April 2005, Guyana adopted the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final appellate court.

Consequently, Guyana’s judicial system can best be described as a four-tiered system made up as follows:

- **THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE**

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is governed by the Caribbean Court of Justice Act 2004 is the final appellate court for Guyana.

- **THE COURT OF APPEAL**

The Court of Appeal is governed by the Court of Appeal Act, Cap 3:01, and is a court of review.

- **THE HIGH COURT**

The High Court of the Supreme Court is presided over by the Chief Justice and several Puisne Judges as may be prescribed by Parliament. This is provided for in Article 125 of the Constitution. Parliament prescribed that there shall be twenty (20) Puisne Judges.

Currently, however, the High Court is functioning with ten (10) Puisne Judges, including the Chief Justice (ag). The High Court is governed by the High Court Act, Cap 3:02 and the Rules made thereunder and sits in Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo. There are two sub-registries outside of Demerara located at Essequibo and Berbice respectively. The High Court has several divisions including the Constitutional and Administrative Court, the Commercial Court, and the Land Court. The Family Court Division was established in June 2016.

There is also the Full Court of the High Court which is an appellate court that hears appeals from interlocutory or summary decisions of High Court judges as well as appeals from the Magistrates' Courts. The Full Court is established by sections 75 to 84 of the High Court Act, Chapter 3:01.

- THE COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION OR MAGISTRATES' COURT.

The summary jurisdiction is governed by the Summary Jurisdiction (Magistrates) Act, Cap 3:05 which establishes the Magistrates' Courts and sets out its practice and procedure, provides for the appointment of magistrates and the regulation of their duties. There are ten (10) magisterial districts which are currently served by twenty-two (22) Magistrates. In their civil jurisdiction, magistrates adjudicate petty debt claims for the recovery of any debts or damages where the amount claimed does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) as well as claims for rent.

In their criminal jurisdiction, Magistrates hear and determine complaints in respect of summary and indictable offences. Indictable cases can be tried summarily where the provision of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act Chap.10:02 as amended by the Administration of Justice Act, 1978. (A.J.A) are applied or dealt with by embarking on a preliminary inquiry of an accused person sufficient to put them on trial in the High Court. The magistrates also function as coroners in the conduct of inquests. The Magistrates' Courts have both criminal and civil jurisdiction.

There are ten (10) magisterial districts and are listed hereunder:

1. The Corentyne Magisterial District with its head office at Whim.
2. The Berbice Magisterial District with its head office at New Amsterdam.

3. The West Berbice Magisterial District with head office at Fort Wellington.
4. The East Demerara Magisterial District with its head office at Vigilance.
5. The Georgetown Magisterial District with its head office in Georgetown
6. The West Demerara Magisterial District with head office at Vreed- en-Hoop
7. The Essequibo Magisterial District with its head office at Suddie.
8. The Upper Demerara River Magisterial District with head office at Linden.
9. The Northwest Magisterial District, which is administered by the Georgetown and Essequibo offices.
10. The Rupununi Magisterial District with its head office at Lethem

3.2 COURT PERFORMANCE

3.2.1 The Court of Appeal

NUMBER OF MATTERS FILED FOR THE COURT OF APPEAL IN THE YEAR 2023

For the year 2023, two hundred and fifteen (215) appeals, eighty- four (84) applications/ motions, and sixty-two (62) chamber matters were filed to the Court of Appeal.

The table below shows a summary of the categories of matters filed during 2023.

YEAR 2023		
CIVIL APPEALS	165	46%
CIVIL APPLICATIONS/MOTIONS	63	17%
CHAMBERS CIVIL	51	14%
CRIMINAL APPEALS	50	14%
CRIMINAL APPLICATIONS/MOTIONS	21	6%
CHAMBERS CRIMINAL	11	3%
TOTAL	361	100%

Table 1 Civil & Criminal Appeals filed for 2023

CIVIL

CIVIL FULL-BENCH MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2022

Civil Appeals:	1519
Civil Motions:	84
Total:	1603

TOTAL CIVIL CASES TO BE HEARD IN 2023

Total filed	228
Total brought forward)	1603
Total civil cases to be heard in 2023 =	1831

CIVIL FULL BENCH MATTERS DISPOSED FOR 2023

The following table reflects a summary of civil matters disposed by the Court of Appeal

FULL BENCH MATTERS	CIVIL APPEALS	CIVIL MOTIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL %
GRANTED	0	8	8	12%
LEAVE TO APPEAL	0	17	17	25%
WITHDRAWN	0	3	3	4%
REFUSED	0	7	7	10%
SETTLED	0	0	0	0%
DISMISSED	5	9	14	21%
DECISIONS GIVEN	4	15	19	28%
RE-HEARING /DENOVO	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	9	59	68	100%

Table 2 Civil Full bench matters disposed of for 2023

CRIMINAL

CRIMINAL FULL-BENCH MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2022:

Criminal Appeals:	331
Criminal Motions:	6
Total:	337

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES TO BE HEARD IN 2023

Total filed	71
Total brought forward)	337
Total civil cases to be heard in 2023 =	408

CRIMINAL FULL BENCH MATTERS DISPOSED FOR 2023

The following table shows a summary of Criminal Matters disposed of by the Court of Appeal:

FULL BENCH PROCEEDINGS	CRIMINAL APPEALS	CRIMINAL APPLICATIONS/MOTIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL %
GRANTED	4	1	5	17%
LEAVE TO APPEAL	0	0	0	0%
WITHDRAWN	8	1	9	31%
REFUSED	0	0	0	0%
SETTLED	0	0	0	0%
DISMISSED	6	0	6	21%
DECISIONS	6	0	6	21%
RE-HEARING /DENOVO	2	0	2	10%
TOTAL	26	2	28	100%

Table 3 Criminal Full bench matters disposed of in 2023

CHAMBER MATTERS

CHAMBER MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2022:

Civil Summons:	28
Criminal Bail Petitions:	1
Total:	29

TOTAL CHAMBER MATTERS TO BE HEARD IN 2023

Total filed	62
Total brought forward)	29
Total civil cases to be heard in 2023 =	91

CHAMBER MATTERS DISPOSED FOR 2023

The following table shows a summary of Chamber matters disposed of:

FULL BENCH PROCEEDINGS	CIVIL SUMMONS	CRIMINAL BAIL PETITIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL %
GRANTED	11	2	13	19%
PARTIALLY GRANTED	14	0	14	21%
DISMISSED	3	0	3	5%
STRUCK OUT	0	0	0	0
REFUSED	11	4	15	22%
WITHDRAWN	17	2	19	28%
SETTLED	3	0	3	5%
TOTAL	59	8	67	100%

Table 4 Chamber matters disposed of in 2023

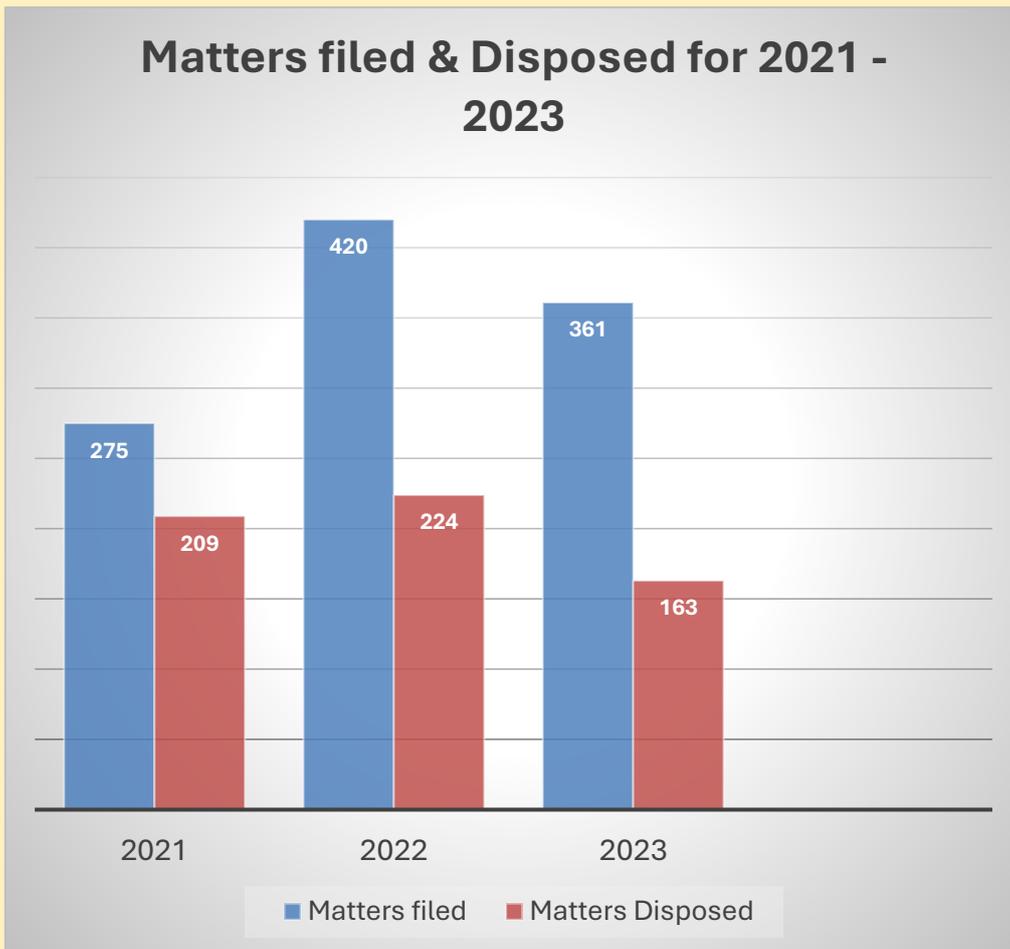


Figure 1 Matters filed & disposed of - 2021-2023

3.2.2 The High Court

The High Court of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana sits in the three counties, which are :

- Demerara
- Berbice
- Essequibo

In 2023, Judges were assigned as follows: Two (2) for family matters, three (3) for civil matters, one (1) for constitutional matters, and three (3) for criminal matters.

3.2.2.1

Judicial Registry

CRIMINAL CASES

		<u>INDICTMENTS</u>
Demerara	Pending at 2022/12/31	282
	Filed in 2023	102
	Disposed of in 2023	76
	Pending at 2023/12/31	308

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Statements of Claims (SOC) are initiating documents to commence proceedings. When served the defendant is required to respond within forty-two days. When the defence is filed, the case is thereafter fixed for a case management conference within two to four months after the filing of the defence in accordance with the Civil Procedure Rules 2016.

	JANUARY-MARCH	APRIL-JUNE	JULY – SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER-DECEMBER	TOTAL
FILED	78	78	80	100	336
PENDING	73	76	74	97	320
CONCLUDED	5	2	6	3	16

Table 5 Statement of Claims Judicial Registry DHC

JUDGMENT SUMMONS

	JANUARY-MARCH	APRIL-JUNE	JULY – SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER-DECEMBER	TOTAL
FILED	19	16	13	17	65
PENDING	10	11	12	16	49
CONCLUDED	9	5	1	1	16

ADOPTION SUMMONS

	JANUARY-MARCH	APRIL-JUNE	JULY – SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER-DECEMBER	TOTAL
FILED	4	6	4	6	20
PENDING	3	6	4	6	19
CONCLUDED	1	0	0	0	1

FULL COURT APPEALS

	JANUARY- MARCH	APRIL- JUNE	JULY – SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER- DECEMBER	TOTAL
FILED	42	27	29	34	132
PENDING	39	25	28	34	126
CONCLUDED	3	2	1	-	6

FIXED DATE APPLICATIONS

	JANUARY- MARCH	APRIL- JUNE	JULY – SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER- DECEMBER	TOTAL
FILED	500	423	494	489	1906
PENDING	420	339	296	365	1420
CONCLUDED	80	84	198	125	486

Analysis

Comparison of the number of matters FILED

No.	Particulars	2023	2022	2021
1.	STATEMENT OF CLAIM	336	377	372
2.	JUDGMENT SUMMONS	65	45	96
3.	ADOPTION SUMMONS	20	31	34
4.	FULL COURT APPEALS	132	116	105
5.	FIXED DATE APPLICATIONS	1906	1872	1758

Analysis

Comparison of the number of matters CONCLUDED

No.	Particulars	2023	2022	2021
1.	STATEMENT OF CLAIM	16	122	204
2.	JUDGMENT SUMMONS	16	26	65
3.	ADOPTION SUMMONS	1	16	23
4.	FULL COURT APPEALS	6	62	34
5.	FIXED DATE APPLICATIONS	486	1653	1340

Analysis

Clearance rate = $\text{Concluded} / \text{Filed} * 100\%$

No.	Particulars	2023	2022	2021
1.	STATEMENT OF CLAIM	4.7 %	32.3 %	54.8 %
2.	JUDGMENT SUMMONS	24.6 %	57.7 %	67.7 %
3.	ADOPTION SUMMONS	5 %	51.6 %	67.6 %
4.	FULL COURT APPEALS	4.5 %	53.4 %	32.3 %
5.	FIXED DATE APPLICATIONS	25.4 %	88.3 %	76.2 %

The clearance rate for Demerara Judicial Registry for 2023 was 21.3%

3.2.2.1.2 Land Court

Summary of Matters at Land Court in the year 2023

	Petitions	Land Registration Applications
Pending at 31 December 2022	698	41
Filed Jan-Dec 2023	258	126
Total	956	167
Concluded in Jan - Dec 2023	236	72
Pending at as 31 December 2023	720	95

The clearance rate for land matters at the Demerara Land Registry for 2023 was 80.2 %.

Although assigned to Demerara, the two Commissioners of Title conducted hearings for all three Counties.

3.2.2.1.3 Family Court

Categories of matters dealt with at the Family Court and the Orders granted.

Category	Amount filed	Nisi Orders	Withdrawn /Dismissal	Struck Out	Concluded/ Absolutes	Pending
Divorce	1528	293	49	1	495	690
Division of Property	20	-	-	-	8	12
Application Relating to Children	256	-	-	-	93	163
Form 11 Applications only (change of name, declarations...)	34	-	-	-	15	19
Total	1838	293	49	1	611	884

3..2.2.1.4 Family Court Child Care Facility

The table below shows the number of children accessing the Childcare Facility for a twelve (12) month period - (January-December 2023).

Source of referral	Number of Children Accessing Child Care Facilities
Court Referral	40
Child Protection Agency (CPA) Cases	30
Sexual Offence Matters	2
Drop-Ins <i>(Litigants who place their children in the care of the Child-Care Facility while attending court)</i>	45
Total	117

APPLICANTS IN-PERSON SERVICE

The Family Court offers a service to members of the public who are desirous of representing themselves due to various reasons. The table below shows the number of appointments that were made for the year 2023, the number of matters that were filed, and the number of cases that are pending.

Interview conducted	296
Filed	126
Pending to be filed	124
Missed Appointment	292
No longer proceeding after the interview was conducted	15
Total appointments booked	588

3.2.2.1.5 Probate

The Probate Section also known as the Estate’s Division administers letters of administration, probates, wills, caveats, citations, and affidavits verifying accounts. The main objective of this section is to provide executors and administrators with the grant of Probate and Letters of Administration to enable them to administer the estate of deceased persons in accordance with law.

STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE PROBATE REGISTRY IN 2023

COUNTY	PARTICULARS	TYPES							
		APPLICATION FOR PROBATE	APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION	RESEALING OF GRANT	ESTATE WITHDRAWN	WILLS DEPOSITED	CAVEATS ENTERED	CITATIONS	AFFIDAVITS
DEMERARA	Filed in 2023	524	1,080	7	-	1343	189	18	NIL
DEMERARA	Disposed at 2023-12-31	231	408	5	8	17	99	1	NIL
		3 (withdrawn)	5 (withdrawn)						
DEMERARA	Pending at 2023-12-31	109 (Out of Order)	235 (out of order)	2	-	1326	90	17	NIL
		181 (processing)	432 (processing)						

STATUS OF WILLS FILED IN THE DEMERARA PROBATE REGISTRY IN 2023

WILLS	
Lodged in 2023	1343
Opened in 2023-12-31	17
Remaining in safekeeping at the Registry 2023-12-31	1326

STATUS OF CAVEATS FILED IN THE DEMERARA PROBATE REGISTRY IN 2023

CAVEATS ENTERED	
Filed in 2023	189
Expired at 2023-12-31	99
In effect at 2023-12-31	90

STATUS OF CITATIONS FILED IN THE DEMERARA PROBATE REGISTRY IN 2023

CITATIONS	
Filed in 2023	18
Compiled with 2023-12-31	1
In effect at 2023-12-31	17

**STATUS OF ESTATE MATTERS PENDING ON JANUARY 2022 AND COMPLETED BY 31ST
DECEMBER 2023**

Particulars	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration	Resealing of Grant	Estate withdrawal
Pending at 2022-12-31	145	269	1	-
Disposed at 2023-12-31	125	245	1	-
Pending at 2023-12-31	20	24	-	-

STATUS OF WILLS, CAVEATS, AND CITATIONS PENDING ON JANUARY 2022 AND COMPLETED BY 31ST DECEMBER 2023

PARTICULARS	Wills
Wills that remained lodged at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	1087
Wills that were opened in 2023	24
Wills that remained lodged at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	1063

STATUS OF CAVEATS BY 31ST DECEMBER 2023

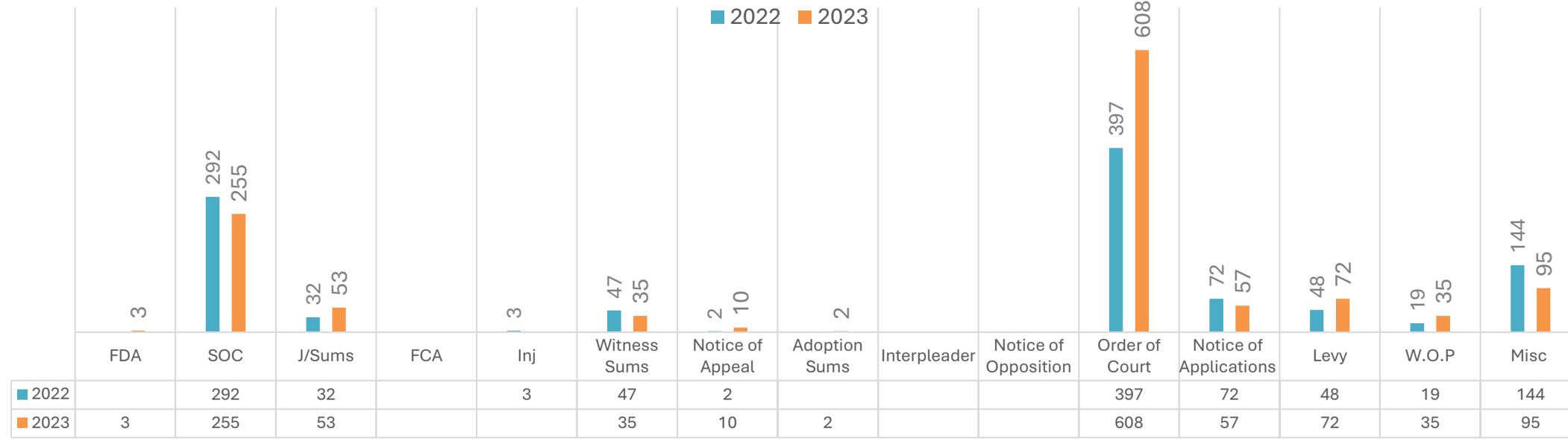
PARTICULARS	Caveats
Caveats that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	93
Caveats that expired in 2023	93
Caveats that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	-

STATUS CITATIONS BY 31ST DECEMBER 2023

PARTICULARS	Citations
Citations that enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	10
Citations that concluded in 2023	1
Citations that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	9

3.2.2.1.6 Marshal's Section

MATTERS SERVED BY MARSHAL'S SECTION DEMERARA



FDA- Fixed date application

SOC- Statement of claim

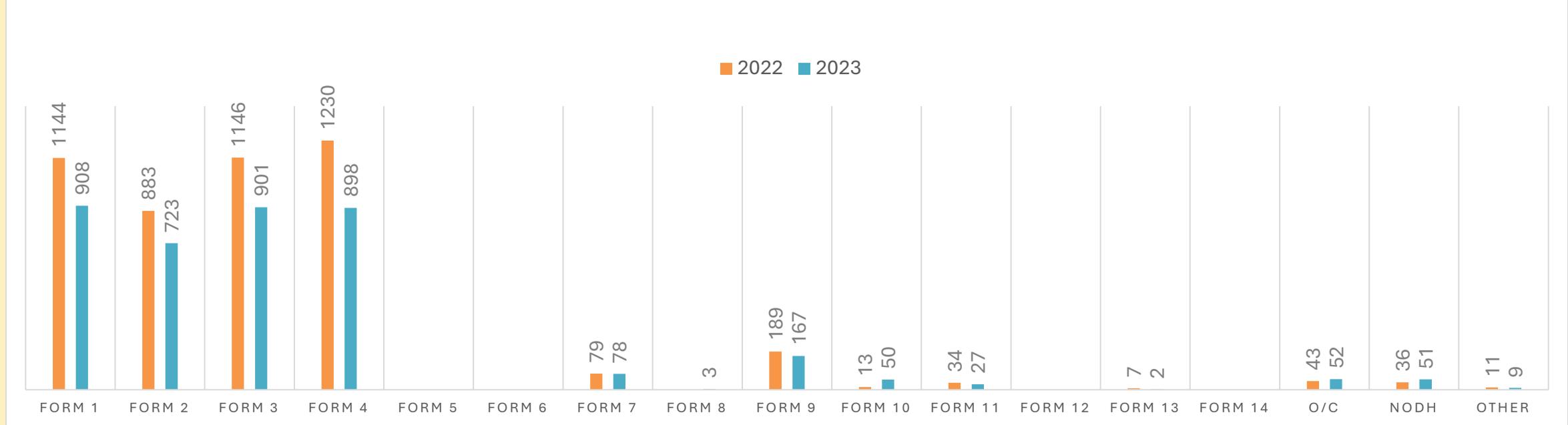
J/Sums- Judgement summons

Inj- Injunction

WOP- Writ of possession

Misc- Miscellaneous

MATTERS SERVED BY MARSHALS UNDER FAMILY DIVISION, DEMERARA



FORM	DESCRIPTION
1	Petition for Divorce and Other Matrimonial Causes
2	Statement of Arrangements for Children
3	Notice of Proceedings (Respondent)
4	Acknowledgement of Service (Respondent)
5	Acknowledgement of Service (Co-respondent)
6	Notice of Application by Respondent for Financial Relief/Division of Property
7	Financial Relief/Division of Property Application Form with Evidence
8	Evidence of Financial Relief/Division of Property (Relief)
9	Application relating to Children
10	Reply to Application Relating to Children
11	Application
12	Notice of Proceedings (Co-respondent)
13	Witness Summons
14	Notice of Application for decree nisi to be made Absolute
O/c	Order of court
NODH	Notice of Direction Hearings

The Marshal's service recorded less in the amount because some matters filed were settled and so, did not warrant court engagement. If not, it was expected that the amount for matters filed once disposed of via marshal's service would have risen to similar numbers as the previous year. Those forms represent Petitions for Divorce along with supporting documents inclusive of Statement of Arrangement for Child(ren) which were duly disposed of.

Execution Sales

In September 2022 management decided to suspend a list of gazetted properties for Auction Sales and by extension ordered an indefinite moratorium on holding Execution Auction Sales to allow for the revision of some aspects of the Civil Procedure Rules regarding execution Auction Sales. Therefore, no Execution Auction Sales were held in 2023.

a. Mediation Centre

Matters referred	Matters resolved	Matters returned to Court	Matters pending as of December 31, 2023 (various stages of mediation)
89	11	24	54

Matters referred -	89
Matters mediated	86
Status	
Matters resolved	11
Matters returned to court	24
Matters pending (various stages of Mediation)	51
Matters awaiting mediation to commence	3

Analysis

The records reveal an increase in matters referred to mediation for the period under review: *89 as against 64 in 2022.*

The number of matters scheduled for mediation (both new and ongoing) decreased slightly from 320 to 314. Scheduling of sessions continued to pose challenges.

New Batch of Mediators

With financial support from the Jurist Project the Judiciary was able to successfully conduct training of a new batch of Mediators with special emphasis on family-based mediation in January 2023. This program was facilitated by Mediation Services International. At the end of the program, the successful participants were issued the appropriate certificates.

3.3.3 Berbice Sub-Registry

3.3.3.1 Judicial Registry

Civil Court Annual Report

TYPE	PENDING AT 2022/12/31	FILED JAN-DEC 2023	DISPOSED JAN- DEC 2023	PENDING AT 12/31/2023
SPECIALLY ENDORSED WRIT	8	-	5	3
WRIT OF SUMMONS	5	-	3	2
SUMMONS & OTHER APPLICATIONS	-	-	-	-
ADOPTION (OLD)	463	-	-	463
ADOPTION NEW	16	3	5	14
JUDGMENT SUMMONS	1	-	-	1
JUDGMENT SUMMONS UNDER THE REGULAR JURISDICTION	58	26	19	65
STATEMENT OF CLAIM	213	107	69	251
FDA CONVERTED TO SOC	27	-	-	27
FIXED DATE APPLICATION	344	384	293	435
TOTAL	1135	520	394	1261

3.3.3.2 Criminal Matters

		INDICTMENTS
BERBICE	Pending at 2022/12/31	278
	Filed in 2023	40
	Disposed of in 2023	26
	Pending at 2023/12/31	292

Status of Matters before the Full Court

	Criminal	Civil	Consideration/Dismissal
Pending at 2022/12/31	1	26	-
Filed in 2023	1	5	-
Disposed of in 2023	1	4	-
Pending at 2023/12/31	1	27	-

Status of Petition for Bail at High Court, New Amsterdam Berbice

Petition for bail	
Pending at 2022/12/31	-
Filed in 2023	16
Disposed of in 2023	16
Pending at 2023/12/31	-

3.3.3.3 Land Court

Summary of Matters at Land Court in the year 2023

Land Court Petitions and Land Registration Applications Summary 2023		
	Petitions	Land Registration Applications
Pending at 31 December 2022	4073	4472
Filed Jan-Dec 2023	185	107
Total	4258	4579
Concluded in Jan - Dec 2023	72	35
Pending at 31 December 2023	4186	4544

There was no assigned Commissioner of Title for Berbice in 2023. The two Commissioners of Title conducted hearings for all three Counties.

3.3.3.4 Family Court

	Pending at 31/12/2022	Filed Jan-Dec 2023	Disposed Jan- Dec 2023	Pending 31/12/2023
Divorce (Old Rule)	-	-	-	-
Divorce Only	102	207	223	86
Divorce with children	79	133	129	83
Divorce with Custody	3	21	21	3
Divorce with Division of Property	3	10	5	8
Divorce with Maintenance	-	-	-	-
Custody	40	72	56	56
Application for Financial Relief for Division of Property	13	14	8	19
Custody with Financial Relief/ Division of Property	-	-	-	-
Divorce with Custody/Financial Relief/ Division of Property	4	2	1	5
Divorce with Children/Financial Relief/ Division of Property	11	6	6	11
Application for Guardianship	1	-	-	1
Total	256	465	449	272

2.2.2.1 Probate

	Pending 31/12/2022	Filed Jan-Dec 2023	Disposed Jan- Dec 2023	Pending 31/12/2023
Application for Probate	36	57	40	53
Application for Letters of Administration	123	143	109	157
Application for Letters of Administration with will annex	18	55	31	42
Resealing of Grants	-	1	-	1
Cessate Grant	4	1	-	5
De Bonis Non	6	3	2	7
Corrective Declaration	8	2	3	7
Total	3643	526	226	4022

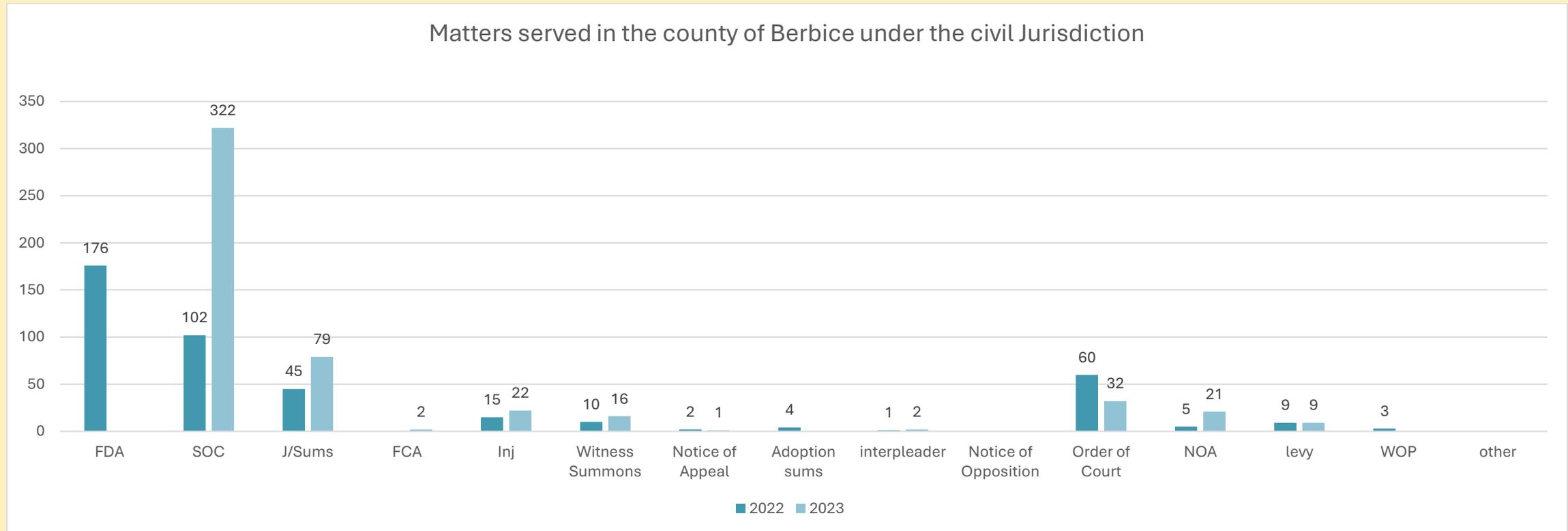
STATUS OF WILLS IN 2023

PARTICULARS	Wills
Wills that remained lodged at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	3439
Wills that were lodged in 2023	261
Wills that were opened in 2023	30
Wills that remained lodged at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	3670

STATUS OF CAVEATS IN 2023

PARTICULARS	Caveats
Caveats that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	9
Caveats that were filed in 2023	3
Caveats that expired in 2023	4
Caveats that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	8

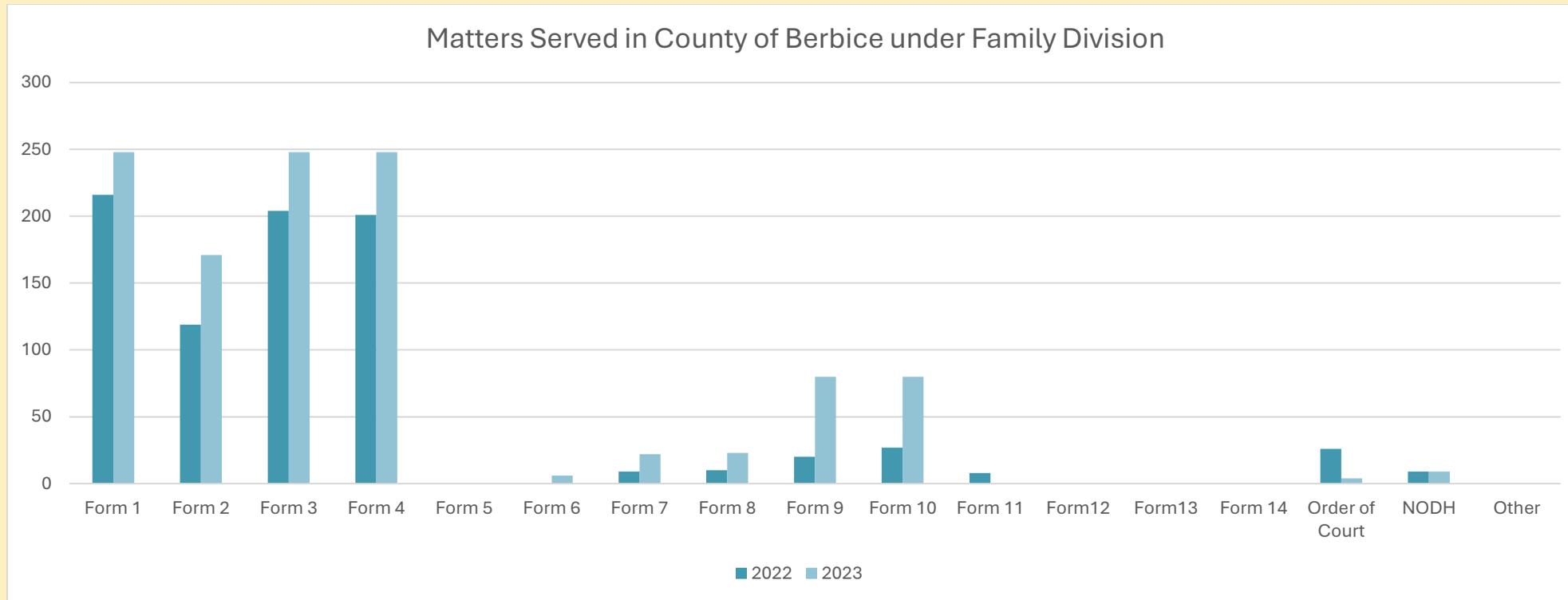
3.3.4 Marshal



FDA- Fixed date application
SOC- Statement of claim
J/Sums- Judgement summons
Inj- Injunction

WOP- Writ of possession
NOA- Notice of application
Misc- Miscellaneous

The bar chart seeks to illustrate the comparison between 2022 and 2023 regarding matters served by Marshals to provide an understanding of the work performance during the period.



FORM	DESCRIPTION
1	Petition for Divorce and Other Matrimonial Causes
2	Statement of Arrangements for Children
2	Notice of Proceedings (Respondent)
3	Acknowledgement of Service (Respondent)
4	Acknowledgement of Service (Co-respondent)
5	Notice of Application by Respondent for Financial Relief/Division of Property
6	Financial Relief/Division of Property Application Form with Evidence
7	Evidence of Financial Relief/Division of Property (Relief)
8	Application relating to Children
9	Reply to Application Relating to Children
10	Application
11	Notice of Proceedings (Co-respondent)
12	Witness Summons
14	Notice of Application for decree nisi to be made Absolute
O/c	Order of court
NODH	Notice of Direction Hearings

In analysing the data illustrated above a comparison was made between the periods January to December of 2022 and January to December 2023, as it relates to the amount of Family Division Forms that were disposed of in the Berbice Marshal Section.

It is evident that the service of Divorce Petitions in 2023 increased as opposed to that which was reported for the year 2022; the Form 2 (statement of arrangement of child(ren) in 2023 has seen a small increase as opposed to 2022; the form 3 (Notice of Proceedings) and form 4 (Acknowledgment of service) just like the divorce petitions increased by a significant margin and this is attributed to the fact that the three forms always go together.

Execution Sales

In September 2022 management decided to suspend a list of gazetted properties for Auction Sales and by extension ordered an indefinite moratorium on holding Execution Auction Sales to allow for the revision of some aspects of the CPR 2019 regarding execution Auction Sales. Therefore, no Execution Auction Sales were held in 2023.

3.3.5 Essequibo Sub- Registry

Civil

A total of one hundred and fifty-three (153) Civil Matters were filed in 2023 and one hundred and forty (140) were pending on December 31 2022 giving a total of Two hundred and ninety-three (293) matters to be heard in 2023. One hundred and twenty-six (126) of those matters were disposed of in 2023 leaving a total of one hundred and sixty-seven (167) matters pending at December 31, 2023.

	Specially Indorsed Writ	Writ of Summons	Summons and other Applications	Fixed Date Applications	Judgment Summons	Family Division	Statement of claim	Total
Pending at December 31st, 2022	11	13	1	13	4	59	39	140
Filed in 2023	-	-	-	34	2	107	10	153
Disposed in 2023	-	-	-	31	4	84	7	126
Pending at December 31st, 2023	11	13	1	16	2	82	42	167

Table 6 Civil Matters in Essequibo 2023

Land Court

One hundred and six (106) Petitions for Prescriptive Titles were filed in 2023, and one hundred and sixty-six (166) were pending on 31 December 2022, making a total of two hundred and seventy-two (272) matters to be heard in 2023. Twenty-nine (29) cases were heard, leaving two hundred and forty-three (243) matters pending on December 31st, 2023.

	Petition for Prescriptive Title	Deeds Registry Act Chapter 5:01	Land Restriction Act Chapter 5:02-S-79	Land Restriction Act Chapter 5:02-S-107	Land Restriction Act Chapter 5:02-S-17
Pending as of December 31st, 2022	166	-	-	-	-
Filed in 2023	106	-	-	-	-
Disposed in 2023	29	-	-	-	-
Pending as of December 31st, 2023	243	-	-	-	-

Table 7 Land Court - Essequibo

There was no assigned Commissioner of Title for Essequibo in 2023. The two Commissioners of Title conducted hearings for all three Counties.

Probate

Twenty-six (26) applications for Probate and forty (40) applications for Letters of Administration were filed in 2023. Twelve (12) applications for Probate and Twenty-Five (25) applications for Letters of Administration were disposed of.

	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration	Application to Sell by Private Treaty	Affidavit Verifying Accounts
Pending as of December 31st, 2022	31	51	-	-
Filed in 2023	26	40	-	-
Disposed in 2023	12	25	-	-
Pending as of December 31st, 2023	45	66	-	-

Table 8 Probate Matters in Essequibo

STATUS OF WILLS IN 2023

PARTICULARS	Wills
Wills that remained lodged at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	316
Wills that were lodged in 2023	35
Wills that were opened in 2023	13
Wills that remained lodged at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	338

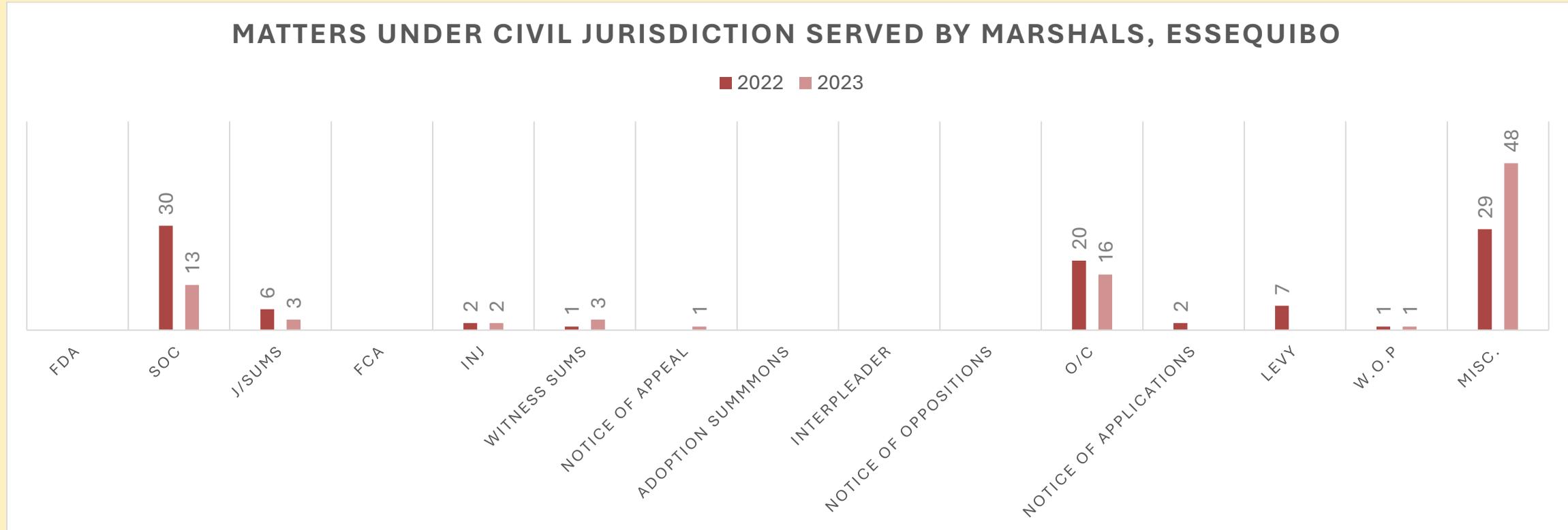
STATUS OF CAVEATS IN 2023

PARTICULARS	Caveats
Caveats that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	27
Caveats that were filed in 2023	5
Caveats that expired in 2023	-
Caveats that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	32

STATUS CITATIONS BY 31ST DECEMBER 2023

PARTICULARS	Citations
Citations that enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2022	10
Citations that were filed in 2023	1
Citations that concluded in 2023	-
Citations that remained enforced at the Probate Registry as at December 31, 2023	11

Marshal



FDA- Fixed date application
SOC- Statement of claim
J/Sums- Judgement summons

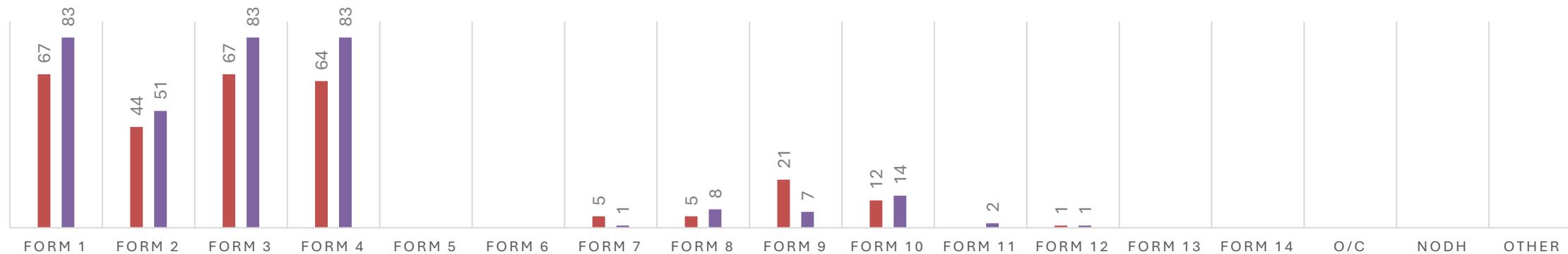
Inj- Injunction
WOP- Writ of possession
O/C- Order of Court

NOA- Notice of application
Misc- Miscellaneous

In 2023, 48 out of 52 miscellaneous matters were served indicating a high percentage being 92% executed as opposed to 2022 which recorded a 78% disposal rate.

MATTERS SERVED BY MARSHALS UNDER FAMILY DIVISION, MARSHAL'S SECTION, ESSEQUIBO

■ 2022 ■ 2023



FORM	DESCRIPTION
1	Petition for Divorce and Other Matrimonial Causes
2	Statement of Arrangements for Children
13	Notice of Proceedings (Respondent)
14	Acknowledgement of Service (Respondent)
15	Acknowledgement of Service (Co-respondent)
16	Notice of Application by Respondent for Financial Relief/Division of Property
17	Financial Relief/Division of Property Application Form with Evidence
18	Evidence of Financial Relief/Division of Property (Relief)
19	Application relating to Children
20	Reply to Application Relating to Children
21	Application
22	Notice of Proceedings (Co-respondent)
23	Witness Summons
14	Notice of Application for decree nisi to be made Absolute
O/c	Order of court
NODH	Notice of Direction Hearings

Execution Sales

In September 2022 management decided to suspend a list of gazetted properties for Auction Sales and by extension ordered an indefinite moratorium on holding Execution Auction Sales to allow for the revision of some aspects of the CPR 2019 regarding execution Auction Sales. Therefore, no Execution Auction Sales were held in 2023.

Criminal Report

A total of thirty-one (31) criminal indictments were filed during the year 2023. one hundred and ninety-five (195) indictments were pending on December 31st, 2022, giving a total of two hundred and twenty-six (226) criminal matters to be heard in 2023. Thirty-three (33) cases were disposed of in 2023 leaving a total of one hundred and ninety-three (193) cases pending on December 31st, 2023.

Pending as at December 31 2022	195
Filed in 2023	31
Disposed in 2023	33
Pending at December 31 st , 2023	193

Table 9 Criminal Matters in Essequibo 2023

3.3.6 MAGISTRATES' COURTS

OVERVIEW

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

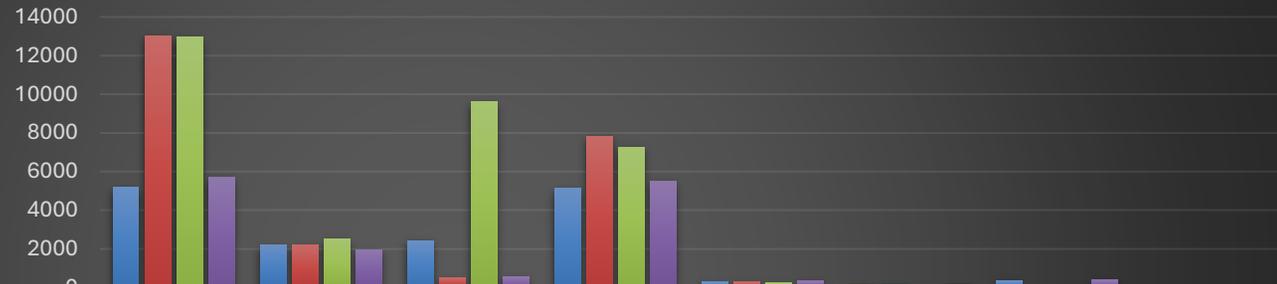
1. Georgetown Magisterial District with a sub-office Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Court with head office at Georgetown.
2. Corentyne Magisterial District with its head office at Whim.
3. Berbice Magisterial District with its head office at New Amsterdam.
4. East Demerara Magisterial District with its head 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-two Magistrates.

JUDICIAL

This section is responsible for the smooth functioning of the Civil and Criminal arms of the Court. It ensures that all legal procedures are implemented and observed from the time of filing to the time of final disposition.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS CRIMINAL CASES



	Summary	Indictable	Narcotics	Traffic	Preliminary Inquiries	Paper Committal	Inquest	Trafficking in Person
■ TOTAL brought forward for 2022	5166	2199	2423	5119	287	123	360	15
■ TOTAL filed in 2023	13,043	2,183	497	7,812	289	130	76	0
■ TOTAL concluded/ disposed in 2023	12,957	2,490	9598	7259	222	105	34	5
■ TOTAL pending as at 31st December 2023	5705	1949	535	5506	337	139	393	13

■ TOTAL brought forward for 2022

■ TOTAL filed in 2023

■ TOTAL concluded/ disposed in 2023

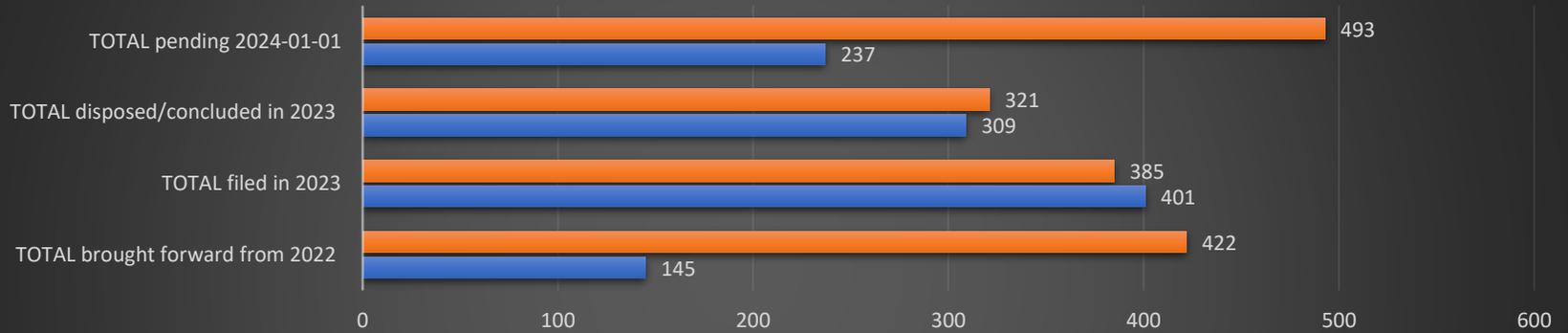
■ TOTAL pending as at 31st December 2023

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES FILED IN 2023 = 24,030

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES FILED IN 2022 = 30,371

Notable reductions were seen in the numbers of Narcotics matters filed (711 were filed in 2022, while 497 were filed in 2023) and preliminary inquiries (8418 were filed in 2022 as compared to 289 in 2023).

MAGISTRATES' COURTS STATUS OF CIVIL CASES MATTERS



	TOTAL brought forward from 2022	TOTAL filed in 2023	TOTAL disposed/concluded in 2023	TOTAL pending 2024-01-01
Others (claims & other claims)	422	385	321	493
Possession (Landlord and Tenant)	145	401	309	237

■ Others (claims & other claims)
 ■ Possession (Landlord and Tenant)

TOTAL CIVIL CASES FILED IN 2023 = 789

TOTAL CIVIL CASES FILED IN 2022 = 650

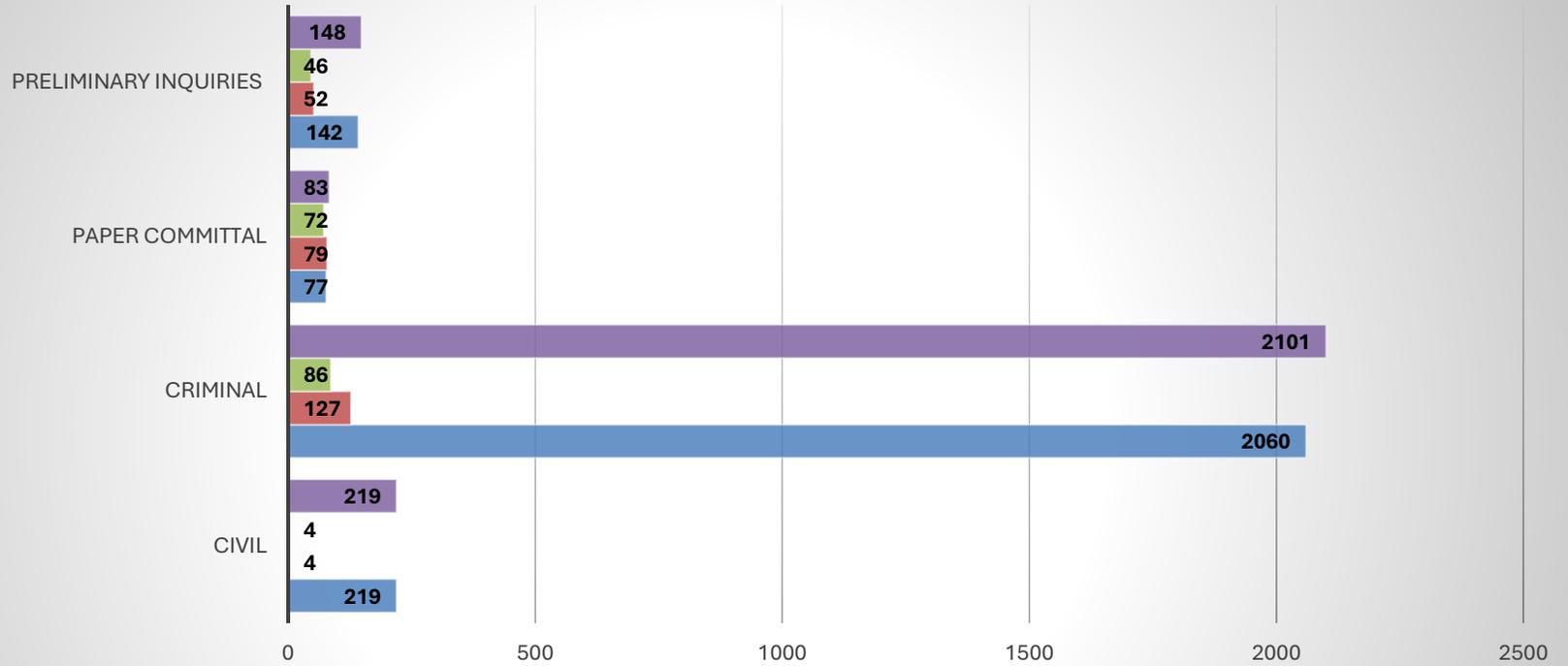
Notable reductions were seen in the numbers of claims cases filed (281 were filed in 2022, while 385 were filed in 2023).

MAGISTRATES' COURTS APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS

Notices of Appeal (Civil and Criminal) from decisions of the Magistrate are filed in this section. Records of the appeal and the relevant documents are prepared and sent to the Registrar of the Supreme Court. Depositions taken by the Magistrate in Preliminary inquiries in Indictable matters are lodged in this section. If the Accused is committed to stand trial at the High Court it is then typed and sent to the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS FILED AND SENT TO THE HIGH COURT DURING 2023

STATUS OF APPEALS AND DEPOSITIONS



	Civil	Criminal	Paper Committal	Preliminary Inquiries
■ TOTAL as at January 1, 2024 (remaining)	219	2101	83	148
■ TOTAL sent to the High Court	4	86	72	46
■ TOTAL filed in 2023	4	127	79	52
■ TOTAL brought forward from 2022	219	2060	77	142

■ TOTAL as at January 1, 2024 (remaining)
 ■ TOTAL sent to the High Court
 ■ TOTAL filed in 2023
 ■ TOTAL brought forward from 2022

FINANCIAL SECTION

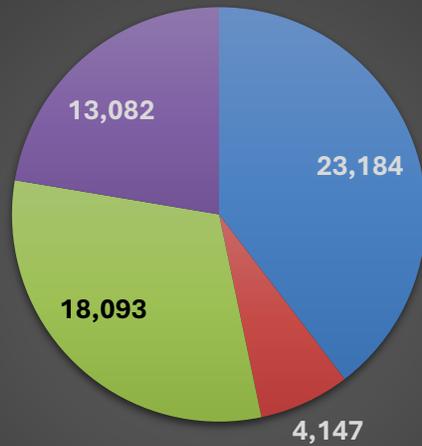
This section is responsible for the collection of Fines and Bail imposed on accused persons during their trial.

REVENUE FOR 2023

Districts	Fines	Fees	Cost	Bail Escheated	M& CC Fines
Georgetown Magisterial District & North West Magisterial District	26,396,200	323,285	15,360	1,132,000	412,500
East Demerara Magisterial District	28,158,775	359,795	1,000	73,500	-
West Berbice Magisterial District	8,649,100	322,675	462,750	335,000	-
Berbice Magisterial District	7,646,400	286,975	214,000	170,000	-
Corentyne Magisterial District	9,526,775	226,905	42,175	790,000	
Upper Demerara River Magisterial District	12,484,105		559,000	0	-
West Demerara Magisterial District	12,457,225	147,175	0	322,500	-
Essequibo Magisterial District	11,523,130	165,275	0	760,000	-
Rupununi Magisterial District	3,528,850	388,100	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED IN 2023	127,882,530				

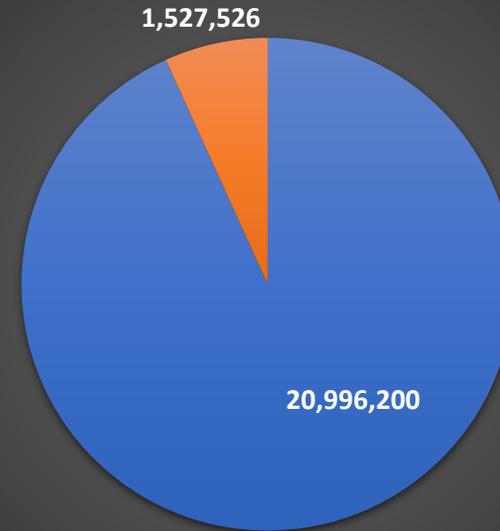
TRAFFIC OFFENCES

TRAFFIC OFFENCES REPORT FOR 2023



- NO. OF TICKETS FILED JAN-DEC 2023
- TOTAL NO. OF TICKETS PAID AT JAN-DEC 2023
- NO. OF TICKETS SENT TO COURT
- TOTAL NO. OF TICKET DISPOSED

REVENUE: TRAFFIC TICKETS FOR 2023

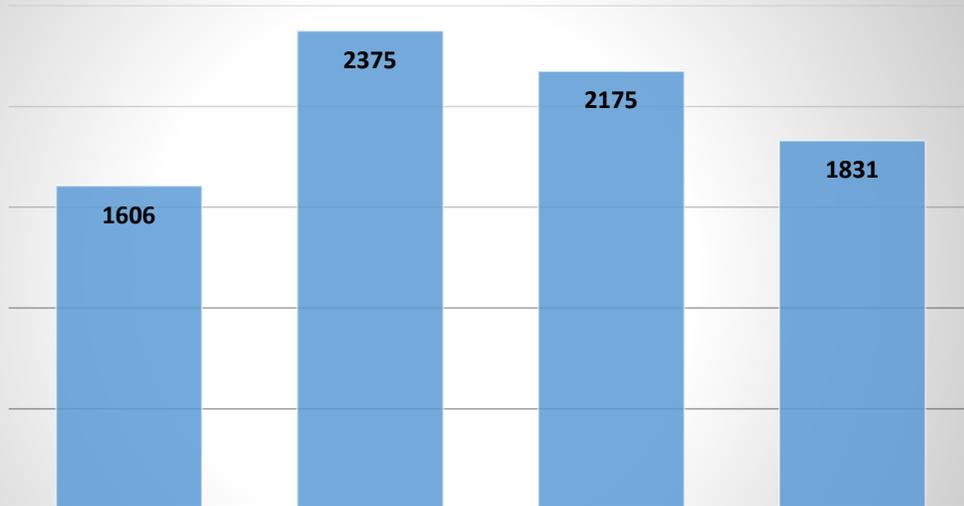


- THE AMOUNT OF MONEY COLLECTED IN THE OFFICE
- AMOUNT PAID IN COURT

COLLECTING OFFICE

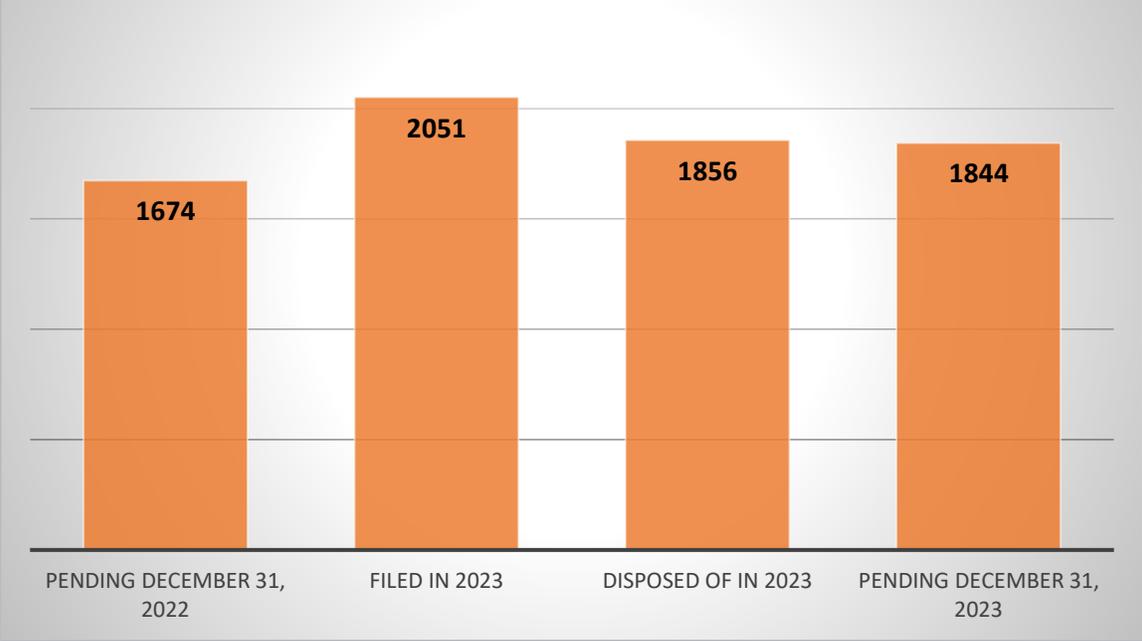
This section receives monies from persons who are ordered by the Magistrate to pay periodic sums of money for the maintenance of children, wives, and/or parents. The money once paid is then paid to the person entitled, in compliance with the Order of the Court. This section also prepares Warrants for defaulters

STATUS OF CLAIMS

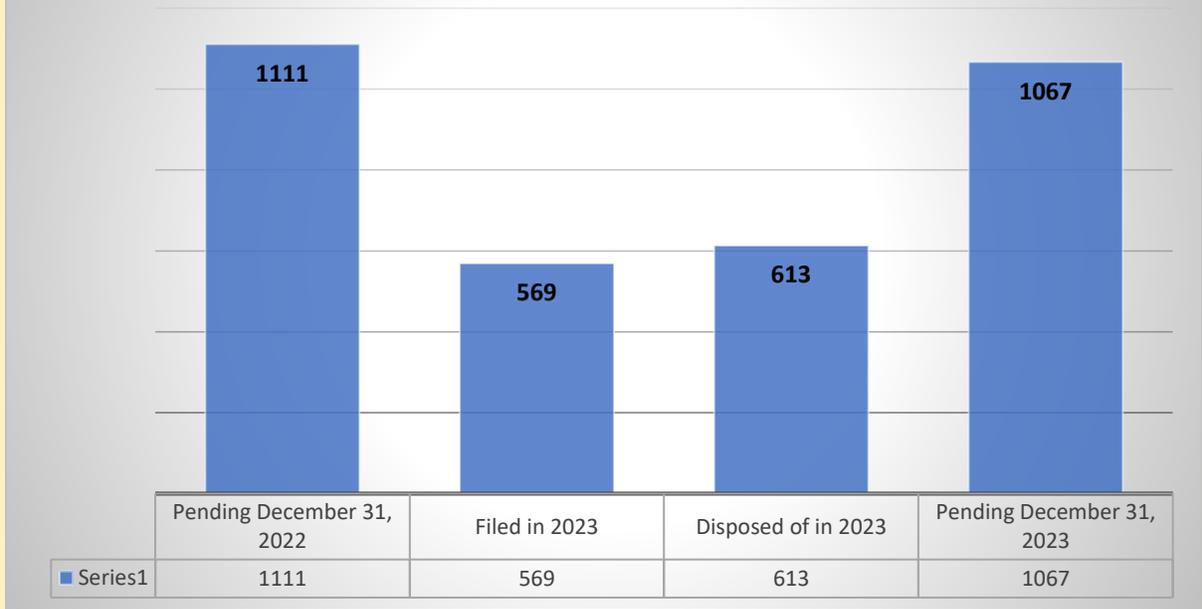


	Pending December 31, 2022	Filed in 2023	Disposed of in 2023	Pending December 31, 2023
Series1	1606	2375	2175	1831

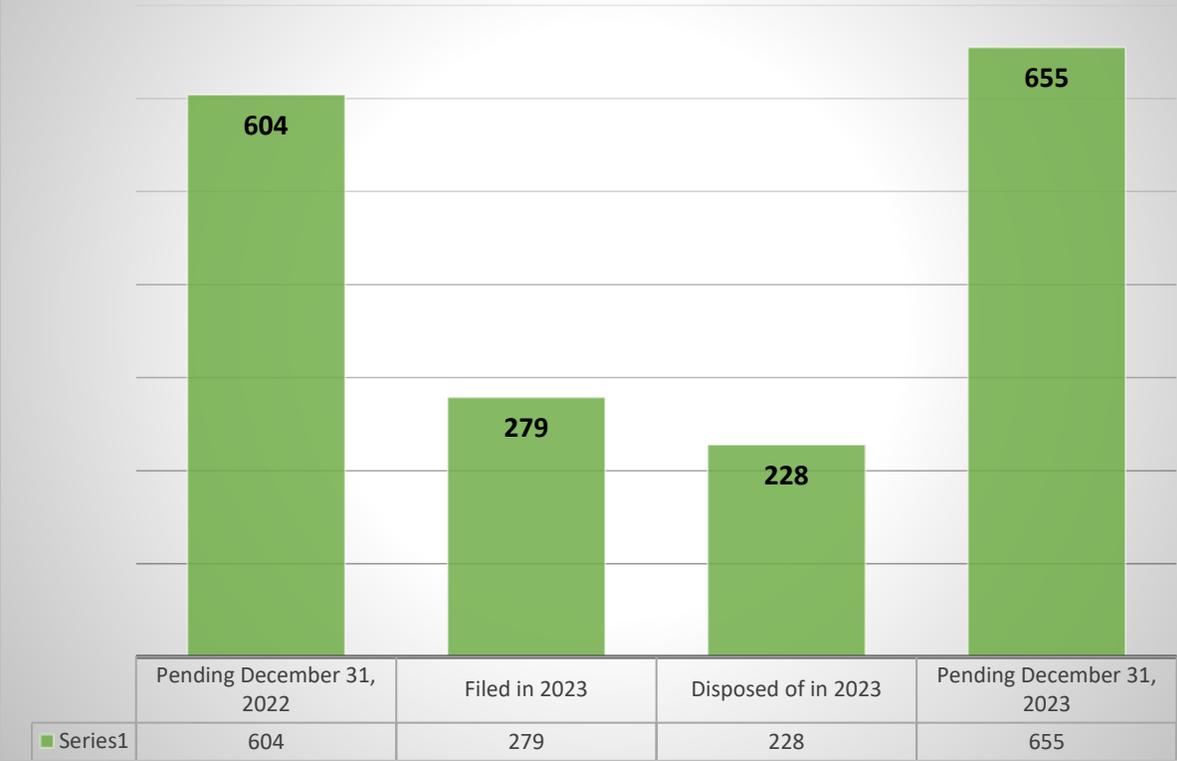
STATUS OF LIABILITY



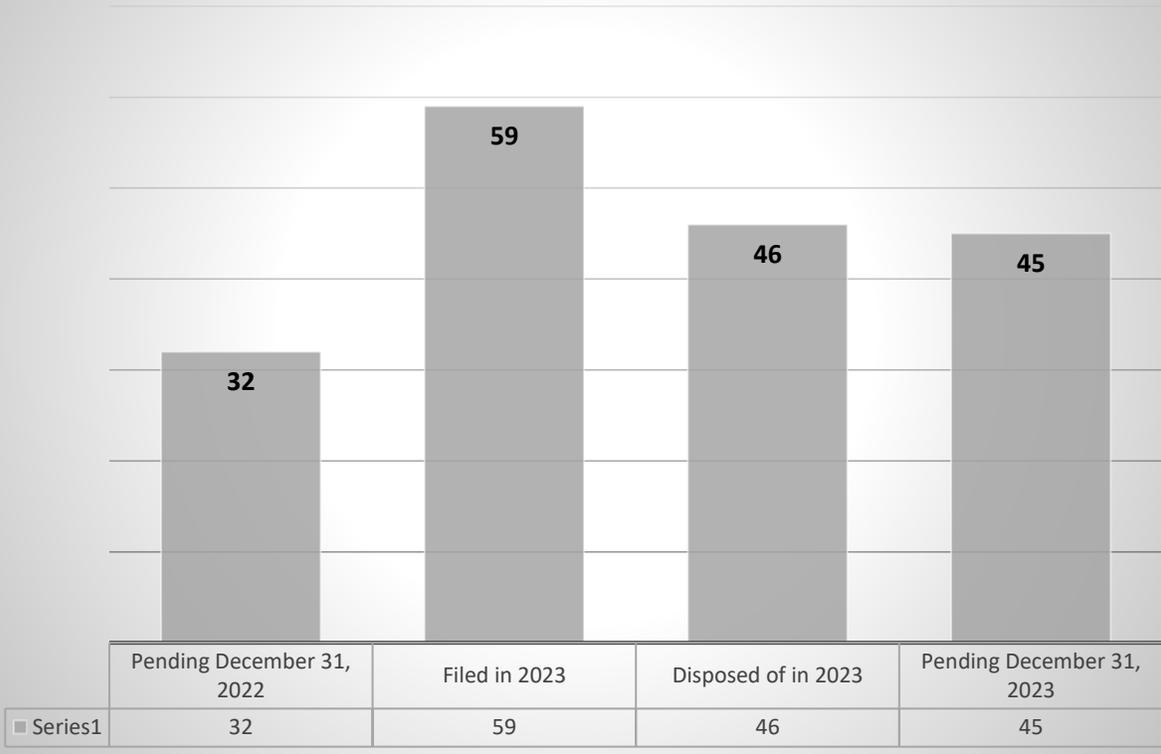
STATUS OF DISTRESS



STATUS OF ARREST



STATUS OF COMMITMENTS



Annual Financial Report

For the year 2023, funds for recurrent and capital expenditures were released as separate lump sums under *Chartered of Account 6041 - Constitutional Agencies* and *Project Code 4000600 Constitutional Agencies – Line Item 7011– Capital Expenditure* respectively.

On the 16th of September 2022, the Supreme Court submitted its budget proposal for the year 2023 to the Ministry of Finance for the sum of four billion four hundred and sixty-one million five hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars (G\$4,461,552,000) for both recurrent (operational) and capital (developmental) expenditure for consideration by the Minister of Finance.

The Capital Budget was later revised and sent to the Ministry of Finance after the 31st of December 2022 to capture the actual multi-year projects since there was an increase due to the rollover of projects. The revised budget was four billion seven hundred and twenty-eight million three hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars (G\$4,728,348,000) for both recurrent (operational) and capital (developmental) expenditure under consideration.

On the 30th of January, 2023 the National Assembly approved the following sums

-Recurrent expenditure (Salaries and other charges)-	(G\$2,584,263,000)
-Capital expenditure (buildings, land & water transport & furniture & equipment) -	(G\$1,500,000,000)
Total lump sum	(G\$4,084,263,000)

This approved amount represents 0.52% of the national budget estimates of seven hundred and eighty-one billion and eight hundred and eighty million nine hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars (G\$781,880,963,000).

For the Fiscal year ending 31st December 2023, additional funds were received from the Ministry of Finance through Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants to meet the following expenditure:

- Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants # 2501 – thirteen million nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$13,950,000) was met from Agency 3 – Ministry of Finance, Chart of Account 2503-Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants – Balance Sheet Item, for the payment of a one-off cash grant to Public Servants.
- Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants # 2502 – total sum eighty-seven million seven hundred and eighty-eight thousand three hundred and five dollars (G\$87,788,305) was met from Agency 3 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 1 - Chart of Account 6141- Other Employment Costs for the payment of 6.5% salary increase to Public Servants and Chauffeur and Other Related Staff of Constitutional Officers for the year 2023 - seventy-eight million two hundred and forty thousand two hundred and fifty-seven dollars (\$78,240,257), for the payment of retroactive salary increases to Chauffeurs and Other Related Staff of Constitutional Office Holders for the years 2021-2022 (7% and 8% respectively) - four million five hundred and thirty-eight thousand three hundred and twenty-four dollars (G\$4,538,324) and for the payment of shortfall on employment cost - overhead expenditure for duty allowance monthly to Clerks for the year 2023 - five million and nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars (G\$5,009,724).

Summary of Funds Received for 2023

Approved Budget

Current Subvention Approved	G\$ 2,584,263,000
Capital Subvention Approved	G\$ 1,500,000,000
Total Approved Budget	<u>G\$ 4,084,263,000</u>
Inter/Intra-Departmental Allocation Warrants	G\$ 101,738,305
Total Approved Budget 2023	<u>G\$ 4,186,001,305</u>

Statutory Cost

To fulfil our obligations for remuneration for Chancellor (ag), Chief Justice (ag), Justices of Appeal, and the Puisne Judges the Supreme Court expended the sum of three hundred and forty-two million one hundred and seventy-one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six dollars (G\$342,171,766) on statutory expenditures, which also includes the sum of twenty-three million one hundred and eighty-seven thousand nine hundred and eighty dollars (G\$23,187,908) for one-off cash grant and 6.5% salary increase.

Savings were accumulated from 6012- Statutory Benefits and Allowances due to reducing airfare cost against budgeted for the payment of vacation allowance to Judicial officers entitled for the year 2022-2023 and prorated vacation allowance paid to retired Justices Reynolds and Holder, also reduced claims/purchases for refreshments, mileage, crossing, utility, fuel etc by Judicial Officers for the year. These savings were used to cushion the shortfall on 6011-Statutory Wages and Salaries due to a clerical error by the Ministry of Finance during the budget approval stage, whereby the salary increase of 8% for the year 2022 was placed under Wages and Salaries and Overhead Expenditures instead.

Employment Cost

The Supreme Court expended the sum of one billion two and twelve million six hundred and sixty-one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars (G\$1,212,661,857) towards the payment of salaries and other emoluments for administrative, clerical, semi-skill & un-skilled, contracted and temporary employees, which also includes the sum of seventy-eight million four hundred and seventy-five thousand three hundred and ninety-seven dollars (G\$78,475,397) for one-off cash grant and 6.5% salary increase.

During the year 2023 savings were accumulated from the resignations/dismissals/retirements of forty (40) employees which includes (1 Senior Magistrate, 1 Civil Engineer, 1 Technical Operator, 2 Child Care Workers, 4 Accounts Clerks, 8 Legal Clerks, 4 Typist Clerks, 2 Data Entry Clerks, 1 Clerk II (G), 1 Listing Clerk, 1 System Support Officer, 5 Marshals, 1 Bailiff, 2 Office Assistants, 1 Driver, 2 Janitors, 2 Cleaners, 1 Temporary Cleaner) and from a clerical error whereby funds for statutory 8%

increase for the year 2022 was placed under wages and salaries and overhead expenditure.

These savings were used to compensate for the employment of sixty-seven (67) new employees during the year which includes (2 Accounts Clerks, 24 Legal Clerks, 11 Typist Clerks, 2 Scanning Clerks, 1 System Support Officer, 1 Clerk II (G), 4 Marshals, 1 Bailiff, 1 Receptionist, 1 Vault Attendant, 2 Office Assistants, 3 Drivers, 4 Janitors, 5 Cleaners, 5 Temporary Cleaners).

Overall employment cost – overhead expenditure had a shortfall of five million and nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-four dollars (G\$5,009,724) which was due to the further approval for the payment of a monthly Duty Allowance to 155 Legal / Accounts Clerks, excluding the one-off cash grant and 6.5% salary increase for the year. This was met by the Ministry of Finance through the revision of wages and salaries as shown in the following table:

No.	Activities	Actual Payroll Expenditure
1	General Administration	343,831,046
2	Accounts Services	40,591,496
3	Personnel Services	15,297,530
4	I.T & Data Entry Services	25,782,062
5	Law Library Services	4,793,459
6	Court Reporters	29,584,398
7	Marshal Branch	37,767,816
8	Probate (Estate) Services	8,015,568
9	Judicial Services	136,305,573
10	Court of Appeal	129,244,824
11	Land Court	45,942,534
12	Berbice Sub-Registry	60,081,113
13	Essequibo Sub-Registry	39,941,370
14	Mediation Services	11,380,787
15	Family Court Services	36,236,032
16	Georgetown Magisterial District	241,306,242
17	Berbice Magisterial District	50,380,810
18	Corentyne Magisterial District	28,859,312
19	East Demerara Magisterial District	81,314,022
20	Essequibo Magisterial District	74,347,732
21	West Demerara Magisterial District	54,157,360
22	West Berbice Magisterial District	32,930,563
23	Upper Demerara River Magisterial Dist.	15,575,801
24	Rupununi Magisterial District	11,166,173
	Total	1,554,833,623

Table 10 Actual Statutory and Employment Expenditure (Salaries/Wages/Allowances/IDW) by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2023.

Other Charges

The Supreme Court expended the sum of one billion one hundred and thirty million and seventy thousand two hundred and thirteen dollars (G\$1,130,070,213), towards the daily operations of the High Court, Georgetown, the 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 2023.

Breakdown of Expenditure by Chart of Accounts

Overseas Travelling for Judicial Officers

The Supreme Court expended the sum of forty million four hundred and ninety nine thousand nine hundred and ninety nine dollars (G\$ 40,499,999) on overseas travelling for Judicial Officers etc attending conferences, seminars, meetings, workshops/ trainings for the year 2023 i.e payment of airfare, hotel accommodation, registration fees, meals, out of pocket, baggage and transportation expenses for: National Association of Drug Court Professionals-RISE 23 Conference Houston, Texas from 25–30/6/2023, Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute Fellowship Programme Halifax, Canada from 3-24/6/2023, International Association of Women Judges Conference Marrakesh, Morocco 10-15/5/2023, Just Connect Launch Trinidad from 22-25/5/2023, Caribbean Magistrates & Judges Association Conference - Cardiff Wales, U.K from 10-14/9/2023, Court Technology Conference Phoenix, Arizona, USA from 11-15/9/2023, Jurist Project Meeting Trinidad on 18/1/2023, Librarian Conference Barbados from 27-29/3/2023, National Association of Women Judges Indianapolis, USA from 5-7/10/2023, Study Tour of the facilities of the Children Court, Family Court and Registries of the Judiciary of Trinidad & Tobago from 15–20/10/2023, Latin America and Caribbean Judicial Conference Panama from 22-24/8/2023, Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law-7th Biennial Law Conference, Barbados from 16-21/10/2023, International Association for Court Administration Conference Buenos Aires, Argentina from 24-28/10/2023, 1st Programme Steering Committee Trinidad from 09–11/11/2023 and Head of Judiciary Conference Trinidad from 14-18/11/2023.

Training

During the year 2023, the Supreme Court expended the sum of nineteen million four hundred and twenty-one thousand two hundred and eight dollars (G\$19,421,208) for conducting: Technical Assistance in Customer Relations Training for Junior Staff, Mediation Training, Judges & Magistrate's Conference, Referral Training with Bar Association, Organising Culture Values, Ethics and Professionalism, Leadership, Monitoring and Evaluation Training, Training Course in Defensive driving for drivers, Men's Health Awareness Training, Training in State Asset Recovery, Family Mediation Training, Criminal Case Management System training at Diamond, Procurement Training in Lethem, E-Litigation Training, Zoywins Professional Staff Development Training, Customer Service and Customer Experience Training, Critical Thinking, Business Writing & Communications.

Operating and Court-Related Expenses

The Supreme Court expended the sum of one billion, seventy million one hundred and forty-nine thousand and six dollars (G\$1,070,149,006) on operating and court-related expenses as follows:

1. Drugs and Medical Supplies	- G\$ 6,092,000
2. Field Materials and Supplies	- G\$ 5,478,000
3. Office Material and Supplies	- G\$ 81,619,987
4. Print and Non-Print Materials	- G\$ 43,737,304
5. Fuel & Lubricants	- G\$ 12,954,000
6. Rental of Building	- G\$ 9,030,000
7. Maintenance of Buildings	- G\$ 91,119,979
8. Janitorial & Cleaning Supplies	- G\$ 33,643,497
9. Maintenance of Other Infrastructure	- G\$ 46,232,000
10. Local Travel and Subsistence	- G\$121,666,564
11. Postage, Telex & Cablegrams	- G\$ 2,372,531
12. Vehicles Spares and Service	- G\$ 10,501,000
13. Telephone Charges	- G\$ 75,770,000
14. Electricity Charges	- G\$ 82,805,000

15. Water Charges	- G\$ 15,561,000
16. Security Services	- G\$ 77,992,198
17. Equipment Maintenance	- G\$ 22,262,378
18. Cleaning and Extermination Services	- G\$ 35,692,730
19. National and Other Event	- G\$ 43,726,990
20. Refreshment and Meals	- G\$ 63,657,029
21. Other	- G\$181,167,527
22. Rates & Taxes	- G\$ 7,067,2921

No.	Activities	Actual Other Expenditure
1	General Administration	301,284,681
2	Accounts Services	34,546,622
3	Personnel Services	7,159,492
4	I.T & Data Entry Services	16,259,067
5	Law Library Services	7,193,707
6	Court Reporters	4,970,276
7	Marshal Branch	21,685,461
8	Probate (Estate) Services	6,501,019
9	Judicial Services	48,452,163
10	Court of Appeal	45,572,697
11	Land Court	14,436,607
12	Berbice Sub-Registry	69,661,459
13	Essequibo Sub-Registry	53,180,502
14	Mediation Services	8,271,672
15	Family Court Services	19,027,673
16	Georgetown Magisterial District	141,762,521
17	Berbice Magisterial District	39,386,309
18	Corentyne Magisterial District	43,808,954
19	East Demerara Magisterial District	45,415,235
20	Essequibo Magisterial District	77,897,586
21	West Demerara Magisterial District	34,538,533
22	West Berbice Magisterial District	21,949,110
23	Upper Demerara River Magisterial District	30,805,131
24	Rupununi Magisterial District	36,303,736
	Total	1,130,070,213

Table 11 Actual Other Charges Expenditure by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2023

Summary For 2023 – Receipts & Payments (Current)

Receipts

Subvention Current Budget 2023 - releases	G\$2,584,263,000
6141 – Revision of wages & salaries	G\$ 101,738,305
	<u>G\$2,686,001,305</u>

Payments

Statutory Cost	G\$ 342,171,766
Employment Cost	G\$1,212,661,857
Other Charges	G\$1,130,070,213
	<u>(G\$2,684,903,836)</u>

Balance returned to consolidated fund - line item 6041/IDW2501 G\$1,097,469

Breakdown of returns

1. 6041 Constitutional Agencies – current budget	G\$ 1,022,469
2. 2501 - IDW One-Off Cash Grant for Public Servants	G\$ 75,000

Total Returns to Consolidated fund G\$ 1,097,469

Capital Expenditure

The Supreme Court budgeted the sum of one billion nine hundred and thirty million two hundred and forty-one thousand dollars (G\$1,930,241,000) for capital expenditure, which was later revised to two billion one hundred and ninety-seven million and thirty-seven thousand dollars (G\$2,197,037,000) as stated above however, the sum of one billion five hundred million dollars (G\$1,500,000,000) was approved by the National Assembly.

The Supreme Court expended one billion three hundred and thirty-one million two hundred and sixty-three thousand and twenty-six dollars (\$1,331,263,026) on Capital expenditure.

The main reasons for the shortfall in executing our capital budget were:

- a) Delays at the evaluation and award of contract stage,
- b) Projects returned to NPTAB to be re-evaluated and awarded to the next lowest contractor since bidder did not meet specifications in the bid document,
- c) Delays in projects due to changes in the design of building because of power lines, utility poles, and existing anchors for GTT tower on land at Mabaruma, also a Cadastral Survey had to be conducted, and retaining walls constructed at Port Kaituma and Mabaruma locations because of topography of land (slope) and
- d) Difficulties to access the site in location due to bad weather to transport materials and limited availability on the public ferry; shortages of materials (sand, kiln dry greenheart wood, stone, ready mix, etc) all lead to delays hence surplus /savings.

No.	Activities	Actual Capital Expenditure
1	General Administration	90,660,561
2	Accounts Services	5,455,820
3	Personnel Services	62,000
4	I.T & Data Entry Services	976,915
5	Law Library Services	1,712,875
6	Court Reporters	452,995
7	Marshal Branch	94,995
8	Probate (Estate) Services	94,995
9	Judicial Services	3,001,504
10	Court of Appeal	92,247,147
11	Land Court	920,495
12	Berbice Sub-Registry	54,854,284
13	Essequbio Sub-Registry	21,183,418
14	Mediation Services	94,995
15	Family Court Services	1,187,995
16	Georgetown Magisterial District	425,479,136
17	Berbice Magisterial District	15,344,261
18	Corentyne Magisterial District	11,998,521
19	East Demerara Magisterial District	239,297,305
20	Essequbio Magisterial District	215,958,689
21	West Demerara Magisterial District	83,667,426
22	West Berbice Magisterial District	37,943,123
23	Upper Demerara River Magisterial Dist.	6,781,151
24	Rupununi Magisterial District	21,792,420
	Total	1,331,263,026

Table 12 Capital Expenditure by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2023

No.	Line Item/Chart of Account (Project Component)	Actual Expenditure				
		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
1	Building	971,072,332	667,231,594	358,706,541	205,258,358	364,112,713
2	Furniture & Equipment	360,190,694	190,585,597	470,521,898	187,631,126	72,015,377
3	Land & Water Transport	-	0	49,375,744	37,413,516	22,349,909
	Total	1,331,263,026	857,817,191	878,604,183	430,303,000	458,477,999

Table 13 Actual Expenditure 2019-2023

Summary For 2023 – Receipts & Payments (Capital)

Receipts

Subvention Capital Budget 2023 - releases

G\$1,500,000,000

Payments

Buildings G\$971,072,332

Furniture & Equipment G\$360,190,694

Land & Water Transport G\$ 0

(G\$1,331,263,026)

Bal returned to Consl. fund on project code 4000600-line item 7011 G\$

168,736,974

Buildings

The amount of nine hundred and seventy-one million and seventy-two thousand three hundred and thirty-two dollars (G\$971,072,332) was expended on Buildings. The following are major works (projects) that were rolled over (multi-year) 2022-2023 and new projects undertaken in 2023:

Multi-Year projects for 2022-2023

Description of Project	Contract Cost (G\$)	Status (%) Completed
Construction of Port Kaituma Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 1	\$ 230,315,239.00	83%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 23,118,864.00	
Construction of Mabaruma Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 1	\$ 253,368,148.00	79%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 23,986,203.00	
Construction of a New Vigilance Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Vigilance E.C.D, Region No. 4	\$ 263,519,670.00	85%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 25,479,822.00	
Extension of the Court of Appeal building, Kingston, Georgetown Region No. 4	\$ 124,120,950.00	76%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 12,765,887.00	
Completion of Bartica Magistrate's Court Reg. # 7 Phase II - External Bailiff Bond, Benab, Modifications to Building to accommodate Domestic Violence & Probation Rooms etc	\$ 23,998,425.00	95%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 3,510,000.00	
Completion of Mahdia Magistrate's Court Reg. # 8 Phase II - External Bailiff Bond, Benab, Sanitary Facility, Driveway/walkway, Parking Shed etc.	\$ 50,490,773.00	70%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 6,210,000.00	
Construction of a Magistrate's Court at Cove & John E.C.D Region No. 4	\$ 160,203,923.00	19%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$ 7,923,000.00	

Construction of a Magistrate's Court at Mahaicony E.C.D Region No. 5	\$	192,180,780.00	8%
Consultancy Fees - Design & Supervision Fees	\$	8,664,000.00	
Rewiring of Supreme Court Registry Suddie, Essequibo Coast, Region No. 2	\$	36,519,328.00	95%
Construction of a Storage/Records Bond at Leonora Magistrate's Court Reg. No. 3	\$	41,395,868.00	80%
Consultancy Fees- Supervision Fees	\$	798,900.00	
Construction of a Storage / Records Bond & Living Quarters at the Diamond-Grove Magistrate's Court Reg. No. 4.	\$	48,683,607.00	95%
Consultancy Fees-Design & Supervision Fees	\$	2,770,000.00	
Extension of Bailiff Bond and inclusion of two (2) Self-contained Living Quarters at the Lethem Magistrate's Court, Region No. 9	\$	27,043,826.00	18%
Consultancy Fees -Design & Supervision Fees	\$	9,000,000.00	
Retrofitting of the Old Magistrate's Court at Wales to a Magistrate's Quarter and Library/Research Centre W.B.D, Region No. 3	\$	27,419,790.00	33%
Consultancy Fees-Design & Supervision Fees	\$	3,095,000.00	
Completion of Clerk of Court Living Quarters at the Linden Magistrate's Court, Region No. 10 - Phase II	\$	7,824,010.00	95%
Consultancy Fees-Design & Supervision Fees	\$	799,500.00	
Consultancy Services - Design & Supervision Fees Re: Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Timehri, Reg. # 4	\$	6,995,000.00	
Consultancy Services - Design & Supervision Fees Re: Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Friendship, Reg. # 4	\$	11,580,000.00	
Consultancy Services - Design & Supervision Fees Re: Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Anna Regina, Reg. # 2	\$	7,500,000.00	
Construction of Elevator Shafts & Rehabilitation Works for the Georgetown High Court, Regions No. 4	\$	6,900,740.00	15%
Consultancy Fees-Supervision Fees	\$	400,000.00	
	\$	1,648,581,253.00	

Table 14 Multi Year Projects 2022-2023

New Projects 2023 – Major Works

- (1) Construction of Elevator Shafts and Rehabilitation Works for the New Amsterdam High Court, Regions No. 6 - Consultancy and Construction
- (2) Construction of Elevator Shafts and Rehabilitation Works for the Suddie High Court, Regions # 2- Consultancy and Construction
- (3) Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Timehri, Region No. 4 - Construction
- (4) Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Friendship, Region No. 4 - Construction
- (5) Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at Anna Regina, Essequibo Coast, Region No. 2 - Construction
- (6) Phase III - Completion of Mahdia Magistrate's Court-Ceiling, Plumbing, Electrical, Gazebo, car parking etc - Construction and Consultancy - Consultancy Design.
- (7) Construction of Magistrate's Court and Living Quarters at La Parfaite Harmonie, W.B.D – Consultancy Design and Supervision
- (8) Construction of Annex to Suddie Magistrate's Court, Region No. 2 Construction and Consultancy.
- (9) Phase III - Completion of Bartica Magistrate's Court - Internal Drains, Generator Hut and Pad, etc - Construction and Consultancy
- (10) Rewiring of the Suddie Magistrate's Court Essequibo - Construction and Consultancy
- (11) Rehabilitation of entire roof to Building at Berbice Sub-Registry, New Amsterdam - Construction and Consultancy
- (12) Addition and Rehabilitation to Front of Suddie Magistrate's Court, Essequibo - Consultancy Design
- (13) Construction of Two (2) Guard Huts at South Road and Charlotte Street Entrances at the Supreme Court G/Town -Consultancy and Construction
- (14) Rewiring of the Fort Wellington Magistrate's Court WCB - Construction and Consultancy
- (15) Electrification of Mahdia Magistrate's Court, Reg# 8 Re: Supply of materials, labour etc – Construction.

- (16) Construction of a two (2) Storey Building to House Two (2) Magistrate's Court, Living Quarters, Conference and Training Facilities at Providence, E.B.D Region No. 4 - Consultancy Design and Supervision Fees.
- (17) Extension of Charity Magistrate's Court, Essequibo, Region # 2 – to accommodate a Children's Court.

Furniture & Equipment

The amount of three hundred and sixty million one hundred and ninety thousand six hundred and ninety four dollars (\$360,190,694) was expended on the purchasing of office furniture and equipment for the various sections/offices, courts and the 9 Magisterial Districts within the Supreme Court of Judicature and for the new Court building at Vigilance that was opened on the 16th August, 2023, for the Extension of the Court of Appeal Building, Kingston, Georgetown and the Magistrate's Living Quarters at Wales, W.B.D, to provide the staff of the Judiciary with adequate furnishing so that improved office accommodation and operational efficiency can be achieved in a more comfortable and conducive working environment.

New Projects 2023

- (1) Supply and installation of Elevators at the Extension of the Court of Appeal Building and the New Vigilance Magistrate's Court.
- (2) Supply and Installation of 80KVA Generators with Automatic Changeover Switch at Fort Wellington and Leonora.
- (3) Modifications and Changes to Elevator Doors from 700mm to 800mm at G/town, Berbice & Essequibo High Courts, Regions No. 2,4&6.
- (4) Modifications and Changes to Elevator Doors from 700mm to 800mm at Vigilance Mag. Court & Extension of the Court of Appeal, Kingston, Regions No. 4.
- (5) Supply and Installation of two (2) Elevators for Port Kaituma and Mabaruma.

(6) Supply and Installation of 80KVA Generators with Automatic Changeover Switch at Vreed-en-Hoop, New Amsterdam & Whim Magistrate’s Court.

Land & Water Transport

The Supreme Court did not budget for the purchase of any Land and Water Transport in 2023. However, due to savings projected on our building profile, an initiative was undertaken by the Hon. Chancellor (ag) to purchase 1 New Canter – 2 ton enclosed for the High Court Georgetown, and 1 New Fielder Wagon Motor Vehicle for Fort Wellington Magistrate’s Court, estimated at fourteen million dollars (G\$14,000,000). These projects were advertised and went to evaluation committee, however, to date no award was granted by the NPTAB hence no monies were expended in 2023.

Summary For 2023 – Receipts & Payments (Current & Capital)

Receipts

Subvention Current Budget 2023 - releases	G\$2,584,263,000	
Subvention Capital Budget 2023 – releases	G\$1,500,000,000	
6141 – Revision of wages & salaries	<u>G\$ 101,738,305</u>	G\$4,186,001,305

Payments – Current & Capital

Statutory Cost	G\$ 342,171,766
Employment Cost	G\$1,212,661,857
Other Charges	G\$1,130,070,213
Buildings	G\$ 971,072,332
Furniture & Equipment	G\$ 360,190,694
Land & Water Transport	<u>G\$ (G\$4,016,166,862)</u>
Balance returned to consolidated fund	<u>G\$ 169,834,443</u>

Breakdown of returns

1. 6041 - Constitutional Agencies – current budget	-G\$ 1,022,469
2. 7011 – Supreme Court of Judicature - Capital Expenditure	-G\$ 168,736,974
2501 - IDW One-Off Cash Grant for Public Servants	-G\$ <u>75,000</u>
Total Returns to Consolidated fund	<u>-G\$ 169,834,443</u>

Other Receipts

- (1) Special Funding Account # 0162600417002 (Bank of Guyana)
Balance brought forward on Special Funding Account at Bank of Guyana as at 1st January, 2023 is one million five hundred thousand dollars (G\$1,500,000).

UNICEF, also donated the following sums during the year 2023 into the Account:

G\$4,903,000 – Social Norms Access to Justice (Legal awareness including of legislation, court procedures, practitioners guide for maintenance matters, criminal matters & who's who in the Family and Sexual Offence Court - February-May, 2023

- (2) G\$7,500,000 - Access to Justice - Capacity Building (including Children's Court) - February-May, 2023.

- (3) G\$3,575,000- To purchase a Mobile Court vehicle and Report on assessment regarding access to justice for mental health patients and review of laws, with court providers. July-Sept, 2023

As at 31st December, 2023 the sum of sixteen million three hundred and seventy-six thousand two hundred and forty-three dollars (G\$16,376,243) was expended leaving a remaining balance of one million one hundred and one thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven dollars (G\$1,101,757) rolling over as at 1st January, 2024.

Revenue

The Supreme Court Registries and Magistrates' Courts are revenue earners. The Registries earn revenues in the form of fees, fines, seizures, state cost, bail escheated etc which are required to be paid in accordance with the scales of fees contained in the Rules of Court or imposed by a Magistrate or Judges for the performance of duties and execution of processes by officers of the court when filing of matter, disposal of cases, execution of orders etc

Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Approved Budget 2023	Revised Budget 2023	Actual Revenue Collected for 2023	Variance Surplus
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	201,600,000	204,600,000	226,036,983	21,436,983
5327	State Cost	590,000	920,000	1,194,925	274,925
5419	Other Loans & Advance	0	6,000	6,000	0
5616	Sundries	0	92,000	312,262	220,262
5715	Sale of Asset	0	0	0	0
	Total	202,190,000	205,618,000	227,550,170	21,932,170

Table 15 Actual revenue collected for 2023 compared to revised estimates

The Supreme Court 2023 revenue figures were revised and increased during the preparations for the 2024 budget by three million four hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars (G\$3,428,000) since the January – August 2023 actuals had already exceeded projections based on the original budget approved sum.

The total revenue collected for January - December 2023 was two hundred and twenty-seven million five hundred and fifty thousand one hundred and seventy dollars (G\$227,550,170) an increase of 10.67% or twenty-one million nine hundred and thirty-two thousand one hundred and seventy dollars (G\$21,932,170) against the revised budget 2023. The reason for the increase was due to the opening of the New Vigilance Magistrates' Court in August 2023 which now has two (2) courtrooms instead of one (1) and the increase in matters heard and disposed. Generally, there was an increase in fines imposed by magistrates across the various magisterial districts.

4. SECTION 4: HIGHLIGHTS FOR COURT ACTIVITIES

4.1 LAW YEAR OPENING AND CRIMINAL ASSIZES



The Demerara January – March 2023 Criminal Assizes and Law Year were formally opened on Tuesday, the 10th of January 2023. On this occasion, history was made in Guyana, where the opening of the Criminal Assizes coincided with the opening of the inaugural Law Year. The 2023 Law Year theme for the Judiciary of Guyana, as highlighted by the Honourable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, is “Serving people, Providing justice”. The Law Year will now be a permanent feature on the Supreme Court of Judicature’s Calendar of events. The customary ceremonial parade for the opening of the criminal assizes by the Guyana Police Force was held along the South Road and Croal Street carriageway, followed by a procession

of Judicial Officers and Officials into the High Court via Charlotte Street. The Honourable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, took the salute and inspected the Guard of Honor. Her Honour marched in step with Assistant Police Commissioner Simon Mc Bean, Assistant Superintendent Malcolm Melville, and Cadet Officer Garfield Campbell. The ceremony was chaired by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature, Sueanna Lovell, who also gave welcoming remarks. Brief remarks were made by Ms. Pauline Chase, President of the Bar Association, Ms. Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC, Director of Public Prosecution, the Honourable Chief Justice (ag) Madam Justice Roxane George CCH, SC, the Honourable Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and the feature remarks were delivered by the Honourable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards.

The opening of criminal assizes was held for the remainder of 2023 under statutory provisions in the

three counties: Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, as follows :

- Demerara – the second Tuesday in January, first Tuesday in April, first Tuesday in June and the first Tuesday in October.
- Essequibo – the third Tuesday in February, third Tuesday in May and the fourth Tuesday in October.
- Berbice – first Tuesday in February, third Tuesday in June, and third Tuesday in October.



On Tuesday 7th February 2023 the Berbice February Criminal Assizes was opened with the usual ceremonial parade. The Honourable Mr Justice Navindra Singh



On the 14th February 2023, the Essequibo Criminal Assizes was opened with the usual ceremonial parade. The Honourable Mr Justice Sandil Kisson is the presiding Judge in both the Criminal and Civil jurisdiction. He took the salute and inspected the Guard of Honor.

4.2 TRAINING

4.2.1 INTRODUCTORY FAMILY MEDIATION TRAINING

A family mediation program was held on the 6th of January 2023 for a batch of Family Mediators. The duration of the program was four (4) days; the 6th, 9th, 10th, and 11th January 2023.



The training was funded by the JURIST Project and facilitated by Mediation Services International (MSI). The trainers included Ms. Jamela A. Ali, Senior Counsel and Mediator, Mr. Teni Housty, Attorney-at-Law and Mediator, and Mr. Colin Chichester, Mediation Director, Guyana Mediation Centre.

At the conclusion of the training program, all participants were presented with a certificate.

4.2.2 JUDICIAL ASSET RECOVERY CONFERENCE

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) partnered with the Judicial Education of Guyana (JEI-G) to host a Judicial Asset Recovery Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, Guyana.

The two (2) days Asset Recovery workshop commenced on Monday, the 27th of March 2023 with an official opening ceremony at the Marriot Hotel.

The focus of this conference was to:

- Raise awareness on asset recovery best practices;
- Encourage the professional exchange of skills, experiences, and challenges, when dealing with asset recovery cases; and
- Build confidence among members of the judiciary who preside over asset recovery cases.



In attendance at this conference at the head table were the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Her Excellency Ambassador Sarah-Ann Lynch, US

4.2.3 CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING

The Judiciary provides crucial services to all Guyanese, and we must do so efficiently.

The Supreme Court of Judicature continued its education program for members of staff with a series of Customer Service Training sessions facilitated by Georgetown Development Consultants.

Customer Service Training activities were held throughout all of the districts.

Ambassador to Guyana, Ms. Jo-Anne Richardson, Director, Anti-Crime Program, and Ms. Nicola Suter, Director, Caribbean Anti-Crime, NCSC.

The participants of the workshop included Court of Appeal Judges, Judges of the High Court, Magistrates, Commissioners of Title, Registrars, and Judicial Research Assistants.

A practical exercise was also done in the form of a two (2) day moot court at the High Court in Court 1 (one).

Members of staff from the Berbice District were trained in two

batches on the 21st of January 2023, while members of staff in the Essequibo District were trained on the 21st of February 2023.



Training sessions thereafter followed for members of staff in the Georgetown District on the 17th of March, 2023, and for members of staff stationed in the Rupununi Magisterial District; training was held on the 13th of April 2023.



4.2.3 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MONTH

Occupational Health and Safety Month was celebrated this year in Guyana under the theme “A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work”.

In observance of Occupational Health and Safety Month 2023, the Supreme Court of Judicature conducted fire drills at different Court locations on the designated

Occupational Health and Safety Day, Friday the 28th April 2023.

Members of the Guyana Fire Service visited the Court locations to assess the court’s response mechanism in case of a fire. They provided safety tips and ways in which we can improve our response. They also demonstrated how to properly use a fire extinguisher.



4.2.4 RUPUNUNI MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT TRAINING PROGRAM

A packed two-day (2) program was executed at the Rupununi Magisterial District Office in Lethem for the members of staff within that district between the 13-14 days of April 2023.



The program commenced with a full day's training program on Customer Service. There were several presentations geared towards improving service delivery within the judiciary.

This included; a presentation from Chief Magistrate her Worship Ms. Ann Mc Lennan

AA on Customer Service – a Court's perspective, followed by a presentation by Ms. Leslin Wilkinson-Bryan on Customer Service - the client, service delivery and the judiciary, followed by Court Protocols presented by Principal Magistrate and



Resident Magistrate for the Rupununi Magisterial District his Worship Mr. Alan Wilson and the final presentation by Ms. Leslin Wilkinson-Bryan on acceptable workplace discipline and behaviours.

4.2.5 DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

As Team Supreme continues its drive to improve service delivery, we partnered with Clarke's Production Inc.



in collaboration with Together We Win Business Network to certify our drivers in defensive driving in August 2023.

The course was a fully packed program that was very informative. All of the drivers were successful at the training and were awarded an internationally accredited certificate.

MEN'S WELLNESS SESSION

The Supreme Court of Judicature, in collaboration with Solutions Training Consultancy and Counselling Services hosted a men's wellness session. Dr. Wil. A. Campbell and Ms. Faith Ross of Solutions Training Consultancy and Counselling Services on July 14, 2023.



hybrid setting where some of the participants attended in person while others were connected via Zoom.

The guest speakers Dr. Wil. A. Campbell and Ms. Faith Ross were introduced by Mr. Earl Smart Senior Marshal. The presentation and discussion were led by the guest speakers with active participation from the participants both in person and online. Mental Health is important for a productive workforce and the Supreme Court of Judicature intends to continue equipping staff with the required tools to address mental health challenges

Male members of staff from all Courts attended the session. The sessions were hosted through a

4.3 OTHER OBSERVANCES

4.3.1 HERITAGE PLAQUE

The Supreme Court of Judicature received a heritage plaque from the National Trust of Guyana on Monday, January 23, 2023.

The receipt of this heritage plaque signified an acknowledgment of the High Court as a heritage site.

The High Court of Guyana, also known as the Victoria Law Courts, has a very rich history that dates back to the year 1878.

In 1878, a petition was made by the British Guiana Court of Policy to have a building constructed to conduct court proceedings. The petition was accepted in June of the same year.

The court was officially opened in the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on May 24, 1887, by Governor Sir Henry Irving. The High Court is located at Avenue of the Republic and Charlotte Streets in Lacytown, Georgetown. The building is bordered by Avenue of the Republic on the West, King Street on the east, Charlotte Street on the north, and South Road on the south.

This historic building was designed by Baron Hora Siccama, the Colonial Engineer at the time, and Mr.



Cesar Castellani, then Assistant Architect attached to the Public Works Department.

The original design was “L-shaped,” with the lower flat being concrete and steel and the upper flat a wooden structure. The High Court building has been extended with the addition of the Family Court Wing and the Chancellor's Wing (Land Court). The building has maintained its historical architecture, although there have been numerous additions and rehabilitation projects over the years.

4.3.2 REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day is a national holiday celebrated in Guyana on the 23rd of February.

It is also known as Mashramani or “Mash” as often referred to.



Guyana gained its independence from the United Kingdom on the 26th May 1966 and on the 23rd February 1970 declared itself a Cooperative Republic.

The word Mashramani originates from an Amerindian language and it means celebration after hard work. It is a festival that is held every year in celebration of Guyana gaining its republican status.

Mashramani unites people from across the ten (10) administrative regions. Today, the customary parade is a culmination of several events that are spread across the entire month of February. The calendar of events includes; Mash Festival Stage, Literature Exhibition, Children’s Dance and Masquerade Competition, Children’s Dramatic Poetry and Calypso Competition, Children’s Costume Parade, Steel Band Panorama and Soca & Brass Fete, Soca Monarch, Chutney Monarch, Calypso Monarch and J’ouvert.



4.3.3 SOD TURNING FOR THE NEW PROVIDENCE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

On Saturday the 25th of February 2023, a plot of land was cited for the construction of the New Providence Magistrate's Court. It is located next to the Police Station on the Mocha access road.



The Providence Magistrate's was previously housed and operated out of a building belonging to the Guyana Police Force. Before the year 2020, the Providence Magistrate's Court heard and adjudicated Court Cases arising within the environs of Providence and Diamond/Grove.

The Providence Magistrate's Court was never furnished with its registry; all filings and documentation were done at the Georgetown Magistrates' Court office. After the Diamond/Grove Magistrate's Court was commissioned on the 22nd of January 2020, the Providence Magistrate's Court ceased to operate. All Court matters within the environs of Providence and Diamond/Grove are now heard and adjudicated at the Diamond/Grove Magistrate's Court.

4.3.4 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

For centuries, women around the world have fought for their place in society and even to date women continue to fight that battle.



International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day dedicated to celebrating the achievements of women and has been observed since the early 1900s.

The colours that represent International Women's Day are purple, green, and white. Purple signifies justice and dignity, and being loyal to the cause, green symbolizes hope and white represents purity. These colours originated from the Women's

Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.

Over the years, women have made tremendous progress in several areas and overcome numerous challenges as they remain steadfast in achieving gender parity.

The theme for the International Women's Day campaign 2023 was "Embrace Equity".



Team Supreme celebrated the beautiful women for International Women's Day with a cupcake treat.

4.3.5 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN JUDGES

The second annual International Day of Women Judges was celebrated on Friday, the 10th day of March, 2023.



International Day of Women Judges was initiated by the United Nations general assembly in April 2021 and it was celebrated for the first time on the 10th day of March, 2022.

The day is dedicated to celebrating the contributions and active participation of women



judges around the world at the highest level of decision-making.

The Honourable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards in her message on the occasion of celebrating the second International Day of Women Judges posited, *“As we celebrate this day, we reflect on the progress made and look forward to even more. We also reaffirm our commitment to the principles of justice and to full and equal participation of women in all positions and levels of decision-making. We wish to honour those women judges who have served before us and paved the way for us to follow. We salute former Chancellor Desire’ Bernard, Justice (retd) Claudette Singh and Justice (retd) Claudette La Bennett, the trail blazers!”*

Her worship Chief Magistrate and President of Guyana Association of Women Judges Ms. Ann Mc Lennan AA in her message on the occasion of the celebration of the second International Day of Women Judges posited *“As we celebrate another International Day of Women Judges, I wish to extend warm greetings on behalf of the executive members of the International Association of Women Judges, the Caribbean Association of Women Judges and to all our women judges and Associations around the globe.*

As we celebrate today, we must recognize the uniqueness of women judges and the role they play in nurturing their families while still performing at a high level at work. Balancing these two responsibilities is never easy and sometimes can be overwhelming, but women judges do it daily. Therefore, the importance of women getting together cannot be overemphasized. They can learn from their predecessors the best practices that are needed to succeed. Today as we join with all sister Judges throughout the world my message is, despite all the challenges faced by women judges throughout the globe, we must continue in our small groups to be the change that we want to

see and strive to uphold the rule of law and to eradicate the gender bias which still exist. If we all work in our small groups and organisations, collectively we can send a strong message to the defaulters, that in unity there is strength.”

Team Supreme celebrated these beautiful women for International Day of Women Judges with a token of appreciation.



4.3.6 PHAGWAH

Phagwah is a religious and national holiday celebrated by Hindus in Guyana and around the



world. It is also referred to as Holi and is known as the festival of colours.

Not only do members of the Hindu community celebrate Phagwah in Guyana, but people from various religious backgrounds join our Hindu brothers and sisters in celebrating this colourful



holiday, which is known for celebrating love and harmony.

The Phagwah celebration is a beautiful sight to take in, with the explosion of beautiful and vibrant coloured powder and water being thrown on participants in a joyful way.

Team Supreme joined in these celebrations at its countrywide offices.



4.3.7 STUDY TOUR OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES COURT

On Thursday, the 23rd of March 2023, the Supreme Court of Judicature of Guyana hosted a delegation from the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court to conduct a study tour of the Sexual Offences Court at the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature, Georgetown.



The delegation from Grenada of six (6) comprised the Hon. Justice Paula Gilford, Presiding Judge – Criminal Division, The Hon. Claudette Joseph – Minister of Legal Affairs, Ms. Anna Brizan – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Ms. Xiomara Forsyth – Registrar of the Supreme Court, Ms. Catherine Charles – Court Administrator, Supreme Court Registry and Mr. Peter English – IT Officer, Supreme Court Registry.

The purpose of the study tour was to observe the procedures, best practices, and special measures

established in Guyana to deal with such sensitive court cases. The delegation met with the Hon. Mme Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), the Hon. Mme Justice Roxane George Chief Justice (ag), Judges in the Criminal Jurisdiction who preside in the Sexual Offences Court, and Her Worship Chief Magistrate Ann McLennan AA.

Meetings were also held with various stakeholders and court partners, including the Child Care and Protection Agency, Childlink, Blossom Inc., Probation and Social Services, Red Thread, Prosecutors from the Director of Public Prosecution Chambers, and Help and Shelter.



4.3.8 DRUG TREATMENT COURT GRADUATION

On Friday 24th March, 2023, the Drug Treatment Court held its first Graduation.

The modest ceremony to celebrate the substantial compliance and completion of the program by two participants was hosted in the Conference Room of the High Court. This auspicious occasion was attended by Hon. Mme Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards; Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Hon. Mme Justice Roxane Justice (ag); and Her Worship Chief Magistrate Ann McLennan, as well as members of the Drug Treatment Court Team and members of the Participants' support system.



The Drug Court Team members included both Magistrates to the program: Senior Magistrate Mr. Clive Nurse and Magistrate

Ms. Rhondel Weever, the Drug Treatment Court Staff, Probation Officers and representatives of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic and the Ministry of Health's Drug Demand Reduction Unit.

Chief Magistrate, her worship Ann McLennan delivered the keynote speech during which she enlightened the



participants that their recovery journey would now commence without the constant support and supervision of the aforementioned professionals, the onus was now on the individuals to continue on their recovery journey using the skills and relapse prevention techniques learned during the program. During the ceremony, the participants shared testimonies of how the program transformed their lives. They were also commended by those in

attendance for their progress thus far and were encouraged to continue along the path of being productive, law-abiding citizens.

This specialty court program was officially launched on October 21, 2019. Participation in this program is completely voluntary, and participants are made

aware of the entire process before they agree to enter. Around the world, Drug Treatment Courts have been established to offer treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery support services to drug-dependent offenders as an alternative to criminal prosecution or imprisonment.

4.3.9 EASTER

Easter was celebrated on Monday, the 10th day of April 2023.

In recognition of the Easter Holiday, the Supreme Court of Judicature hosted an activity to celebrate with the Christian brothers and sisters.

Participants were involved in various activities such as an Easter hat show, a raster egg hunt, the guessing game, and sip and paint.



After the event, the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, extended well wishes to the entire Team Supreme.



4.3.10 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

Administrative Professionals Day (also known as Administrative Assistant Day, Secretaries Day or Admin Day) is dedicated to secretaries, assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support staff.

A full week is devoted to these professional and it is usually the last full week of the month on April. The Wednesday of that week is celebrated as Administrative Professionals Day and the day is

devoted to celebrating the important role these professionals play in the workplace.

This year, Administrative Professionals Day was celebrated on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, and the Supreme Court of Judicature took the opportunity to highlight and show our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our Administrative Professionals.



4.3.11 DIGITAL COURT RECORDING

The Supreme Court of Judicature was delighted to host a delegation from the Judiciary of Jamaica and other key stakeholders in Jamaica to conduct a study visit of the Digital Court Recording used within the Courts in Guyana.



The Study visit was a result of a multi-agency collaboration between the United States Embassy, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Judiciary of Guyana, and the Judiciary of Jamaica.

The delegation of seventeen (17) comprised Officials from Jamaica, including the. Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice of Jamaica, the. Hon. Mr. Justice David Fraser Justice of Appeal, Court of Appeal, the Hon. Mr. Justice Leighton Pusey Puisne Judge, Supreme Court, His Hon. Mr. Chester Crooks Chief Judge of Parish Courts of Jamaica, Her Hon. Miss Marlene Roper Parish Court Judge, Ms. Ruth-Anne Robinson Assistant

Director of Public Prosecution, Ms. Nicole Foga Partner, Foga Daley (Law Firm), Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin Director, Court Administration Division, Mr. Evrol Bell ICT Director, Court Administration Division, Mr. Frank Wisdom ICT, Supreme Court of Jamaica, Sgt. O'neil Smith Close Protection Officer, Ms. Briana Jones INL Director, U.S. Embassy Kingston, Ms. Althea McBean Pan American Development Foundation, Ms. JoAnne Richardson Senior Program Manager, Mr. Ken Cook Digital Court Recording Advisor, Ms. Gillian Lawrence Digital Court Recording Advisor and Ms. Emma Nicoletta Senior Program Associate

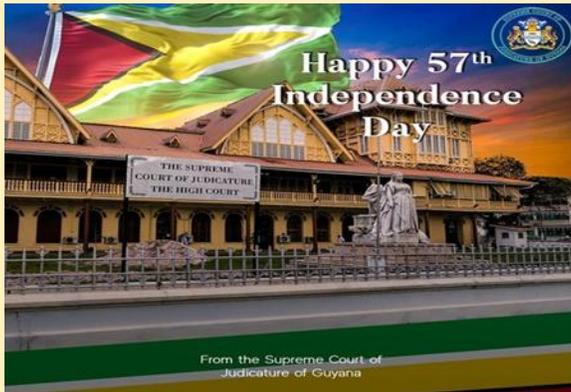
The Study Visit was designed and structured to:

- capture the goals and e-initiatives of the Judiciary;
- highlight the role of technology with the Judiciary and;
- share the history and development of the use of the Digital Recording Systems within the Court Rooms.

The main objective of this study visit was to allow the participants to observe and learn from our procedures, best practices, and challenges of utilizing the Digital Court Recording.

The three (3) days Study visit commenced on Monday, the 8th day of May 2023 at the Marriott Hotel.

4.3.12 INDEPENDENCE DAY



The Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards and a team visited the Rupununi Magisterial District from the 25th to the 29th of May, 2023. During the visit, they were engaged in various activities, including participation in the National Flag Raising Ceremony, hosting of a candlelight vigil in remembrance of students who perished in the Madhia Dorm fire on May 21st, 2023, and conducted an outreach to the St. Ignatius Secondary School Dorm



The customary flag-raising ceremony was held in region nine (9) at the Tabatinga ground in Lethem.



On the evening of Friday, the 26th day of May, 2023, the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Principal Magistrate his worship Mr. Alan Wilson, members of staff from the Lethem Magistrate's Court and the visiting team from Georgetown gathered at the Lethem Magistrate's Court District Office to host a candle lit vigil and night of silence in honour of the students that perished in the vicious Madhia School Dorm fire on the 21st day of May, 2023.

On Saturday the 27th day of May, 2023, the team visited the St. Ignatius Secondary School Dorm, where school supplies were donated to the students. Additionally, the students benefited from advice from the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) and other members of the staff of the Judiciary and the Regional Education Officer of region nine (9) Mr. Sherwyn Blackman.

4.3.13 VEHICLE HANDING OVER CEREMONY

The Supreme Court of Judicature on Monday, the 22nd May, 2023 received a new motor vehicle, literature, hygienic and testing supplies and office equipment through the collaboration between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under the Support for the Criminal Justice System Program (SCJS).

The event was commemorated with a formal handing over ceremony held at the Supreme Court of Judicature.



Present at the handing over ceremony were; The Honourable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag),

Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, The Honourable Chief Justice (ag), Madam Justice Roxane George, The Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., Chief Magistrate (ag) Her Worship Sherdel Isaacs-Marcus, Her Worship Ms. Rhondel Weever, Program Manager-Support for the Criminal Justice System Program, Ms. Indira Anandjit, IDB Representative, Mr. Victor Gauto, Mrs. Dione Chase, Case Manager, Drug Treatment Court, Supreme Court of Judicature, other members of staff of the Supreme Court of Judicature, Ranks of the Guyana Police Force and other specially invited guests.

The Honourable Chancellor (ag) in her remarks expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Inter-American Development Bank. Her Honour welcomes the support from both agencies as she highlighted the benefits the Drug Treatment Court is likely to realize. This includes:

- Promotion of Public Safety;
- Treatment and support for eligible offenders;
- Reduction in the cost of imprisonment; and
- Restoration of law-abiding and tax-paying citizens

4.3.14 THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE ITINERANT SITTING

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) held its second Itinerant Sitting in Guyana on the 21st and 22nd of June 2023 in Guyana.



In addition to the Itinerant sitting, a series of referral training sessions were hosted by the CCJ. The training sessions targeted various stakeholders within the Judiciary of Guyana, including Justices of Appeal, Puisne Judges, Registrar, Magistrates, Deputy Registrar, Judicial Research Assistants, members of the Bar Association of Guyana, members of the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, and students of the University of Guyana.

The Itinerant sitting and referral training was hosted at the Arthur Chung Convention Center located at 5-E 1/2 Orchid Drive Liliendaal Railway Embankment, East Coast Demerara. The proceedings commenced with a Ceremonial

Parade organized by the Guyana Police Force. The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, President, marched harmoniously with the parade commanders.

During the opening ceremony remarks were made by the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, President, The Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards and Chief Justice (ag) Madam Justice Roxane George.



The following court cases were heard between the 21st and 2nd June 2023:

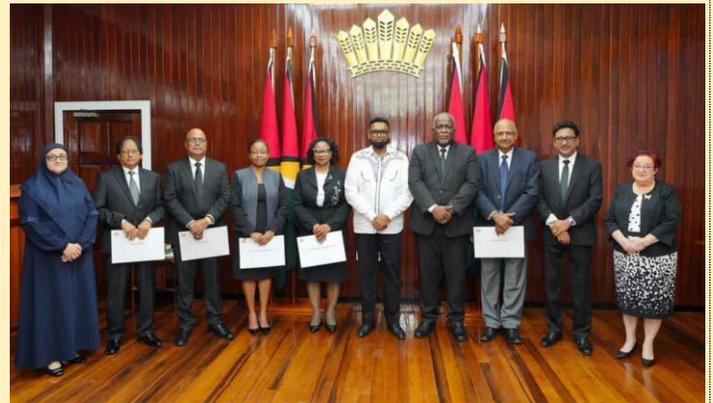
1. GYA/CR2023/001 (Micah Williams v The Director of Public Prosecutions)
2. BBCV2022/002 (Apsara Restaurants (Barbados) Limited v Guardian General Insurance Limited)
3. GYCV2023/001 (Sasedai Kumarie Persaud v Sherene Mongroo and others)
4. BBCR2023/001 (James Ricardo Alexander Fields v The State)
5. DMOJ2022/001 (DCP Successors Limited v The State of Jamaica)

4.3.15 THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION (JSC)

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) was appointed on Friday, July 14, 2023, for a term of three years. The members of the Commission are Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards; Hon. Chief Justice (ag), Roxane George; Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Mr. Manniram Prashad; Justice Carl Singh and Justice Beasraj Singh-Roy.

Pursuant to Articles 128 and 199 of the Constitution the JSC is responsible for appointment, removal, and disciplinary control over Judges, Commissioners of Title, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, the Registrar of the High Court, the Deputy Registrar of the High Court, the Registrar of Deeds, the Deputy Registrar of Deeds and to such other officers (not being offices in respect of which provision for making of appointments is made by any provision of

this Constitution other than article 201) connected with the Courts of Guyana or for appointment to which legal qualifications are required as may be prescribed by Parliament.



From left: Mrs Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mr. Manniram Prashad, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Hon. Chief Justice (ag), Roxane George, CCH, SC, Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards OR, CCH, His Excellency, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, M.S.S., Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Former Chancellor(ag) of the Guyana Judiciary, Justice Carl Singh, Attorney Gener Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance al and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, M.P and Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

4.3.15 SPORTS

Team Supreme is not all work, we also make time for play. On Saturday the 22nd July, 2023, we hosted our first Sports/Fun Day. The event was held at the Base Camp Ayanganna.

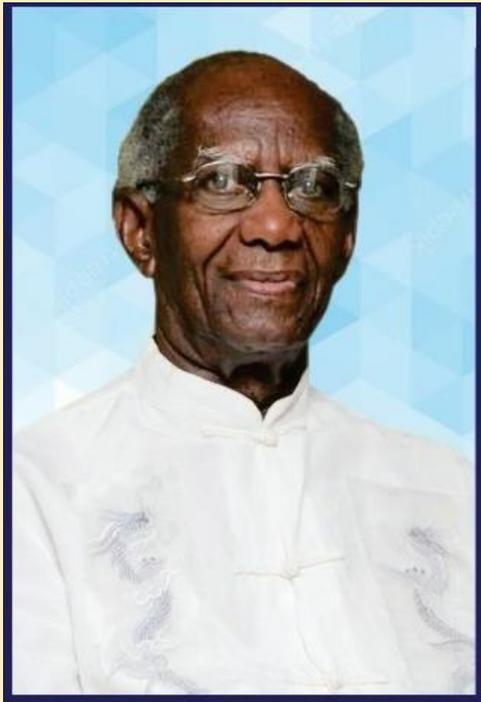
There were six houses; Puma, Macaw, Jaguar, Caiman, Eagle and Leopard. Members of staff were randomly assigned to the Houses.

The activities included Lime and Spoon, Tug-O-War, Sack Race, Needle and Thread, Over 50 Race, Buns Eating, 100m sprint, 200m sprint, Late for work, 3-legged Race, 4 * 100m Relay, 4 * 200m Relay, 5 a side Football, 10 overs softball Cricket, and a Curry Que Competition.

The overall winners were 1st place – Puma, 2nd place – leopard and 3rd place – Eagle.



4.3.16 SPECIAL FULL COURT SITTING FOR THE LATE MR. ASHTON CHASE, O.E., S.C.



In celebration of the life of the late Mr. Ashton Chase OE,SC, a Special Full Court Sitting of the Supreme Court of Judicature was held on July 20th,2023 at 10:00 am at the High Court.

In attendance were the Hon. Chancellor (ag) of the Judiciary, Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Hon. Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Hon. Justice Charles Ramson, OR., S.C., Hon. Chief Justice (ag) of the Judiciary, Hon Madam Justice Roxanne George, CCH, SC., Madam Deputy

Registrar, Ms. Alicia Lowenfield, Mr. Steven Fraser, S.C., Attorney at Law, Ms. Pauline Chase, Attorney at Law and daughter of Mr. Ashton Chase, O.E., S.C., Yasmin Chan, Attorney at law and family members. A few scenes are shared below from this Special Full Court Sitting which paid tribute to the Memory of the late Mr. Ashton Chase, O.E., S.C

The Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Hon. Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., M.P spoke briefly on Mr. Ashton Chase, O.E., S.C. impact on labour jurisprudence in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Worldwide. From a tender age, Mr. Chase joined Critchlow's Pioneering British Guiana Labour Union (BGLU) where he was an Assistant and later became the General Secretary of this Union. He was also one of the founding members of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) in 1947 and three years after PAC was created Mr. Chase then founded the People's Progressive Party. Mr. Chase became Guyana's first Minister of Labour Industry and Commerce in 1953 and was instrumental in introducing the Labour Relations Bill in September of that

year. The bill was intended to democratize the labour movement and allow for workers' participation in the elections of trade unions of their choice. This Bill has since been enacted in 1997 as the Trade Union Recognition Act. According to the Hon. Justice Charles Ramson, O.R., S.C., he was always inspirational in deed conduct and words. Ms. Pauline Chase, daughter of Mr. Chase also paid tribute to the memory of her late father and noted that Mr. Chase disliked accolades and would often chastise people who made too much of him. She further noted that he cared not what anyone thought of him, said of him or did to him and probably that made him live such a long life. The Hon. Chief Justice Roxane George, S.C., referred to him as a son of the soil, and

founding father of modern-day Guyana. Each speaker gave great insight as to how great of a person he was, passionate, humble and his deep love for law and justice.

The Supreme Court will forever make mention of the great works Mr. Chase has done in his time and we can only pray that persons not only from the bar but worldwide can take a page out of his book. In the words of the Hon. Chancellor Yonette Cummings-Edwards, when quoting William Wordsworth's poem, *'Splendour in the Grass, we will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind.'*

4.3.17 COMMISSIONING OF VIGILANCE MAGISTRATES' COURTS

On Wednesday, the 16th day of August 2023, the Honourable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards commissioned the new Vigilance Magistrates' Courts building.



This new building houses two courtrooms, two self-contained living quarters for Magistrates, one self-contained living quarter for a Clerk of Court, a Domestic Violence Room, a Probation Room, a Drug Treatment Room, a Police Outpost Office, a Prisoners' Cell, a Janitorial Room, Bailiff and Typist Offices, General Offices, Suitors Office, Bonds, Staff Conference room, Library, Lawyers Briefing Room, General Conference Room and spacious lobby areas. The building is also equipped with improved technologies such as a Digital Court Recording system and electronic Notice Boards, amongst others.

This new building was constructed by Builders Hardware and General Supplies for G\$269,244,670. The construction was supervised by E & A for G\$25,479,822. At this opening ceremony, the public was informed of the introduction of a New Digital Maintenance Payment System. This payment system will allow persons to make and receive Maintenance and/or Affiliation Payments via Mobile Money Guyana.



Also in attendance at this commissioning were the Hon. Justice Roxane George, CCH, SC, Chief Justice (ag), the Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandall SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Commissioner of Police (ag) Mr. Clifton Hicken, Ms. Alicia Lowenfield, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, Her Worship Sherdel Isaacs- Marcus, Chief Magistrate (ag), His Worship Mr. Sunil Scarce, Senior Magistrate, other Judicial Officers, members of the Diplomatic Core, other specially invited persons, and staff of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

4.3.18 PARTNERING TO EQUIP OUR FUTURE LEADERS! -WORK STUDY ATTACHMENT

The Supreme Court of Judicature hosted thirty (30) students on work attachment through the Ministry of Education Work-Study attachment program. The program was executed in two (2) phases and each phase lasted for approximately four (4) weeks.



The program was geared towards exposing students to the world of work. Each student was assigned to various registries and/or departments and was allowed to learn the functions and procedures of these registries and/or departments.

At the end of the program, a brief farewell ceremony was held where students were given the opportunity to share some of the knowledge they had acquired whilst working in the various departments.



The students benefited from words of wisdom and guidance from the Hon. Madam Chief Justice (ag) Justice Roxane George, Supervisors, and other Senior Staff from the various registries and/or departments. Each student was presented with a certification of completion.



Team Supreme wishes all students success in the recently concluded Caribbean Secondary Education Council (CSEC) examination and in their future endeavours.

4.3.19 SOD TURNING AT TIMHERI AND FRIENDSHIP: CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW MAGISTRATES' COURTS ON THE EAST BANK OF DEMERARA

On August 18, 2023, the Hon. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, OR, CCH, Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), and the Hon. Justice Roxane George, CCH, SC, Chief Justice (ag) accompanied by the Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandall SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and Chief Magistrate (ag) Her Worship Sherdel Isaacs-Marcus turned the sod for the construction of a New Magistrates' Court for the first time at Timehri.

The Hon. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, OR, CCH, Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) in her opening remarks expressed gratitude to the Attorney General for providing support in securing the land and also thanked the Government of Guyana for providing the finances to support the construction.

The construction of a Magistrates' Court at Timerhi was awarded by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board to Orion Engineering Inc. after a public tendering process for the sum of G\$299,979,015. The design of the building and the supervision of the construction was awarded to Innovating Engineering.

The construction is scheduled for a duration of twelve months which will end on August 8, 2024. Present also at this Sod turning activity was Mr.



Timehri site where a New Magistrates' Court will be construction

Benson Simon, the Contractor, Mr. Puran Ram, the Engineer, Mr. Arthur Pole- Chairman for Soesdyke NDC and Community Engagement Officer attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Gullcharan Latchman-Chairman for CDC, and senior officials of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

On August 21, 2023, the ground was broken once again on the East Bank of Demerara for the



A flamboyant tree was planted at the Timehri site where a New Magistrates' Court will be construction

construction of a new Magistrates' Court at Friendship.

In attendance at this Sod turning event was the Hon. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, OR, CCH, Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), the Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandall SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and Principal Magistrate Her Worship Judy Latchman.

In her opening remark, Magistrate Latchman joyously stated *'As I look around today, I see a bright future, one that is fertile for the growth of our Judiciary.'* Her Worship Magistrate Latchman thanked the Government of Guyana and the Attorney General for *'this groundbreaking initiative that will allow the wheels of Justice to continue to turn efficiently and effectively as well as allow for our Jurisprudence to flourish.'*



Sod turning activity at Friendship on the East Bank of Demerara: Construction of a Magistrates' Court.

The contract for the construction of Friendship Magistrates' Court was awarded to Romano General Builders Inc. for the sum of G\$390,603,985 through a public tendering process by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board. This construction is scheduled to last fourteen months will be concluded by October 8, 2023. The construction of the Friendship Magistrates' Court will be supervised by Precision Consultancy General Supply Engineering Services. Present also at this Sod turning activity were Mr. Joey Monjal, the Contractor, and senior officials of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

These new Magistrates' Courts will house courtrooms, magistrates' chambers, living quarters for Magistrates and clerks of court, washroom facilities, parking facilities, and perimeter fences.

4.3.20 COMMISSIONING OF HERITAGE MURAL AT THE LETHEM MAGISTRATE'S COURT

The students of the St. Ignatius Secondary School wowed Team Supreme with another Heritage Mural. The students showcased their artistry with a beautiful painting depicting the lifestyle of the Indigenous People of Guyana. The mural was drawn on the outside of the Court Building.

A formal program was held for the commissioning of the Heritage Mural on Tuesday the 26th of September, 2023 which was chaired by Ms. Sharon Correia - Principal Clerk of Court. Brief remarks were made by the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards OR, CCH, and resident Magistrate for the Rupununi Magisterial District Principal Magistrate His Worship Mr. Allan Wilson. An opening prayer by Mr. Matthias blessed the proceedings and was followed by

welcoming remarks by Ms. Marcelene Ignacio. Two (2) cultural dances were performed by the students of St. Ignatius Secondary School.

In attendance at the event were; the Clerk of Court of the Rupununi Magisterial District – Mr. Fabian Garnett, members of staff of the Rupununi Magisterial District, the Headmaster of St. Ignatius Secondary School – Mr. Kenrick Lewis, Teachers of St. Ignatius Secondary School, students of the St. Ignatius Secondary School and Officers of the Guyana Police Force

The painting is a three-part painting that was executed by the students of St. Ignatius Secondary School Arts Department; Rebecca Simmons, Josh George, and Gabriel Campion with the guidance and assistance of the St. Ignatius Secondary School Arts Department faculty members.



Figure 1 (one)

Figure 1 depicts a giant anteater that resides in its natural habitat with lush vegetation.



Figure 2 (two)

Figure two (2) depicts indigenous people gathering food.

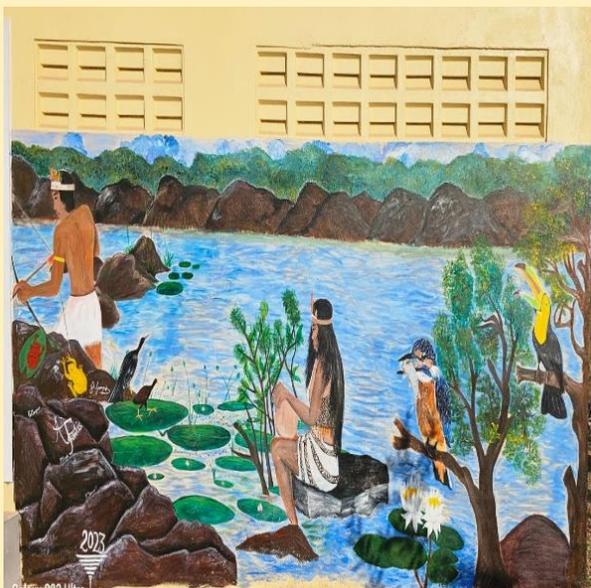


Figure 3 (three)

Figure three (3) depicts the overall way of life of indigenous people.

4.3.21 SOD TURNING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANNA REGINA MAGISTRATE'S COURT

A sod-turning ceremony for the construction of the Anna Regina Magistrate's Court was held on Tuesday the 2nd October, 2023.



In attendance at the event were the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, OR, CCH OR, CCH, the Hon. Justice Roxane George, CCH, SC, Chief Justice (ag), the Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandall SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Madam Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature, Mrs. Sueanna Lovell, Her Worship Ms. Faith McGusty – Principal Magistrate, Her Worship Ms. Esther Sam – Magistrate from Essequibo Magisterial District, Ms. Vilma DeSilva - Regional Chairman, Mr. Devon Mohan – Mayor of Anna Regina, other Court Staff, representatives from the construction company and the engineer and representatives from the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission.

The Hon. Chancellor in her remarks expressed sincere gratitude and thanks to the Central

Government for providing the necessary funds needed for this initiative and the Commissioner of Police for allowing the court to use their facilities over the years. Remarks were also made by the Hon Justice Roxane George, CCH, SC, Chief Justice (ag), the Hon.. Mohabir Anil Nandall SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Regional Chairman, and the Mayor of Anna Regina.

Court sittings for the Anna Regina Magistrate's Court are currently accommodated at the Anna Regina Police Station.



The contract for the Construction of the Court was awarded by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board to Satar Mohamed and Son Construction and Hardware Supplies for the sum of one hundred and seventy-eight million, two hundred and thirty-two thousand, one hundred and two dollars (\$178,232,102.00). The supervision of the project was awarded to Innovative Engineering.

4.3.23 REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM (RSS) ASSET RECOVERY UNIT'S (ARU) FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION AND ASSET RECOVERY WORKSHOP

The Judiciary of Guyana, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Chambers and the Ministry of Legal Affairs on behalf of the Government of Guyana, the Asset Recovery Unit (ARU) of the Regional Security System (RSS) hosted a Financial Investigation and Asset Recovery Workshop in Guyana in October 2023.

- Investigative Orders: Application, Evidential Burden and;
- Procedure and Civil Recovery: building a Civil Recovery Case

A formal opening ceremony chaired by Ms. Kisha Sutherland, Director of the RSS ARU was held at Duke Lodge located at Duke Street, Kingston Georgetown. Brief remarks were delivered by the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards OR, CCH, the Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC, MP and Executive Director of the Regional Security System Mr. Commodore Errington Ricardo Shurland.

The Hon. Chancellor in her remarks stated that “with our rapid economic transformation, there is an increased need for collaboration among regional partners to enhance our knowledge to apply the law across the country”. The workshop was focused on enhancing the knowledge of key Officers within specified sectors to combat all forms of financial crimes.



Participants at the Regional Security System (RSS) Asset Recovery Unit's (ARU) Financial

The workshop covered areas including:

- Digital evidence;
- Investigative Orders: Procedural Requirement and Appropriateness;
- Disclosure Orders: Procedural Consideration;
- Restraint Orders: Procedural Consideration;
- Cash Seizures;
- Re-seizures and Detention;

4.3.24 GUYANA DRUG TREATMENT COURT (GDTC) ANNIVERSARY

The Adult Drug Treatment Court (GDTC) celebrated its 4th anniversary in October 2023. Since its establishment on the 21st of October 2019, several persons successfully completed their treatment plans and are on a path to lifelong recovery.



The Court celebrated its 4th anniversary with a Graduation Ceremony and a phase promotion for two participants on Tuesday the 24th day of October, 2023. The program commenced with the Serenity Prayer followed by the National Pledge and welcoming remarks by Senior Magistrate His Worship Mr. Clive Nurse, who also chaired the graduation ceremony

Remarks were made by the Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette

Cummings-Edwards, OR, CCH, the Hon. Justice Roxane George, CCH, SC, Chief Justice (ag), Her Worship

The GDTC Case Manager, Mrs. Dione Chase introduced the participants and the GDTC Administrative Officer gave the Vote of Thanks.

Mrs. Chase in her introduction of the participants to the gathering highlighted their journey in the program. As the participants shared their stories and testimonies of how the GDTC changed their lives, it was a reminder of one of the goals of the GDTC which is to give offenders an alternative to prison life (incarceration or custodial sentencing). GDTC provides access to resources and Professionals to lead persons who misuse substances to the road of recovery. The GDTC is a beacon of hope for persons with substance misuse disorder who have experienced rock bottom and are willing and determined to take the steps necessary to turn things around for themselves and by extension their families.

4.3.25 BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 2023

The Supreme Court of Judicature joined the fight to prevent, detect, and treat breast cancer through numerous activities across the country in recognition of the 2023 theme “ *Many hands, caring hearts.*”

On Friday the 20th of October, 2023, members of staff gathered in pink to demonstrate Team Supreme's support for persons affected by Breast Cancer. Team Supreme assembled in the shape of a butterfly to signify hope.

On 27th October, 2023 Team Supreme coordinated a Breast Cancer Awareness walkathon in support of the fight against breast cancer. The Hon. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards OR, CCH, the Hon. Justice Roxane George, CCH, SC, Chief Justice (ag), Her Worship Sherdel Isaacs-Marcus, Chief Magistrate (ag), Puisne Judges, Ms. Alicia Lowenfield – Deputy Registrar, and other members of Staff from the Court of Appeal, the Georgetown High Court and the

Georgetown Magistrates’ Court participated in the walkathon.

Members of staff benefited from various medical services, including :

- Brief medical consultation;
- Breast Cancer examination;
- Blood pressure testing;
- Blood sugar testing;
- Blood grouping;
- STI testing;
- Breast Health Education, Cancer Awareness, and Prostate health talk
- Vaccination (HPV) and;
- Pharmacy services.

Team Supreme extends sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Jones and the team, the Managing Director of the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS), Dr Tariq Jagnarine and team, the Ministry of Health and the University of Guyana Health Sciences Department for providing all medical support services.



4.3.26 LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



The Supreme Court of Judicature collaborated with Zoywins Consultancy and Training Institute to facilitate a workshop on Leadership in Berbice, Essequibo, and Georgetown on the 2nd November 2023, 9th November 2023, and 16th November 2023 respectively. The target audience for the workshop was staff from the various departments and district and was geared towards equipping staff with the tools necessary to develop their leadership skills.

The first workshop was hosted at the Berbice Sub-Registry Mediation Conference Room. It commenced with a brief opening ceremony chaired by Ms. Dhanela Mohabir, Senior Registry Officer. Ms. Pamela Williams, Senior Registry Officer welcomed the participants and Ms. Monique Ifill, Court Administrator gave brief opening remarks.

The second workshop was hosted in the Civil Court Room at the Essequibo Sub-Registry. It commenced with a brief opening ceremony chaired by Mr. R. Thomas, Marshal. Mr. J. Narine, Legal Clerk II welcomed the participants and brief opening remarks were made by Ms. Felicia Singh, Senior Registry Officer. Mr. Rajesh Gopaul, Clerk of Court for the Essequibo Magisterial District introduced the guest Speaker Dr. Astell Collins and at the conclusion of the session, the Vote of thanks was moved by Ms. C. Deonarine, typist Clerk I.

The final workshop was hosted at the Georgetown High Court Conference Room. It commenced with a brief opening ceremony, which was chaired by Ms. Dominique Wilson, Legal Assistant to the Hon. Chief Justice. Senior Marshal Patrick Higgins welcomed the participants while Ms. Sueanna Lovell, Registrar of the Supreme Court gave brief opening remarks and charged the participants to leave the training with at least one concept they can utilize to perform their duties. Mr. Colin Chichester, Mediation Director, gave a graceful introduction of the guest Speaker Dr. Astell Collins. After the session, Ms. Tandika Adams expressed gratitude on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

4.3.27 U.S. GOVERNMENT & GUYANA’S JUDICIARY LAUNCH AUTOMATED COURT CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO MODERNIZE COURT OPERATIONS

On December 5, 2023, the Judiciary of Guyana and the United States Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) launched the Court Case Management System (CCMS). This U.S.-funded Caribbean Anti-Crime program, implemented by the National Center for State Courts in close collaboration with the Judiciary of Guyana, aims to help modernize court operations by transitioning from manual to automated case management. As a result of CCMS implementation and its innovative technology, the magistrates’ courts will administer justice in a more efficient, transparent, and effective manner, reducing backlogs and delays in processing cases. CCMS implementation will also contribute to increasing citizens’ trust and confidence in the justice system.

The COVID pandemic demonstrated the resilience of Guyana’s judiciary when the administration of justice continued unimpeded. While courts in other countries suspended proceedings due to pandemic restrictions, Guyana’s courts continued to work diligently, employing innovative solutions that were subsequently modelled by other countries.

The CCMS launch marks a milestone for the



judiciary and the citizens of Guyana and highlights the vital role of the courts in upholding the rule of law in Guyana. As a member of the CCMS Consortium comprised of countries in the region and abroad, the Judiciary of Guyana will benefit significantly from a cost-effective and sustainable technology for automated case management, including ownership of the system’s source code and the associated intellectual property.

Through the U.S. Caribbean Anti-Crime program, Guyana’s Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions have also collaborated on programs designed to support regional partners to deter and combat crime.