



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

IDPADA-G in 2019!

The International Decade for People of African Decent Assembly-Guyana (IDPADA-G) has noted great accomplishments in reaching thousands of African Guyanese in just months of commencing service under the United Nations resolution dedicating a decade to addressing challenges confronting people of African Descent worldwide.

Arriving at 2019, the Decade's half-way mark, IDPADA-G is planning to roll out a number of programs, outreaches and other activities that provide service to and directly address issues confronting the African Guyanese community.

SPECIAL PROJECTS (1ST QUARTER):

Following through on its commitment to the growth and development of African Guyanese organizations, IDPADA-G will continue its Organizational Development training program – with two training programs for mem-

ber organisations in January. Participants who complete this training will participate in a training programme on project design, proposal writing, project management and co-operative development in February, 2019.

“Mega One Stop Business and Family Welfare Conferences” will be held across the country in January and February; the first two conferences will be held in South Georgetown and Pattensen, Turkeyen (Sophia) respectively. These conferences will offer economic and other assistance to business owners and offer aid to families to relieve education expenses and address health care needs.

In February, as we prepare to celebrate our nation's Republic Day and to commemorate the Berbice Slave Revolt, IDPADA-G will host a major Heritage and Culture Conference. It will include a separate youth component to further acquaint 150 young people with their African roots. This engagement will offer young people an opportunity to learn more about their often hidden history and to understand the legacies of enslavement and colonial rule that lead to many

challenges they face and must surmount today.

IN 2019 THE IDPADA-G WILL:

Host Economic Empowerment conferences as a follow-up to those business conferences conducted across the country in 2018. These conferences will focus on financial education, explore funding opportunities, aid with business plans and access to resources among other empowerment features.

Offer leadership training for African Guyanese organizations, youth groups, villages and communities.

Work with educators in rewriting the African narrative to paint a true and holistic picture of the African experience and contribution to Guyana.

Partner with various agencies to bring relevant vocational and academic training to target groups.

Sponsor drumming, poetry, art, sporting and other competitions and events to encourage creativity and development in various fields.

Education- the African narrative for Empowerment

First sitting of the History committee



The IDPADA-G brought together a group of expert African Guyanese historians and teachers to review and revise how Guyanese history is taught. The Committee is tasked with telling Guyana's story in a way that fosters pride in our past and empowers our youth to strive for a brighter future for our families and communities. Committee chair Elizabeth

Williams-Niles, Head of the History department, Bishops High School, Hazel Woolford of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research, teachers Ambelika Belle and Anne Thompson have committed to working with the IDPADA-G to accomplish this task.

The Committee agreed that to fulfill their mandate their programme must be strategically executed and

the information well researched to provide accurate accounts. They will assist The IDPADA-G to develop recommendations to include the teaching of Guyanese history at the grade four to grade six levels, initially. The Committee recognized that nontraditional methods such as video, drama and art could be used to get relevant messages across to young people.

Conferences for small farmers and food vendors

See page 2



Food Vendors conference



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African Guyanese Organisational Development



Senior UG Lecturer O'Neil Greaves engaging group heads during the conference

On October 24th and 25th last, the IDPADA-G engaged thirty-three African Guyanese organisation leaders in an African Guyanese Organisational Development training programme at the Racquet Center, Woolford Avenue. The aim of this conference was to educate leaders on how to build strong and effective organisations and to foster closer working relationships among the various groups.

The training programme was led by senior University of Guyana lecturer Mr. O'Neil Greaves. Mr. Greaves created an atmosphere in which participants felt free to engage each other on various issues affecting the African Guyanese community. Participants focused on setting goals that would benefit their target audiences. Mr. Greaves encouraged participants to develop solutions which can be effectively communicated and that

are practical enough to be executed. Through this training programme, participants gained a greater appreciation for the importance of balancing management of their organisations' finances and administrative functions, making sound decisions to ensure the stability of their respective groups while developing and implementing project ideas and programmes.

By the conclusion of the training programmes, participants clearly understood their responsibility to effectively mobilise their members and the community at large towards achieving community development. In his closing remarks, Mr. Greaves reminded the group that through their efforts healthy sustainable communities could be created.

Participants represented the Rastafari community, village groups, co-operatives and other African Guyanese associations.

Conferences for small farmers and food vendors



Growers from across the region met with ministries and organisations for necessary assistance.

The IDPADA-G conducted ten conferences for farmers and food vendors in October and November.

As part of National Agriculture Month, The IDPADA-G hosted seven agricultural conferences in collaboration with organisations such as the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC), Department of Co-operatives and Fisheries Department, Guyana Livestock and Development Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The conferences were held in regions across the country, successfully educating both potential and established small and medium sized farmers about Guyana's trade agreements and the opportunities and requirements for exporting produce as well as providing expert advice on managing a farm business, and the resources and services available from government agencies.

Given the large turn-out of food vendors at each of its July/August conferences for small business owners, The

IDPADA-G hosted four conferences to specifically target this audience. Conferences held in Anna Regina, Linden, Rose Hall and Farm, East Bank Essequibo attracted large audiences and provided a valuable opportunity for vendors to learn more about the requirements for selling food, including how to acquire a food handler's certificate, sanitation in food handling as well best practices for running a food vending business. The role of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards was also explained.

Capacity Building- Proposal writing



THE IDPADA-G's Stacy Baird facilitated group heads and grant recipients in the proposal writing session

In their bid to promote organisational development through, groups, organisations and the revitalization of the co-operative movement, the IDPADA-G held a proposal writing workshop to help build the capacity of African Guyanese groups to request resources and other necessities.

At IDPADA-G's office in October last, multiple groups and organisational heads gathered for vital information and training to boost their organisations' strength to

prepare project proposals and bid for financial assistance. Under the supervision of the IDPADA-G team, the groups which comprised community leaders, members of cooperatives and others, were taught to identify resources based on their needs and how to go accessing them. The group leaders were also taught to pursue resources through the development of proposals, budgets, project ideas and programmes. Over 30 group leaders benefitted from the proposal writing workshop.



THE IDPADA-G's Stacy Baird facilitated group heads and grant recipients in the proposal writing session

IDPADA-G Outreaches



The IDPADA-G provided more than 100 persons with fruit tree plants and seeds during the tree planting day event that is held annually.



IDPADA-G donated a much needed inverter to the Light Town Primary School in East Berbice-Corentyne.



Business training workshops were held to assist established business owners moving into the next phase of their growth

Check out our website for the IDPADA-G Calendar of events!

The Calendar of Events project highlights important local and international dates of holidays and events observed by our diverse African Guyanese community and the global African diaspora. It includes events that have shaped African-Guyanese history and that tell our story. In addition, it captures the annual and regular events held by African Guyanese organizations, for example PANAF's monthly Culture Day. Now more members of our community will be aware of and have an opportunity to participate in events of interest. This is all geared towards building pride and support for our African Guyanese heritage and culture, improving communications across our diverse community and creating a greater sense of unity.

The IDPADA-G moving ahead with UN Declaration



THE IDPADA-G's Coordinating Council



The IDPADA-G's Secretariat staff

The International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly-Guyana (IDPADA-G), is the Country Coordinating Mechanism, put in place to honour the United Nation's declaration for a decade of, 'Recognition, Justice and Development' for People of African Descent.

The agency operates as an umbrella body to mobilise and support existing African Guyanese groups and organisations. IDPADA-G selects its leadership from the ground up. Member

organisations meet and select representatives to the various sub-committees. The Committee members then select a head. These heads help to make up the Assembly's Coordinating Council.

The Coordinating Council moves forward with plans, projects and programmes that work toward the agenda of the decade.

The current Council includes: Chairman Mr. Vincent Alexander, Chief Executive Officer Ms. Olive Sampson and council members Dr. Simpson DaSilva, Ms. Miryom Levi, Mr. Royston

Peters, Dr. Mark Kirton, Dr. Norman Ng-A-Qui, Mr. Vincent Collins, Mrs. Rosemarie Torberg-Davis, and Mr. E. Lance Carberry.

Supporting the efforts of THE IDPADA-G is a dedicated staff of vibrant young people operating out of THE IDPADA-G's head office at 121 Regent Road Bourda. Headed by the Chief Executive Officer Olive Sampson, full staff will comprise an Administrative Manager, Programmes Manager, Public Relations Officer, Project Officers and support staff.

ENCOURAGING AFRICAN CULTURE THROUGH KWANZAA CELEBRATION

The International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly – Guyana held its first "Kwanzaa Teach In" on December 19 at the National School of Dance, Thomas Land as part of the organisation's efforts to reignite interest in African culture.

Kwanzaa is a celebration originating from the United States and celebrated in nations of the African diaspora, particularly in the Americas. The event which lasts for a week is governed by seven principles that seek to reconnect with African cultural and historical heritage by uniting in meditation and the study of African traditions. Attendee's to IDPADA-G's event heard poem reading, drumming and saw beautiful cultural performances. Brother Reginald Sandiford, an Elder of Plaisance on the East Coast of Demerara gave the introduction to Kwanzaa.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA:

KwUmoja (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.



Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



Attendees receiving gifts



Some of the attendees at IDPADA-G's first teach-in