



NEWSLETTER

| SEPTEMBER 2019

CREDIT UNION SIGN-UP



Attendees had questions about the proposed Credit Union answered during the sign-up event

UNDER the “Development” theme of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, IDPADA-G is establishing a credit union to provide access to credit and financial services to individuals and small business owners throughout the country. To date over 500 persons have completed the application process to join the proposed IDPADA-G Credit Union, and several others are in the process of finalizing their membership documents. Sign-up events have been conducted in Georgetown, Bagotsville, WBD and at No. 53 Village, Corentyne.

At the first sign-up event held at Critchlow Labour College on July 6th and 8th 2019, a total of one hundred and eighty-five persons applied for membership, many others gathered information and expressed interest in joining. On the West Bank Demerara, Pastors organized a sign-up event at the Rattray Congregational Church on Saturday 27th July. Over one hundred persons came ready with their required documents and joined the Credit Union. IDPADA-G also conducted successful sign-up in No. 53 Village for residents of villages from Fyriish to Corriverton with one hundred and seven persons signing up. Applications continue to be processed daily at the Secretariat.

Sign up events will be held throughout October – Credit Union Month. We look forward to opening our doors in early 2020.



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OIL AND GAS FORUM

THE International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly Guyana (IDPADA-G), held its first Oil and Gas Forum on July 19th, 2019 at the GITC on Woolford Avenue, Georgetown.

Recognizing that Guyana is set to become an oil producing nation, IDPADA-G saw the importance of getting the African community to play a major role in the local content.

The aim of this “Family Session,” as one could call it, was to encourage the exchange of ideas on how people of African Guyanese Descent can take advantage of the numerous cross-sectoral opportunities Guyana’s emerging oil and Gas sector will provide. African business owners from across sectors attended the forum taking full advantage of this excellent networking opportunity.

Among the Presenters were Dr. Mark

Bynoe, Head of the Department of Energy, Ministry of the Presidency; Honorable Minister Cathy Hughes, Minister of Public Telecommunications. Mr. Nigel Hughes, Attorney-at-Law; Ms. Deedra Moe, Senior Director, ExxonMobil Guyana, Dr. Natasha Gaskin-Peters, Senior Principal Specialist, the Center for Local Business Development and Prof. Leyland Lucas, University of Guyana, School of Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation. Dr. Norman Ng-A-Qui moderated the question and answer segment.

During the Forum, participants were encouraged to take full advantage of the Centre for Local Business Development, which helps to forge partnerships between local businesses and investors. Participants also learned that a new portal would be opened to provide tender opportunities to access contracts from Exxon Mobil and other Com-

panies. The interactive question and answer segment provided much needed clarity on a range of related issues for example, the need for well-articulated and enforceable laws, in the oil and gas sector, was discussed.

The Exxon representative pointed out that, during the period 2015 to 1st Quarter 2019, Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL) saw growth in a number of Guyanese suppliers and workforce. In addition, she drew attention to the fact that EEPGL’s operation in Guyana had led to the recruitment of 1183 Guyanese by the end of March 2019, representing 49% of the project’s total workforce. EEPGL initially started with 43 Guyanese in its operations in 2015.

The Exxon Power Point presentation as well as the one pager provided by the Centre for Local Business Development, can be found on IDPADA-G’s website at www.idpada-g.gy.



Attendees posed questions to presenters during an extended question & answer period and used the opportunity to network.

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION 2019

RECLAIMING REVITALIZING AND RESTORING AFRICAN HISTORY

DURING the decade (2015-2024) people of African heritage are called upon to create programs focusing on African recognition, justice, and development. Elements of recognition include reclaiming, revitalizing and restoring true African history and legacy to civilization. President Granger was among hundreds who visited the IDPADA-G booth at the #53 Village Emancipation celebration to view the new exhibit entitled Paragraphs of African History.

The exhibit consists of twelve “books”, each presenting a glimpse or “paragraphs” of a larger body of scholarly works by renowned researchers and authors of contemporary



African history. The historical period extends from 1966 back in time to the African beginning of the human species and includes a glimpse of the true African legacy in Guyana, Europe, contemporary and ancient Nile valley, and in the Americas. Around the world, numerous credible independent researchers currently participate in this effort. This display is just a glimpse of their findings.

Through this exhibit, IDPADA-G seeks to present, in a simple format, current information to raise the consciousness and awareness of historical facts omitted from and/or misrepresented in the narrative of history today and to reclaim, revitalize, and restore recognition of the true African legacy to civilization. The exhibit will be put on display at schools and public buildings.

Remember: “Until the lion writes his own story, the hunter will remain the hero.”

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION

IDPADA-G has undertaken to develop a Strategic Plan to guide our work for the next five years 2020 to 2024, the end of the Decade.

In order to achieve this goal, a team of consultants Dr. Thomas W. Gittens (Team Leader), Mr. Hubert R. Robertson and Brother Cohane Michael Levi was hired.

At the Quarterly General meeting held in June, IDPADA-G member organisations were briefed on the methodology for developing the Strategic Plan.

Over a three – month period, from June

to August, the consultants visited approximately twenty communities in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10. The Secretariat worked closely with member organisations to mobilize community leaders and other interested persons, from various fields and professions, to participate in the “Bottom House” type meetings. Through informal discussions with stakeholders critical issues affecting their village/community were identified and possible solutions recommended.

Going forward, representatives from

Government agencies, religious and business leaders, and members of various professions will be engaged as part of the consultative process to ensure that the final plan reflects input from across the society.

Once data from these consultations is reviewed and analysed the first draft of the Strategic Plan will be prepared and presented to IDPADA-G membership for further input. The Plan will be finalized and ready to be implemented in 2020.



A wide cross-section of stakeholders took part in consultations across the country

Emancipation Programme

Sophia Juvenile Detention Centre



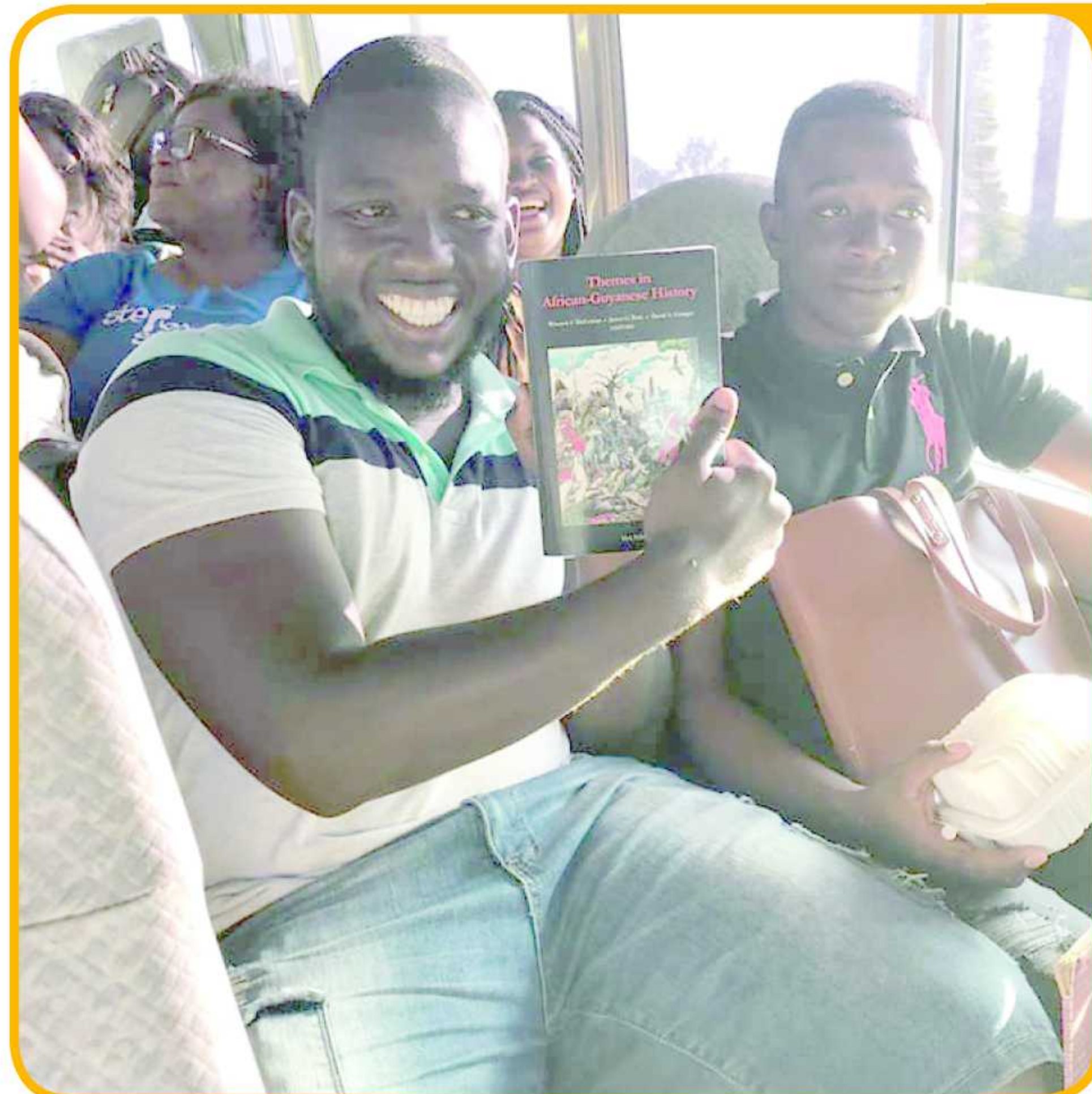
THE International Decade for People of African Descent Youth Committee collaborated with the Juvenile Detention Centre Sophia to host their annual Emancipation Festivity on the 31st July 2019.

The focus of the programme was educating African Guyanese youth on our ancestral history, the price they paid for freedom and why this freedom should be valued. Representatives from “The Hebrew Family of Guy-

ana” did a brief presentation on the history of African drumming and music and ways in which drumming was used to send messages across villages before treating the groups to a few items of African drumming. Other items on the programme included singing of national and folk songs; brief talk on the “Journey towards Emancipation by Ms. Elizabeth Niles and a motivational presentation by Yuburn Allicock, from the Youth Committee.

The programme proved to be very infor-

mative to the young audience, many of whom were totally unaware of the journey from enslavement to emancipation. By the end of the programme they felt better about themselves and were more appreciative of their ancestors’ fight for freedom. The Juvenile Detention centre was thankful to IDPADA-G for its continuous contributions and hopes to work with the Secretariat and the Youth Committee to support the further development of youth in detention.



IDPADA-G YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP

The campers formed teams or patrols, each taking the name of an African country from various countries on the continent of Africa. The groups were then assigned responsibilities based on their patrol to demonstrate the teachings on leadership, taught at the camp. Campers were integrally involved in planning and strategizing for the camp.

The days began with early morning reflections which allowed campers to freely discuss topics of importance to them. Next, campers moved into breakout sessions which were conducted by some of the most knowledge leaders from the African Guyanese community. At the opening session of the camp, IDPADA-G Chair, Mr. Vincent Alexander, presented profiles of African Guyanese leaders from the period of enslavement to our more recent history. Mr. Alexander showed participants the many ways in which our ancestors demonstrated leadership, even as enslaved people

– revolting despite the possible repercussions, so that future generations could be free. Mr. Aubrey Norton enlightened the group about the vision and guiding ideology of the late Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham. His presentation helped campers gain a better understanding of the political ideology during the early 1970s to mid-1980s. Later, Mr. Aubrey Retemyer led a workshop on the eight principles of leadership, with real-life examples of how these principles can be applied in their everyday lives. He focused attention on perseverance and integrity - the building blocks of leadership that all leaders should embrace and personify. Final speakers were Dr. Kean Gibson and Ms. Cheryl Noel. Dr. Gibson’s presentation encouraged campers to be critical thinkers and not to take the world as it is given to them, while Ms. Noel led an exercise on what it means to be a “LEADER NOW”.

ON June 5th – 7th, 2019, IDPADA-G conducted a ‘Leadership and Capacity Building Camp’ for thirty young adults between the ages of 18-29 at Camp Kayuka on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway. Participants came from communities in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10.



Youth engaged in several activities during the weekend long camp

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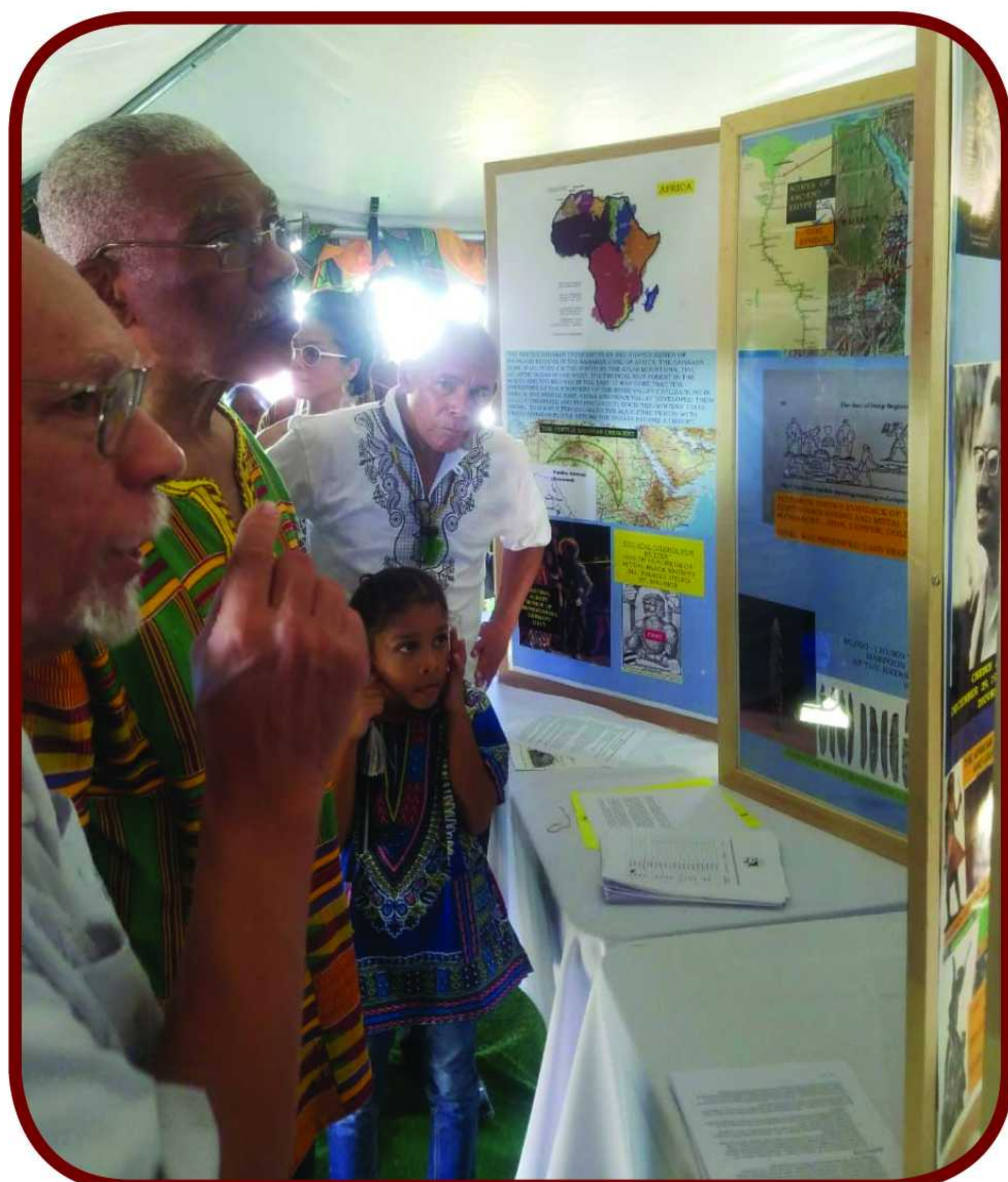
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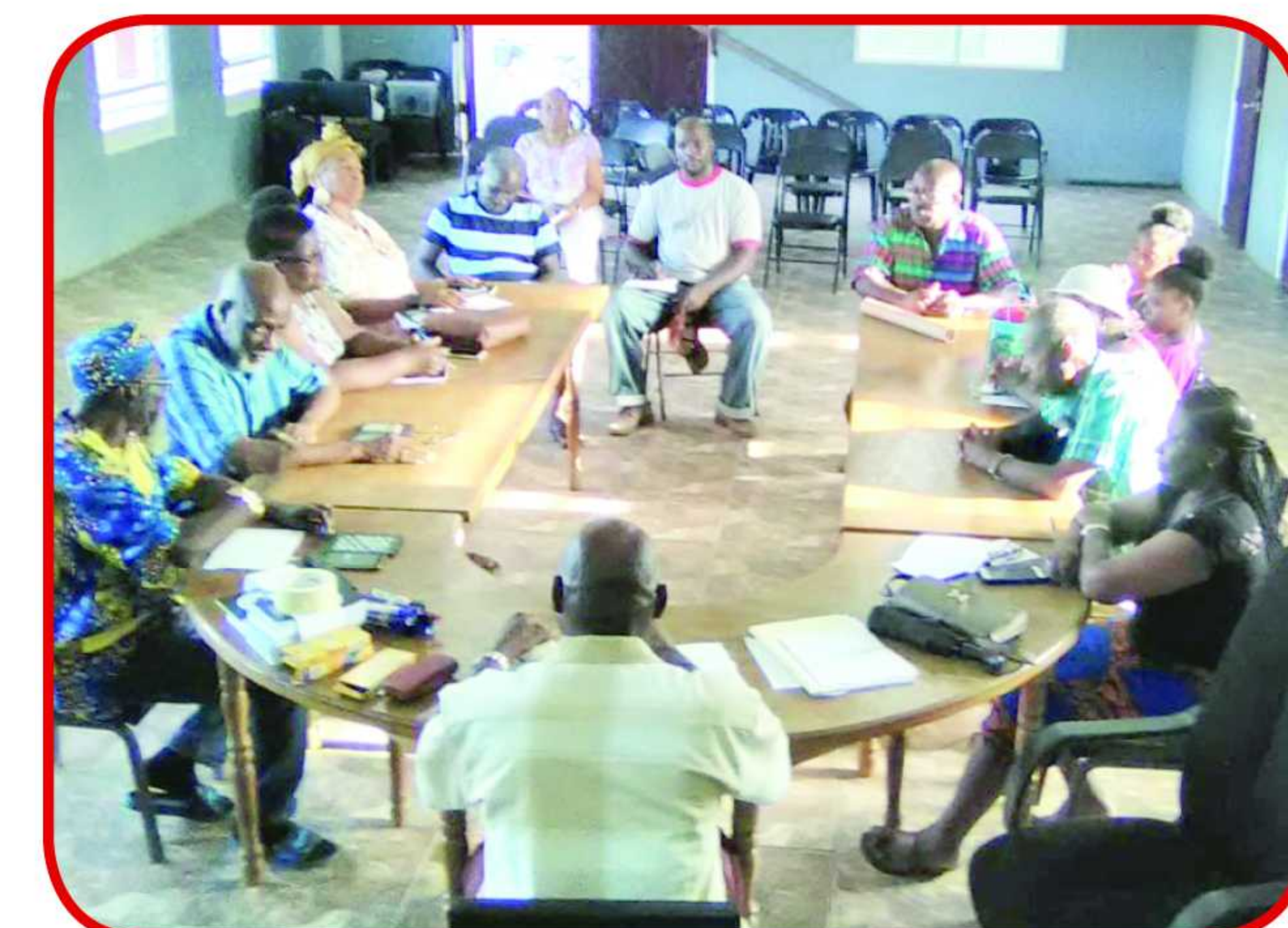
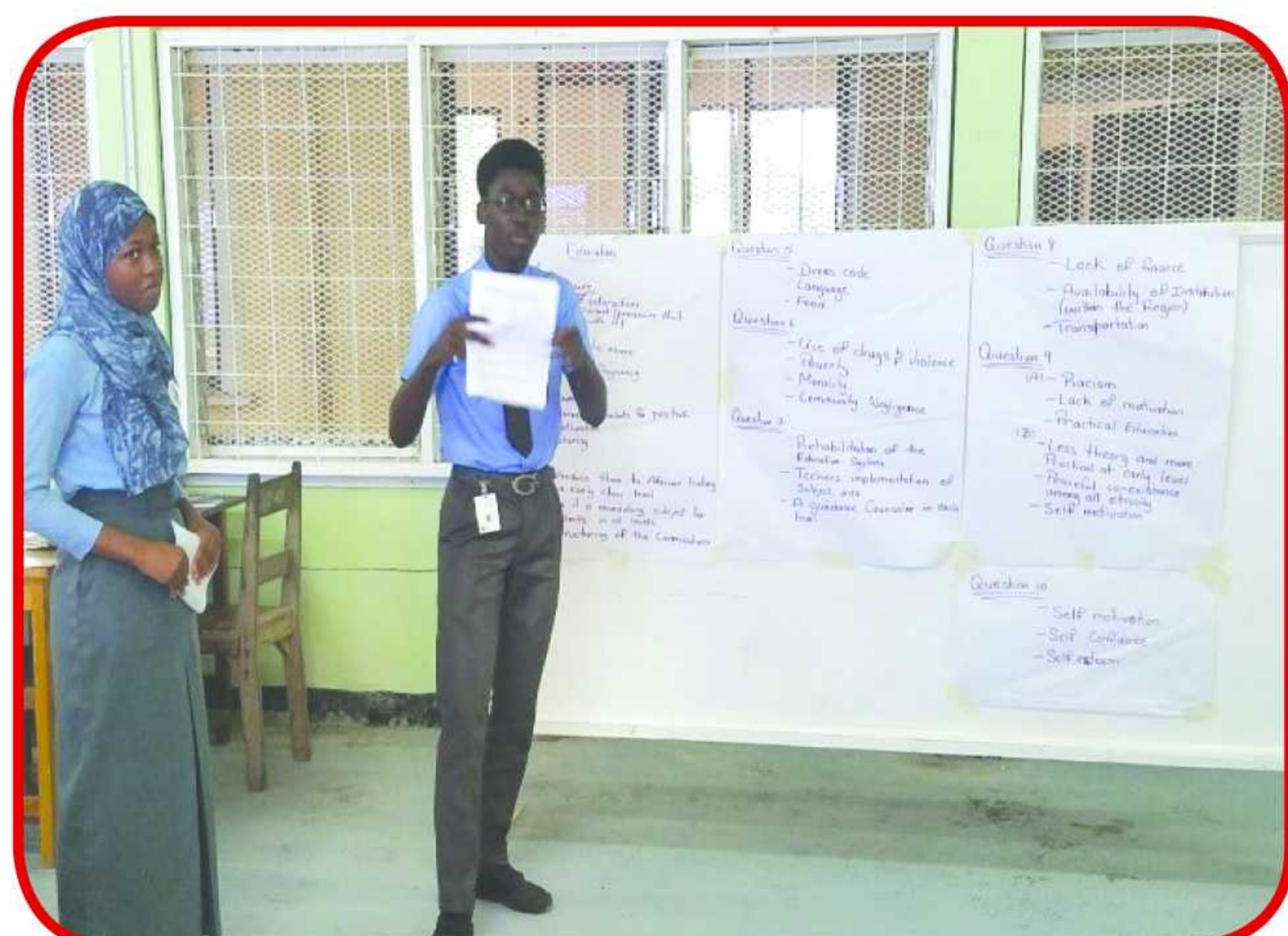
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