

LINDEN LEGAL AID CENTRE ANNUAL ACTIVITY PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2016

In 2008, the Linden Legal Aid Centre agreed to assume full responsibility for providing legal services and access to justice for the residents of Linden and surrounding communities along the Linden Highway and Demerara River (Region #10) and continued to fulfill that mandate during the reporting period. The Centre was open to the public five days per week from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday and 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday. A total of two hundred and thirty-two (232) clients received legal services and (both civil and criminal) from the Centre including representation in the Christianburg Magistrate's Court and the High Court of the Supreme Court in Georgetown. Thirty-two (32) matters were completed during this period. The quarterly statistical reports of the types of cases and the demographic characteristics of clients served during this period are appended hereto.

Despite financial and other challenges, the directors are pleased to report progress in several areas of our operations. The need for an attorney willing to perform the functions of administrative head, supervise staff and ensure that proper records are created and maintained, was fulfilled with the recruitment of Ms. Renee McDonald, an attorney with prior legal aid experience, in August, 2016.

We have also made significant progress toward achieving our stated goal to educate and inform members of the community of their legal rights and responsibilities. Shortly after taking up her position, Ms. McDonald was approached by a leader and activist in the Linden community, Mr. Keeran Gray, to develop a sensitization radio seminar to inform and educate members of the Linden community on a range of legal issues such as estate planning, divorce, child maintenance and custody, protection orders and the late registration of births, among others. Ms. McDonald has agreed to develop and implement this program, which is expected to be offered in six monthly segments during the