



THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE 2019

ABSTRACT

A Report prepared and compiled by the Supreme Court of Judicature,
Guyana

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

CORE VALUES

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

Contents

OUR MISSION.....	2
OUR VISION.....	2
CORE VALUES	2
REGISTRAR’S REPORT	5
JUSTICES OF APPEAL.....	16
JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURT	17
COMMISSIONERS OF TITLE	18
REGISTRAR AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR.....	19
The Magistrates of Guyana.....	21
OVERVIEW	25
COURT PERFORMANCE	27
THE COURT OF APPEAL REPORT.....	28
THE JUDICIAL REGISTRY REPORT, DEMERARA HIGH COURT	32
PROBATE SECTION	35
MARSHAL DEPARTMENT REPORT.....	37
LAND COURT DEPARTMENT REPORT.....	53
FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT REPORT	45
ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY REPORT.....	55

LAND COURT	57
PROBATE	58
ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY CRIMINAL REPORT.....	59
BERBICE SUB-REGISTRY REPORT.....	61
TABLE 1: STATUS OF CIVIL MATTERS FOR 2019	61
TABLE 2: STATUS OF FAMILY COURT MATTERS, 2019.....	62
TABLE 3: STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE LAND COURT, 2019.....	63
TABLE 4: STATUS OF MATTERS BEFORE THE FULL COURT	64
TABLE 5: STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN PROBATE	65
THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS REPORT	66
WORK PERFORMANCE.....	67
TABLE 1 - CRIMINAL CASES MATTERS	67
TABLE 2 - CIVIL CASES MATTERS.....	67
TABLE 3 - BAILIFF'S SECTION MATTERS.....	67
TABLE 4 - TRAFFIC TICKETS	75
TABLE 5– REVENUE.....	77
RETIREMENTS AND OBITUARY IN 2019	78
19 Events in Pictures.....	80
FINANCIAL REPORT.....	87

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Under the stellar leadership of the Honorable Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Madam Justice Yonette Cummings- Edwards, the Supreme Court has continued on its upwardly progressive trajectory.

During the year 2019, we witnessed the realization of several of the set goals, both in terms of improving access to justice as well as delivering a better quality of service to our customers. At the end of 2018, the Supreme Court had several infrastructural projects on its programme for 2019. These included:

1. Construction of Diamond / Golden Grove Magistrates' Court Region # 4
2. Rehabilitation of North South Wing of the High Court Georgetown Region No. 4
3. Conversion of Marshal Room to a Storeroom on the Wing of the G/Town Supreme Court Region 4
4. Construction of Timber Floor, Partition Walls, Shelves et cetera at G/Town Judicial Registry Reg. 4
5. Construction of Bartica Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 7.
6. Construction of Mahdia Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 8.
7. Retrofitting of an old building to a Magistrate's Court & Quarters at Kwakwani, Region No. 10
8. Construction of Fountain at the Georgetown Supreme Court, Region No. 4.
9. Installation of Wheelchair Lift and Connection of Standby Generator at the Georgetown Land Court, Region No. 4

New Projects 2019

1. Construction of a Magistrates' & Commissioners of Title's Living Quarters at N/A Berbice Region No. 6.
2. Construction of Remaining 2 sides of Fence to the yard next to Suddie Magistrate's Court Region No. 2.
3. Construction of Guard Hut at the Essequibo Magistrate's Court, Suddie, Region No. 2.
4. Construction of Timber Revetment to Parapet Drains at the Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Court, E.B.D, Region No. 4
5. Construction of Benab at the Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Court, E.B.D, Region No. 4.
6. Supply & Installation of Standby Generator at the Linden Magistrate's Court & Quarters, Region No. 10

TRAINING

Forensic Psychology and Sexual Offences Training (March 6, 2019)

Justice for victims of sexual offences continues to be a priority. On March 6, 2019, Forensic Psychology and Sexual Offences Special Training Series for the Judiciary by the University of Guyana was launched.

The training exercise was launched at the Pegasus Hotel for Magistrates and Judges throughout the country. Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Mdm. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards noted that such training is necessary for an effective justice system.

Chancellor Cummings-Edwards pointed out that the impact of sexual abuse has far-reaching emotional, psychological and physical effects on victims. The Chancellor further noted that sexual violence requires specialized training and intervention, adding that victims require support services and respect for their dignity and their privacy.

The training commenced on the weekend of March 6, 2019 where the magistrates and judges benefitted from 20 hours of training at the Theatre Guild.



Trafficking in Persons Conference (September 20, 2019)

Known the world over as “modern-day slavery”, Trafficking in Persons continues to destroy the lives of many unsuspecting victims. While there are systems in place to mitigate the incidences, Guyana, through the Ministry of Public Security, is taking a very punitive stance, to reduce the scourge to an all-time low.

On September 20, 2019, the Supreme Court of Judicature and the Judicial Education Institute (JEI) of Guyana convened a Judicial Conference on TIP, targeting members of the local judiciary.



Judicial Officers who attended the Trafficking in Persons Training

The Annual Judges' Conference (June 28-30, 2019)

The Annual Judges' Conference was held at the Guyana Marriot Hotel from June 28th to 30th, 2019. The theme for the conference was "Ensuring Judicial Preparedness: Confronting Emerging Issues". The weekend involved learning, fellowship, fitness, fun and relaxation.



The Annual Magistrates' Conference

The 2nd Annual Magistrates' Conference was held at the Skeldon Heritage Resort, Skeldon, Berbice from October 18th to 20th, 2019 under the theme: "Strengthening the Magistracy for an effective Justice System". The picturesque setting of the Resort was the perfect backdrop for the relaxing yet mentally stimulating experience that unfolded over the three days of the conference. Commencing with the drive along the northern sea coast of Guyana and culminating with an afternoon of sports and good-natured fun, the entire conference was a resounding success.

The Inaugural Clerks of Court, Heads of Department and Supervisors Conference (September 27th to 29th , 2019)

From September 27th to 29th , 2019 the Supreme Court held its first Supervisors Conference for its staff. Over 100 staff members from all the courts around Guyana were able to come together for a weekend at the Skeldon Heritage Resort, Berbice to participate in leadership training and self-care. Presentations were done by our very own Judges and Psychologist, Dr. Diane Williams. Among the topics covered were leadership, dress code, self-care and the structure of the Supreme Court system. At the end of the presentations, participants were engaged in talent and sports activities and a tour to the Skeldon Sugar Factory.



NEW COURTS OPENED

Opening of the Berbice Sexual Offences Court (May 5, 2019)

The Supreme Court of Judicature on May 5th, 2019, officially launched its second Sexual Offences Court. This new courtroom is housed at the Berbice High Court, Esplanade Road, New Amsterdam.

It was highlighted at the launch that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), collaborated significantly with the judiciary and provided much needed financial support and capacity building in the quest to ensure that justice is served in a fair, efficient and timely manner.

It was noted that a total of 37 cases involving sexual offences were being heard in the Berbice Assizes. With the new court in the district, the cases would be dealt with in a way which respects the dignity and privacy of the victims.

Attending the historic event were Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Hon. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Deputy British High Commissioner, Ray Davidson and UNICEF resident representative to Guyana and Suriname, Sylvia Fouet, Chief Justice (ag) Roxane George, Magistrate Renita Singh, members of the Berbice Bar Association; Commander of B Division, Assistant Commissioner Paul Langevine, Officer in Charge of the Guyana Fire Service B Division, Mr. Scotland (GFS) and Officer in Charge of the New Amsterdam Prison Service (GPS), Superintendent Deoraj Gyandat, among others.



Ceremonial Ribbon being cut during the opening of the sexual offences court Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Hon. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Deputy British High Commissioner, Ray Davidson and UNICEF resident representative to Guyana and Suriname, Sylvia Fouet



Inside of the Sexual Offences Court room, Berbice High Court.

Opening of the Essequibo Sexual Offences Court (September 16, 2019)

On September 16, 2019, the Supreme Court of the Judicature was given kudos for progressively moving the justice system forward with the establishment of the third Sexual Offences Court in the County of Essequibo.

Following closely behind the Demerara and Berbice counties, the \$17.4M facility at the Suddie Supreme Court has received funding from the British High Commission of Guyana and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

Under the leadership of Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonnette Cummings-Edwards, victims or survivors of sexual violence in the “Cinderella” county have been given a haven to testify without fear of secondary trauma.

The specialized court has the main courtroom that will house the defence counsel, prosecutors and jurors. It has a closed-circuit system linked to the special measures room that will allow victims to give evidence without having to face the alleged perpetrators.



Ceremonial Ribbon being cut during the opening of the Sexual Offences Court by Hon. Amna Ally, MP, Minister of Social Protection Deputy British High Commissioner, Mr. Ray Davidson and UNICEF Resident Representative to Guyana and Suriname, Ms. Sylvia Fouet



Inside of the Sexual Offences Court room.

Opening of the Drug Treatment Court (October 21, 2019)

On October 21, 2019, Guyana's first Drug Treatment Court, at a cost of just under \$1Million opened its doors. Located in the Georgetown Magistrates' Court, it will permit easier access to resources and personnel, including stakeholders such as the police, social services, health and drug treatment providers to facilitate the efficient operation of the court.

Fifty -three (53) professionals from the legal fraternity (State Counsel of the DPP Chambers, Lawyers, Magistrates, members of the Guyana Police Force), Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre (Phoenix Recovery Project, Salvation Army Rehab Centre) health fraternity (Ministry of Health- Mental Health Unit) and Social Services, were trained in effective toxicology practices, ethical issues for drug treatment court practitioners, incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments. They will be part of the Drug Treatment Court's operations.

The establishment of the court is in keeping with the National Drug Strategy Master Plan 2016-2020 which outlines several initiatives to address the drug problem from both a public health and public security perspective. These include exploring various alternatives to incarceration and reducing sentences for various non-violent drug-related offences.



Ribbon cutting for the opening of the Drug Treatment Court by Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards and Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, Vice President and Minister of Public Security



The foyer of the Drug Treatment Court

We have also undertaken new initiatives to outfit staff with formal jackets/blazers to be worn in court and offices and ‘Polo-style’ jerseys for Friday wear.

Additionally, after many years, trained mediators were pleased to learn that the Honourable Chancellor has approved an increase in Mediation Service Fees by 100%.

Other Social Activities for staff continued to generate full participation such as our annual Rangoli competition, sharing sweetmeats or meals on religious on National Holidays, the Christmas tree light up in all counties, the annual staff social and the addition of a horticulture competition.

In the year 2019, the Supreme Court continued its drive toward excellence in all areas.

Sueanna Lovell

Registrar

JUSTICES OF APPEAL



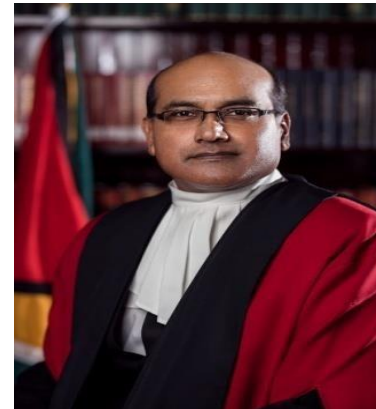
Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Yonette Cummings-Edwards



Chief Justice of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Roxane George

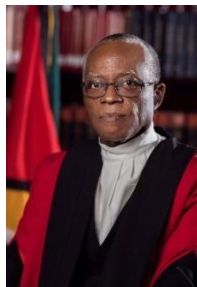


Justice of Appeal Mme. Justice Dawn Gregory



Justice of Appeal Mr. Justice Rishi Persaud

JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURT



*Justice James
Bovell Drakes*



*Justice Brassington
Reynolds*



*Justice Diana
Insanally*



*Justice Franklin
Holder*



*Justice Nareshwar
Harnanan*



*Justice Navindra
Singh*



*Justice Sandra
Kurtzious*



*Justice Jo-Ann
Barlow*



*Justice Simone
Morris-Ramlall*



*Justice Priya
Sewnarine-Beharry*



*Justice Sandil
Kissoon*



*Justice Damone
Younge*



*Justice Gino
Persaud*



*Justice Fidela
Corbin-Lincoln*

COMMISSIONERS OF TITLE



COT Melissa Robertson



COT Nicola Pierre



COT Priscilla Chandra-Hanif

REGISTRAR AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR



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



*Ms. Alicia Lowenfield, Deputy
Registrar of the Supreme Court*

[illegible]



Chief Magistrate, Ann McLeannan



Magistrate Allan Wilson



Magistrate Sherdel Issacs-Marcus



Magistrate Faith McGusty



Magistrate Judy Latchman



Magistrate Alex Moore



Magistrate Zamilla Ally-Seepaul



Magistrate Clive Nurse



*His Worship Sunil Scarce
Senior Magistrate*



Magistrate Dylan Bess



Magistrate Robindranauth Singh



Magistrate Rhondel Weever



Magistrate Alisha George



Magistrate Anette Singh



Magistrate Renita Singh



Magistrate Christel Lambert



Magistrate Marrisa Mittleholtzer



Magistrate Peter Hugh

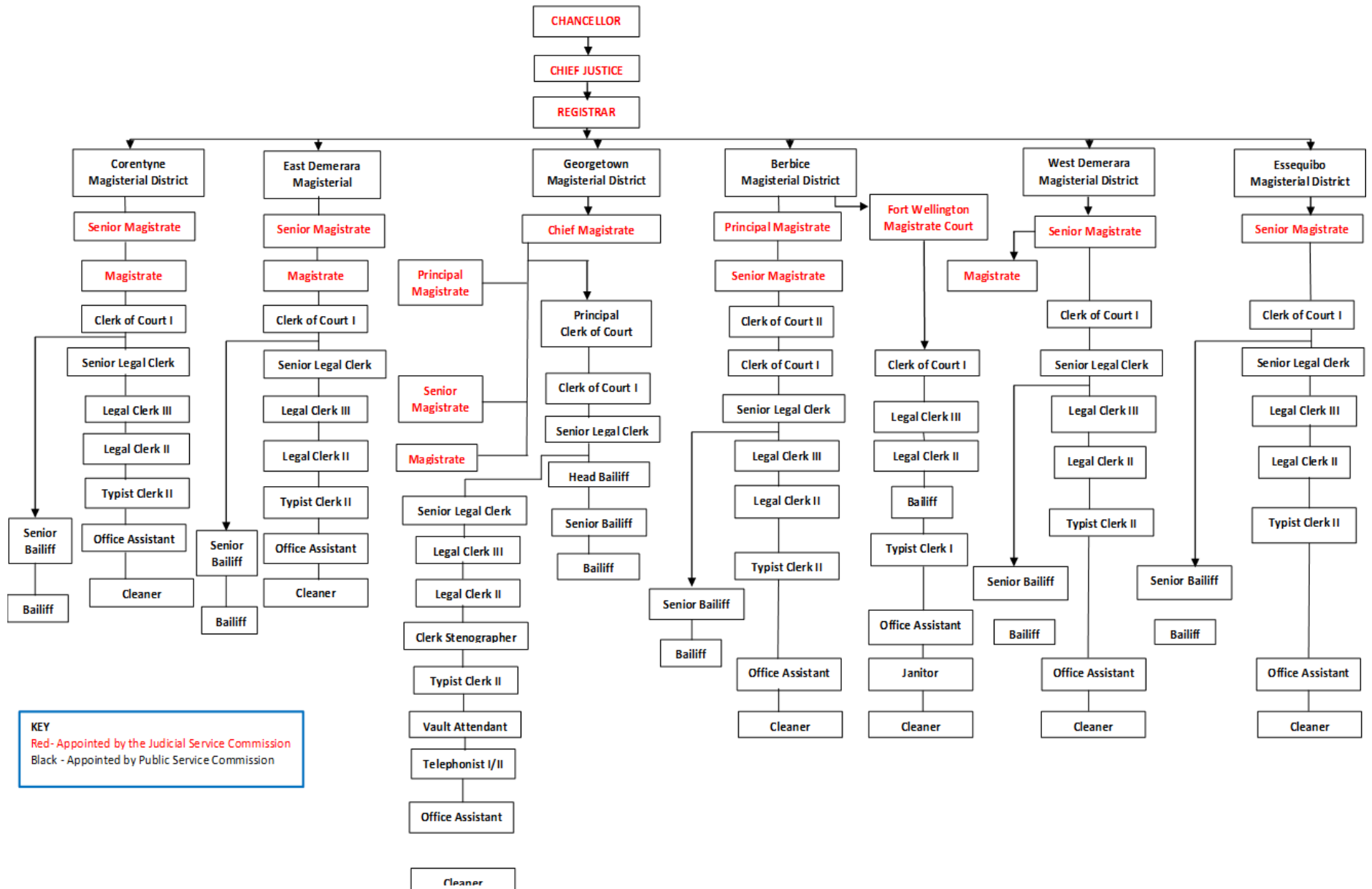


Magistrate Wanda Fortune



Magistrate Esther Sam

ORGANISATIONAL CHART -MAGISTRATE'S COURTS





Georgetown Magistrate's Court

OVERVIEW

The Judiciary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is, as in any modern democracy, the third arm of a tri-partite and functions independently of the other arms, that is to say, the Executive and Legislative arms. The concept that there are three distinct functions of government: legislative, executive, and judicial, discharged by three separate agencies – the Legislative in the form of Parliament, the Executive in the form of the Ministers and the government departments and agencies for which they are responsible and the Judiciary in the form of the Judges and courts - is the cornerstone of our Constitution. In accordance with this principle of the separation of powers our Constitution provides expressly at 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.”

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

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

(a) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction or Magistrates’ Court.

The summary jurisdiction of the judicial system is governed by the Summary Jurisdiction (Magistrates) Act, Cap 3:05 which establishes the Magistrates’ Court and sets out its practice and procedure, provides for the appointment of Magistrates and the regulation of their duties.

In their civil and jurisdiction, Magistrates adjudicate in 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 provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act Chap.12:02, as amended by the Administration of Justice Act. 1978. (A.J.A), are applied or by embarking on a Preliminary Inquiry or paper committal. The Magistrates also function as Coroners in the conduct of inquests.

(b) The High Court

The High Court of the Supreme Court is presided over by the Chief Justice and such number of Puisne Judges as may be prescribed by Parliament. This is provided for in Article 125 of the Constitution. Parliament has prescribed that number of Puisne Judges to be twenty (20). Currently, however, the High Court is functioning with twelve (12) Puisne Judges. 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. The main registry is located at the High Court in Georgetown. There are two sub-registries outside of Demerara located at Essequibo High Court, Suddie and Berbice High School, New Amsterdam, respectively. The High Court has several divisions; the Constitutional and Administrative Court, the Criminal Division, the Commercial Court, the Civil Division, the Family Court and the Land Court.

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.

COURT PERFORMANCE

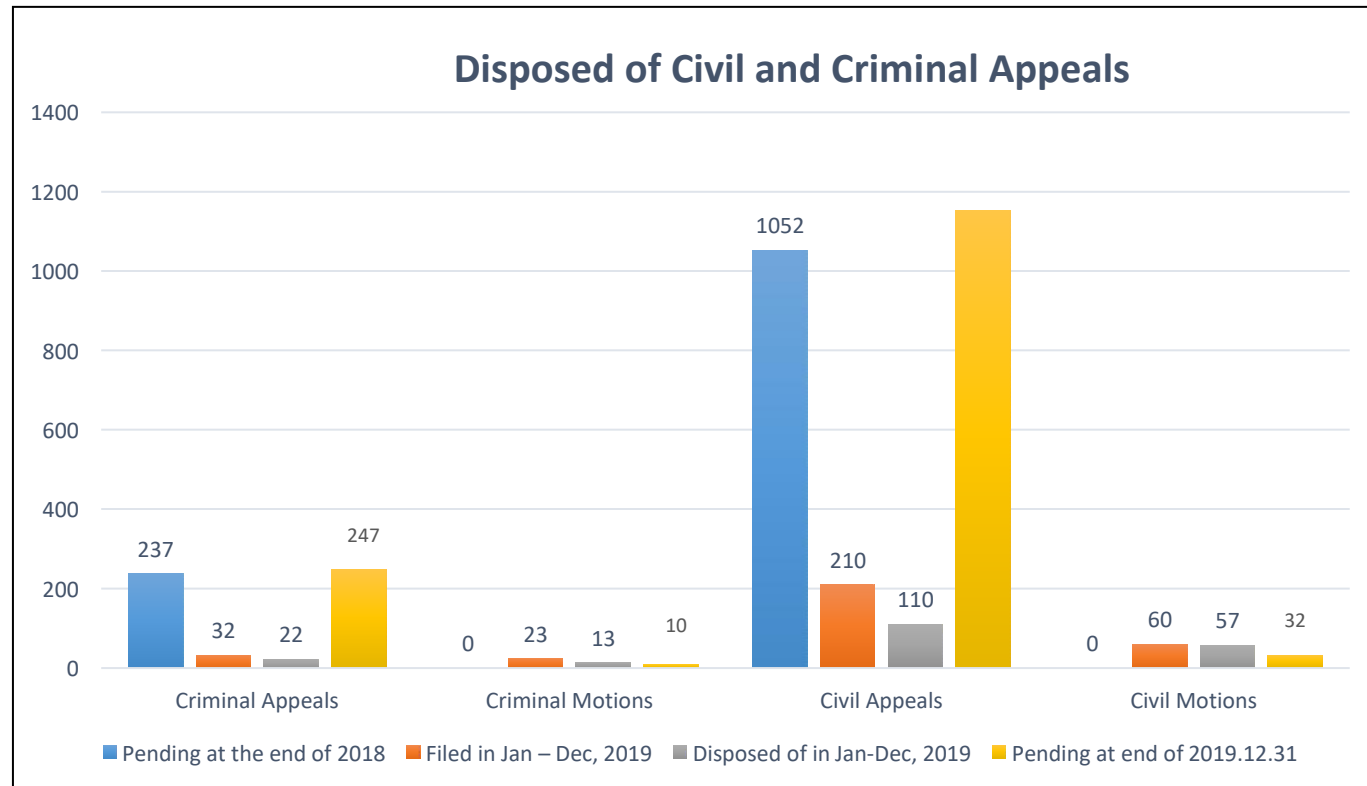
THE COURT OF APPEAL REPORT

STATUS OF MATTERS BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL

The following tables below outlines the number of cases disposed of by the Court of Appeal for JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2019.

APPEALS DISPOSED OF FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL APPEALS

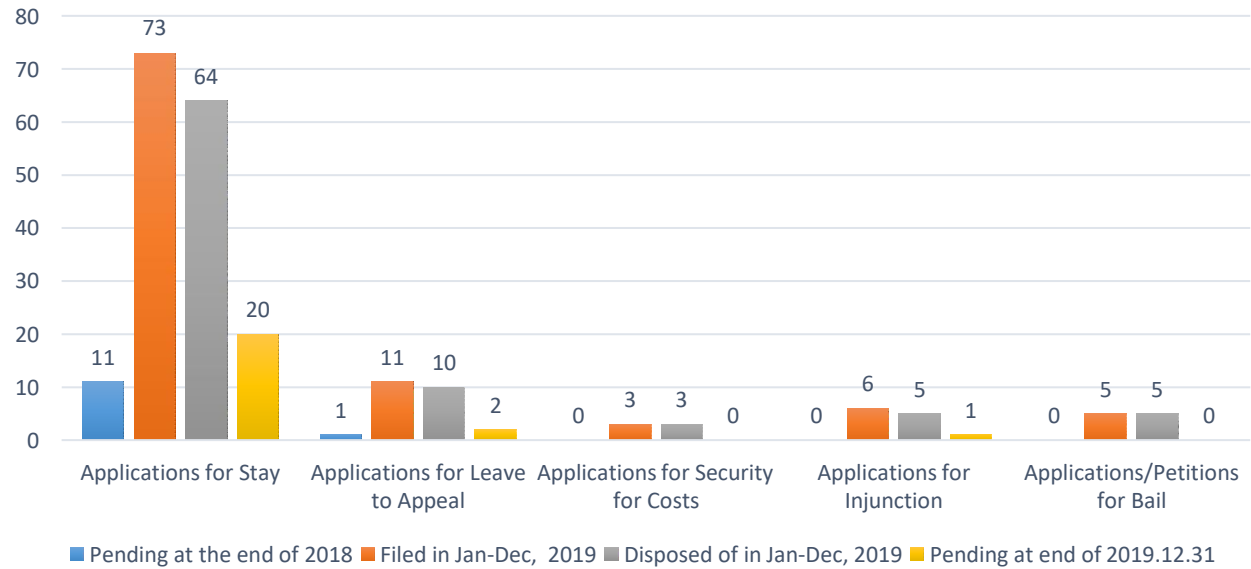
	CRIMINAL APPEALS	CRIMINAL MOTIONS	CIVIL APPEALS	CIVIL MOTIONS	TOTALS
Pending at the end of 2018	237	0	1052	0	1289
Filed in Jan – Dec, 2019	32	23	210	60	325
Disposed of in Jan-Dec, 2019	22	13	110	57	202
Pending at end of 2019.12.31	247	10	1152	3	1412



CHAMBERS APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF BY WAY OF SUMMONS AND AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF SUMMONS

	APPLICATIONS FOR STAY	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL	APPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY FOR COSTS	APPLICATIONS FOR INJUNCTION	APPLICATIONS /PETITIONS FOR BAIL	TOTAL MERGE
Pending at the end of 2018	11	1	0	0	0	12
Filed in Jan-Dec, 2019	73	11	3	6	5	98
Disposed of in Jan-Dec, 2019	64	10	3	5	5	87
Pending at end of 2019.12.31	20	2	0	1	0	23

Chambers Applications Disposed of by way of Summons and Affidavit in Support of Summons



THE JUDICIAL REGISTRY REPORT, DEMERARA HIGH COURT

The Registry provides administrative support for all judicial activities of the High Court in Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Essequibo. The Registry manages the case-flow process for all applications and appeals filed in the Court from the point of initiation, when the documents are submitted for filing, through to disposition of the matter by court order or judgment.



Table 1 and Figure 1a show intake of matters to the Judicial Registry.

Table 1:

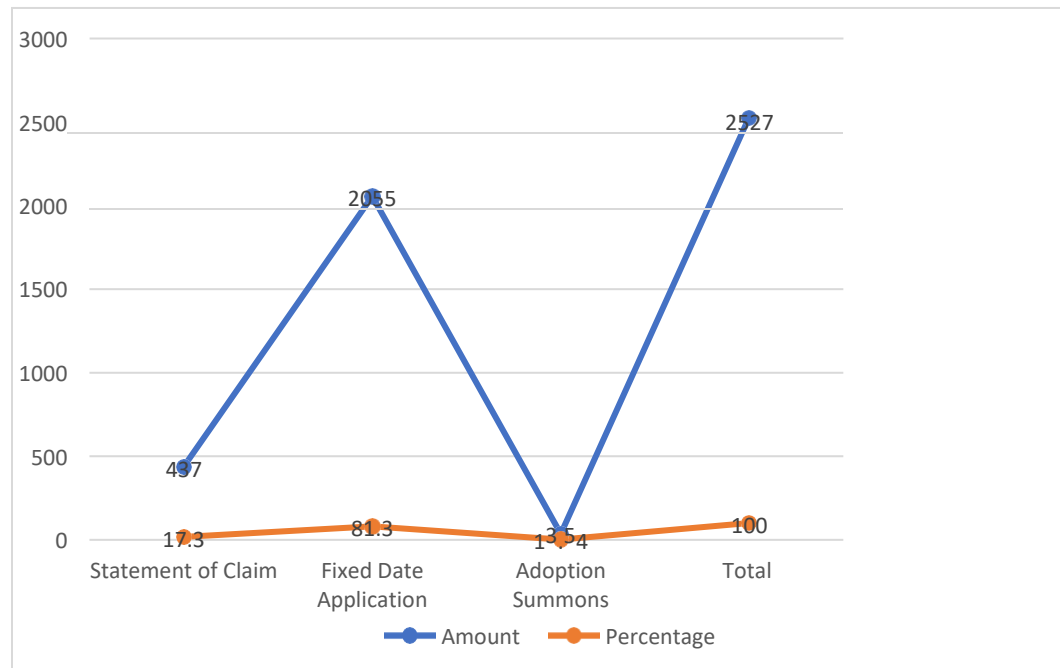
Source of Referral	No. of cases filed in 2019	Pending in 2019 only	No. of cases filed & concluded in 2019	No. of cases Concluded & in 2019 but not filed in 2019	Total No. of cases concluded in 2019
Statement of Claim	437	248	189	147	336
Fixed Date Application	2055	552	1503	671	2174
Full Court Appeal	128	104	24	28	52
High Court Appeal	1	1	0	0	0
Judgement Summons	113	33	80	0	80
Criminal Cases	219	193	26	59	85
Adoption Summons	35	20	15	7	22
TOTAL	2988	1151	1837	912	2749

Table 2a & Figure 2b: Show the contrast between Statement of Claim, Fixed Date Application and Adoption Summons over twelve (12) months - (January - December, 2019).

Table 2a:

Intake Matters	Amount	Percentage
Statement of Claim	437	17.3%
Fixed Date Application	2055	81.3%
Adoption Summons	35	1.4%
Total	2527	100%

Table 2b



PROBATE SECTION; GEORGETOWN/DEMERARA

**GRAPHS SHOW STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE PROBATE SECTION AND WORK DONE DURING
2019**

PROBATE SECTION

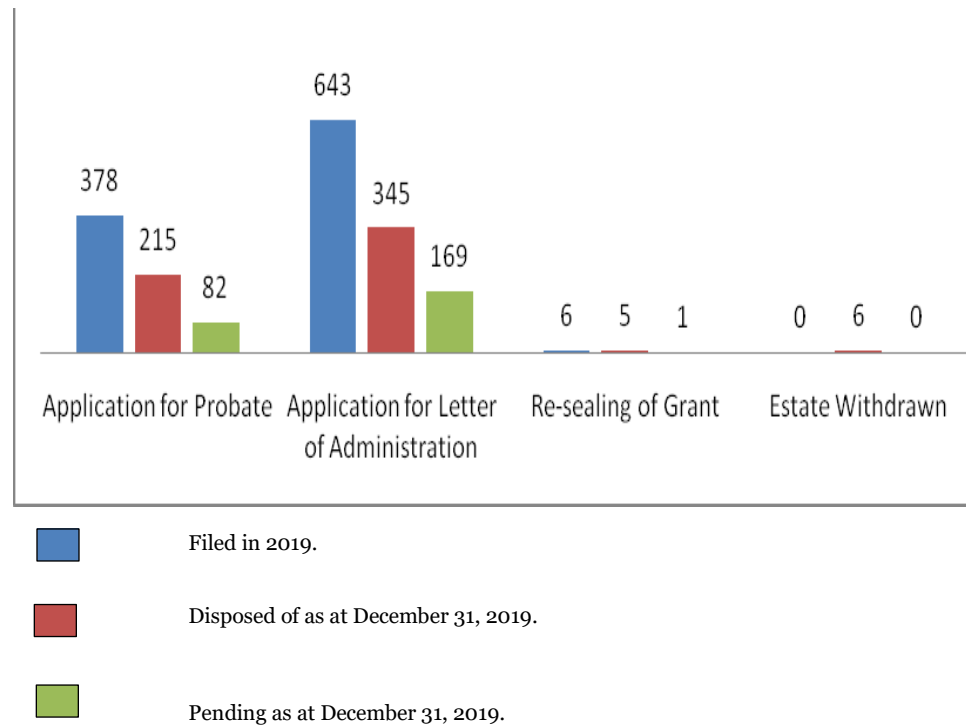
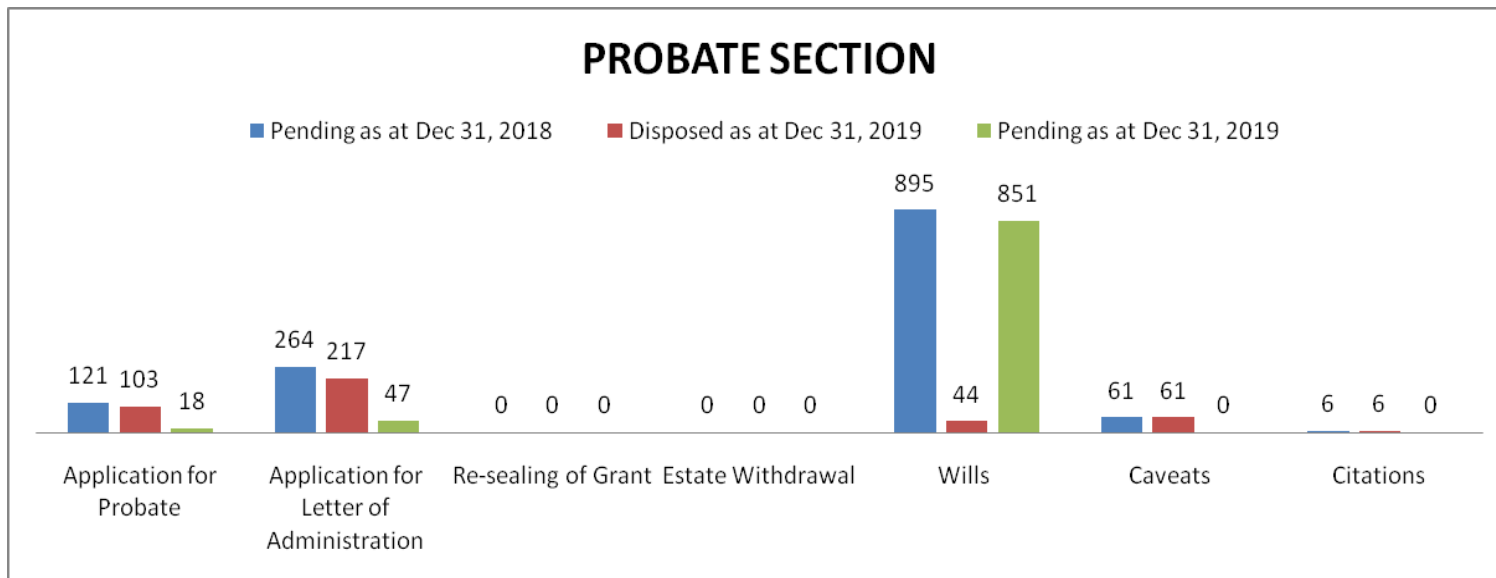


TABLE SHOWS STATUS OF MATTERS PENDING AT 31ST December, 2018 and COMPLETED OF 31ST

DECEMBER, 2019



MARSHAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: TWO COUNTIES OF GUYANA

Marshal Section Work Performance Report of the three Counties of Guyana for the Judicial Year 2019.

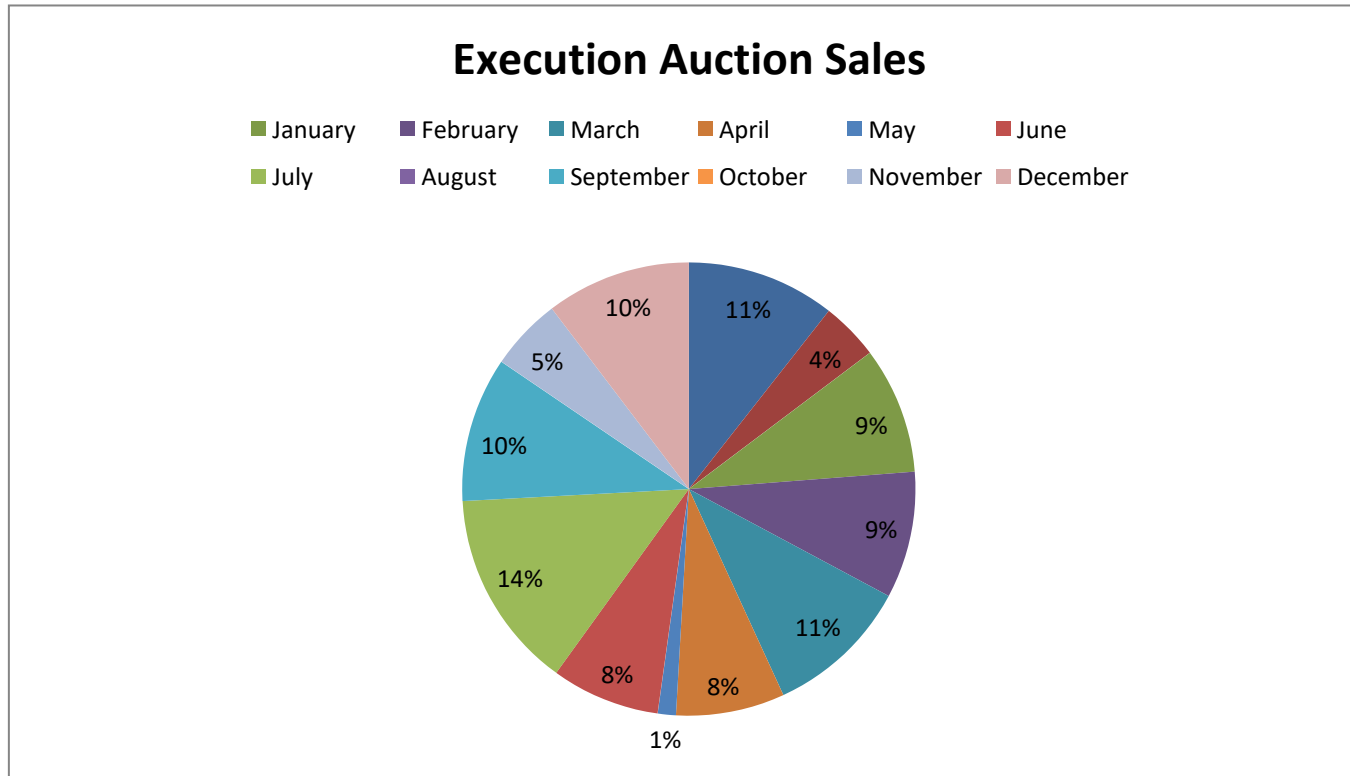
DEMERARA

Table Showing Total Execution Auction Sales held by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial year 2019

Months	Dates	Total Properties Advertised	Total Sales
January	8-01-19	12	7
February	12-02-19	22	7
March	12-03-19	28	8
April	23-04-19	21	6
May	28-05-19	22	1
June	10-06-19	4	1
	11-06-19	4	4
	24-06-19	3	1
July	30-07-19	26	11
August	-	-	-
September	24-09-19	15	8
October	-	-	-
November	6-11-19	14	4
December	3-12-19	7	2
	17-12-19	18	6
Total		196	66

DEMERARA

Chart Showing Total Execution Auction Sales held by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial year 2019



BERBICE

Chart Showing Total Execution Auction Sales held by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial year 2019

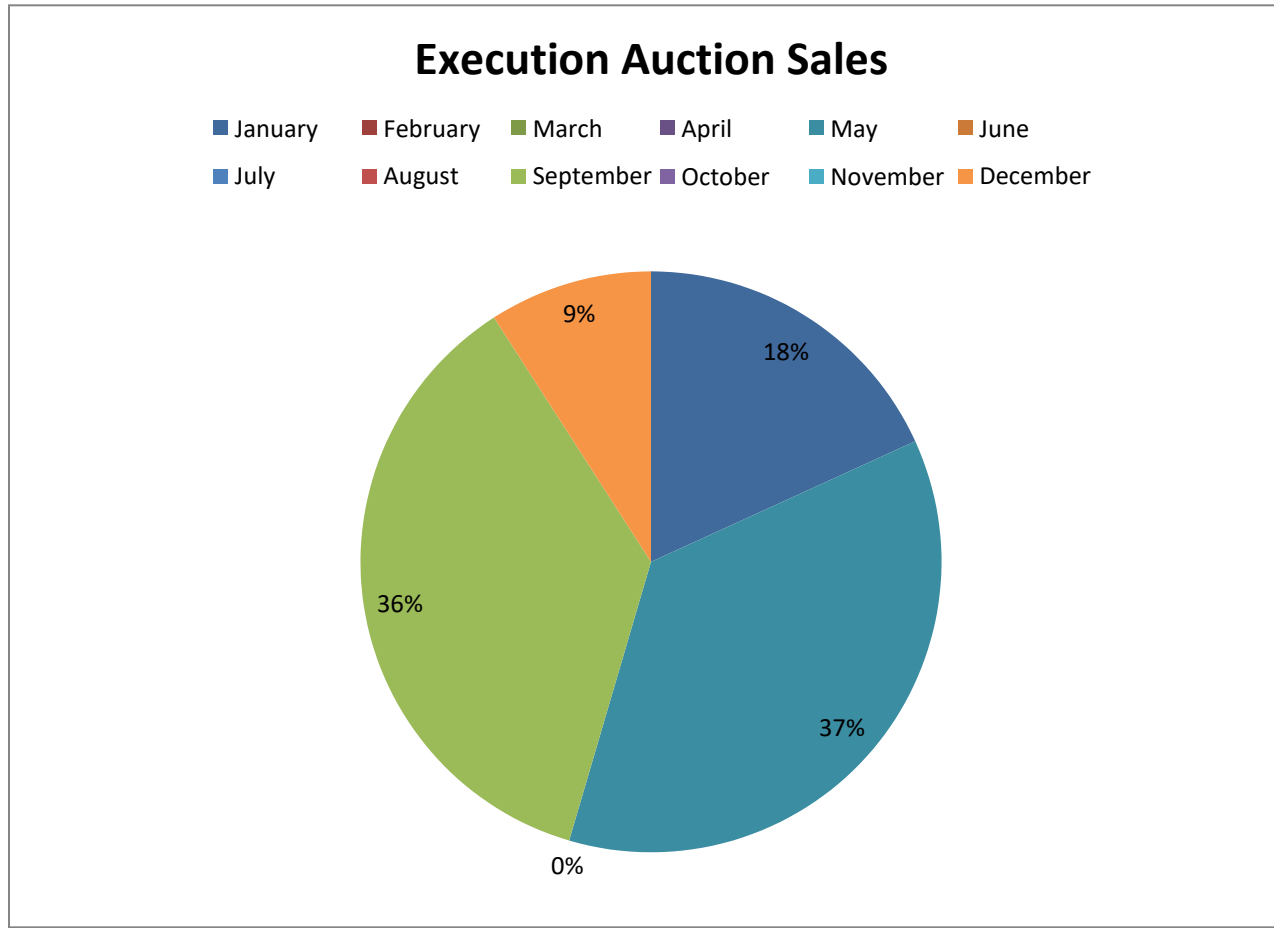
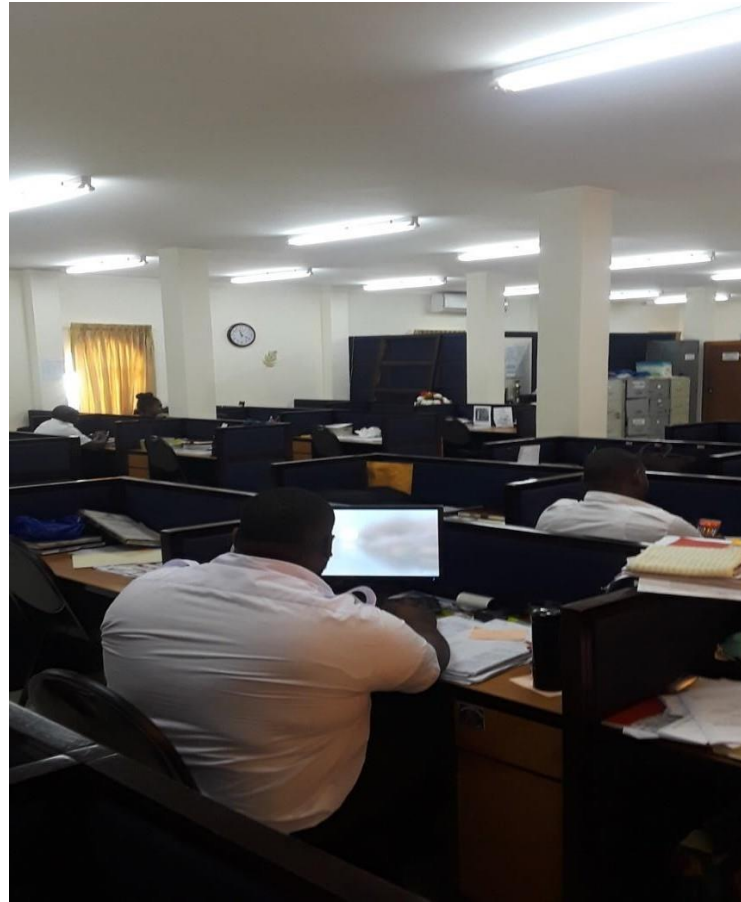


Table Showing Total Execution Auction Sales held by Registrar of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the Judicial year 2019

Hereunder are some pictures showing Marshals performing duties





Picture showing Marshal Christopher Haynes preparing to carry out a task via computer system



Picture showing Marshal Stephanie Noble delivering counter service to the general public



Picture showing Marshals preparing themselves to deliver service to the general public having reported to duty



Picture showing fourteen of twenty-six Marshals of Marshal Section, Demerara

FAMILY COURT REPORT

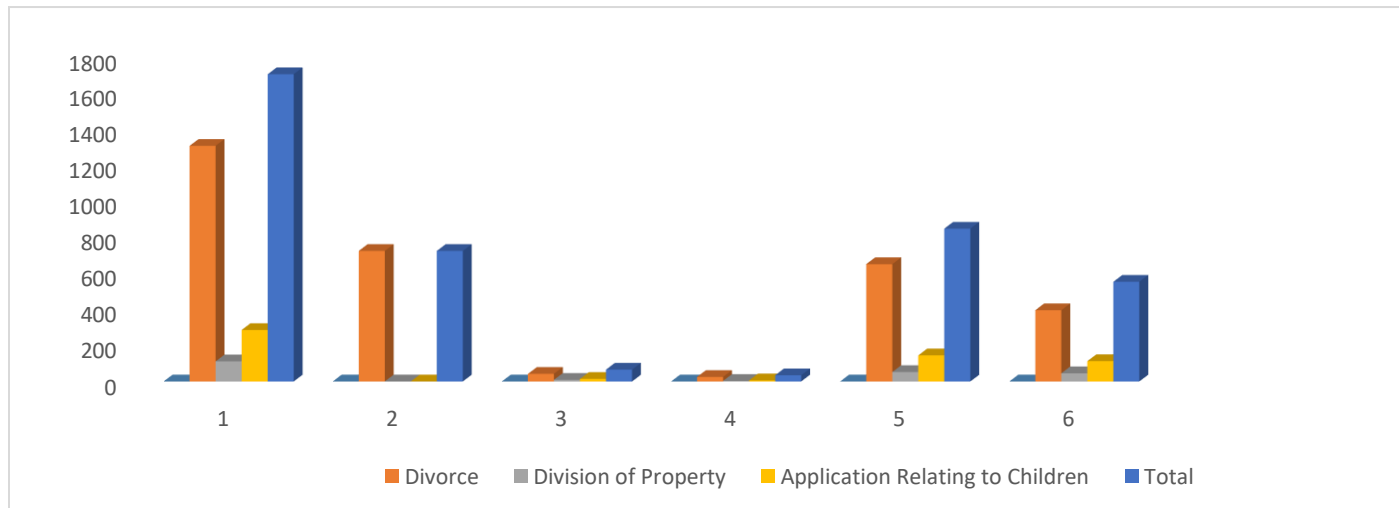


Table 1 and Figure 1a shows the various category of matters dealt with at the Family Court and Orders granted.

Table 1:

Figure 1a:

Category	Amount	Nisi Orders	Withdrawn /Dismissal	Struck Out	Concluded	Pending
Divorce	1300	720	42	25	647	393
Division of Property	111	-	9	3	52	45
Application Relating to Children	284	-	14	6	144	112
Total	1695	720	65	34	843	550



Categories of matters dealt with at the Family Court

Table 2a & Figure 2b: Shows the contrast between Custody, Access with Maintenance & Division of Property, Custody, Access with Maintenance and Custody with Access Applications over twelve (12) months - (January- December 2019) period which highlights a noticeable increase in comparison to the total numbers filed for 2018.

Table 2a:

Intake Matters	2018 Amount	2019 Amount	Variance 2019-2018	Percentage
Custody, Access with Maintenance & Division of Property	156	201	45	0.45
Custody, Access with Maintenance	15	22	7	0.07
Custody with Access	40	63	23	0.23
Total	211	286	75	0.75

Figure 2b

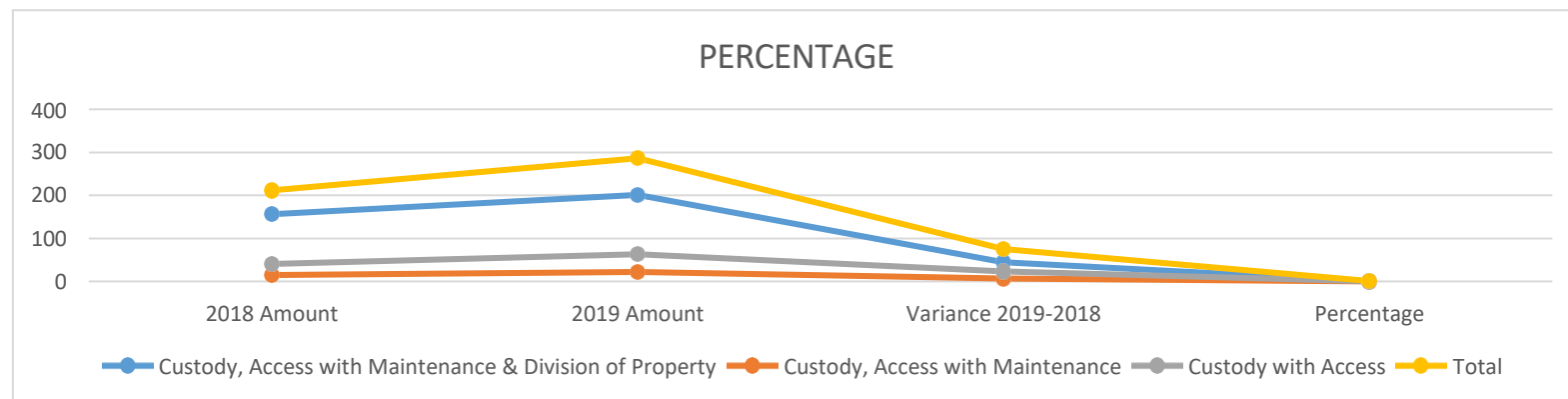


Table 3a & Figure 3b: Shows the comparison between Division of Property, Injunction, Division of Property with Maintenance (spouse or child/ren) and Maintenance (spouse or child/ren) with Access Applications over twelve (12) months - (January-December 2019), which shows a definite increase when compared with the total number of matters in the same category for 2018.

Table 3a:

Intake Matters	2018 Amount	2019 Amount	Variance 2019-2018	Percentage
Division of Property	16	45	29	0.29
Injunction (custody of child or division of property matters)	4	6	2	0.02
Division of Property with Maintenance	24	30	6	0.06
Maintenance with Access	12	25	13	0.13
Total	56	106	50	0.5

Figure 3b:

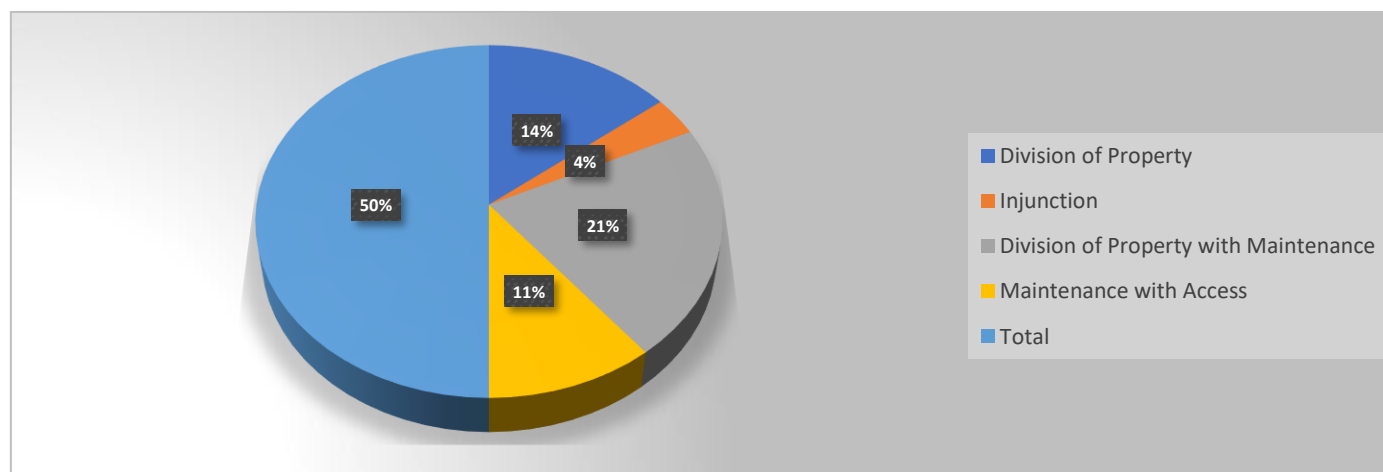


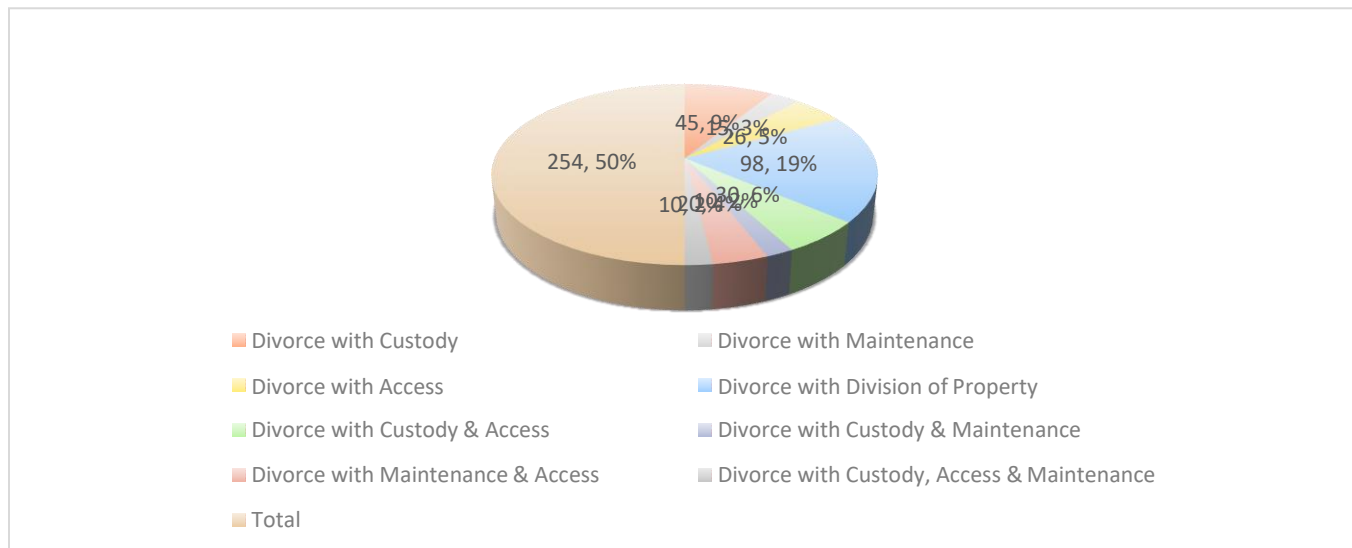
Table 4a & Figure 4b: Shows the comparison between Divorce with Custody, Divorce with Maintenance, Divorce with Access, Divorce with Division of Property, Divorce with Custody & Access, Divorce with Custody & Maintenance, Divorce with Maintenance & Access and Divorce with Custody, Access & Maintenance Applications over a period of twelve (12) months - (January- December 2019). When compared to the same category of matters filed for the year 2018 the figures are indicative of a significant increase in matters filed.

Table 4a:

Intake Matters	Amount 2018	Amount 2019	Variance 2019-2018	Percentage
Divorce with Custody	45	51	6	0.06
Divorce with Maintenance	15	35	20	0.2
Divorce with Access	26	86	60	0.6
Divorce with Division of Property	98	102	4	0.04
Divorce with Custody & Access	30	35	5	0.05
Divorce with Custody & Maintenance	10	26	16	0.16
Divorce with Maintenance & Access	20	78	58	0.58

Divorce with Custody, Access & Maintenance	10	62	52	0.52
Total	254	475	221	2.21

Figure 4b:



FAMILY COURT CHILD CARE FACILITY



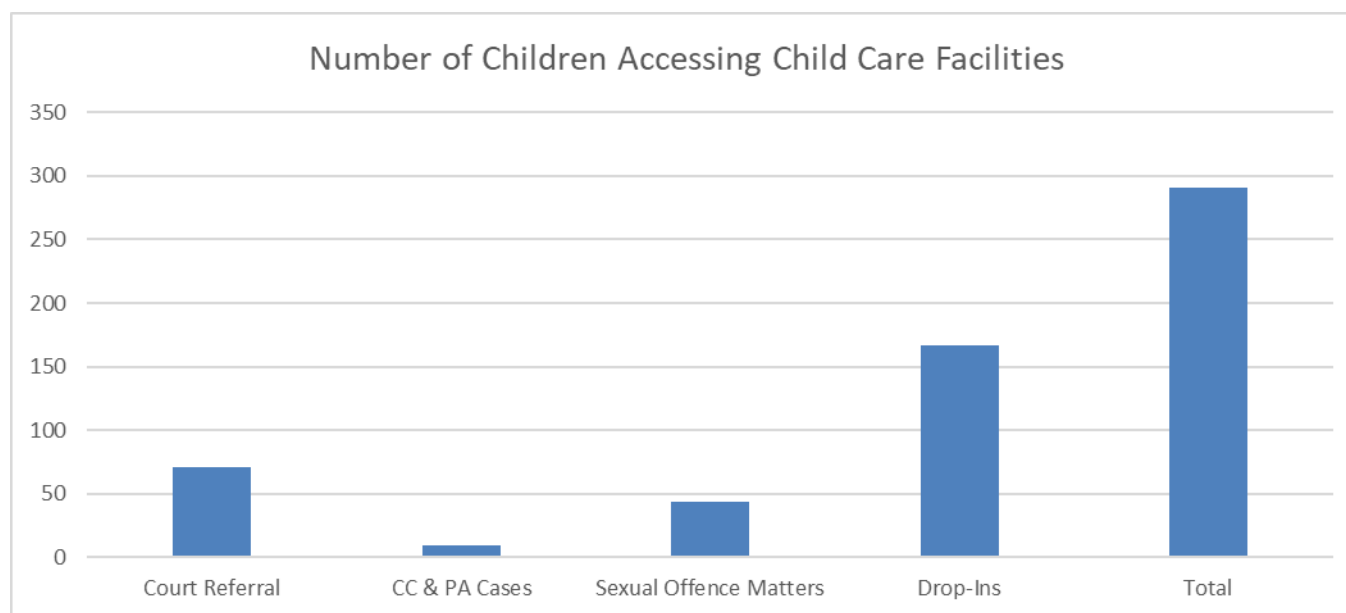
The Child Friendly Room is located at the Family Court. Children from different Courts are able to have access to this facility. The table below shows that seventy-one (71) children who accessed this facility were referred to by various courts, nine (9) children were referred from the Child Care and Protection Agency, while forty-four (44) children were referred from the sexual offence matters and one hundred and sixty-seven children were drop in cases. (Drop in cases are applicants/persons who visit the court for court purpose and would use the facility to care for children while they attend to matters at the court).

Figure 6a & 6b: Shows the number of children accessing the Childcare Facilities for a twelve (12) months period - (January- December, 2019).

Figure 6a:

Source of referral	Number of Children Accessing Child Care Facilities
Court Referral	71
Child Care & Protection Agency Cases	9
Sexual Offence Matters	44
Drop-Ins	167
Total	291

Figure 6b:



LAND COURT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Summary of work Accomplished for the year 2019 (Land Court Registry)

2019 LAND COURT CONCLUDED MATTERS = 599							
PETITIONS				LAND REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS			
Demarara Petitions	Essequibo Petitions	Berbice Petitions	Total petitions all counties	Demerara LR	Essequibo LR	Berbice LR	Total LR applications all counties
315	107	66	488	87	24	0	111

Land Court Petitions and Land Registration Applications Summary 2019						
	PETITIONS			LAND REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS		
	Demerara	Essequibo	Berbice	Demerara	Essequibo	Berbice
Pending at 31 December 2018	584	218	531	65	29	810
Filed Jan-Dec 2019	311	74	222	72	20	115
Total	895	292	753	137	49	925
Concluded in Jan - Dec 2019	315	107	66	87	24	0
Pending at 31 December 2019	580	185	687	50	25	925

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY REPORT

CRIMINAL

A total of thirty-two (32) Criminal Depositions were filed during the year 2019. One Hundred and fifty-one (151) were pending on December 31st, 2018, making a grand total of one hundred and seventy-four (174) Criminal Matters to be heard in 2019. Forty-One (41) matters were disposed in 2019 leaving a total of one hundred and forty-two (142) matters pending on December 31st, 2019.

TABLE SHOWING CRIMINAL MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

Pending at December 31 st , 2018	151
Filed in 2019	32
Disposed in 2019	44
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	142

CIVIL

A total of one hundred and sixty (160) Civil Matters were filed in 2019 and one hundred and forty-five (145) were pending at December 31st, 2018, making a grand total of three hundred and five (305) matters to be heard in 2019. One hundred and forty-seven (147) of those matters were disposed in 2019 leaving a total of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) matters pending at December 31st, 2019.

TABLE SHOWING CIVIL MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Summons and other Applica tions	Fixed Date Applica tions	Judgmen t Summon s	Divorce	Family Divis ion	Statement of claim	Total
Pending at December 31 st , 2018	-	7	5	27	40	18	97
Filed in 2019	-	36	5	-	94	25	160
Disposed in 2019	-	34	5	3	87	15	144
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	-	9	5	24	47	28	113

LAND COURT

Twenty-six (26) Petitions for prescriptive titles were filed in 2019 and ninety-two (92) were pending at 31st December, 2018, making a grand total of one hundred and eighteen (118) matters to be heard in 2019. Fifty-four (54) of those were heard leaving a total of sixty-four (64) matters pending at December 31st, 2019.

TABLE SHOWING LAND COURT MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	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 at December 31 st , 2018	92	-	-	-	-
Filed in 2019	26	-	-	-	-
Disposed in 2019	54	-	-	-	-
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	64	-	-	-	-

LAND PETITION MATTERS RECEIVED FROM GEORGETOWN

Pending at December 31 st , 2018	20
Received from Georgetown in 2019	2
Disposed in 2019	11
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	11

PROBATE

Ten (10) applications for Probate and thirty-one (31) applications for Letters of Administration were filed in 2019. Twelve (12) applications for Probate and thirty-one (31) applications for Letters of Administration were disposed.

TABLE SHOWING PROBATE MATTERS IN ESSEQUIBO

	Application for Probate	Application for Letters of Administration
Pending at December 31 st , 2018	10	22
Filed in 2019	10	31
Disposed in 2019	12	31
Pending at December 31 st , 2019	8	22

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY**CRIMINAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019**

YEAR	SESSION	NO. OF CASES LISTED	NO. DISPOSED	CON-VICTIONS	ACQUITTALS	NOLLE PROSQUI
2019	February	81	16	7	9	6
2019	May	74	20	6	15	-
2019	October	63	5	1	4	2
TOTAL		218	41	14	28	8

Note: Forty-eight (48) cases on the list keep recurring. These are cases where Arrest Warrants were issued for the Accused but have not been executed.

ESSEQUIBO SUB-REGISTRY – CRIMINAL CASES FOR 2019 DISAGGREGATED BY OFFENCE AND GENDER

OFFENCE	MALE	FEMALE	CONVICTED	ACQUITTED	NOLLE PROSEQUI
19 Rape of a Child Under 16 Years	22	-	-	22	-
2 Rape	2	-	-	2	-
7 Manslaughter	8	-	7	1	-
9 Murder	9	-	6	3	-
1 Sexual Activity with a Child (Family Member)	1	-	1	-	-
2 Attempt Murder and Wounding with Intent	2	-	-	2	-
TOTAL	44	-	14	30	-

BERBICE SUB-REGISTRY REPORT

TABLE 1: STATUS OF CIVIL MATTERS, 2019

	SPECIALLY INDORSED WRIT	WRIT OF SUMMONS	SUMMONS & OTHER APPLICATIONS	ADOPTION (OLD)	ADOPTION FILED IN 2019	JUDGMENT SUMMONS	JUDGMENT SUMMONS UNDER THE REGULAR JURISDICTION	GENERAL PETITION	DIVORCE	STATEMENT OF CLAIM	FIXED DATE APPLICATION	TOTAL
Pending at 31/12/2019	199	428	103	463	NIL	41	16	-	84	107	110	1658
Filed in Jan – Dec 2018	NIL	NIL	NIL	8	8	13	56	-	-	149	332	566
Disposed Jan – Dec 2019	187	386	102	0 All Files sent to Chief Justice (old)	8	52	17	-	84	93	269	1206
Pending at 2019/12/31	12	42	1	463	0	2	55	-	-	163	173	911

TABLE 2: STATUS OF FAMILY COURT MATTERS, 2019

	DIVORCE (OLD RULE)	DIVORCE ONLY	DIVORCE WITH CHILDREN	DIVORCE WITH CUSTODY	DIVORCE WITH DIVISION OF PROPERTY	DIVORCE WITH MAINTENANCE	APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR MAINTENANCE	CUSTODY	APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR DIVISION OF PROPERTY	CUSTODY WITH FINANCIAL RELIEF/DIVISION OF PROPERTY	DIVORCE WITH CUSTODY/FINALCIAL RELIEF/DIVISION OF PROPERTY	TOTAL
Pending at 31/12/2018	84	16	6	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	110
Filed in Jan – Dec 2019	-	200	155	20	13	5	5	56	4	4	4	466
Disposed Jan – Dec 2019	84	114	91	14	9	4	5	46	3	3	3	376
Pending at 2019/12/31	-	102	70	7	4	1	0	10	2	3	1	200

TABLE 3: STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE LAND COURT, 2019

	Petition For Title	Section 35	Land Registration Section 79	Land Registration Section 107	Land Registration Section 38	Total
Pending at 2018/12/31	345	NIL	25	572	NIL	942
Filed in 2019	222	NIL	10	18	87	337
Disposed of 2019	274	NIL	5	88	NIL	367
Pending at 2019/12/31	293	NIL	30	502	NIL	825

TABLE 4: STATUS OF MATTERS BEFORE THE FULL COURT

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	CONSIDERATION/DISMISSAL
Pending at 2018/12/31	-	-	-
Filed in 2019	24	20	-
Disposed of in 2019	3	4	-
Pending at 2019/12/31	21	16	74

TABLE 5: STATUS OF MATTERS FILED IN THE PROBATE SECTION, 2019

	Letters of Administration	Probate	Re-Sealing of Grant	TOTAL
Pending at 2018/12/31	125	60	-	185
Filed 2019	103	44	-	147
Disposed 2019	130	44	-	174
Pending at 2019/12/3 1	98	60	-	158

THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS REPORT

WORK PERFORMANCE
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

TABLE 1 - CRIMINAL CASES MATTERS

District		Summary	Indictable	Narcotic s	Traffic	PI	Paper Commit al	Inquest	TIP
GEORGETOWN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT	Pending 2018-12-31	599	901	116	1103	42	-	45	18
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	6728	813	189	7633	126	20	27	3
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	6667	788	183	7434	117	20	5	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	702	926	122	1302	51	-	67	21
BERBICE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT	Pending 2018-12-31	2015	103	30	119	26	-	3	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	1950	274	82	865	26	4	4	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	1881	272	95	923	46	4	5	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	274	78	17	61	6	-	2	-

WBMD	Pending 2018-12-31	82	40	11	24	-	1	-	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	768	65	27	744	13	8	-	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	748	71	20	727	6	1	-	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	102	34	18	41	7	8	-	-
CMD	Pending 2018-12-31	272	163	20	39	26	12	6	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	1658	218	71	812	44	17	7	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	1701	237	74	779	50	16	-	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	229	144	17	72	20	13	13	-
EDMD	Pending 2018-12-31	496	181	47	183	22	15	36	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	3999	369	141	3303	35	66	31	2
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	3377	449	125	1682	30	24	-	2
	Pending 2019-12-31	1118	101	63	1804	27	57	67	-

EMD	Pending 2018-12-31	368	32	58	124	16	6	42	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	1295	253	100	783	57	31	12	6
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	1254	257	128	802	53	19	21	5
	Pending 2019-12-31	409	28	30	105	20	18	33	1
WDMD	Pending 2018-12-31	2078	325	200	1720	52	-	30	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	2535	300	235	1700	75	-	7	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	1489	255	162	1324	20	-	6	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	3124	428	463	2096	107	-	31	-
UDRDM	Pending 2018-12-31	277	110	36	376	2	3	3	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	58	70	30	564	8	18	5	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	212	98	20	699	10	21	1	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	123	82	46	241	-	-	7	-

RMD	Pending 2018-12-31	6	6	1	-	-	-	9	1
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	231	47	14	418	10	4	-	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	220	36	10	393	2	2	1	1
	Pending 2019-12-3	17	17	5	25	8	2	8	-

PERFORMANCE
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

TABLE 2 - CIVIL CASES MATTERS

District		Possession	Other Claims	Total
GMD	Pending 2018-12-31	17	27	44
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	176	709	885
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	180	723	903
	Pending 2019-12-31	13	13	26
BMD	Pending 2018-12-31	2	3	5
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	25	50	75
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	25	47	72
	Pending 2019-12-31	2	6	8
WBMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	1	1
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	4	17	21
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	2	18	20
	Pending 2019-12-31	2	-	2
CMD	Pending 2018-12-31	9	4	13
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	21	57	78
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	24	52	76
	Pending 2019-12-31	6	9	15
	Pending 2018-12-31	15	16	31

EDMD	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	59	91	150
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	53	63	116
	Pending 2019-12-31	31	44	65
EMD	Pending 2018-12-31	7	25	32
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	10	37	47
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	15	58	73
	Pending 2019-12-31	2	4	6
WDMD	Pending 2018-12-31	18	40	58
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	30	35	65
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	20	19	39
	Pending 2019-12-31	28	56	84
UDRMD	Pending 2018-12-31	5	11	16
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	5	18	23
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	10	29	39
	Pending 2019-12-31	-	-	-
RMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	-	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	-	4	4
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	-	4	4
	Pending 2019-12-31	-	-	-

WORK PERFORMANCE
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

TABLE 3 - BAILIFF'S SECTION MATTERS

District		Service of Summons	Ejectment warrant	Writ of Execution	Auction Sales
GMD	Pending 2018-12-31	32	1	6	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	614	2	-	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	618	3	6	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	28	-	-	-
BMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	-	1	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	47	2	2	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	47	2	1	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	-	-	2	-
WBMD	Pending 2018-12-31	3	1	14	1
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	575	-	-	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	503	-	-	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	75	1	14	1
CMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	-	-	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	38	1	2	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	38	1	2	-

	Pending 2019-12-31	-	-	-	-
EDMD	Pending 2018-12-31	5	5	31	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	127	11	5	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	128	10	-	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	4	6	36	-
EMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	11	151	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	56	-	-	1
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	56	2	15	1
	Pending 2019-12-31	-	9	136	-
WDMD	Pending 2018-12-31	49	5	-	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	65	4	-	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	35	4	-	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	79	5	-	-
UDRMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	3	6	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	367	2	2	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	362	5	8	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	5	-	-	-
RMD	Pending 2018-12-31	-	-	-	-
	Filed Jan - Dec 2019	-	-	-	-
	Disposed Jan - Dec 2019	-	-	-	-
	Pending 2019-12-31	-	-	-	-

WORK PERFORMANCE
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

TABLE 4 - TRAFFIC TICKETS

District	No. of ticket cases filed Jan – Dec2019	Total No. of ticket paid Jan – Dec 2019 in office	Amount of money collected in office \$	No. of ticket sent to Court	Total No. of ticket disposed	Amount paid in Court \$
GMD	7,667	1,391	8,740,500	7,519	7,357	-
BMD	2,476	397	2,652,500	2,079	2,097	107,500
WBMD	1,449	454	2,410,000	1,091	1,250	308,750
CMD	4,124	432	3,022,500	3,692	3,692	782,500
EDMD	3,745	623	3,431,075	2,474	2,376	145,000
EMD	1,013	699	2,884,000	347	359	-

WDMD	3,432	431	2,725,000	3,001	3,001	150,000
UDRMD	1,588	425	2,615,100	1,304	1,555	-
RMD	8	8	55,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	25,502	4,860	28,535,675	21,160	21,687	1,639,250

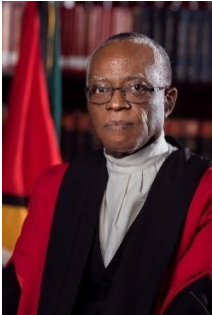
WORK PERFORMANCE
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

TABLE 5- REVENUE

DISTRICT	FINES	FEES	Commission on Bailiff sale	COSTS	M&TC FINES	BAIL ESCHEATED
GMD	48,307,300	634,310	-	17,500	2,935,500	2,390,000
BMD	12,075,000	239,660	-	388,700	-	1,255,000
WBMD	7,288,200	344,820	-	69,125	-	-
CMD	9,190,000	169,515	-	495,150	-	1,245,000
EDMD	19,209,505	314,460	-	-	-	-
WDMD	15,365,350	286,215	-	-	-	310,000
EMD	11,546,900	489,415	-	-	-	1,125,000
UDRMD	8,630,905	74,300	-	-	-	75,000
RMD	3,990,500	184,500	-	10,000	-	-
TOTAL	135,603,660	2,737,195	-	980,475	2,935,500	6,400,000

RETIREMENTS AND OBITUARY IN 2019

Justice JAMES ROYBURN LIONEL BOVELL-DRAKES



James Royburn Lionel Bovell-Drakes was born on October 13, 1954.

He was appointed State Counsel on September 1, 1993, until 1995 when he was promoted to Senior State Counsel (acting) from February 13, 1996. He later resigned from the post on May 7, 1998,. Justice Bovell-Drakes was 50 years of age when he was appointed Puisne Judge on June 30, 2004. The Judge officially retired from the Supreme Court of Judicature-Guyana with effect from November 1, 2019.

Commissioner of Title MELISSA ANN ROBERTSON



Melissa Ann Robertson was born on September 14, 1964.

Following her admission to the Bar, she worked at the Attorney General's Chambers for five years (1990 to 1995).

Between 1995 and 1998, she was employed at the Chambers of Mr. Oliver Valz, SC in Hadfield Street and later began practicing privately at the Robertson Law Firm. In 1998, she was sworn in as a Magistrate and later became Chief Magistrate before being sworn in in 2010 as Commissioner of Title. COT Robertson officially retired from the bench as a Land Court Judge on October 1, 2019.



Former Chief Justice (ag) Justice Ian Chang

Obituary

The Judiciary and Magistracy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former Chief Justice Ian Chang C.C.H., S.C., a true son of the soil who died at a city hospital on November 16, 2019.

Justice Chang served as one of the nation's Chief Justices from 2006 until his retirement in 2016. He also served with distinction in the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions for over 20 years. Justice Chang served his profession and fellow Guyanese with great honor and integrity. His was a life of service to the nation. He was respected for his phenomenal legal intellect and was a fountain of legal knowledge which he readily shared. Justice Chang's death will undoubtedly leave a void in the justice system and with colleagues within the legal fraternity whose lives he impacted.

The Judiciary and Magistracy express condolences to the family and friends of Justice Ian Chang. May his soul rest in peace.

19 Events in Pictures

The opening of the Drug Treatment Court at the Georgetown Magistrates' Court in October, 2019



Opening of the Sexual Offences Court in Berbice-May 2019



Opening of the Sexual Offences Court in Essequibo-September 2019



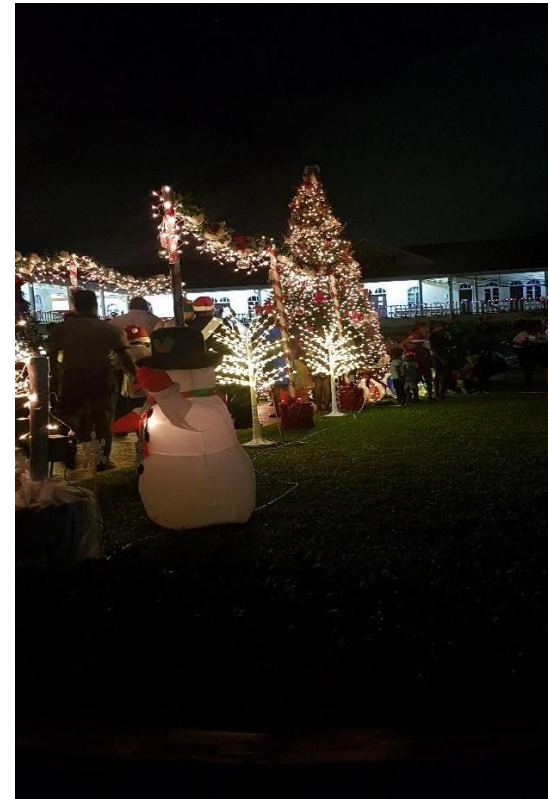


Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting-Berbice



Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting-Demerara





Scenes from Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting- Essequibo



FINANCIAL REPORT

In the year 2018, the Supreme Court submitted its budget proposal for the year 2019 to the Ministry of Finance for the sum of two billion, eight hundred and one million, three hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars (G\$2,801,374,000) for both recurrent (operational) and capital (developmental) expenditures for consideration.

On 5th November 2018 the National Assembly approved the sum of one billion eight hundred and fifty million four hundred and four thousand dollars (G\$1,850,404,000) for recurrent expenditure (salaries and other charges) and four hundred and fifty-eight million, four hundred and seventy-eight thousand dollars (G\$458,478,000) for capital expenditure (buildings, land and water transport and furniture equipment) a total lump sum of one billion, eight hundred and seventy-four million seven hundred and thirty thousand dollars (G\$2,308,882,000).

This approved amount represents 20.17% of the total estimates of eleven billion four hundred and forty-six million, one hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars (G\$11,446,163,000) approved for Constitutional Agencies Budget 2019 and 0.76% of the national budget of three hundred billion seven hundred and nineteen million and eleven thousand dollars (G\$300,719,011,000) approved by the National Assembly for the Public Sector for current and capital expenditure.

After carefully reviewing this lump sum budget of G\$2,308,882,000 via preparation of cash flow and other analyses, it was clear that this amount was inadequate to meet proposed expenditures for employment and other charges cost for the year 2019. However, due to setbacks and delays in employment by the Public Service Commission and the Department of Public Service in giving approvals to fill vacancies and create new posts and the as well as reconstitution of the Judicial Service Commission to appoint Judicial Officers upon the retirement of the Hon. Justice James Bovell-Drakes and Commissioner of Title Ms. Melissa Robertson all led to accumulative savings from our employment cost.

These savings were used to offset negative variances in our other charges expenditures, therefore, no additional funding through supplementary provision was requested from the Ministry of Finance. Hence, the Supreme Court was able to satisfy its obligations towards employees, customers, contractors for the year 2019.

For the Fiscal year ending 31st December 2019, additional funds were received from the Ministry of Finance through Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants to meet the following expenditures: IDW# 2501 – sixty-seven million and sixty-three thousand, four hundred and seventy-nine dollars (\$67,063,479) from chart of account 6141- Other Employment Cost, to meet the expenditure for the payment of salary increases for the year 2019.

Summary of Funds Received for 2019

Approved Budget

Current Expenditure	G\$ 1,850,404,000
Capital Expenditure	<u>G\$ 458,478,000</u>
Total Approved Budget	G\$ 2,308,882,000
Inter/Intra Departmental Allocation Warrants	G\$ 67,063,479
Total Approved Expenditure 2019	<u>G\$ 2,375,945,479</u>

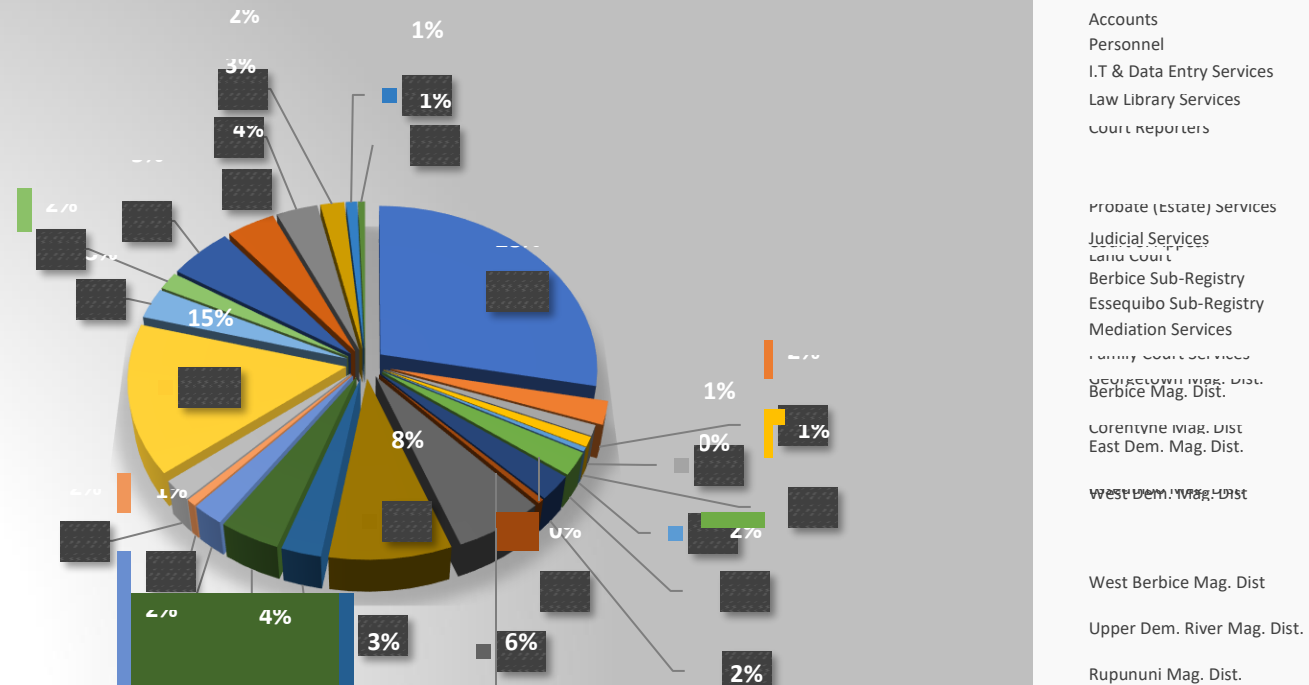
Statutory Cost

To fulfill our obligations with respect to remuneration for Puisne Judges, Justice of Appeals, Chief Justice (ag) and Chancellor (ag) the Supreme Court **expended** the sum of three hundred and sixty-two million, three hundred and thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and twenty-six dollars (G\$362,339,926) on statutory expenditure for the year 2019. This amount represents an increase of ninety-seven thousand seven hundred and three dollars (G\$97,703) or 0.02% from 2018 which is 15.26% of total funds received. This minor increase was as a result of the retirement of one (1) Puisne Judge with effect from 31st October 2019. The savings accumulated were used to offset variances towards the payment of salary in lieu of leave and vacation allowances in 2019.

Employment Cost

The Supreme Court expended the sum of eight hundred and sixty-six million nine hundred and eighty-six thousand and four dollars (G\$866,986,004) towards the payment of salaries and other emoluments for administrative, clerical, semi-skilled & un-skilled, contracted, and temporary employees for the year 2019. This amount represents an increase of fifty-five million, one hundred and thirty-three thousand four hundred and eighty dollars (G\$83,550,366) or 10.66% from 2018 and 36.49% of total funds received for 2019. This increase had resulted from the employment of new staff members and increases in salaries from the prior year 2018 and the current year 2019.

Pie Chart I below shows Actual Statutory and Employment Expenditure (Salaries/Wages/Allowances) by Activity / Department incurred for the year 2019



Other Charges

The Supreme Court expended the sum of six hundred and eighty-eight million, one hundred and forty-one thousand, five hundred and forty-nine dollars (G\$688,141,549) 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 2019. This amount was used to satisfy payments for goods and services, construction and maintenance works geared towards the improvement and proper upkeep of court buildings, daily functioning of the registries and departments and improvements in customer service and staff accommodations and welfare. (This expenditure included sums savings accumulated from employment cost.)

This amount represents an increase of seventy-four million one hundred and twenty-six thousand, seven hundred and seventy-two dollars (G\$74,126,772) or 12.07% from 2018 and 28.96% of total funds received for 2019.

This increase has resulted from the opening of two (2) Sexual Offences Courts – Berbice on 7th May, 2019, and Essequibo on 16th September, 2019, opening of the Drug Treatment Court on 21st October, 2019, the inaugural Clerk of Court, Supervisors and Head Of Department Conference from 27th to 29th September, 2019, and other training programs, increase in Mediation Service Fees by 100%, increase in the number of brief fees for state assigned lawyers, notices in daily newspapers for jurors/witness to attend court, vacancies et cetera, subscription for online cases for the Judges, increase in stationery supplies (photocopier and printer inks and papers, et cetera), payment for shipment of law books donated from U.K., hosting of the Annual Judges and Magistrate's Conferences, increase in maintenance of other infrastructural cost for court facilities, increase in travelling and subsistence for senior officer travelling to district courts and the interior for inspection of maintenance and capital works, vehicle spares due to repairs to Land Cruiser at Lethem and other vehicles at the High Court, equipment maintenance and the general increase in operational expenses during the year 2019.

There was expenditure for staff who were outfitted with formal jackets/blazers to be worn in court and offices and polo-style jerseys for Friday wear. Other Social Activities for staff that incurred expense were the annual Rangoli competition, sharing out of sweetmeats or

meals on religious or National Holidays, Christmas tree light up in all counties, annual staff Social and the addition of a horticulture completion.

Breakdown of Expenditure by Chart of Accounts

♣ Overseas Travelling for Judicial Officers

The Supreme Court expended the sum of thirteen million, two hundred and fifty-one thousand six hundred and eighty-seven dollars (G\$13,251,687) for overseas travelling for Judicial Officers attending conferences, seminars, meeting, workshops/training during the year 2019. The Ministry of the Presidency provided financial support on reimbursed part of the expenditures incurred for the Judges / Magistrates who attended the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) Conference in Belize.

♣ Training

During the year 2019, the Supreme Court expended the sum of twenty-one million two hundred and fifty-nine thousand three hundred and eighty-seven dollars (G\$21,259,387) for conducting several trainings/workshops for Judges, Magistrates and staff members to improve their knowledge and skills.

♣ Security Services

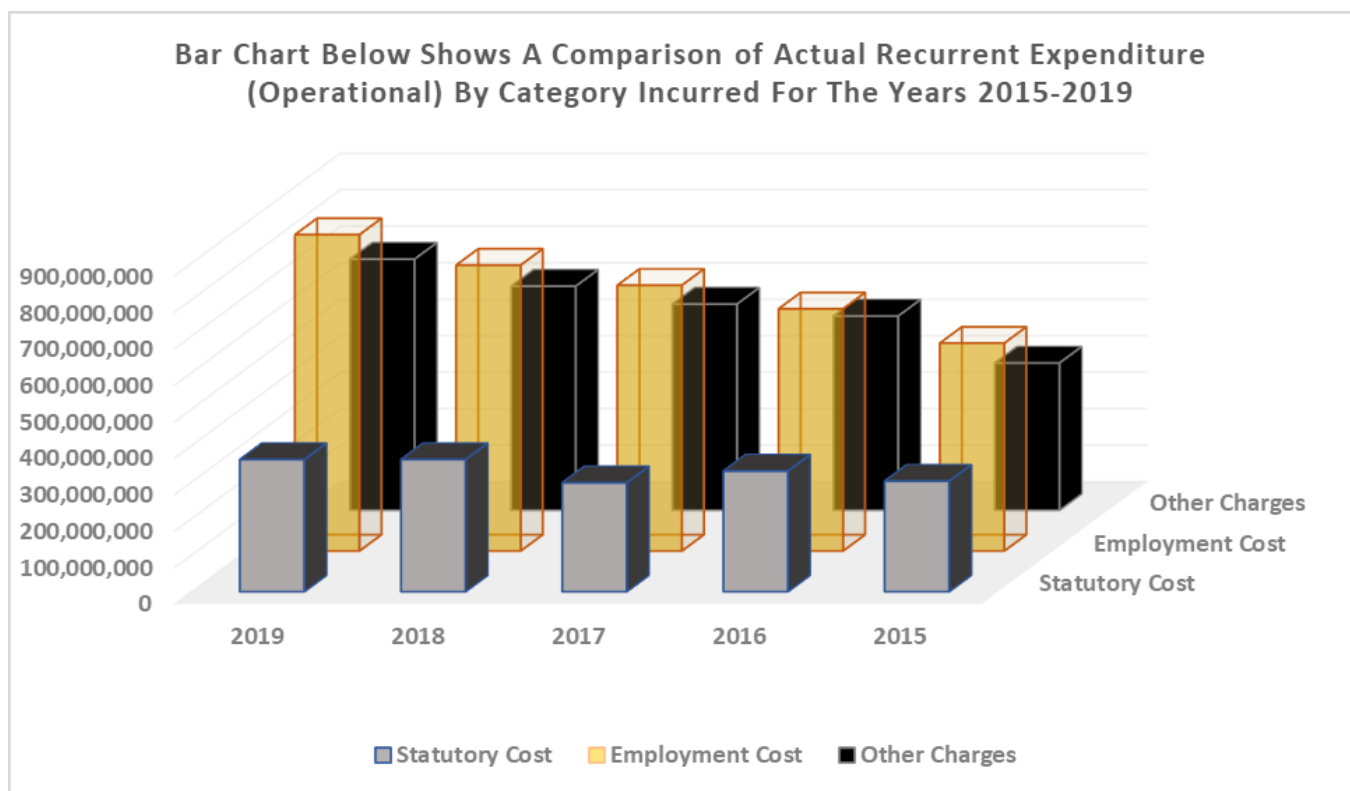
The Supreme Court expended the sum of forty-five million, nine hundred and sixteen thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four dollars (\$45,916,794) to provide security for court buildings and staff members at the Georgetown, Berbice and Essequibo High Courts, Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Linden, Lethem, Leonora and Kwakwani Magistrates' Courts, Court of Appeal, and The Marshal's Bond Lombard Street.

♣ Operating and Court Related Expenses

The Supreme Court expended the sum of six hundred and seven million seven hundred and thirteen thousand six hundred and eighty-one dollars (\$607,713,681) on operating and court related expenses.

Table III below shows a Summary of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) incurred for the years 2015-2019

No.	Line Item/Chart of Account	Actual Expenditure				
		2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1	Statutory Cost	362,339,926	362,242,223	298,689,702	330,821,364	303,154,328
2	Employment Cost	866,986,004	783,435,638	728,302,230	663,650,520	569,582,505
3	Other Charges	688,141,549	614,014,777	564,966,459	532,151,118	403,479,711
	Total	1,917,467,479	1,759,692,638	1,591,958,391	1,526,623,002	1,276,216,544



Summary For 2019 – Current Expenditure

Receipts

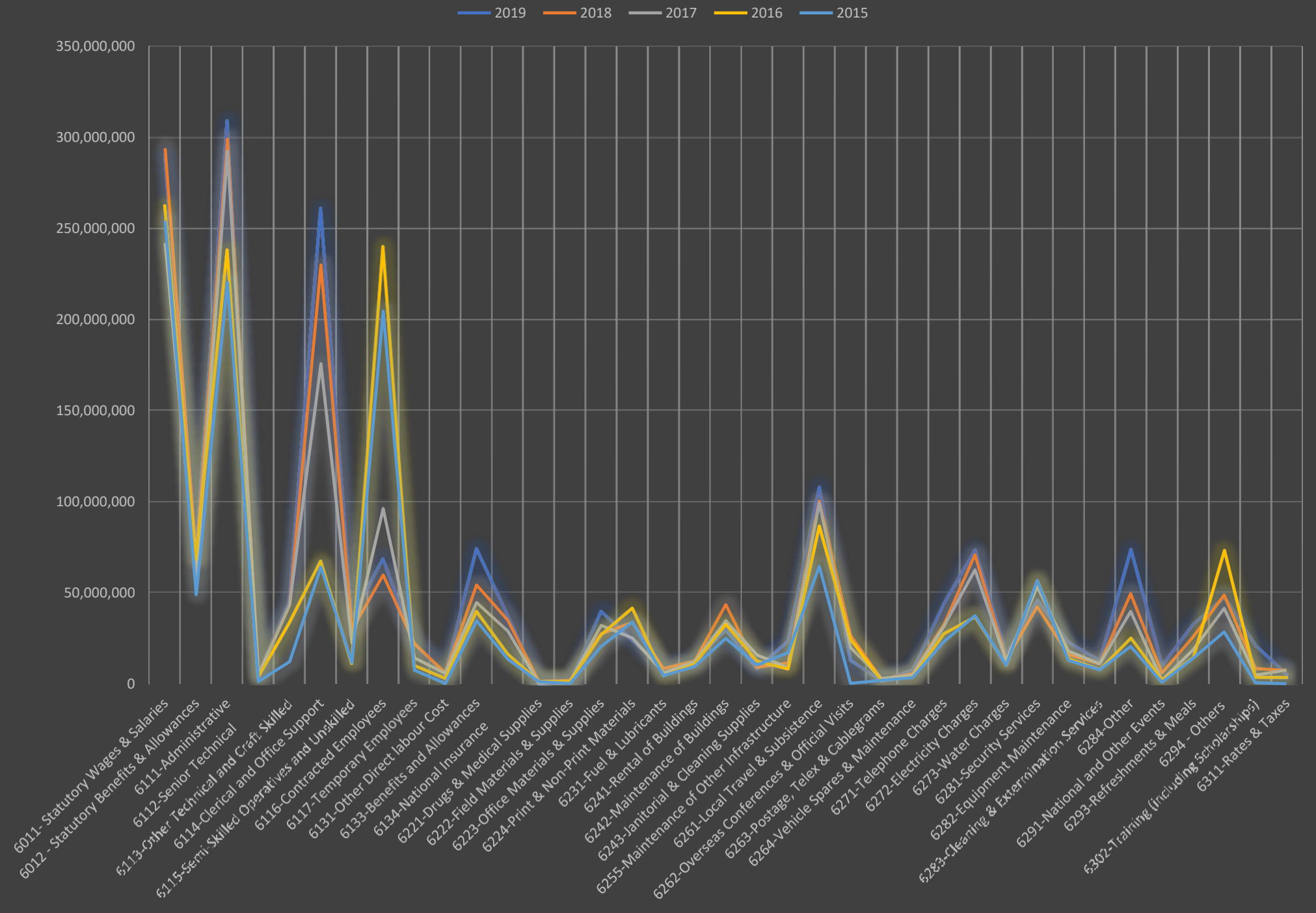
Current Budget 2019 - releases	1,850,404,000	
6141 – Revision of wages & salaries	<u>67,063,479</u>	1,917,467,479

Payments

Statutory Cost	362,339,926	
Employment Cost	866,986,004	
Other Charges	<u>688,141,549</u>	<u>(1,917,467,479)</u>

Balance returned to the consolidated fund on line item 6323 0

Line Chart Showing Comparison of Actual Recurrent Expenditure (Operational) incurred for the Years 2015-2019

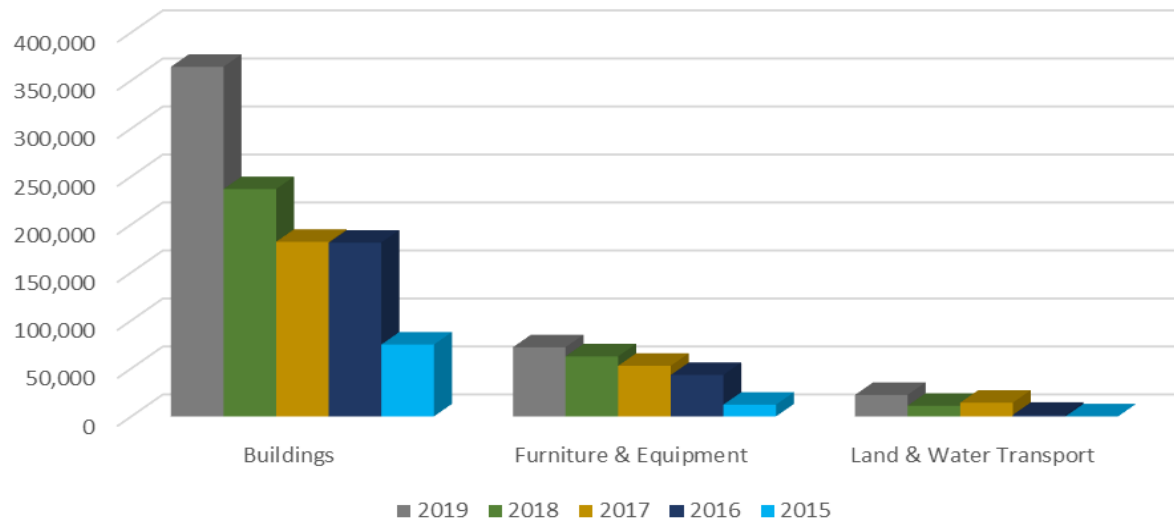


Capital Expenditure

The Supreme Court expended the sum of four hundred and fifty-eight million, four hundred and seventy-seven thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars (\$458,477,999) on Capital expenditure for the year 2019. This represents an increase of one hundred and forty-eight million one hundred and two thousand and thirteen dollars (G\$148,102,013) or 47.71% from 2018. This amount represents 19.29% of the total funds received for 2019.

The main reasons for such an increase were primarily due to the large rollover / multi-year 2018-2019 approval of three hundred and eighty-seven million six hundred and thirty-four thousand four hundred and seven dollars (G\$387,634,407) for Capital – buildings and for a new project in 2019; the Construction of the Magistrate’s and Commissioner of Titles Quarters in New Amsterdam, Barbice.

Bar Chart Showing Comparison of Actual Capital Expenditure (Developmental) incurred for the years 2015 – 2019 (G\$000)



Summary For 2019**Receipts**

Capital Budget 2019	458,478,000
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Payments

Buildings	364,112,713	
Furniture & Equipment	72,015,377	
Land & Water Transport	<u>22,349,909</u>	<u>(458,477,999)</u>

Balance returned to consolidated fund on line item 7011	<u>1</u>
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Buildings

The amount of three hundred and sixty-four million, one hundred and twelve thousand seven hundred and thirteen dollars (\$364,112,713) was expended on Buildings. The following are major works (projects) that were rolled over (multi-year) 2018-2019 and new projects undertaken in 2019:

Roll-over projects for 2018-2019

1. Construction of Diamond / Golden Grove Magistrates' Court Region # 4
2. Rehabilitation of North South Wing of the High Court Georgetown Region No. 4
3. Conversion of Marshal Room to a Storeroom on the West Wing of the G/Town Supreme Court Region 4
4. Construction of Timber Floor, Partition Wall, Shelves et cetera at G/Town Judicial Registry Reg. 4
5. Construction of Bartica Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 7.
6. Construction of Mahdia Magistrate's Court & Living Quarters, Reg. No. 8.
7. Retrofitting of an old building to a Magistrate's Court & Quarters at Kwakwani, Region No. 10
8. Construction of Fountain at the Georgetown Supreme Court, Region No. 4.
9. Installation of Wheelchair Lift and Connection of Standby Generator at the Georgetown Land Court, Region No. 4

New Projects 2019

1. Construction of a Magistrate's & Commissioner of Title's Living Quarters at N/A Berbice Region No. 6.
2. Construction of Remaining 2 sides of Fence to the yard next to Suddie Magistrate's Court Region No. 2.
3. Construction of Guard Hut at the Essequibo Magistrate's Court, Suddie, Region No. 2.
4. Construction of Timber Revetment to Parapet Drains at the Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Court, E.B.D, Region No. 4
5. Construction of Benab at the Diamond/Grove Magistrates' Court, E.B.D, Region No. 4.
6. Supply & Installation of Standby Generator at the Linden Magistrate's Court & Quarters, Region No. 10

Furniture & Equipment

The amount of seventy-two million, fifteen thousand, three hundred and seventy-seven dollars (\$72,015,377) was expended on the purchasing of office furniture and equipment for the various sections and Magisterial Districts within the Supreme Court. This was to provide the staff of the Judiciary with adequate furniture and equipment so that improved office accommodation and operational efficiency could be achieved in a more comfortable and conducive working environment.

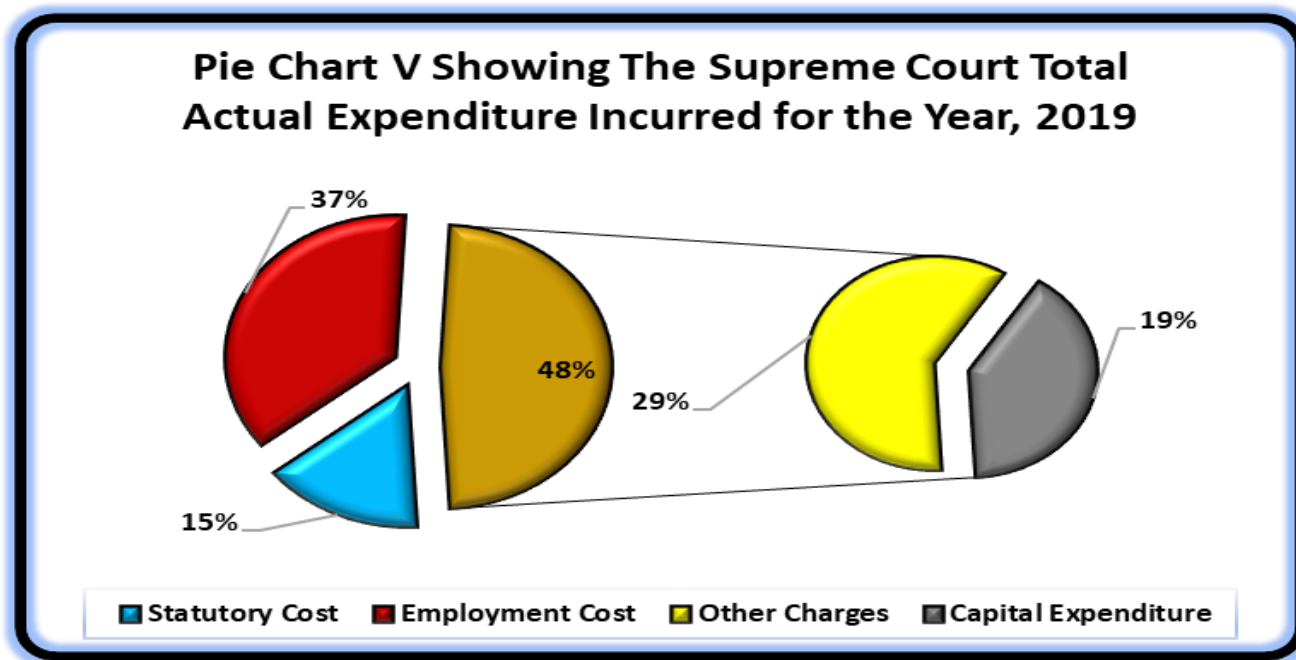
The increased sum was due to the purchase of furniture and equipment to fully furnish the Diamond/Golden Grove, Bartica, and Mahdia Magistrates Courts and Quarters in preparation for their openings.

Land & Water Transport

The Supreme Court submitted in our budget proposal for the year 2019 for the purchase of three (3) motor vehicles under our land and water transport profile. However, due to low budgetary allocation upon approval of the national estimates, the

administration decided to concentrate on the allocation of funds to Capital – Building projects which were rolled over from 2018 as mentioned above.

During the last quarter, October to December 2019, the Supreme Court was faced with many challenges, especially with respect to delays in construction due to disputes, changes in design, and quality of works on our building projects, which led to large accumulated surplus on our capital budget. This surplus was utilized to purchase additional motor vehicles to aid with banking of revenues, transporting of records and with the transporting of officials. The total sum of twenty-two million, three hundred and forty- nine thousand, nine hundred and nine dollars (\$22,349,909) was expended to purchase these vehicles.



Others Receipts – Deposit Fund Line Item

On the 20th February 2019, and 8th March 2019, sums of four million dollars (G\$4,000,000) and five million dollars (G\$5,000,000), respectively, were received and deposited into the Consolidated Fund and entered into IFMIS under the deposit fund line item 2457 – Others. These funds were donated by UNICEF for the setting up of the Berbice Sexual Offences Court which was to be opened on 7th May 2019, and for training seminars. On the 2nd of May, 2019, additional funds totaling nine million eight hundred thousand dollars (G\$9,800,000) were donated by UNICEF towards the setting up of the Essequibo Sexual Offences Court which was opened on 16th September, 2019.

UNICEF further donated on the 7th June 2019, and 16th July 2019, a total sum of four million dollars (G\$4,000,000) towards payment for diversionary options in the Children’s Court and to purchase equipment and hosting of training on Domestic Violence and other support.

On the 27th of September, 2019, the British High Commission through reimbursement refunded the Supreme Court the sum of nine million, four hundred and ninety-eight thousand, two hundred and thirty-one dollars (G\$9,498,231) for expenses incurred towards setting up of the Essequibo Sexual Offences Court.

In the year 2019, the Supreme Court received a total of thirty-two million two hundred and ninety-eight thousand two hundred and thirty-one dollars (G\$32,298,231) from UNICEF and the British High Commission (BHC). As of 31st December 2019, the sum of twenty-six million five hundred and ninety-seven thousand four hundred and eighty-three dollars (G\$26,597,483) was expended leaving a remaining balance of five million seven hundred thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight dollars (G\$5,700,748) rolling over as at 1st January 2020.

REVENUE

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

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

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

Table VII below show a comparison of actual revenue collected for the years 2015 - 2019.

Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Actual Revenue Collected				
		2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	226,574,008	253,945,145	270,167,910	169,602,604	209,729,100
5327	State Costs	1,058,525	1,527,300	2,719,150	4,197,011	2,853,244
5419	Other Loans & Advance	17,827	34,353	25,244	27,148	24,948
5616	Sundries	755,977	856,462	395,413	1,622,528	904,742
5715	Sale of Assets	1,185,000	600,000	4,100,000	-	-
	Total	229,591,337	256,963,260	277,407,717	175,449,291	213,512,034

Table VIII below shows actual revenue collected for the year 2019 as against budgeted amount.

Chart of Accounts	Revenue Name	Budget for 2019	Actual Revenue Collected for 2019	Variance
5326	Fees, Fines & Seizures	273,030,000	226,574,008	(46,455,992)
5327	State Costs	2,900,000	1,058,525	(1,841,475)
5419	Other Loans & Advance	44,000	17,827	(26,173)
5616	Sundries	-	755,977	755,977
5715	Sale of Assets	-	1,185,000	1,185,000
	Total	275,974,000	229,591,337	(46,382,663)

The Supreme Court had an overall reduction in revenue by forty-six million three hundred and eighty-two thousand six hundred and sixty-three dollars (G\$46,382,663). This reduction in revenue was attributed to the number of custodial sentences handed down by Magistrate's rather than monetary fines.