

## ANNEXE H: INFORMATIONS ADDITIONNELLES

- ☛ Guyana Assents to EPA, Guyana Chronicle
- ☛ Gold Scam Update: Legal Minds Combing Documents, Guyana Chronicle
- ☛ Major New Canadian Gold Investments Likely Here, Guyana Chronicle
- ☛ Placer Dome Coming Back, Stabroek News
- ☛ Caterpillar Firm Plans To Be More Aggressive, Guyana Chronicle
- ☛ Firms Near Accord On New Miing Exploration, Guyana Chronicle

# On World Environmental Day

BY SIVEDIA KOWLESAR

Prime Minister, Mr. Sawmoo, formally launched a national Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday, setting up plans to be placed in training and operating staff for monitoring and observations.

The launching followed passage of the Environmental Protection Act in Parliament on May 4.

Minister gave formal assent for the new establishment of a special authority to mark World Environment Day at the National Cultural Centre in Georgetown.

He said the body will share the current Environmental Plan, based at the Office of the President and a full board of directors will be named shortly.

An inter-agency committee will be assigned.

The structure and composition of the EPA are based on many consultations, like the process which led to the passing of the legislation, Minster explained.

Representatives of Government agencies, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and technical experts have exchanged the views to be carried out in different sectors, the staff and resources necessary, and ways in which co-operation with national agencies can be best arranged.

The Prime Minister noted those considerations cannot be regarded as obstacles but provide a guide for the way in which the agency is to be built.

A wide range of functions will require considerable staff

and facilities, and it will not be possible to obtain all of it immediately.

The body is expected to grow in capacity gradually and initially, Mr. Minster said, essential officers will be made a matter of first and - last priority, along with the purchase agreements.

Emphasis will be placed on training and raising staff for monitoring and enforcement and legislative machinery will be developed through an expansion.

Simultaneously, a wide scale environmental education and public awareness programme will be instituted to encourage self-motivating and self-responsibility around the law.

Necessary facilities will be developed for monitoring.

Minister thanked the Inter-American Development and

World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme for support in the preliminary work leading to the launching, and said the authorities will turn attention to the continued assistance during the testing period ahead.

He added that arrangements will have to be done to develop regulations to support the legislation and said legal experts will work closely with the private sector and NGOs to make the legislation broadly acceptable.

"The Government of Guyana is fully committed to pursue a path of sustainable development. As a nation, we seek to rapidly accelerate the growth of our economy and for this, the utilization of our natural resources is vital."

Minister invited readers to turn to inside pages.