



The State of the MV Canawaima between Guyana and Suriname

- *No official word yet on when the main transportation vessel will be restored*

Georgetown, Guyana (August 20th, 2019): On May 27th, 2019, the MV Canawaima Ferry that operates along the Moleson Creek, Guyana - Nickerie, Suriname route was suspended until further notice to facilitate long overdue servicing and repairs by the joint company - the Canawaima Management Company - which is responsible for the ferry service. As a result, the MB Sandaka vessel was a temporary replacement to facilitate the return of passengers and vehicles stranded on both sides from May 31st, 2019 to June 2nd, 2019. Since then, travellers are currently taking advantage of other options to travel back and forth between the two countries by air with Trans Guyana Airways and Surinam Airways and by water with the unconventional “backtrack” option.

In a Stabroek News article dated August 5th, 2019, Minister of Public Infrastructure, David Patterson, was quoted saying that he is confident that this issue would be resolved soon as he was unofficially informed that the parts to repair the vessel have already arrived. He further suggested that a meeting is to be scheduled with the relevant authorities which would provide further clarity on the timeline for the repairs. This information will, of course be released to the general public.

A joint agreement was launched between the governments of Guyana and Suriname in 1998. A Memorandum of Understanding was outlined and it was stipulated that both countries are to equally facilitate the financial and operational arrangements dedicated to the maintenance of the ferry. The Government of Guyana has always held up its end of the agreement.

For more information, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at minfor@guyana.net.gy or call (592)-226-1606/8, 225-6467 or the Ministry of Public Infrastructure at minister@publicinfrastructure.gov.gy or call (592)-225-7420.

About the Guyana Tourism Authority: The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) is a semi-autonomous governmental organisation responsible for developing and promoting sustainable tourism in Guyana through collaboration with sister agencies and the tourism private sector in order to maximise local socioeconomic and conservation outcomes and improve the visitors’ experience. The GTA is focused on Guyana becoming recognised locally and internationally as a premier destination for protecting its natural and cultural heritage, providing authentic experiences, and maximising local economic benefits.

For more information on Guyana’s rich and diverse offerings visit www.guyanatourism.com or follow DiscoverGuyana on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or contact nicola@guyanatourism.com or sade@guyanatourism.com or call +(592) 219-0094.