

Businesses urge slashing of fuel prices, GPL tariffs...

3 Day Data Plan + unlimited SMS for only \$499. gtt+ do more. Smart Talk LOCAL Only \$18 per minute to any number in Guyana. gtt+ do more.

Logs shipment...Indian coffee company insists it did nothing wrong

APRIL 6, 2012 | BY KNEWS | FILED UNDER NEWS

- says still in transition phase

An Indian coffee company which has logging concessions in Guyana yesterday admitted shipping several containers out of the country within recent months, despite no processing facility built here as yet.

In a statement, Vaitarna Holdings Pvt. Inc., apparently the local operating subsidiary of Vaitarna Holdings Private Inc. (VHPI), insisted that the logs export was above board, and that it is not the company's intention to engage solely in log exports.

The company, which is part of the group that owns the popular Coffee Day Inc. franchises in India, also said that the company will soon be transitioning to the production of value added products.

"...and we are currently exploring the feasibility of setting up a wood processing plant at various locations. Please be advised also that the species being exported are exported by other forest companies," the

statement continued.

In justifying the report carried in this newspaper that almost 50 containers of logs were exported since February, Vaitarna said that "any new company in the startup of their operations goes through a transition period similar to Vaitarna Holdings Pvt Inc."

The company said that it is a fact that it has the facility like any other forestry company to export logs and other forest products in keeping with the National Log Export Policy and the Government of Guyana guidelines.

"Vaitarna Holdings Pvt. Inc would therefore be grateful if the statement that Vaitarna Holdings Pvt. Inc is exporting logs, contrary to its agreement with the Guyana Forestry Commission, can be corrected."

The statement was signed by one Chethan Narayan, Director of Vaitarna Holding Pvt. Inc, which is said to be located at 228 Lance Gibbs Street, Queenstown.

Yesterday, Kaieteur News reported that the company shipped the containers of logs out despite no processing facilities established here as yet.

There have been questions in the past about wholesale logging and exporting, something that government says it has been working diligently on to curtail and to encourage more local value-added processing.

Vaitarna had come under scrutiny in April last year after the Times of India, reported that the company was granted almost 1.8M acres of forest lands in Guyana. The company wanted the logs for its furniture business in India, it was also reported.

Government, to quell questions whether it was a sweetheart deal, insisted that the company was not too much interested in log exports and would be looking to establish plants here.



Robert Persaud

The majority of logs shipped out over the last two months are said to be washiba, a hardwood used to make top-end furniture. Also shipped were purpleheart, greenheart and snakewood.

Guyana has not made a secret of its intentions to drastically reduce log exports in favour of more downstream or value-added processing.

The former Bharrat Jagdeo administration had heavily defended the Vaitarna Holdings Private Inc. (VHPI) deal.

Coffee Day is owned by V. G. Siddhartha an Indian businessman from Karnataka.

"It has been established that in addition to log exports in accordance with National Log Export Policy, the company will engage in added value activities. The GFC has a

policy of added value forestry activities and would have rejected any application from the company if it was solely interested in log exports," former Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud, had told the media during a press

Sports

Stiff competition the order of the day at Bushy Park last weekend

Bushy Park Circuit Inc. Barbados - Radical International descended upon the Calvin Ming trails in second position during... Full Story

Two of Guyana's young hockey stars invited to play in England

Two of Guyana's exceptionally talented national players, Jamaarj Assanah and Aroydy Jamaarj Assanah Branford, have been... Full Story

Entries and sponsors pour in for Port Mourant Turf Club Horserace meet

A number of entries have been received already while a bevy of sponsors are already on board for the Port Mourant Turf Club... Full Story

Teams for Unity Cricket announced

E'bo name softball squad The moment of truth is less than a week away and big question is who will walk away with the... Full Story

Suri Kaieteur Candies. 8 DELICIOUS FLAVOURS OF FRUITY & MINT CANDIES. SUERIA MANUFACTURING INC. 70 Industrial Site, Eccles, E.B.D., Guyana. Call: 592-233-2473. Email: frank@surifoods.com www.surifoods.com

Features / Columnists

Coke in cream: The magistracy opens its 2016 innings

The New Year is with us and in Guyana don't hold your breath about changes. I plan to do a column on the traffic signals... more



THE EAST STREET CAR PARK

The East Street car park was built by the former administration to accommodate the growing number of... more



The OAS ship has to be righted

By Sir Ronald Sanders It is little known outside of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and even... more



When hands fly and women die

I interviewed President David Granger early Thursday morning. The topic was domestic violence. This is... more



OF 'POLITICAL SUBSTANCE' ACCUSING

conference to explain the deal.

It was disclosed then that VHPI was issued a State Forest Exploratory Permit (SFEP) previously issued to Simon and Shock Intl. (SSI), a US company, and a Timber Sales Agreement (TSA) previously issued to Caribbean Resources Limited (CRL).

"The real facts are that a logging concession of 345,961 acres previously leased to CRL was re-allocated to VHPI. Contrary to what is reported, there will be no large scale exportation of logs, since the company has committed to get involved in downstream activities; in addition to logs exports in accordance with the National Forest Policy (NFP)," Persaud had stated.

It was explained that the company first has to do a forest inventory; present a business plan that incorporates the inventory amongst other requirements, and conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

"In doing the ESIA, there will be at least two public opportunities for persons to indicate their support/ objection to the granting of logging rights to the company. Also, this process is led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Assessment Board (EAB)."

"When this documentation is provided to the satisfaction of the GFC and its technical team, EPA, EAB, Cabinet Sub-Committee on Natural Resources and Cabinet; only then can approval for logging be given." "So the process is far from over. The current National Forest Policy, under revision, does not say no to log exports, rather it encourages and promotes value adding," Persaud had emphasised.

"The National Log Export Policy is testament to that - it provides strong disincentives for log exports; this would be revised in 2011 with the aim of providing even stronger disincentives."

VHPI had paid over \$600M (US\$3M) to pay off CLICO policy holders in Guyana. Asked then how long it may take before the Indian company can start harvesting should the green light be given, the Minister disclosed between two to three years.

Earlier this week, GFC's Commissioner James Singh when contacted on the containers of logs that were shipped out, disclosed that the company would be doing some processing in Guyana. However, it is unclear when this would start. He however pointed out that the company has all its paperwork in order, with nothing stopping them from harvesting and exporting.

A forestry official with close links to the VHPI, in confirming the shipment of the almost 50 containers of logs, said that company is in full swing of harvesting, but the official was unclear of when there will be the establishing of processing facilities by the company in Guyana.

VHPI has also not sold wood locally, it was said.

Share this:



No related posts.

If you find a comment distasteful or inappropriate, you can flag the comment and send us a report for immediate removal. Send report to kaieteurnews@yahoo.com

Kaieteur News reserves the rights to moderate any comment deemed inappropriate and is not responsible for the views expressed.

blog comments powered by Disqus

Latest News Headlines

- Businesses urge slashing of fuel prices, GPL tariffs
- Govt. faces pressure to pass Telecoms law for new players
- US\$15M crime fighting programme launched
- Govt. has no obligation to fully conform with GuySuCo recommendations - President
- Villagers beat GSA students, mistook them for thieves
- Armed bandits grab \$1.7M from Lands and Surveys
- Prepare for tough oil bargaining- Int'l consultants tell Guyana
- Rohee trying to wake up a jumbie
- Region Two launches Children Mash
- Wales Estate Closure...Gov't must immediately undo decision; consequences too dire - Unions
- 10,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine to arrive soon
- Good Hope resident adopts Region Two Health Centre
- One eye bandit to serve five years in prison
- National colours float parade to commemorate Guyana's golden jubilee
- Better overall policing, community relations boosting crime fight - Minister Ramjattan
- Bank of Baroda robbery...Cops nab man who made false licence plates for bandits' car
- Cops reopen probe into 2009 disappearance of US citizen
- Guyanese-owned Baron Foods wins two more St. Lucia awards
- GTU contemplating protest action against TSC
- 25 complete MACORP excavator operator training
- Women need to take up active leadership roles in local govt.
- Lima Sands residents draft plan to capture jaguars
- Banks Guyana is not for sale
- Robbery/home invasion on land court judge...Defendant tells police he was wrongly identified —Police Corporal testifies

SUBSTANCE: ASSASSINS OF CONVERSATION

Reflections on the 1980 Exhibition, 'Images' of Dudley Charles by Bernadette Persaud
Assassins... [more](#)



- Rohee trying to wake up a jumbie
- TO CLOSE OR NOT TO CLOSE WALES!
- One eye bandit to serve five years in prison
- Robbery/home invasion on land court judge ...Defendant tells police he was wrongly identified —Police Corporal testifies
- ELEMENTARY MY DEARS

Archives

April 2012

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

« Mar May »

Links

- Antigua Sun
- Barbados Nation
- Cana News
- Caribbean blogs
- Caribbean Vacation Travel
- Cariweb
- Georgetown Guyana
- Government Ads (GINA)
- Jamaica Gleaner
- The Caribbean Children Foundation
- Trini Express
- Wordpress

❖ **Soesdyke/Coverden Land controversy...Ex-NDC Chairman 'vying for Chairmanship' at upcoming LGEs**

>>> **Click to see more...**
