

Statement from the Government of Guyana

Delivered by: Shaik Baksh, Minister of Education

Thank you very much.

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Guyana has focus on a number of initiatives to scale up quality education delivery of students of learning outcomes over the next three years. This is the major challenge.

Our policies will reform teacher training and education to ensure the delivery of quality education for all. Having already achieved universal primary education Guyana will make pre-primary education compulsory in its new education act. The accelerated literacy programs included a compulsory literacy hour at all the pre-primary and primary levels to strengthen to ensure that student's speech acquires standards and structured remediation for slow learners will be made mandatory at primary schools and secondary schools. A literacy certificate will be introduced at grade 4 to certify that students are literate before completion of the primary cycle. It will be supported by structured and mandatory remedial programs. Guyana will work towards achieving more access to quality education and reduce dropout rates at all levels.

We pledge to do the following:

- Expand social programs such as free school uniforms, free books, school feeding, transportation and dormitory service.
- Continue to provide free education from pre-primary to secondary school.
- Set a target of 80% trained and graduated teachers by 2014.

- Improve the quality of classroom teachers and managers through continuous professional development.
- Enhance the use of communication and information technology education delivery.
- Expand inclusive education to provide more access and equitable opportunities for the indigenous population and other vulnerable groups.
- Sustain the gender parity that already exists at pre-primary, primary and secondary schools.
- Continue to allocate the highest percentage of the national budget to education.
- And finally we pledge to support the ideals, goals and programs of the Global Partnership for Education.

Thank you.