

**August 23, 2018**

Mr. Deodat Sharma  
Auditor General  
Audit Office of Guyana (AOG)  
63 High Street, Kingston  
Georgetown,  
Guyana

Dear Mr. Sharma

**RE: Request for Audit into the Management of Funds paid to the Guyana Teachers Union**

As a concerned teacher, I have been following closely the many articles published in the newspapers and information on social media regarding the status of negotiations between the Ministry of Education and the Guyana Teachers Union. Notably, an article published by the Guyana Chronicle newspapers dated August 22, 2018 entitled 'We ain't want a clash, we want the cash' lingers on my mind.

In that article ( found online at <https://guyanachronicle.com/2018/08/22/we-aint-want-a-clash-we-want-the-cash>) is included the following: "...Lyte said that he cannot promise strike relief, but the GTU is taking into consideration that teachers have commitments, which were also stressed by some teachers as a concern. "What will happen to the teachers who have banks to pay and who have Courts to pay?" one teacher asked on behalf of her colleagues.

Lyte said that he is aware of the situation and is asking for some sacrifices to be made, if salaries are being cut...**He said that the GTU's dues cannot sustain strike relief payments, since it is used for many reasons such as payment of several affiliation fees, staff and buildings to maintain, death benefits, bursaries and scholarships amongst other commitments...."**

The highlight above is of grave concern given the flippant manner of the president's response in an attempt to give an account of the management of the funds/dues paid by teachers to the Union. In this regards, I refer your attention to Sections 22 & 23, with particular emphasis on Section 23 of the Trade Union Act Cap 98:03 which may be applicable here. I also recall the action taken by

Government to take back control of the Public Service Coop Credit Union after it was discovered from investigations that members did not abide by the law and mismanaged funds. I draw reference to that matter to reemphasise that Unions ought to always be held accountable for all actions including those of a financial nature.

Based on the information provided it is very necessary that your office intervenes to review the financial practices of the GTU in accordance with the requirements of the Law. Any findings that may be adverse to the requirements of the any Act, Rules and/or Regulations of Guyana governing the functions of Unions like that of GTU, I trust would be handed over to the relevant authorities to be dealt with appropriately. Relevant stakeholders are copied to this letter for their information.

Concerned Teacher

Cc: Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education

Commissioner of Police  
Guyana Police Force

President  
Guyana Teachers Union

Chief Labour Officer  
Ministry of Social Protection, Department of Labour

Teaching Service Commission