

FROM: Permanent Secretary,
Public Service Ministry

TO: All Permanent Secretaries,
Heads of Departments and
Regional Executive Officers

DATE: 10th July, 1979.

SUBJECT:

**National Programme of Energy Conservation – Need
for Programmed Curtailment of Electricity in
Government Buildings.**

Government has decided, in view of the grave Energy situation, to establish a National Energy Authority under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. In the meantime, there has been set up a temporary Energy Unit answerable to Cabinet through the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

2. Essentially, the Energy Unit's functions fall into two broad categories, namely:

- (i) The promotion and organization of Energy Conservation throughout Guyana; and
- (ii) The promotion, and/or the undertaking, of the development of technically and economically viable alternatives to Petroleum Fuels, Thermal Electricity, and other Energy forms currently in use in Guyana.

3. Initially, the unit proposes to concentrate on Energy conservation. In this regard, it is to be pointed out that the cost of petroleum fuel and electricity consumed by Government Ministries/Departments, etc., is not insignificant. However, efforts directed at energy conservation will be meaningless unless there is developed at all levels a national consciousness of how critically important it is for every individual, group, organization, etc., in Guyana to effect savings in the consumption of energy, however small.

4. Among the advantages of energy conservation in Ministries/Departments, etc., are the following:-

- (a) It would reduce the budgetary allocations necessary to pay for electricity, particularly having regard to the increased electricity charges which are effective from 1st July, 1979. Indeed, when the impact of the increased electricity charges is felt, it may well be a matter of being able to live within the original budget, since supplementary allocations are unlikely to be forthcoming; and
- (b) Such conservation would "free up" amounts of electricity which could be diverted to productive activities which are critical in terms of national, social and economic development.

5. Accordingly, I have to direct that the following conservation measures should be put into operation immediately:-

- (i) The lighting arrangements in rooms, etc. should be examined with a view to removing, or at least deactivating any lights which are not absolutely necessary, including the question of substituting relatively lower electricity consuming fluorescent lamps for incandescent lights;
- (ii) Air-conditioning arrangements, if any, should be similarly examined (including the question of temperature – settings);
- (iii) Lights should always be extinguished and air conditioners always turned off, when not actually in use;
- (iv) The number, placement, wattage, etc. of security lights be examined, if necessary with the help of the Police.

- (v) A realistic target, based on a careful assessment of the possibilities, be set in respect of the percentage reduction of electricity consumption to be aimed at;
- (vi) A senior official (or panel of senior officials) be assigned (as an important part of his/their direct duties) responsibility (with corresponding powers) for ensuring that the necessary action is taken to conserve electricity; and
- (vii) The consumption of electricity should be monitored, at least on a monthly basis, by the Permanent Secretary/Head of Department/General Manager, etc.

6. Please bring the contents of this Circular to the attention of all levels of staff in your organization and also ensure that all necessary monitoring of electricity consumption be done as a matter of paramount importance in the daily activities of your Ministry/Department/Corporation.

A.R. Brutus,
For Permanent Secretary,
PUBLIC SERVICE MINISRTY.