

Honourable Sydney Allicock, MS, MP
Vice President & Minister of Indigenous People's Affairs

GUYANA



Hon. Sydney Allicock MP who was sworn in as Guyana's 4th Vice President & Minister of Indigenous People's Affairs on May 15, 2015 hails from the North Rupununi, Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo, Region Nine.

Vice President Allicock; widely accepted as a pioneer of community-based tourism in Guyana was awarded with the Anthony N. Sabga Laureate for Public and Civic Contributions in 2010 and is well positioned to represent the Indigenous People of Guyana.

He has articulated and promoted a vision of indigenous rural community development, based on communal effort, wise use of natural resources, traditional knowledge and social systems, and equitable partnership with outside agencies. He has been a key figure in the development of Surama – his home village in the Rupununi - over the past two decades or so. He was also instrumental in the development of the North Rupununi Region pioneering the establishment of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB). His work is evident further afield in Guyana's indigenous communities and Villages and touches the lives of over seventy thousand Indigenous Peoples across Guyana.

He is also credited with being the visionary behind the Bina Hill Institute of Learning. This institution has blossomed over the years as a beacon of education specific to the needs of the hinterland communities of Region Nine. Bina Hill has produced several outstanding Indigenous young people who now possess the skills for taking eco-tourism to the next level in Guyana.

In recognition of his lead role in the Bina Hill Institute of Learning and its valued place in the education sector in Guyana, the Government of Guyana is now making significant annual contribution to the work of the Institute.

As a Minister, Mr. Allicock's vision for the development of Indigenous Peoples' Village and personal economies, preservation and promulgation of languages and cultures, protection of the eco-system and settling of land issues finds itself at the core of Government's policy.

Mr. Allicock's work has been recognised through awards, with notable recognition including: (i) The Guyana Medal of Service for work in community development in the North Rupununi in 1994; (ii) The 'Tourism for Tomorrow' Award from the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana in 1999; (iii) Awards from the Guyana Ministry of Amerindian Affairs for community development in 2003 and 2006; (iv) The Community Tourism Award from the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana in 2006; (v) The Community Tourism Award from the Guyana Tourism Authority in 2008; and (vi) The Responsible Tourism Showcase Award from the US Educational Travel Conference (ETC), New Orleans, USA in 2009.