

The Stock Exchange Corner

A Comparison of the First Quarter 2005 and 2006

by George Edwards

Trading activity on the Guyana Stock Exchange for the first quarter of 2006 has been muted compared to the same period for last year. Activity in 2005 may have been spurred by the alleged take-over bid by Ansa McAl of Banks DIH Ltd. The resultant furore, including protests and whipping up of patriotic fervour, certainly had the effect of boosting trading activity. (Banks DIH Ltd. also issued an additional 118,281,250 shares to Banks Holdings Ltd. of Barbados, but this was not through the stock exchange).

The table below shows trading activity for the first quarter 2005 and 2006.

JANUARY TO MARCH 2005			JANUARY TO MARCH 2006		
N° OF TRADES	QTY OF SHARES	CONSIDERATION \$	N° OF TRADES	QTY OF SHARES	CONSIDERATION \$
43	620,335	6,998,251	48	1,504,386	17,165,389
49	4,169,723	44,235,243	37	919,025	17,210,634
65	12,833,976	139,300,679	46	1,123,026	15,057,764
157	17,624,034	190,534,174	131	3,546,437	49,433,787

Despite the better returns being enjoyed from investment in some companies being traded on the Stock Exchange, the statistics indicate that members of the public are not taking advantage of the investment opportunities available to them to earn a better rate of return. The next time, we shall look at the dividend yield on the companies traded on the Exchange as compared to interest rates on bank deposits.

If you have questions that you wish answered about the Stock Exchange, you may write to:

The Operations Manager

Guyana Association of Securities Companies and Intermediaries Incorporated

Hand-in-Hand Building,

1 Avenue of the Republic,

Georgetown

Please indicate whether we may publish your letter along with the answer in the newspapers.

N.B. – More information may be accessed on our website: www.gasci.com