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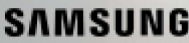
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Human Rights Association condemns political exploitation of MV Barima tragedy

By Staff (<https://guyanachronicle.com/author/vickas>)
Reporter h-katwaru/
- July 20, (<https://guyanachronicle.com/2026/07/20>)
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THE Association for Democracy and Human Rights (Guyana) Inc. has condemned what it described as attempts by political figures to exploit the MV Barima tragedy for partisan gain, urging Guyanese to reject misinformation and allow the ongoing search and rescue operation to continue without interference.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the organisation expressed support for the national search and rescue efforts following the sinking of the MV Barima, while commending emergency responders, authorities and volunteers involved in the operation.

The association also called on citizens to continue praying for the safe recovery of those still missing.

However, it has accused US sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed and the We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party of using the tragedy to promote what it described as “propaganda, misinformation and political opportunism.”

According to the organisation, Guyana is currently in a period of national mourning, and political leaders should avoid creating panic, distorting facts or exploiting the grief and uncertainty being experienced by affected families.

It stressed that the focus should remain on compassion, restraint, accuracy and national unity rather than speculation or self-promotion.

The association further urged public officials and commentators to ensure that all statements respect the dignity of victims and their families, while allowing emergency responders and other authorities to carry out the sensitive work of the search and rescue operation.

It also called on all political actors to rely on verified information and allow competent authorities to communicate official updates to the public.

The organisation warned that unsubstantiated claims and inflammatory commentary could deepen the distress of affected families, create public confusion, undermine confidence in the response efforts and interfere with the management of the national emergency.

The association also criticised what it described as the Mohameds' repeated involvement in national issues, claiming their interventions often lack credibility and sensitivity.

It concluded by encouraging Guyanese to reject misinformation, depend on verified official updates and continue supporting the families affected by the tragedy with empathy, solidarity and prayer.

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