

## Press Release

\*For Immediate Release\*

Date: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### NO PUBLIC SMOKING IN SURINAME

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) extends congratulations to the citizens of Suriname with the passing of the Anti-Tobacco Law by parliament on February 7<sup>th</sup>, which bans smoking in public places in Suriname. This is an important step in the fight against the ill-effects of tobacco and will have a positive impact on the health of the people of Suriname.

This historic passing of this law places Suriname among the other nations in the Caribbean that have made a commitment to protect future generations of our people by reducing one of the highest risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – exposure to tobacco smoke.

The HCC and our member organisations across the Caribbean stand ready to assist governments and Ministries of Health as well as the general public in their struggle against the devastating health and socio-economic effects of tobacco. As we begin to plan for world No Tobacco Day on 31 May 2013, HCC encourages the public and social partners to increase activities against the recklessness of the tobacco industry, and lobby for the ban of all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

Professor Trevor Hassell  
**President, Healthy Caribbean Coalition,**  
on behalf of the Directors and members of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition

### For Additional Information, please contact

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*The HCC was formed in 2008. It is a live network of non-governmental and civil society organisations from across the Caribbean Region that has a remit to address non-communicable disease (NCDs).*