

## **Kublalsingh in court**

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Highway Re-Route Movement (HRM) leader Dr Wayne Kublalsingh and two members of his group will appear in the Siparia Magistrates Court this morning.

The three were charged with obstruction, while Kublalsingh was slapped with an additional charge of resisting arrest. Kublalsingh and his members were taken into police custody during a protest against the construction of the Debe to Mon Desir segment of the Solomon Hochoy Highway extension to Point Fortin on Saturday.

The protesters marched to the construction site at Gopee Trace, Penal, where they surrounded an excavator preparing to clear the land. The HRM members climbed onto the equipment and refused to move until the equipment was removed from the site.

The OAS Constructora workers left the site and returned with a contingent of police officers.

The officers bodily removed the protesters from the excavator as Kublalsingh looked on from the hood of the equipment.

Four officers climbed the machinery and removed Kublalsingh.

Protesters Ramkaran Bhagwansingh and Vandana Boodhai were also taken into custody.

The three were charged with the offences around 5 p.m.

Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) leader David Abdulah said his political party stood in support and solidarity with Kublalsingh and members of the HRM.

Speaking to the media at the launch of the local chapter of Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) at Soongs Restaurant in San Fernando on Saturday, Abdulah said, "It is a travesty of justice when a group of people can take a matter to the court seeking an injunction to have work on the highway stopped, pending the determination of the legality of the project given the Armstrong report and other evidence that has developed. Then you have the State delaying the hearing of the matter by all kinds of legal manoeuvring and proceeding with the construction to the point where by the time the court has determined the matter one way or the other it will be too late and construction will be finished."

The HRM is seeking to have Government re-route the highway to save the homes of almost 200 families in the Debe to Mon Desir communities, Kublalsingh said.