

Proudly the largest weekly Caribbean Newspaper in Canada for 40 years

# Equality

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE \$1.00

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397

[www.equalitynews.ca](http://www.equalitynews.ca)

Read every edition online every week

**VettyvelLaw**  
Professional Corporation

1457 McCowan Road, Suite 204  
#203-2225 Markham Rd,  
Toronto, ON M1B 0E6.

### Our Practice Areas:

- Real Estate Law
  - Residential
  - Commercial
- Wills and Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

**Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LL.B, LL.M.**  
Barrister and Solicitor

Dir: 416-261-1544

Tel: 416-752-9561

Fax: 416-291-1544

Email: rishani@vettyvellaw.com



Thursday July 6 2023. Volume 41, Issue #27

[www.equalitynews.ca](http://www.equalitynews.ca). For advertising, call 647-216-2359

# Ali makes successful visit

By Laverne McGee

USA- EQUALITY Regional Reporter

A three-day trip to the Toronto, Canada area was a huge success for President Dr. Irfaan Ali who met with members of the diaspora and other Canadians who attended several events held for his visit.

The first stop on Friday, June 30, was a meet and greet at Guyanese owned restaurant Windies, in Scarborough, organized by the One Guyana Forum of Canada.

On Saturday, a One Guyana Canada Diaspora Engagement event was attended by well over 700 people. It was held at La Primavera Banquet Hall in Woodbridge. Although it was Canada Day, the country's official day to celebrate, Guyanese Canadians came out to support the President and get an update on their original homeland. His Excellency was accompanied by a distinguished delegation including Captain Gerry Gouveia, National Advisor to the President, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Chief Investment Officer of the Guyana Office for Investment and Ambassador (rtd) Craig Kelly, Senior Director of International Government Relations for Exxon Mobil. Several other high-level dignitaries were on hand for a panel discussion on how and what to invest in Guyana, followed by a passionate keynote speech by the President. He spoke about Guyana's booming economy, and the massive transformation taking place. The head of state also disclosed that Guyana has the lowest debt in the Caribbean despite the massive projects taking place. Some of the projects include the new Demerara River Bridge, the Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge and phase two (2) of the East Coast road project. The President confirmed that every single one of the new projects secured loans at a fixed rate of less than 3.5 per cent. Cameras are also being put in around the country, in an effort to track criminal activity in real time. Other interesting items discussed were the plans to have Spanish and computer coding taught in schools in the near future. The panel discussion also featured detailed power point presentations outlining information of the tourism and hospitality sector, large scale agriculture projects, construction and housing and overall national prosperity. Some other developments in the pipeline include a West Demerara gas to energy project, a Linden to Lethem highway, and a new Guyana-Suriname bridge. Winston Kassim from the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce was on hand to help guide the diaspora interested in doing business back home. The Chairman of Guyana's Private Sector Commission, Komal Singh, also encouraged attendees



Equality's Laverne McGee with Ambassador (rtd) Craig Kelly, Sr. Director, International Government Relations, ExxonMobil



Equality Publisher Bhaskar Sharma with President Ali



Equality's Laverne McGee and Dr Peter Ramsaroop of Golinvest

to explore investment opportunities. The event's main sponsor was GOLogistics, a well-known and successful company founded by Guyanese Canadian businessman Anthony J. Whyte.

Several places of worship were also part of the trip, including the East Scarborough Pentecostal Church Service and the Brampton Triveni Mandir. The International Muslim Organization of Canada hosted President Ali at a breakfast event. The Masjid caters for over 6,000 people and has a strong Guyanese presence.

The packed schedule also included a meeting with three-time world heavy-weight champion Lennox Lewis and Canadian professional footballer Dwayne DeRosario led to discussions about how to promote those sports in Guyana. The entire weekend was under the One Guyana theme, which President Ali says "...is not a phrase or slogan. One Guyana requires action and commitment." He departed Canada on Sunday, July to head to Trinidad and Tobago for the 45th Caricom Meeting.



# CONNECTING YOU AND THE CARIBBEAN

The map illustrates the airline's extensive network across the Caribbean. Key destinations include:

- CUBA:** Havana, Santiago de Cuba
- JAMAICA:** Ocho Rios, Kingston
- HAITI:** Cap Haitien, Port-au Prince
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Santo Domingo
- PUERTO RICO:** San Juan
- TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS:** Providenciales, Grand Turk, South Caicos
- BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Tortola
- ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA:** Antigua
- ST. KITTS AND NEVIS:** St. Kitts and Nevis
- DOMINICA:** Dominica
- ST. LUCIA:** St. Lucia
- ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES:** St. Vincent
- GRENADA:** Grenada
- GUYANA:** Georgetown

A photograph of an InterCaribbean Airways aircraft, registration THM, is shown on a sandy beach with turquoise water in the background. The aircraft features the airline's logo and the name 'Captain Hugo M'.

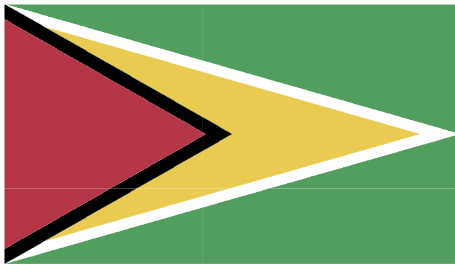
**interCaribbean Airways**

Book @ [interCaribbean.com](http://interCaribbean.com) | Contact your Travel agent | Call us globally +1(649) 946 4999

THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS • THE BAHAMAS • CUBA • JAMAICA • HAITI • PUERTO RICO • BARBADOS • GUYANA • GRENADA  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC • BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS • ST KITTS • ANTIGUA • DOMINICA • ST LUCIA • ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

[interCaribbeanAirways](https://www.interCaribbeanAirways.com)





# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 46



**CCJ HOLDS SECOND ITINERANT HEARING IN GUYANA**

**PAGE 3**



**BE CHARITABLE AND SHARE WITH THE LESS FORTUNATE - PRESIDENT ALI ON EID-UL-ADHA**

**PAGE 5**



**\$73M LEARNING LAB OFFICIALLY OPENS FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

**PAGE 7**



**GOV'T ANTICIPATES SIGNING OF CORENTYNE RIVER BRIDGE BY OCTOBER**

**PAGE 10**

## **REDUCING POVERTY, INEQUALITIES IS KEY TO ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY**

**PAGE 5**

**- President Ali at CELAC high-level Ministers of Agriculture meeting**

*President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, among other delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean at the CELAC meeting*



**PRESIDENT ALI UNVEILS \$11B INVESTMENT TO TRANSFORM EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, STANDARD**



# 'WHEN DEVELOPMENT COMES KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR, YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT IT'

## - RESIDENTS COMMEND ENHANCEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD



Family enjoying some quality time on the Independence Boulevard



Part of the \$1.4 billion Independence Boulevard (Punt Trench) enhancement project



Part of the \$1.4 billion Independence Boulevard (Punt Trench) enhancement project

Residents of Al bouystown and surrounding communities that will benefit from the \$1.4 billion Independence Boulevard (Punt Trench) enhancement project have commended the government for the transformation.

Dexter Hatton, described the initiative as a remarkable gift to the communities that will directly benefit.

"I must say thank you to the current government for making this possible. You hear about things and see things around Guyana, but to come out one day from work and see this... take a nice cool drive down and see all these families and even the naysayers who condemning they enjoying it way more than the people who wanted it," he stated, in an interview with this publication.

Hatton believes that people should set aside their political differences and appreciate development.

"When somebody does something positive

that benefits the people, the people need to respect it... no matter what is their political views. When development comes knocking at your door, you have to accept development," he posited.

Abdol Azeez who has been residing in East La Penitence for the past

smile, Azeez recalled a recent encounter with a GTT representative, which further heightened his pride.

"I go to GTT and when the girl see Boulevard, she said 'uncle you come from a big place now.' I felt so proud," he exclaimed.

Young Dwayne

these proper lights and these things. So, I glad that they come in Al bouystown and do this for the ghetto youths," James emphasised.

Another resident, Shaizad Khan highlighted the project's significance for the younger generation.

"The development

Barker also lauded the transformation, remarking on the positive impact it has on his ability to train children in the community.

"The area is very good, it helps the children in the community because you have a place where you can sit down and lime

use from Cemetery Road to La Penitence, which will cover the distance from the seawall and it is less traffic because we have a place to run," he disclosed.

The Independence Boulevard project is a representation of the government's commitment to urban development and infrastructure enhancement, ensuring the lives of Guyanese are improved and aligned with the 'One Guyana' vision.

The undertaking, which stretches from Saffon Street to Cemetery Road, boasts a double-lane carriageway on the northern side and a single-lane carriageway on the southern side.

Additionally, between these two thoroughfares, there is a promenade, where visitors will enjoy a well-lit area, comfortable benches, and strategically placed garbage bins, contributing to a clean and environmentally friendly ambiance.



Abdol Azeez, resident



Clifton Barker, resident



Dexter Hatton, resident



Dwayne James, resident

50 years said, "All the residents of Al bouystown will feel a good relief now, because they can't get flood no more. This is one of the goods that the government does for them. This place is bright, if you drop corn, you can find it at night here."

With a beaming

James happily expressed the simple pleasure of sitting and conversing with his friends in a comfortable environment.

"It's wonderful. I feel happy that I could sit and talk to my friends. We used to stand up, mosquitos biting, never used to getting

is very good for the youths. It's a lot of improvements. Before we had dam, mud, and slush, so this is very good. Now, you see a lot of people, old folks coming out and relaxing like you are on the seawall."

Coach attached to the Peace and Power Boxing Gym, Clifton

and then when I come out here to train, people would sit down and admire these children training," he said.

Coach Barker added that they no longer rely on the sea walls for their training sessions.

"I get to train the children now more better because I could



Children enjoying quality time on the Independence Boulevard



# REDUCING POVERTY, INEQUALITIES IS KEY TO ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY

## - PRESIDENT ALI AT CELAC HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE MEETING

Steadfast in his food security agenda within the Caribbean and Latin America, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, underscored the importance of enhancing food production and integrating food security objectives with reducing poverty and inequality.

**“We can’t speak about nutrition in the region and food security if we don’t also bring into the discourse, a poverty reduction strategy and reducing inequalities,”** President Ali said.

The Guyanese head-of-state was addressing the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) high-level Ministers of Agriculture meeting held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Liliendaal.

The event brought together leaders and stakeholders from 33 CELAC countries to address the crucial matters of food and nutrition security in the region.

President Ali said

that to comprehensively address the issues, policymakers and stakeholders must confront matters of climate change, improving the education and healthcare systems, as well as sustainable development.

**and nutrition is about good health and good health and food production is about national prosperity. And national prosperity is about national security,”** President Ali explained.

specific responsibilities of the health sector in each country to achieve this goal.

The role of education must also be addressed by integrating nutritional changes into the education system, starting from nursery

**setting by learning from each other,”** he told the participants.

The president also acknowledged the need for establishing a technological support system within the region to enhance food production, with

of efforts to develop the livestock industry.

At the regional level, the president said a project was launched that involves the use of greenhouse and hydroponics. This forms part of efforts to boost food production across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to achieve the 25 by 2025 target which is, lowering the food import bill.

Statistics show that between 2019 and 2021, the number of hungry people in the region increased by 13.2 million, higher than the global average. Therefore, President Ali stressed the need for CELAC as a region, to implement an aggressive programme that actively engages young people and women.

Guyana’s Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha and St. Vincent and the Grenadine’s Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour, Saboto Caesar also delivered remarks at the event.



President Ali addressing the delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean at the CELAC meeting



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha addressing the delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean at the CELAC meeting

He further noted that the lack of support from international funding agencies, commercial banks, and monetary institutions in financing agriculture must also be addressed.

**“Food production**

President Ali underlined the importance of a health sector that understands its role in ensuring food and nutrition security. He noted that a crucial objective of the meeting should be to define the

through university, he said.

**“We must produce the action plan. We are not here to dwell on the problems... you are here as the policymakers to craft policy in a regional**

a particular focus on empowering women in this sector.

He mentioned that the Government of Guyana has set a target of ensuring that 35% of livestock farms are owned by women as part

# CCJ HOLDS SECOND ITINERANT HEARING IN GUYANA

Civil engagements will form an integral part of the Caribbean Court of Justice’s (CCJ) development agenda, in an effort to expand access to and strengthen awareness of the judicial process.

CCJ’s President, Justice Adrian Saunders has made it clear that the court will embark on several projects to promote public awareness of the legal system.

Justice Saunders was speaking during the opening ceremony for the second itinerant hearing of the CCJ in Guyana at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC).

He emphasised that these sittings are crucial to the perception of justice, and play an essential role in sensitising the public

to the functions of the court.

“A regional apex court cannot function as effectively if it is perceived as a remote, brooding infallible omnipresence. Judges must avail themselves of appropriate occasions to interface directly with key stakeholders. Throughout the region, people from all walks of life need to have the opportunity to see, in flesh and blood, those who pass ultimate judgment on them,” Justice Saunders explained.

To this end, the CCJ will implement a number of activities to increase public awareness about the role of the court, and its methods, and also provide insight into the position of the court in the operations of the CARICOM Single Market

and Economy (CSME).

In particular, these activities will build on the ongoing project developed with the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (CARIFORUM), under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF), which called for attention to people-centred development.

“This project aims to, specifically in Guyana, sensitise the judiciary, the bar, and other stakeholders about the CSME and the role of the court and national courts and tribunals within that CSME regime,” the judge stated.

The CCJ President added, “We will also engage with civil society and the public, including a session with students from the University of Guyana. Over the



The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) holding the second itinerant hearing in Guyana

next week, we have scheduled a compact and robust schedule, and we look forward to the mutual exchanges and learnings that will no doubt ensue from all of these interactions, as we discuss matters concerning the administration of justice and how we can serve the people of Guyana and the community with excellence.”

Reminding that since its establishment in 2008, the CCJ has presided over 111 matters for Guyana alone, Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Justice

Yonette Cummings-Edwards stressed that Guyana’s legal landscape has been significantly transformed through its processes.

“This court is known to be revolutionary, forward-thinking, and even groundbreaking in some of its decisions that have been handed down over the years. The judges have had their dockets dominated by a number of subject areas including criminal law, land law, constitutional law, and a number of election cases from Guyana. It is evident that Guyana has contributed

significantly to the development of the CCJ and its jurisprudence,” she said.

She added that physical presence is an important component of the delivery of justice.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice (ag) Roxane George emphasised the importance of engendering public trust and confidence in the justice system in upholding the rule of law.

Over two days, the court presided over five cases, two of which are from Guyana.



# FINANCE MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL SUMMIT CONVENED BY FRENCH PRESIDENT

## - HOLDS BILATERAL MEETINGS IN PARIS

Senior Minister at the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Ashni Singh, attended the "Global Summit for a new Global Financial Pact" which was convened in Paris by French President Emmanuel Macron from June 22 to 23, 2023.

The Summit brought together over a hundred global leaders including the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Brazilian President Lula da Silva, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen and President Joe Biden's Special Envoy and former US Secretary of State, John Kerry.

The aim of the summit was to advance a reform agenda for the major global financial institutions, including a significant focus on the Bridgetown Agenda championed by Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley. The new President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga and Managing Director of

the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva took part in discussions focused on how these institutions can be reformed to be relevant to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – with a specific



Minister Singh participated in bilateral meetings with officials from the French Ministry of the Economy

focus on supporting debt sustainability, climate finance and the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in all countries.

Minister Singh expressed his

appreciation for President Macron's leadership in convening leaders to focus on modernising these institutions. He commended the work that institutions like the

IMF, IDB and World Bank had done over decades, pointing out that they had supported Guyana when democracy was restored in the early 1990s and the then-Government had to deal with the PNC's legacy of

unsustainable debt and widespread economic mismanagement. However, the Minister also highlighted the urgent need for institutions to modernise to deal with the challenges of today. He joined other developing country representatives in calling for more nimble responses to small countries who faced crises – such as those of the Caribbean who face economic and

environmental shocks on an increasingly frequent basis.

While in France, Minister Singh held bilateral meetings with officials from the French Ministry of the Economy.

Minister Singh's interactions with the French Government officials covered a range of issues – including deeper government-to-government relations, as part of the Government of Guyana's overall strategy to expand relations with member state governments within the European Union.

The Minister and the French officials also discussed improving private sector opportunities for French companies in Guyana, as well as partnerships between the two Governments on climate action and biodiversity. They

discussed Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy and President Macron's emphasis on the global agenda to preserve rainforests and biodiversity.

### BILATERAL MEETINGS

Speaking after the meetings, Minister Singh said: "I emphasised that Guyana is open for business and that we welcome high quality private investment and private companies from all countries. I outlined our pro-business policies and highlighted that one of the biggest private sector employees in Guyana – Teleperformance – is French. We agreed that diplomatic, trade and business links between our countries can continue to deepen and strengthen – especially now that Guyana is an increasingly visible participant in global marketplaces."

Minister Singh's interactions with the French Government officials covered a range of issues – including deeper government-to-government relations, as part of the Government of Guyana's overall strategy to expand relations with member state governments within the European Union.

The Minister and the French officials also discussed improving private sector opportunities for French companies in Guyana, as well as partnerships between the two Governments on climate action and biodiversity. They

discussed Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy and President Macron's emphasis on the global agenda to preserve rainforests and biodiversity.

Speaking after the meetings, Minister Singh said: "I emphasised that Guyana is open for business and that we welcome high quality private investment and private companies from all countries. I outlined our pro-business policies and highlighted that one of the biggest private sector employees in Guyana – Teleperformance – is French. We agreed that diplomatic, trade and business links between our countries can continue to deepen and strengthen – especially now that Guyana is an increasingly visible participant in global marketplaces."

## PM PHILLIPS URGES GUYANESE LIVING IN GEORGIA TO INVEST IN GUYANA



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the Diaspora outreach in Atlanta, Georgia

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips was the Guest of Honour of the Guyana Day: Diaspora Outreach in Atlanta, Georgia.

The event, which also celebrated Guyana's 57th Independence anniversary, was attended by a number of US-based Guyanese.

During his address, the Prime Minister highlighted the developmental transformation of Guyana in the social, economic and physical sectors.

He spoke of Guyana's strategic focus and its leadership drive in energy security, food security, and environmental protection and sustainability.

Prime Minister Phillips also expounded upon President Ali's One Guyana Policy of uniting our people and recognising and respecting Guyana's cultural and ethnic diversity.

He said that the Government would ensure that all Guyanese benefit from Guyana's



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the Diaspora outreach in Atlanta, Georgia

prosperity and noted that the Government is putting all systems in place to transform the country's infrastructure while bolstering all



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the Diaspora outreach in Atlanta, Georgia



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the Diaspora outreach in Atlanta, Georgia

economic sectors.

Calls were made to Guyanese in the Atlanta diaspora to invest in Guyana, which is the "fastest growing economy in the hemisphere and a land of limitless opportunities

for investment". Meanwhile, the Prime Minister received a commendation honour from the Office of the Mayor of the city of Stonecrest in Georgia.



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the Diaspora outreach in Atlanta, Georgia



# BE CHARITABLE AND SHARE WITH THE LESS FORTUNATE – PRESIDENT ALI ON EID-UL-ADHA

President Ali said that obedience, faith and trust are central pillars of Eid-ul-Adha.

During brief remarks, after Eid prayers, at the Leonora Sunnatul Jamaat, the President said that the significance of the day goes beyond the sacrifice.

He also spoke of the need to be charitable and to share with the less fortunate

The president also issued a message on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha 2023 .

## SEE FULL TEXT OF THE MESSAGE BELOW:

*I extend warmest greetings to all Guyanese, but especially to the Islamic community, on this joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.*

*Known as the ‘Festival of the Sacrifice’, Eid-ul-Adha is of special significance to Muslims. It is a day of joy, reverence, prayer and gratitude. Muslims also use this festival for reflection and spiritual renewal, reaffirming their faith and obedience to God. It is a day when believers come together to share meals, exchange greetings and extend their generosity to others.*

*At the heart of Eid-ul-Adha lies the story of Prophet Abraham’s supreme act of faith when he was tested by God. Abraham’s love and loyalty to God were put to the ultimate test, as he was instructed to sacrifice his beloved son. Despite the obvious inner turmoil this command brought upon him, Abraham displayed unshakeable faith, unwavering loyalty and unfaltering obedience to God.*

*Abraham’s example stands as the supreme measure of total trust in God. The story of Abraham reminds us that challenges and difficulties are a test of our character, and provide opportunities to strengthen and deepen our faith and repose our trust in the author of life, God.*

*We read in the Surah Al-Hajj (22:78):*

*And strive for God with the striving due to Him. He has chosen you and has not placed upon you in the religion any difficulty. The religion of your father, Abraham.... So establish prayer and give zakah and hold fast to God. He is your protector; and excellent is the protector, and excellent is the helper.*

*In recent weeks, our world and country have witnessed many heart-wrenching tragedies including wildfires, floods, explosions, terrorism, capsizing of vessels, implosion of a submersible craft and infernos. These and other tragedies have resulted in deaths, damage, destruction suffering and untold grief to the human family.*

*Confronted by these horrific acts we often ask ourselves where God is in all of this. We question why these terrible things happen. We search for answers as to why there is so much pain and suffering in life. It is in times like these that our faith too, like Abraham’s, is tested. It is in times like these that we must continue to believe and obey God. For we know that it is in moments of our greatest despair that the Creator carries and comforts us. We too must be agents of care and comfort.*

*On this festival of Eid-ul-Adha let us be reminded of our duty to give generously to others, including not only material things but also that which springs from our hearts: our care, compassion and comfort. In so doing may the Creator consecrate our efforts in building a more humane society!*

Eid Mubarak!

Eid Mubarak!

Eid Mubarak!



President Ali at Eid Prayers at the Leonora Sunnatul Jamaat



Eid Prayers at the Leonora Sunnatul Jamaat



Eid Prayers at the Leonora Sunnatul Jamaat



GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## BRITISH-MADE MG- MORRIS GARAGES INTRODUCED TO GUYANA MARKET

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips reiterated the government's commitment to provide affordable and energy-efficient vehicles in Guyana at the official launch of the British-made MG- Morris Garages Motors line of vehicles in the country.

During his remarks at the launch which was held at the Pegasus Hotel Suites and Corporate Centre, the Prime Minister described the initiative, which is a collaboration between Massy Motors and SAIC Motors, as an important moment in the country's development and a new era for Guyana's transportation sector.

**"We commend Massy Motors Guyana**



The official launch of the British-made MG- Morris Garages Motors

**and its partnership with SAIC Motors for creating this paradigm shift in our transportation sector and hope it inspires a bigger change across the board in our country."**

Massy Motors will be the sole distributor of the iconic British brand of motor vehicles.

The Senior

Government Official said that the timely development of the MG vehicle brand, including electric vehicles, will enable Guyana to take advantage of this innovative and energy-efficient mode of transportation.

He said this is in line with the government's pledge to decarbonise the transport sector as part of its low-carbon development strategy.

**"In preparation for this new era, our government has announced the removal of the 14% value-added tax (VAT) from the importation of new electric vehicles. The Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) has also ordered six EV**

**charging stations for placement along Guyana's coast."**

He also said that the MG brand, with its British origins and current ownership by Chinese state-owned automaker SAIC Motor, symbolises Guyana's confidence in the expertise of these territories and signals a strengthened relationship between Guyana and China.

Three MG models have been introduced to the country through the launch—MG3, MGZS and MGHS.

Massy Motors Guyana is said to have an initial order which totalled 100 vehicles, of which 83 units were received in May and over 30 were sold thus far.

The cost of the

MG3—a distinctive hatchback – starts from \$3.95 million, the MGZS – a compact SUV – from \$5 million and the MGHS – a large and fully fledged SUV – from \$5.7 million.

One of the highlights of the launch was 35-year-old housewife Janette Dhanraj-Worrell becoming the proud owner of a MG 3 vehicle, after taking part in a raffle that was held online by Massy Motors. Worrell and two others, Melissa Williams and Daniel Hutson, were the finalists in the competition having successfully answered nine questions relating to MG Motors on the Massy group's Facebook page.

## 'THE TIME TO SEIZE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IS NOW'

### - MINISTER WALROND URGES LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

With an influx of golden investments pouring into Guyana's economy, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond has urged local entrepreneurs to take advantage of the remarkable opportunities coming their way.

Minister Walrond made the robust plea, as she delivered the keynote address at the second edition of the 'Economic Business Conference and Mixer', at the Marriott

Hotel, Kingston.

**"We must send a resounding message that the time is now. The time to invest is now, the time to seize business opportunities is now, the time to explore collaboration is now and the time to strike deals is now,"** the tourism minister emphasised.

She noted with the numerous ongoing developments, the country has witnessed

its economy growing at a phenomenal rate.

**"More than one billion US dollars has already been deposited into our Natural Resources Fund (NRF). Our non-oil economy is expected to grow at a rate approaching ten per cent, which is more than itself the overall global average."**

With the strategic leadership and interventions by the

government in all sectors, Minister Walrond emphasised that these efforts are being made for the citizens, who will reap the benefits and enjoy a country of constant advancement.

**"This forum which brings young people into contact with outstanding entrepreneurs and leaders in business has the potential to contribute much to that enabling environment,"** she

noted.

The minister believes these sessions can bolster tourism in the country, as well as create networking opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, several business owners who expressed their gratitude for the conference.

"My business is just two years old, so the conference will help me to grow and reach my full potential. I'm looking forward to learning something new," Sakenah Fraser stated.

Jermaine Hall ensured he did not miss this year's session. He said he has always been intrigued by guidance from experienced persons.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond speaking at the second edition of Economic Business Conference and Mixer

"There are a lot of minds that I want to get into, and so networking is one of the major mediums in my business," an elated Hall noted.

Guyana is gearing up to host the highly anticipated Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) 32nd Annual Conference and Exhibition, scheduled to take place from October 23 to 27, 2023.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal and Permanent Secretary, Andre Ally, were recently briefed on the preparations for the event, at the housing ministry's Brickdam office.

Minister Croal expressed his enthusiasm for the conference and assured that the Government of Guyana is fully committed to supporting its success.

**"I presented this**

## GUYANA GEARING UP TO HOST CARIBBEAN WASTEWATER CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal and Permanent Secretary, Andre Ally being briefed on preparations for the conference by members of the planning committee

**to Cabinet and there is an endorsement of us hosting this conference... we want to use this opportunity to showcase what we are doing here in Guyana,"** he said.

The minister stressed the crucial role of waste management and emphasised

the significance of addressing this issue.

He highlighted that the conference will provide a unique platform for experts, stakeholders, and heads of government to exchange knowledge and explore innovative solutions to the issue facing the Caribbean region.

**"This is a new area for everybody... if we are we are talking about a modern country, a developed country, then that's where we have to start,"** Minister Croal underscored.

The minister commended the local planning committee, led by CWWA President and

GWI Executive Director of Projects, Lt Col Marlon Daniels, for their diligent efforts in organising the event.

During his presentation, Daniels expressed his anticipation for the conference to be one of the largest, with an estimated participation of around 300 delegates including Caribbean government ministers and local and international investors.

Additionally, he revealed that there will be approximately 100 booths on display, showcasing various

industry advancements and solutions.

Daniels added that the conference and exhibition will also serve as a platform to promote Guyana as a tourism destination while also presenting investment opportunities.

The conference will be hosted at the Guyana Marriott Hotel under the theme: "Accelerating Change in the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Sectors". For more information contact: [conference@cwwa.net](mailto:conference@cwwa.net) or [cwwaconference2023@gmail.com](mailto:cwwaconference2023@gmail.com).



# \$73M LEARNING LAB OFFICIALLY OPENS FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud commissioned the \$73M 'Learning Lab' Unity, Mahaica, East Coast Demerara. This is the first center of this nature in Guyana, dedicated to the development and empowerment of persons living with disabilities.



The commissioning was witnessed by representatives of the United Nations, the United Kingdom, Canada and India among others

The state-of-the-art facility consists of three training halls, a kitchen, washroom facilities and was built to ensure easy access.

At the opening, Minister Persaud related, "This is keeping with the government's vision of working along with persons living with disabilities not only to provide facilities

and amenities, but also work towards the attainment of various sustainable development goals."

She explained further that, "It is the intention of the government of Guyana, directly through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to expand those safety

nets, to continue to see and increase the allocations to persons living with disabilities."

In the last two years, for the first time, there were direct allocations for persons living with disabilities. Over \$100 million had been allotted annually and over that time, much of that was directed towards

training of persons living with disabilities.

"This is the kind of advanced work we are doing in Guyana, ensuring there is equal opportunity, equal access and the kind of development that can stand on good stead for the years to come," Minister Persaud explained.

"At the learning

lab, we focus on technical and vocational skills with the strategic direction of having persons who leave the learning lab with skills so that they can gain financial independence," she added.

A sum of \$5 million was contributed by Spotlight Initiative, the European Union and the

United Nation to furnish the centre.

Meanwhile stakeholders have lauded the lab. Programme Coordinator for the Guyana Society for the Blind, Ganesh Singh said, "What we are seeing now is transformative ... there is now a space, not just for training but recreational purposes where persons can develop and learn living skills."

Similar sentiments were echoed by Sabane McIntosh of the Deaf Association of Guyana. "It is a beautiful building, very clean, we were given a guided tour and access for the blind, deaf and wheelchair users is everywhere," McIntosh said.



The new Learning Lab

# NIS AND OLD AGE PENSIONS TO BE PAID ON SAME DAY

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh, in keeping with an announcement made President Irfaan Ali, has instructed that with effect from July 2023, National Insurance Scheme (NIS) pension payments will now be paid from the first working day of every month to align with Old Age Pension (OAP) payments. Previously, NIS pension payments



This is part of government's broader agenda to improve, modernize and streamline its service-delivery to citizens

were made from the first Monday of every month.

A statement from the finance ministry noted that this is part of government's

broader agenda to improve, modernize and streamline its service-delivery to citizens. Other measures taken thus far by the administration

have been the NIS Online Contribution Checking System (OCCS) which is expected to reduce the incidence of inaccuracies, the WhatsApp life certificate hotline, WhatsApp Queries Textbook Service and NIS Live Chat.

NIS payments are paid via the Guyana Post Office Corporation (GPOC), Commercial Banks and at NIS local offices countrywide and other payment options are currently being considered by

Government.

Recently Government expanded the payment options for OAP to include Mobile Money Guyana (MMG). This adds to the existing options of the Guyana Post Office Corporation (GPOC), MoneyGram, Western Union, Sure Pay and Commercial Banks.

A priority of the Government when it assumed office in 2020 was to address the complaints received from contributors to the NIS with pending claims

at the time amounting to 14,000 as at November 2020. In support of this effort, Government at Cabinet level, undertook a series of nationwide outreach sessions that took the services of NIS to the citizens. Persons across the country have benefitted from these sessions, many of whom are in receipt of Old Age Pension after waiting for a number of years. Of the 14,000 pending claims inherited in 2020, over 12,000 have been addressed.

# TUSCHEN FAMILY OF FOUR GETS NEW HOME THROUGH FIRST LADY'S OFFICE

A family of four from Tuschen, West Bank Demerara, Region Three are now in high spirits after receiving the keys to a brand new semi-furnished home from the First Lady, Her Excellency, Arya Ali.

Mrs. Ali had committed to rebuilding

the home after learning that the family was living in deplorable conditions after the father, the sole breadwinner, was diagnosed with cancer and became bedridden for the past three years.

As a result, the mother, Dolly Ward, 53, was unable to work



53-year-old Dolly Ward expressing her gratitude at the simple handing over ceremony

because she had to prioritise attending to the needs of her husband and children.

They reportedly depended on the father's pension along with their small poultry business to provide for their needs.

Ward teared up during the simple handing-over ceremony

and thanked the first lady for fulfilling her promise, while adding that the gesture means a lot.

"I want to say thanks a lot because it means a lot to us, it means a lot to me, my children, my husband, it means a lot because we were struggling all the time



Inside of the newly built home at Tuschen, West Bank Demerara, Region Three

and now, we get a breakthrough because our First Lady ... came out and give us this help," she expressed.

Ward also expressed gratitude to all those who played a part in ensuring the home was built weeks after being committed by the first lady.

Mrs. Ali while delivering brief remarks said she hopes that the new home will help the family tremendously.

"Not only we would

have built a home but we also built a chicken coop that can house 100 chickens at a time and that should help you to generate an income for you and your family."

She also thanked those who contributed to making the home a reality for the family.

Ward's two children will also be provided with scholarships through the First Lady's Office after completing high school.



First Lady Mrs Arya Ali and the family of four in front of the new house that was constructed



# GOV'T RELEASES DRAFT PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES BILL

The Ministry of Natural Resources, on behalf of the Government of Guyana, have released the draft Petroleum Activities Bill for public consultation. The Petroleum Activities Bill replaces the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1986 and is part of efforts by the government to modernise the legal and regulatory framework related to the petroleum sector.

The Ministry in a release noted that the Petroleum Activities Bill introduces significant improvements and safeguards related to safety, emergency

response, cross border unitisation, supervision and monitoring requirements, and authorises the minister to prescribe regulations about key administrative and operational aspects of exploration and production activities.

**"It also expands the scope of regulation to include storage and pipeline transportation aspects of the oil and gas sector and empower the government to regulate activities associated with geological storage of carbon dioxide. Exploring**



**opportunities for potential CO<sub>2</sub> storage sites will enable the government to develop petroleum resources while seeking to minimise their carbon footprint,"** the release stated.

According to the Ministry, the Bill is expected to be supplemented by a set of regulations that will follow in the coming months and provide the government the necessary toolbox for responsible and efficient

management of the petroleum activities within the Guyanese economy.

**"The government will also ensure that the terms of the draft petroleum agreements released in association with the first offshore licensing round are aligned with the provisions of the Petroleum Activities Bill,"** the release said.

The government has been continuously working to improve the overall management and regulation of the petroleum industry through various policy and legislative

programmes. These programmes included the enactment of the Local Content Act, the establishment of the Local Content Secretariat and a new Natural Resource Fund (NRF) law aimed at providing greater oversight and management of revenue flows. Additionally, there have been new environmental permitting conditions and fees for the successive licences that have been issued, and the conducting of cost recovery audits covering the periods from 1999 to 2022.

## HIGH COURT DISMISSES CHALLENGE TO NRF BILL'S PASSAGE

Justice Navindra Singh has ruled against Opposition Chief Whip Christopher Jones and Trade Unionist Norris Witter in their case challenging the passage of the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) Bill.

In his ruling, Justice Singh stated that the absence of the mace during the passage of the NRF bill did not invalidate its subsequent passage.

He emphasised that the presence of the mace in the National Assembly was not mandated by the

Constitution or the laws of Guyana. Therefore, the bill's passage was not deemed unconstitutional or unlawful because of its absence.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, in an update, expressed similar sentiment.

**"Mace or absence of mace has nothing to do with the legislative power of the parliament to make laws... Parliament is driven by the elected officials**

**who are there elected by the people and is governed by the constitution. The constitution nor the standing order makes any reference for mace"** the Attorney General stated.

He welcomed the court's decision, highlighting the importance of these rulings for the development of the law and jurisprudence of the nation.

During a chaotic session that saw upheaval in the

parliamentary chamber on December 29, 2021, opposition APNU+AFC MPs, in a failed bid to derail the passage of the Bill, attempted to seize the ceremonial Mace—the symbol of authority in the House.

In the midst of the mayhem, a replica Mace was brought in, but the Opposition was adamant that in the absence of the authentic Mace, the Bill could not have been lawfully passed. They argued too, that members were required to be seated during the

voting process.

Jones and Witter, represented by attorneys Roysdale Forde, S.C., and Selwyn Pieters, sought judicial review and relief under the Constitution in their attempt to challenge the NRF bill's passage. However, their case was ultimately dismissed by Justice Navindra Singh.

The case was dismissed in its entirety, and costs of \$250,000 were awarded to each defendant against each claimant.



*Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC*

## GUYANA WINS FOUR MEDALS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN BERLIN

Director of Sport Steve Ninvalle led a welcome party in the wee hours of Tuesday, June 27 at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport to greet the successful Guyana Special Olympics team, who returned from Germany. The Office of the First Lady, who also sponsored the team, was represented by the Director of Projects and Policy, Ravin Singh.

An Indigenous dancing quartet and a Tassa Troupe provided a festive hero's welcome to the five-member Olympics contingent, which comprised Head of the Delegation Wilton Spencer, Athletes Rachel



*The team won four medals*

Mortley, Stephanie Ramotar, Daniel Samsundar, and coach Lavern Lee-Alleyne.

Held for the first time in Berlin, from June 17th-25th, Guyana

won four medals in the discipline of Bocce.

The team returned to local shores with one gold accolade in the female singles segment, three silver medals

in the female doubles division, and a bronze award in the male singles section. Approximately 7000 athletes and 3000 coaches from 190 nations participated in the

prestigious event, which featured 26 disciplines.

Ninvalle praised the group on behalf of President Irfaan Ali, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr, and the Government of Guyana for their noteworthy accomplishments in representing their nation.

According to Ninvalle, this achievement highlights what can be achieved when unwavering commitment supersedes prevailing challenges, noting that support will emanate and be forthcoming from the relevant sports entities to

build on this noteworthy success.

Ninvalle disclosed that while he has never played the sport of Bocce, the resulting triumphs of the team have afforded the discipline mainstream aspiration.

He further revealed that a formal meeting between the Olympic team and Minister Ramson Jr will ensue and that all matters relating to the development of the sport can and will be ventilated to move the discipline forward.

(NewsRoom)



## LOCAL CONTENT LAW ENABLING FOREIGN, LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS – DR RAMSAROOP

The Local Content Law has proven important in formulating partnerships between Guyana and foreign investors, as companies abroad become more familiar with the country as an investment destination.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Guyana Office for Investment (Guyana Invest), Dr Peter Ramsaroop has stated that in the early years of the oil and gas sector, large companies initially entered the sector without the need for local partners.

However, in recent times investors have shown increased interest in local content and local

partnership.

During an interview with local oil and gas news outlet, OilNow, Dr. Ramsaroop said he believes that the new wave of investments will necessitate collaboration with local companies.

**“I believe a lot of the next level of investments really require local partnerships... Because the early days of the oil sector, 2020 and right before that were Schlumberger and Baker Hughes, massive companies... They didn’t need local partners. But the new players, in selling pipe coding for example, or oil services, are all companies that will**

**require partnership and I know some of them are already in Guyana with partners,”** Ramsaroop said.

He stressed the positive impact of such collaborations, noting that expanding local content in various sectors will be beneficial to Guyana, and will attract foreign investors who want to have a better understanding of the environment.

**“I think local content is a good thing. I think companies want it more, and I believe as we expand local content in the other sectors, that it will be very good for Guyana,**

**because as a foreign investor, you don’t want to come into an environment that you don’t understand completely. You don’t understand the culture or the type of workforce. So, having that local partner is a plus for investors and I see it as a plus for Guyana and it’s not a detriment,”** he expressed.

The CEO stated that while there is currently no direct conversation concerning expanding local content beyond the oil and gas sector, it is something that could prove beneficial for Guyana.

**“If, say, you’re coming to set up**



Chief Executive Officer of Guyana Invest, Dr Peter Ramsaroop

**an agro-processing facility in Guyana, you would want to understand the local supply chain and which farmers can produce, or which smaller agro-processors can feed a bigger**

**agro-processing [company]. So, I believe that it would be a good thing if we could expand local content to all other sectors,”** he said.

The Local Content Laws were enacted in January 2022, after being passed in the National Assembly in December 2021. The act lays out 40 different services that oil and gas companies and their sub-contractors must procure from Guyanese companies.

Its passage aimed to strengthen the laws which ensure that Guyanese adequately benefit from the burgeoning oil and gas sector.

## 135 AMERINDIAN VILLAGES SUBMIT PLANS TO ACCESS FUNDS FROM SALE OF CARBON CREDITS – NTC CHAIR

Some 135 Amerindian communities have submitted the outlines of their Village Sustainability Plans (VSPs) to the National Toshias’ Council (NTC), as part of the process of accessing their respective allocation from the \$4.6 billion (US\$22 million) earned from the sale of Guyana’s carbon credits.

Communities including Kamarang, Orealla, Karrau, Moraikobai, and Bethany, among others are on the submission

list, after which the document will be endorsed by the council and then forwarded to the government for approval.

NTC Chairman, Derrick John made the disclosure during an interview with this publication.

Amerindian leaders are required to consult with their communities to arrive at a consensus concerning their village development plan before they can access the monies, allowing for accountability and



transparency regarding how the funds will be expended.

Each community has

already created separate bank accounts, where the funds will be deposited.

**“We play two roles, we help them [and] we guide them because at the end of the day, it’s a community that has to develop their own plans, so we give them that technical support but the ideas have to come from the villages themselves,”** the chairman pointed out.

The villages have outlined several priority areas and, **“It varies from village to village because some communities focus**

on eco-tourism, smart agriculture, some focus on infrastructure, so it varies from village to village,” John said.

He explained that once the council receives a request for assistance from village leaders, technical support is provided in developing the plans.

Over 240 Amerindian communities across Guyana will be receiving up to \$35 million and no less than \$10 million depending on its population size.

This follows the

historic agreement signed with Hess Corporation for Guyana’s carbon credits in 2022 that will see the country earning US\$750 million for its forest, of which 15 per cent will go towards Amerindian development.

In addition to this, Amerindians will also be direct beneficiaries of all aspects of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, from renewable energy and climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

## ENERGY SECURITY OFFERS BOLD NEW ERA OF REGIONAL COOPERATION - FOREIGN SECRETARY, ROBERT PERSAUD

At the opening session of the Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit (SEOGS), strong statements of regional cooperation were made by representatives of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname in the area of regional Energy security.

Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud who represented Guyana engaged in a Ministerial Roundtable with Albert Ramdin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname and Stuart Young, Minister of Energy in Trinidad and Tobago where the need for strategic alliance in energy security was

underscored.

This roundtable discussion centred on Strategic Regional Cooperation, with particular focus on energy. Among the sentiments expressed were strong calls for regional cooperation in energy, which will become a key driver of economic growth and regional integration in the years to come.

In this forum, the Foreign Secretary relayed that the region is on the verge of a new and bold era of cooperation, where energy can act as an impetus for renewed and reinvigorated economic and political



Guyana’s Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud (right), Trinidad and Tobago’s Energy Minister Stuart Young (centre) and Suriname’s Foreign Affairs Minister Albert Ramdi

cooperation in the region. He continued to express that cheap and reliable energy underpins strong economic growth and, in the case of Guyana, will be used as a platform on which long-term

growth and sustainable policies will be enacted, especially in the arena of food security and given the leadership being offered to the CARICOM region by President Dr. Irfaan Ali.

He continued that an important caveat is that there must be a balanced approach to this regional development and expansion of the energy industry with particular attention to

the environment. In this regard, according to Mr. Persaud, Guyana is a global leader and will avail itself to inform such an approach to other countries.

The CARICOM states representative concluded by committing to the development of the energy industry in a manner that puts its people first, that protects the environment and safeguards the interests of future generations. To maximise the benefits to this approach, they reasoned that strong, strategic and renewed regional collaboration will be needed and all committed to same.





Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill alongside Suriname's Public Works Minister Dr. Riad Nurmohamed, members of WSP and engineers

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill has announced that the contract for the Corentyne River Bridge, linking Guyana to Suriname, is expected to be signed by October.

This announcement was made during the Second High-Level Decision Makers (HLDM) meeting and

presentation by WSP Caribbean, a Trinidad-based company, in the presence of Suriname's Public Works Minister Dr. Riad Nurmohamed. The meeting marked the final phase of the design and feasibility studies for the bridge.

Minister Edghill expressed gratitude for the flexibility provided

## GOV'T ANTICIPATES SIGNING OF CORENTYNE RIVER BRIDGE BY OCTOBER

by the consultancy, allowing prequalified firms to access information before the final report was released.

The prequalified firms are expected to submit their bids by the end of July, with the closing date set for August 1. The evaluation process will involve local evaluations as well as a joint evaluation conducted by Guyana and Suriname. Once the evaluation is completed, the preferred contractor will be engaged.

**"We intend to have a contract**

**signed by October of 2023 and then we can go into mobilisation and actual construction. This is a project that should not suffer any delays, as a matter of a fact we need to be moving it along. And that is one of the reasons why we provided information ahead of the final report to get things moving so that we can get submissions at this time,"** Minister Edghill stated.

Dr. Nurmohamed also expressed

satisfaction with the progress made thus far and emphasised the significance of the bridge for the development of both countries.

He noted that, **"Building the bridge is very high on the agenda for both countries...from our side, we will continue our work based on what studies have said."**

The Corentyne River Bridge will be constructed through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement, following the Design-

Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain (DBFOM) model. Under this model, the successful contractor or joint venture will be responsible for the final design, construction, financing, operation, and maintenance of the bridge.

In May 2022, the consultancy assignment for the Feasibility Study and Detailed Designs for the Construction of a Bridge over the Corentyne River was awarded to WSP Caribbean, amounting to US\$2 million.

## CONSTRUCTION OF WISMAR BRIDGE TO BEGIN BEFORE YEAR END

Construction of the new four-lane bridge across the Demerara River in Wismar, Linden, Region Ten is expected to commence before the end of this year.

This is according to Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, who was at the time speaking at a press conference at Office of the President.

**"We are at a stage where we're ready to start the negotiations. We have had three offers,**

**and when the details emerge, you will see that the offers that we have received are very competitive,"** Dr Jagdeo relayed.

The bridge is expected to cost some US\$35 million and will connect Wismar to Mackenzie. The bridge is set to significantly reduce traffic congestion, as the current bridge only has one vehicle lane.

The government is engaging China Railway Construction Limited for

the project.

This is the company that has also been tasked with the construction of the Demerara River Crossing, at the cost of some US\$260 million.

Recently, government inked a US\$150 million loan agreement with the Saudi Arabian government to expand housing development in several regions, as well as to build the Wismar/Mackenzie bridge in Linden.

**"This loan will allow us to accelerate our housing programme. You will recall that we said we wanted to do 50, 000 house lots in our five-year term, and we are at about 30, 000 now. \$100 million will go immediately to developing the housing programme,"** the Vice president noted.

Meanwhile, the VP added that government has already selected



The bridge is expected to cost some US\$35 million

the consultants for the Soesdyke-Linden highway project.

**"They have prequalified the contractors, and the consultants have to do a review of**

**the design, so we anticipate starting paving the Linden-Soesdyke highway before the end of the year,"** Dr Jagdeo explained.



The bridge will allow for traffic flow into the township

A \$53.5 million contract was signed for the construction of a reinforced concrete bridge at Station Street, Anna Regina in Region Two.

The bridge will allow for majority of the traffic entering the township to be accommodated, reducing traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.

According to Region Two's Regional Democratic Council (RDC), the contract was awarded to Triple F Variety Store by the National

Procurement and Tender Administration Board and works are expected to be completed within four months.

The establishment of the multi-million-dollar

## \$53.5M CONTRACT SIGNED FOR REINFORCED BRIDGE AT ANNA REGINA

concrete connection is part of a slew of infrastructural works that will be executed in the region within the next few months.

### CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR ROADWORKS, REVETMENT

Meanwhile, residents will soon see major infrastructural enhancements in several communities,

following the signing of four contracts totalling approximately \$69.9 million for capital works.

One contract totalling \$31.9 million was signed for the construction of a revetment at Golden Fleece. This is expected to be completed within four months. The project was awarded to R.I.V.A Investment by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board

(NPTAB).

A \$10.7 million contract was also signed for the upgrading of Tomesh Street, Windsor Castle, and will be executed by A. Bacchus Contracting and Trucking Service. This project will see a new concrete structure coupled with concrete drains on both sides, as well as the construction of walkways to allow for easy access for residents.

It is expected to be completed within three months.

Another \$10.8 million will be expended for concrete upgrades to Second Cross Street, Old Housing Scheme and Charity, providing residents with improved access to their homes. This project was awarded to Golden Key Construction and Supply and is expected to be completed within three months.

Another pact valued at \$16.5 million was inked for the construction of a revetment at Charity to significantly reduce flooding in the community. This project was awarded to H Ramballi General Construction by NPTAB and is expected to be completed within four months.



Three contracts were signed for capital works in Region Two totalling approximately \$53.4 million



A \$16.5M contract was signed for the construction of revetment at Charity



# Guyana on course for world-class service sector transformation

GUYANA is on track to undergo a remarkable transformation as it aims to build a world-class service sector with a strong emphasis on creating a unique national brand and harnessing advanced technologies.

This is according to President Dr. Irfaan Ali, who told a room full of Guyanese living in Canada, on Saturday night, that the country of their birth is charting its own path towards development and prosperity.

The event was part of a three-day visit during which President Ali used the opportunity to engage the Guyanese diaspora.

While delivering the feature address at the La Primavera Banquet Hall in Ontario, he announced the country's plans to undergo a major transformation to build a "world-class service sector".

Addressing the misconception that Guyana should replicate the development strategies of other countries, President Ali said: "What is wrong with us developing our own model? We must have the ability to design and propel our own brand. That is what is going to make us different."

President Ali further underscored the importance of identifying the core values, principles, and societal structure that define the Guyanese identity and recognising these "soft issues" as fundamental to building lasting prosperity.

To fulfil its vision, the government acknowledges the necessity of modernisation and the integration of advanced technologies, he pointed out.

President Ali highlighted the crucial role of upgrading Guyana's records management system, incorporating biometrics, electronic identification cards, and passports, while embracing robotics and other cutting-edge technologies.

Despite the associated costs, the President expressed the urgency of harnessing available technology to propel Guyana forward, stating, "We have to transform everything that we have learned to do all our lives onto an electronic platform."

In line with its commitment to efficient and transparent processes, the government has commenced the implementation of the single-window construction permitting system, and other single-window systems.

These aim to eliminate human bias, reduce bureaucracy, and enhance transparency.

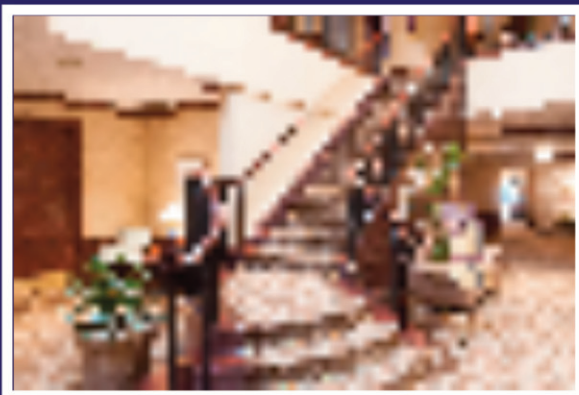
The Planning and Development Single-Window System Bill is currently before the National Assembly and once approved will cater to the establishment of a streamlined electronic processing system, thereby increasing business efficiency in the expanding housing and construction industries.



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addresses members of the Guyanese diaspora in Canada

## Our Family Caring for Yours

From the flowers on the front lawn to the paintings on the walls, we at Ogden's always consider the comfort and needs of the families that we serve first. We offer services and products that are meaningful and fit comfortably within your budget. Just some of the ways that we as a family care for yours.  
Family owned and operated since 1948.



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East  
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

[www.ogdenfuneralhome.com](http://www.ogdenfuneralhome.com)



GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## WORLD PAEDIATRIC PROJECT TO HELP GUYANA REDUCE BACKLOG OF SURGERIES

The World Paediatric Project (WPP) will be collaborating with the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) to reduce the backlog of advanced paediatric surgeries locally. First Lady, Arya Ali recently met with a visiting team from the WPP led by Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Vafa Akhavan, where they held discussions and agreed to support Guyana's paediatric needs.

The collaboration will move Guyana on the path

of health modernisation. **"The international NGO, which has attended to over 15,400 children and performed almost 10,000 surgical procedures, has agreed to support Guyana's pediatric needs. I share their vision of ensuring that all that can be done, is done in protecting and safeguarding Guyana's future leaders,"** the First Lady stated on her social media page.

She said children also need surgery including

ophthalmic, orthopaedic, and maxillofacial.

**"With these services becoming a reality in Guyana, the days of families asking for funding and overseas help would become a thing of the past,"** the first lady stated.

GPHC's CEO, Robbie Rambarran has been tasked with formulating a model that will ensure a sustained relationship with the international agency and the first lady has challenged all parties involved in this programme to work



First Lady, Arya Ali with the team from the WPP

assiduously to ensure advanced surgeries can commence before the end of 2023.

**"Credit to Dr**

**Zulifikar Bux for initiating the partnership with WPP, and for introducing me and**

**Bux all of Guyana to this wonderful NGO,"** she expressed.

## YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME BEING ROLLED OUT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

More young Guyanese are being afforded the opportunity to partake in the business sector, with the expansion of the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme being launched in secondary schools nationwide.

This year, the Small Business Bureau (SBB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education will be rolling out the programme to 15 schools countrywide at the Grade Ten level.

The enrollment exercise, which commenced in March has already been launched at eight learning institutions, including Kwakwani, Annai, St. Ignatius and Aishalton Secondary Schools.

It is aimed at helping

students to develop an entrepreneurial attitude and to get them to effectively participate in the business world.

The students are being guided on how to

from the SBB to start-up their businesses.

The programme is a stepping stone for them to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

During an interview



YEP being established at the St. Ignatius Secondary School

create business plans and most importantly, will have the opportunity to receive assistance

with this publication, SBB's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shazim Ibrahim said the



SBB rolling out the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme at Kwakwani Secondary School

initiative was introduced in schools due to the need for the development of entrepreneurship skills.

**"We see the need for entrepreneurship in young people and that's how we came up with the idea to do the programme with grade 10 students... so that they can start thinking about**

**entrepreneurship. And so, with that, we collaborated with the Ministry of Education."**

Ibrahim explained that the programme is reaching Grade 10 students and having a positive impact on their attitudes.

**"We are only choosing two projects**

**from each school to fund. The teachers of the schools will mark the business plan put together by the students and submit only six to us,"** the CEO added.

He explained that when the two projects from the schools are chosen, they will be funded in two phases.

The first phase will consist of half of the total fund being given to the students, while the other half will be given when works commence on the projects.

Ibrahim also said a total of \$1.5 million was budgeted by the SBB to help initiate these business projects. The programme will be rolled out to more schools subsequently.

## HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMME TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN SCHOOLS

An expansive health screening initiative will be launched in schools nationwide through a joint effort by the Ministries of Health and Education.

The programme will be rolled out by the end of June, Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony announced at the launching of the national expansion of the HEARTS Initiative for the management of cardiovascular diseases, at the Pegasus Hotel.

The aim of the programme is to ensure



the nation's children are offered preventative care and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle, through early detection of any health-related issues.

**"We're starting that programme this month and we have targeted 27,000 nursery school children to be completed before the year comes to an end,"** Minister Anthony explained.

There will be a package of services provided to all schools, where each child

will be examined. They will receive dental and eye care, among other services.

**"For persons at nursery, they'll be screened once during that nursery period, then during primary we'll screen again and then at secondary they'll get another screening. So, over time, we will have the data to compare and to also intervene,"** the health minister stated.

The programme also seeks to tackle the diverse challenges present in classrooms while simultaneously mitigating potential learning setbacks. The

government wants to foster an understanding among young individuals about the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle and consuming a nutritious diet.

The initiative seeks to proactively prevent the onset of diseases and promote overall well-being.

Meanwhile, Coordinator of the Chronic Disease Unit, Dr Danielle Drepaal stated that health programmes aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle choices have already been rolled out in Regions Two and Nine. The unit aims to target 55 schools in 2023 and eventually all schools.





**SUPERKING SUPERMARKET**

**鴻發超市**



**Special Offers Effective: Friday July. 07 To Thursday July. 13, 2023**



**VEGETABLE & FRUIT**

Green Leaf Lettuce 唐生菜 Reg: \$1.59 <b>99¢ ea</b>	House Tomato 温室番茄 Reg: \$1.29 <b>99¢ lb</b>	USA Sweet Potato 美国番薯 Reg: \$0.99 <b>69¢ lb</b>	Green Onion 葱 Reg: 2 for \$1.59 <b>2/99¢</b>
Garlic 3 pcs in a bag 三粒装蒜頭 Reg: 2 for \$1.59 <b>2/99¢</b>	Red Pepper 红椒 Reg: \$1.99 <b>99¢ lb</b>	Thai Bananas 泰蕉 Reg: 1.29 <b>99¢ lb</b>	Bartlett Pear 长青啤梨 Reg: 1.29 <b>99¢ lb</b>
Gala Apple 苹果 Reg: \$1.29 <b>99¢ lb</b>	Hami Melon 哈密瓜 Reg: \$1.29 <b>99¢ lb</b>	Kiwi 奇异果 Reg: 2 for \$1.59 <b>2/99¢</b>	

**RESTAURANT SPECIAL**

Green Onion 葱 <b>23.00 case</b>	Head Lettuce 圆生菜 <b>49.00 case</b>	Carrot 红萝卜 <b>28.00 case</b>	Garlic In Case 箱装蒜头 50X3PC <b>22.00 case</b>
Coriander 元荳 <b>23.00 case</b>	Zucchini 青日本瓜 <b>20.00 case</b>	Red Pepper 11LB 红椒 <b>18.00 case</b>	Head On White Shrimp 40/50 6x4LBs 有头虾 <b>96.00 case</b>
Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 21/25 4x6lb/case <b>155.00 case</b>	Large Egg 箱装大鸡蛋 <b>52.00 case</b>	Container S32 容器 <b>46.50 case</b>	Container LR28 容器 <b>32.50 case</b>
Squid Brand Fish Sauce 箱装鱿鱼标鱼露 <b>30.00 case</b>	Capri Canola Oil 油 16L <b>41.99 case</b>	Kadoya Roasted Sesame Oil 八角麻油 1.65L <b>19.99 ea</b>	ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg <b>21.99 bag</b>
Capri Vegetable Oil 蔬菜油 16L <b>39.99 case</b>	Lee Kum Kee Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记中字蠔油 6x2.2kg <b>45.00 case</b>	Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 1.75L 李锦记海鲜酱 <b>53.00 case</b>	ADM Monarch Cake Flour 蛋糕粉 20kg <b>21.99 bag</b>
		NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒(G-018) <b>28.00 case</b>	ADM Monarch Pastry Flour 炸饼粉 20kg <b>20.99 bag</b>

**FROZEN**

THAI Gold Frozen White Shrimp 3L/35 无头白虾 400g Reg: \$10.99 <b>6.99 ea</b>	SH IQF Peeled White Shrimp Tail On 400g 鑫海白虾 Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99 ea</b>	Atlantic Chubb Mackerel 小池鱼 750g Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.59 ea</b>	Ferma Atlantic Whiting 竹签鱼 750g Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99 ea</b>	Nova Era Custard Tarts 葡萄牙蛋挞 450g Reg: \$6.99 <b>4.99 ea</b>	Qualy Pak Squid 2.2Lb 盒装鱿鱼 Reg: \$10.99 <b>6.99 ea</b>
Cool Ocean Raw Frozen Basa Steak 540g 龙利鱼扒 Reg: \$4.99 <b>2.99 ea</b>	Tropicana Juice Some Pulp 橙汁 1.54L Reg: \$5.99 <b>2.99 ea</b>	SH Whelk 600g 翡翠螺 Reg: \$8.99 <b>6.99 ea</b>	Bingrae Milk Drink Series 盒装牛奶饮料系列 6X200ml Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99 ea</b>	Pinoy Delight Red'n Juicy Sausage Series 450g 香肠 Reg: \$9.99 <b>6.99 ea</b>	Black Tie Keo Fish 360g 泥鳅 Reg: \$6.99 <b>5.59 ea</b>

**GROCERY**

Korea Roasted Seaweed Snack Series 10X5g 即食海苔 Reg: \$5.99 <b>2.99 ea</b>	Lotte Milkis Series 乳酸菌饮料 6X250mL Reg: \$6.99 <b>4.59 ea</b>	Allen's Drink Series 果汁系列 8X200ml Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.29 ea</b>
Bulacan Coconut Gel in Syrup Series 340g 椰块 Reg: \$2.79 <b>1.59 ea</b>	Florence Palm Nut In Syrup Series 340g 棕桐果 Reg: \$3.99 <b>1.99 ea</b>	Century Light Tuna Series 吞拿鱼 180g Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.59 ea</b>
Aurora Sea Salt Series 海盐 1 Kg Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.39 ea</b>	Lee Brand Chicken Flavor Broth Mix 1000g 鸡粉 Reg: \$13.59 <b>6.88 ea</b>	Mam Ruoc Hue Shrimp Sauce Series 340-400g 虾酱 Reg: \$5.99 <b>3.99 ea</b>
UFC Refresh Coconut Water 1L 椰子水 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.29 ea</b>	Dole Tropical Fruit Salad 热带水果沙拉 2.84L Reg: \$7.99 <b>4.99 ea</b>	Bulacan Macapuno String Coconut in Syrup 340g 椰丝 Reg: \$3.99/ea <b>2/\$5.00</b>
Campbell's Mushroom 蘑菇汤 284ml Reg: \$2.29 <b>99¢ ea</b>	Kraft Peanut Butter Series 花生酱 1Kg Reg: \$8.59 <b>3.99 ea</b>	Bedessee Butter Beans 黄豆豆 398ml Reg: \$1.29 <b>99¢ ea</b>
Coconut Tree Dried Noodle 康西米粉 400g Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.69 ea</b>	Longevity Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk 300ml 甜炼奶 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.39 ea</b>	Trung Nguyen G7 Coffee 咖啡 18X16g Reg: \$3.59 <b>2.29 ea</b>

**MEAT**

Pork Spare Ribs 猪排骨 Reg: \$3.59 <b>2.59 lb</b>	Pork Spare Ribs AA 一级排骨条 Reg: \$4.59 <b>3.59 lb</b>	Beef Back Ribs 牛排骨 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99 lb</b>
Best Choice Lamb Skewers 大众羊肉串 225g Reg: \$7.99 <b>6.99 pk</b>	Best Choice Beef Skewers 大众牛肉串 225g Reg: \$6.99 <b>5.99 pk</b>	

**SEAFOOD**

Frozen Fresh Head-On White Shrimp 冰鲜有头南美白虾 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99 lb</b>	Fresh Atlantic Salmon Steak 新鲜大西洋三文鱼扒 Reg: \$8.99 <b>6.99 lb</b>	Fresh Whole Atlantic Salmon 新鲜原条大西洋三文鱼 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99 lb</b>
Fresh Lane Snapper 新鲜火点 Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.59 lb</b>	Fresh Yellow Tail Snapper 新鲜黄尾立 Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99 lb</b>	Frozen Squid 冰鲜鱿鱼 Reg: \$6.99 <b>5.99 lb</b>

**1635 Lawrence Ave West, North York ON, M6L 3C9 | Tel: 416-241-8988 | MON - SUN 9AM - 9PM, OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | www.superking.ca**

Although We Strive For Accuracy In Both Copy & Illustration, unintentional Error May Occur, We Reserve The Right To Correct Any Error. Specials Available While Quantities Last. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. Design and advertisement by Promobiz Solutions. Tel: 416-773-1668



## INVESTING IN EDUCATION

# REGIONS TWO, EAST COAST DEMERARA ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

- WITH COMMISSIONING OF ABRAM ZUIL  
& GOOD HOPE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The newly commissioned \$585 million Abram Zuil Secondary School not only establish an enriched learning environment for 810 students, but importantly has ensured that Region Two attain universal secondary education.

The modern facility, constructed by Builders Hardware and General Supplies, features a two-storey structure with 27 classrooms, including seven equipped with interactive boards and computers. It also includes a multipurpose hall and three science laboratories,



The Good Hope Secondary School

promoting hands-on experimentation and innovation.

One notable feature of the school is the inclusion of an elevator, providing essential accessibility for students with physical challenges. Minister of

Education, Priya Manickchand, acknowledged that despite being in a bad state, the school had managed to perform exceptionally well, boasting the highest matriculation rate. She noted that the

reconstruction of the List 'A' school is testimony to the government's commitment to provide quality education to the nation's children.

Meanwhile, with the commissioning of the US\$2.6 million state of the art, Good Hope Secondary School, the East Coast of Demerara has also achieved universal secondary education.

This will allow some 800 students who will be housed at the facility to receive access to a high-quality of education. The facility has laboratories, trained teachers, and classrooms which are outfitted for secondary-



The Abram Zuil Secondary School

aged students.

The closure of the primary tops at Paradise, Enterprise, and Enmore will be possible with the completion of the school. Additionally, it will ease the overcrowding at the secondary schools in Cummings Lodge, Bladen Hall, Golden Grove, and Plaisance.

The education minister further explained, "It doesn't end here. Like the East Coast, the highway and the East Bank students suffered because there were two

schools that were supposed to be built there. One at Prospect and one at Yarrowkabra. Neither was started and finished."

In about a month's time, Yarrowkabra Secondary School will be completed to house all the students who are attending primary tops, the minister also disclosed.

President Ali and Minister Manickchand commissioned both schools.



President Ali speaking at the commissioning of the new Abram Zuil Secondary School in Region Two

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali unveiled plans for a massive investment of \$11 billion to enhance educational infrastructure and provide a minimum standard of facilities across the country. President Ali was speaking at the commissioning of the new Abram Zuil Secondary School in Region Two. He revealed that the funds, will be allocated for retrofitting, maintenance, and renovation of existing educational facilities and includes provisions for the improvement of teachers' living quarters. Notwithstanding

## PRESIDENT ALI UNVEILS \$11B INVESTMENT TO TRANSFORM EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, STANDARD

the significant resources allocated this year for the education sector, the head of state said the government will be proposing a supplementary budget to the National Assembly.

"So, you will see that in our next supplementary provision, we are going to have a chunk of these resources ready to support this investment of \$11 billion across the country," he said.

The president highlighted that the investment will be a

crucial component of a comprehensive, multi-year agenda and programme for education.

He mentioned the Anna Regina Secondary School in Region Two which is in need of upgrades and expansion and will be included in the initiative.

"So, when we look at the assessment, the Anna Regina Secondary School is also there ranked as a priority," he underscored.

According to the president, this stems

from a survey conducted last year, which has guided the development of the budget blueprint for educational and healthcare facilities. The survey aimed to assess the requirements and determine the necessary provisions in the sectors.

Meanwhile, in addition to the upgrading and construction of teachers' quarters, particularly for those in the hinterland, President Ali said the government is examining basic standard salaries for teachers.

"Cabinet has also

considered to ensure that all teachers are on a standard basic wage for teachers to avoid the disparity that exist. We are going to correct that from 2020 to now," he stated.

These significant investments aim to establish an enriched learning environment for the country's children, mirroring the exceptional standards set by the Abram Zuil Secondary School, the president said.

## OVER 13,000 PUPILS BENEFITTING DAILY FROM GOVT'S BREAKFAST PROGRAMME

More than 13,000 Grade Six pupils are benefitting from the government's breakfast programme, which provides them with a nutritious meal every day, to improve their attentiveness in class.

This was disclosed by Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, who noted that the programme also provides regular income for persons within communities capable of distributing healthy

foods. "We hired individuals from the community and gave them a menu prepared by the Carnegie School of Home Economics. It is measured in terms of food value. And we pay them to provide the food as well as for their labour," the education minister stated, during a recent airing of 'The Guyana Dialogue'.

"We are feeding

more than 13,000 children every morning and you haven't seen any big complaints online. That is not to say that we haven't had complaints. But we addressed them as soon as we get them," Minister Manickchand pointed out.

In this year's budget, a total of \$2.1 billion was allocated to expand the programme to benefit over 85,000 pupils across the country.

The programme is in addition to the ministry's Hot Meal Programme which serves meals to primary and primary top students in Regions One, Two, Three, Five, Seven, Eight, Nine, and Ten.

"The village does whatever the meal is going to be. The village cooks it and we give them the money and they prepare the food for the entire primary population," the minister added.

This undertaking is



Students of Mackenzie Primary School

just one of the ministry's projects focused on enhancing academic achievement and attendance.

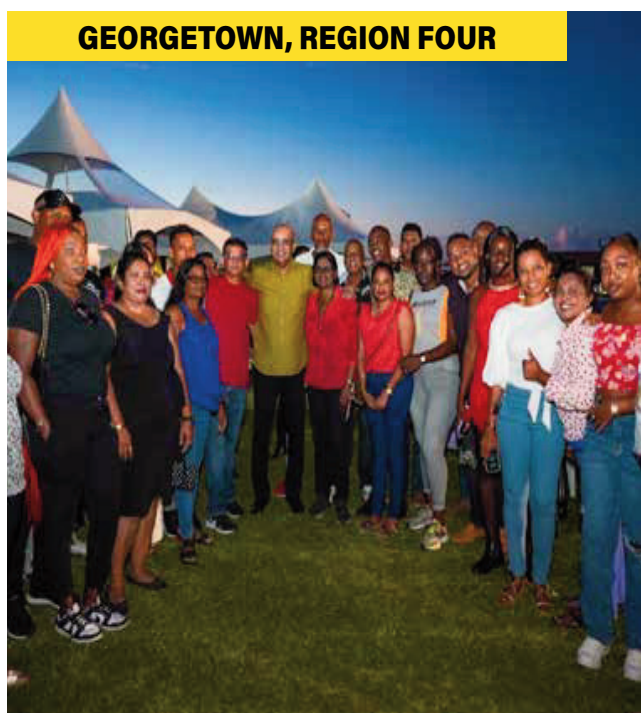
It also aligns with the government's goal to reduce the financial burden on parents and guardians.



# LGE 2023 "THANK YOU" CELEBRATIONS



The People's Progressive Party/Civic hosted "thank you" functions for candidates, activists and supporters for voting solidly for the party in the just-concluded Local Government Elections. The party won a total of 66 of the 80 Local Authority Areas (LAAs).







# Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

We're simply the best West Indian store in town.

 <p><b>Grace Condensed Sweetened Whitener</b> 297 ml</p> <p><b>99¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Grace 100% Coconut Water</b> 500 ml</p> <p><b>99¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Supligen Instant Breakfast Beverage</b> 290 ml</p> <p><b>2/450</b></p>	 <p><b>Cedar White Rice</b> 8 kg</p> <p><b>119¢ each</b></p>
--	--	--	---

 <p><b>Grace Peanut Punch</b> 240 ml</p> <p><b>79¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Mauby Fizz Diet</b> 300 ml</p> <p><b>79¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>London Digestive Biscuits</b> 400 g</p> <p><b>149¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Shavuot Moringa Tea</b> 24's</p> <p><b>2/\$5</b></p>
---	--	--	---

 <p><b>Realemon Lemon Juice</b> 946 ml</p> <p><b>2/\$5</b></p>	 <p><b>Benjamin's Vanilla</b> 240 ml</p> <p><b>2/\$5</b></p>	 <p><b>Hummingbird Browning</b> 147 ml</p> <p><b>199¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Pickapeppa Original Sauce</b> 148 ml</p> <p><b>339¢ each</b></p>
---	---	---	--

 <p><b>Dunya Harvest Butter Beans</b> 425 g</p> <p><b>89¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Grace Vienna Sausage Assorted</b> 130 g</p> <p><b>99¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Mr Goudas Red Kidney Beans</b> 15 lbs</p> <p><b>2299¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Jamaican Pride Instant Oats</b> 700 g</p> <p><b>199¢ each</b></p>
---	--	--	---

 <p><b>Raid Max Home Insect Killer Bed Bug Killer or Liquid Ants Baits</b> 500 g</p> <p><b>899¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Pur-est Clear Antibacterial Hand Soap</b> 500 ml</p> <p><b>129¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Carib Carbolic Soap</b> 125 g</p> <p><b>999¢ each</b></p>	 <p><b>Pur-est Kleen Bowl Cleaner</b> 50 g</p> <p><b>999¢ each</b></p>
---	--	---	---



# Five Location To



# Delicious Jamaican Dish

**Fat Trimmed  
Best Quality  
Easy Cook Oxtail  
DON'T PAY FOR FAT!!**



**\$6.49**  
lb Frozen or Previously Frozen

**Grown From New Zealand  
Free Range  
Goat**



**\$5.49**  
lb Frozen

**Frozen  
White Cow Feet**



**\$1.99**  
lb

**Frozen  
Beef Tripe**



**\$2.99**  
lb

**Salted  
Beef Short Ribs**



**\$4.99**  
lb

**Large Salted  
Fish**



**\$5.99**  
lb as is

**Frozen King  
Conch Meat**



**12.99**  
lb  
64.95/5 lb Box

**Frozen  
Chicken Drumsticks**



**27.99**  
10 kg box

**Fresh  
Chicken Wings**



**84.99**  
18 kg box

**Fresh Chicken  
Leg Quarters**



**74.99**  
18 kg box  
With Purchase of 2 cases or  
More Thursday To Sunday Only  
Or 4.17 kg for Over 18 kg Boxes

## Fresh Seafood Catches

**Fresh Yellow Tail  
Snappers**



**\$5.99**  
From lb as is

**Giant Mangrove  
Grey Snapper**



**\$6.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Porgy Fish**



**\$2.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Grunt Fish**



**\$2.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Atlantic  
Whole Salmon**



**\$4.99**  
lb as is

### YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

**Fresh Buttercup  
Squash**



**1.39**  
lb

**Fresh Jamaican  
Sweet Potatoes**



**3.99**  
lb

**Sweet Haden Mangoes**



**2/2.50**

**Fresh 2 Lb  
Cooking Onions**



**2/\$3**

## Five Locations To serve you Better

**Specials in Effect Thu. July 6th  
until Wed. July 12th, 2023.**

Although we strive for accuracy in both copy & illustration, unintentional error may occur, we reserve the right to correct any error. Specials Available While Quantities Last. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Finch Ave. W.  
Danforth Food Market  
3701 Keele St.  
416-398-8123

Sheppard Ave. W.

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

Steeles Ave. W.  
Danforth Food Market  
301 Silverstone Dr.  
416-740-9870

Finch Ave. W.

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 8 pm

Sheppard Ave. E.  
Danforth Food Market  
651 Markam Rd.  
416-439-6397

Lawrence Ave. E.

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

Bloor St. E.  
Danforth Food Market  
1225 Dundas St.  
Dixie & Dundas  
Mississauga  
905-949-9990

Dundas St. E.

**Store Hours**  
Mond-Thurs 9:30 am to 9 pm  
Fri.-Sat. 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 6 pm

Stafford Dr.  
Danforth Food Market  
144 Kennedy Road  
South  
289-298-0399

Glidden Rd.

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

# Serve You Better





GEORGETOWN, REGION FOUR



LINDEN, REGION 10





INVESTING IN EDUCATION

600 CHILDREN TO BENEFIT FROM NEW ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

- \$560.7M IN CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR RECONSTRUCTION

The Ministry of Education has signed six contracts to the tune of \$560.7 million for the rehabilitation of the St Mary's High School.

The construction of the three-story building is expected to be completed in seven months and will benefit approximately 6,000 students. Once completed the upper flat of the building will accommodate 10 classrooms, while the second flat will house 12 classrooms along with a Teachers' Staffroom and a sanitary block. The lower flat will be equipped with six laboratories (labs) including labs for Information Technology, Home Economics, and Industrial Technology, canteen and the auditorium.

It will also be equipped with a number of fire prevention methods such as fire escape exits, escape doors, fire alarms, extinguishers, limited timber usage, metal

ceilings & fire-retardant panels.

The contracts were signed in the Ministry of Education's 26 Brickdam boardroom by Permanent Secretary, Alfred King.

Lots one and two contracts were allocated to K&S General Construction Inc. at a cost of \$286.1 million and \$135.5 million for the construction of the superstructure and the external and interior walls.

Lots three and five, which include plumbing works and external works will be executed by Ograsein and Sons

General Construction valued at \$12.9 million and \$33.3 million respectively.

Electrical work was contracted to Cummings Electrical Company, totalling \$25.8 million and finishing works of \$66.6 million were awarded to R&D Engineering Service Inc.

900 STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM REHABILITATED ANNA REGINA SECONDARY

Meanwhile, approximately 900

students of Anna Regina Secondary School, Region Two, will soon benefit from a spacious environment conducive to learning, with the signing of a \$227.9 million contract to rehabilitate and extend the school.

To guarantee that children nationwide have access to the resources required for a top-notch education, the government has made strategic investments in the equitable distribution of educational resources.

The upgrading of the approximately 50-year-old building is part of the government's mission of ensuring students are comfortably housed countrywide to receive a quality education.

The contract to rehabilitate the learning facility was awarded to Gurdev Mahadeo Contracting Services by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board and stipulates nine



Artist impression of the school



Minister, Priya Manickchand and Permanent Secretary, Alfred King with the contractors

months for completion.

\$23.7M CONTRACT INKED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MASHABO NURSERY

Additionally, as government advances its bid to expand access to education across the country, a \$23.7 million contract was also inked for the construction of the Mashabo Nursery School along the Essequibo coast.

The contract was awarded to Rose's Enterprise by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board and is expected to be completed within four months.

The design caters

for four classrooms, a headteacher's office, a kitchen, a sick bay, janitorial closet, and a store room. It will also cater for terrazzo floors and porcelain tiles for the washrooms along with water-resistant sheetrock ceilings.

Currently, the 22 pupils enrolled in the nursery school are being accommodated at the primary school.

Regional Executive Office, Susanah Saywack; Regional Engineer, Kawan Suchit; Civil Engineer, Harindra Nandalall; Engineer from Anna Regina Town Council, Brian Alves, and Superintendent of Roads, Saywack Persaud were all present at the contracts signing.

COTTON TREE, CUMBERLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO GET SMART CLASSROOMS

As part of the Ministry of Education's goal to transform the educational landscape through the integration of technology, smart classrooms will be retrofitted at the Cotton Tree Primary School, Region Five, and Cumberland Primary School, Region Six.

To execute these projects, the ministry

has extended an invitation to contractors to submit bids for the implementation of the upgrades.

Technology-infused learning is made possible in smart classrooms, which benefits both students' learning and teachers' delivery of lessons.

As such, the government believes that

technology-enhanced spaces in schools are essential to students' access to education.

These classrooms are fully equipped with an interactive board, audio system, motion, voice-activated cameras, face recognition features, and a television for remote access.

Smart classrooms were established at

President's College, Queen's College, Leonora, Moraikobai, Christianburg, Charity, New Amsterdam, Brickdam and East Ruimveldt Secondary schools, and St Stanislaus College.

Some 25 smart classrooms are expected to be established or enhanced at secondary schools across the



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand addressing students during the launch of the first smart classroom in Region Ten

country in 2023.

Meanwhile, the ministry is also looking to refurbish the

information technology (IT) laboratory at Riverstone Primary School.



The administration has invested heavily in integrating technical and vocational skill training into the school curriculum

The need for a diversified school curriculum is further highlighted as Guyana inches closer to achieving countrywide universal secondary education.

His Excellency, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the government's

diversification agenda sees the consideration of implementing compulsory foreign languages, such as Spanish, in the school curriculum.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony for the new US\$5.15 million

GOV'T CONSIDERING MAKING FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPULSORY IN SCHOOLS

Good Hope Secondary School, the head of state stressed that this measure will promote the moulding of well-rounded future leaders, who will be better enabled to grasp the opportunities in the increasingly competitive global socioeconomic landscape.

"It is vitally important for the young people coming up in this country, and this region. You also are lessening your chances of getting an international job if you do not have a

second language. You are reducing your competitiveness. I intend to have a full discussion on this, but the direction I believe we should move in is to ensure that Spanish is compulsory in our school system because it is needed in the geographic space that we occupy," he explained.

The president noted that as the government continues to foster the rapid expansion of educational access, of equal importance

is the creation of avenues for specialised education to tap into specific skills unique to each student.

To this end, the administration has invested heavily in integrating technical and vocational skill training into the school curriculum, in addition to creating facilities to hone athletic skills.

"We have to now see how we can catapult our system to take the interests of students into consideration, and then stream them

off into what they are interested in. We want to ensure that not only are we focusing on technical skills in education, but there are persons who also have special skills that we must be able to identify early and then invest in the type of facilities that will help them to develop those skills and ensure that they get the best possible future with their skills," President Ali noted.





# VISHAL SHARMA

## Personal Injury Lawyer

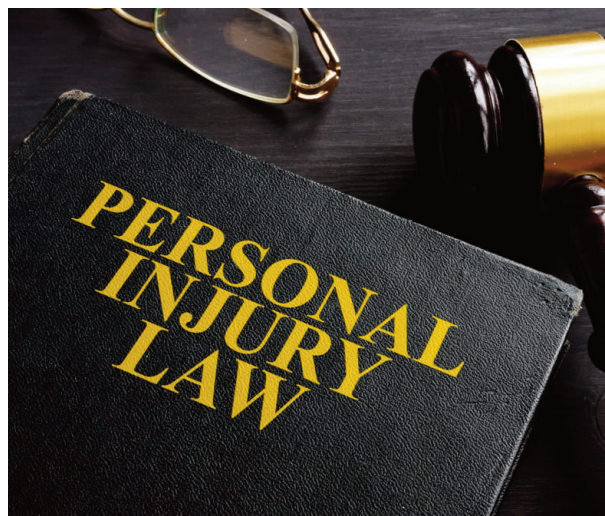
**NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM**

A lawyer who gets to know you, so he can represent you. When you're looking for the best possible result, you need an attorney who knows every detail about you and your case. Sharma Law takes the time to get to know each and every client, so we're in the best position to represent you and your family when it matters most. Backed by proven results and experience at Ontario's highest levels of court, Sharma Law specializes in Personal Injury Law.



### Personal Injury

Injuries caused by the negligence of others can be physically, emotionally, and financially devastating for victims and their families. If you've been injured, you need a personal injury lawyer who knows how to fight for the compensation you deserve.



### Injury Claims

Motor Vehicle Accident Claims, At-Fault Accident Claims, Not At-Fault Accident Claims, Catastrophic Injury Claims, Slip and Falls, Trip and Falls, Dog Bites, Long Term Disability and Short Term Disability.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to achieving successful results for every client and case. We accomplish this by providing exceptional legal advice and strategies based on a thorough understanding of your case and your desired outcomes. **FREE CONSULTATION AND CLAIM REVIEW. CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE REVIEWS**

**Available for in-person visits at your home or hospital, anywhere in Ontario. Video Conference and Office meetings available.**

**24/7 Direct Line 647-972-4440**

**sharma@vsharmalaw.ca**

**www.vsharmalaw.ca**



# PHASE TWO OF THE EAST COAST ROAD PROJECT MOVING APACE



The East Coast Road Project

As the government continues along the path of infrastructural transformation, residents on the East Coast of Demerara will soon benefit from the expansion of the roadways. Phase two of the

East Coast Road Project is moving steadily apace according to the Public Works Ministry.

Contractors are currently executing drainage construction works along the railway embankment between Mon Repos and Annandale. These works entail the clearing and digging of the roadside shoulder and the excavation for the new drainage construction.

Traffic management measures are in place to keep the public informed of these ongoing works.

On the Unity to Mahaica stretch, the

ministry reports that “contractors are currently clearing the left side of the road and executing pipeline relocation works on the right side [Clonbrook]”.

Meanwhile, on the Belfield to Unity section, the contractor is preparing the right side for the widening of the road. The works include clearing and widening the area and backfilling with loam material to commence the construction of the widened road pavement.

It is requested that the public drive with care along these areas.

The East Coast Demerara Public Widening and Improvement Project, which is being executed by China Railway First Group sees the extension of the railway embankment road into four lanes from Sheriff Street to Enmore and the construction of a four-lane road to Orange Nassau, Mahaica.

It will also see the rehabilitation of the existing ECD road from Belfield to Orange Nassau. Further, the construction of 48 bridges and 22 culverts, in addition to a bridge

across the Hope Canal, also forms part of this phase of the project.

The US\$192 million project is scheduled to be completed in early 2024 and is set to significantly enhance connectivity along the stretch, and facilitate ease in traffic congestion while promoting easier commuting, and investments through improved accessibility.



# REHABILITATION OF INTERNAL ROADS COMPLETED IN KWAKWANI TOTALLING \$167M

Rehabilitation works on internal roads in Central Kwakwani, Region Ten, valuing some \$167 million are now completed, bringing

much-needed relief to the residents and commuters in the area.

The comprehensive project involved the rehabilitation of two

sets of thoroughfares spanning a total length of 1,400 metres.

The project which was awarded to Ideal Engineering in December last, saw the construction of 750 metres of concrete slipper drains on both sides of the road, along with the implementation of a robust road surface.

The roads were constructed with a foundation of six inches of cement-stabilised bauxite capping sub-base, in an effort to ensure durability and longevity.

This solid foundation was further reinforced with a layer of two-inch

thick asphaltic concrete, providing a smooth and reliable surface for residents there.

During the construction, additional works were undertaken. Notably, four high-density polyethylene (HDPE) culverts were constructed, contributing to the efficient drainage system of the roads and preventing waterlogging during periods of heavy rainfall.

The added measures ensure the longevity of the infrastructure while minimising the risk of potential damage caused by water accumulation.



Ongoing infrastructural works in Central Kwakwani, Region Ten



Ongoing infrastructural works in Central Kwakwani, Region Ten

Additionally, the significance of the project extends beyond transportation convenience as the newly rehabilitated roads are strategically located near essential facilities, including schools, hospitals, health centres, playgrounds, police stations, and the market area.

As such, the overall

quality of life of residents is greatly enhanced while accessibility to the area is significantly improved.

It will also bolster economic activities in the area, as residents and local businesses can now benefit from improved connectivity, reduced travel times, and enhanced access to essential services.



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

Following the 2023 Local Government Elections (LGEs), the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government is placing more emphasis on enhancing the standard of living for ordinary Guyanese.

Speaking at a press conference at the Office

of the President, Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, said a number of community issues were highlighted on the campaign trail for LGEs, and as such, implementation of additional works to improve the lives of Guyanese at the community level will

resume.

“We’ve gone back into the important things that we found on the campaign trail. A lot of people raised issues, and roads are a primary concern of most of the communities. The roads to schools and hospitals are priorities, and those must be fixed now. So, we are just refocusing the entire government after the hiatus of the campaign on the things that matter to

the people,” he said.

To this end, billions will be spent on a number of community roads across the country, in addition to those outlined in the 2023 budget.

Some \$1 billion will be expended for community roads to be done in Essequibo, while \$1.6 billion in roads will be done in Linden.

Further, \$1 billion has been set aside for community roads in Region Nine.

VP Jagdeo added, “In Region One, we

are going to complete the part from Santa Rosa going up to the school, and we have decided to do about 2 kilometres of road in that sub-district. It is about \$1 million per kilometre in concrete roads. We have asked the Ministry of Public Works to ensure that people in these regions will be employed to do the work.”

This initiative will be duplicated in every region of the country. Dr Jagdeo highlighted that

promises made during the campaign period will be upheld by the People’s Progressive Party/Civic government.

“I want to assure people that these promises will be kept, notwithstanding the fact that we did not win Georgetown or New Amsterdam, or Linden. The results from a party perspective have been phenomenal in these areas. We are encouraged by these results,” the vice president noted.





Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the West Indies Rum & Spirits Producers Association Annual General Meeting

## PRIME MINISTER PHILLIPS URGES OPERATION TO UPHOLD WEST INDIAN RUM INDUSTRY'S HIGH STANDARDS

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips said that the West Indian rum industry has a rich history and is an important contributor to the Caribbean region's economy.

During an address at the West Indies Rum & Spirits Producers Association (WIRSPA) Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Prime Minister said that

**"The Caribbean rum industry has made substantial economic contributions to the region. The industry continues to be a generator of employment, both direct and indirect. The industry is an earner of foreign exchange, a major contributor to domestic taxes, and supports other**

**sectors of our economy, including tourism".**

He also recommitted Guyana's support to the industry.

**"The Government of Guyana remains committed to supporting the region's rum industry. WIRSPA can count on the support of the Government to promote and protect the regional rum industry."**

During the remarks, the Senior Government Official also spoke of

the sector's challenges, underlining that, while competition is beneficial, it also jeopardizes the region's image of quality and authenticity when lower-cost producers enter the market. As a result, he advised regional rum makers to adapt in order to remain lucrative and competitive in a diversifying market.

**"Let us continue to innovate, invest in research and development, and find new ways to maintain our competitive edge. We must**

**remain proactive in safeguarding the integrity of our regional rums and spirits, ensuring that they continue to be synonymous with excellence and unmatched craftsmanship."**

He also urged for further cooperation to uphold the industry's high standards, which he referred to as the **"Hallmark of the industry"**.

The West Indian Rum and Spirits Producers Association (WIRSPA) was lauded

by Prime Minister Phillips for its efforts to market and protect Caribbean rum, as well as for partnering with regional stakeholders and governments to realign the industry toward greater branded production and exports.

The meeting, which was chaired by Chairman of regional conglomerate Demerara Distillers Limited, Komal Samaroo, was held at the Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre in Kingston, Georgetown.

## EXPANDED PART-TIME JOBS' INITIATIVE TO TARGET WOMEN IN RURAL, HINTERLAND COMMUNITIES

The government has unveiled plans to expand the part-time jobs' initiative to rural and hinterland communities in an effort to increase the number of women in the workforce.

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo made the disclosure during a press conference, as he was dismissed the opposition's claim that the government plans to terminate part-time workers upon conclusion of the 2023 Local Government Elections (LGEs).

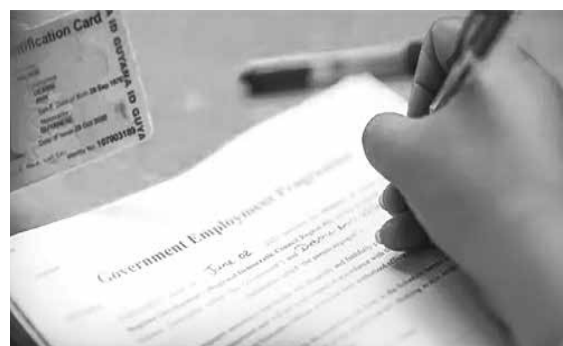
The programme was launched in 2022 targeting persons on the coastland and is intended to lend support to families who are experiencing challenges due to the increased cost of living caused by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the Russian-Ukraine war.

In budget 2023, a whopping \$10 billion was allocated to expand the part-time jobs' initiative to other regions.

**"I want to assure the people, many of them in every part**

**of the country from Regions One to 10 that we visited, that we intend to expand the programme, not reduce the numbers of people, especially in the rural and hinterland areas and places like Region 10 where people still need these programmes until they can find regular jobs.**

**"This programme will be expanded to accommodate a number of people and the focus here**



**again is to ensure more women get employment with the aim of bringing more females into the workforce,"** the vice president informed media operatives.

Dr Jagdeo said he is hopeful that these part-time workers also take the opportunity to pursue their studies through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL).

The job opportunities

allow the employees to work for 10 days and earn up to \$40,000 monthly. The work is being offered in specific areas within government ministries including health, agriculture, education and local government.

This is in keeping with the PPP/C's manifesto promise to provide 50,000 jobs within its first term in office.

Already, 11,000 persons have benefitted from the initiative.

## MEDICAL DATA PROTECTION BILL TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT SOON

A bill that will ensure the protection of medical data for persons in Guyana will be laid in Parliament within the coming weeks.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, disclosed the information at the launch of the Family Health Manual at the Ministry of Health, Brickdam.

He told persons gathered for the launch that the bill was written as part of the government's efforts to secure persons' data, even as Guyana transitions to an electronic health record system.

**"If we are going to do electronic health records, then people's**



The launch of the revised National Family Health Manual

**information must be kept confidential. So, you can't go and steal people's information,"** he said.

The legislation outlines hefty fines for persons found guilty of any breach of confidentiality, ranging from a minimum of 20 million dollars, all the

way up to 100 million dollars.

It also provides for persons to face imprisonment for offences under the act.

Minister Anthony said that the bill and its consequences serve as a warning to everyone that as healthcare workers, it is pertinent to ensure the

protection of patients' data.

The government intends to lay the Data Protection Bill 2023 in the National Assembly after it engages key stakeholders.

It is currently conducting consultations with several stakeholder organisations following

which, recommendations will be taken on board to enhance the legislation.

The bill will help to regulate the collection, storage, processing, use, and dissemination of personal data, all in a private manner.

It will consider an individual's right to privacy and will aid in aligning Guyana with the best international practices on data protection and privacy.

### NEW MANUAL OFFERS HOLISTIC APPROACH TO FAMILY HEALTH, WELLNESS

Meanwhile, wellness, family health, equity, gender, community action, and people-centred care are among the key concepts being targeted by the Ministry of Health, in the revised

National Family Health Manual.

At the launch, Minister Anthony, noted that the manual contains crucial interventions outlining areas of focus that Guyana needs to work on, and how the interventions are to be carried out so that the country can achieve better overall health results.

The new family health manual aims to provide a guide on practices to achieve optimal family and community health and wellness.

It is designed to educate and empower persons to make informed decisions about their health and well-being, and to equip healthcare providers with the knowledge to assist in achieving these goals



# PM PHILLIPS URGES TELECOMS PROVIDERS TO CONTINUE TO INNOVATE

- AS GTT ACHIEVES 150,000 FIBRE CONNECTIVITY IN HOMES ACROSS GUYANA

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips has urged service providers within Guyana's telecommunications sector to take advantage of the country's enabling environment and communications technology (ICT).

The senior government official was speaking at the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GTT) media conference, in celebration of the company achieving fibre connectivity for 150,000 homes, held at the Marriott Hotel, Georgetown.

Identifying GTT as an active player in the telecommunications

sector, PM Phillips said this milestone represents progress, connectivity, and a brighter future for Guyana.

Outlining the importance of incorporating ICT in everyday life, the prime minister said this move by GTT to expand its reach is a bold move that complements the government's efforts to achieve countrywide connectivity.

He further emphasized the need for a collaborative effort from key stakeholders in incorporating ICTs in Guyana's socioeconomic tapestry.

**"Our government is cognizant of the growing value of ICTs, particularly**



GTT has connected more than 150,000 homes and businesses to its 'fibre' service

in the growing post-pandemic era, which necessitates adapting to the widespread use of ICTs in delivering goods and services. However, this level of connectivity calls for a collective effort from government, private sector companies, telecommunications

actors, and other key stakeholders to ensure that ICTs are harnessed for the development of all," he underscored.

The Prime Minister noted that the private sector has an indispensable role in driving technological

advancement.

**"Business[es] must embrace digital transformation, equipping their workforce with the necessary skills to leverage ICTs to increase productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness,"** he

expressed.

He also credited the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector for providing a platform for this level of expansion.

Recently, His Excellency, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced the removal of taxes on cell phones. This remains a testament to the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment and continuous investment in Guyana's telecommunications sector. This also works hand in hand with the removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on data, adding further progress to bridging the digital divide.

# OVER 700 SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS TO RECEIVE GRANTS SHORTLY

Over 700 small business owners from across the ten administrative regions will soon receive grants from the Small Business Bureau (SBB) to help them in growing their enterprises and achieve sustainability.

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo during an interview streamed live on Facebook explained that during the PPP/C Administration's campaign trail leading up to the Local Government

Elections (LGEs) it was discovered that many persons who had applied and met the qualification did not receive the grants.

During the campaign, the administration also took the opportunity to engage with citizens on issues affecting them and this was one of the most common issues raised by citizens.

**"We resolved to ensure that every single person who applied to the Small**

Business Bureau will get some assistance and that would be given to them shortly. These are legitimate people ... every region in the country from Region One to Ten," the vice president stated.

Additionally, farmers in Port Kaituma, Region One will be receiving assistance from the government to aid in agriculture.

**"Already I am looking at sending**

in a team to the area to look at planting material and establishing a nursery there. An afro-Guyanese group doing agriculture from the Covent Area and I have asked the Minister of Agriculture to go meet with that group to extend that help" he said.

Dr Jagdeo reiterated the government's commitment to resolving every issue that was



The grants are to aid in the expansion of small business enterprises

brought to its attention.

**"I want to assure people that we're back at the core task of government, which is getting**

more jobs, advancing our programmes on health and education," the vice president added.



Business owner providing feedback to a question at the management training session

Small business owners from across the country have commended the management training facilitated by the Small Business Bureau (SBB). The event saw the participation of over 125 entrepreneurs. The session took place at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre,

Liliendaal.

Small business owners were exposed to various management subjects which will help them to boost their businesses.

Small business owner, Shemika Paddy-Forde expressed that she decided to join the training session as she is embarking on the establishment of a general supplies business.

"So, I will collaborate with different persons who I know can help me on this venture. So, it will not be a sole proprietor business, it will be more of a partnership... Coming to the session, it was a very good opportunity because they were able to give you firsthand experience on what is

# ENTREPRENEURS COMMEND SBB'S MANAGEMENT TRAINING



Small business owner, Simian Smartt

the procedure to start the business. They give you enough details as to what you should do," she told this publication.

Another business owner, Denise DeAbreu highlighted, "I find it very interesting. They have a lot of value points



Small business owner, Shemika Paddy-Forde

and stuff for people to be aware of and understand moving forward with their businesses. Although I have my own business, I learnt more with the training programme."

Sue Dickson emphasised that, "There



Business owner, Sue Dickson

was a lot of information provided which included the steps for persons who are new entrepreneurs and also participants of small businesses. I think it detailed in its outline the resources needed to be able to succeed."

To aid in the

expansion of small business enterprises, SBB provides grants from the Small Business Development Fund (SBDF).

Additionally, SBB can guarantee Small Development Loans through Republic Bank Limited and the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI). Small enterprises can request up to \$30 million at an interest rate of 6 per cent per annum.

Training, purchasing, small company incubator facilities, and help desk access are additional services.



# GUYANA AND CHINA'S BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: A STORY OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Diplomatic relations between Guyana and China were established on June 27, 1972, shortly after Guyana gained independence from British rule in 1966. With Guyana being the first English-speaking Caribbean Nation to establish partnership with China, the longstanding relationship between the two nations is etched in history as the first of its kind.



Guyana received US\$200,000 from China for procurement of medical supplies in November 2022

China and Guyana's relationship has a rich history marked by cooperation, development projects, and strengthened ties. Over the years, the two nations have worked together on various fronts, fostering mutual understanding

and promoting economic growth. From infrastructure development to cultural exchanges, the Guyana-China partnership has evolved into a robust alliance that continues to benefit both nations. Economic cooperation has been

a significant pillar of Guyana and China's bilateral relationship. China has provided substantial financial and technical support to Guyana, contributing to the development of critical infrastructure projects. Notably, Chinese companies have been involved in the construction of major initiatives such as the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, expansion of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and the East Bank Demerara Highway project, which have greatly improved Guyana's transportation network.

Trade between the two nations has flourished in recent years. Among the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member of states, Guyana has

become China's largest trading partner. with bilateral trade reaching new heights each year. The exchange of goods and services has encompassed various sectors, including agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Chinese investments have played

connectivity initiatives. Chinese investments in sectors such as renewable energy, hydropower, and telecommunications have supported Guyana's sustainable development goals.

Additionally, cultural exchanges have played a

in China, further strengthening the people-to-people ties.

Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, China provided medical supplies, expertise, and technical assistance to combat the spread of the disease. The cooperation between the two nations in battling the pandemic has exemplified the depth of their friendship and shared commitment to global health.

As Guyana continues to develop and explore its vast natural resources, China's expertise and investment are expected to play a significant role in supporting its sustainable growth. The recent discoveries of oil reserves off Guyana's coast have opened up new avenues for cooperation in energy development and capacity building.

With a shared vision for progress and development, both nations are poised to deepen their ties and explore new avenues of collaboration in the years to come, ushering in a bright and prosperous future for their peoples.



Guyana received US\$200,000 from China for procurement of medical supplies in November 2022

a vital role in stimulating Guyana's economy, creating employment opportunities and facilitating technology transfer.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is another initiative that has further strengthened the cooperation between the two countries. Guyana has actively participated in the BRI, benefitting from infrastructural projects, energy development, and

crucial role in enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the people of Guyana and China. The exchange of arts, music, and cultural performances has fostered a deeper appreciation for each other's traditions and heritage.

Educational exchanges and scholarships have provided opportunities for Guyanese students to pursue higher education



The Guyana - China Friendship Pavilion



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

## GUYANA, KOREA EXPLORE POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP IN FORESTRY



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Hilton Todd met with Dr. Bae Jae soo, President of the National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Hilton Todd met with a Korean Forest Cooperation Delegation headed by Dr. Bae Jae soo, President of the

National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea.

During the meeting, Minister Todd alluded to Guyana's developmental agenda-The Low Carbon Development Strategy

(LCDS) and stated that environmental sustainability is of paramount importance to Guyana.

Minister Todd and the team noted the longstanding partnership between Guyana and the Republic of Korea and highlighted potential areas of collaboration in forestry, including the exchange of expertise and capacity building and forest science education.

The team also provided an update on high-level visits by the Republic of Korea to be undertaken in the upcoming months to the Caribbean Community.

Dr. Jae soo was accompanied by Hong Seong Hoa, Special

Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Caracas.

### GUYANA AND SINGAPORE



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd with Her Excellency Karen Tan, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to CARICOM

### ADVANCE COOPERATION TALKS

Meanwhile, Minister Todd also met with Her Excellency Karen Tan, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to

CARICOM.

Minister Todd and Ambassador Tan discussed several areas of mutual interest towards advancing the cooperation agenda between Guyana and Singapore at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Ambassador Tan's visit will serve to advance the collaborative agenda between Guyana and Singapore through continued engagement between the two Foreign Ministries.

Guyana and Singapore established bilateral relations on September 19, 2002, and have collaborated at the multilateral level through the Commonwealth and NAM



# CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BARTICA HOSPITAL TO COMMENCE BEFORE YEAR-END

As access to primary and tertiary healthcare continues to expand in Guyana, construction of the new Bartica Regional Hospital will commence before year-end, Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony has revealed.

He was delivering remarks at the launching of the Professional Nursing Training Programme – Hybrid Approach, where he reminded that the health sector is being

transformed. Some \$830 million was allocated in budget 2023 to complete the design and commence construction for the Region Seven hospital.

Additionally, work on several hinterland health facilities will also begin before year-end. Some \$1 billion was allocated in budget 2023 to retrofit and upgrade health centres, health posts, and other facilities across the country

**“We’re working to**

**upgrade Lethem and to build a new hospital in Kamarang, a new hospital in Moruca, and a new hospital in Kato. The assessments have already started and by the end of the year, we should be substantially along our way to upgrading these facilities,”** the health minister disclosed.

Additionally, construction is underway on the six world-class

regional hospitals in Anna Regina, Region Two; De Kinderen, Region Three; Bath, Region Five; Number 75 Village, Region Six; one at Diamond and another at Enmore in Region Four and the Paediatric and Maternal Hospital in Ogle.

And to complement the massive infrastructure in the health sector, several training programmes for healthcare professionals are being rolled out.



Deputy Director of the HSE, Chandroutie Persaud

Some 1,160 persons from across the ten administrative regions will be trained as Registered Nurses (RNs) as the Ministry of Health, Health Sciences Education (HSE) in collaboration with PAHO/WHO launched the Professional Nursing Training Programme – Hybrid Approach.

The three-year programme is being facilitated through Coursera and will see nursing students being trained through online

and in-person classes, a brainchild of Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony. It allows students to pursue their studies in the comfort of their homes and at their own convenience.

Additionally, due to the brain drain among nurses in Guyana, the programme aims to bridge the existing gaps in the profession. Dr Anthony said Guyana is aiming to provide this type of training to other Caribbean countries.

**“As we develop**

## GOV'T TO TRAIN 1,160 REGISTERED NURSES WITHIN THREE YEARS

**- NEW PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED**



The launch of the Professional Nursing Training Programme – Hybrid Approach

**this programme and we get a better understanding of how it works and what we can do, we’ll be able to use the platform that we have developed, the content that we’ve developed and allow other countries to have access to it, so**

**in that way, almost all the islands in the Caribbean can have access and they’ll be able to teach their nurses with the contents from this programme,”** he posited.

Simulation centres will be established in health care facilities

along the coast and in hinterland regions, to complete the practical component of the programme. Materials for the simulation centres are being procured.

**“We’ll be doing another round of training for tutors who would be assisting us in doing the practical component of this. So, we’re not in any way devaluing the importance of the practical training,”** Dr Anthony disclosed.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director of the HSE, Chandroutie Persaud explained that the curriculum was revised and aligned to suit the

hybrid approach.

This process was facilitated through several consultation meetings with tutors from both the private and the government schools of nursing with assistance from the College of Nursing, the University of Sao Paulo located in Brazil.

**“The clinical component of the curriculum was also reviewed to provide students with hands-on experiences that will complement the theory. Subsequently, tutors were trained on how to use the Coursera platform and how to create course content,”** she further disclosed.

## GOV'T ROLLS OUT NEW SERVICES TO TACKLE DRUG ABUSE

The Ministry of Health plans to roll out a range of new services, while intensifying existing programmes, aimed at helping persons battle drug abuse.

Guyana currently has close to ten Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Units which help to implement drug treatment strategies and eight Drug Treatment Courts.

The health ministry will soon develop a comprehensive approach to tackle discrimination against drug-abused victims.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony said

the new method entails creating more clinics in all the regions, as well as expanding the chronic disease programme across the country.

**“This is an area that we need to train more people in, how to work with persons with addiction, and how to provide long-term rehabilitation service for people,”** Dr Anthony emphasised,

during his keynote address at the observance ceremony of International Day against Illicit Trafficking and Drug Abuse, at Herdmanston Lodge, Georgetown.

He described the overuse of drugs as a ‘big problem’ while noting that to tackle the social scourge from an early stage, the ministry will strengthen its partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Guyana Police Force and the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU).

**“One of the areas that we identified that we need to do a lot more work on, is really treating persons who have addiction. These services will be expanded and will be integrated within our primary health care**

**services,”** the health minister added.

Meanwhile, Project Lead of the DDR Unit, Dr Travis Freeman said three of the drug demand facilities have extended their working hours to better serve patients who need immediate assistance.

**“These extended hours have been ongoing for approximately three to four months, and they have seen almost 80 patients and had almost 300 sessions with clients and relatives,”** Dr Freeman disclosed.

Additionally,



School children attending the ceremony to be sensitised on the prevention of drug abuse

Magistrate Rondel Day against Illicit Trafficking and Drug Abuse was celebrated service established under the theme ‘People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention.’

International



# MAJOR GENERAL (RET'D) JOE SINGH TO LEAD TEAM FOR MAHDIA FIRE COI

President, Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced that retired Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), Major General Joe Singh, will head the team that will conduct the Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into deadly Mahdia dorm fire that claimed the lives of 20 children.

According to the Head of State, the Terms

of Reference (ToR) for the CoI are in the process of being finalised so as to guide the commission on what it will set out to accomplish.

Several meetings are being planned in relation to the incident over the next few days, including meetings with the family members of the victims.

The President made those announcements

in an invited comment to the media on the sidelines of an event at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC).

It was on May 22, just a few days before Guyana celebrated Independence Day that a tragic fire gutted the Mahdia Secondary School Female Dormitory. At the time of the fire, 56

of the girls were present, as three had went home with their families for the weekend.

The children housed at the dorms came from the communities of Karisparu, El Paso, Micobie and Chenapao.

Initially 18 girls from the dorm and a five-year-old boy, who was the son of the dorm mother, perished in the fire, but

a 20th student who was injured in the fire passed away a few days later.

President Ali had committed to the launching of a CoI to investigate the causes and circumstances of the deadly Mahdia fire, and guide the way forward.

( Guyana Chronicle)



Major General (Ret'd) Joe Singh



Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai engaging families of those who perished in the Mahdia Tragedy as well survivors from Micobie and El Paso

Minister of issues within the Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai and her team visited Micobie in Region Eight at the invitation of the villagers to address development

## RESIDENTS IN REGION EIGHT REASSURED OF GOV'T'S COMMITMENT

of 20 children in May and pledged continued support.

**“The government has not departed from this incident, and it is engaging at the highest level,”** Minister Sukhai disclosed.

This is in addition to the counselling services being provided to the survivors and families by

the Ministry of Health.

Minister Sukhai also visited the families of three students from El Paso who survived the deadly fire.

Discussions were also held to advance development within the communities.

The council and villagers were advised to work in partnership to bring benefits to

the community with a special focus on women and youths.

Minister Sukhai indicated the village council and residents should meet to address the completion of their village’s sustainable plans which will outline the development priorities.

Concerns were raised about temporary

systems to accommodate students who are unable to attend classes due to the Mahdia Secondary School dormitory being destroyed.

The Minister assured that the matter is being discussed with consultations among the sectors and the residents will soon be provided with a solution.

## REGION EIGHT COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE WORKERS RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

The Ministry of Health’s, Mental Health Unit in collaboration with Mount Sinai University (USA), held a train-the-trainers Disaster Mental Health training for participants from the various communities across Region Eight at the Regency Hotel.

This training which was facilitated by Dr Craig L. Katz and Melissa Kelly from the Icahn School of Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine came on the heel of the tragic fire at the Mahdia Secondary

School Female Dormitory in Region Eight which resulted in the death of 19 female students, and a five-year-old boy.

During his brief remarks, Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony stated that with this training, the community healthcare workers will be able to better identify challenges patients may have and refer them to professional doctors so that they can get the necessary care.

He added that since

the tragedy, Mount Saini has been on board, assisting the Ministry in acquiring medication for the injured students and providing DNA testing on the remains of those who perished.

Minister Anthony expressed gratitude to the staff of the MOH, both central and regional facilities, for their hard work during the tragedy.

He disclosed that telemedicine services are being offered in the Region Eight communities. **“In the affected villages,**

**telemedicine capabilities have been installed to improve and deliver an expanded level of care to those communities”**, Dr. Anthony stated.

Director of Family and Primary Health Care Services, Dr. Ertinesia Hamilton; Mental Health Programme Coordinator, Dr. Timothy Morgan; and Region Eight Regional Health Officer, Dr. Ravindra Dudnauth were also present.



Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony addressing the participants at the train-the-trainers Disaster Mental Health training



Eccles Treatment Plant

## \$2.2B INVESTED TO EXPAND ECCLES TREATMENT PLANT

Some 40,000 residents from Eccles to Providence on the East Bank Demerara are being provided with an increased level of water supply following the completion of the new well and expansion of the water treatment plant.

Close to \$200 million was invested to complete

the Eccles well, while some \$2 billion is being expended to complete ongoing works at the treatment plant, GWI’s Executive Director of Projects, Marlon Daniels disclosed during an interview with this publication at GWI’s Shelterbelt, Vlissengen Road.

Additionally, residents will receive water service for a minimum of 18 to 20 hours daily.

With the expansion of the plant, close to 7,000 residents will have an improved level of treated water and service.

He further noted that the well, which

was completed about a month ago, is capable of delivering approximately 240 cubic metres of water per hour.

Some \$17.7 billion was allocated in the 2023 budget to further improve access to potable water across the country.



# THE NIGHT SHELTER: PROVIDING SUPPORT, AND REINTEGRATION FOR THE HOMELESS



The shelter located at East La Penitence, Georgetown

The Night Shelter continues to stand as a beacon of hope and compassion, offering relief from the harsh realities of homelessness, since its establishment.

The shelter located at East La Penitence, Georgetown, has provided warmth, nourishment, and support to thousands of persons over the years, and under the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, the facility can now house some 120 residents, following the recent \$5 million facelift.

The major infrastructural push by President Ali-led Administration saw the construction of a new wing, along with the enhancement of the existing building.

## A PLACE TO BELONG

The night shelter accommodates 83 individuals; the amount fluctuates as residents come and go. Among the current occupants, 23 are women, while the remaining are men.

Resident, Chanmattie Mangu told this publication that she is thankful for her new home since she had nowhere to go and cannot locate her relatives.

“I was in Suriname working and I fall sick and a bus bring me and put me on the line top and left me. A lady that see, she brought me to the doctor and the doctor brought me here,” Mangu relayed.

She noted that daily she feels a sense of belonging and does not miss her past life.

“I think I am with my family here. I get to eat every day; three times, nice food and I get to bathe and do everything as if I am home with my family.”

Akeem Nanchampen, 28, recently suffered injuries from a vehicle accident and subsequently became a resident at the shelter, since he has no home and needed a place to stay.

“Here is a very nice place, everyone lives with love here, nobody

doesn't behave badly, everything does go nice with everybody. We get three meals a day here... I am with my family here”, he said.

Another resident, Harry Persaud said he was a vibrant cane cutter; however, he became visually impaired about three years.

Persaud explained that due to his medical condition, he was

## THE SHELTER'S CARE PROCESS AND SERVICES

Veersammy made it clear that while the intake procedures have become less stringent compared to a year ago, certain criteria must be met before persons are accepted into the shelter.

After administering a COVID-19 test, an interview takes place, during which individuals

positive, care and support are provided through Festival City Clinic.

The shelter also extends its assistance to residents in need of physiotherapy or mental health evaluations, a c k n o w l e d g i n g the prevalence of psychological issues among those who have experienced life on the streets.

Importantly, the shelter strives to address these underlying challenges, often caused by developmental problems or the trauma of homelessness, as part of its commitment to comprehensive care.

collaborates closely with the Guyana Post Office and the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) to obtain the necessary documents including, a birth certificate and a taxpayer identification number for many of its residents.

Notably, the shelter's efforts also extend to elderly individuals aged 65 and above who lack identification.

For these individuals, the shelter assists in obtaining a birth certificate and guides them through the application process for old-age pensions.

To provide residents with the tools necessary for a fresh start, the



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud sharing a light moment with one of the Night Shelter residents

neglected by relatives. He expressed gratitude to the night shelter, after receiving the much-needed medical attention which helped him regain his vision.

“I come here and now I am satisfied with my eyes because I couldn't have seen for three years. Thank the Lord that I get through cause now I can see. My children didn't want to look after me. So, I thank the admin for her help.”

Administrator of the Night Shelter, Sheila Veersammy used the opportunity to call on Guyanese to love and care for their vulnerable family members.

provide their details such as their name, date of birth, and emergency contact information.

A comprehensive screening examination is then conducted for conditions such as tuberculosis (TB).

Further, medical assessment is complete, including blood work and chest X-rays, among others.

Individuals with additional medical complications are directed to the appropriate clinics at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC).

Additional tests include HIV/AIDS. For persons who test



Residents at the Night Shelter enjoying a game of dominoes

## TRANSITIONING TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

While the Night Shelter's scope has expanded beyond its original purpose, it remains committed to its core objective of assisting individuals in transitioning to independent living.

As such, the shelter

human services ministry is looking to establish a comprehensive kitchen, catering to diverse health needs, and a library within the shelter.

The shelter continues to stand as a testament to the government's commitment to alleviating homelessness and fostering positive change for vulnerable Guyanese.

# OVER 2,500 STUDENTS BENEFITTED FROM PARLIAMENT 'OPEN HOUSE'



The students were also given the opportunity to engage with Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir

The Parliament of Guyana's three-day 'Open House' saw over 2,500 students from various schools given the opportunity to strengthen their

understanding of democratic governance.

The activity commemorates the entity's 70th anniversary as an assembly.

Several public and

private schools attended the sessions, including Cherished Lambs Primary School, Marian Academy, St Stanislaus College, and Winfer Gardens Primary.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir, said that the activity is intended to promote a deeper understanding of governance, as well as to pique the interest of Guyana's youth in the legislative and parliamentary processes.

He said, “We found that, when we have

schools visiting, there is a lot of interest, and now that Parliament is online, many children will end up seeing Parliament there. So, the open house has been extremely successful in terms of attendance, but also in terms of the engagements.”

Visitors and students alike were taken on guided tours throughout the Parliament buildings where staff provided insight into the historical significance of several artefacts. They also had full access to the

parliamentary chamber where they were briefed on the structure of sittings, as well as the various roles of parliamentarians.

Guided tours to the Frank A. Narain Parliamentary Library and the surrounding compound were also included.



Students from Saint Stanislaus College being engaged by staff



# ENMORE MARTYRS' REMEMBERED



President Ali participating in the wreath laying

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali said that the tragic event in 1948 at Enmore on the East Coast of Demerara, galvanised and propelled the nationalist struggle, which was pivotal to the momentum that led to Guyana achieving its Independence.

During the commemoration ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the



The monument site, Enmore, East Coast Demerara

Enmore Martyrs, the President spoke of the courage, commitment and beliefs of the five workers, who were mercilessly gunned down by colonial police.

He said that their memories represent "the spirit of resilience, unity and determination"

that continues to inspire Guyanese, including those in his government.

"This is what my administration has set out to do; to ensure a just, prosperous and inclusive society, one in which development will become more equitable, and will

touch the lives of every citizen," he said.

Government ministers, members of the diplomatic community, and union officials were among a large gathering at the commemoration ceremony.

June 16 marks the 75th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs

when five striking sugar workers namely Rambarran, Pooran, Lallabagee, Kissoon and Surijballie were brutally gunned down while demonstrating in front of the Enmore factory to highlight their grievances. The strike began on April 22nd 1948 at Enmore and it soon spread to other estates when Bookers arbitrarily changed the method of reaping from 'cut and drop' to 'cut and loan' for cane cutters.

As the strike gathered momentum, the workers demanded the recognition of the Guyana Industrial Workers Union (GIWU). Despite not having their grievances being immediately addressed, June 16, 1948 is remembered as a "red letter day" in the history of Guyana.

This event had laid the foundation for the worker's struggle for political and economic emancipation in British Guiana.



A section of those in attendance at the event

# GOV'T COMMITTED TO INTEGRATING MIGRANTS

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira has emphasised that government remains resolute in its commitment to accommodating and integrating migrants through its open-door policy.

Minister Teixeira was at the time providing a keynote address at the commemoration of World Refugee Day, at the Marriott Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown.

The minister stated that the government is working to provide necessary support to migrants.

"We have to be careful whether we

talk about refugee migrants, asylum seekers, that we deal with the identity of the person. These are individuals, they are people, they are not faceless, and that they deserve a chance," said the minister.

The government's commitment to integration is not limited to basic needs.

One of the key initiatives available is the provision of free public healthcare to all.

"Healthcare and education have their own challenges for us to provide but we offer free public health care to all



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira

those who are in Guyana...regardless of nationality, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity....," Minister Teixeira said.

This inclusive approach ensures that everyone has access



Part of the gathering

to essential medical services, with the country's dedicated healthcare professionals playing a vital role in this endeavour.

The government has also made significant strides in the education

sector, creating an inclusive learning environment for all children, including those from migrant backgrounds.

While language barriers have presented a challenge, efforts have

been made to address this issue through language programmes and support services. By ensuring that every child can attend school and receive a quality education, the nation is investing in the future and fostering social cohesion.

The government, in collaboration with international organisations such as the United Nations, are working together to create synergies and develop comprehensive programmes that protect the rights and promote the well-being of all migrants.

# ATTORNEY GENERAL MEETS WITH UNDP DELEGATION

## - DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROGRAMMING SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



The meeting focused on discussing potential programming opportunities

Attorney General from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) met with a delegation

General Chambers, Carmichael Street, Georgetown.

The team was

headed by Deputy Resident Representative Stephanie Ziebell, and included Acting Head of Governance and Poverty Reduction Christalle Gemon, Program Associate Sarita Marshall, and Operations Coordinator Rene Chan. The Attorney General was accompanied by Public Trustee/Official Receiver Prithima Kissoon.

The meeting

focused on discussing potential programming opportunities aimed at extending support to the criminal justice system, specifically strengthening institutional capacity to effectively reduce the backlog of criminal cases.

The Attorney General proposed a number of initiatives to be pursued that would significantly address different challenges and which would result in a more efficient functioning criminal justice machinery.

He also briefed the team on a number of programmes currently being executed by

the Attorney General Chambers and Ministry of Legal Affairs aimed at revamping the country's legal system, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Support for the Criminal Justice System (SCJS) Programme, focused primarily on reducing the prison population.

The Attorney General has promised to establish a committee which will continue to liaise with the UNDP in the planning and execution of a programme that would be directed to the reduction of the backlog in the criminal justice system.





The Cooperative Republic of Guyana  
**DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL  
REGISTRIES AUTHORITY**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority invites sealed bids for the following:

- **Construction of Two Offices at Commercial Registry**
1. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure specified in the Procurement Act 2003.
  2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, inspect the bidding document, and purchase a complete set of bidding documents at the Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority (*Address (1) below*) from **26<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**. Bids can be purchased from **8:30am – 3:30pm Monday – Thursday and 8:30am – 2:30pm on Fridays**.
  3. A complete set of the bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders at *Address (1) below* upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **\$2,500.00**. The method of payment will be cash, or by cheque payable to the **Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority**. All bidders should submit **1 (one) original hardcopy and 2 (two) electronic copies (flash drive only) with an exact PDF version of the hardcopy to Address (2) below**.
  4. **Bids will be opened** in the presence of bidders' representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the *Address (2) below* on **20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 09:00 hours**. Late bids or incorrectly labelled bids will be rejected and returned to bidders unopened.
  5. **Bidders can register** via <https://bidders.npta.gov.gy/registration> to be added to NPTAB Contractors List.

*Address (1) - Purchase and Inspection of Document:*

Accounts Department  
Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority  
Lot 1 High & Commerce Streets,  
Newtown,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.

*Address (2) - Submission and Opening of Bids:*

The Chairman,  
National Procurement and Tender Administration Board,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Main & Urquhart Streets,  
Georgetown, Guyana.

**INJURED?  
CAR ACCIDENT?**

SLIP AND FALL, ALL TTC ACCIDENTS OR TTC SLIP AND FALL, ALL BUS ACCIDENTS, PEDESTRIAN OR CYCLYST STRUCK BY AUTOMOBILE

VICTIMS OF CRIME

TALK TO US FIRST

THE ACCIDENT INJURY LAW FIRM MAXIMIZES YOUR CLAIM AND GETS YOU A BIGGER SETTLEMENT

NO UP FRONT FEES AND NO HIDDEN COST

WE DON'T GET PAID UNTIL YOU GET PAID

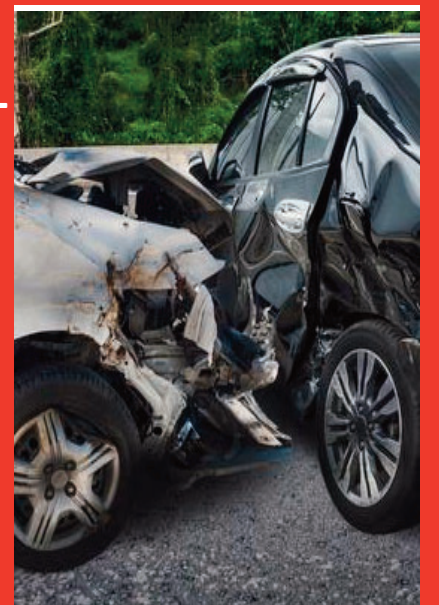
FOR A FREE CONSULATION IN YOUR HOME, AT THE HOSPITAL OR AT YOUR OFFICE

CALL RICHARD MARS HOSEIN AT

**416-999-3471**

MONDAY TO SUNDAY 9AM-8PM

OVER 15 YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE IN THIS COMMUNITY



**CHARLEY'S  
CARIBBEAN  
CUISINE**

**For all your catering needs**

1158 Morningside Ave, Scarborough  
(at Morningside)

**(416) 282-8608**

Fabulous authentic Guyanese food. We can't make this for these prices. (Grandma is from Berbice Guyana and knows country Guyanese food - even she will eat it!) Try the dhal puri and okra / shrimp.

Actual Review from Yellow Pages

**Come savor a savory meal at Charley's Caribbean Cuisine**



**Not sure how much food you need? We'll help you suggest the right amount of food to minimize your cost.**

Pork free halal foods. Catering for Hindu religious events, as well as all Caribbean events.



**PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE!**





# GUYANA INDIAN MUSICAL INSTITUTE

सुहानी रात ऑर्केस्ट्रा अक्टिविटीज

Article by Dr. Fred Sukdeo

The associates of the Guyana Musical Institute will be implementing three major activities for the for rest of this year. The first concert programme will be held towards the end of August. It will be dedicated to the launching officially the Suhani Raat Orchestra and recognition of the historical contributions of the famous Mohamed Ayub Hamid whose golden immaculate voice graced radio and television in Guyana for over 40 years and one of the greatest musicians of all times Mohan Nandu. The second programme will be an open-air Cultural Concert at Enmore in October and finally the first grand National Mela in November.

which was established in 1915, Sangeet Natak also the Kennedy Centre for Indian music and others. Teaching will also be done from You tube instructions. Learn how to play.....

The Institute caters for training its musicians to satisfy the cultural needs of Indian music, songs, dance, yoga with nitrageet (singing and dancing) with various types of raags for all occasions such as weddings, funeral ceremonies, birthdays, anniversaries, Phagwa street singing and special concerts in the various communities.

The orchestra intends to participate in all major national programs. On selected Sunday afternoons, it will display its music at the Georgetown Band Stand and

in the Promenade Gardens, at sports events intermission periods, horse racing, cricket matches, Indian festivals, parties, and others.

The Grand National Mela is conceived as the city of Chennai eight weeks of "Music Season" This is one of the largest musical cultural events in India.

Bollywood music and its musical entertainment will be part of the education and training programme. However, the Institute will pursue the learning of Hindi language at home and at

various venues from the computer learn Hindi online. Already a family of 4 children at Mahaica are in this programme. With knowledge of Hindi the participants in the orchestra will be better prepared to make their own composition and develop their cultural talents

Besides the formation of the main nation orchestra, there will be smaller orchestras in all the three counties and various municipalities.

This Indian institute recognizes that Guyana is a multicultural country. It will take measures ensure that the propagation of its Indian music is in the context of cohesiveness of a one nation country.

### Management Structure

This Institute which was founded by several prominent pioneers is a registered organization with several trustees with a Board of Directors for accountability and transparency. The chairman is Dr. Bhaskar Sharma and accomplished and highly trained and qualified



Adult student learning to play the harmonium

musician with decades of experience. The Chief Executive Officer is a retired university professor with years of community and business experience.

Other directors also have excellent qualifications and experience. They have the responsibility to function as Manager of the Institute, its programs, finance, research library, archives and Hall of Fame, public relations, international relations, community services also representatives from, the USA and Canadian diaspora. Supporting the Institute are various voluntary consultants with many institutions in foreign countries.

Besides these pillars, the Institute caters for sponsors, new members, and associates, donors of cash and kind, volunteers and others. As a not-for-profit organization, the institution anticipates national and international support to achieve its objectives. Donations can be

made into the Institution bank account or directly to duly authorised persons.

The annual long August school holiday



Enmore sugar worker pensioner presenting the first cash donation to the CEO Dr. Fred Sukdeo

begins shortly. The institute intends to sponsor several musical instrument training programs with the objective of training the teachers training focus. There will be added attractions such as games, poetry readings on Rabindranath Tagore Gitanjali (SONG of the Soul),



Some of the instruments for the Guyana Indian Orchestra

The Suhani Raat Orchestra will have the full compliments of all the major musical instruments such as sitar, Tabla, harmonium, flute, dholak, along with local traditional instruments such as dantal, tassa and drum, Ghaal, and the madrase Tapo (shoulder drum). Also, to be included are mouth organ, trumpet, string and electronic instruments.

The instruments will be taught by local and foreign highly qualified musicians. The institute has identified several talented musicians who are in Guyana and abroad to be in the teaching programme. There will also be support from the Indian Cultural Centre (Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre) . In addition, the Institute has identified from India The Calcutta School of Music



School students learning to play Lord Krishna Flute from Youtube tutorial





**This is the beach I was looking for**

My travel professional was right

**marlin  travel**

905-279-2300 | [travel1111@marlintravel.ca](mailto:travel1111@marlintravel.ca)

Marlin Travel is a division of Transat Distribution Canada Inc. ON Reg. #50015084. BC Reg. #23567. Head Office: 191 The West Mall, Suite 800, Etobicoke, ON, M9C 5K8. 



  
**Allstate**  
 You're in good hands.

**Waseem Khokhar**  
 Mississauga South  
 3105 Dundas Street W  
 Unit 103  
 (647) 722-5981  
[wkhokhar@allstate.ca](mailto:wkhokhar@allstate.ca)

 +  = **SAVE\***

\*Terms and conditions apply.  
 Trademark used by Allstate Insurance Company.  
 223266 | 7-22

**Find out how much you can save!**

**Scan to get a no-obligation quote today.**

  
**Allstate**  
 You're in good hands.



# B HALAL MEAT (BAKSH)

**EAST & WEST INDIAN GROCERIES**  
 416-261-8564

**FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

**FROM THE CARIBBEAN**

- \* BORA
- \* EGGPLANT
- \* SAIME
- \* SQUASH
- \* PUMPKIN
- \* WIRI WIRI PEPPER
- \* HOT PEPPERS
- \* OKRA
- \* MARRIED MAN
- \* THYME
- \* FROZEN KATAHAR
- \* COCONUT CHOKA
- \* EDDOES
- \* SPICE MANGO
- \* GINEP
- \* GOLDEN APPLE
- \* AWARA

**FRESH ONTARIO MEAT**

LAMB \* GOAT \* CHICKEN \* DUCK  
 RED HEN \* ROOSTER

ALL MEATS ARE 100% HALAL

**AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE**

**FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD**

- GILLBAKA
- GREY SNAPPER
- CATFISH
- BANGAMARY
- BUTTERFISH
- HASSA
- WHITE BELLY SHRIMP
- BLACK SHRIMP
- CRAB
- SMOKE FISH

**3160 EGLINTON AVENUE (1 BLOCK WEST OF MARKHAM ROAD)**





The 20 awardees and the sponsors

## TOURISM MINISTRY'S 'SNAP N SHARE' COMPETITION TOP 20 WINNERS AWARDED



An excited Lynmarie Demetro



An elated Candecy Patterson

The top 20 winners in the Ministry of Tourism's Snap n Share 57 photography competition have received their prizes. These participants were awarded at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC), Liliendaal.

The first-place winner, Luke McKenna, received \$100,000, a

trip for two to Kaieteur Falls, and a dinner for two at the Marriott Hotel. His photo was taken at Wichabai Ranch in Region Nine and depicted a small boy petting an agouti.

While, the second-place winner was Lynmarie Demetro and her entry showcased a creek that flowed from the Nappi Falls in



Luke McKenna's winning photo in the Snap n Share competition

Region Nine. De'metro, a teacher, told the audience that her photo was birthed when she gave her students a trip to her village as an incentive for their cooperation with her. Her prizes were a cellular phone from GTT, \$75,000 cash and a day tour along the Essequibo

River. She told this publication that the cash prize she received will help her to offset the cost of photocopying of documents, since she is a student of the Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE), and is required to steadily submit assignments.

"Firstly, I'm going to buy a printer which will help ease my burdens. I already have a laptop so this money will really help me," she related.

Candecy Peterson, a nurse in training, from Region Seven, who placed third said, "I just entered for the fun of it. I was running through

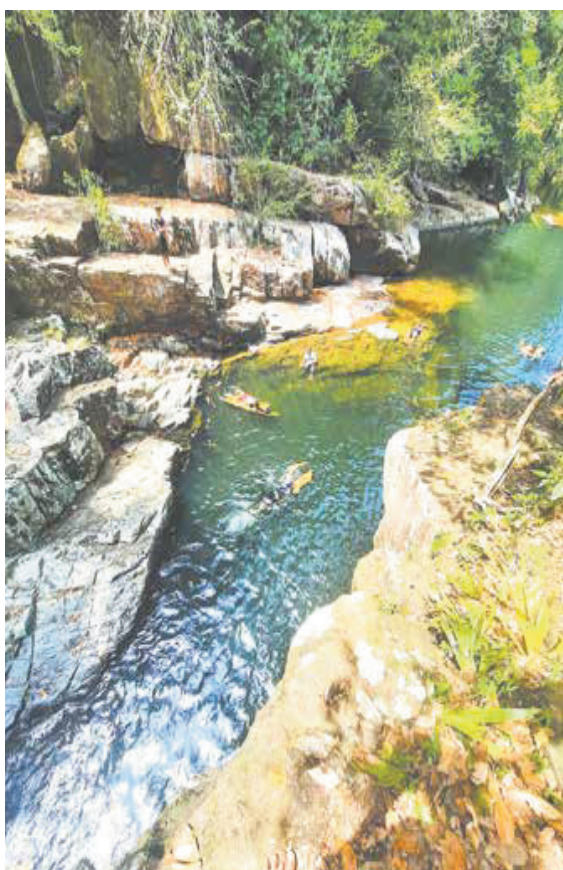
my gallery because I am a spontaneous traveller and so I decided to submit one."

Judging in the competition was on the basis of likes on the ministry's Facebook page.

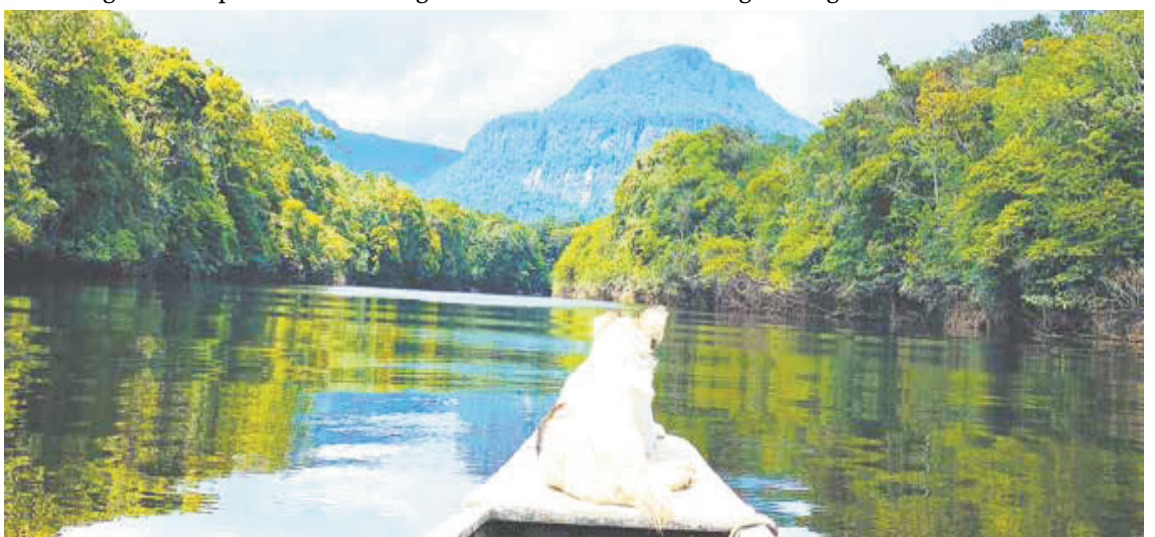
Minister, Oneidge Walrond during her remarks noted that the objective of the competition is being achieved, which is for the country to have a deeper appreciation of its tourism products.

**"Our objective when we started was for Guyanese to appreciate Guyana and to start seeing the things that the visitors see. And we think that objective has been catching on because these photographs which are extremely beautiful were captured by our people,"** the minister stated.

So far, the submissions have garnered some 10 million views from around the world via social media.

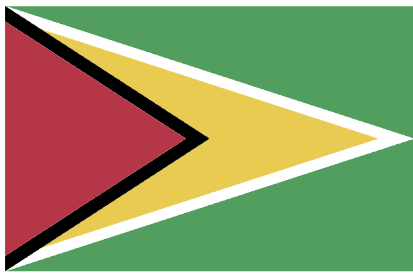


Lynmarie Demetro's photo which placed second in the competition



Candecy Peterson's placed third with a photo with had the following description, Headed up the Kako River on a fishing trip with Stoby performing bowman duties.





Guyanese

# DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 46

## FIRST LADY GIVES BIRTH TO ANOTHER SON



President Dr Irfaan Ali started his Father's Day with the best present, a new baby boy.

Baby Ilan Ali came into the world early on Sunday, June 18, at the Balwant Singh Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana.

The couple named their second son Ilan Ali who was born 16 minutes after midnight.

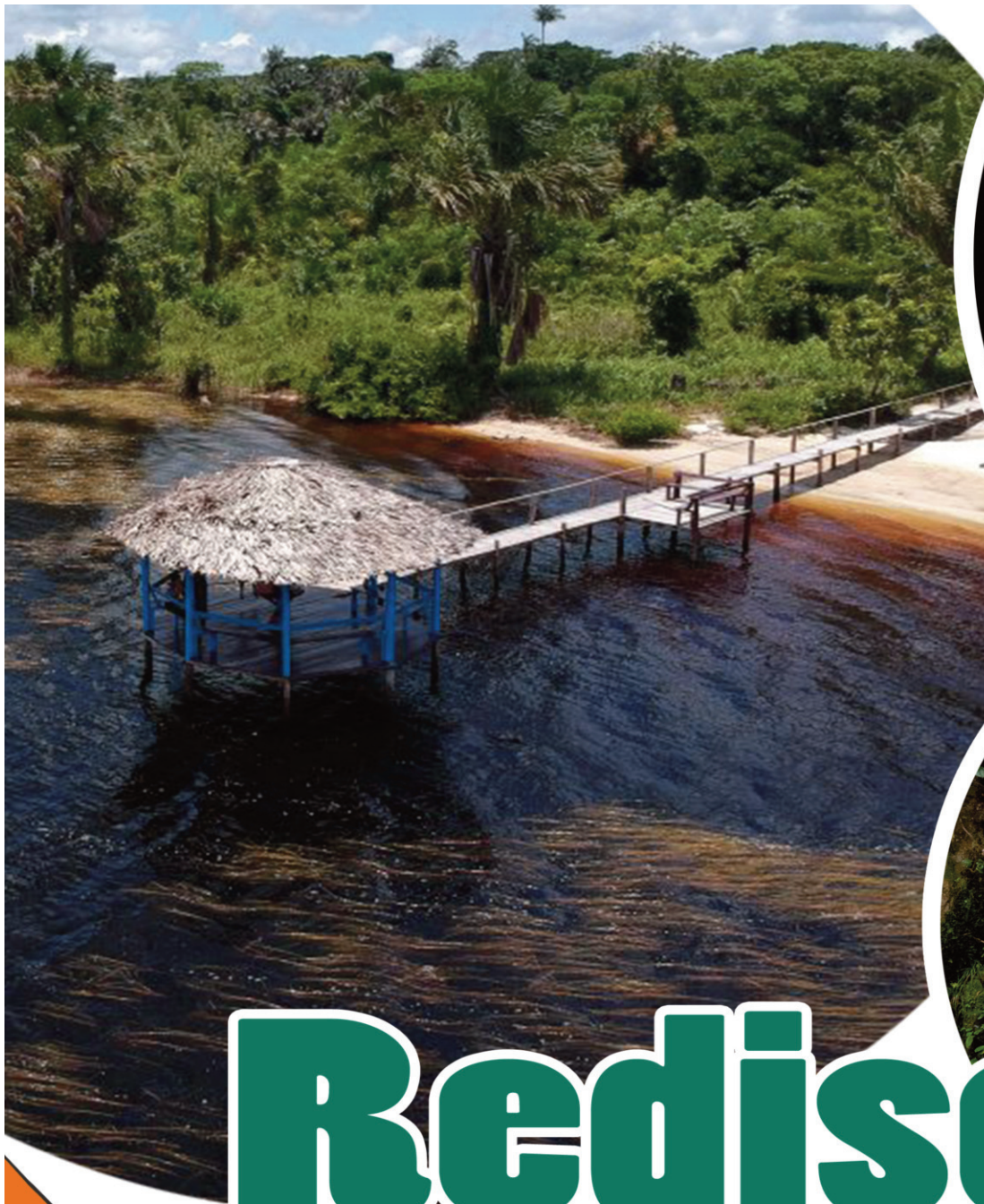
The President took to Facebook to share his happiness. In a message, the president said welcomed the newest member of his family, and thanked **“his nurses, doctors and all those who supported his journey here. We pray for his good health in this World and may his life be a blessing to everyone who encounters him. May God almighty guide and protect him. We give God thanks for this blessing,”** the president wrote.

Ilan is the first baby born to a sitting President and First Lady in Guyana.

The world came forward to congratulate President Ali and the First Lady through social media. More than 13000 people flooded President Ali's post with congratulatory messages while over 1.6k shared his post, and 225 liked it.

The couple got married in 2017 and welcomed their first baby boy Zayd Ali on April 30, 2019, and this year they celebrated the fourth birthday of Zayd.





# Rediscover Home

It is time for a



**VACATION**

SCAN FOR MORE



A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!



[www.guyanatourism.com](http://www.guyanatourism.com)