

Proudly the largest weekly Caribbean Newspaper in Canada for 40 years

Equality

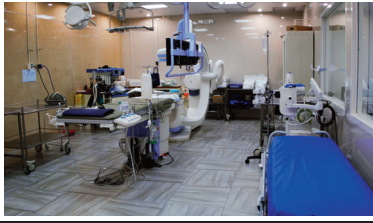
MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE \$1.00

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



DR. BALWANT SINGH'S HOSPITAL
RR7V+QFH, 314 East Street South,
Middle St, Georgetown, Guyana

Hours:
Open 24 hours
Phone: +592 226 4279
<http://balwantsingh.com>



VettyvelLaw
Professional Corporation

1457 McCowan Road, Suite 204
Toronto ON M1S 5K7

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 June 22 2023. Volume 41, Issue #25 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 647-216-2359

Mark Saunders for Mayor

Jamaica-born Mark is only candidate who can beat Olivia Chow. Here's why you need to vote for him as Toronto's new leader on June 26

- Mark Saunders' family is from Jamaica, and he moved to Canada as a young boy.
- Saunders joined Toronto Police Service right out of high school, and served the people of Toronto bravely for 38 years. From 2015 to 2020, Saunders was Chief of Police, the first Black Chief in Toronto's history.
- Saunders managed 7,400 people and billion dollar budgets, including two years with a zero increase. Saunders also modernized the police, with a focus on improving transparency, public and officer safety, and officer training. Saunders has the experienced leadership to take on the role of Mayor, especially in these challenging times.
- Saunders will freeze taxes and not raise them more than the rate of inflation.
- Saunders says that Toronto has a spending problem, not a revenue problem, and taxpayers can't afford to pay more and still get less.
- Saunders' first job as Mayor will be to look at the City budget line-by-line. This detail of budget is not provided to members of the public, and Saunders knows there is spending that is not a priority, especially when Toronto is in a financial crisis. For example, City Council decided that instead of spending \$50 million to fix the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, they would replace it with a new \$400 million arts centre.
- Housing: City Council's plan to build housing that people can afford has been a failure. It is so difficult for builders to work with the City - such as it takes three years for the City to approve a new housing application - that they are leaving Toronto to build elsewhere. At the current rate of construction, it will take City Council 45 years to reach its ten-year target of 40,000 affordable homes. Saunders will provide incentives to builders to include the maximum number of affordable homes, at no cost to the City to build or maintain.
- Saunders will take action to address homelessness, including providing mental health and addiction supports, starting with treatment and rehabilitation. Saunders would end encampments, because they do not help either the people who live there or the people who lives in neighbourhoods around them. Saunders believes it is not dignified that the government allow people to live that way. Saunders would make sure they get programs to improve their situation.
- Saunders will fix traffic gridlock, including not allowing lanes to be closed during the construction of condominiums and apartment buildings, and coordinating road work with other departments so streets don't have to be torn up more than once. Saunders will also remove the bike lanes on Yonge Street and Bloor Street, and on University Avenue where they are interfering with ambulances trying to reach the hospitals.
- Saunders is the only candidate who can beat Olivia Chow.
- Chow has never held a leadership role in government or been responsible for any budgets. She prefers to tax and spend, especially on services for downtown.
- Chow's plan will drive up taxes by at least 25 percent but despite being asked dozens of times, Chow refuses to say how much she will increase taxes by.

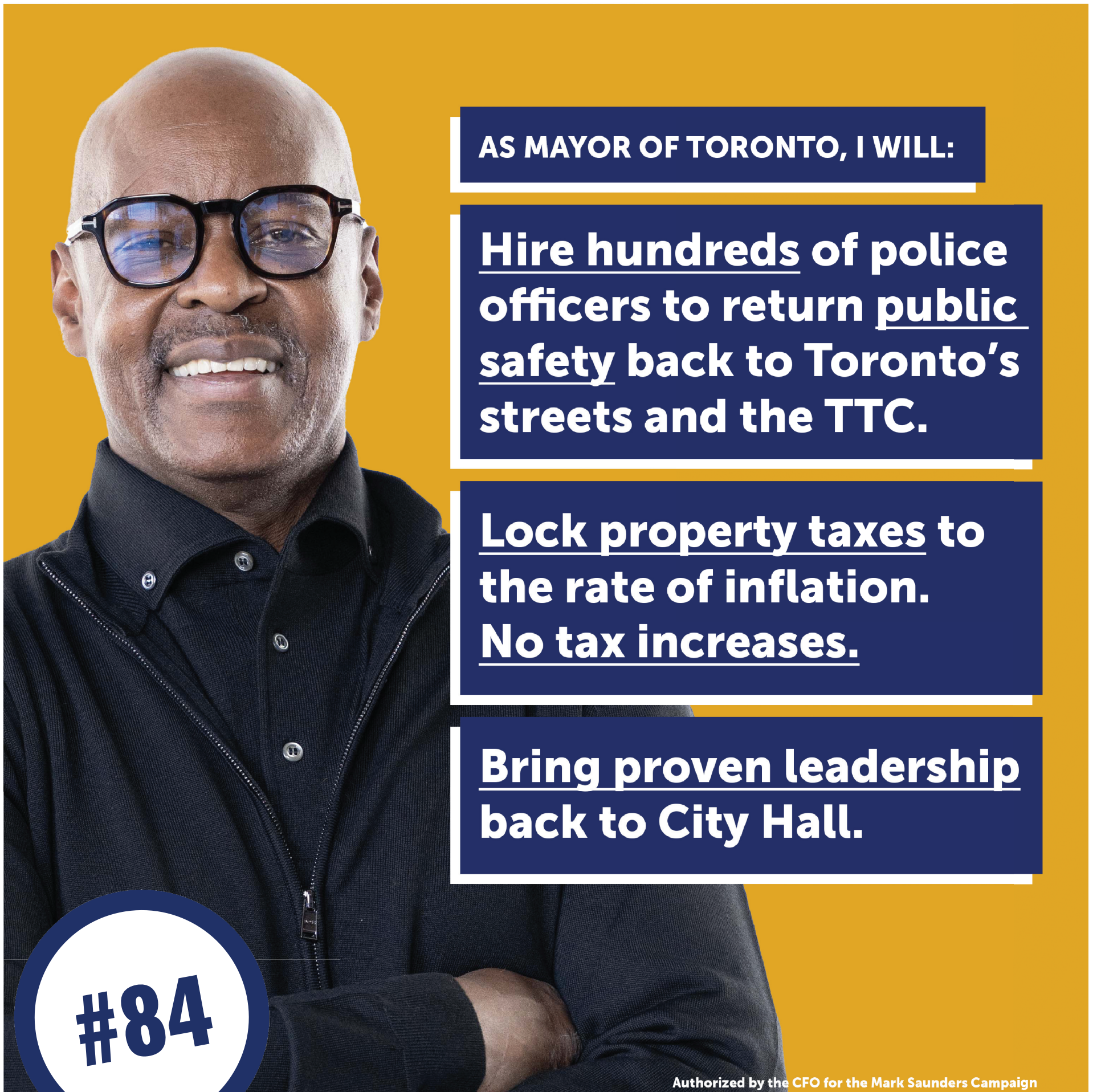


Candidate Mark Saunders gets an endorsement from Equality Publisher Bhaskar Sharma

- Chow has no respect for the police. Chow has tried to cut the budget through her whole career and will defund the police. Chow has put forward no plan to improve public safety, but instead says the TTC is safe.
 - Chow will not address homelessness or encampments.
 - Chow will add more bike lanes and wage war on cars.
- Equality News, the largest, continuously published, weekly Caribbean community newspaper in Canada, is endorsing Mark Saunders for Mayor of Toronto on June 26.*
- As the voice of the Guyanese and Caribbean community in the Diaspora for more than 45 years, we believe Mark is the candidate who can fix Toronto's problems and keep us safe. He is an advocate for affordable housing, prudent management of the city's economy and as a former Toronto Police Chief, an advocate for safer streets. Vote Mark for Mayor!*

MARK SAUNDERS

PROTECT TORONTO'S FUTURE



AS MAYOR OF TORONTO, I WILL:

Hire hundreds of police officers to return public safety back to Toronto's streets and the TTC.

Lock property taxes to the rate of inflation.
No tax increases.

Bring proven leadership
back to City Hall.

#84

Authorized by the CFO for the Mark Saunders Campaign

FORMER POLICE CHIEF NOW RUNNING FOR MAYOR
VOTE MARK SAUNDERS ON JUNE 26



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 45



GOV'T, SAUDI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT SIGN US\$150M AGREEMENT
PAGE 2



PRESIDENT ALI, CARIBBEAN LEADERS MEET WITH US-VP
PAGE 3



GUYANA ELECTED A NON-PERMANENT MEMBER ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL
PAGE 6



GUYANA SIGNS ON TO EUR\$4.6M COASTAL MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT WITH EU
PAGE 7

PPP/C SWEEPS LGE 2023

PAGE 3

- WINS IN 66 OF THE 80 LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS
- MAKES SIGNIFICANT INROADS IN APNU STRONGHOLDS



GUYANA'S GDP TO GROW BY 25.2 PER CENT IN 2023 - WORLD BANK



President Ali with officials from the housing and finance ministries, and the Saudi Fund for Development

GOV'T, SAUDI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT SIGN US\$150M AGREEMENT

President Irfaan Ali credited the expediency and professionalism of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) in approving a US\$150 million loan for infrastructural works in the country.

The head of state oversaw the agreement signing between the Government of Guyana, led by Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh and CEO of the SFD, Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

The president said the funds will go towards **“housing, the Wismar Bridge and infrastructure that surrounds all of this”**. The projects, President Ali said, are important to the Government's

development masterplan.

“We are very pleased that we were able to advance the projects at such a pace,” the head of state said as he reminded that projects will not only bring temporary relief but also permanent benefit to citizens as it forms part of the larger infrastructure masterplan of the country and will help Guyana on its journey to modernisation.

The agreements mark SFD's first presence in Guyana and the beginning of development cooperation between the two countries.

H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad, observed that the two agreements represent an essential drive for achieving seven United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3; Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 6; Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 11; Sustainable Cities and Communities.

He said that this form of development cooperation, and emphasises the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's commitment to supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to overcome sustainable development and climate change challenges.

The first loan agreement, worth US\$100 million, for the Infrastructural Development Works for the Housing Sector Project, aims to respond to the growing population demands by developing the infrastructure to provide about 2,500 housing units across three different regions in Guyana.

Additionally, the project includes paving the main and secondary roads, establishing water, sewage and electricity networks, digging wells for each of the project areas, and the construction of social facilities serving multiple benefits.

It will not only address the current housing shortage and improve living conditions, but also stimulate the local economy through direct and indirect job opportunities in the housing sector.

The second loan agreement, worth US\$50 million, for the Construction of Wismar Bridge Project, aims to build a four-lane structure parallel to the existing Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge, to improve road network connectivity and the



Sitting from left are Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh and SFD Chief Executive Officer, H.E Sultan Al-Marshad

flow of transportation, relieving traffic jams, and enhancing road safety.

The bridge will also link to the existing road network on both sides of the Demerara River, ensuring easier access to nearby public facilities such as the Mackenzie Hospital, and other government facilities. While positively impacting transportation, the bridge is also expected to contribute towards social and economic development and creating employment opportunities in Guyana.

These agreements

are a follow-up to the May 12 last signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between the finance minister on behalf of Government and the Saudi Fund for Development's CEO regarding the Saudi Fund for Development participation in the Financing of these Development Projects. The MOU was signed on the sidelines of the 2023 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group's Annual Meetings in Saudi Arabia, where Dr. Singh led Guyana's delegation.

UAE MINISTER VISITS GUYANA

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State for International Cooperation, Reem Al Hashimy, conducted a one-day (June 11) visit to Guyana to further strengthen ties between the two countries.

President Ali and members of his Cabinet held discussions with the visiting UAE Minister and her delegation at State House.

Prior to the meeting, he hosted a breakfast in honour of the visiting official, where they both spoke about the importance of enhancing relations between the two nations.

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, a number of other Cabinet Ministers, Government officials, representatives from the private sector



President Ali and members of his Cabinet in discussions with the United Arab Emirates' Minister of State for International Cooperation, HE Reem Al Hashimy and her delegation

and members of the diplomatic community were also present.

Her Excellency Al Hashimy also addressed a number of persons, including students from various secondary schools, at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Liliendaal.

The minister she

expressed her profound pride in standing amidst the future generation of Guyana, and underscored the importance of having the youths lead the way.

She encouraged young people to use education as a superpower, a transformative tool that, despite its weight,

must be embraced as an essential lifelong journey.

President Ali, First Lady Mrs Arya Ali and Minister Al Hashimy also attended a sod-turning and tree-planting exercise for a new facility for persons with disabilities at Crane, West Coast Demerara.



President Ali with the United Arab Emirates' Minister of State for International Cooperation, HE Reem Al Hashimy

PRESIDENT ALI, CARIBBEAN LEADERS MEET WITH US-VP



The event was attended by leaders throughout the Caribbean



President Ali at the US-Caribbean Leaders meeting in Bahamas

- ADVANCE TALKS ON US/CARIBBEAN CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD & ENERGY SECURITY EFFORTS

President Ali Nassau, Bahamas. The event, which was attended by leaders throughout the Caribbean, was co-hosted by US Vice President Kamala Harris

and Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Philip Davis. High on the agenda was the shared effort between the US and the Caribbean in promoting climate resilience and adaptation in the Caribbean region. The meeting built on the US-Caribbean Partnership to address the Climate Crisis 2030,

launched last year by the US Vice President and Caribbean leaders, in Los Angeles at the Summit of the Americas. President Ali, who has the lead responsibility for food security in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) quasi-cabinet, was accompanied by Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ambassador Elisabeth Harper.

FINANCE MINISTER HOSTS GOV'T DELEGATION FROM QATAR

AS FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT'S ADVANCED ENGAGEMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY

Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh led a government team in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a meeting with a visiting Qatari Government delegation led by Head of the Caribbean and South American Division from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar Shafi Newaimi M.N. Al-Hajri. Also present at the engagement were Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, and other seniors officials from the Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs,



The Guyanese and Qatari Government officials

and Agriculture. The Qatari delegation was in Guyana to meet and discuss a number of developmental opportunities and projects. Their visit served as a follow-up to President Ali's recent visit to Qatar where he met and held discussions with Qatar's Emir, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and

members of his Cabinet, and had opened a Guyana Embassy in that country. President Ali, during the momentous

occasion noted that Guyana and Qatar share a number of similarities including promoting peace, stability and sustainability. During that visit the President

had been accompanied by Dr. Singh, while Guyana and Qatar had advanced discussions on a number of investments and development sectors. The Qatari delegation while in Guyana participated in various meetings with government and private sector stakeholders with a number of presentations on development areas and projects in Guyana to be made. The team was also taken on tours of several investment projects.

HYDROMET DEPT. HEAD, FIRST GUYANESE ELECTED TO SERVE ON WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

During the recently concluded 19th World Meteorological Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, Guyana's Chief Hydrometeorological Officer, Dr. Garvin Cummings was elected to serve on the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This is the first time since the International Meteorological Organization/World Meteorological Organization (IMO-WMO) was formed some 150 years ago that a Guyanese has been elected to serve on the

Council. The Executive Council is the highest decision-making body of the WMO, outside of the World Meteorological Congress. Twenty-seven directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) were elected to serve on the Executive Council. The Congress was held from May 22 to June 2, 2023, and saw officials from Members States and Territories assembling to discuss and determine the strategic direction of the Organization for the

next four years. The 19th Congress was considered a significant milestone in the history of the global hydrometeorological community as it also marked the 150th anniversary since the organization of the International Meteorological Organization and the WMO (IMO-WMO) was formed. Director of the Argentine Meteorological Institute, Professor Celeste Saulo was also elected to serve as the Secretary General of the WMO. Dr. Saulo is the

first female to be elected as Secretary General after previously serving in various capacities within the WMO framework and governance structure and will be tasked with leading the Secretariat of the WMO for the next financial period, 2024-2027. The Congress also elected representatives to manage the organization over the next four years including its President, three Vice Presidents, and its Executive Council. The WMO comprises 193 Member States and Territories.



CHO, Dr. Garvin Cummings with the recently elected 1st female Secretary-General of the WMO, Professor Celeste Saulo of Argentina

PPP/C SWEEPS LGE 2023

**- WINS IN 66 OF THE 80 LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS
- MAKES SIGNIFICANT INROADS IN APNU STRONGHOLDS**

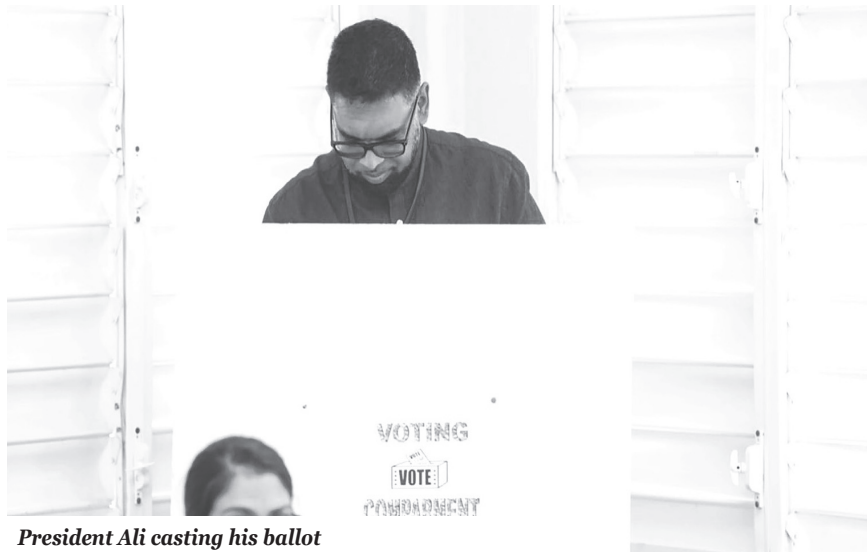
In what can be described as an ‘overwhelming victory and a massive gain’ at the 2023 Local Government Elections (LGE), the governing People’s Progressive Party (PPP) has managed to secure majority seats in townships and NDCs that are historic strongholds of the PNC-led APNU opposition party, for the first time.

It has recorded wins in 66 of the 80 Local Authority Areas (LAAs) including the popular vote in four LAAs where it has tied with the main opposition party.

This means that APNU has only earned majority seats in merely 14 of the 80 LAAs, a decrease from 23 LAAs in the previously held LGEs.

General Secretary of the PPP, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo speaking during a press conference at Freedom House, described the wins as a ‘massive landslide victory’ for the party.

“That’s the definition of a wipeout, that’s a definition of a



President Ali casting his ballot

landslide,” the general secretary expressed.

The internal party analysis, pointed out that PPP/C representatives are set to occupy 906 of 1,220 seats in Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs), and municipal councils across the country.

This is an increase from the 779 seats the PPP/C secured in 2018 while the APNU along with its coalition partner AFC, at the time, won 390 seats.

In 2023, the APNU contested on its own and is down to 275 seats which is roughly 22 per

cent of all the seats in the country.

“...And they are claiming that the PPP did not achieve what they set out to do.

“By any definition, anywhere in the world, 75 per cent win is a massive win by any standard,” Jagdeo contended.

RETAINING STRONGHOLDS

The PPP won outright the towns of Mabaruma, Anna Regina, Rose Hall, Corriverton, and Lethem.

Dr Jagdeo has shut down claims by Opposition Leader,

He noted that one of the lies told by Norton at a press conference was that the APNU had won Platanca, East Bank Berbice – a PPP stronghold.

But Dr Jagdeo noted that while the win is projected by only five votes, the matter remains contentious because the PPP received an additional five votes. As a result, the PPP/C has requested a recount of this area.

The PPP has, however, won the popular vote in this area with 39 to 31 on the Proportional Representation front.

Jagdeo also rejected claims by Norton that the APNU had a whitewashed victory across Region Five.

He pointed out that in the Woodland/Farm NDC, there is a tie. Meanwhile, at #5 Village, the PPP increased its votes from five in 2018 to 206 in 2023. Additionally, the PPP secured six seats at ‘C’ Field, an increase from three in 2018.

At Hamlet/Chance, where the PPP could not field candidates in 2018, they secured 102 votes. The situation was the same in other areas

Aubrey Norton that APNU made inroads in some strongholds of PPP/C.



Voters at a polling station

Cont'd on page 5



Local Government Elections 2023

RESULTS FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	REGIONS	VOTES	SEATS
MABARUMA	ONE	APNU: 497 PPP/C: 1,491	APNU: 2 PPP/C: 12
ANNA REGINA	TWO	APNU: 505 PPP/C: 3,657	APNU: 1 PPP/C: 15
GEORGETOWN	FOUR	APNU: 20,839 PPP/C: 12,553	APNU: 19 PPP/C: 11
NEW AMSTERDAM	SIX	APNU: 3,074 PPP/C: 2,336	APNU: 8 PPP/C: 6
ROSEHALL	SIX	APNU: 447 PPP/C: 1,008	APNU: 3 PPP/C: 11
CORRIVERTON	SIX	APNU: 508 PPP/C: 2,314	APNU: 3 PPP/C: 13
BARTICA	SEVEN	APNU: 1,601 PPP/C: 1,784	APNU: 9 PPP/C: 9
MAHDIA	EIGHT	APNU: 327 PPP/C: 330	APNU: 4 PPP/C: 4
LETHEM	NINE	UNOPPOSED	PPP/C: 10
LINDEN	TEN	APNU: 8,002 PPP/C: 2,464	APNU: 14 PPP/C: 2



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo casting his ballot

including at Blairmont. In Region Four, Jagdeo said at Buxton in Constituencies One and Two, the PPP picked up 114 and 40 votes, respectively, having contested the areas for the first time. "So, we picked up even in their strongholds, significant votes in places where we couldn't field candidates before," Jagdeo said.

got 1,314 votes more than more than in 2018, which is a 270% increase over 2018... that is a major inroad in a stronghold of APNU," he said.

In Linden, the PPP/C is reporting a 512 per cent increase with 2,462 votes up from 402 in 2018.

According to results by GECOM,

GECOM indicate that in the PR component of the elections in Bartica, the PPP/C received 1,784 votes compared to 1,601 votes for the APNU, while in Mahdia, APNU secured 327 votes as against the PPP/C's 330 votes.

RECOUNTS

Recounts has been requested by the APNU



President Ali casting his ballot

security role in ensuring smooth polling."

The ERC also acknowledged the exemplary conduct of citizens.

"The commission also takes this opportunity to commend citizens for their participation in the incident-free poll and will continue to work to the best of its ability

as a GECOM Accredited Local Observer, in collaboration with American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AMCHAM) Guyana Inc. and other representational bodies, witnessed the voting process at polling stations across the country.

"We also received reports from our membership across all the regions where elections were conducted. The Commission also observed the counting and tabulation processes and found no significant anomalies during the entire process apart from, in some cases, the absence of clearly visible signage to assist voters in identifying their polling stations," the PSC said in a press release.

The Commission said it was particularly impressed with the highly professional manner and courtesy of the GECOM staff in the conduct of their duties.

"The Commission was disappointed at the low turn-out of voters at these elections and takes this opportunity to encourage every citizen to register and exercise their democratic right to participate in Local Government Elections and, importantly, at the next General and

Regional Elections," the release stated.

On election day, this publication visited several polling stations in Georgetown, including St. Sidwell's Primary and Smith Memorial Primary schools, Freeburg Secondary School, and the Guyana Girls Guide Association, and observed first-hand the efficiency of the process. "So far, it has been very smooth. Voters are coming, they are finding their names on the list, and they are going to exercise their franchise. So far, it's going pretty good," an observer from the AMCHAM, Rosalinda Rasul had commended.

Voters had also expressed their satisfaction with the voting process.

Roshauna Edwards described the process as "quite quick and simple," while displaying enthusiasm about exercising her democratic right.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

INROADS IN APNU STRONGHOLDS

The APNU has retained control of the capital, Georgetown, New Amsterdam and the mining town of Linden.

However, the general secretary highlighted significant gains made by the PPP in those areas.

In Georgetown, the PPP has secured five of the 15 seats, an increase from three seats in the 2018 LGE and from 6,813 votes in 2018 to 12,250 votes in 2023.

In fact, Dr Jagdeo pointed out that the APNU's votes in the city actually dropped with the PPP/C picking up two additional constituencies.

Dr. Jagdeo claimed the APNU votes dropped by almost 400 in the city while the PPP went from 750 in 2018 to 12,553 in 2023.

The PPP also won three of the constituencies in New Amsterdam, while the APNU gained four. As a result, the PPP will have a total of six seats on the council, whereas the APNU will hold eight seats.

This marks a change from the 2018 elections when the APNU won 11 seats and the PPP had three in that area, the general secretary revealed.

"Our votes have increased significantly...we



A poll clerk checking the identification of one of the voters

the Industry/Plaisance NDC, another APNU stronghold, the PPP managed to secure 1,775 votes while the APNU received 1,746 votes. This means the PPP has won five seats on the council while the APNU has won four seats.

The party has also managed to flip the Hague/Blankenburg NDC, under which Den Amstel, a PNC stronghold falls.

TIES

In two towns, Bartica and Mahdia, the PPP/C and the APNU have reached a tie in terms of seats on the councils. However, Dr Jagdeo said despite the tie, the PPP has secured the majority of the Proportional Representation, commonly called the popular vote, and will consequently claim the Mayorship.

Results released by

in Mahdia, while the PPP/C has requested a recount in four areas including Constituency Six in Georgetown. Here, the PPP/C lost by four votes but there were 152 rejected ballots.

LGE 2023 voting process fair, transparent - Observers, election officials

The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC), after observing polling at over 250 Polling Places in five Administrative Regions, stated:

"The Commission would like to commend Polling Day staff of the Guyana Elections Commission, (GECOM), for the professional execution of their duties and the resulting efficiency of the process. The ERC is thankful for the exemplary conduct displayed by polling agents from all sides, and police officers for their

to aid the promotion of harmony and good relations," the release stated.

The Private Sector Commission (PSC) also praised GECOM for the successful conduct of the LGE and commend all the contestants for their participation in "a peaceful and successful election."

The Commission,



Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh after casting his vote

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANA ELECTED A NON-PERMANENT MEMBER ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd joined Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett cheering Guyana's elected non-permanent member

Guyana was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2024 – 2025.

President Ali in a statement hailed Guyana's election. He said, "Guyana is honoured and humbled by the confidence that has been expressed by the international community in electing us to this most important position of responsibility on the global stage.

Guyana has now been accorded the opportunity to serve on the Security Council, which is charged under the UN Charter with the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is a responsibility that we will assume with utmost seriousness and dedication, mindful of the complex and challenging times in which we live.

The theme of our candidacy 'Partnering for Peace and Prosperity' serves as a guide to Guyana's approach to service on the Security Council. We intend to be a constructive and engaged partner with the members of

the Council and the wider international community in the search for solutions to the myriad of momentous challenges that beset our human family."

The president expressed gratitude to the Member States of the United Nations for the overwhelming support extended to Guyana's candidature. He thanked in particular the dedicated staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Permanent Representative and her team at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York "for their tireless efforts in advancing our candidature and securing the result, which we witness with great pride today."

The President said, "the Government of Guyana looks forward to continuing our nation's contribution to the strengthening of multilateralism and the rule of International Law, to the promotion of peace, sustainable development, human rights and respect for international law both for the people of our own country, and for peoples across the globe."

Guyana was among five other countries elected by the UN General Assembly to the

Security Council for a two-year term starting on January 1, 2024. The other four countries elected are Algeria, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and South Korea.

Guyana, Algeria, Sierra Leone and South Korea ran unopposed for a spot on the 15-member body, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security. In the only competitive race, Slovenia beat out Belarus. The five elected nations will replace Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates.

The Security Council is the only U.N. body that can make legally binding decisions such as imposing sanctions and authorizing use of force. It has five permanent veto-wielding members: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

To ensure geographical representation, seats are allocated to regional groups. But even if candidates are running unopposed in their group, they still need to win the support of more than two-thirds of the General Assembly.

Guyana received 191 votes, Sierra Leone 188, Algeria received 184 votes, South Korea 180.

Slovenia won 153 votes to beat Belarus, which received 38 votes.

PRESIDENT ALI DISPATCHES LETTER OF SUPPORT, CONDOLENCES TO INDIAN PRESIDENT FOLLOWING TRAGIC TRAIN CRASH



Rescuers searching the wreckage for survivors following the train crash which is said to be the worst of its kind in the country's history

President Ali has expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of India following the devastating train crash that occurred in the State of Odisha.

In a letter to the President of the Republic of India, Her Excellency Smt Droupadi Murmu, Dr Ali said that his thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the tragedy.

"On behalf of the Government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, I extend my sincere condolences to you and the people of India, and especially to all those affected by this devastating incident. Please convey my sympathies to the families who have lost their loved ones. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those injured, wishing them a swift recovery," the letter reads.

The president added that in times of such tragedy, it is important for the global community to unite and offer support to each other.

"I want to assure you that Guyana stands in solidarity with India during this difficult time. Please be assured also of my highest esteem and consideration," he added.

Approximately 275 people were killed, and over 1,000 injured in a tragic crash involving three trains in the eastern Indian state of Odisha on the evening of June 2,

2023.

The catastrophic collision happened when the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express derailed, colliding with a freight train on the adjacent track. The Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, which was coming from the opposite direction on the third track, crashed into the two derailed coaches.

According to railway officials, over 3,400 passengers were travelling in the two trains.

GUYANA OFFERS SUPPORT TO HAITI FOLLOWING FLOOD DISASTER

Meanwhile, in the wake of floods that have wrought devastation across Haiti, President Ali has expressed not only Guyana's solidarity with the country, but has also offered any assistance the country requires.

In a letter addressed to acting Haitian President Ariel Henry, President Ali expressed deep sadness for the displacements, injuries and deaths- said to number 43- that the country has experienced.



People wade through a flooded street in Gonaïves, Haiti

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the deaths, injuries and displacement of persons occasioned by the recent floods in your country.

On behalf of the government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, I express our deepest condolences to you, the government and people of Haiti and especially to those directly affected by this unforeseen tragedy. We pray for the speedy recovery of the injured and recognise the distress and difficulties faced by the thousands who have been displaced as a result of the floods.

As a member of the Caribbean Community family, Guyana stands in solidarity with and in support of the people of Haiti. We share in Haiti's grief and pain. Guyana is ready to assist in any way possible.

The people of Haiti have demonstrated, historically, their strength and resilience in the face of tragedy. We are confident that with the support of the international and regional communities Haiti will overcome this tragedy.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of my brotherly support."

Torrential rains displaced more than 13,000 Haitians and floods have killed at least 43. In the aftermath of these floods, at least three people were also killed in a 4.9 magnitude earthquake that struck in the Haitian city of Jérémie during the floods.

GUYANA SIGNS ON TO EUR\$4.6M COASTAL MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT WITH EU

President Ali witnessed the signing of a financing agreement between the European Commission and Guyana for the protection and restoration of Guyana's mangrove forests at State House.

EU Commission's Executive Vice President, Frans Timmermans, and Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh signed the pact

The agreement is for a period of four years and is valued at €4.6 million. Through this programme, mangrove restoration efforts will be supported along Guyana's vulnerable low-lying coastline. The funds will also be used to enhance livelihood opportunities, such as beekeeping in mangrove communities.



President Ali delivers brief remarks at the signing

During brief remarks, President Ali stressed that the programme scope will also include the monitoring of mangrove seedling planting, the rehabilitation of existing forests, and the establishment of robust nursery programmes for aggressive replanting efforts.

He praised the EU for being one of Guyana's strongest partners in protecting the country's sea defence

and coastline. **"The European Union continues to play a key partner for us in budget support. You are also an important partner for us in the democracy issues but importantly, one of our strongest partners in terms of protecting our sea defences or a coastal line and ensuring that a country that is below sea level remains safe from its**

exposure to the sea. You are one of our strongest partners in this area," Dr Ali said.

This new programme builds on several other support programmes and partnerships with the EU.

It follows a Forest Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed last November on the sidelines of the Conference of the Parties (COP) 27 in Egypt and

launched in March this year.

Meanwhile, H.E Timmermans said the EU is keen on strengthening bilateral ties with Guyana and it believes one of the ways it can deepen those ties is by continuing to support mangrove protection and restoration efforts.

"Mangroves are such a huge contribution to our fight against the climate crisis.

"... We are more than thrilled that we can be partners with Guyana," he said.

Previous EU support to Guyana to help the country fortify sea defences on the coast include in December 2021, the final tranche of a 34 million Euros multi-year agreement between Guyana and the EU. The funds were all used to prop up the country's vulnerable sea defences.



The signing of the agreement

CARICOM COMMENDS GUYANA FOR ITS ELECTION TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has congratulated Guyana on its election to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which serves as a testament to the country's distinguished record of service in the United Nations.

In a press release, CARICOM said the election assumes heightened significance

against the background of the challenges to current global peace and security for which the council has responsibility.

The release added that this is also in accordance with security cooperation that is a pillar of the Caribbean Community.

"Guyana is positioned to offer unique perspectives to UN Security

Council matters, as a voice for small island and low-lying coastal developing states," the missive noted.

By a majority vote, Guyana was elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the period 2024-2025.

While presenting budget 2023 in February, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility

for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh said the decision to present Guyana's candidature for the UNSC seat was motivated by a desire to further enhance the country's standing as an active and valuable contributor to global debates, particularly in areas such as the environment and international peace and security. This is something that a seat

on the council would advance.

The security council is charged under the United Nations Charter with the responsibility for the maintenance of international security and peace.

As part of this mandate, the council takes the lead in identifying the existence of a threat to peace and encouraging parties

to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means. The council, in some cases, can also impose sanctions to maintain or restore international peace.



U.S. EMBASSY RE-OPENS DOCUMENT SERVICE CENTER



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of the Document Service Center

To improve efficiency in the United States (US) visa application process, and to provide better services to visa applicants, the Consular Section of the US Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana has re-opened

the Document Service Center, also known as the "DSC."

As of June 13, 2023, applicants for U.S. visas (immigrant and non-immigrant) must drop off documents at the DSC.

The DSC is located at 223 Camp Street, Georgetown, Guyana. Pick up of passports and other visa related documents will also be facilitated at the DSC. Applicants should no longer use DHL to

submit or receive visa documents.

The newly renovated DSC facility is conveniently located near the U.S. Embassy and will create a streamlined and more efficient process for applicants to submit visa application documents when instructed to do so, or to pick up their passports.

DSC staff will ensure all required documents are provided, which will streamline visa application processing. The DSC is operated by CSRA (Guyana) Inc., and is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Document Service Center - CSRA Guyana Inc

GUYANA'S GDP TO GROW BY 25.2 PER CENT IN 2023 - WORLD BANK

While growth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is expected to decline from 3.7 per cent in 2022 to 1.5 per cent in 2023, Guyana's real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to further grow by 25.2 per cent in 2023.

This was revealed by the World Bank Group's Flagship Report published in June 2023, titled 'Global Economic Prospects.'

Guyana is the lone

country with projected double-digit growth in 2023.

The country with the second highest GDP growth in the region is Panama with 5.7 per cent in 2023 and 5.8 per cent in 2024, followed by St Vincent and the Grenadines with 5.6 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), GDP measures the monetary value of final goods and

services, that is, those that are bought by the final user produced in a country in a given period. It counts all of the output generated within the borders of a country.

In the Caribbean, apart from the oil boom in Guyana, the rest of the subregion's countries are expected to grow at an average rate of 3.3 per cent in 2023, boosted by continued recovery in tourism and buoyant remittances.

Overall, the Caribbean region is set to expand by 5.1 per cent in 2023

"The subregion's outlook partly reflects the oil boom in Guyana, where GDP is expected to grow by 25.2 per cent this year and 21.2 per cent in 2024 as production at new oil fields continues to ramp up," the report states.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS | JUNE 2023

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

TABLE 2.3.2 Latin America and the Caribbean country forecasts¹
Annual GDP growth at market prices in percent, unless indicated otherwise

	2020	2021	2022e	2023f	2024f	2025f	Percentage p differences from 2023 project
Argentina	-9.9	10.4	5.2	-2.0	2.3	2.0	-4.0
Bahamas, The	-23.8	13.7	11.0	4.3	2.0	1.9	0.2
Barbados	-13.7	0.7	10.0	4.9	3.9	3.1	0.1
Belize	-13.4	15.2	9.6	2.4	2.0	2.0	0.4
Bolivia	-8.7	6.1	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.0	-0.6
Brazil	-3.3	5.0	2.9	1.2	1.4	2.4	0.4
Canada	-6.0	11.7	2.4	-0.4	1.8	2.2	0.5
Chile	-7.3	11.0	7.5	1.7	2.0	3.2	0.4
Costa Rica	-4.3	7.8	4.3	2.9	3.0	3.2	0.0
Cuba	-16.6	6.9	5.8	4.7	4.6	4.2	0.1
Dominican Republic	-6.7	12.3	4.9	4.1	4.8	5.0	-0.7
Ecuador	-7.8	4.2	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.8	-0.5
El Salvador	-8.2	10.3	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.1	0.3
Guatemala	-13.8	4.7	5.8	3.6	3.3	3.1	0.4
Honduras	-1.8	8.0	4.0	3.2	3.5	3.5	0.1
Jamaica	43.5	20.0	57.8	25.2	21.2	28.2	0.0
Mexico	-3.3	-1.8	-1.7	-2.4	1.7	2.4	-1.3
Nicaragua	-9.0	12.5	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.8	0.4
Panama	-9.9	4.6	4.2	2.0	1.7	1.2	0.0
Paraguay	-8.0	4.7	3.0	2.5	1.9	2.0	1.6
Peru	-1.8	10.3	4.1	3.0	3.4	3.5	1.0
Uruguay	-17.9	15.3	10.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	1.2
Venezuela	-0.8	4.0	-0.3	4.8	4.3	4.3	-0.4
World	-10.9	13.4	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.8	-0.4
Lucia	-24.4	12.2	15.4	3.6	3.4	2.5	-0.8
Vincent and the Grenadines	-5.3	1.3	5.0	5.6	4.8	3.5	-0.4
Yemen	-16.0	-2.7	1.9	2.4	3.2	3.1	0.1
Zimbabwe	-6.1	4.4	5.0	1.8	2.8	2.4	-0.9

Source: World Bank.
e = estimate; f = forecast. World Bank forecasts are frequently updated based on new information and changing (global) circumstances. Consequently, projections presented differ from those contained in other Bank documents, even if basic assessments of countries' prospects do not significantly differ at any given moment in time. Data are based on GDP measured in average 2010-19 prices and market exchange rates. GDP is based on fiscal year, which runs from October to September of next year.

Table showing Latin America and the Caribbean forecast by the World Bank Group

GUYANA'S ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT ATTRACTS GLOBAL INVESTMENT - DR SINGH

With the rapid pace of development under President Ali's visionary leadership, Guyana's economic growth has tripled over the last three years.

One of the top oil-producing nations, Guyana has attracted the attention of investors and world leaders.

Guyana is on an unmatched upward trajectory that will ensure prosperity, expansion, and investments in all sectors.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, speaking at a private

sector engagement between Guyana and the Dominican Republic at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre said over the last two years, Guyana's economy has grown more than 40 per cent on average per annum.

"Given the extraordinary rate of growth, what we have observed is the emergence of new opportunities in literally every sector... There is no sector, at all, in Guyana without opportunities for expansion and investment

currently," Dr Singh said.

The mining, agriculture, and tourism industries are just a few of the areas where Dr Singh highlighted similarities between the economies of Guyana and the Dominican Republic. There are many prospects for partnerships as a result of these similarities.

Dr Singh stated that the fiscal incentives regime in all sectors make Guyana attractive to global investors.

"We have, in each sector, an attractive fiscal incentive regime that



Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh

makes it attractive for international investors to come to Guyana," he related.

Further, the local content legislation has provided the incentive for investors to partner with Guyanese companies.

Dr Singh explained that, "It creates also an incentive for partnerships between international and Guyanese companies. And what we are seeing

already is a number of international companies wanting to take advantage of the growth and business opportunities in Guyana, entering into strategic partnerships with their Guyanese counterparts... and indeed be able to optimise the incentive structure that is created by the local content legislation."

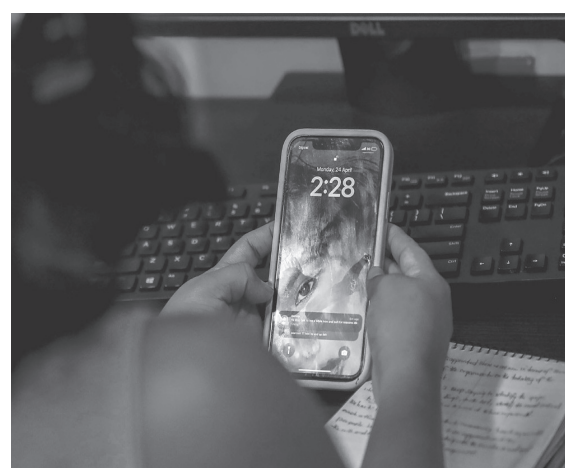
Over the next three to four years, Guyana is projected to grow at a rate in excess of 25 per cent per annum in real terms.

TELECOMS PROVIDERS WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT OF TAX REMOVAL ON CELL PHONES

All duties and taxes will be removed on mobile phones. The taxes on cell phones were 20 percent.

The measure which took effect from Monday, June 12 was announced by President Ali at a People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) rally in New Amsterdam, Region Six.

Since then, Telecommunications providers ENet, Digicel, and GTT have commended the announcement. In a joint release issued, the agencies welcomed the president's announcement, adding that it is a significant step towards improving information access, and bridging the digital



The taxes on cell phones were 20 percent.

divide in Guyana.

This development means customers can look forward to revised prices reflecting the removal of taxes on all cellular devices.

The removal of taxes is set to 'transform the communications sector

by enabling greater access to pursue educational opportunities, conduct business, and foster personal growth'.

This intervention is a timely one, as Guyana becomes increasingly connected and requires increased access to vital

technological resources.

This move will no doubt have positive effects on the country, and serves as a progressive step in fostering inclusivity and bridging the digital divide in the telecommunications sector.

The release stated, "As telecommunications providers in Guyana, we continue to work assiduously with the government and other stakeholders to facilitate the seamless implementation of this tax exemption. GTT, Digicel, and ENet look forward to continued efforts to promote digital equity, as we build a platform to deliver the best services and

solutions for Guyana."

The PPP/C government's Information and Communications Technology master plan has seen a host of robust interventions and initiatives being implemented to ensure that the sector progresses in an efficient and productive manner.

A mere two months after assuming office in 2020, government liberalised the sector in a transformative move that provided the impetus for innovation and advanced delivery of services to consumers.

The business community has since blossomed, as ICT-enabled businesses were welcomed to

operate locally. A number of Internet Service Providers, Data Centres, Call Centres and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) operations have opened their doors in Guyana.

ICT solutions have also been implemented across the public and private sectors.

These include the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system, which has improved the efficiency of the internal payment management system, the establishment of NIS Online Contribution Checking System to improve accuracy, and the GTT Mobile Money payment system.

CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR CHRIST CHURCH SECONDARY, ST GEORGE'S HIGH SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand along with the contractors tasked with rebuilding the St. George's High School, Permanent Secretary, Alfred King and Special Projects Officer, Ron Eastman



The contract signing for the Christ Church Secondary School

The Ministry of Education has signed a total of 11 contracts for the reconstruction of Christ Church Secondary and St George's High School, both of which were destroyed by fire.

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand who witnessed the signings in the Ministry of Education's Boardroom said that the focus is on providing high-quality education to children across the country.

CHRIST CHURCH SECONDARY

Seven contracts were signed for the reconstruction of the Christ Church Secondary School. The school was gutted on January 12, 2023.

The new structure will be built at the same location and is expected to be finished in seven months as per the

contract. The total cost to rebuild the school is \$688.1 million.

The new building will measure 209 feet x 70 feet and will have 20 classrooms to accommodate 450 to 520 students. The school will also feature science laboratories, TVET laboratory, electrical and Woodworking



Architectural concept of the Christ Church Secondary School, South-Western view

laboratory, Information Technology laboratory, Home Economics laboratory, and Art and Music rooms.

ST. GEORGE'S HIGH SCHOOL

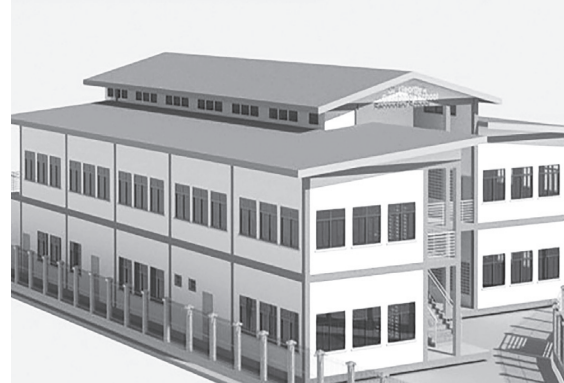
Six contracts were signed for the rebuilding of the St. George's High School which was destroyed by fire in July 2022. The school is expected to be completed in five to seven months.

The total project cost is \$253.8 million

The school will be a two-storey building oriented with a panoramic view of the lower flat. The upper flat will feature 12 classrooms while the

lower flat will house six laboratories including for Information Technology, Home Economics and Industrial Technology.

Similar to the approach being used to rebuild the Christ Church Secondary School, the project has been divided into lots to be executed simultaneously by different contractors.



Architectural concepts of what the new St. George's High School will look like upon completion

FIRE PREVENTION COMPONENTS

Special Projects

Officer in the Ministry, Ron Eastman said that the new buildings will feature fire prevention and retardant mechanisms and components.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Alfred King added that among the lots into which the projects have been divided, there is a dedicated lot that deals with the installation of fire prevention units as recommended by the Guyana Fire Service. The fire prevention components of the schools include fire escape stairs, escape doors, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, limited timber usage, metal ceilings and fire-

the St. George's High School, the North Ruimveldt Secondary School and Christ Church Secondary. She said that with the destruction of those schools, the situation became even worse. She said that under the five years of the APNU+AFC Administration, no secondary school was started and completed. As such, she said that a lot of the space issues are now being addressed.

Soon contracts will be signed to rebuild the St. Mary's High School. This along with the reconstruction of the North Ruimveldt Secondary School, the St. Rose's High School, extensions at Queen's College, the Bishops' High School, the East Ruimveldt Secondary School and the St. Winefride's Secondary School, the space issues in the Georgetown District will be addressed.

Further, Minister Manickchand noted that the completion of the Good Hope Secondary School will address space issues along the East Coast while the completion of the Yarrowkabra Secondary School will address the said issue for the Upper East Bank Demerara area.

retardant panels. The education minister said that the Georgetown Education District had serious space constraints before the fires that destroyed

FIRE-AFFECTED MAHDIA STUDENTS GIVEN OPTION TO SIT CSEC EXAMS IN JANUARY 2024



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand meeting with the students of the Mahdia Secondary school immediately after the fire

Students of the Mahdia Secondary School are being allowed to write their Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations in January 2024.

The option was provided to the students by the devastating fire at the school's female dormitory last month.

Minister of Education, Priya

Manickchand made the disclosure during a contract signing ceremony at the ministry's Boardroom.

"We offered the option of writing in January. Some

students chose that option and some felt that they need to write it now. I think that was their way of reasserting their existence. We let it be completely a choice as we did with everything else with the students and their parents," the minister said.

She noted that, "Children who chose to write it now, we facilitated that with a caveat, but if after the results are out, and they want a second chance, they will get that, although we don't usually do that in public schools."

Minister Manickchand also underlined that the

government is working diligently to provide the best possible options for the students.

"Those who chose to write it in January will write in January, that's for the general population of all the children of Mahdia Secondary. The children who were directly affected, we have begun to talk to them and their parents about what options can work for them; given all kinds of other present circumstances including their psychological state of mind," the education minister added.

She observed that students have expressed their hesitance and

incapacity to return to school. As such, the ministry is exploring alternative options for accommodating those students in a comfortable and safe manner.

"Our insistence is that every single student that was affected by this fire, whether directly or indirectly, will finish high school successfully," the minister stated.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

\$6B IN CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR MISCELLANEOUS, URBAN ROADS IN REGIONS 3, 4 & 6

The Ministry of Public Works has signed approximately \$6 billion in contracts to execute miscellaneous, urban roads in Regions Three, Four and Six.

REGION THREE - \$2.8B IN CONTRACTS

Fifty-eight (58) contracts totalling over \$2.8 billion were signed for roadworks across Region Three, including in the Parfaite Harmonie housing scheme, bringing to fruition a commitment



Contracts valued \$809M awarded to rehabilitate roads from east Coast Demerara to Mahaica

REGION SIX - \$1.9B IN CONTRACTS

Additionally, contracts were also signed for the construction and rehabilitation of miscellaneous and urban roads in Region Six to the tune of almost \$2 billion.

The projects will see some roads being rigid pavement, asphaltic, and reinforced concrete, in areas including Pepper Street, Glasgow Housing Scheme; Sideline Dam, Heath Burn Village; Eighth Street, Fort Ordance; and Trimmers Dam, New Amsterdam.

During the contract signing ceremony at the Regional Democratic Council Boardroom at Vryman's Erven, New Amsterdam, Minister Edghill said the works are expected to be completed before year-end.

"These contracts are to be executed within three to twelve months, depending on the size of the contract and the scope of works. This is a 2023 programme, and we will be pushing to ensure all of you get your work done before the close of 2023," the public works minister explained.

Minister Edghill added that the government is dedicated to improving the lives of residents in every community.

contract. I did try, and I finally got one, and I'm very happy about that."

REGION FOUR - \$1.3B IN CONTRACTS

Meanwhile, 18 contracts totalling over \$1.3 billion were signed for roadworks in the Lamaha/Yarrowkabra and Hauraruni/Yarrowkabra Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs), on the Soesdyke-Linden highway. The rigid-pavement concrete roads will be designed to last for decades and will benefit residents in the communities of Swan, Kuru Kururu, and Yarrowkabra.

The contract-signing was spearheaded by Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, and Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Public



The signing of the contracts for roadworks in Yarrowkabra

Affairs, Kwame McCoy. These contracts signal another promise delivered, as President Ali had committed to facilitating infrastructural interventions during an outreach to the communities earlier this year.

This also follows an engagement in January led by the ministers, which saw a commitment to construct a number of concrete roads within the community.

This engagement also saw residents complaining of water

contamination in the area, to which the ministers committed to having 60 black tanks given to the affected families. True to their word, the tanks were delivered to the community in February.

Community Development Council (CDC) Chairman for Kuru Kururu, John Raphael, said, "I want to say thank God for the growth that is going on. Through this government, I am witnessing a miracle, and I see the vision."



A contractor signing one of the contracts

made by President Ali. The contracts provide for the rehabilitation of 29 kilometres of road, in communities such as Cornelia Ida, De Kindren, Meteen-Meer-Zorg, Zeelugt, De Willem, Ruby, Leonora, Anna Catherina, Den Amstel, Wakenaam, and Zeelandia.

The contractors, many of whom are relatively new to the industry, lauded the bidding process, and are grateful for the opportunity

to contribute to their communities. One such contractor was Jason Atkins, who said the bidding process was a smooth one. "I think the government is giving a lot of small contractors like me a fair chance to get into the system by tendering and ensuring that we have our registration intact so that we can qualify."

Another contractor, Neil Dookhan noted that, "Putting in the bids was very simple. Once you follow the simple procedure, it is very simple. I'm glad I got a

90 PER CENT WORKFORCE FOR NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE WILL BE GUYANESE - CRCC

Persons are being encouraged to grab the numerous employment opportunities available through the construction of the US\$260 million new Demerara River Bridge by the China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC).

During an interview with this publication, Public Liaison Officer, Sharda Mohan-Soomai said the company is committed to ensuring that 90 per cent of its workforce for the multi-billion project is made



Works ongoing at the new Demerara River Bridge construction site

up of Guyanese. mobilisation operations Already, over 100 persons have gained employment for the being conducted on the eastern side of the new bridge.

The company is prioritising young people in this process.

Soomai explained that as the mobilisation and procurement stage of the project continues, more job opportunities will become available for young people, especially those residing on the West Bank of Demerara (WBD).

To date, persons have been able to explore options in the technical field as well as administrative roles.

"The best part about

this project is that we have taken young persons with little to no experience and trained them. We are hiring persons on a daily basis and we intend to continue doing so as we try to provide as many jobs as we can," the liaison officer explained.

The operations of the CRCC began in June last year, following the signing of the contract with the Ministry of Public Works in May to construct the new river bridge.

This will see Guyana benefitting from a 2.65 kilometres four-lane, high-span bridge with an estimated 100-year life span.

It will connect from Nandy Park on the East Bank of Demerara to La Grange on the West Bank. This is said to be the most significant local transportation infrastructure project that Guyana has ever embarked on.

NEW OGLE FIRE STATION TO SOON BECOME OPERABLE

Construction works at the new Ogle Fire Station at the Eugene F. Correia International Airport are in the final stage. The remaining works include the installation of the electrical network by the Guyana Power and Light (GPL).

The over \$76 million fire station was executed in two phases. Phase one was completed in the last quarter of 2022, while phase two is being finalised.

This update was provided to this publication by engineer attached to the Ministry

of Home Affairs, Narendra Guyadin.

The new state-of-the-art fire station will be equipped with modern amenities, including a control room, office space for senior officers and administrative staff, a gym, a kitchen, a dining area, and a conference room.

Two fire tenders and one ambulance will be accommodated and the facility will include a fire suppression system with sprinklers, detectors, and a hose reel.

Additionally, a tarmac for training, driveways, and

underground electrical and plumbing connections to buildings from the main road will be implemented.

Importantly, the fire station will be equipped in accordance with the standards and recommendations for practice contained in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 14 Aerodromes and ICAO Doc 9137 Airport Service Manual, to provide rescue and firefighting services at the Eugene F. Correia International Airport.

Singh and Sons

Construction is executing the works.

Meanwhile, the \$614.5 million state-of-the-art Guyana Fire Service headquarters on Homestretch Avenue is expected to be commissioned shortly. The project is being undertaken by Mohamed's Enterprise.

Its relocation from the 'congested' Stabroek Market Square will improve the operations of the fire service in terms of its response to fires.

The modern facility will accommodate eight fire tenders



The Ogle Fire Station at the Eugene F. Correia International Airport

and six Emergency Medical Service (EMS) ambulances. It will also have male and female barracks, a kitchen, a laundry area, officers' living quarters, a gym, a day room, offices, and living quarters, as well as

EMT rooms. This new headquarters is designed to function with 70 plus ranks of the Guyana Fire Service (GFS).

FRANK A NARAIN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY TO CONTINUE DELIVERY OF NON-PARTISAN SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

The name of the Parliamentary Library at Public Buildings, Georgetown was changed to honour Frank A Narain who is the longest-serving Clerk of the National Assembly. The facility is now called the Frank A Narain Parliamentary Library.

Narain, who served in the position for 36 years, has made invaluable contributions to parliamentary democracy in the country.

The library is the hub of the Parliament's capability to deliver competent, timely, non-partisan information services to all Members of Parliament, staff, and the general public. It is part of the research division of the Parliament Office.



Minister of Public Service, Sonia Parag presenting a brooch to Former Clerk of the National Assembly, Frank Narain

During the simple ceremony at the Public Buildings, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud noted that Narain has provided innumerable expert contributions to Guyana.

"Narain has not only been serving this Parliament

with distinction and the repository of information and knowledge when it comes to parliamentary practices and procedures. He has taken the effort to compile so much that we, as the newer parliamentarians learn and look back

at our history," she emphasised.

Narain extended gratitude to everyone who has helped him during and after his time as a clerk. He also lauded the event as "the greatest honour in his 91 years."



Inside the Frank A Narain Parliamentary Library

In 1992, Narain wrote a letter to then President, the late Dr

Cheddi Jagan requesting an entire public building to be made available to be utilised by the Parliament Office.

It was decided that Public Buildings will be made available for parliamentary matters

control. Narain's position as deputy clerk was made public on May 25, 1966, the day before the nation attained independence. In September 1966, that appointment went into effect, and he was appointed Clerk of the National Assembly, a position he held until 2002 when he retired. Meanwhile, plaques were presented to former Speakers of the National Assembly including Raphael Trotman, Dr Ralph Ramkarran, Dr Barton Scotland, and current speaker, Manzoor Nadir. The naming ceremony forms part of several activities to commemorate 70 years of parliamentary democracy.

will have administrative

TOURISM SECTOR TO BENEFIT FROM TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond welcomed Guyana's first Tourism and Hospitality diploma programmes being offered by Action Invest Caribbean Inc (ACI).

"Action Invest has created a path that speaks to this new trajectory of tourism in Guyana," she noted.

ACI diploma programmes are recognised by the Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality in the United Kingdom,



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

and will offer advanced training courses geared at building a solid foundation in

tourism and hospitality education, training, and career development. Minister Walrond

highlighted that Guyana is experiencing tremendous growth, and urged persons in the tourism sector to take advantage of the many available opportunities.

"Our country is developing rapidly and the tourism sector is no exception. We have a clear vision for tourism as a government and since 2020 the vision has been articulated on many occasions.

"And I am saying this to say that government

continues to provide the enabling environment, we put our money where our mouth is but we can't do it alone. We see how important it is for this public, private partnership so that we can hold each other's hands... and now is the time to take advantage of the opportunities in tourism," the minister asserted.

Meanwhile, Visit Rupununi and its president, Melanie McTurk will benefit

from CEO coaching, team training, professional networking opportunities, a full-page feature in the Who's Who publication, and a coveted spot in the first cohort of ACI's Hospitality and Tourism programme for achievements in the sector.

For more information about ACI and programmes, you can visit their website at <https://actioninvest.org/> or contact info@actioninvest.org.

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 Daniëlle Drepaül 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 June. 23 To Thursday June. 29, 2023



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Green Leaf Lettuce 唐生菜 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ ea	Lime 青柠檬 Reg: 6 for \$1.59 6/99¢	Green Pepper 青椒 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	US Tomato 美国番茄 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	Green Onion 葱 Reg: 2 for \$1.59 2/99¢
US Sweet Potato 美国番薯 Reg: \$0.99 79¢ lb	Mama Squash 妈咪瓜 Reg: \$0.99 79¢ lb	Shanghai Miu 上海苗 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	White Radish 白萝卜 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	Tai Bok Choy 大白菜 Reg: \$1.29 69¢ lb
Baby Napa 娃娃菜 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	US Fuji Apple 美国富士苹果 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	Kiwi 奇异果 Reg: 2 for \$1.59 2/99¢	Avocado 牛油果 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ ea	Thai Bananas 泰蕉 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb
Bartlett Pear 象牙梨 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	Hami Melon 哈密瓜 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb			

GROCERY

SW Fiesta Tropical Mixed Fruit 2.84L 热带水果沙拉 Reg: \$9.99 6.99 ea	Chin Chin Grass Jelly Series 540g 凉粉露 Reg: \$2.99 1.69 ea	Sunny Chef Lychee in Syrup 567ml 糖水荔枝 Reg: \$3.59 1.99 ea
Grace Corn Meal 2Kg 玉米粉 Reg: \$3.99 1.99 ea	Lafe Green Plantain Snacks Series 57g 香蕉片 Reg: \$1.99 99¢ ea	Monde Eggnog Cookies 130g 零食 Reg: \$1.99 99¢ ea
Rose Brand Glutinous Rice 糯米 4lb Reg: \$6.99 3.99 ea	Y & Y Rice Flour/Glutinous Rice Flour 400g 米粉/糯米粉 Reg: \$1.99 99¢ ea	Megachef Fish Sauce 鱼露 700ml Reg: \$5.99 2.99 ea

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Crown Broccoli 无头西兰花 34.00 case	Green Onion 葱 20.00 case	Andy Boy Head Lettuce 圆生菜 38.00 case	Green Pepper 青椒 JUMBO 20.00 case	Lemon 115s 黄柠檬 30.00 case
Avocado 24s 牛油果 20.00 case	English Cucumber 长黄瓜 LARGE 11.00 case	Green Cabbage 椰菜 27.00 case	Shanghai Bok Choy 上海白 25.00 case	Frozen Peeled & Deveined Shrimp 91/110 4x10lb/case 虾仁 170.00 case
Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 21/25 4x6lb/case 155.00 case	Large Egg 箱装大鸡蛋 52.00 case	Container S32 容器 46.50 case	Container LR28 容器 32.50 case	ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg 21.99 bag
Squid Brand Fish Sauce 箱装鱿鱼鱼露 30.00 case	Capri Canola Oil 油 16L 41.99 case	Kadoya Roasted Sesame Oil 八角麻油 1.65L 19.99 ea	ADM Monarch Cake Flour 蛋糕粉 20kg 21.99 bag	ADM Monarch Pastry Flour 炸饼粉 20kg 20.99 bag
Capri Vegetable Oil 蔬菜油 16L 39.99 case	Lee Kum Kee Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记中字蠔油 6x2.2kg 45.00 case	Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 1.75L 李锦记海鲜酱 53.00 case	NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒(G-018) 28.00 case	Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg 28.99 bag

Sunny Chef Straw Mushrooms Series 草菇 443ml Reg: \$2.59 1.59 ea	Maggi Seasoning Soy Sauce 800ml 酱油 Reg: \$8.99 6.99 ea	OX Head Brand White Fragrant Rice 7kg 牛头牌香米 Reg: \$25.99 19.99 ea
Philippine Dried Mangos 80g 芒果干 Reg: \$2.99 1.79 ea	Yaki Sushi Nori Roasted Seaweed 28g 即食海苔 Reg: \$3.59 1.99 ea	Way Shine Cooked Shredded Pork Series 猪肉鬆 420g Reg: \$19.99 13.99 ea
Mama Instant Noodles Series 90gX(20-24) 妈妈面系列 Reg: \$22.99 15.99 ea	Food Empire PHO Instant Coffee 9X24g 越南咖啡 Reg: \$3.59 2.29 ea	Grace Coconut Water 椰子水 500ml Reg: \$2.59 99¢ ea

FROZEN

THAI Gold Frozen Head on White Shrimp 50/60 有头白虾 380g Reg: \$7.99 5.99 ea	Golden Saba Steamed Bananas 454g 冻香蕉 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 ea	Coco Glace Coconut Dessert 220g 椰子甜点 Reg: \$3.99/ea 2/\$5.00	Conestoga Free Run Omega-3 Brown Eggs 鸡蛋 12pcs Reg: \$6.99 4.99 ea	Choysco Frozen Cooked Sweet Corn 3pcs 甜玉米 Reg: \$3.99/ea 2/\$5.00	AA-1 Squid 400g 鱿鱼 Reg: \$6.99/ea 4.99 ea
Udon 250g X 5 乌冬面 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 ea	Fairlife Milk Series 1.5L 牛奶 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 ea	EL POPO Catepetl Tortillas Series 765g 卷饼 Reg: \$3.99/ea 2/\$5.00	Choysco Young Green Jackfruit 454g 菠萝蜜 Reg: \$2.99/ea 2/\$5.00	Sun Thai Raw Black Tiger Shrimp 16/20 400g 黑虎虾 Reg: \$12.99 9.99 ea	Maximum Clam Meat 蚶肉 340g Reg: \$4.99/ea 2/\$7.00

MEAT

Pork Chop 猪扒 Reg: \$3.29 2.29 lb	Pork Eye Round 猪肉排 Reg: \$3.29 2.29 lb	Pork Back Ribs 猪肉排 Reg: \$4.99 3.99 lb
Beef Flank 牛腩 Reg: \$6.99 5.99 lb	Free Run Fresh Butter Chicken 黄油走地鸡 Reg: \$14.99 13.99 ea	

SEAFOOD

Fresh Atlantic Salmon Steak 新鲜大西洋三文鱼扒 Reg: \$8.99 6.99 lb	Fresh Lane Snapper 新鲜火点 Reg: \$6.99 5.99 lb	Fresh Local Lake Sheep Head 新鲜本地黄花鱼 Reg: \$2.99 1.59 lb
Fresh Porgys 新鲜黑立 Reg: \$2.99 1.99 lb	Frozen Fresh Headless White Shrimp 冰鲜无头白虾 Reg: \$8.99 7.99 lb	Fresh Skate Wing 新鲜斑翅 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 lb

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

DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION GRANTS A SMOOTH PROCESS, HALLMARK ACTIVITY - EDUCATION MINISTER

- PARENTS WELCOME 'EASE TO THEIR POCKET'

The disbursement of the \$40,000 education cash grant for children in public and private schools has been described as a smooth process and hallmark activity by Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand.

"We did very well. I am pleased with the efforts that went into getting us here but also went into rolling this out," Minister Manickchand underlined.

The distribution of the grant commenced on June 5 and ran for one week across the country. It saw children registered



Over 214,000 children of public and private benefitted from the cash grant

parents and guardians, as they collected the grant. They expressed their appreciation for the additional funds to help in the purchase of essential supplies.

along with the help of the cash grant. It will help to buy two pants with two shirts, cause the rest will stay to help him go to school because he still got to eat the whole year, so we are thankful," Cumberbatch stated.

Candace Nelson a mother of two said although she receives support from her partner, it is often expensive to cover her children's school expenses. She sang praises for the financial support provided by the government.

"I am elated because it's a great initiative to assist parents especially those with school-age children. It is a great initiative and this for me will go towards my children's education. This cash grant will be able to fill the gap. So, I am very happy and thankful to the government for it."

She commended



A parent receiving 'Because We Care' cash grant and uniform, supplies voucher

John expressed that the cash is of great assistance to her.

"The grant will help me in many ways to buy school clothes and whatsoever. It's a good thing because you know some of us don't have the money to buy school clothes and things like that so it is good," she said.

For Urnlina Bradford, "Since I collect last year, it help me out a lot because I getting to buy what my children need."

"I think it is a good initiative to provide this cash grant to families, to help financially prep them for the new school term. It's also, if I recall correctly, a promise that the government had made before they came into power, that they would restore the cash grant to families, which they did. So, it's quite remarkable and

exists that students in private schools are financially well-off, which is not always the case.

"So, it is also

government started the distribution, I have been collecting, because I have three children. I'm very happy to receive [the grant] because it



Single parent, Troy Houte said the grant will help him to meet the needs of his three children



A parent signing to receive the cash grant

commendable that the government would have extended [the grant] to the private school students, and I must say kudos to the government

will really help with the uniforms and the bags and so on, so I really appreciate it, Mr President," she said.

In 2021, government reintroduced the cash grant distribution for school-aged children, as per its manifest promise. The distributions at that time saw each child benefitting from \$10,000—\$15,000 from the 'Because We Care' grant and \$4,000 from their uniform vouchers.

In 2022, the government increased the cash grant amount from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and the uniform voucher from \$4,000 to \$5,000. This meant that each child went from receiving \$19,000, to \$30,000.

This year's distribution benefitted over 214,000 children in public and private schools countrywide, placing some \$8.6 billion in disposable income in the hands of parents and guardians.



Some of the parents that uplifted the cash grant

in nursery, primary and secondary public and private schools receiving a \$35,000 grant, together with \$5,000 for school uniforms and other supplies.

This publication caught up with several

J a n e t t e Cumberbatch, 77, said that the grant will provide tremendous support for her 14-year-old grandson Michael Cumberbatch.

"The mother and I help to maintain him

the government for increasing the grant. "It shows that we have a government who cares, one who takes into consideration the growing cost of living."

On the verge of tears mother of four, Eulena

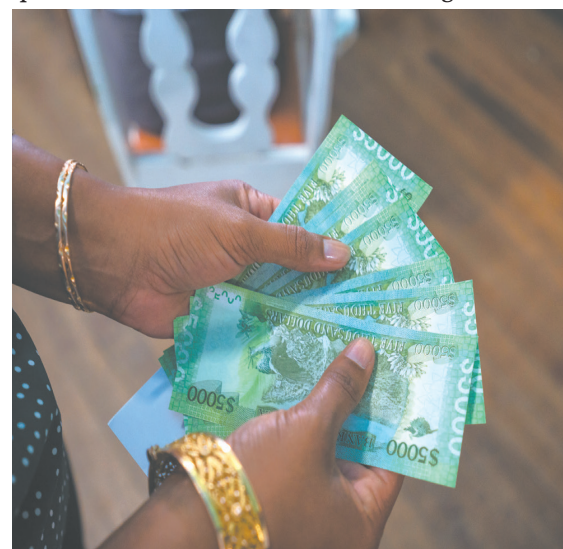
commended that they did," Darren Crawford, a father of three, commented at Morgan's Learning Centre.

He expressed his appreciation for the gesture, noting that often, the assumption

of Guyana in assisting families in the ways that they are doing," he said.

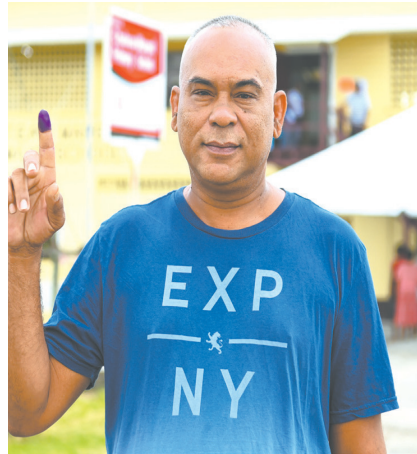
Marcella Jameer, a mother of two children attending the School of the Nations, expressed similar sentiments.

"Since the



The cash grant placed some \$8.6B in disposable income in the hands of families nationwide

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITIES GUYANESE CASTING THEIR BALLOTS AT LGE 2023





Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

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

Lucozade Energy Glucose Drink
Orange 380 ml

2/\$3

Jamaican Pride Sweetened Condensed Whitener 300 ml

2/2.20

Grace 100% Coconut Water 500 ml

99¢ each

Caribbean Delight Boned Salted Alaskan Pollock Fillet 284 g

29¢ each

Horlicks Original Malt Beverage Drink 500 g

5.49 each

Vita Malt Coconut & Hibiscus Malt Beverage 330 ml

99¢ each

Realemon Lemon Juice 946 ml

2.49 each

Sorrel Fizz 300 ml

99¢ each

Heinz Ketchup 575 ml

2.49 each

Jamaican Pride Coconut Milk 400 ml

99¢ each

Choice Table Salt 1 kg

5.99 each

Cedar White Vinegar 4 L

1.99 each

Cedar Large Lima Beans 540 ml

1.39 each

Titus Sardine In Soya Bean Oil 125 g

2/2.50

Mr Goudas Light Red Kidney Beans 4 lbs

5.99 each

Cream Of Wheat 3 Minutes 800 g

3.39 each

Dettol Liquid Antiseptic 500 ml

4.99 each

Strongmor Garbage Bags 40 s

2/\$5

Super Kill Roach & Ant Killer 375 g

8.99 each

Old Dutch Liquid Bleach 1.89 l

1.69 each



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

**Frozen
Square Cut
Mutton Shoulder**



\$3.79
lb

**Frozen Centre Cut
Beef Shank Steak**



\$3.99
lb

**Frozen
White Cow Feet**



\$1.99
lb

**Salted
Beef Short Ribs**



\$4.99
lb

**Fresh
Strawberry Grouper
(Butter Fish)**



\$6.99
lb as is

**Pre-Fried Frozen
Coconut Shrimp**



\$6.99
box

**Fresh Large
Chicken Feet**



\$2.99
lb

**Fresh
Chicken Wings**



8.99
18 kg box
Or 4.99 kg for Over 18 kg Boxes

**Fresh Chicken
Leg Quarters**



**Available at
Competitive
Price**
18 kg Boxes

Fresh Seafood Catches

**Fresh Mutton Snapper
5 lb Up**



\$6.99
lb as is

**Fresh
Golden Groupers**



\$4.99
lb as is

Fresh Porgy Fish



\$2.99
lb as is

**Fresh Atlantic
Whole Salmon**



\$5.99
lb as is

**Fresh
Doctor Fish**



\$7.99
lb as is

YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

**Fresh Jamaican
Bananas**



1.99
lb

Fresh Cassava



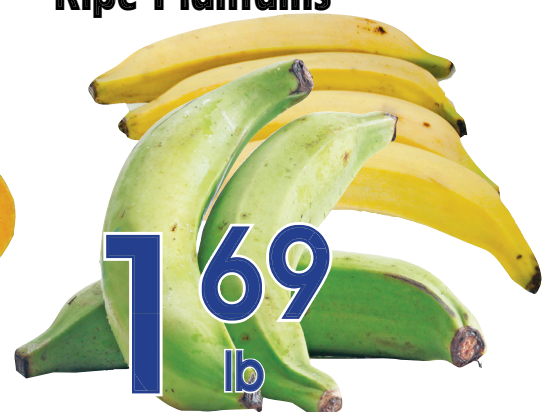
.99
lb

**Fresh Caribbean
Pumpkin**



1.49
lb

**Fresh Green or
Ripe Plantains**



1.69
lb

Five Locations To Serve You Better

**Specials in Effect Thu. June 22nd
until Wed. June 28th, 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.



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



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



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



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



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

Serve You Better





WORKS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY ON CORRIVERTON RECREATIONAL PARK

Corriverton, Region Six will soon feature a family-oriented space, as works on the recreational park are progressing smoothly.

With this new park, residents will have a safe space to meet and enjoy quality relaxation time with family and friends.

It will improve property value for the region, while conserving green spaces and providing significant landmarks.

Currently, residents are also benefitting from employment, since works are being carried out by persons from the



Bandstand being constructed at Corriverton recreational park

village.

According to Regional Chairman, David Armogan, the

park will consist of amenities for children to play safely, a walkway, a seating area along

with washrooms and a parking lot.

It is a collaboration among the Ministries

of Public Works and Local Government and Regional Development, private sector and

communities.

The initiative falls under the Office of the First Lady's country-wide beautification project.

Just last month, the New Amsterdam recreational park was commissioned by President Ali and First Lady, Arya Ali.

The residents who utilise the new recreational area are currently benefitting from a heavily lit park with police presence for safety, and free Wi-Fi.



The residents who utilise the new recreational area are benefitting from a heavily lit park with police presence for safety, and free Wi-Fi



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill and engineers inspecting works

The \$1.4 billion Urban Enhancement Project at Independence Boulevard often referred to as 'Punt Trench Dam' is nearing completion with finishing touches remaining.

Minister of Public

Works, Bishop Juan Edghill and a team of engineers recently visited the project area, to ensure all specifications were met.

The 1.8 kilometres (km) project, which stretches from Saffon

\$1.4B INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION



Works on the Urban Enhancement Project along Albouystown, Independence Boulevard often referred to as 'Punt Trench Dam'

Street to Cemetery Road, boasts a double-lane carriageway on the northern side and a single-lane carriageway on the southern side. Nestled between these two thoroughfares

lies a charming promenade, where

visitors will find a well-lit area, comfortable benches, and strategically placed garbage bins, contributing to a clean and environmentally friendly ambience.

Concrete drains have been installed, ensuring efficient water management and minimising the risk of flooding in surrounding areas.

The design of the boulevard also seeks to create a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing space for residents and visitors alike, serving as

a catalyst for community engagement.

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

The project is divided into three lots being executed by three contractors, RIM Construction, IB Contracting and Machinery Rental, and C&L Construction Inc.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NTC SECRETARIAT COMPLETED

The recently constructed National Toshaos' Council (NTC) secretariat, at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia, Georgetown, will soon be occupied, pending the procurement of office equipment and furnishing.

This was confirmed when NTC executive members including Chairman, Derick John inspected the \$100 million facility, financed through the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs.

The new office will be commissioned shortly and consists of an administrative section and a dome that will be used to host meetings



Executives of the National Toshaos' Council including Chairman, Derick John at the newly completed secretariat.

with Indigenous leaders, and other events.

It will also accommodate Toshaos who are travelling to Georgetown for meetings, as the admin

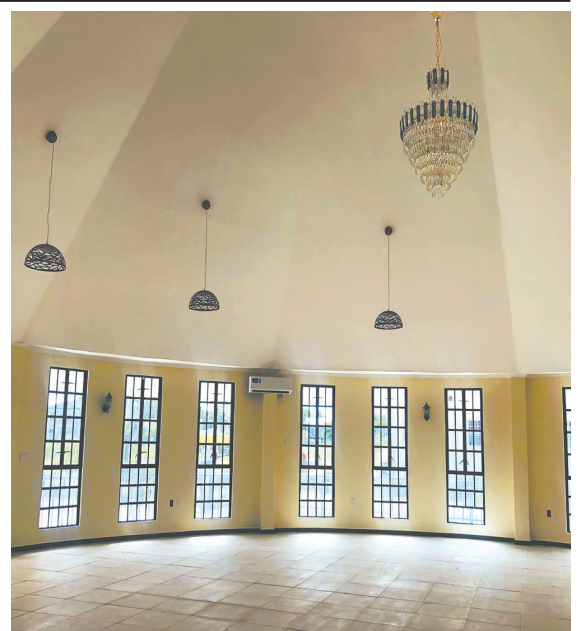
building has four self-contained rooms.

According to the NTC, electricity to the building will be provided by the Guyana Power and Light Inc., as well as

solar power.

"The executive members expressed deep satisfaction with the \$100 million structure.

The NTC, as the representative body of



In the dome of the newly constructed secretariat

all Indigenous leaders in Guyana, remains committed to continue working closely with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and all our partners to promote the rights and interests of Indigenous

communities," a statement from the council expressed.

The government in its national budget, allocated some \$20 million for the furnishing of the new facility.



VISHAL SHARMA

Personal Injury Lawyer

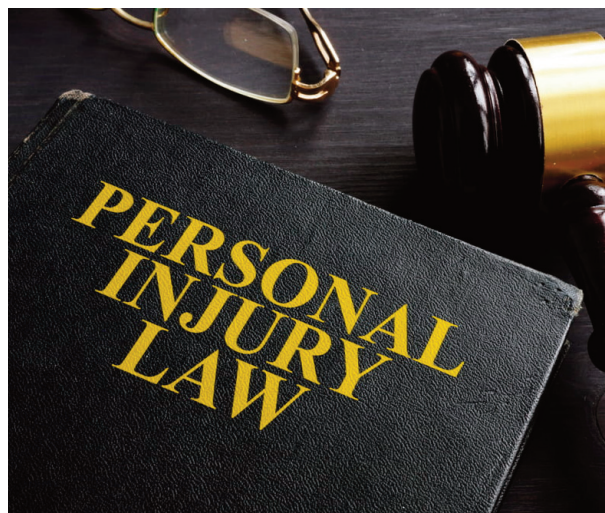
NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM

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

GOV'T COMMITTED TO EMPOWERING PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES- MIN. PERSAUD

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud reaffirmed the government's commitment to creating a society where Guyanese, especially persons living with disabilities can benefit from equal rights and opportunities.

"A nation is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable populations," Minister Persaud stated at the general debate of the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The event was hosted at the United Nations Headquarters

in New York, under the theme *"Harmonising national policies and strategies with the CRPD: achievements and challenges."*

Minister Persaud emphasised the importance of understanding and recognising the unique challenges faced by persons living with disabilities.

As such, the government has embarked on a mission to ensure that their human rights are respected, resilience is fostered, and barriers are broken down through significant budgetary allocations and the implementation



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud with the Guyana's delegation at the conference, which represents representatives from Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities

of multifaceted programmes.

"This is based on the understanding that for independence, equal participation, personal growth, and access must be a lived

reality. Central to this is the meaningful engagement of persons living with disabilities in the development of policies and programmes and decision-

making," she said.

These efforts are being realised through a life course approach, where children with disabilities are now recorded in a database, paving the way for research, and effective and timely health and education interventions.

There is also training of individuals to provide specialised care to persons living with disabilities, coupled with the development of day and night care facilities, as well as early childhood centres across the country.

In addition, persons living with a permanent disability are receiving

monthly financial assistance until they qualify for an automatic old-age pension.

The government also provides free assistive aids to encourage participation in everyday school, work and life activities.

Meanwhile, the minister said the government is dedicated and as a result, Guyana is poised to become a beacon of hope and empowerment for all its citizens, regardless of their abilities.

The conference commenced on June 13 and concluded on June 15.

"NOW IS THE TIME TO CREATE CORPORATIONS, CONSORTIUMS, PARTNER WITH GOV'T" – PSC CHAIR

Chairman of the Private Sector Commission (PSC), Komal Singh, believes continued investments by the government in traditional sectors augur well for the local private sector and the economy as a whole.

During a recent interview with this publication, Singh pointed to the development taking place in the non-oil sectors.

"The oil and gas sector is a booster to our economy, and we are seeing it. Over the next five years, our economy is going

to be transformed significantly. In every single sector, you will see development, because they are all interlinked. If investors want to invest in Guyana, now is the time," the chairman said.

He explained that now is the time to create corporations and consortiums and work with the government on public-private partnerships.

In a report published earlier this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) made note of the country's unprecedented growth

in GDP experienced in 2022, reaching a record high of 62.3 per cent, with the non-oil sector expanding by 11.5 per cent.

According to the 2021 mid-year report, the country's non-oil GDP grew by 4.8 per cent that year.

In recognising the importance of a diversified economic base, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration has prioritised the development of a strong non-oil economy.

President Ali holds responsibility for Agriculture and Food



Chairman of the Private Sector Commission, Komal Singh

Security in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and much focus has been placed on fostering a reduction in CARICOM's food import bill by 25 per cent by the year 2025.

In modernising the agricultural landscape to promote food security and sustainability, the government has implemented and continues to create

forums to promote the use of technology in agricultural processes, through hydroponics farming and vertical agriculture to produce high-valued crops.

Other traditional sectors such as forestry and mining have also seen investment, resulting in an increase in production and export. For example, this year, the government launched a \$900 million revolving fund to provide support to small and medium-sized loggers, to increase production in the sector.

85 PER CENT HINTERLAND, RIVERINE COMMUNITIES ACCESSING GUYANA LEARNING CHANNEL

Over 2,500 farmers, agro-processors, wholesalers and retailers now have access to certified agro-processing facilities in their regions, as the government through the Ministry of Agriculture makes significant strides in expanding the industry.

According to information provided to this publication, some 12 agro-processing facilities have been established in several administrative regions to date.

These food processing factories were established in Regions One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Nine, and Ten,

under the leadership of Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha.

In addition, over 140 new local products have been introduced to the Guyanese market through the new Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC).

As a result of the significant investments in these areas, the agro-processed export earnings earned the country some \$897 million, with a 61 per cent increase in the export volume from 1,071 metric tonnes in 2021 to 1,724 metric tonnes in 2022.

Apart from investing

in the agro-processing industry, the government is also investing billions in the gas-to-energy project located in Wales, Region Three.

When this project comes on stream, it is expected to further advance the local agro-processing industry, which will bring significant benefits to the country, including employment opportunities and increased trade in Guyana.

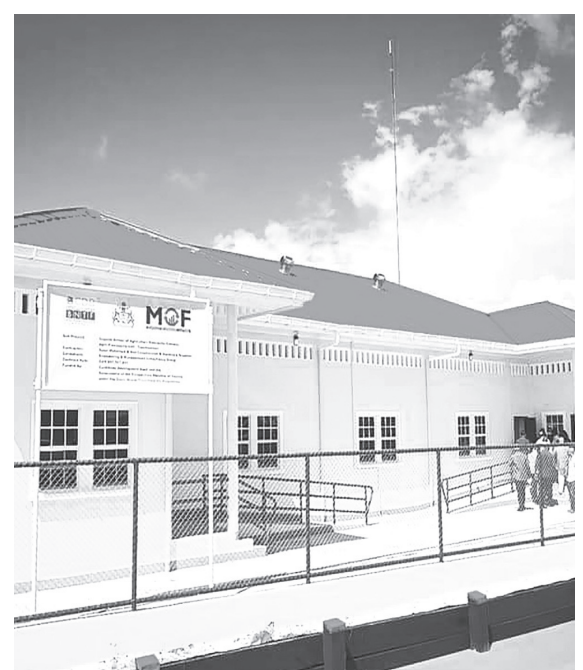
Government has been investing heavily in the food sector to ensure it moves from a producer of primary farming to

one of equitable value-added products.

The establishment of the food processing hub is part of the government's wider strategic plan to provide massive resources for the nation's agriculturists to produce and export value-added products.

It is also part of the matrix of training opportunities for Guyanese in all aspects of economic activity.

Importantly, it will contribute to achieving CARICOM's goal of reducing the billion dollars food important bill by 25 per cent by the year 2025.



A \$60 million agro-processing facility in Region Two

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023 PROMPTS SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION



Green Walk and Exhibition held in honour of World Environment Day

The theme for World Environment Day 2023, 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution' is a command for the world, including Guyana, to find solutions to the pressing issue of plastic pollution and address them head-on. Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips highlighted the point, while addressing

scores of Guyanese at the National Park tarmac, following a Green Walk and Exhibition held in observance of World Environment Day. The walk stretched from Camp Street to the National Park and was hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to raise awareness about



Green Walk and Exhibition held in honour of World Environment Day

the impact of plastic pollution globally. "Each year, a theme is chosen for World Environment Day. Five years ago, the theme was 'beating plastic pollution.' This year,

it is 'solutions to plastic pollution.' The fact that five years onward, we have returned to the issue of plastic pollution signifies that plastic pollution remains a major obstacle

in global efforts to preserve and protect the planet and its people," PM Phillips pointed out. He noted that the government has hosted several clean up campaigns to ensure the environment is well-kept, and to encourage persons to reduce garbage in public spaces. The prime minister emphasised that he is discouraged by the amount of garbage that is found every time. This, he added, is due to indiscriminate littering, which is a monumental problem in Guyana. PM Phillips stated that persons who choose to litter are consistently and consciously making the wrong choice, and as such, the government is seriously pushing to eradicate plastic pollution in Guyana. "We have to start a public campaign, beginning in our schools, to emphasise the need to bring an end to pollution. Public education is important. People need to be told, again, that it is not okay to throw away plantain chip bags on the streets...it is not okay to throw items out of their car windows or in our drains." He stressed the need for current anti-pollution laws to be enforced by local authorities and the Environmental Protection Agency so that polluters can be sanctioned for their actions.

EL NINO CONDITIONS LIKELY TO RESULT IN BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL FROM JULY

The Hydrometeorological Service is forecasting that below normal amounts of rainfall are expected across Guyana from July, 2023. A press release noted that typically, continuous wetness (often accompanied by localised flooding) will persist to the end of July in many Regions. However, the release state, "these conditions, in general, are not expected to persist beyond the end of June. The country

is expected to begin transitioning into dry conditions by mid- July due to the influence of El Niño. At this stage, it is expected that El Niño will be the main driver of local weather for the remainder of the year." It was observed that water supply in conservancies, reservoirs and inland rivers across all Regions are expected to remain adequate until the end of June and decrease thereafter. Additionally, the potential for flash floods due to heavy

rainfall remains high for June, with the highest amounts of rainfall expected in Regions One and Northern Eight. "All of Guyana can expect warmer than usual (above-normal) day and night-time temperatures over the coming months. Temperatures are expected to be warmer when compared to the same period of previous years (and recent months). Dry days will be significantly warmer than wet days," the release stated. The Hydrometeorological Service recommended that rain fed agriculture and large-scale water users harvest rainwater during the latter part of June to compensate for deficiencies in the coming months. As heat and dust will be of concern from late July, it was also recommended that shelter be provided for animals, while citizens should stay hydrated and where possible; outdoor activities should be limited during the mid-day hours.



Farmers are being warn to conserve water

LUSIGNAN PRISON AGRI PROJECT DOING WELL

The Guyana Prison Service (GPS) through its Agriculture Programme has harvested a quantity of corn at the Lusignan Prison farm, signalling a great success in the initiative. The large-scale farming initiative is a way to showcase the prison service's vigorous rehabilitation drive for inmates and to help them develop their agricultural skills, as well as discover new ones. Senior Superintendent of Prisons, Deoraj Gyandat noted that apart from improving the living conditions of detainees,

the objective of the agriculture programme is to prepare them for future reintegration at the end of their sentences. Director of Prisons, Nicklon Elliot stated that the overall aim is for the inmates to produce what they consume. Significantly, the agricultural programme contributes to the government's aggressive efforts to ensure Guyanese produce 100 per cent of what they eat. The programme is being implemented at the Mazaruni, Lusignan, New Amsterdam and Timehri prisons.



Director of Prisons, Nicklon Elliot

Similarly, inmates are receiving training in various skill sets, including carpentry, joinery, culinary arts, and electrical installation, among others. In 2023, the

government allocated \$50 million to ensure "trade shops" at prison facilities are fully equipped to facilitate inmates' training in a number of craft and skill areas.



The programme is being implemented at the Mazaruni, Lusignan, New Amsterdam and Timehri prisons

Additionally, some \$100 million was earmarked towards the training of 1,500 inmates which will support their rehabilitation and social transformation in preparation for their exit from the prison system.

GPF ADVANCING EDUCATION ON NEW E-BIKE LAW IN REGION THREE

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) is taking steps to educate road users about the recent amendments made to the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act Cap 51:02 in relation to the regulation of e-bikes. Speaking with this publication, Region Three Officer in Charge of Traffic, Assistant Superintendent, Maniram Jagnanan said that there has been a notable increase in e-cycles on the roadways, with most

users being young and inexperienced. This surge in usage, he noted, has created a necessity for education programmes before the new law can be effectively enforced. It is important for e-cycle users to familiarise themselves with these laws and adhere to them, in order to ensure their safety, as well as other road users. Several e-cycle users have lost their lives due to accidents, while others were injured. By

educating road users, authorities hope to reduce the occurrence of such accidents. The officer also highlighted that when e-cycle users are stopped, instead of facing legal charges, they are provided with valuable information on safe road usage, defensive driving techniques, and the process of obtaining a driver's licence, among other relevant topics. While the sensitisation efforts are ongoing countrywide,

ASP Jagnanan underscored that the approach aims to foster a sense of responsibility and improve the overall understanding of road safety regulations among e-cycle users. The act amends section two of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act to regulate the use of electric cycles. It defines an electric cycle as any motorcycle that has an electric motor and is fitted with an effective stopping system controlled by the use of



Several e-cycle users have lost their lives due to accidents

brakes, gears, or motor control. The new piece of legislation was successfully passed in the National Assembly

on May 10. Since its passage, the GPF has been providing education about the law to the public, rather than immediate enforcement.

EX-PRISONERS RECEIVE TOOL KITS



The handing over ceremony

Three ex-inmates are now recipients of tool kits which will aid their reintegration into society, as part of the Ministry of Home Affairs' 'Fresh Start' programme being executed through the Guyana Prison Service (GPS). According to the GPS, one of the former inmates, Elijah Alexander received a

welding kit while Steve Hercules and Olotungie Wintz are beneficiaries of complete electrical and plumbing kits. Director of Prisons (ag), Nicklon Elliot at the simple handing over ceremony, explained that the programme is dedicated to reducing criminal recidivism by aiding ex-convicts to gain access to resources and

to provide the necessary motivation for success. The ex-inmates were considered for the Fresh Start toolkit based on a number of criteria while in prison, which included participation in training programmes, conducting reviews, family support, and a post-release plan. The programme is reaping massive achievements, as the

prison service had reported that recidivism in Guyana dropped from 13 per cent in 2021 to 10 per cent in 2022. In 2022, 10 inmates received tools and equipment to earn a sustainable income in various fields, including cosmetology, tailoring, welding, carpentry, joinery and landscaping.

PART-TIME WORKERS COMMEND PROGRAMME, HAPPY TO BE GIVING BACK TO REGION THREE

With major development taking place countrywide, residents of Region Three who are employed through the government's part-time jobs initiative are majorly impacting the region.



Part-time employees at work

While most of the employees were placed at government agencies and offices within the region, several persons were also attached to the beautification projects on the East Bank of Essequibo. Speaking with this publication, the part-

time employees stated that the initiative has allowed them to enhance the aesthetic appeal of their villages while improving the quality of life of residents.

One of the employees, Melisha Persaud expressed her gratitude for the job. "I am thankful for the part-time job; it allows me to support my family

while contributing to the development of my community," Persaud said. Another worker, Fabian Wilson stated, "We are in the rainy season but the place is not flooding anymore because the drains are cleaned." Wilson is also working on the beautification project and believes with such a pleasant environment being created, the overall health and well-being of the community will vastly improve, especially for the children.

Meanwhile, another part-time worker, Latesha Carew, explained that the work is not demanding, so she can still spend quality time with her children, at the same safe spaces that she has helped to create. Mother of three, Mary Perry expressed her gratitude for being a part of the beautification team, since it keeps her occupied while her children are at school and enables her to provide the basic needs of her family. The part-time jobs initiative, which was

launched in several regions by Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has been a significant boost to employment opportunities in several regions. The innovative programme allows individuals to work for 10 days per month and earn a commendable sum of \$40,000. The initiative has garnered widespread recognition for the numerous benefits it brings to both individuals and the overall economy.

PRODUCTION TRIAL FOR BLACK PEPPER, CINNAMON AND MINT BEGINS IN AROAIMA SAVANNAH

A trial for the production of black pepper, cinnamon, and mint has begun in the Aroaima Savannah, Region Ten. The National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) met with farmers at the Kokerite Bush Concession recently

to discuss expanding the cultivation of spices. Farmers also received several agri tools to aid in land preparation for the new herbs and spices. The trial will help in assessing the growth of the plants so that improved strategies can be implemented to increase yields.

It is expected that agriculture production in Region Ten would increase and additional income garnered for farmers, owing to the expanded production and reduction in the importation of spices. Meanwhile, 1,000 pounds of turmeric was also cultivated, following

a donation by NAREI. Shortly, a quantity of ginger will be delivered to the farmers for cultivation. According to NAREI, its staff will conduct follow-up visits to the area, to provide technical support and advice to the farmers. The cultivation of



Turmeric was also given to the farmers

additional agricultural products in Guyana is part of the government's commitment to

significantly contributing to the 25 per cent by 2025 regional initiative.

GFS LAUNCHES FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION AT SCHOOL DORMS, HOSTELS NATIONWIDE

In its ongoing commitment to enhance fire safety measures, the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) has embarked on a comprehensive inspection campaign targeting school dormitories and hostels nationwide.

Public Relations Officer of the GFS, Silyne Griffith in an interview with this publication explained that the dorms and hostels are also equipped with the necessary fire safety equipment.

To date, inspections

were conducted at locations including the University of Guyana, President's College, Dennis Irvine Hall of Residence, as well as the Mahaicony, Paramakatoi and Anna Regina dormitories, Essequibo Technical Institute, Aurora Secondary, Charity Secondary, Three Miles Secondary, and the Bartica Secondary School dormitories.

The Supenaam, Suddie, Anna Regina, and Charity hostels were also examined.

Similar exercises will be

conducted at other facilities to ensure there are fire prevention equipment.

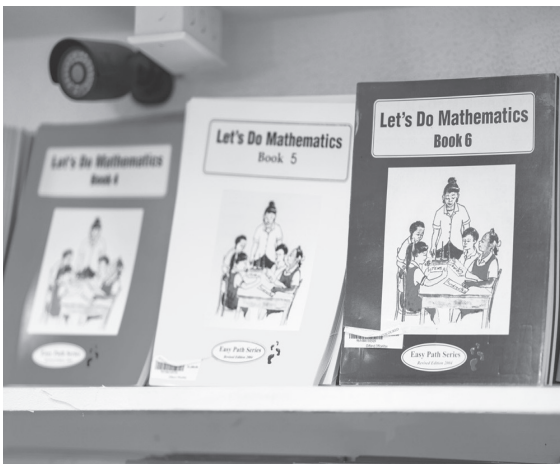
The GFS has also conducted several outreaches at various markets to educate persons on fire safety and prevention. Several outreaches were conducted at the Kitty, Mahaica, and Mon Repos Markets to date.

Persons also had the opportunity to interact with senior officers including Chief Fire Officer (ag), Gregory Wickham to learn about fire safety.

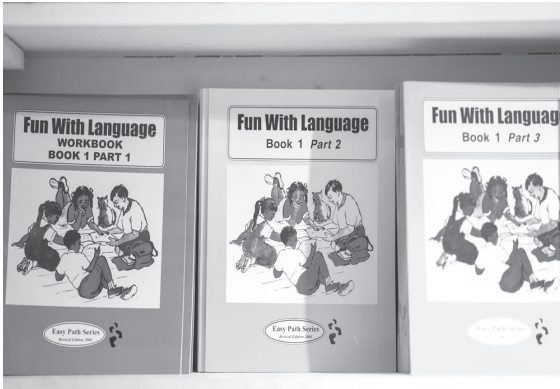


Persons also had the opportunity to interact with senior officers to learn about fire safety

STUDENTS TO RECEIVE TEXTBOOKS BY END OF SEPTEMBER - MINISTER MANICKCHAND



Mathematics textbooks



English Language textbooks

In keeping with the government's aim to ensure every child has adequate and equitable access to learning resources, students at the nursery, primary, and secondary levels will soon receive all their textbooks.

This was disclosed recently by Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand during a public meeting in Parika.

"For the first time, all your primary, secondary, and nursery children, by the end of September this year, will get all the textbooks they need to carry home in their bookbags for free... We try to make sure that what we're doing in the classrooms will make your children better...because we



More than \$3.4B was set aside to purchase textbooks for primary and secondary levels in this year's budget

know that is all you want for them," Minister Manickchand affirmed.

More than \$3.4 billion was allocated to procure textbooks for primary and secondary levels in this year's budget.

"By 2025, all the teachers in your classrooms, every single one, will either be trained or in training. That is our promise to you."

The Cyril Potter College of Education

(CPCE) will adopt a hybrid approach combining in-house competence and online courses to accomplish this by increasing intake to accommodate about 2,000 trainee teachers annually.

85 PER CENT HINTERLAND, RIVERINE COMMUNITIES ACCESSING GUYANA LEARNING CHANNEL

Acknowledging that distance learning can transform education delivery nationwide, the Ministry of Education has ensured that the Guyana Learning Channel (GLC) is accessible to 85 per cent of the hinterland and riverine communities.

Since her appointment, Minister Priya Manickchand embarked on the revitalisation and rebranding of the learning channel and the establishment of the EdYou FM Radio Station.

A national project

by the GLC which commenced in 2021, saw 55-inch smart televisions, solar power, and satellite connectivity being provided to every primary school in the hinterland and riverine communities.

The intention is to ensure that all students benefit from a channel that is dedicated to airing timetabled educational content, that aligns with the local curriculum for every grade.

It will improve the level of blended learning that takes place in schools, where teachers can employ more audio-

visual approaches to schooling.

The programme is expected to be completed this month and every hinterland community will be connected to the channel, benefitting hundreds of students residing in those areas.

Areas such as Berbice, Bartica, Lower East Bank, Lower East Coast, West Bank Demerara, and Georgetown could also access the channel on Atlantic Cable and E-Net cable. Additionally, the ministry's EdYou FM Radio Station currently has a presence in the 10

administrative regions, including in Kurukabaru and parts of Arasawa – two villages in the North Pakaraima Mountains joining Kato.

It is also available in both sub-regions of Region Eight and all the sub-districts of Region One.

The radio station is also transmitting in Kamarang and the signal is expected to reach riverine communities along the Mazaruni River, including Paruima, Waramadong, Kako, Jawalla, Phillipai, and Imbaimadai, among

others, benefitting thousands of students and residents alike.

In Region Nine, the radio station is also transmitting in central Lethem and nearby communities such as Nappi, Moco Moco, Manari, and St. Ignatius among others; Annai and Karasabai in the North Rupununi and Aishalton in the deep South Rupununi are also benefitting.

Only recently, 12 teachers from schools across the coast graduated from the Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education



offered by the Indira Ghandi Open University (IGNOU) through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL).

The one-year course saw the educators being trained in key components of distance education delivery such as television, radio, and smart classrooms.

CHILDCARE FACILITIES TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN REGIONS 3, 4



A new care centre that was recently constructed in Sophia

Early-stage development of children living in Regions Three and Four will be advanced, as two new day and night care facilities are scheduled to be constructed soon. The new facilities will expose children to a variety of early development educational learning activities. The construction for the two facilities will commence as soon as the bidding process is completed. The government believes that offering

reliable day and night care services will significantly ease the burden on parents, enabling them to pursue their careers with peace of mind. Additionally, the establishment of these facilities will generate employment opportunities, further benefitting the local community and contributing to the regions' economic growth. The Ministry of Human Services and

Social Security will train persons who are interested in being part of the childcare sector. The course entails the different ways to properly care for babies, with safety and health being top priorities. The Ministry has opened bids at the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB) to construction companies who wish to bid for the project. A sum of \$100 million was approved

this year for the construction of day and night care centres.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN LETHEM

Meanwhile Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud has announced that Lethem, Region Nine will soon have its own Child Advocacy Centre (CAC). The significant step towards protecting the rights and well-being of children is being brought to fruition, through the collaborative effort of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – ChildLink and Blossom Inc. “We have given both [NGOs] substantial subventions towards



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud

the establishment of child advocacy centres and they work in partnership with this ministry to provide support services. So, with ChildLink, there will be the establishment of a child advocacy centre in Region Nine, Lethem.” Minister Persaud told this publication during a recent interview. The development signifies a proactive approach towards safeguarding children's rights and creating a safe and nurturing environment for them to grow and thrive.

As the centre will offer specialised services designed to efficiently respond to cases of child sexual abuse, by ensuring that children have access to a child-safe and child-friendly space to share their stories and get the support needed to overcome the trauma they have suffered. CACs play a pivotal role in coordinating and streamlining services, including medical care, counselling, legal assistance, and social support. The centre will be open to all communities, including migrants.

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand met with parents whose children attended the Den Amstel Primary School to discuss the progress made following the implementation of the Literacy and Robotics Programme. During the meeting, Assistant Chief Education Officer with responsibility for Literacy, Samantha Williams stated that the pupils' literacy skills have seen significant improvements. Before the programme was rolled out, a literacy diagnostic assessment was conducted at the school which revealed that 45 out of the 67 learners enrolled at the school are

reading below their age and grade level which represents 70 per cent of the school's population. Minister Manickchand stated that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that each child is literate. She reiterated that while support will be provided to build on the pupils' progress, parents must be actively involved in their children's academic development. She further stated that each child must be encouraged and supported to make full use of the opportunities available in Guyana's transforming economy. Parents present during the meeting expressed their satisfaction with the programme noting that

LITERACY AND ROBOTICS PROGRAMME BEARING FRUIT



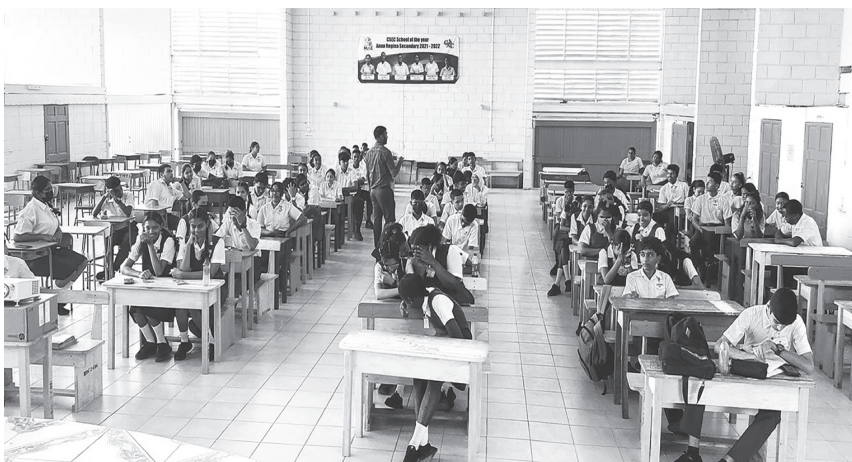
The programme is in keeping with the Ministry of Education's mandate to ensure that every child is a fluent reader by Grade Four

they have witnessed improvements in their children's reading and comprehension skills. It was announced that during the August

vacation, a Literacy Camp will be hosted at the Den Amstel Primary School for learners. In addition to building literacy skills, the pupils

will be engaged in other activities such as arts and crafts, storytelling, puppeteering, drama and poetry. The Literacy and Robotics programme is being facilitated through the National Literacy Department and the National Centre for Educational Resource Development (NCERD). It is in keeping with the Ministry of Education's mandate to ensure that every child is a fluent reader by Grade Four while advancing the use of technology. The programme has a three-tiered approach and provides an intensive fast-paced remedial intervention to fast-track learners' literacy skills. It begins at the basic level, then moves on to the intermediate level and culminates at the advanced level. Assessments are done to track the pupils' progress. To date, the programme has been implemented in the Dem Amstel Primary School, Kawall Primary School, La Retraite Primary School and the Blankenburg Primary School in Region Three, and the Enterprise Primary School in Region Four.

ANNA REGINA SECONDARY STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM CHILD LABOUR SENSITISATION EXERCISE



The child labour discussion held with Anna Regina Secondary students

Students of the Anna Regina Secondary school, Region Two, are now better informed about child labour policies following a sensitisation exercise spearheaded by the Ministry of Labour. The engagement with the Grades Nine and Ten students focused on the definition of child labour, its worst form, its causes and impact on education, and penalties. Students will now be

more alert and able to better stand up for their rights. According to the labour ministry, the discussion will also aid in the further reduction of the societal issue. The hosting of the sensitisation exercise is in keeping with Child Labour Month, which is being celebrated under the theme 'Social Justice for all. End Child Labour.'

Additional exercises are scheduled for other secondary schools in Region Two and will be conducted by Labour Officer, Ravi Persaud. In recent times, seminars with public and private companies were conducted, educating them on labour laws, particularly, the consequences of child labour, and how to abide by these laws.

'HEARTS INITIATIVE' TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 30 MORE HEALTH CENTRES



From left: Director of the Department of Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO/WHO, Dr Anselm Hennis, Minister, Dr Frank Anthony and PAHO/WHO Representative to Guyana and Suriname, Dr Luis Codina

The Ministry of Health's Chronic Disease Unit will implement the 'HEARTS technical package' in 30 additional health centres and health posts across the country, to better manage hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. Hypertension, which is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases and hypertension is one of the main causes of death globally, and in Guyana. The HEARTS initiative aims to better assist healthcare professionals in the prevention and early detection of cardiovascular diseases, and hypertension through primary healthcare. Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony speaking at the launching of the National Expansion of the HEARTS Initiative for the management of cardiovascular diseases,

acknowledged that more has to be done in the area and through the collaboration with PAHO/WHO, the country will achieve its objectives at a faster pace. Dr Anthony stressed



A mini exposition was also held aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle choices

the need for all health centres and health posts in Guyana to implement the programme. "We have about 386 health posts and we have HEARTS. We are adding maybe 30 more, so we still have a far way to go to complete these two levels. We need to set a target that within the next year or two, we'll have comprehensive coverage of all our health centres and all of our health posts," the minister noted. Meanwhile, Director of Non-Communicable Diseases, Dr Latchmie Lall explained that since the implementation of the HEARTS initiative, new guidelines were developed and new medications have been introduced to treat patients.

centres (and) we're probably now at 100 health centres where

YOUNG INFLUENCERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOCIETY

The government, through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, has commenced the process of selecting the third batch of youth influencers countrywide, who are interested in making a difference in society, as it kickstarts the registration process. The 'Young Influencer' programme aims to give youths a platform to address issues affecting and impacting them. As such, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud called on youths "to be a part of a programme that

gives them exposure nationally and internationally," She made the call on the sidelines of the recently concluded USAID Y-RIE programme launch. Further, the minister highlighted that the current young influencers got the opportunity to represent Guyana at international youth forums in Brussels and the United Nations. "So, the exposure they will have and the training behind that exposure, whether it is on public speaking and all the services available in the ministry. That is a

solid foundation that gives them the ability to engage, develop their own strategies, and also come up with solutions that affect youth in their communities," she emphasised. This batch of influencers played an integral role in developing an anti-bullying campaign. Recognising the influencers' significant feat, Minister Persaud expressed her interest in their approach stating that, "It is not us coming up with what needs to be done it's the youths giving us the answers to

their own issues and looking at it through a youth lens, these kinds of programmes are more successful." Meanwhile, this publication spoke with two of the young influencers who encouraged the nation's youths to participate in the programme. Nineteen-year-old, Terriann Wright said that since she joined the programme, she has gained a lot of experience and exposure on a national and international level. "So, definitely go for it, I would say if you want to be a change and help as a youth then I think



Young influencer, Nandita Singh



Young influencer, Terriann Wright

you should definitely apply," she urged. Another influencer, Nandita Singh expressed her appreciation in playing a role in a change, greater than herself. "I would like to say if you would like to be a part of a greater initiative and contribute to different social programmes even though you think you may not make it, it is worth it to apply," she emphasised. The young

influencers will be awarded for how inspirational, interested and innovative they were during their tenure. The Jaguar trophy will be presented to the most outstanding influencer. In addition, the ministry will soon be implementing a digital yearbook crafted to maintain correspondence with the influencers.

GOV'T AIMING TO START TELEPATHOLOGY PROGRAMME AT GPHC WITHIN THREE MONTHS

In an effort to effectively manage cancer patients in Guyana, the Ministry of Health is aiming to implement a telepathology programme at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) within the next three months. The ministry is working along with the Mount Sinai Health System to develop this programme locally. Telepathology uses telecommunications technology to facilitate

the transfer of image-rich diagnosis, education, pathology data between distant locations for and research. Minister, Dr Frank



Telepathology refers to practicing pathology from a distance.

Anthony made the announcement, while outlining initiatives being undertaken by the government to address the issue of non-communicable diseases in Guyana. "Right now, the turnaround time for pathology slides was probably three months and that's looking at the most optimistic scenario in the public sector. We have to change that," he stated. When implemented,

the programme will reduce the time for patients to be diagnosed from months to days. "Instead of waiting three months for somebody to read a slide, we can probably get back the results in seven days and that would make a tremendous difference to that patient and the outcome," Dr Anthony explained. Similarly, the ministry is collaborating with Mount Sinai to

establish an oncology centre to treat all cancer patients in Guyana. Three additional mammogram machines will be procured before year-end to expand the capacity for early detection of breast cancer. The machines will be installed at various healthcare facilities across the country, as the administration continues to implement preventative steps to lower the incidence of cancer locally.

Guyana train system could return in a few years, says President Ali

IN an effort to ease the traffic woes faced by commuters on the East Coast of Demerara (ECD) and East Bank of Demerara (EBD), President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali revealed last Friday that once the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) secures a second term, the government will take a look at the viability of bringing back the railways.

Complaints of traffic congestion along the EBD and ECD corridors are in the public domain, and owing to this, the government has already started constructing critical infrastructure in order to curb this issue.

All of the major road works being done in and around communities along the East Bank of Demerara are nearing completion.

Similarly, it is no secret that the ECD is witnessing a number of infrastructural projects too, such as the four-lane road expansion, and with massive economic investments, there will be a need for more transportation to carry goods and persons back and forth, in a timely manner.

One initiative along the ECD that will drive development and increase production is the industrial estate at Enmore.

According to President Ali, this will create thousands of jobs for residents, and this is just one example of how Guyana’s economy is progressing at an “unbelievably” rapid pace.

Addressing the plans earmarked for Enmore, the Head of State said: “This area here on the East Coast, encompassing Enmore and Paradise and the surrounding communities will be drastically transformed.”

He went on to say: “Definitely in the next term of office for the People’s Progressive Party, we will be looking at the train to see the viability of having a train along the East Bank, East Coast.”

At one point in time Guyana had two public railways: the Demerara-Berbice railway and the Demerara-Essequibo railway, which are no longer functional.

From Georgetown, the capital and largest port of Demerara to Rosignol, in Berbice, the Demerara-Berbice railway stretched for 97.4 kilometres along the coast. From there, it was connected to New Amsterdam by a ferry across the Berbice River.

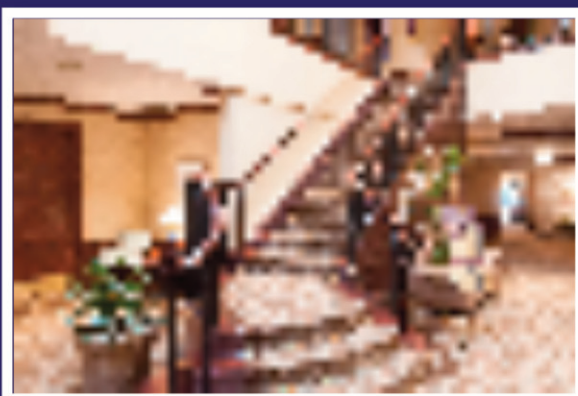


Traffic congestion has the Guyana government considering to bring back the railway system

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.



**ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**

 **416-293-5211**

4164 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

www.ogdenfuneralhome.com

LAW OFFICE

CHET SHARMA

B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

GENERAL PRACTICE

Immigration Law
Criminal Law
Divorce & Family Law

Office: 416-285-1550
Res: 416-284-9191



150 Lawson Road, Toronto
ON M1C 2J4

Chet Sharma
B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.

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




ADS IN EQUALITY WORK!

SG AUTO WORK

Stanley G. (Owner/Technician)

416-285-5875
sgautowork@hotmail.com
1940 Ellesmere Rd. Unit 14
Scarborough, ON. M1H2V7

- AC Services
- Brakes
- Electrical Systems
- Engine Repair
- New & Used Tires
- Steering
- Suspension
- Transmission Repair



CANADA DAY LONG WEEKEND

One Guyana

ALL AGES CONCERT
SHOWTIME 7:00 PM

MACHEL MONTANO

SEAN PAUL

VOICE | NAILAH BLACKMAN | RAVI B
VICADI SINGH | ADRIAN DUTCHIN | TONY CUTTZ
BUNTY SINGH | DJ CASUAL

HOSTED BY: DJ ANA & ULTRA SIMMO

JULY 3RD 2023

MONK Stabroek COLISEUM GO LOGISTICS SOS

www.SOSfestTO.com



Article by Dr. Fred Sukdeo

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, a distinguished group launched the inauguration of the Guyana Indian Musical Institute at the spacious Better Hope Mandir compound, located on the East Coast of Demerara.

The event was filled with entertainment by prominent Guyanese songsters and musicians, and featured remarks from several sponsors, as well as a keynote address by Dr. Fred Sukdeo.

The establishment of the Guyana Indian Musical Institute comes in response to the tangible contributions made by the Indian community since their arrival in Guyana 185 years ago from India. Indians form a significant ethnic group within Guyana's multicultural mix, alongside several other distinguished ethnic groups.

The historical colonization of British Guiana resulted in various imbalances in the country, which are now being addressed to foster the vision of "one people, one nation, one destiny."

Ensuring unity among the diverse population of Guyana is a monumental task, crucial for fostering cohesion in a democracy founded on the rule of law and the recognition of solidarity among different groups. With its universal appeal, music serves as the "food of love" and is considered a major factor for future economic prosperity and social cohesion.

The Guyana Indian Music Institute aims to enhance the contribution of Guyanese Indians to the nation-building process through various forms of Indian music.

The East Indian immigrants brought with them a rich cultural heritage of music and cultural traditions, which are still evident today in the numerous mandirs, mosques, and cultural celebrations such as Diwali etc.

All forms of Indian music trace their origins back to the Vedic civilization, as documented in the ancient Sam Veda hymns over 10,000 years ago. The foundation of Indian classical music lies in the seven notes—SA, Re, Ga, PA, Dha, and Na—which are equivalent to Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti.

From these notes emerge classical and semi-classical music forms that convey love, happiness, peace, and prosperity for various aspects of life. They are also the origins of folklore. According to legend, the saint Narad introduced the art of Indian music to Earth from heaven, and later, in 500 BC, Panani divided music into octaves and 22 keys.

Since their arrival in Guyana, Indians have consistently expressed their aspirations for upward mobility and tirelessly fought for improvements in their working and living conditions.

Their resistance against inhumane conditions on the sugar estates culminated in the first uprising at Devonshire Castle in Essequibo. Another

Inauguration of GUYANA INDIAN MUSICAL INSTITUTE



Participants at the launching of the Guyana Indian Musical Institute.

major rebellion occurred at Rose Hall Estate, where 13 workers were brutally murdered, and many others were injured by colonial bullets.

The martyrdom of these workers in 1913 marked the end of the Indian immigration system. More recently, the heroic sacrifice of the five Enmore martyrs further exemplified the resilience of the Indian community.

Throughout history, Indians developed their music using basic musical instruments such as the harmonium, dholak (drum), Dhantal, and tassa for prayers and entertainment during positive occasions.

It is essential to recognize the contributions of past Indian musicians, including Bal Gangadhar Tilak from Berbice and more recently, Mohan Lall.

These musicians and composers were recognized as pioneers of Indian music in radio and television, along with icons like Ayub Hamdi, Ishri Singh, Moses Hussain, and others.

The program of the Guyana Indian Music Institute aims to make affordable musical instruments, such as the Lord Krishna flute and mouth organ, available for every household.

The institute envisions the emergence of Indian orchestras in all county and districts, providing music for various occasions, including prayers, health, meditation, yoga, new mothers, children, and positive environments.

To ensure accessibility, the institute will embark on a modern, state-of-the-art teaching program that utilizes cell phones and the internet. It will establish connections with the Shanka Mahadeva Academy of India to facilitate online learning of Indian music. Additionally, links will be established with the Sangeet Natak Academy, focusing on classical dance and music forms.

An annual music festival will be held by the institute to showcase emerging and established musical talents during the planned annual Guyana Music Mela Festival later this year.

The accomplishments of internationally renowned sitar player Ravi Shankar, who collaborated with Shakir Hassan to develop raja rock music, incorporating elements of Western classical music, serve as an inspiration. The institute will also establish links with the Calcutta School of Music, founded in 1915.

Soundtracks from Bollywood films composed by notable figures such as D.

Burma, Nausad Ali, Hemant Kumar, and Salim-Suliman will be relevant to the institute's programs and projects.

Furthermore, the institute will create a Hall of Fame to honour Indian musicians and other contributors, preserving their outstanding contributions to the future of music in Guyana. The KM Music Conservatory, founded by Oscar Burma, will serve as a source of inspiration.



Dr Fred Sukdeo on behalf of the Guyana Indian Musical Institute presenting a Indian Flute to a student.



Bashkar Sharma and Ramkissoon presenting a musical item



Hemsley Fraser Canada

At Hemsley, our mission is to **transform how people learn**, engage, and develop in the rhythm of their work... *wherever they are*.

We are passionate about learning, and the transformative effect that it can have on the entire workplace experience. **Hemsley has been in the learning space for over 31 years and for the past 14 years has been consistently ranked as one of the Top 20 companies in the world for leadership development, digital content, and training outsourcing.**



Earlier this month, Hemsley Fraser Canada, and ActionINVEST Caribbean Inc. (ACI) co-hosted the highly anticipated **Future-of-Work Part 2: Building Effective Strategies to Enhance Learning** event.

This event explored innovative approaches to learning and development in response to the evolving demands of the workforce.

During the event, participants were treated to engaging presentations and thought-provoking discussions led by industry experts.

Ms. Rita Sookrit, Vice President and Learning Lead at Hemsley Fraser Canada, addressed emerging workplace trends and challenges. She highlighted the importance of building effective learning strategies that align with evolving needs and showcased the role of digital transformation in shaping the future-of-work. Her insights provided participants with valuable guidance for navigating technological advancements and shifting skill requirements.

Ms. Camille Deokie, Founder and CEO of Camille's Academy, spoke about the initiative to bridge the gap for students entering post-secondary education or the workforce — a project spearheaded by Hemsley and ACI.

Ms. Rodlyn Semple, ISO lead consultant of ACI, delivered a presentation on the significance of implementing robust Quality Management Systems (QMS) and adhering to ISO standards. She emphasized how these frameworks can streamline processes, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure consistent quality across products and services.

The event concluded with the exciting official launch of the Hemsley/ACI Digital Resource Platform — featuring courses in leadership, coaching, and much more.

The Future-of-Work event left participants inspired and equipped with valuable insights to shape their learning initiatives in response to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Presenters and attendees posed for this group photo:



Discover how Hemsley Fraser Canada can take your organization to the next level with our award-winning leadership development programs, cutting-edge digital content, and top-notch training services. Choose us as your trusted partners for transformative learning solutions.

Listen to the ACI/Hemsley podcast: **Guyana's Big L&D Opportunity**: <https://hr-gazette.com/dr-vishnu-doerga-and-rita-sookrit-guyanas-big-ld-opportunity/>

Partner with Hemsley Fraser Canada —

We develop our clients' greatest assets... *their people*.

Let Hemsley Fraser Canada help you prepare your **workforce for the future**.

Contact Rita Sookrit / 416-605-7425 / rita.sookrit@hemsleyfraser.com

CONNECTING YOU AND THE CARIBBEAN



interCaribbean Airways

Book @ 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)

CARIBBEAN MARKET MUST BE HIGH VALUE SPECIALISED - PRESIDENT ALI

President Ali has expressed the firm stance that the Caribbean market must be positioned as a high-value specialised one, leveraging its scale, strategic location, and competitive advantages.



Tomatoes locally produced



Vegetables locally harvested



President Dr Irfaan Ali

Dr Ali highlighted several commodities including honey, spices, cocoa, coffee, corn, soya, and fresh fruits, which he said, hold significant value and can contribute

to the region's economic growth.

He was at the time addressing a virtual Regional Agri Forum, where he stressed the distinction between agriculture and the broader ecosystem of highly integrated food production.

“When we speak about investment, we’re not speaking about charity. We’re speaking about creating a business

and economic model that works...for the investor, for the people, and work for the country, in the context of what you want to achieve. And that context is food security and to create a high-value market.”

To realise these goals, the president outlined several key areas that require attention. Transport and logistics, for

instance, have long been a significant challenge for international trade and regional food distribution.

He said there are immense opportunities in transforming the transport and logistics aspect of the food production system, particularly through the creation of a regional food hub.

By reengineering the existing network and investing in the necessary technology and infrastructure, the Caribbean region can establish efficient transport routes, reducing delivery times from Northern Brazil through the Caribbean to North America to just 72 hours, instead of three weeks.

Further, the Guyanese leader

stressed the importance of investing in technology, particularly to address post-harvest losses and increase value-added production.

“And let me say this, the integrated food production system is changing. You don’t need 100 acres of land to produce x tonnes of potato. With technology, you can now produce the same amount of potato that you produce on 100 acres of land, on less than five acres of land. Resilience and sustainability as part of the investment parameter in this integrated food production system are important,” Dr. Ali added.

Meanwhile, another

key priority in the region is to ensure greater participation of women and youth, which will open up numerous opportunities and benefits.

Right now, we have exposed ourselves because of the high food import bill. Seventy per cent of our food is being imported into the region. We have exposed ourselves to the vulnerability of high inflation, the inflationary pressure, we have seen that and the impact it has on our economy, it setback our a social programme,” President Ali explained.

To this end, he said it is also crucial to address the volatility and price fluctuations in the global market.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION VP VISITS GUYANA



In honour of the visit by H.E. Frans Timmermans, European Commission Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, the Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, and the Ambassador of

the European Union to Guyana, Rene Van Nez, together with their teams from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the European Union, visited the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre located in the middle of

the Guyana Sheild.

H.E. Timmermans was given a brief tour of the ‘Screamingpiha Trail’ and the Essequibo



River.

Commissioner of Forests, Edward Goberdhan, Chairman of the Board of Guyana Forestry Commission, Vanessa Benn and Senior Director within the Ministry of Natural Resources with a

focus on Climate and REDD+, Pradeepa Bholanath shared presentations which focused on Guyana’s forest monitoring system, the protected areas of Guyana and also provided general knowledge regarding

Guyana’s forestry sector.

H.E. Timmermans’ visit which spanned two days; surrounded discussions on climate change, and sustainable development.

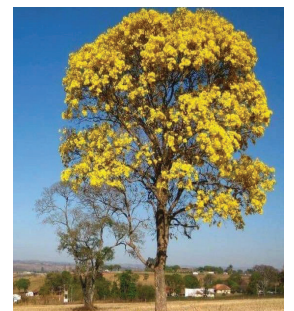
Guyana has gained massive attention as a growing leader in climate change and environmental preservation after becoming the first country to finish the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) process for producing high-integrity, Paris Agreement-aligned carbon credits



TREE-PLANTING EXERCISE HAPPENING IN THE CITY



As part of the National Beautification Project, an initiative by President Ali, a tree-replanting exercise has commenced in the city of Georgetown. Planted so far are native species of Guyana namely the Hakia, Fukadi, Kamadan and Futui. This initiative of transplanting commercial timber trees in the Capital City will also promote the recognition and importance of our forests.



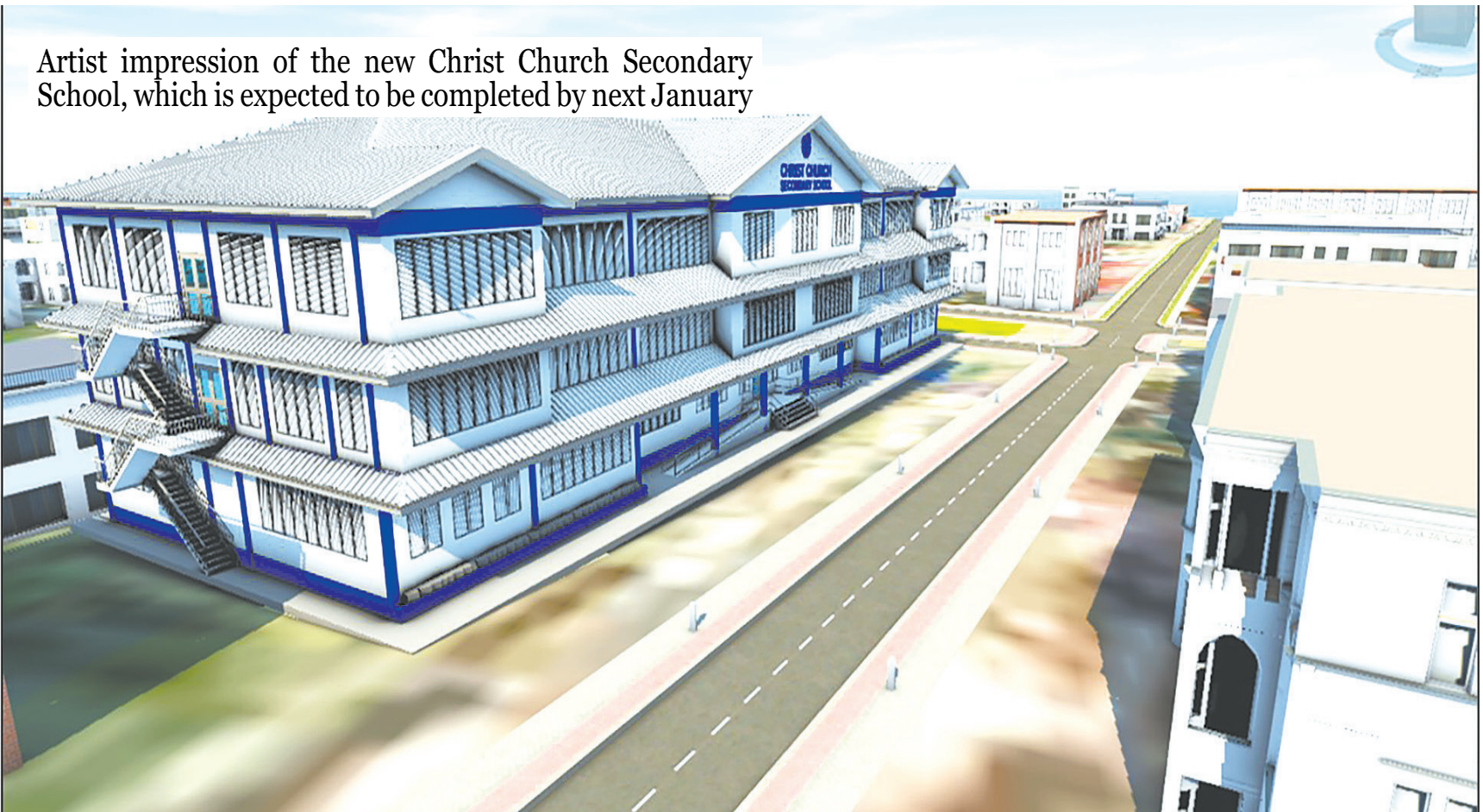


Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 45

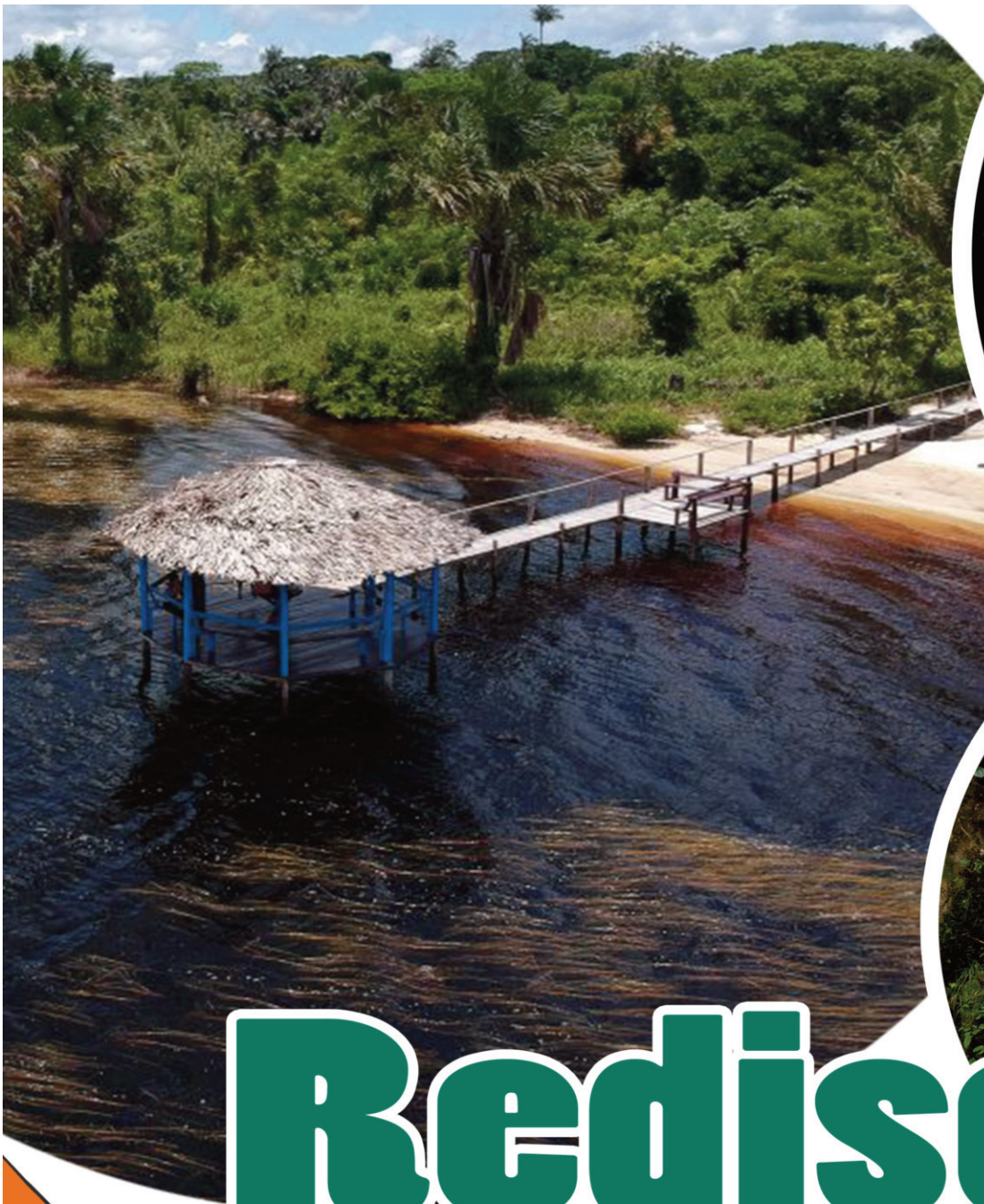
NEW MODERN BUILDING WITH FIRE PREVENTION SYSTEM FOR FIRE-RAVAGED CHRIST CHURCH SECONDARY AND ST GEORGE'S HIGH SCHOOLS

Artist impression of the new Christ Church Secondary School, which is expected to be completed by next January



Artist impression of the new St George's High School to be finished in five to seven months





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