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MINISTERS VISIT: Guyana's Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, and Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat, will host a meet and greet with the Diaspora at Windies Restaurant, 3300 Lawerence Avenue East, on March 8 at 7 p.m. For info, please call Jerry Karamat at 416-605-2307. Both Ministers will also be at the Guyana Consulate earlier in the day at 4 p.m. for another Meet and Greet. To RVSP, email nutana.singh@guyanaconsulate.com



Equality welcomes one of the top financial firms to our pages. See their message on Page 2



**1,000 NEW ICT JOBS:** Business process out-sourcing (BPO) company, Teleperformance (TP) is looking to add another 1,000 persons to its staff, with the launch of its second office in Georgetown, Guyana. Delivering the feature address at the launch of the new office, President, Dr Irfaan Ali (pictured at the opening of the new office) said that Teleperformance's expansion was made possible by the technology-driven ecosystem being created by the government to allow for advantageous competitiveness in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector in Guyana. Dr Ali called the BPO sector a major branch of the economic transformation in the country.



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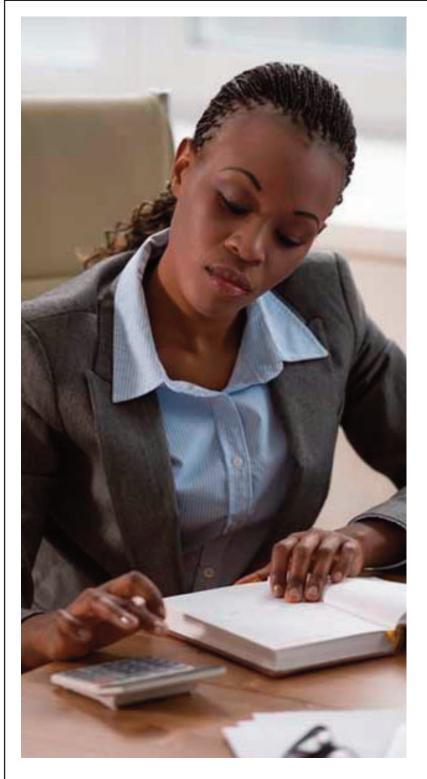


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# THOUSANDS TOOK TO THE STREETS AS MASH FLOAT PARADE RETURNS

**PAGE 12 & 13** 





2023 ENERGY CONFERENCE A 'GREAT SUCCESS' PAGE 3 to 8



ECONOMY PROJECTED TO EXPERIENCE SUSTAINED GROWTH OF OVER 25 PER CENT IN 2023

PAGE 9



COMMUNITIES TO RECEIVE \$4.725B FROM CARBON CREDIT SALES

PAGE 9



VP JAGDEO LEADS TECHNICAL TEAM TO INDIA TO DISCUSS AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

**PAGE 16** 

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

#### 53rd REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali during his address at the 53rd Republic Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony

Anniversary

the intention is to build above self." a Guyana in which every Guyanese will significant strides in have with the necessary education, healthcare, opportunities, "Where national growth is tempered housing, and economic with equality and development. where no person is denied opportunities because of where raising ceremonies they live; and where people and communities enjoy inclusive the under

He told the large Community held at Public Buildings future. that to secure Guyana's future and to safeguard year as a Republic, the land and preserve let's celebrate the the beauty of a unified achievements storm's defence system to the future with conditions.

open for friendship, underlined. my hands remain

President Ali during the weak, to guide the his address to the nation **strong**, **to embrace** on the occasion of all of us. It remains outlined proposition of unity, plans for a future Guyana to the proposition post-2030 era. to the proposition of hope, and to the President Ali said **dedication of country** 

Guyana is making security,

#### Regional Flag

#### **Region One**

Housing and Water a harmonious and minister, Collin Croal **future** addressed the gathering **One** at the Region One flag Guyana banner," he raising ceremony at Mabaruma Settlement Ground gathering at the annual during which he assured Flag Raising Ceremony, residents of a bright

"In this of people, he pledges to our country and our be at the helm of the people. Let us look as he referred to global hope and pride, and uncertainties such as let us put our hands

open to shade the that as the PPP/C ceremony at the RDC vulnerable, to lead Government continues compound in Vreed-en-

on its transformative trajectory, Region One is set to benefit from massive infrastructural works.

"New road networks, tall buildings, new schools, wells, hospitals, bridges are being built for the betterment of our **people,"** he assured.

#### **Region Two**

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall S.C, joined regional officials for the Guyana's 53rd Republic outstretched to the hoisting of the Golden Arrowhead at the Anna Regina car park.

The Attorney General reminded the attendees of the history and meaning of Republic, and more so the reason to celebrate.



hoop that it is the right of every Guyanese to benefit equally from the country's resources and available opportunities.

"Our have the legitimate right to develop our resources and the monies emanating from that [will be] used to develop the



Prime Minister Brigadier Ret'd Mark Phillips with Culture, Youth and Sport Minister Charles Ramson jr

struggles and sacrifices of Guyanese ancestors, which paved the way for enjoy, today.

"This find ways and means Berbice. of commemorating what happened and included a full cultural

**Region Five** 

Public Works the Guyana all citizens Minister, Bishop Juan Edghill attended the flag is raising ceremony at the something that we RDC Compound, Fort must think about and Wellington, West Coast

The event, which remind our citizens programme before the



Scene from the 53rd Republic Anniversary Flag **Raising Ceremony** 

The audience was entertained by songs, dances and poetry by local talents from all across Essequibo.

#### **Region Three**

Minister within economic and climatic together to build the Ministry of Public ditions. this great land of Works, Deodat Indar ours," Minister Croal delivered the feature address and reminded He told residents those present at the

lives of every single Guyanese, no matter where you come from ... every Guyanese will benefit," the minister stated.

#### **Region Four**

Minister of Health, during his address at the reflected on



Scene from the 53rd Republic Anniversary Flag **Raising Ceremony** 

was really fought his address. for, with our people sacrificing their lives "there we have today. These other RDC building, Triumph, shape this country celebrate?" East Coast Demerara and because of these the events we are where matter (is) we might we are today."

in the region about hoisting of the Golden the history and where Arrowhead, should give we came from. So, a sense of pride to all, what we have today Minister Edghill said in

He noted might be to earn this freedom some naysayers and pessimists Dr Frank Anthony were events that that ask the question helped to forge and 'what do we have to

> "The fact of the not be where we want



Scene from the 53rd Republic Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony



Scene from the 53rd Republic Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony

# 2023 ENERGY CONFERENCE A 'GREAT SUCCESS'

This International Conference and Expo saw the participation of Minister, speakers surrounding the theme **very** Development'.

academics, professionals, entrepreneurs well as global energy asserted. leaders in sustainable

Energy February 14 to 17.

on a gamut of topics that are becoming Dr. and industry **something** 

Excellency, His development at the Dr Mohamed Irfaan

year's Marriott hotel from Ali, former President Colombia, of Natural Resources Duque, President of the Vickram Republic of Suriname, almost 1,000 delegates, Bharrat, deemed the Chandrikapersad with over 60 local conference a 'great Santokhi, Prime and international success.' "I've seen Minister of the Republic presenting manylocalcompanies of Trinidad and Tobago competitive and Prime Minister 'Harnessing Energy for with the regional of St. Vincent and the international Grenadines, Dr. Ralph brought companies. It means Gonsalves were among together policymakers, that we are doing those who addressed good. the forum. Ministers of and It means that our government, members of from **country** is on the the diplomatic corps and around the world, as rise," the minister the private sector were also in attendance.



The International Energy Conference and Expo 2023 was officially declared open by President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing the opening the International Energy Conference and Expo at the Marriott Hotel, Georgetown

President called for a "new growth, and the double world coalition" to standards that exist. bring balance to the "We cannot confront international security. He spoke of the is it that we can lead inequalities that hinder a new world effort in

nations' Ali developing debate these challenges in around the issue of isolation of the actors climate change, food within the challenge security, and energy themselves. So, how

#### PRESIDENT ALI OUTLINES INITIATIVES TO ENSURE GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT

building a coalition righteousness challenges that the world we live in is State in a more severe developing manner?" Ali said.

time, as the world faces circumstances. increasing threats from change, rising sea levels, and loss development. avoiding

that addresses these addressing these issues. natural gas in Guyana,

Head The President putting systems in place to ensure that Guyana will continue to platform",

self- including the longevity **blessed with,"** he

when of electricity countries (Brazil) and Suriname.

He noted grow. President Ali and also spoke of other It is part of what we carbon negative. stressed the importance regional opportunities, have been naturally

He cited of Trinidad and Suriname, country's Low Carbon underscored and the energy corridor Development Strategy facing and will face the importance of along Guyana, Roraima (LCDS) 2030, as a main action in its that "development The president's call to they can continue to extract natural resources explaining how it was action comes at a critical progress under changing in a responsible manner enhanced to ensure to promote development that Guyana stays As a region, the and prosperity for its "true to morals and the impacts of climate President said there citizens. "I also speak principles when it including should be a collective from a country comes to the issue extreme weather events, approach to overall that has one of the of climate change". He **best environmental** He also spoke about the of biodiversity. Food highlighted CARICOM's credentials in the country's drive to protect and energy security have drive, and its food world. It's not by its forest and to play its also become pressing security measure, which accident that we part to not only achieve concerns as populations Guyana is spearheading, have this credential. net zero, but being

#### FORMER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LAUDS **GUYANA'S 'VISIONARY' LCDS 2030**

Colombia, Ivan Duque Márquez, the social divide, and joined a host of international stakeholders in lauding Guyana's LCDS 2030.

vision, work, and coherent nature of the policy. He commended President Ali for updating the carefully crafted policy, which started with former President and current Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo. He noted that the policy aligns with the realities of a committed creating towards sustainability environmental and energy security.

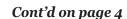
He also drew attention to the possibilities in store for Guyana's oil wealth. "Guyana the government for its has the possibility today,

President of **the underground to close** development. to eradicate poverty all around," he said.

The former head of state Marquez praised the great noted that Guyana has many economic prospects in the natural resources sector which can be harnessed to add a major boost to the country's development. "Guyana has the condition of being a carbon-neutral, or even a carbon-negative country. It has one of the lowest deforestation levels in the world. But that richness has to be used intelligently," the former president said.

He further commended approach thus far in exploring to utilise the richness of possibilities to further Guyana's

where the world is seeing much polarisation about the way we manage energy... we can say that in the case of Guyana, there is no ying-yang, there is no contradiction. The country is doing what it has to do in terms of exploring resources that are needed to reduce poverty, and generate social and economic transformation a conservation superpower," while being at the same expressed.





Former Columbian President, Ivan Duque

#### 2023 ENERGY CONFERENCE...



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves

Guyana has been in the energy sector.

Prime Minister identified as a leader in of St. Vincent and the the region's fight against Grenadines, Dr Ralph climate change, and Gonsalves highlighted fostering advancements that Guyana's newfound oil wealth will

#### **GUYANA THE 'CORNERSTONE' IN** REGIONAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

**economy**" that can of all. bring development to all citizens.

the region's continued movement," endeavour to achieve Gonsalves said. food security. He lauded the government's policies

facilitate the building to simultaneously reduce "modern, carbon emissions and **competitive**, **many**- utilise the country's sided, post-colonial resources for the benefit

Guyanese the Dr Gonsalves said government, there the industry is one is a concept of that requires strategic integration which navigation, and in this holds great promise regard, he noted that for the region, and Guyana can be a leader. for Guyana to play This leadership role, he an important role said, is duplicated in in that integration



Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves

#### **CARIBBEAN RESERVES RIGHT TO FUEL ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH OIL RESOURCES - PM ROWLEY**

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley, in promoting Caribbean countries' right to utilise their oil and gas resources to spur economic growth, said oil and gas resources remain the main energy source for the world's economic engine, and, importantly, they are cost-effective.

"The concept of climate change from using fossil potential



Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley

developing countries 3000 MW of 8 i n v e s t m e n t, discoveries in Guyana, solar the fuels as sources of energy, 800 MW substantially reduce Guiana, Belize and economic growth," of potential wind its dependence on Trinidad and Tobago, "...It is estimated 3000 MW of potential energy products huge interest by major that the Caribbean geothermal energy. by harnessing the oil and gas companies

should not prevent holds approximately With the appropriate region

natural generated by solar, geothermal hydroelectric sources," the Trinidadian head of state added.

He said the heavy dependence on imported energy has negatively affected the economic performance of many Caribbean nations, and contributed to instability in both fiscal and external accounts.

Along with major can Suriname, French energy, and over imported refined he noted that there is a



A section of the gathering

Republic.

"Exploration highlighted. success by

prospecting off the coasts Caribbean entrants of Barbados, Grenada, in the petroleum Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica industry can be a and the Dominican game changer for the Caribbean region," he

#### SURINAME REMAINS OPEN TO PARTNERSHIPS **WITH GUYANA - PRESIDENT SANTOKHI**



Some 200 exhibitors and just over 800 delegates and sponsors were in attendance

the region must band Santokhi, and ensure a smooth

the energy pressing demand for President, His Excellency Guyana in this regard. energy, countries of Chandrikapersad President Santokhicalled natural resources, and

He expressed that on a regional level. transition to renewable Suriname remains open

Suriname's to partnerships asserted attention to the existing can even bring to a together to mitigate the during his virtual address joint programme, noting head the creation of an effects of climate change to the conference.

will share expertise and resources, save costs, reduce risk, improve our relationships and develop the border areas in Suriname and Guyana, and to develop shore bases and airports, increase production, and also promote greater transparency and accountability."

He said this joint programme will promote development in the exploitation of other

"It is now time "Suriname to step up



President of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi delivered a virtual address

joint activities and to lead this planet interactions so that to we can take advantage development," of the opportunities stated. that currently exist. We must together all the major that Guyana's role in the public and private energy matrix makes **sector stakeholders** the country a prime across the entire candidate for investment **energy value chain** and joint ventures.

sustainable

Moreover, President bring Santokhi highlighted

#### 2023 ENERGY CONFERENCE...

#### WE WANT TO MOVE FROM PROVING RESERVES TO DEVELOPING THEM - VP JAGDEO

underscored of the advocacy that investing in them would carbon-negative, developing have the right to explore carbon emissions. and develop their oil and gas resources, pushing like Guyana and passed local content undertakings form part against a global doctrine Suriname and many legislation, which the of Guyana's efforts to world.

Such policy is being **resources...**," pushed by the Secretary Jagdeo countries, target developed to existing producers of fossil fuel subsidies. only. For context, the

countries not achieve net zero Jagdeo explained.

above pre- businesses. which believe that all industrial levels — a should be restricted policy, and the removal renewing environmental developing

This is despite being a implementing a carbon **are** 

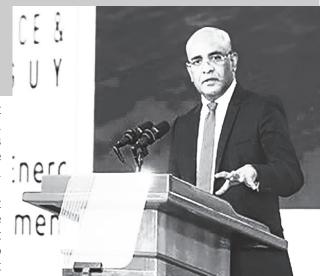
He reminded that which is being promoted **countries** in Africa oil and gas companies, tap into its significant by some parts of the they have the right among others, were not offshore natural gas **now to develop these** pleased with, but it has reserves, and maximise Dr not resulted in shutting the benefits for the underscored, down operations, and the country and its people. General of the United once it consistently industry is still thriving, Nations and several supports a 1.5-degree along with more local ment] want more terms of safety and government with clear

permits

President, doctrine claims that carbon-negative country, tax for flaring, but it Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, new development of even with 10 FPSOs has been successful in that these resources would operating in Guyana, the making these changes Guyana is at the forefront be stranded and that nation would still remain with the support of the Dr companies operating in the country.

The vice president

"We explorations, In fact, Guyana want us to move from acting in a manner determined to make oil and gas development global carbon pricing has faced challenges in proving reserves to that is not excessively changes that effectively and reserves, and we president stated. working



Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the International Energy Conference

[govern- compromising we due diligence, but goals, and Guyana is those bureaucratic," the vice serve its purpose.

Jagdeo Dr

facilitate that, not it is important to see **in** progression in a stable



Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the International Energy Conference

and energy company, positively Hess Corporation, John Guyana's growing oil I know President and the role oil and gas

Executive Hess expressed pride in Officer of global oil, gas being able to contribute will be needed for the transitioning to with more than 30 new producers in the world.

#### **HESS CORPORATION EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN GUYANA'S POTENTIAL**

country as a whole.

producing as well as developing Hess said. countries around the world.

"Oil and towards decades to come. sustainable

development of the the United States of shared highlighted it will be a whileunique opportunity to **ensure an affordable**, and economic growth. be a role model for oil- just and secure

> Ali's **gas** spokesmanship

and gas sector, and the Biden [President of are playing in bringing achievement that the

The CEO

in the oil and gas sector, stated. He lauded President noting the presence of 'outstanding' over 11 million barrels Guyana will become one on of oil offshore Guyana, of the largest crude oil energy, discoveries since 2015.

"It is a remarkable

economic country is already America] talks that prosperity to Guyanese. producing more than also 380,000 barrels per that Guyana will play maybe 10 years, but at brought attention to the day of some of the an important role in the end of the day, it's much-needed oil Guyana highest value low ensuring an orderly going to be decades to will be able to supply that carbon crude oil in energy transition, noting come. And oil and gas is essential to achieving the world, with a that the country has a are fundamental to global energy security line of sight to be producing over 1.2 odel for oil- just and secure Hess also lauded million barrels per countries, energy transition," Guyana's achievements day by 2027," he

The CEO believes

### **GUYANA MAINTAINS 'OPEN-DOOR POLICY' ON INVESTMENT - MINISTER BHARRAT**



Natural Resources Minister, Vickram Bharrat

Minister Bharrat also development,

in advancing Guyana's increase opportunities Bharrat also touched on our

directly under the 40 of Guyana's economy. categories of the local He drew attention to the content act.

"We believe have the capacity to noting that Guyana execute and provide remains among the those services. So, fastest-growing economy there are so many in the world. However, **opportunities,** and this figure does not as Vice President reflect growth solely in **Jagdeo** mentioned, the oil and gas sector. we should not only we're looking non-oil if for opportunities," said.

In addition

for Guyanese to benefit the tremendous growth country's 62.5 per cent truly growth rate recorded at that we the end of 2022 while

"What we are confine ourselves to even more proud of the oil and gas sector, is the growth in the economy investment in 2022. It was the he second-highest growth rate in the to world for the non-oil stating reaffirminggovernment's economies, 11.5 per emphasised the need for that more partnerships open-door policy on cent... and it shows increased partnership and investments will investment, Minister and demonstrates government's



A section of the gathering

commitment growing a non-oil the task of building economy," Bharrat explained.

to will move ahead with Minister a prosperous future for all Guyanese, in a He said government sustainable manner.

#### PERSONS IN PATH OF GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT ) & TO BE COMPENSATED - WINSTON BRASSINGTON

Winston of Brassington, that in excess of \$400 million has been set aside to be cleared for the to provide compensation pipelines is in the vicinity **for the amortisation** transmission for persons living along of Nouvelle Flanders, of the the path where the gas- West Coast Demerara, infrastructure, and means that Guyana's

been acquired from 65 that the government Exxon will spend

G a s - t o - E n e r g y for the commencement annual fixed sum of \$55 Brassington disclosed. the disclosed construction.

Head of Guyana's persons, paving the way will pay ExxonMobil an **on the** pipeline's million over a 20-year period from the time the theviability of the project,

"... we are paying that He said some 75 Me an while, **This \$1 billion covers** megawatts coming from acres of land have Brassington explained **everything** that Wales.

pipeline,"

Further, to facilitate The path that has project comes onstream. Brassington explained the country's network **pipeline** must be improved. This to-energy project will be to Wales, West Bank **not the gas, which** current electricity grid constructed.

Demerara.

Demerara.

Bank not the gas, which current electricity grid is considered free. will be improved by 300



Head of Guyana's Gas-to-Energy Taskforce, Winston **Brassinaton** 



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips with exhibitors

Prime Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark reliable Phillips commitment to providing its LCDS 2030.

Minister, affordable, stable, and energy for reiterated Guyanese households government's and businesses, through

#### **INCREASING ENERGY DEMANDS BEING ADDRESSED**

Phillips that the administration supply continues to aggressively buildings. make efforts, putting systems in balance demands ahead of time, **powered mini-grids** including and upgrading national grid, specifically and will provide the transmission and renewable energy to distribution of power.

said there are also plans by the end of 2023. to relaunch the requests for proposals for the **efforts** 165-megawatt Amaila **reliable** Falls project. Other initiatives have taken a holistic towards the energy approach,

Minister future, include highlighted advancement of power public

"Ongoing works place on the installation future of some 19 solarimproving with battery storage the **are** advanced, some 230 public and The prime minister **community buildings** 

> "Of course, our towards Hydropower **sustainable energy** and



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips during a walkabout the conference

include plans to limitations of our own given the difficulties and

and improve our current Guyana Power and power supply system Light's, transmission distribution **encountered due to capacity,"** he added.

#### TRANSMISSION LINES OF GAS-TO-ENERGY **PROJECT TO REDUCE BLACKOUTS**

Public Ministry, Deodat Indar, across the country. highlighted that some where it will be broken 300-megawatt communities.

This is expected to

within the hope of facilitating a in place. Works reduction in blackouts

The down and disbursed to combined cycle gas turbine power plant.

add some 300 megawatts infrastructure for feeders; a new 69 kilovolt of generation capacity, in renewable energy is well (kV) transmission line

GPL has

examining power lines are to be for installing these through the acquisition Columbia, (MW) generating capacity.

Additionally, He said the energy distribution lines and stream this year.

from Kingston to Sophia been and from Edinburgh options to Hydronie; new and government for boosting its short- rehabilitated substations 230,000 kilovolts of is seeking proposals term generation needs at Hydronie, Sophia, brought from Wales transmission lines and of an additional 50 and No. 53 Village; and substation, substations for the megawatts (MW) of firm the replacement of 320 inefficient transformers 413 are projects that are kilometres (km) of new expected to come on



Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar during his presentation

#### **GUYANA STEADILY ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**



Chief Executive Officer, Guyana Energy Agency, Dr Mahendra Sharma

Chief

Executive highlighted a host of its installation, it of Officer of the Guyana benefits that speak to the has generated or 714,648 litres in diesel a small, local group of vehicles. Energy Agency (GEA), value of the government's displaced some 1,145 consumption. Dr Mahender Sharma, undertaking of several drums of diesel."

renewable energy projects.

one-megawatt solar farm 1,400 households. at Lethem, Region Nine, valued at \$472 million already underway in mini-grids are in the also being continuously and commissioned in Kumu and Moco Moco. commissioning phase upskilled to cater to the August of last year. It is anticipated to save at Dagg Point, Bartica approximately million annually.

He said,

the system has been Bank-funded project to with 28 communities In this regard, he providing a continuous add 3.75MWp to four set to benefit from this recalled the genesis of the source of power to over hinterland communities. venture.

The 1.5 MW solar farm across the country. facilitate energy and will

This means that American Development already been completed,

The CEO

\$136 has been completed aggregation of several 25 mechanics and auto-"Since an annual reduction powered by one main grid been trained in the approximately to disperse electricity to maintenance of electric This beneficiaries. Nine of forms part of an Inter- these mini-grids have

Meanwhile, Similar projects are that 19 solar-powered country's workforce is transition. Dr Sharma The mini-grid is an revealed that more than generators, electricians have already

Cont'd on page 7

#### **LOCAL CONTENT RAKED IN AN ESTIMATED US\$700M IN BUSINESSES IN 2022**

Director of the Local Secretariat, Content Martin Pertab announced that local content raked in some US \$700 million in businesses, which essentially translated into many job opportunities, and a major spill-off effect in several other sectors.

"Based on the estimate, latest year's local in content plan that was US \$700 million in lengthy **submitted as of June businesses,**" Dr Pertab periods. of last year, and we said. are in the process



The president conducted a walkthrough of the exhibition, accompanied by ministers of government.

noted He of receiving the secretariat has local

and of course, we estimated that local companies, citing that on the services it have received the content has brought previously, businesses provides, noting that an additional were burdened

"We have had that **discussions** performance managed to reduce the sub-contractors, content certificates to 560," he disclosed. have payment period for local and made it clear registered businesses,

that most of these companies are quite small and given the lengthy payment period, those of course, could have a significant impact on the viability of these companies," he added.

Going forward, Pertab said this year the focus will be on strengthening the existing law, particularly by one of those areas is the payment definition of Guyanese companies.

with the agency is looking



Director of the Local Content Secretariat, Dr. Martin Pertab

revise the local content privatises law this year.

Dr Pertab said now

as it accelerates plans to that the law essentially local companies and there "Last year, we are more opportunities essentially tested the available, and more depth of the water, a local businesses are feel of the industry. As coming on board. Some of last year, we have of the new services the managed to register secretariat shortlisted in excess of 500 local are capable of bringing He underscored that **companies...** as of in an additional US\$150 now, I think we are million to US\$200 contractors, to issue 750 more local somewhere around million in businesses, he asserted.



EPA's Director, Kemraj Parsram (left) during the discussion at the International Energy Conference

#### **COMPANIES MUST MANAGE ESG RISKS - EPA'S DIRECTOR**

Protection stressed the importance recklessly granting EIAs. process, the of companies managing their (ESG) risks.

Parsram reports regarding the authorisation.

Executive Director agency's Environmental

He said, while there director stated. environmental, is no requirement for social and governance EIAs in the agency's permits,

"Within our sustainability, as well venting.

The agency has been as managing the risk of the Environmental Impact Assessments actively reviewing these from environmental Agency (EIAs), Parsram made it projects, with a key aspects, from a social (EPA), Kemraj Parsram clear that the EPA is not focus on the permitting aspect, and even a EPA's governance aspect,' he explained.

Parsram we noted that due to the governing act, the **have mandated** pressing issue of climate made EPA has the authority **obligations, a mix of** change and the need to this point during a to thoroughly review prescriptive as well as reduce emissions, the panel discussion at the individual projects and objective regulations EPA is implementing conference, and while activities in the energy that will help these a strict zero-tolerance addressing recent media sector before granting companies to ensure policy on flaring and

#### **SBM OFFSHORE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING GUYANA'S LOCAL CONTENT**



Supply Chain Support Manager, SBM Offshore, Flavia Werneck

SBM Guyana. its procurement and requirements through floating, throughout

highlighted the conference.

SBM Offshore is compliance policies, and the builder of Guyana's production. a number of initiatives storage and offloading at fostering vessels operating in the the Stabroek Block. sustainable development Stabroek Block. The Guyana company was the first is

major Exxon contractor Livelihoods

Providing overview cheong, explained the ages of seven and 25. Green Farm initiative is how the company lends offers paid mentorship, support to Guyana's tutorship opportunities Plympton Farms along and the Soesdyke/Linden materials. highway.

to reduce its dependence **contributing** on imports by utilising the local operations to **sustainable** supply food to persons and working aboard the **development** FPSOs. This Offshore during a vendor forum at hand in hand with the company's investments this in the Hubu Aquafarm, **provides** based in Region Three, unique which supplies shrimp for and prawns to FPSOs in **conversation** 

> Another initiative **the** the Enhancing **present.**

Youth to receive approval for Literacy Project, which is its local content master a collaboration between SBM Offshore and the an National Coordinating the Coalition Incorporated, company's local content and targets youths in development agenda, the Sophia/Cummings General Manager, Martin Lodge area between the

> The programme educational

"These projects Itallowsthecompany are all aimed at educational, economic of goes Guyana.

"We believe that engagement platform productive and opportunities for businesses We are



General Manager, SBM Offshore, Martin Cheong

**keen on building the** content capacity of Guyanese with their efforts at businesses to meet achieving the growing needs development goals. of the oil and gas he noted.

Cheong, represent the company's local. agenda of merging local

development sustainable

Further, he noted industry, and more that some 60 per cent so, our operation of the SBM Offshore as we expand our workforce are locals, footprint in Guyana," in keeping with the government's local who is content act. On the the first Guyanese to combinative onshore and hold a position in this offshore front, he said capacity at the company, approximately 40-45 per said these initiatives cent of the workforce is

Cont'd on page 8

#### **CANADA/GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** SIGNS MOU TO PROPEL LOCAL ENERGY SECTOR

(CGCC) signed Memorandum Understanding with Energy NL, which will Anand Beharry said the this agreement, we member organisations serve as a platform to agreement now amplifies hope to accelerate worldwide which are better engage business other interests between the which energy company and established. wider Guyanese

Chamber of Commerce The signing took place participation a on the sidelines of the **the Guyana market** energy industry. Today, of conference.

> CGCC were already Beharry stated.

"There

by Chairman, companies. engagements those engagements,"

Energy NL is founded in 1977 to Labrador.

Canada/Guyana business community. **extensive business** represent the supply in and service sector of the **Newfoundland** the energy company With represents over involved in or benefit from, the energy industry was of Newfoundland and



(Left to right) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Energy NL, Charlene Johnson and Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce Chairman, Anand Beharry signing the Memorandum of Understanding



Chief Executive Officer of Guysons K+B Industries Inc., and Head of the BritCham Steering Group, Faizal Khan

Commerce (BritCham) cooperation, as well as was established here to facilitate strengthen existing trade business opportunities

A British Chamber of relations and bilateral commercial

#### **BRITISH CHAMBER TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN GUYANA, UK** between Guyana and the around it for quite exchange of topics and partnerships," British

and Chief Executive entity is established,' Officer of Guysons he said. K+B Industries Inc., Faizal Khan made the promotion announcement during facilitation of bilateral diverse a press conference at trade and commerce, of UK the conference. Khan is BritCham Steering Group.

ambition for many Guyana trade. people for a number a lot of brainstorming forum for discussion and and

Guyanese businessman announce that the UK.

Alongside where companies can **class** "BritCham engage and discuss and Guyana has been a issues impacting their that

" BritCham issued by BritCham. Guyana offers an Guyana exports, Guyana's Khan explained that **c** o **m** m u n i t y November 2022. of years. There's been BritCham will serve as a through long-term sustainable

United Kingdom (UK). a while. And ... issues related to business High Commissioner to British-born we're very happy to in both Guyana and the Guyana, Jane Miller, said in a written endorsement

Guyana is the UK's the opportunity to bring largest trade partner and together a rich and in the Caribbean. The network move to establish the investors, new business chamber and comes on the heels of also the Chairperson of will foster an open services with strong the announcement of the BritCham Guyana networking environment governance, world- visa-free travel to the standards UK, a direct British experience Airways flight from the complement end of March, and the brainchild and an businesses and UK- the ambitions of signing of a partnership **business** arrangement

#### CANADA/GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SIGNS MOU TO PROPEL LOCAL ENERGY SECTOR



opportunities for Guyana

and by the International of partner countries. Energy Conference and Expo 2023.

the Office of the President sector with Responsibility for foreign Finance, Dr Ashni Singh explore noted in his closing financing models presentation, that the upcoming projects. conference provided an

expressed satisfaction discussing and exploring **companies** with the countless, ways to support the **here** valuable engagements growth and development **doing** 

It also various Senior Minister in to engage with private in players and **in** 

"We want

The government has excellent platform for **many international** added. would have made that the creating investors to opportunities attractive **international** 

Dorado Guvana Offshore, one of the business, leading manpower and partnership of not only Guyana's and it is our firm recruitment companies opportunities presented economy, but also those view that this event in the Caribbean, noted "Guyana enabled a very significant Energy Conference governments contribution provided a great and opportunity for us to showcasing network with many for of our stakeholders and in the energy sector. for domestic investors We were also able to to do business with meet with job seekers as Guyana," Dr Singh who were added to



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh

our database."

government's and the conference.

customers and establish **Some** new relationships.

Similarly, President of Caribbean Development **Scotia** "Harnessing force of the modern said. economy.

Chairman of the

NewHavven Merchant In addition, several Bank, Floyd Haynes said Financial Institutions the bank was created to have also thrown their bridge the capital gap full support behind the of where Guyana is and agenda where it needs to be. "If you look at where Scotia Bank Guyana's Guyana is, and where Seugobin Sugrim noted the leaders want to that the bank was excited take the country, it to have invested in the is clear that there activity to connect with is a finances gap. monies will come traditional Vice **from** the **institutions** like bank, Bank, Isaac Solomon multilateral lending noted that the theme institutions like CDB, Energy but a lot of it will for Development" was be capital that will highly appropriate for come from banks the conference given like The NewHayven that energy is the driving **Merchant Bank**," he <u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u>

#### ECONOMY PROJECTED TO EXPERIENCE SUSTAINED **GROWTH OF OVER 25 PER CENT IN 2023**

the Office of the President **growth** for Finance. Dr Ashni **sustained** Singh said the country's is an achievement was ranked as one of economy is expected to that is rare, in the the experience growth of 25.1 per cent context...Mind you, with over 62 per cent real this year.

Minister years.

Singh made out. the disclosure during his presentation at the the International Marriott Hotel Kingston, Georgetown.

Senior Minister in of real economic strong, of Responsibility **per cent over a** growth. period that **projection** growth. Singh of 25 per cent is

in government's priority is to ensure that **We** 

sustainable, 25 and tangible economic

Last year, Guyana fastest-growing sustained **historical economic** economies in the world,

"To put things also predicted that the based on current in context, over the growth rate will continue proven oil reserves last three years, the to exceed 25 per cent in and a production Guyanese economy the medium-term, over trajectory consistent has tripled in size. We the next three to four with current proven broke our nominal years. with current proven broke our nominal GDP, and the size of the economy broke Highlighting the \$1 trillion mark macroeconomic in 2019 for the first Energy landscape in which time... in fact, we Conference and Expo Guyana is functioning, ended the year [2019] being held at the Guyana Dr Singh said the with nominal GDP top of GY\$1.078 trillion. ended "The achievement the country achieves with nominal GDP



The country's economic growth was driven by the oil and gas sector

in excess of GY\$3 is trillion."

While the country's non-oil economic growth growth. was driven by the oil 2022 minister

prioritising attainment of robust economic

Last year, the non-oil and gas sector, the economy expanded by emphasised 11.5 per cent and Minister that the government Singh is projecting real

economic growth in the non-oil economy of 7.9 per cent this year.

"We projecting real economic growth in the non-oil sectors solidly in excess of 5 per cent through the medium term as well," Dr Singh stated.

With this in mind, senior finance minister said investors looking to do business in Guyana will be coming to an economic jurisdiction that has established a robust track record of economic growth in recent years, and a strong outlook in the medium-term.

Guyana's 2030 made another and programmes; (ii) and when the process to revenues for investment between the government transfer revenues from in village plans, put and carbon credit sales to together through village- Toshaos' Council. Several that Toshaos had and local communities the LCDS 2030 (Chapter including size, tenure of began.

A total of \$4.725 billion will be transferred the one carbon credit conversations, Vice receipt of all carbon villages 240 communities, investment in village 2023 - with US\$112.5 Toshaos at the Arthur to priorities as outlined in million already received Chung village plans put together and a further US\$37.5 Centre by villages themselves.

together throughout the million) was allocated effectively reflect the Act and the LCDS seven-month consultation LCDS 2030.

LCDS 2030 (Chapter the sale of the remainder Two), revenues from of Guyana's credits are communities the sale of carbon concluded. credits will be invested

LCDS community Two).

Initial receipts from approximately agreement completed to President Dr Bharrat credit and date will total US\$150 Jagdeo for million by the end of during a meeting with become million to come in July structure of equitable are completed to

As set out in the as other agreements for main determinant.

through a combination a fair and equitable than \$10 million. of (i) national and multi- way to share these

projects revenues across villages step-forward, a dedicated 15% of all conversations were had National it the villages led processes as set out in factors were examined started the process type, and population.

As a result of these accounts that national for transfer to villages development needs (Chapter Two), on the and communities. This of villages with village the vice president the amount may increase population being the explained.

#### **Dedicated Bank** communities, Accounts set up

At the meeting was revealed establishing dedicated bank the explained These revenues will accessible villages Conference communities after a village-led processes Amerindian meetings. wou "Although an

Towards ensuring million and no less met to discuss their committee, priorities, and proof you is provided that the

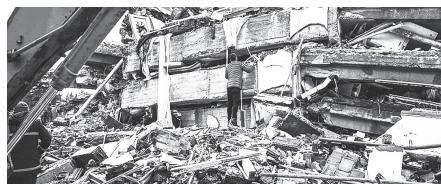


Vice President, Hon Dr Bharrat Jagdeo engaging with Amerindian leaders

putting by we're money vour He added that you cannot draw the He revealed that access to finance down this money the meeting, receive up to \$35 after villagers have to your finance endorses development

village has approved **plan. You have to** priorities via a vote complete that and This is the next step in a process of benefit- Sharing that was put billion (15% of US\$150 benefits sharing that was put billion (15% of US\$150 benefits sharing that was put billion (15% of US\$150 benefits sharing was determined as the in accordance with produce village plans of majority of those present at the village done by the village, would have to have endorsement village, the in and you'll have account, to share with us minutes can can only commence until you give it which the village and plan," he advised **complete** the Toshaos at the

#### GUYANA DONATES TOWARDS RECOVERY **EFFORTS IN SYRIA, TURKEY**



A 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey along the Syrian border, killing more than 1,700 people and injuring hundreds more

US\$50,000 each assistance to Turkey and were severely hit by a countries, to infrastructure.

In a press statement the

Government of Foreign Affairs and issued an appeal for of Guyana has pledged International Cooperation humanitarian in noted that the President to bring urgent relief to Syria Ali immediately wrote approximately five million which to the Presidents of both Syrians. The Secretarymagnitude 7.8 earthquake solidarity and support on that \$397 million is needed on February 6 2023, behalf of the Government to address humanitarian resulting in thousands and people of Guyana. concerns over the next of fatalities, injuries to The contributions will be three months, up to May civilians and destruction channelled through the 2023, in priority areas United Nations (UN).

UN Secretary General food and protection. Ministry Antonio Guterres had

conveying General had announced such as shelter, healthcare,

Modi approved the procedures. signing of the Air Services Agreement between the Services Agreement with Governments of Guyana Guyana will enable a and India, a statement framework for provision issued by the South Asia of air services between nation's public relations the two countries," the bureau announced.

The Air Services into the exchange diplomatic between the countries services

The Union Cabinet after confirmation that chaired by India's Prime they have completed Minister Shri Narendra the required internal

> "The signing of Air statement asserted.

An Air Services Agreement will come Agreement (ASA) is a force following bilateral agreement that of allows international notes commercial air transport between



The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Shri Modi

signatories.

has its basis under the and provide commercial associated multilateral of both countries. treaties. The Chicago Convention was signed in Bharrat Jagdeo and December 1944 and has Senior Finance Minister, governed international Dr Ashni Singh are air services since then.

Convention.

Agreement Guyana and India is number of areas. expected to create an

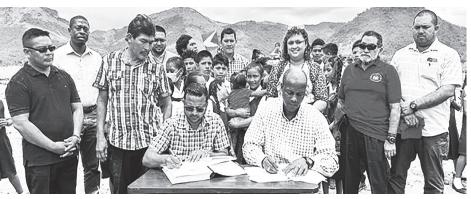
enabling environment for The bilateral system improved connectivity Chicago Convention and opportunities to airlines

Vice President, Dr currently on an official Guyana and India visit to India, where are signatories to the several discussions will take place, as the two The new Air Services countries continue to between forge closer ties in a

# \$1.7B MODERN SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR KARASABAI

Education delivery in Region Nine will see massive transformation with the construction of a modern secondary school at Karasabai.

Education Minister, Manickchand Priya along with Local Government and Regional Development Minister, Nigel Dharamlall, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Alfred King and Assistant Chief Education Officer for Amerindian and Hinterland Education Development, Marti DeSouza travelled to the region to turn the sod for the construction of the school. The contract was also signed by the Permanent Secretary of



The contract being signed for the construction of a \$1.7 billion secondary school in Karasabai, Region Nine

and the company.

more opportunities

the Ministry of Education students in the region Home Economics and and will transform the cafeteria area, teachers' Construction of the quality of their lives, quarters and an outdoor facility is being done The modern school sitting forecourt. by Avinash Contracting complex is fitted with ten and is scheduled to be building. These include buildings were completed completed in two years. the main teaching block in November 2022 after The project which and allied lecturing a series of consultations. costs \$1.7 billion will be facilities, modern science instrumental in providing laboratory for Physics, facility will house and will educational Chemistry and Biology, cater for 500 students for TVET Centres, combined in the classroom, and

The designs of the

Once completed, the

250 students in the feature address, Minister dormitories.

education they rightly the region. deserve. Students from secondary education.

Students in the People's Karasabai Tsushima, tops, a secondary dept in schools have a primary school.

Delivering the

Manickchand stated This means students that the construction of will no longer have to the school is one step traverse rough terrains closer towards achieving daily to receive an universal education in

Minister Dharamlall Karasabai and all other in his remarks, noted neighbouring villages that delivering education will have the opportunity to the people of Region to pursue a sound Nine has always been on the agenda for the Progressive subdistrict Party Government since from communities such it assumed office. He as Tiger Pond, Cracrana, highlighted that in 1992, Kokshebai there was one secondary and Yurong Paru are school in the region, and currently either not it was in St Ignatius which receiving a secondary is more than 48 miles education or are being away from Karasabai. To g educated in primary date, several secondary been constructed in the region.

#### **EDUCATION MINISTRY'S PARTNERSHIP COMPACT ENDORS**



Education ministry, teachers union and sign Statement of Endorsement of the Guyana Partnership Compact

The Education took strengthening country's

Ministry Compact.

another step towards signed by the Ministry of workshop. the Education, the Guyana education Teachers' Union (GTU) very general declaration system with the signing and UNICEF at the and a symbolic act of of a Statement of National Centre for public commitment to Endorsement of the Educational Resource strengthen Partnership Development (NCERD). education

The signing followed a The statement was two-day endorsement

> The statement is a Guyana's system

the from Partnership a system transformation riverine or hinterland Guyana. reform to strengthen instructional leadership at district and school levels, and to promote equitable learning by strengthening culturally responsive effective instructional leadership and improved accountability at district and school levels.

The Partnership Compact aims to achieve improved quality, equitable participation, and achievement in basic education for the sustainable development

compact of Guyana. Specific areas, children born in support. With support attention is given to the Guyana and migrants, or Global multicultural diversity of children with disabilities for the country, to promote and ensure inclusive Education (GPE) funds, the inclusion of all and equitable quality the Ministry is launching children living in urban, education for all in



Ministry of Education hosting the endorsement workshop for SCG Guyana Partnership Compact

### MIXING AND MASHING AS ONE GUYANA



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali joined hundreds of spectators and revellers at the 2023 Mashramani Float Parade. After a stop at Camp Ayanganna, President Ali made his way to Vlissengen Road where he interacted and mingled with persons watching the parade, which featured beautiful floats and colourful costumes.



























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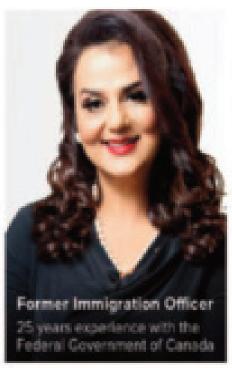
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#### PRESIDENT ALI ATTENDS 44TH CARI **HEADS OF GOV'T MEETING IN THE BAHAMA**

Community (CARICOM) convened its Forty-Fourth (44th) Ordinary Meeting of Heads of Government in Nassau, Bahamas, from February 15 to February 17 at which President Ali was in attendance, accompanied by Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister,



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali with other CARICOM Heads of Government



President Ali holding discussions with Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy, the Minister of State for International Cooperation in the United Arab Emirates and her delegation

Hugh Todd.

The British High Commissioner to Guyana, Her Excellency Jane Miller and United States Ambassador to Guyana, Her Excellency Sarah-Ann Lynch were also present.

The meeting covered several new and recurring including the issues

CARICOM Single Market and Economy, Climate including Change, Climate Finance, Agriculture and Food Security, Security, and Health.

Reform of the global financial architecture also engaged the Heads of Government, who Cooperation in foreign guests, and held and her delegation. discussion on political,

matters relevant to the delegation Caribbean Community.

President of State for International of

economic and financial State and the UAE discussed preparation plans for Ali COP 28, to be held in used the opportunity the UAE and Guyana's to further Guyana's partnership with the relations UAE regarding same. agenda. The President Other issues discussed held discussions with included carbon credits, Her Excellency Reem Al innovation, science and Hashimy, the Minister technology in the context climate security,



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali meeting with the Chair of the United States Export-Import Bank, Reta Jo Lewis

received a number of United Arab Emirates security.

The Head the energy security and food

The UAE delegation of comprised several senior

Director of the American secure region. Affairs Department, Dr Al Saghira Al Ahbabi.

also met with the UN's President of the African Food and Agriculture Export-Import Organisation's Assistant General and Regional of the United States

The Guyanese Head of State also had President Ali li meetings met with the Benedict (FAO) Professor Director Orahma, and the Chair



President Ali with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mario Lubetkin

Representative Latin America and the Reta Jo Lewi. Caribbean, Mr Mario Lubetkin and delegation. Discussions Import Bank, have to action towards a more resilient Caribbean.

for Export-Import Bank, Ms

During the meeting his with the African Exportcentered around plans President was presented leading up to Guyana's with the Caribbean hosting of the FAO Partnership Agreement, conference in 2024, and which consolidates the how the organisation and Bank's efforts to promote Guyana can collaborate and develop Southmeaningful South trade, specifically deliverables between Africa and the

President Ali told Guyanese in the Bahamas during meeting on the margins of the 44th Regular Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CARICOM Community that Guyana presents very strong leadership in several key areas.

"Today, in this region, we present very strong leadership on food energy security, security, and climate security. The next seven vears are dedicated to building an economy and a country that will be able to efficiently and competitively survive in a global system that will be very, very different from what we see today."

The Head of State also spoke extensively about Government's development plan in



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing the members of the Guyanese diaspora living in The

agriculture healthcare.

Dr Ali emphasised strategic way position Guyana not as pharmaceutical leader in these areas, country's forest. pointing to the hallmark agreement

these as well as other Corporation for the sale major areas, including of carbon credits for a and minimum of US\$750 million.

The President that his administration said that Guyana is is working in a very working with India and to Rwanda to explore the a participant, but as a and potential of the

Regarding Energy made Security, Dr Ali pointed between the Government to ongoing discussions of Guyana and Hess with Brazil, French

Guiana, Suriname and planning Trinidad and Tobago on energy security and for to develop an energy food production. He Guyanese, and every corridor.

"The an energy of being a major Guyanese. revenue earner for our country."

He also establishment of Caribbean.

The President spoke

elaborated on various single energy development projects family." potential of Guyana being undertaken by He added that this is enormous-wind, his Government, as requires the involvement solar, hydro, and we well as the ongoing and support of every **are now presenting** transformation of the Guyanese. **platform** health sector, and plans that is diversified, to ensure a world-class single

spoke noted that have the most rather policies and problem." competitive environment programmes to build a for manufacturing and resilient, sustainable and those present to join industrial development strong country under with his government in in Latin America and the the umbrella of 'One building a country and a Guyana'.

at length about the I've been working one that delivers on country's leading role on; creating this One the aspirations and in food security and **Guyana in which we** ambitions of the people its role in the global **build a system that** of the country.

framework **delivers** prosperity every single Guyanese

'It requires every Guyanese and has the potential education system for changing from the inside. It requires every Guyanese The Head of State making a special while effort and a special about Guyana's natural Guyana's story is commitment to being gas potential and the unfolding globally, this part of the positive a development story is **transformation**, **to be** natural gas plant that not only predicated **part of the solution** would allow Guyana on oil and gas, but **and not part of the** 

> He encouraged society that is stronger, "And that is what more prosperous and

# IDENT BLASTS NAYSAYERS' ATTEMPTS CREDIT GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

A section of the media continues to dodge the truth, with the ultimate goal seeming to create division and outrage among Guvanese. This was expressed by Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jadgeo who was at the time responding to a Kaieteur News article, which indicated that Exxon would be 'selling' gas to the Government of Guyana.

The article sought to imply that Dr Jagdeo has misled the public on whether Guyana will be paying for its share of natural gas from the American oil company.



Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

However, Dr government's position, the

explained, Ali. "We Jagdeo clarified the many times, about gas-to-energy developing misleading to the public. going to own 100 We are financing it facility, that still leaves the country's oil.

Government

ExxonMobil will develop

the pipeline, which is expected to carry an government **own it,"** he stated.

The vice president that reminded finalised plans for the say the pipeline is [gradually write off gas-to-energy project \$1 billion. We don't the cost] the project went through a rigorous know the exact cost over 20 years. process to be approved, as yet. It could be himself and President posited.

noting that the notion is project, that we are jointly, with Exxon. power plant and NGL developing and utilising

per cent of it. The out of cost oil. So, 48 per cent of the cost the NGL facility will paying back, because government. process the gas. The it's not free. They and are putting in some with people of Guvana will money, and we have agreement was made for **to put in some money.** the government to repay

the that over 20 years cent value to amortise

power plant, and we have our share of to be covered by the

Through discussions Exxon, "So, we decided the remaining 48 per

He urged Guyanese with all steps of that lower. But we'll put to reject naysayers who process being disclosed that notion out there, claim that gas will make to the public by both \$1 billion," Dr Jagdeo Guyana 'impotent', that the gas-to-energy project He stated that while will explode, and other "We said we're Exxon will be covering ridiculous notions to this 52 per cent of the cause Guyanese to fear

#### **GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT TO POWER ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY SECURITY**

the



The gas-to-energy project has several potential benefits for the people of Guyana

gas-to- to help reduce Guyana's gas Guyana's energy project involves carbon the development and contributing utilisation of natural gas cleaner environment, resources for domestic and helping to mitigate power generation, as the impacts of climate well as other industrial change. and commercial uses. The project is part of to-energy project has efforts to the potential to bring Guyana's tap into its significant significant benefits to the offshore natural gas country and its people, reserves, and maximise while helping to drive the benefits for the economic growth, and country, and its people. improve energy security.

It is expected to provide a reliable and cost-effective of energy for Guyana, reducing the country's transformational dependence on imported project, the government fuels, and contributing has partnered with to economic growth. ExxonMobil, which has Some \$43.4 billion has extensive experience been allocated in this in the year's budget for the production, advancement of the development of natural project.

The energy project also has the potential is to create new jobs the Guyanese, particularly infrastructure, generation is expected other applications.

billion. Already,

footprint,

to

Overall, the gas-

turbine (CCGT) grid.

of the plant while Guyana.

work?

government has awarded (MW) power plant will liquefied natural gas the country through the million be constructed at the (LNG) tankers. contract to LINDSAYCA/ old Wales Sugar Estate, CH4 for the construction which will generate 250 be used to generate growth and create new of the integrated Natural megawatts (MW) of electricity at onshore jobs. Gas Liquids (NGL) Plant power to approximately and the 300-megawatt 220,000 households electricity (MW) combined-cycle that are connected to the will be distributed to

will the realisation of its full The natural gas will then finance the development potential benefits for be processed to remove project it for transportation to people of Guyana: shore, and thereafter it **How does the** will be transported to 300-megawatt systems, such

> plants. power The generated the national grid, and

The gas-to-energy has several impurities and prepare potential benefits for the

Economic estimated cost of US\$1.3 gas-to-energy project shore through pipelines Growth: The project or other transportation is expected to generate as significant revenue for sale of natural gas, which Natural gas will will help drive economic

> **Energy Security:** Guyana is currently dependent on imported fuels for its energy needs, but the Gas- to- Energy project will increase the country's energy independence, reduce its dependence on imports.

Improved Electricity Access: The production of natural gas for power generation can help improve access to electricity particularly in rural areas where access to electricity is limited.

**Environmental** Benefits: Natural gas is a cleaner source of energy compared to other fossil fuels, and the gas-to-energy project will help reduce Guyana's In addition to power carbon footprint, and contribute to a cleaner environment.

> Increased and to attract significant investment, economic growth and create new opportunities



A representation of the gas fired power station at the Wales project site on the West Bank Demerara

source ExxonMobil For this

Partnership with

exploration, and gas resources.

ExxonMobil working with government to and opportunities for develop the necessary in the energy sector. facilities to transport and is expected to bring Additionally, the use of process the gas for use in significant investment project is the extraction of and other products. natural gas for power power generation and and expertise to the natural gas from offshore

power plant located Demerara.

The has decided to construct Floating, the two facilities.

partnership at Wales. The ensure its success, and production

gas from the Liza Phase consumers. government One and Liza Phase Two Production, generation, the two plants together, Storage, and Offloading gas can also be used as it was determined (FPSO) vessels in the for other purposes, there will be substantial Stabroek Block to the such as industrial and Foreign Investment: savings from combining Natural Gas power plant commercial applications, The project is expected that is being constructed transportation,

project, helping to fields using drilling and

A 200 - kilometre used to power homes, in Wales, West Bank pipeline will transport businesses, and other

natural as a feedstock for the foreign The first step in the production of chemicals which will help drive

> **Benefits to the** for all Guyanese. facilities. **people of Guyana**

#### **GYSBI EXPANDS HOUSTON OPERATIONS** WITH US\$25M INVESTMENT

#### - OVER \$25B INVESTED BY COMPANIES ALONG THE COASTLINE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing the commissioning

through investments Shore investments, resulted in thousands of Greater Georgetown. Guyanese, through direct involvement and support policy

The head

President Ali said government's strategic that over the last two plans and policy actions explained that a country years, more than \$25 for overall development and billion has been unlocked while attending Guyana must have a level of Base by companies along (GYSBI) commissioning supports the coastline. These ceremony for its \$25 confidence. He told the he million heavy lift berths gathering that not only explained, have ignited and "Commander-in- would his government the economy and have Chief" Crane at Houston, create the environment

services, benefiting from his government, its itself to be a leader in job opportunities. foresight and belief in energy, food and climate of private investments as services in the economy state highlighted his important components in 2030 and beyond.

for the current growth.

"The crafting of a strategy to develop this country and advance this country very precise, is very precise, delicate, structured work at the moment. I assure you there is no guessing about what we do. That is why there's so much predictability about where we're going and the development plan."

The president a government Inc's predictability that investors' for investors He pointed to the businesses to thrive, but direction of Guyana would propel



The commissioning ceremony of the Guyana Shore Base Inc's (GYSBI) heavy lift berths and "Commander-in-Chief" Cran

This, the President **increased** democratic environment sector". in which the rule of law is respected.

President Ali also determination and his Government's Muneshwer. determination to

"ensure that country people

**benefits** has said, will be done in a from the oil and gas providing services to

The president also subsidiary, lauded the conviction, spoke extensively about vision of the Executive

GYBBI, our employees, the majority **derive** of whom are Guyanese,

ExxonMobil's local Esso Exploration and Guyana and Production Limited. The two new the Local Content Policy Director of GYSBI, Robin berths will increase the company's capacity to which moor more vessels, and our has more than 580 the overall services it offers.

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and India's Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar have agreed to continue to work on strengthening bilateral partnership in various sectors including petroleum and natural gas, agriculture, agroprocessing, education, healthcare, capacity building, ICT, renewable energy and climate change.

Dr. Jagdeo was in India on an official visit Office of the President Bharatiya Divas. with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh. official



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo meeting with Minister of Agriculture of India, Narendra Singh

According to an press release

The visit by Dr. from India's Ministry President, also delivered (WSDS) hosted by The from February 20-25, Jagdeo followed that of of External Affairs, the the Inaugural Address Energy and Resources climate adaptation and at the invitation of the President, Dr Mohamed two Vice Presidents and set off international Institute (TERI) in New mitigation Vice President of India. Irfaan Ali back in acknowledged the close participation at He was accompanied by January as the Chief and cordial relations 22nd edition of the Senior Minister in the Guest of the 17th Pravasi shared by their two World nations, which based on strong people-to-people economic linkages and commonalities of approach on multilateral issues.

> While in India, VP Jagdeo also met with President of India, Her Excellency, Droupadi Murmu, as well as External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

> > The Guyanese Vice



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo meeting with Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

are Development Summit sustainable development

the Delhi.

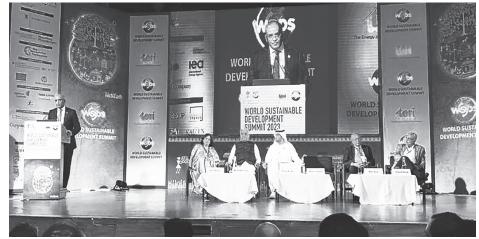
Sustainable Guyana's vision for and other activities.

in the context of the Low Development Carbon Strategy (LCDS) 2030. He plugged Guyana's success story earning carbon credits from preserving large quantities of its forests.

Guyana, the VP told the gathering, has had its first sale of forest carbons at five dollars per ton. The VP told the leaders that US\$220 million has be released Guyana, which would be deployed for as well as support for Dr Jagdeo shared indigenous land titling



Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo meeting with Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar



Vice President of Guyana, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo speaking at the opening of the World Sustainable Development Summit

#### PRESIDENT ALI REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY IN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- AS 'DELAY TACTICS' BY CIVIL SOCIETY COMPONENT OF MSG RESULTED IN GUYANA'S NON-SUBMISSION OF EITI 2020 REPORT

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan reaffirmed Ali has his government's commitment to promote transparency and accountability in every aspect of governance, particularly in the extractive industries. This comes on the heel of Guyana being temporarily suspended from the Extractive Industries Transparency (EITI). Initiative pending its submission transparency of the 2020 report by the approved deadline of **an** July 31, 2023.

In Facebook disappointment with the explained, during the persons abstaining. delay in its submission, live broadcast. describing as "unacceptable."

with its mandate and in keeping with question



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali during the live address

administrator

**Guyana** in **keeping** completion of the report. the president stressed.

"This begs the

and in that group with the work on completing Guyana had written to accountability, hired ulterior motive[s]. the report would be the EITI requesting an Bharrat stated. **independent It is not after four** done expeditiously, long extension of the deadline to months, that we were before the extended to May 31, 2023, citing resources complete the report," able to have ToRs deadline granted by the several reasons chief further explained that address, Dr Ali expressed the head of state **agreed upon with two** EITI Secretariat.

"This He said the Terms unacceptable, to put to strengthening the "In examining the were with the Multi- framework at stake, the credibility of Guyana be submitted. cost and effect of this Stakeholder Group to try to damage in the natural resources delay, I found out a (MSG) for four months, the government's sector is not affected

He said the ToRs Resources,



Natural Resources Minister, Vickram Bharrat

Additionally,

he that the 2019 report was approval is registered commitment submitted on May 31, the meeting, instead 2022, leaving just a few a correspondence was of Reference (ToRs) a country's reporting MSG and ensuring that months for the 2020 to received notifying of

Minister of Natural ensure that we had which the suspension Vickram **that report prepared** would be withdrawn. whether are now approved and Bharrat explained to by the 31st December its commitment to they are persons assured Guyanese that this publication that 2022. Having realised

there were many difficulties... We would have written to the international secretariat requesting extension up to the 31st May, 2023 for the submission of that report. That was followed by a meeting between myself and the head of the secretariat, Mr Mark **Robinson to support** our request for an extension," Minister

The natural minister among them, the fact while awaiting formal following the country's temporary "With that short suspension until the delay, I found out a (MSG) for four months, number of things, despite the government's the

Permanent Representative Ambassador Guyana.

"We all, to Guyanese at home you have made and of Guyana, New York United Nations, and abroad, have a continue to make... City to mark Guyana's Carolyn role to play. We must We must always 53rd anniversary as a Rodrigues-Birkett urged **not only want change. ensure that our** republic. the members of the We must be that Guyana is united," Guyanese diaspora living **change.** I **take this** Ambassador Rodrigues- Investments in the US to utilise the opportunity to thank Birkett stated at a Diaspora Affairs, Fizul skills they have acquired you the Guyanese commemoration Yusuf also emphasised for the advancement of **in our diaspora not** ceremony hosted the that the the country is on

**as for the contributions** Cooperative **only for coming but** Consulate General of the a progressive trajectory

Advisor on and



Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

in all sectors.

"Today, the Guyana that you "over the past 53 knew in 1970 is years, the people of not the same. Our Guyana through our Guyanese heritage dedication, diligence, and tradition remain and patriotism have strong and intact. built a nation of Our country is ever- profound worth and changing for the accomplishments." better."

Meanwhile, Consulate General, Michael Brotherson underscored that the attainment of Guyana's republic status remains a

of ensuring development significant milestone for the nation.

He noted that



#### **HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS**

#### ANNANDALE SQUATTERS RECEIVE **KEYS TO NEW LOW-INCOME HOMES**



Housing and Water Minister, Collin Croal with beneficaries from the nine families

Coast Demerara (ECD) New Scheme. received the keys to their

families Minister, Collin Croal who were previously handed over the keys to squatting along the the low-income, twosea defence reserve bedroom homes that will provide a significant per month towards their at Annandale, East were built at Annandale improvement in their mortgage.

explained well-being. He new homes, marking a that the initiative was

September 2022.

plans to relocate them to **families,"** he stated. a safer and wholesome community. Ten of engaged by commercial the families accepted banks to source funding the government's offer for the construction of for them, while the s5 million each. remaining five opted for After taking lands.

Minister that the relocation would Minister Croal stated have on the families, that each family will pay noting that the move approximately \$25,000 living standards and

"Obviously significant step towards sparked following a you compare here facilitating the process better living conditions. visit by President Ali to the environment, of ensuring they are Housing and Water to the community in **they were in you** afforded the opportunity

will realise this is an At that time, 15 upliftment and this families were informed **brings betterment** of the government's for them and their

The families were construct homes their homes which cost

After taking up occupancy, the residents in a safe environment. Croal will begin to repay their expressed his optimism loans, which will run about the positive impact for a period of 25 years.

> The residents gratitude expressed if to the government for



Housing and Water Minister, Collin Croal handing Manjanie Roopchand the keys to her new home

to have affordable homes

Roopchand. newly built home, said, doing," he said. "this will help me a lot because it's a better life serves as a testament for my children."

of five expressed his countrywide. elation to have a new

"It gonna be better because where I use to M a n j a n i e live when the rainfall, while we would flood and thanking the government we didn't have light for allowing her to own or water. I appreciate a piece of land and a what the government is

Overall, this initiative to the government's Another beneficiary, commitment to address Rajesh Jaipaul, a father the issue of squatting

#### 30 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE VOUCHERS UNDER GOV'T'S \$800M STEEL, CEMENT INITIATIVE

The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) has commenced the distribution the vouchers for government's \$800 million Steel and Cement Subsidy Initiative (SCSI) for home builders.

The initiative was officially launched at a ceremony held at the Housing and Water Ministry's Brickdam, Georgetown office, where the first 30 beneficiaries received their vouchers.

programme The aims to assist eligible families and individuals purchasing cement, which are essential building home construction. constructing homes million that cost \$6



More than 500 qualified applicants from across the country will receive cement and steel materials in the next two weeks

less, will receive described the exercise as programme, one sling of cement for commitment the construction of the providing foundation.

spending between \$6 to of

his address, Housing and Water Minister, Collin Croal trickle-down effect of the officially announced by

the required steel and of the government's just challenges.

Speaking about the

Minister vouchers to purchase a concrete demonstration Croal explained, "In this to **programme**, just the housing 30 of you, we will interventions to citizens see therefore, by For home builders to reduce the burden the time you leave homeownership, the possibility of the house lot...and \$25 million, two slings of especially amid rising injection of about the values of cement weeks, more than 500 cement will be provided. global prices and other over \$10.5 million and steel, which qualified applicants from into the economy."

President, Dr Mohamed to be able to get the Expo in July last year.

Despite the government's construction,

Minister the Ministry, obstacle.

are using the cost of applications. will be given to you across the country will The initiative was will help to make up be receiving cement and that equity payment steel materials. thereby allowing you

Irfaan Ali at the final approval for International Building your mortgage," she explained.

According to the efforts Chief Executive Officer of to facilitate access to CHPA, Sherwyn Greaves, financing for home the ministry has received some 1,034 applications from people still struggle to Regions Two, Three, come up with the initial Four, Five, Six, Nine, down payment for loans. and Ten. Out of those within applications, 697 have Susan been verified, and 397 Rodrigues said the have been recommended initiative has helped to the housing subsidy many to overcome this committee for review. The committee has "The banks now approved 134 of those

In the next two

than Shore Base Inc. (GYSBI) present at the activity. benefitted from an Housing and Water, the-spot of the Central Housing homes. (CHPA), Greaves.

GYSBI, Muneshwar

staffers of the Guyana Chandarpal were also house lot applications.

CHPA interviews, Sherwyn make queries on housing are Guyanese. services, including those Executive Director who met one-on-one stated

The Chief Executive Officer registered for turn-key by the company. The up exercise. Additionally, organization has over and Planning Authority 150 staff were able to 700 staff, of which 95% Society (NBS) and the

that Robin with the CHPA CEO; and government is ensuring engaging staff. and a number of other staff that the path to securing

350 Deputy Director, Rabin members updated their homeownership is made easier for all Guyanese. outreach She assured the staff that facilitated comes on the heels of a all data collected during outreach led by Minister 181 new house lot commitment made by the activity will be used within the Ministry of applications and on- His Excellency, President to craft a comprehensive Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali approach to address each Susan Rodrigues, and while 20 individuals during an event hosted of their needs at a follow-

The New Building Guyana Bank for Trade Minister Rodrigues and Industry (GBTI) the are also at the outreach



Chief Executive Officer of the Central Housing and Planning Authority, Sherwyn Greaves assisting one of the employees

#### PRESIDENT ALI ENGAGES WITH NOBEL PRIZE **WINNER OVER SCIENCE COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY MARCH 2 2023** 

President Padmanee Professor in Oncology development council in Guyana.

The meeting also Guyana.

In who holds a Nobel students to Guyana. prize in Physiology for

Dr president had some Mohamed Irfaan Ali met very definite ideas about with Cancer Research things that needed Scientist, Professor Dr to be done in specific James Allison, and Dr areas such as vaccine Sharma, development and drug and Immunology, to would bring Guyana right discuss the establishment into the mainstream of of a medical advisory modern technology and medicine."

Meanwhile, Dr entailed a discussion Sharma, noted that on the setting up of a their extensive work in medical university, and developing cancer and a Doctor of Philosophy immunotherapy drugs (PhD) programme, to has led them to the area enhance the level of of education, getting education provided to students involved in medical students in medical research. She said the establishment invited of a new medical school comment, Dr Allison, could attract foreign

"We would the discovery of cancer honoured to work with "The the President in Guyana



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali flanked by Dr Padmanee Sharma and Dr James Allison

to help put together a becoming a regional science and medicine healthcare powerhouse. programme... not just in medical school setting, Guyana's only Guyanese, but also enterprise country," she noted.

conversation for an understanding of President Ali's vision to life the Sharmallison for Guyanese and how S c h o l a r s h i p they can play a part in Programme equipping bringing this vision to underprivileged students reality.

Earlier this month, access President Ali expressed education. to establish plans a National Medical Scientific Council, which can propel Guyana into

Dr Állison primary and secondary Dr Sharma have been education, but also in a making their mark in education where we can bring in not sector under a family called foreign students to train Abraham's Tent Inc, in medicine and science which is a non-profit as we move forward and organisation dedicated build a future with the to providing educational opportunities Dr Sharma said the underprivileged children allowed in the Corentyne area.

> They also brought in the Corentyne with to adequate

#### HEALTH MINISTRY, US MEDICAL TEAM PARTNER TO PERFORM SURGERIES, DENTAL OPERATIONS



LAMAT Biomedical Equipment Technician, Master Sgt. Timothy McClelland receives a tour of the emergency department at GPHC

The United States (US) Lesser Antilles Medical Assistance Team (LAMAT) has partnered with the Health Ministry to perform medical operations and engage in professional knowledge exchanges.

The series of medical interventions which began on February 20 to will run until March 3 and forms part of the US Southern Command's (USSOUTHCOM's) Enduring Promise mission.

With a team of US approximately 29 Army medical and dental professionals and other support staff, LAMAT is medicines and supplies providing free general necessary for the operations surgery, emergency room and will leave surplus

Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) and West Demerara Regional Hospital.

**LAMAT's** operations have been coordinated with the health ministry and hospital medical directors, to take advantage of additional operating room capacity without displacing medical providers.

US medical professionals are working with local doctors to ensure continuity of care following all surgical procedures.

The team brought the

and dental care at the supplies with the hospital. Approximately \$44 million (USD \$225,000) of supplies are being donated to medical facilities.

Patients are selected in coordination with hospital medical directors, based on the types of surgeries and procedures the US medical team is certified to perform; primarily GI surgeries such as hernias and cyst excisions.

The US dental team is focusing on treating underserved populations, concentrating on cleaning, fillings, extractions preventative care.



Lancelot Baptiste collecting his Letter of Office from President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

The remaining two Chanderpaul members of the Teaching Georgetown. Commission

Drive,

Sattie Jaiserrisingh (TSC) were officially and Lanslot Baptist took sworn in by President the oath and received Ali at his office, Shiv their instruments of

appointment from the president.

President expressed hope that they work towards strengthening the education system, and ensure a fair and equitable environment teachers, for which the process governance of continues to improve and deliver in a manner in which all can find acceptable standard and good governance. This is an important part of **good governance,**" he said.

In 2022, five of the seven Monkhouse, his Persaud,

December Singh, Joan Ann David- and Deputy Chairman Ali members of the TSC were Bhajan, and Mohammed meeting. extended congratulations sworn in by President Saddam Hussain. The to the new members, Ali, including Maydha life of the commission is the new members marks Doodmattie three years. A Chairman a significant step in the



Satti Jaisierisingh collect her Letter of Office from President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Shafiran will be elected at its first

The swearing-in of government's efforts to improve the education sector and support the dedicated teachers who play a critical role in shaping the future of Guyana's youth.



<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u>

#### REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM ASSET RECOVERY **UNIT MEETS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Attornev Nandlall, S.C, met with a CFT Recovery Unit (ARU) at crime. the Attorney General's Street, Georgetown.

The Sutherland, (ag); Alexander, advisor

extended expertise to Guyana's legislative AML/CFT structure and

General and technical guidance in and Minister of Legal investigating, detecting Affairs, Mohabir Anil and prosecuting AML/ offences type visiting delegation from including asset recovery, the Regional Security possessing, seizing and System (RSS) Asset forfeiting proceeds from

The team informed Chambers, Carmichael the Attorney General that they have crafted a delegation model legislation which comprising Ms. Kisha has widely influenced Director AML/CFT legislation Randy and approaches in the Senior Caribbean region. In Financial Investigator this regard, the team analysis its Guyana's the with specific emphasis legislation, and have adopt. on training, capacity flagged gaps in Guyanese



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C, meeting with the delegation from the Regional Security System Asset Recovery Unit

framework and criminal forfeiture this year. model which Guyana should

The

Chanika indicated that they have also pointed out that the team for their timely Carrington, Senior Legal done a comparative model legislation has a visit in particular since and SOCU in certain in combatting serious between comprehensive regime Guyana is scheduled for high-profile existing dealing with both civil mutual evaluation later investigations of money laundering and the

"We will also take

level the prosecuting adjudicative levels. Prosecutions. are prepared We you in organising to combat workshops to build organised crime in the capacity in important agencies jurisdictions, through which form part partnership and the of our AML/CFT robust application of infrastructure," the proceeds of crime and Attorney General said.

Importantly, Attorney requested the RSS ARU center of excellence in to assist the local FIU the Eastern Caribbean laundering.

While in Guyana, assets. advantage of your the RSS also met with Attorney offer for capacity staff of the Financial building and practical legislation. They have General thanked the **building at every** Intelligence Unit (FIU),

including at Special Organised Crime investigative, Unit (SOCU), CANU and and the Director of Public

The RSS ARU is a partner with regional unit established serious the Caribbean common law laundering money the legislation. Currently, General this Unit is seen as the ongoing organised crime, money recovery of criminal

#### FORESTRY COMMISSION'S IT INFRASTRUCTURE STRENGTHENED WITH SUPPORT FROM UK GOVERNMENT

information McKenzie technology infrastructure at the and Guyana Commission (GFC) has Overseas significant support from and the United Kingdom Right (UK) Government.

strategic objectives and Georgetown. international obligations, Law Governance and Trade/ Agreement (FLEGT / VPA).

Resources,

(IT) the new Forestry from UK Minister of foundation for ongoing been strengthened with Commonwealth sector." Energy, The Lord Goldsmith, on implementation technology will support simple ceremony held will commission's at the GFC's head office, the

providing compliance the system is nestled at credit under the European it will assist a number and Hess Corporation. Union - Guyana Forest of agencies through a Enforcement synergistic approach.

management, Joslyn decision

received and at all level of the equipment commission's operation applications and also provide strong Territories, policy initiatives in the

Accordingly, Honourable he stated that the of additional Wednesday, during a the expanded system further drive commission's involvement in the McKenzie said while recently signed carbon agreement information as required the GFC's headquarters, between the government

In 2020, the GFC expressed the need to data and information to establish an integrated but system that would Permanent Secretary more importantly, it effectively capture, store, European at the Ministry of Natural will allow for effective retrieve, analyse and Institute's making present information and Assistance



The UK government continues to partner and strengthen its relationship with Guyana

and Office through

(EFITAP) in Guyana, With funding and experts undertook an infrastructure: upgrades "This IT system enhance its information support from the UK's evaluation of the existing to the GFC primary data Voluntary Partnership will enable the efficient management system and Foreign, Commonwealth IT Infrastructure and centre, support to GFC's Development system to move towards headquarters and field the a more integrated system offices and establishment Forest that builds on the various of a Disaster Recovery Technical existing components in Centre within the GFC. Project a modular, phased and

sustainable manner.

Following assessment mid-2021, the team made several recommendations, most notably, that the infrastructure required improvements ensure upgrades to and maintain system security, connectivity, and the seamless operation of existing and future systems.

As such, the GFC received assistance under three priority areas for upgrading the

#### 314 GDF RANKS UNDERGOING TRAINING AS PART RATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Α total of 314 members of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) are currently undergoing training at both academic and military institutions.

The government's strategic investment to allow GDF ranks the opportunity to enhance their education and skills military will enable the soldiers to operational and tactical combat efficiency.

The **GDF** has



President Ali along with Prime Minister, Mark Phillips, GDF's Chief of Staff, Brigadier Godfrey Bess and members of the GDF

from partners.

Accordingly, the force already established new has expanded its network recently that the military these international and GDF officers' conference,

its traditional Defence Force, and the future. French army.

relationships of regional partners by must be nimble and with the Kingdom of signing memoranda of technologically savvy to perform at a higher level, the Netherlands, and understanding with the better respond to complex Eteringbang airstrips, as specific, with greater confidence, continues to receive Jamaica Defence Force, challenges which may part of the government's realistic, thus improving their training and assistance the Royal Bahamian face the nation in the vision to expand and related strategic goals,

The President Ali stated in-Chief believes that

regional provide the GDF with that increased the country's military networks, influence and defence various posture.

said members of the provision of employment. force have been deployed to the Kaieteur and is seeking to establish rehabilitate Commander- across the hinterland.

At the opening of the the nation.

collaboration Brigadier Bess disclosed through training community relations, opportunities, improving the GDF has established performed tasks, contributed to the GDF's Chief-of-Staff, economic structure of Brigadier Godfrey Bess communities through the

> This year, the GDF measurable, and runways further demonstrating its commitment to serving

#### **NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR SMALL CONTRACTORS - MINISTER EDGHILL**

Public Minister, Bishop Juan fall under the \$15 Edghillhas reassured that million margin that numerous opportunities could be given to exist in all sectors for small contractors, small contractors. The and then on the minister was speaking maintenance during a procurement of the budget, you training for members of have maintenance of the Black Entrepreneurs buildings, plumbing, Association, at the **guttering**, **electrical**, Umana Yana, Kingston, **air conditioning**, Georgetown.

only weeding and sea **building of a fence**, Minister Edghill noted. **roads because there** with the association.

Works are some roads that side conditioning, a whole host of "S m a l l other fields that contractors are not could be involved... defence cleaning, civil works, maintenance,"

sanitary blocks in our commitment made at an



Public Works Minister, Bishop Juan Edghill

"At that meeting technical

people building of guard He said the training I did make an offer who are involved huts, building of is the fulfillment of a that we will provide in the procurement He said the training I did make an offer who are involved opportunity and management of ministry, building of a previous engagement where we will be contracts to interface able to bring our with you, to be able to share with you all of the necessary know wherewithal, how, that you would be able to submit winning bids and when you win a bid, ensuring that you fulfil your obligations in keeping with the terms and conditions of your contract."

> The minister highlighted contracts.

people's heads that

2003."

He added that the emphasised. act requires that notice **must** be given before minister said the

a minister or some and the evaluators government official are evaluating, your could pick up the photograph is not phone and call a on it, nobody knows friend and say that who you are, they I have a job for you are looking at the to do ... maybe that documentation happened a long time that is presented ago, our country is and getting your governed by laws, the documentation right Procurement Act of is what is important," Minister

The public works government projects can government also changed



Members of the Black Entrepreneurs Association engaged in procurement training

be executed.

when you throw that opportunities. "It is still in some bid in the tender box

certain criteria, like the "It not who know requirement of three to the you and who you five years' experience, to importance of meeting know, it's following enable new contractors the criteria to secure the system because to benefit from these

Members of the Black Entrepreneurs Association engaged in procurement training

#### **M'S 'TRAIN THE 40 PERSONS G**

Forty residing in Lethem, Region Nine, others. and surrounding communities graduated from the areas of Introduction Office of the Prime to computers and the Trainer' programme. Excel,

The aimed professional and ICT Online as advanced Computing, for ICT Education. Office Productivity, Web Development programme

persons Troubleshooting

**Participants** recently instructed in and Safety skillsets in areas such Teaching Methodologies properties of ICT.

The

and persons from Tabatinga, Central Internet Security, among St. Ignatius, Quarrie, Kumu, Moco Moco, were Central Rupununi and the Annai.

The programme will promote sustainability Minister- Industry and Fundamentals of ICT, in these communities, Innovations Unit's 'Train Word Processing (Word, as these persons are PowerPoint), now equipped with the programme Internet Computing, necessary skills to train offering Cyber Security and other persons in their and communities in

recent one-week programme in Central attracted Lethem is a follow-up



The programme aimed at offering professional and ICT

to the 2022 'Train the Trainers' programme, which saw approximately 30 participants from Kwatamang, Wowetta, Rupertee, Central and Aranaputa benefitting from ICT training.

The Industry and Innovations Unit has remained consistent in advancing the reach of ICT countrywide.

#### **GECOM REOPENS APPLICATION PROCESS FOR** APPROVAL OF SYMBOLS

has reopened the process all political

press release noted to submit a symbol for Commission." that Section 48(1) of approval by the Guyana

for the submission of voluntary groups, and March, 2023 has been Streets, Government Elections. the Local Government version of the symbol marked, The agency in a Elections are required must be submitted to the for Symbol - Local

"Application Offices." Government Elections "Political The release added - 2023". Alternatively, voluntary groups, and be accepted without a the Local Authorities Elections Commission that, "submissions can applications can be individual

The Guyana Elections (Elections) Act, Chapter no later than the 21st be made directly to the submitted via email are required to submit, Commission (GECOM) 28:03, "provides that Day before Nomination Office of the Chairman at chairman@gecom. on Nomination Day, parties, Day. In this regard, 1st at 41High and Cowan org.gy or, in the case of their respective lists of Kingston, outlying Local Authority candidates accompanied applications for approval individuals who are set as the date by which Georgetown in sealed Areas (LAAs), to the by the relevant pre-of symbols for Local desirous of contesting a printed and electronic envelopes clearly GECOM Registration approved symbol."

It added

The statement that, advised that interested parties, parties' lists would NOT candidates pre-approved symbol.

<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u> KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## NA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE RE



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips presented the award for best book of poetry to Berkley Wendel Semple

The Guyana Prize a literary festival. for Literature made administration.

falls under the purview of Sport Ministry, saw the spotlight. introduction of two new award categories, and Brigadier (ret'd) Mark to develop the skills of Youth Performer.

The festival includes written word." its grand return at the a number of activities National Cultural Centre, for the benefit of the highlighted the sizeable prize. after being discontinued creative arts industry, investment that the in 2016 by the previous The new categories, government is making in introduced non-fiction, and youth, the industry, including category, The event, which bring the unique stories through the creation Mohamed won first place First Book of Fiction for the Best Book of Poetry, of the Culture, Youth and young and old into the industries grant and a and Short Story (Male). and Other Stories."

Prime has expanded to include Phillips said that the creative Guyanese.

restored government the awards after a six- the year hiatus, because of commitment written word.

felt that this was Eddie unacceptable, upon return to office, Carters and Edgar sought to revive Mittelholzers this programme, return to local writers opportunity to hone their **craft** Clem and expand their book, horizons through the And The Spirit Of Port Payne received the award for his piece, "Down

He explained that government's is the importance of the "ensure that the future Letitia "Our government Wrights, the future Grants. and the future Martin prestigious Guyana are able to and realise their potential our right here on home the soil."

Notably, Professor em Seecharan's "Joe Solomon The Prime Minister the inaugural non-fiction

the In youth Guyanese, both of the cultural/creative for both Poetry (Male) her book, "Bone Soup while Rae Wiltshire soon-to-be-accredited In both categories, he Minister, Institute of Creative Arts was named the Best Puddicombe received Best Drama Piece.

Meanwhile, Kimora Literature



Culture, Youth and Sport Minister, Charles Ramson Jr presented the youth award for the Guyana Prize for Literature poetry (female) to Zalena Khan

Mourant" was awarded for Best Short Story Independence (Female) and Zelena Boulevard," which won Khan received the award first place in Fiction.

Samir the award for the Best Prize for Literature for

the Guyana Prize for

newly for Best Poem (Female). Berkeley Wendell Semple Elly Niland received received the Guyana received the Guyana K e n n e t h Prize for Literature for

# MINERS, FORESTRY STAKEHOLDERS BENEFIT FROM MAP READING, NAVIGATION COURSE

Guyana Global The Mining School and System (GPS), and Training Centre Inc. navigation with a GPS (GMSTCI) has launched receiver, among others. a comprehensive map and knowledge necessary conceptualised effectively.

With a focus on 2012. safety, efficiency, and cost Women's Christian sector, the interpretation of navigation. topographic maps,

Positioning

Senior Training reading and navigation Instructor at GMTCI, short course to equip Tracy Lall, explained miners with the skills that the course was by to navigate difficult previous administrators terrain, and read maps of the centre, following a study conducted around

The study, which savings, the programme aimed to identify pressing held at the Young needs in the mining highlighted (YWCA) several skill gaps in the building on Croal Street sector, including in the will edify miners on areas of map reading and

"The GPS is an



Over 150 persons have applied for the map reading and navigation short course

instrument

that they use every day, miners, specifically, readily, for their tasks have a direct need - from locating their for, which is why we claims to marking focus on the use of the coordinates of the GPS because that their dredges, their is an instrument that camps, even to the

with their navigation, explained. which is a very handy explained.

and prospective miners, earth. but multiple persons in

**like the same thing.** coordinates to **So, this is why we rely** their navigation. on the GPS, to help us move from one

landing, to help them point to another," Lall

She noted that map and useful tool for reading is important in that purpose," Lall the natural resources sector, as it displays a Not only is the two-dimensional (2D) course useful for miners representation of the

As such, the course the forestry sector also aims to educate all its benefit from the course. participants on the **"When you are** types of coordinates a **out there on the job**, map can display, how to there are not a lot of record coordinates from landmarks. It is so presented maps, how dense, so compact, to put them into a GPS. and it can all look and how to use those

#### **FOUR SAFARI TOURS LAUNCHED FOR 2023** TO SHOWCASE GUYANA'S NATURAL BEAUTY

The Authority 23 to 25. Tourism (GTA) partnered with Rainforest Guyana Inc., and Guyana Oil product in collaboration Company (GuyOil) to with the private sector. launch four safari tours this year.

The 2023 safaris Baksh Moraikobai, the to are Orinduik, Mahdia to commitment Pakaraima throughout the year with and rich cultures. the Moraikobai safari

Guyana taking place on February

Guyana has been Tours, focusing on building out Beverage its adventure tourism

the At launch, government's Frank Singh Bartica and the South support to Rainforest Rainforest



GTA's Director Kamrul Left to Right)-GBI Marketing Manager, Fharis Hamid, GUYOIL General Manager, reaffirmed Molly Hassan, GTA Director Kamrul Baksh and Rainforest Tours Managing Director.

and **will** 

support course, the safari Rainforest Tours and to Tours, forms part of the others. They have outdoors and Mountain. Tours as it continues and our partners important adventure basically shown in fun All of the safaris will be to display Guyana's in ensuring the tourism product a nutshell much of while crossing rugged held at various periods incredible biodiversity promotion and the that we are trying to the tourism product mountain terrain, rivers mileage is given to build out with the as it importantly or waterfalls. "We, of course, the safaris and of private sector like passes through all

of the geographical regions, indigenous communitiesandvery scenic landscapes throughout length and breadth of Guyana," the director said.

Each safari trip provides an ideal opportunity for persons experience the have and adventure

#### 53rd REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY ...



Public Work Minister, Bishop Juan Edghill addressing the ceremony

to be in the country but certainly, are not where we used to be. We have significant made strides; undeniable progress is evident everywhere. Our people are much happier than they used to be. **Opportunities** abound. Life, while yet perfect

with the 'One Guyana' told Region initiative.

"The **Guyana initiative is** will inevitably follow. a commitment from the government that delivered the feature requires action from address at the flag everysingleGuyanese raising ceremony at citizen. Because of the Bartica Community this, as a country, Centre Ground recalled, we are more united "We have had real today than we are ups and downs as a divided. This era of country over the 53 development we are years. We have had about to undertake good times, we have requires all facets of had bad times, ugly our country working times, violent times.'



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall S.C addressing the gathering

Seven residents that once there **One** is unity, development

The minister, who

However, Minister Teixeira expressed, "I believe this time, 2023, is our time. It is our time to shine."

The minister urged residents to focus on the opportunities that are becoming available, as she called on them to disregard those who try to create division in the region.

"We concentrated a lot on what our ethnicity is, and sometimes we forget about what makes



Housing and Water Minister, Collin Croal

the flag raising event held in the Mahdia Township.

"Reassess position you want Regional Development the government wants your region advance towards, to Dharamlall. reassess also where you would like the **future** of Region F Eight to be," Minister and Sukhai highlighted.

"We and we are the ones that "our diversity is towards that will stand the our strength." transition and our country is also going different



Members of the joint services who took part in the flag raising ceremony

participated which was attended by miracles can happen. the Local Government and **to** Minister

Region 10

Foreign **Affairs** 

He noted country ... and our every single person has urged at the flag raising

of the Guyana Police perspectives, and points Force in Region Nine of view, and when all in the of these different views flag raising ceremony are shared together,

> He said this is why Nigel everyone onboard, and contributing towards Guyana's transformation.

"Instead of International **breaking down**, let's Cooperation Minister build up. Let's unite are the Hugh Todd reminded and let's organise, strength, the roots residents of Region 10 and let us work Guyana the place we that want to remain," he knowledge, ceremony held in Linden.



Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha

has significantly improved," minister affirmed.

**Region Six** 

The Region Six ceremony was held at Zulfikar Mustapha as store for Region Six. the keynote speaker. urged Guyanese to work together for the betterment of the Affairs and Governance Affairs Minister, Pauline

our parliamentary the fact that we live the system, opposition parties, and we can all make civil society and the it a better place for diaspora," Mustapha said.

Minister Mustapha the State House in New also drew attention to Amsterdam and featured the developmental works Region Minister, the government has in urged to reassess their

**Region Seven** 

Parliamentary country.



Amerindian Affairs Minister, Pauline Sukhai delivering remarks

together in harmony; us One Guyana...it is the in this beautiful land, minister everyone in it."

**Region Eight** 

Residents Eight were involvement in the development that is taking place in the Amerindian in keeping Minister, Gail Teixeira Sukhai made the call at

to be different than what we know it to be, and it will require all of our people to join in this change, to join in supporting the modernisation of our country, and to be the resource that will set our stage in all of what is occurring," the minister added.

**Region Nine** 

the As part of celebrations across Guyana, members



Health Minister, Dr Frank Anthony



Minister with the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar with members of the Regional Division, Region



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira



Local Government and Regional Development Minister, Nigel Dharamlall at the Region Nine flag raising ceremony



Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, Hugh Todd at the ceremony



#### CHILDREN'S MASH COSTUME PARADE A VIBRANT DISPLAY OF GUYANA'S RICH HERITAGE

Thirty-eight groups of young Guyanese dressed in colourful costumes made their way through the streets of the capital city, as they took part in the Children's Mashramani Costume Parade. Celebrating under the theme 'Mixing and Mashing as One Guyana', the parade route was lined with wellwishers, who cheered, danced, and waved as the groups made their way through the streets.

The muchanticipated event
started off from
Parade Ground,
heading East on
Middle Street, North
onto Camp Street,
then made its way to
the Everest Sports
Club Ground for the
finale.

Leading the celebration was Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, who applauded the event. "We are back and we are back strong! The children have been looking forward to this event and we have a lot of creativity out here and good, clean fun."

In a rainbow of colours and in diversity, the students represented every education district with confidence, they eagerly competed for the top spots. The array of costumes depicted strong themes around focused nation building.

































# VISHAL SHARMA Personal Injury Lawyer

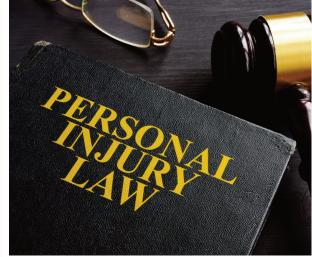
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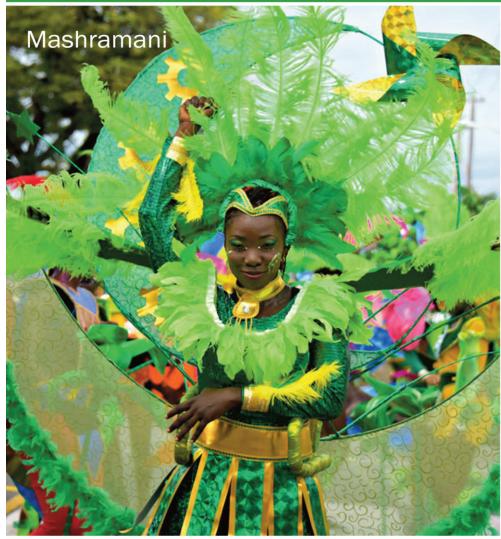


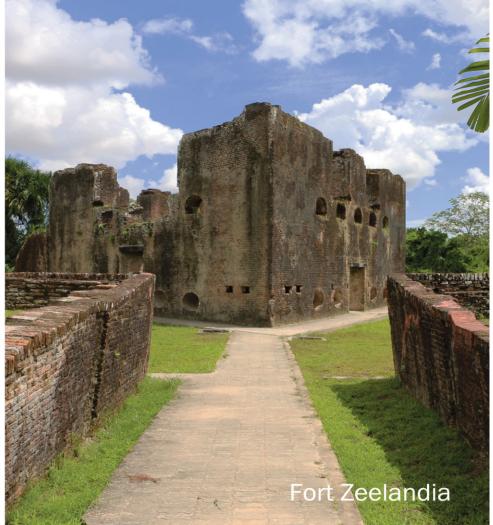












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