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Fighting for One Guyana



GUYANA'S representatives, on Tuesday, urgently appealed for provisional measures to address the "imminent threat" occasioned by Venezuela's upcoming referendum and called for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to act now to prevent "incalculable and irreparable injury" to Guyana's rights.

Renowned international legal counsel Paul Reichler, during his submissions at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, explained that the referendum, as outlined by President Nicolas Maduro, aims to solidify Venezuela's rejection of the 1899 Arbitral Award.

Additionally, it also challenges the ICJ's jurisdiction in a move that could have profound consequences on the ongoing territorial controversy between the two nations.

As such, Reichler stressed the urgency of seeking the court's assistance to prevent "incalculable and irreparable injury" to Guyana's rights, particularly concerning the Essequibo region.

The territory, awarded to British Guiana in the 1899 Arbitral Award, is now at the centre of a revived territorial claim by Venezuela.

According to Reichler, the impending referendum is not merely a gauge of public opinion but a strategic move by Spanish-speaking nation to gain popular

support for decisions that have already been made at the highest levels of its government.

"Venezuela has made clear that the purpose of this referendum is not merely to assess public opinion. It is to obtain popular support for decisions that the government has already made and a licence to act on those decisions," he said.

Above is a photo of Guyana's team at Tuesday's hearing at the International Court of Justice, Hague, the Netherlands. The hearing continued Wednesday when the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela responded. However, the arguments went well past our press deadline. *Read more next week*

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GUYANA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY DENOUNCES VENEZUELA'S REFERENDUM ON ESSEQUIBO REGION

In a unanimous vote, Guyana's National Assembly has passed a motion denouncing Venezuela's plan to hold a referendum on the Essequibo region, which Venezuela claims as its own. The motion reaffirms Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and calls for a peaceful resolution to the long-running border dispute between the two countries.

The motion was presented by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, who emphasised Guyana's commitment to international law and its adherence to the 1899 Arbitral Award, which settled the boundary between British Guiana (now Guyana) and Venezuela.

Minister Todd also stressed that Guyana will not be intimidated by Venezuela's threats, and that the country is confident that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will rule in



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd presented the motion

Guyana's favour. "We are sure of the fact that the International Court of Justice will prevail and the world will stand with Guyana and the



Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton and several other opposition MPs also spoke in support of the motion

people of Guyana... We live in a world where laws and rules must be respected by every nation.

... We will not be afraid. We stand on principles; we stand on the right side of the law. We are committed to this process; we want to see it through to its logical conclusion. That is why we are here, united as a people. This assembly and the people of Guyana agree that the 1899 Arbitral Award is final, perfect, and complete. That is our sovereignty," the minister told the National Assembly.

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira all echoed these statements. Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton and several other opposition MPs also spoke in support of the motion.

"Let the ICJ rule. Let the ICJ be the judge and deliver a final judgment on this controversy. Essequibo belongs to Guyana and

Guyanese only. Together, we will secure the triumph of justice and preserve our nation's sovereignty," Prime Minister Phillips stated.



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips

Minister Sukhai highlighted the impact that Venezuela's claims have had on Guyana's indigenous people, while the Attorney General pointed out that Venezuela has for years recognised and affirmed



Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai

the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award.

"We are now a nation on guard more than ever. The threat that has been unleashed on our population should not be taken lightly... If there was ever a time for unity in our country, it is now," Minister Sukhai said.



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

The AG pointed out that "For more than six decades after the 1899 Award was delivered, Venezuela treated the Award as a final settlement of the matter: it consistently recognised, affirmed, and relied upon the 1899 Award as "a full, perfect, and final" determination of the boundary with

British Guiana," he noted.

The AG highlighted that Venezuela was given ample opportunity to justify and substantiate its claims that the 1899 Arbitral Award, and subsequently the 1966 Geneva Agreement were null and void, but failed to provide any documentary evidence.

According to the AG, Venezuela's planned referendum will compromise the ongoing ICJ proceedings. He called on the ICJ to intervene to protect the integrity of its process. "Every Court has a duty to protect the integrity of its processes and proceedings against it. In short, it has an inherent and unmitigated duty to prevent its process from abuse," he said.



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira

Minister Teixeira urged Guyanese leaders to remain united in defending Guyana's claim to Essequibo. She also called for unity among Guyanese people, particularly in light of the influx of migrants from Venezuela. "Today is the day, today is the day for us as politicians, as Guyanese, to stand united," the governance

minister pointed out.

Referencing the migrants coming to Guyana, some of whom have Guyanese heritage, the minister urged Guyanese to treat these people with respect and dignity as they are still human beings.

"We don't need to escalate fear. We need to assure people that...you are safe, [and] we will not encourage xenophobia in our nation. We have never done that before, and we should never do it," she encouraged.

The motion passed by the National Assembly reaffirms Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity, recognises the 1899 Arbitral Award, and denounces Venezuela's planned referendum. It also supports the government's efforts to seek a peaceful and lawful resolution to the controversy.

The motion calls for deepened engagement among all national stakeholders on issues relating to Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also encourages Guyanese people to remain engaged in developments related to the controversy and expresses appreciation to all stakeholders and international partners that have supported Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Extraordinary Sitting of the National Assembly was attended by parliamentarians, students, members of the diplomatic corps, and other stakeholders.



The Extraordinary Sitting of the National Assembly was attended by parliamentarians, students, members of the diplomatic corps, and other stakeholders



Heads of the joint service at the Extraordinary Sitting of the National Assembly

ICJ TO HEAR GUYANA'S REQUEST TO BLOCK VENEZUELA'S REFERENDUM ON ESSEQUIBO REGION ON NOVEMBER 14

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has scheduled public hearings for November 14, 2023, in the ongoing border dispute between Guyana and Venezuela. These hearings will specifically address Guyana's request for a court order to prevent Venezuela from proceeding with a referendum scheduled for December 3, 2023, on the Essequibo region, which Venezuela claims as its territory.

The public hearings will be held at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, the seat of the ICJ. Guyana will present its oral arguments from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, while Venezuela's arguments will be heard from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

On October 30, 2023, Guyana filed a Request for Provisional Measures with the ICJ, seeking a court order to prevent Venezuela from taking any action to seize, acquire, encroach upon, or assert sovereignty over the Essequibo Region or any other part of Guyana's national territory, pending the final decision of the court on the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award.



The International Court of Justice is the highest court for disputes between states

Guyana's request states that **"on October 23, 2023, Venezuela, through its National Electoral Council, published a list of five questions that it plans to put before the Venezuelan people in a... 'Consultative Referendum' on 3rd December, 2023."**

This referendum seeks to obtain support for Venezuela's decision to withdraw from the ongoing judicial proceedings, and instead formally annex and integrate the Essequibo Region into Venezuela.

Several international organisations have condemned Venezuela's actions and reaffirmed their support for Guyana's territorial integrity.

Guyana's application to the ICJ in 2018 was a significant step towards addressing the longstanding border controversy between Guyana and Venezuela. The application sought to have the ICJ confirm the legal validity and binding effect of the 1899 Arbitral Award regarding the boundary between the then British Guiana and the United States of Venezuela. It also attested that the 1899 award was a "full, perfect, and final settlement" of all questions related to determining the boundary lines between the colony of British Guiana and Venezuela.

The controversy is rooted in historical conflicts and has been a subject of contention for many years. The ICJ's involvement represents an attempt to resolve the matter through international legal means.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONDEMNS VENEZUELA'S REFERENDUM ON ESSEQUIBO REGION

The Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland, has expressed deep concern over Venezuela's planned referendum on the Essequibo region, which is part of Guyana's sovereign territory. The referendum is scheduled for December 3, 2023.

Scotland in a press release stated that the Commonwealth stands with Guyana and CARICOM in expressing concern over the referendum's implications. She emphasised the Commonwealth's commitment to the rule of law and its **"unwavering support for Guyana's territorial integrity and the unobstructed exercise of its rights to develop the entirety of its territory for the benefit of its people"**.

The statement noted that the five questions approved by Venezuela's National Electoral Council for the referendum are seen as undermining Guyana's sovereignty and violating international law. Question five proposes the creation of a Venezuelan state in Guyana's Essequibo region and an accelerated plan to grant Venezuelan citizenship and identity

cards to Guyanese residents.

The statement further noted that the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana, which met on September 17, 2023, reaffirmed its support for the judicial process underway at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Phillips addressed the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council on November 1, 2023, to provide an update on the controversy with Venezuela. Phillips highlighted the threat Venezuela's claim to the Essequibo Region poses to Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro reaffirmed the organisation's support for a peaceful settlement of the controversy in accordance with international law. He also emphasised the OAS' commitment to peace and its opposition to any threat to **"regional peace and security."**

Several CARICOM members, as well as the United States and Brazil, reiterated their unwavering support for Guyana and for a



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC

peaceful resolution of the controversy based on international law.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, also addressed the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly in Luanda, Angola. He urged the IPU to condemn Venezuela's actions and demand that Venezuela respect the ICJ process.

AG Nandlall emphasised the urgency of the situation, stating, **"Time is of the essence."**

Several IPU delegates expressed their support for and solidarity with Guyana regarding its border controversy with Venezuela.

gratitude to Guyana and Speaker Nadir for their assistance and guidance in their application for membership to this prestigious body.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, established in 1889, is now an organisation of 180 parliaments.

Guyana was represented at this IPU Assembly by Speaker Nadir, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall S.C, and the Opposition Member of Parliament Dawn Hastings-Williams, who are members of the General Council of the IPU. The Clerk, Sherlock Isaacs and International Affairs Coordinator Carleta Charles also accompanied the delegation.



Guyana representatives at the IPU Assembly

institutions, Nadir said that for countries like Guyana, this theme was particularly relevant due to emerging hot spots, including the ongoing threat from Venezuela.

The Speaker has invited both the IPU president Tulia Ackson, whom the Guyana delegation supported for the Presidency of the IPU, and Isunza to make

a priority visit to Guyana. Guyana and Suriname have been actively representing Caricom and the Caribbean at the IPU over the past few years. This year, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was accepted as a member. Leader of the Bahamian Delegation Pia Glover-Rolle, Minister of Labour and the Public Service, expressed her

SPEAKER NADIR ELECTED AS GRULAC'S VICE CHAIR - AT 147TH IPU ASSEMBLY

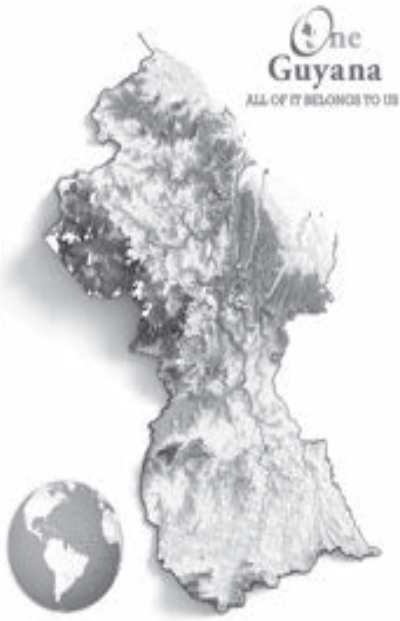
At the 147th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held in Luanda, Angola, Secretary General Martin Chungong reported that Venezuela remained suspended from the institution due to ongoing questions concerning the legitimacy and recognition of the two

competing Parliaments in Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the Guyanese National Assembly Manzor Nadir was elected as the Vice Chairman of the GRULAC, the Geo-Political Group of the IPU comprising 26 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He

will serve alongside the elected Chairman, Deputy of the Mexican Congress, Sofia Carvajal Isunza.

Speaker Nadir was the opening contributor to the general debate of the 180-member IPU. Under the theme of Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong



PRESIDENT ALI ANNOUNCES MAJOR SALARY INCREASES FOR TEACHERS AND COST OF LIVING RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS, PENSIONERS, AND FARMERS



President Ali following the engagement with teachers from across the country as well as representative of GTU and other unions, a few weeks ago.

In an address to the nation, President Irfaan Ali announced a series of significant salary increases and cost of living relief measures for public servants, teachers, pensioners, and farmers.

Salary adjustments, duty-free concession, other benefits for teachers

For teachers, President Ali announced that all graduate teachers would be moved to the maximum of the scale applicable to the post they currently occupy, effective from December 1, 2023. Additionally, teachers would receive an education allowance of \$10,000 per month for holders of a Bachelor's Degree, \$20,000 per month for a Master's Degree, and \$30,000 per month for a Doctorate Degree. The remote areas incentive (RAI) would also be increased to \$20,000 per month for teachers working in hinterland areas. These salary increases and allowances represent an overall increase of between 10 and 17 percent on the current minimum salary paid to teachers.

The president noted, "These benefits will not only increase the disposable income of teachers immediately, but would also impact significantly on the pension and gratuity payments, teachers will be entitled to on their eventual retirement. This is the point we need to understand, not the immediate benefit, but this also will bring long-term

benefits to teachers," President Ali said.

Further, teachers with Senior Master/Mistress appointments and within 3 years of retirement are now entitled to a duty-free concession on motor cars up to 1500cc. This intervention is expected to cost \$150 million annually. This additional benefit will be granted to teachers three years before retirement, in line with the law.

\$25,000 one-off bonus for public servants, disciplined services, pensioners

For public servants, President Ali announced a one-off bonus of \$25,000 payable in December 2023. This bonus will benefit over 67,000 public servants,

and National Insurance Scheme (NIS).

Old age pensioners will also receive a one-off bonus of \$25,000 in December 2023, and differently abled persons receiving disability benefits will receive a one-off bonus of \$35,000 in December 2023. These one-off bonus payments will benefit almost 160,000 people.

Support for farmers and CIIP workers

In addition, the government will allocate \$850 million for the purchase of fertiliser for distribution to farmers. This support is expected to benefit 287,000 acres of cultivation and 35,000 farmers.



Shelly Lall, Assistant Mistress at Comenius Primary School with her students

including police officers, prison officers, soldiers, nurses, and doctors, as well as employees of public enterprises such as Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO), Guyana Power and Light (GPL),

Finally, under the Community Infrastructure Improvement Project (CIIP), the monthly earnings of community enhancement workers will be increased to \$40,000, effective

December 1, 2023. This will benefit over 2000 workers.

President Ali said that these interventions represent a further instalment of his government's unwavering commitment to improve the working conditions of public sector employees, support the vulnerable segment of the population, and assist farmers. He also said that he would be making an announcement shortly on an across-the-board salary increase for public servants, teachers, and members of the disciplined services.

The government's salary increases and cost of living relief measures are expected to inject over \$7 billion in additional disposable income into the economy.

This is the second phase of salary adjustment under President Ali's leadership. The first phase of salary adjustments, which took effect in January of this year, benefited over 5,000 healthcare workers and almost 9,000 members of the Disciplined Services, resulting in an additional \$3 billion in disposable income in the hands of these workers each year.

TEACHERS REACT TO PRESIDENT ALI'S SALARY AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

Teachers across Guyana have expressed their excitement and gratitude in response to President Ali's announcement of salary

FOR TEACHERS:

- All graduate teachers will be moved to the maximum of the scale applicable to their post.
- Teachers will receive an education allowance of \$10,000 per month for holders of a Bachelor's Degree, \$20,000 per month for a Master's Degree, and \$30,000 per month for a Doctorate Degree.
- The remote areas incentive (RAI) will be increased to \$20,000 per month.
- All teachers who hold a substantive appointment as a Senior Master/Mistress or above and are within three years of retirement will be entitled to a duty-free concession for a motor car up to 1500cc.

FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS, DISCIPLINED SERVICES, AND SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES:

- A one-off bonus of \$25,000 will be paid in December 2023.
- For old age pensioners:
- A one-off bonus of \$25,000 will be paid in December 2023.

FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS:

- A one-off bonus of \$35,000 will be paid in December 2023.

FOR FARMERS:

- \$850 million will be allocated for the purchase of fertiliser for distribution to farmers.
- For community enhancement workers:
- Monthly earnings will be increased to \$40,000, effective December 1, 2023.

increases and other adjustments for teachers.

Michelle Booker, Graduate Headteacher of Comenius Primary School, said that she is "super excited" about the announcement. She noted that the administration has begun to fulfill their mandate, and that the salary increases will benefit her family and allow them to have a better standard of living. "Indeed, it is going to benefit my family because more funds will allow one to have better standard of living, you're going to improve your economic status."

Glenda Boucher, Headmistress of F.E. Pollard Primary School, said that any amount of increase will benefit teachers and their families. She added, "because a little bit more is coming into your pockets, and it's a little bit more for your family."

Marc Kulli, a teacher at St. Pius Primary School, said that he is grateful for any amount of money, and that

the salary increase will help him and his family to grow and develop. "Everybody knows money is very important and when it comes to money matters, any given amount, you should be grateful."

Janice Torrington, a teacher at F.E. Pollard Primary School, said that she is going to use the salary increase to buy things for the season, "so it'll help us to have a better meal on the table on Christmas morning."

Giesel Gittens, a teacher at St. Pius Primary School, said that a little or a lot of money goes a long way. She is grateful for the salary increase, especially as a single parent.

Shelly Lall, Assistant Mistress at Comenius Primary School, said that the salary increase is beneficial for her as a single parent, "and I think for all the other single parents who are teachers right now, they are really going to appreciate this. Our way of life will increase."

ACTIF2023 LAYS FOUNDATION FOR STRENGTHENING TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN AFRICA AND CARIBBEAN



The two days featured dynamic discussions, bilateral engagements, and committed pledges

The AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF2023) concluded its two-day (October 30-31) run in Guyana on a resounding note, with participants hailing the event as a catalyst for transformative developments in international commerce and partnerships.

Attended by close to 1,500 delegates from 33 countries and 30 businesses, ACTIF2023

regional private sector to address maritime transport challenges. His call was resonant, urging proactive engagement to resolve crucial issues inhibiting the movement of goods within the region. **“We are too small to think and act in silos. We have to learn to remove the imaginary barriers between ourselves and act in a consortium, bringing together**

exist within the region. We can’t tiptoe around this anymore,” the head of state stressed.

Discussions at ACTIF2023 also revolved around key financing constraints to AfriCaribbean trade and investment cooperation. Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce Oneidge Walrond advocated for increased international support and private-public partnerships to address these challenges.

Guyana’s commitment to bolstering food security was also evident at the forum, with various initiatives and investments in high-value crop production and agricultural advancements being highlighted. These developments aim to not only meet regional demand but also tap into the global market.

The forum also featured powerful messages from Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, and the AfreximBank President, Benedict Oramah.

provided a platform for government officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders to come together, and explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership. Held at the Marriott Hotel, in Georgetown, the forum sparked various concrete avenues for closer economic ties, with a focus on key sectors such as sustainable tourism, manufacturing, food security, and agriculture.

Among the key developments was President Irfaan Ali emphasising the need for a consortium within the

our collective capital, our collective talent and our collective structure so that we can make use of the largest-scale opportunities that



The forum sparked various concrete avenues for closer economic ties



President Irfaan Ali emphasised the need for a consortium within the regional private sector to address maritime transport challenges



Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce Oneidge Walrond advocated for increased international support and private-public partnerships



The forum afeatured powerful messages from Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley

In line with the regional 25 by 2025 vision, these leaders at ACTIF2023 emphasised the need for strategic investments in agro-processing facilities and collaborations between Guyana, the Caribbean, and Africa. The potential to reduce import bills through robust agro-

processing facilities was also highlighted, paving the way for shared prosperity and economic growth.

ACTIF2023 concluded with a vision for a prosperous future, built on the foundations of partnerships, collaboration, and collective development.

With significant commitments from institutions like the African Export-Import Bank, the forum served as a pivotal platform to forge stronger ties, establish integrated payment systems, and mobilise resources for mutual development.

AFREXIMBANK PROVIDES \$500M LOAN TO SUPPORT GUYANA'S INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Professor Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, at the opening of the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Georgetown, Guyana

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has agreed to provide a \$500 million loan to support Guyana’s transformative infrastructural agenda. This announcement was made by Professor Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, at the opening of the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Georgetown, Guyana.

The loan agreement will be facilitated through a partnership between Afreximbank’s subsidiary, the Fund

for Export Investment Development, and the Access Bank Group in Nigeria. In addition to supporting Guyana’s infrastructure development, the loan will also be used to boost the financial services sector in Guyana and across the Caribbean.

This agreement is part of a broader effort by Afreximbank to provide financial support to African and Caribbean states. Twelve countries in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) now have access to an approved line of credit of some \$1.5 billion

through Afreximbank to facilitate commercial strengthening and industry. According to Professor Oramah, this amount is set to increase to \$3 billion with the membership of all the CARICOM member states.

Afreximbank is committed to forging lasting partnerships for mutual development. One of the bank’s goals is to establish an integrated payment infrastructure for CARICOM. This would allow Guyanese to buy African products and seamlessly pay Guyanese dollars, and vice versa.

SURINAME COMMENDS GUYANA'S LEADERSHIP IN FORGING NEW BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS



Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation, Albert Ramdin

Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation, Albert Ramdin, has lauded President Irfaan Ali for his exceptional leadership in forging new bilateral relationships.

Speaking at the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum, Ramdin said that President Ali has the capacity to end Guyana's historical dependency cycle and create new opportunities for the country. He expressed confidence in the region's collective leadership to break free from past dependencies and build modern relationships

with territories like Southeast Asia, India, and Africa to attract increased investments. Ramdin commended Guyana for its efforts in forming new bonds and partnerships with various countries, fostering bilateral trade and investments. He sees Guyana's hosting of the forum as a crucial step towards real sustainable development.

Guyana has successfully established relationships with China, the United States, Ghana, and other countries, highlighting its commitment to global partnerships. The US has been actively investing in Guyana, supporting

its overall development and encouraging local investment. Ghana has even established a chamber of commerce in Guyana, facilitating mutual access to investments.

President Ali continues to emphasise the importance of building deeper partnerships with these countries to ensure peaceful and economically prosperous bonds between states.

The recognition of Guyana's leadership and international engagement underscores its efforts to break away from historical dependencies and embrace a future of diversified and mutually beneficial relationships.

Ramdin's praise for Guyana's leadership is a testament to the country's progress in recent years. Under President Ali's guidance, Guyana is forging a new path for itself, one that is based on self-reliance, cooperation, and sustainable development.

GUYANA TAKES CENTER STAGE AT 16TH CHINA-LAC BUSINESS SUMMIT

The 16th China-LAC Business Summit, held in Beijing on November 2, 2023, was a significant event that brought together dignitaries and business leaders from China and the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region to foster and deepen economic ties.

Guyana was notably represented at the summit by President Irfaan Ali, who delivered the keynote address alongside the Vice President of China, His Excellency Han Zeng. President Ali's presence was significant, as he was the sole leader from the LAC region invited to speak at this prestigious event.

In his address, President Ali highlighted the burgeoning trade relationship between China and Guyana, emphasising Guyana's role as a vanguard in

fostering trade relations with China. He also spoke about Guyana's commitment to sustainable development and its role in promoting a green economy on the global stage.

Dr Peter Ramsaroop, head of the Guyana Office for Investment, was a lead panelist in a plenary session focused on the green economy. His participation underscored Guyana's commitment to sustainable development, and its role in promoting a green economy on the global stage.

In addition to Dr Ramsaroop, the summit saw the participation of Her Excellency Anyin Choo, Guyana's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China. Their combined presence underscored

Guyana's commitment to strengthening its economic ties with China and leveraging the opportunities that arise from such international collaborations.

Guyana also had a pavilion at the summit, where local products were displayed for export and materials on the investment opportunities in Guyana were showcased.

The 16th China-LAC Business Summit served as a testament to the growing economic partnership between China and the LAC region. With the theme of open innovation and shared development at its core, the summit paved the way for future collaborations, promising a brighter, more interconnected future for all parties involved.

GUYANA HOLDS TECHNICAL CONSULTATION WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AHEAD OF NON-PERMANENT SEAT



Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud



Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy, Rhonda Slusher



Council Senior Advisor, Brian Convoy

Guyana held a technical consultation with UN Security Council members, as it prepares to assume its non-permanent seat on the council on January 1, 2024. The consultation was led by Foreign Secretary and High Representative for UNSC Affairs Robert Persaud.

Persaud emphasised the privilege of serving on the council and Guyana's commitment to international law and security, which are essential to achieving Agenda 2030. He also expressed his anticipation of ongoing dialogue with countries like the US. **"We are properly and adequately preparing for our seat on the council, which we don't only view as a privilege but also one of deep responsibility, a responsibility that we take very seriously as a country but also representing many others who are looking to us for quality guidance and leadership,"** he stated.

Guyana will be promoting its identified priorities on the council, which are aligned with

its national priorities and include climate, food, and energy security, as well as Venezuela's existential threat to the country's sovereignty.

Persaud also stated that the technical consultation would allow Guyana's team to better understand US priorities on the council, and to identify areas for further discussions at an upcoming policy dialogue in Washington.

Deputy Chief of Mission (ag) at the US Embassy, Rhonda Slusher, described Guyana as a crucial bilateral partner and noted that the US looks forward to Guyana's contributions to the security council. She stated that the US recognises Guyana as an emerging leader on the world stage and is in the midst of an economic transformation. Slusher also expressed that the US stands with Guyana in friendship and partnership and looks forward to collaborating on the vital work of advancing international peace and security on the UN Security Council.

Among those present at the consultation were Council Senior Advisor

Brian Convoy, Political-Economic Section Chief Mariyam Cementwala, along with Deputy Political Councillor at the US Mission to New York Trina Saha, and a team from the foreign affairs ministry.

During its tenure on the Council, Guyana will focus on five key areas in keeping with the theme: "Partnering for Peace and Prosperity." These five areas are 1. Climate change, 2. Food insecurity, 3. Conflict, peace-building, and conflict prevention, 4. Women, peace and security, and 5. Children in armed conflict and youth, peace and security

Guyana will also preside over the Security Council in February 2024.

The UNSC is composed of 15 countries, five of which - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States - are permanent members. The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly, which comprises all 193 UN member states and is in line with geographical distribution by region.



The 16th China-LAC Business Summit

GOVT MAKES SIXTH TRANSFER FROM NRF IN 2023



The withdrawals from the NRF are being used to support the government's national development agenda

The government of Guyana has made its sixth transfer, totalling US\$100 million (equivalent to G\$20.8 billion) from the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) to the Consolidated Fund on October 24, 2023.

A release from the Ministry of Finance noted that this transfer brings the accumulated withdrawals to date in 2023 to US\$750 million (equivalent to G\$156 billion), within the total of US\$1.002 billion (equivalent to G\$208.9 billion) approved to be withdrawn in 2023.

The release emphasised that the withdrawals from the NRF are being used to support the government's national development agenda, including investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social safety nets. The government has also emphasised the

importance of using the oil revenues in a transparent and accountable manner, and has taken steps to strengthen the oversight of the NRF.

In 2021, the government amended the NRF Act to require annual Parliamentary approval for withdrawals from the fund. This amendment was designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of Guyana's oil resources.

The government's decision to make regular withdrawals from the NRF is a welcome sign that it is committed to using the oil revenues to benefit the people of Guyana. The government is also taking steps to ensure that the NRF is managed in a sustainable manner, so that future generations of Guyanese can benefit from the country's oil wealth.

GUYANA DEEPENS RELATIONS WITH BARBADOS AND INDIA - NEW DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED



President Irfaan Ali sharing a toast with the Non-Resident High Commissioner of Barbados David Comissiong

President Irfaan Ali received the Letters of Credence from the Non-Resident High Commissioner of Barbados, HE David Comissiong, and Dr Amit Shivkumar Telang, India's new High Commissioner to Guyana, at State House.

During brief remarks, following the accreditations, President Ali said he looks forward to building on the bilateral foundation already established with Barbados and India. He noted that Guyana would continue to work with both countries to strengthen relations in

agriculture, trade and commerce, housing, and other areas.

The new High Commissioners of Barbados and India also committed to playing their part in advancing cooperation between the CARICOM nations and Guyana-India relations respectively.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, and Ambassador Elisabeth Harper were also at the simple ceremony.



President Irfaan Ali accepted the Letters of Credence from Dr Amit Shivkumar Telang, accrediting him as India's new High Commissioner to Guyana.

GUYANA LAUNCHES PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL GAS MONETISATION STRATEGY

The government of Guyana has launched a public consultation on its national gas monetisation strategy. The strategy aims to provide a roadmap for the management and utilisation of Guyana's significant gas resources.

A release from the Ministry of Natural Resources noted that the consultation is open to all stakeholders, including industry players, experts, and the general public. The insights and recommendations gathered during this period will play a crucial role in shaping the nation's energy future.

To access the Guyana Gas Monetisation Strategy and submit



The strategy aims to provide a roadmap for the management and utilisation of Guyana's significant gas resources.

feedback, please visit the Ministry of Natural Resources website at <https://petroleum.gov.gy/>. The deadline for public consultation is November 14, 2023.

Guyana's gas resources have the potential to transform the country's economy and energy sector.

The government is committed to developing these resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

The public consultation is an important opportunity for all stakeholders to provide input on the national gas monetisation strategy.

The insights and recommendations gathered during this period will help to ensure that the strategy is aligned with the needs and priorities of the Guyanese people.

The national gas monetisation strategy is expected to deliver a number of benefits to Guyana, including increased economic growth, job creation, reduced energy costs, improved energy security, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy is also expected to contribute to the development of Guyana's downstream industries, such as petrochemicals and manufacturing.

GUYANA'S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ATTRACTS AFRICAN BUSINESSES



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

Guyana's thriving oil and gas industry is attracting businesses from different African countries. Some of these businesses are already collaborating with local businesses, and some are directly supplying goods and services, training, and capacity building to Guyana's petroleum sector.

This was highlighted by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, during a press conference at

the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF2023) in Georgetown, Guyana.

Dr Singh emphasised that there are numerous opportunities for collaboration in the oil and gas industry, and that African businesses are well-positioned to take advantage of these opportunities. **"A number of your countries have been producing oil for such a long time,"** Dr Singh said. **"These companies are now discovering Guyana. They are hearing that Guyana is the new hotspot in the global oil industry. They are coming to Guyana seeking out opportunities...given that they have this developed capability from years, if not decades of providing goods and services to the oil and gas sector."**

Dr Singh also highlighted the fact that some African businesses are already partnering with Guyanese businesses to capitalise on their experience. Additionally, African businesses are leveraging the advantages that Guyanese

companies enjoy under Guyana's Local Content Legislation. **"They have an inherent advantage in the 40 areas that Guyana's local content laws have designated,"** Dr Singh said.

Dr Singh said that major corporations worldwide participated in Guyana's public international auction for its oil blocks, either on their own or in consortiums. **"Some of the consortiums included African interests, which is one avenue through which they can potentially have direct participation,"** Dr Singh said.

In the future, Guyana will be auctioning more oil blocks for a second round. Dr Singh emphasised that there will be many opportunities for international nations, including those in Africa, and African businesses to take part directly in such auctions as developers engaging in exploration and, possibly, in production and extraction in the oil and gas sector.

KEN SUBRAJ-ZARA TECHNICAL CENTRE TO ENHANCE TECHNICAL EDUCATION



President Irfaan Ali during remarks at the commissioning of the Ken Subraj-Zara Technical Centre at GTI



The state-of-the-art \$220 million Ken Subraj-Zara Technical Centre

The newly inaugurated \$220 million Ken Subraj-Zara Technical Centre at the Government Technical Institute (GTI) is poised to enhance the effectiveness of technical education delivery in Guyana.

The three-storeyed building, which is a product of a public-private partnership between the Ken Subraj Foundation and the Ministry of Education, boasts several amenities, including an administrative block, elevator, lecture halls, multipurpose classrooms, a welfare unit, and an oil and gas laboratory.

The centre is part of the government's goal to deliver technical and vocational skills training throughout the country and to modernise the delivery of Technical and Vocational Education

and Training (TVET) to provide Guyanese with the skills they need to take advantage of available opportunities.

President Irfaan Ali, who spoke at the commissioning ceremony, underscored the importance of public-private partnerships in supporting Guyana's development and praised the Ken Subraj Foundation for its long history of supporting various initiatives. **"What Mr Ken would have contributed to, is not just the building of a building...This building goes far beyond the physical... It is what the structure has the potential to create and transform. It is the value added that will come as a result of the structure. It is that opportunity creation that the building can capitalise through**

what will be done inside of the building and that is where the value proposition goes up," President Ali underlined.

He also urged instructors and administrators at GTI to consider audiences beyond the immediate community, as part of Guyana's mission to contribute to the development of the regional skillset.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education Priya Manickchand underlined that the investment in the new building is timely as it will significantly impact the lives of many students.

GTI's Principal, Dr Renita Crandon-Duncan, also highlighted the importance of the new building in helping GTI to maintain its position as the leading technical institute in Guyana.

SIX NEW TVET CENTRES TO BE OPENED SOON



The centres will be built in Mabaruma, Fellowship, Beterverwagting, Hopetown, Bartica, and St. Ignatius

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand highlighted that six new Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) centres will be opened soon in Regions One, Three, Four, Five, Seven and Nine.

The centres will be built in Mabaruma, Region One, Fellowship in Region Three, Beterverwagting in Region Four, Hopetown in Region Five, Bartica in Region Seven, and St. Ignatius in Region Nine.

Minister Manickchand on a recent episode of the Guyana Dialogue underscored that, **"This will ensure that service is accessible all around. Technical education is getting a lot of attention. We believe that skill is wealth.**

We believe that the country is in a place where the thrust is going to see a need for a large number of skilled persons, where we need them to develop and earn a sound and solid living by utilising the skills that they gained at these facilities."

The government is also investing in the repair and construction of dormitories for students. A number of dormitories are being repaired in accordance with the minimum standards recommended.

In addition, the government is constructing new schools across the country. There are approximately 14 hinterland secondary schools. In three

years, the government has opened six new secondary schools countrywide.

"We are about to build six massive primary schools with the IDB right now...All across the country, you will see schools going up. We are pretty good with primary [schools]. We need some more nursery and secondary schools," the minister stated.

Among the areas to benefit from the construction of the schools are Recht-Door-Zee, Tabatinga, and Tuschen.



GUYANA TOURISM AUTHORITY DIRECTOR LEDS DELEGATION TO REPRESENT GUYANA AT WORLD TOURISM MARKET

The Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), Kamrul Baksh, led a delegation of representatives from the Tourism and Hospitality

Association of Guyana, Wilderness Explorers, Iwokrama River Lodge, Trail Masters Adventure Tours, and Tourism Stakeholders Guyana to

represent Guyana at the World Tourism Market in London, Britain.

The market, which is took place from November 6 to 8, 2023,



Guyana participating in World Travel Market 2023



Guyana participating in World Travel Market 2023

introduces global travel buyers to the biggest destinations and brands in the world every year. It is one of the world's most influential travel and tourism events.

Baksh and the other delegates showcased Guyana's unique tourism offerings and

promoting the country as a destination for eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and sustainable tourism.

The Guyana delegation participated in a variety of activities including networking events, and one-on-one meetings with

potential investors and tour operators. They also be hosting a booth to promote Guyana's tourism offerings.

This year's market attracted over 4,000 delegates from over 180 countries.

\$90M ARTHURVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENS ON WAKENAAM ISLAND



President Irfaan Ali speaking at the commissioning

children and assure them that we are going to build the best possible future for you. We're going to build a future that is prosperous, one in which you will be better off than you are today, one in which to fully accomplish your aspirations."

President Ali also

Construction of a massive water treatment plant project costing more than \$850 million is scheduled to commence next year to provide potable water to households.

By 2025, the government will be spending some \$6 million or more on each resident in Wakenaam



President Irfaan Ali speaking at the commissioning

President Irfaan Ali and Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, officially commissioned the state-of-the-art \$90 million Arthurville Primary School on Wakenaam Island, Region Three, replacing the old, dilapidated building.

The new school, which accommodates 62 students, features six classrooms, an IT room, a kitchen and dining area, a reading area, and a staff room.

President Ali emphasised his government's commitment to providing children with comfortable and modern learning environments. He stated that the new school will give the next generation of children on the island a better chance of success in the future. "I can look into the eyes of these

announced that the school's ground will be rehabilitated to provide a recreational space for the children. He explained that every citizen of Wakenaam has benefited from the government's budget within the last three years.

The government has invested almost \$4.5 million per resident on the island, including funding for healthcare, roads, social infrastructure, children, schools, drainage and irrigation, sea defence, and a new solar farm.

and other communities.

More than 20 teachers' living quarters have been constructed and expanded throughout the country in 2023.

Education Minister Manickchand reiterated the government's commitment to investing in the education sector to enable Guyanese to thrive and compete in the world. She highlighted the school's excellent performance at this year's National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA).



New Arthurville Primary school

SWAN PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION NEARING COMPLETION



The Swan primary school, which was commissioned in November 2022

The extension of the Swan Primary School on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway is nearing completion, and will soon accommodate more pupils.

Toshao of the village, Finton Ragonaught, made the disclosure as the village received a number of solar panel units through the government's Solar Home Systems Project.

Grade Six pupils could not be accommodated at the school, so the Toshao requested an extension from Education Minister Priya Manickchand, who approved it.

Ragonaught told villagers, "I want to assure you that the school is almost completed right now, and we have

enough space for our children in the new term to come. We also have a nursery school that will be built here soon."

The Swan Primary School, the first in the village, was commissioned in November 2022. The school was a significant step in improving access to quality education in small communities. The children had to travel to the neighbouring schools at Kuru Kuru and Yarrowkabra.

With the extension, the Grade Six pupils will have a comfortable space to prepare for the National Grade Six Assessment.

Meanwhile, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Public

Affairs, Kwame McCoy, pointed out that the sale of carbon credits has seen the village benefitting from some \$24 million, testament to the government's unwavering commitment to providing valuable resources for the community's well-being.

Through the new and expanded Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, the government committed to ensuring that 15 per cent of all revenues earned from the sale of Guyana's carbon credits would go to Amerindian communities in both forested and non-forested areas.

McCoy noted, "This is on top of the Presidential grant that you get annually. This \$24 million is outside of the millions spent on the roads, outside of the cost for the extension of the school, and in addition to the cost for the health centre, and you see the investment that we are making in you, the people of Swan."

90 GRADUATE FROM HINTERLAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME



Ninety students graduate through Hinterland Scholarship Programme

Ninety students secondary school Division. The students from Amerindian and hinterland communities under the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs' graduation ceremony have graduated from Hinterland Scholarship held at Umana Yana,

Kingston, Georgetown

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai, encouraged the graduates to seize the unfolding opportunities in Guyana's rapidly transforming landscape. She highlighted additional educational opportunities through programmes like the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarship and the Board of Industrial Training (BIT), providing technical and vocational training.

Minister Sukhai also emphasised the importance of being well-

rounded individuals. She said, "When you are focusing on the young people and you're expecting the academics to kick in, we also must be able to provide that guidance that they should aim to be all rounded, they must be rounded individuals... I believe its sound advice that we have to spend time developing other areas that make ourselves a rounded personality."

Parliamentary Secretary to the minister, Sarah Browne-Shadeek, urged the

students, "Remember where you came from, remember your roots. You are the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals. Make us proud."

Currently, over 700 students from Amerindian and hinterland communities are pursuing secondary education through the scholarship programme, with a total allocation of \$93.3 million in the government's national fiscal plan for 2023.

\$120 MILLION DIAMOND HEALTH CENTRE TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR OVER 40,000 PEOPLE



The staff of the Diamond Health Centre

A new \$120 million health centre was officially commissioned at Diamond, East Bank Demerara. The facility will provide access to primary healthcare services to more than 40,000 people in Diamond and neighbouring areas.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony highlighted that the previous administration had awarded a \$78 million contract to construct the health centre, but it was never completed. Upon assuming office in August 2020, the current government invested an additional \$40 million to ensure the facility could be completed.

Dr Anthony also underscored that the government has made significant investments in the health sector

over the past few years, including \$300 million to upgrade infrastructure in Region Four between 2022 and 2023.

He also provided a detailed overview of several transformative and comprehensive initiatives to further boost the health sector, including the construction of regional hospitals and health centres, better primary and specialised health services, and training programmes for healthcare workers. **"This country is going to be very prosperous. You are already seeing the prosperity, and if we want to enjoy that prosperity, then, we have to live a long and healthy life to enjoy that prosperity,"** Dr Anthony noted.

Meanwhile, Minister

in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud noted that the facility is one of the many commitments that the PPP/C presented in its manifesto to Guyanese.

"This facility has been long overdue... This is one of the commitments that we made when we were campaigning in 2020... There are many facilities like this and many hospitals that are going to be built throughout the length and breadth of Guyana..." Minister Persaud emphasised. He also encouraged community members to maintain the facility and to fully utilise the services being offered.

LAND CLEARING BEGINS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AMSTERDAM HOSPITAL



Land clearing commences for modern hospital at New Amsterdam

Land clearing has commenced at the site for the US\$161 million state-of-the-art New Amsterdam Hospital in Region Six, Guyana. Regional Chairman David Armogan recently provided reporters with an update on the progress of the construction of two new high-end medical facilities in the county.

The New Amsterdam Hospital will be a three-storey facility equipped with modern machines to deliver new and advanced services, including open heart surgery, kidney transplant, and other major operations that are currently not available in the region or country.

The contract for the New Amsterdam Hospital was signed in July between the Ministry of Health and VAMED Engineering, an Austrian-based company.

Foundation works

for the new Number 75 Village Hospital are almost completed. The new facility is expected to replace the Skeldon Hospital and is being constructed by Sinopharm, with an expected completion date of 2025.

also cater to patients with mental illnesses, with new wings to be built to provide a more modern and supportive environment for recovery.

The closure of the National Psychiatric Hospital is expected,



The construction site of the hospital at Number 75 Village

The new hospitals and the new facilities will decrease the need for persons to travel to Georgetown or out of the country to access to quality healthcare. They will

LINDEN HOSPITAL BOOSTED WITH NEW DIGITAL X-RAY MACHINE, AMBULANCE

The Linden Hospital Complex (LHC) in Region 10 has been boosted with a new US\$130,000 digital X-ray machine and an ambulance. The new equipment will improve the quality of healthcare services provided to residents of the region.

The new X-ray machine produces digital images, which can be transmitted to specialised experts for their professional assessments. This will allow for faster and more accurate diagnoses.



The new equipment commissioned at the Linden Hospital Complex

The ambulance will provide transportation for patients who need to be transferred to other medical facilities for further treatment.

President Ali, who commissioned the new equipment, said that the government is committed to delivering quality healthcare to



President Irfaan Ali examining the new equipment

all Guyanese. He noted that the LHC is being upgraded to serve as a main hub for healthcare in Region 10, and that the government is establishing relationships with top doctors in India, Mount Sinai, and Canada to provide expertise and support.

Minister of Health

Dr. Frank Anthony said that the new X-ray machine will allow doctors to view images on screens or smartphones, which will facilitate quicker interpretations. It will also enable remote consultations, allowing X-rays to be sent to Georgetown for expert analysis.

The LHC is also

equipped with a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine and blood gas equipment.

The government has spent over \$100 million on improving healthcare facilities in Region 10 over the past year, and another \$200 million has been earmarked for this year's capital programme.

PRESIDENT ALI LAUDS DIWALI JALSA AS A PLATFORM FOR CULTURAL TOURISM



President Ali has hailed the Diwali Jalsa in Skeldon, Corentyne, Region Six as a significant event that has the potential to become a staple on the national calendar of celebrations.

to those less fortunate around the world. The President added that such events contribute to cultural tourism, showcasing Guyana's

tapestry of traditions and beliefs. He envisions the Diwali Jalsa becoming a major attraction, attracting visitors from across the region and beyond.

The Diwali Jalsa, held under the theme "Unity in Diversity," featured a vibrant cultural programme showcasing traditional dance performances, music, and culinary delights. The event was attended by a large gathering of Hindus and non-Hindus alike, who embraced the spirit of harmony and goodwill.



Speaking at the launch of the Jalsa at the recently commissioned recreational park, in Corentyne, President Ali emphasised the event's role in fostering cultural and religious appreciation, promoting oneness, and spreading peace.



President Ali noted that the Diwali Jalsa, supported by 26 Mandirs from across Corentyne, provides a unique opportunity to experience the essence of the Hindu festival and its rich cultural heritage. He encouraged Guyanese to reflect on the meaning of Diwali, and extend their prayers for peace



CONSTRUCTION OF MARRIOTT COURTYARD HOTEL IN TIMEHRI PROGRESSING



The hotel construction in progress

The construction of the US\$20 million Marriott Courtyard hotel in Timehri is moving forward at a rapid pace and is on schedule for completion next March. The six-storey, 150-room hotel is being built on 2.5 acres of land leased by the government near the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) and the Timehri roundabout.

Cardinal Investments Inc., the company overseeing the project, has employed approximately 100 people during the construction phase, with an additional 200 jobs expected to be created

once the hotel becomes operational.

"Training for staff will be conducted directly by Marriott International," stated Cardinal Investments Inc. "Approximately three months before the hotel opens, local staff will receive training from Marriott International."

The Marriott Courtyard is one of several hotels currently being built in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica). The hotel's proximity to the airport and its modern amenities are expected to make it a popular choice for business travellers and tourists alike.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE FACILITATES LONG-AWAITED MARRIAGES IN REGION ONE



Twenty-five marriages formalise in Region One after outreach by General Register Office

Twenty-five couples in Region One, are now happily married after their unions were formalised by the General Register Office (GRO) during a four-day outreach from September 27 to 30, 2023.

In a press release, the entity stated that it found couples that had been together for more than 25 years without being legally married in the areas of Baramita, mainly Cassie Creek, Aranka, and Warapa. This was due to multiple circumstances, including the absence of basic documentation such as birth certificates or national identification cards, which was a result of language constraints and distance.

The GRO collaborated with community leaders and churches to address these barriers and assist individuals in obtaining the necessary documentation. This

ultimately led to the facilitation of long-awaited marriages, allowing these couples to finally be issued their marriage certificates.

The momentous process resulted in smiles, tears of joy, and a palpable sense of relief among the newlyweds. It reflected a long-awaited culmination of love finally bound by legality, a celebration of commitment.

Additionally, it also brings about a new sense of stability in the communities. Such collaboration can serve as a model for other regions and communities facing similar issues, demonstrating how local authorities and community leaders can work together to support individuals and families in overcoming documentation challenges and ensuring that their unions are solemnised.

The GRO, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, said it stands as a beacon of hope and support, affirming that every individual deserves the right to have their love recognised and their unions validated, regardless of administrative hurdles. The register office further said it is committed to ensuring this vital function is accessible to all Guyanese, and that the process of registering for a marriage license and the issuing of a marriage certificate is simple and in keeping with the laws of Guyana.

Over the past three months, the GRO has facilitated the training of over 60 marriage officers across the regions and provided awareness sessions to organisations and churches within Guyana.



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|------------------------|--------------|
| Type | BLION-EW1500 |
| Load Cap | 3300 Lbs |
| L/Height | 7.5 inch |
| Height (Without Fork) | 258.5 inch |
| Battery Capacity | 20 Ah |
| Overall Battery Weight | 18.5 Lbs |
| Overall Weight | 275 Lbs |



Guyana's Ali joins call for ceasefire in Gaza

JOINING many international leaders, President Dr. Irfaan Ali, on Sunday, called for a cease-fire in the ongoing tragedy in Gaza where thousands of women and children have already been killed.

The Guyanese Head of State, while addressing those attending a wreath-laying ceremony in the vicinity of the Georgetown Cenotaph in commemoration of Remembrance Day, said the time has come for leaders and the rest of the world to honour those who fought to prevent conflicts.

President Ali said everyone should join collectively to call for a cease-fire in the ongoing conflicts across the world, especially those where women and children have been killed and harmed.

"They did not sacrifice so that we may inherit a world in which we have a continuation of wars and conflict and this Remembrance Day the least the world could do is in honour of those who sacrificed ultimately in the two world wars; the least the world can do is to return every corner of this world to a position of peace," President Ali said.

He noted that every country and its citizenry have a duty to maintain and plan towards peace.

"This country the Co-operative Republic of Guyana plans every single day for a peaceful world and contributing towards a peaceful world in honour of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in those two world wars."

"The time has come for a cease-fire. The time has come for children, women and men not to be awakened to their deaths by bombs, but to enjoy a world of peace, joy and prosperity," he lamented.

President Ali had previously be-moaned the division in a global call for a cease-fire.

The Guyanese Head of State, while addressing a regional forum on gender equality and empowerment earlier this month, said it is "unacceptable and heart-wrenching" that women and children are being "slaughtered" in Gaza, "killed" by criminal violence in Haiti, and the war in Ukraine.

At the same time, some leaders remain mute on these matters, he had pointed out.

"Our women and children are being slaughtered. Women and girls are being raped, killed through criminal violence in Haiti. And women and girls suffer in the war in Ukraine. Yet some of the most powerful voices in the world lay silently," he had said.

"I make that point knowing full well that many arrows may be pointed, but knowing full well that I stand on the ground of truth. There cannot be much more hypocrisy in the world." the president further added while zero-ing in on the current crisis in Gaza.

According to several international news agencies, an armed conflict between Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups and Israeli military forces began on October 7, 2023.

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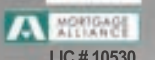
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NIS CONDUCTS TR... IN NEW YORK TO ADDI...

In fulfillment of the commitment made by President, Dr. Irfaan Ali, the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) conducted a three-day outreach in New York, United States of America, from November 4 to 6, 2023.

The outreach, which was held in Brooklyn, Schenectady, and Queens, provided an opportunity for the Guyanese diaspora to interact directly with the NIS to have their issues addressed and questions answered.

The NIS team was able to assist a large number of diaspora members with their claims, and also provided information on the various benefits and services that the NIS offers.

President Irfaan Ali has emphasised the importance of resolving pending cases within the NIS, and the government is committed to ensuring that all NIS matters are dealt with in a timely and professional manner.

The recent outreach in New York is a testament to the government's commitment to serving the Guyanese diaspora, and to ensuring that all NIS contributors receive the benefits that they are entitled to.

NIS TAKES STEPS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND SERVICE DELIVERY

In addition to the outreach in New York, the NIS has also taken a number of other steps to improve its efficiency and service delivery.

President Ali has announced the establishment of a specialised secretariat and a projectised format within the NIS to expedite the resolution process of pending claims.

Senior Finance Minister, Dr. Ashni Singh, has also appealed to the NIS to raise the standards of its operation and to deliver efficient services.

The government is also committed to ensuring the viability of the NIS, and has made a priority of addressing the complaints received from contributors with pending claims.

Over 1,300 persons across the country have benefitted from the NIS's nationwide outreach sessions, and all inherited pending claims have been resolved.

These initiatives demonstrate the government's commitment to improving the NIS and ensuring that all contributors receive the benefits that they are entitled to.

Brooklyn, New York, at the St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church



Queens, New York at the...



FREE-DAY OUTREACH ADDRESS PENDING CASES

Liberty Palace and Banquet Hall



Schenectady, New York, at the Guyanese Community Centre (Hindu temple)



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President Irfaan Ali and other government ministers with some students in Malali

PRESIDENTIAL OUTREACH TO REGION 10 YIELDS MAJOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES

President Ali's recent visit to Region 10 marked a series of major announcements and significant interventions aimed at enhancing the lives of residents in communities across the region.

These include:

- **Young Professional Homes for Medical Personnel:** 150 medical personnel in Region 10 will benefit from young professional homes to be constructed at Plantation York on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway.
- **Turn-Key Homes**



Land clearing has begun at Plantation York

announced plans to procure a barge and tugboat to improve transportation services in Kwakwani.

- **Deep Water Well and Technical Team for Kwakwani:** To

and Water Distribution System for Malali: A new doctor's quarters will be constructed in Malali, and a new water distribution system will be drilled.



President Ali delivered a tractor and 85 solar panels to the community of Muritaro

government will support the development of 10 acres of land for agriculture in Malali through the Agriculture and Innovation Entrepreneurship

security efforts and to bring employment to the community.

- **Feasibility Study for Secondary School in Muritaro:** The government will conduct a feasibility study before the end of the year to determine the possibility of having a secondary school nearby for students of Muritaro and surrounding areas.

- **Deep Water Well and Black Tanks for Coomaka:** To address water challenges in Coomaka, the government will drill a deep water well and provide 100 black tanks for water storage.

- **Land Regularisation and**

Titles in Coomaka: The government will transfer lands to the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) for regularisation and grant residents land titles by the first quarter of 2024.

- **Land Allocation for Sustainable Agriculture in Coomaka:** The government will allocate land for sustainable agriculture development in Coomaka, focusing on women and young people.
- **Ministry of Health Programme, Telemedicine, and Ambulance for Coomaka:** The government will implement a Ministry of Health programme in Coomaka, provide telemedicine services, and donate an ambulance.

- **Rehabilitation of Developed and Undeveloped Roads in Coomaka:** The government will rehabilitate both developed and undeveloped roads in Coomaka.

These announcements and interventions demonstrate the government's commitment to developing Region 10, and improving the lives of its residents.

During the outreach, President Ali and a team of ministers visited several communities in the region and engaged on development issues and concerns. **"The development that is taking place is to bring you long-lasting jobs and to create a sustainable economy in your community,"** the president promised the residents.



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Kwame McCoy addressing resident in Block 22

for Teachers in Silvertown: The government will allocate turn-key homes to five teachers in Silvertown.

- **Water Tanks for 58 Miles:** President Ali pledged to alleviate water challenges faced by residents of 58 Miles during the extended dry season by supplying water tanks. 50 black tanks will be delivered to residents.
- **Barge and Tugboat for Kwakwani:** President Ali

address water issues in Kwakwani, the government will construct a deep water well and dispatch a technical team to assess the local distribution system.

- **New Primary School and Recreational Facilities for Malali:** President Ali announced the construction of a new primary school and upgrading of recreational facilities in Malali.
- **Doctor's Quarters**



Minister Collin Croal interacting with residents at the Silvertown Community Centre

- **Support for 10 Acres of Agricultural Land Development in Mallai:** The

- Programme (AIEP).
- **Quarry Project and Wharf Construction**



Resident at the meeting in Block 22



Part of the meeting in Coomacka



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PRESIDENT ALI UNVEILS TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR ESSEQUIBO



President Irfaan Ali interacting with vendors and their products at the expo

President Ali unveiled several transformational developments through public-private partnerships at the launch of the Essequibo Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual Agro and Trade Expo 2023.

million. This project will provide opportunities for young people to learn and grow, while also contributing to the local economy.

GLAMPING

Another project involves establishing a world-class glamping facility through a public-

further underline the government's commitment to linking investment with opportunity.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Encouraging business owners and potential investors, the President urged more investments in the hospitality sector in Region Two, aligning with the government's vision of building a strong and resilient Guyana.

The Agro and Trade Expo 2023, serving as a platform for engagement and information exchange, offers businesses and investors opportunities to explore the potential in Essequibo County.

ALMOST 2,000 PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED HOSPITALITY TRAINING IN 2023

The government is implementing a number of initiatives to boost service delivery in the tourism sector, including hospitality training and the construction of a new hospitality institute.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Oneidge Walrond announced that almost 2,000 people have received hospitality training in 2023. The minister who was addressing the launch of Tourism Awareness Month 2023, at the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, explained that the training covers a wide range of topics, including mixology, first aid and CPR, tour guiding, and birding.

The government is also implementing a Community Tourism Entrepreneurship programme to train people to become tour guides and operators. More than 230 people have been trained in this programme to date, with a focus on underserved areas such as Region Six.

The government is also constructing a new hospitality institute in Port Mourant, Corentyne to provide high-quality training to meet the demands of the growing tourism sector.

Minister Walrond said that the government



Tourism Awareness Month 2023 theme is "Cultural Tapestry Investing in Our People, Enriching Our Heritage".

is also working with regional tourism bodies to develop a more structured and synergistic approach to tourism at a regional level. She said that the government is already seeing the results of its strategic policy approach and targeted support.

With mega-events such as Cricket Carnival being executed nationwide, visitor arrivals are expected to surpass pre-pandemic levels. Minister Walrond said that the government anticipates that these numbers will be further exceeded by year-end.

"All of this is a vivid illustration of how far we have come as a destination with our tourism product and it perfectly sets up the robust sector

that we are aiming to achieve," Minister Walrond said. **"With our current focus, we move forward with greater confidence in the uniqueness and richness of our tourism offerings. If we as a collective can fully embrace this potential, we are all well on our way to establishing ourselves as a world-leading tourism destination."**

The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, in collaboration with the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), launched Tourism Awareness Month 2023 under the theme: "Cultural Tapestry: Investing in Our People, Enriching Our Heritage".



Residents at the opening of the expo

CALL CENTERS

The construction of call centers valued at some \$2 billion is expected to bring employment opportunities for over 400 Essequibians by the end of the first quarter of 2024. This is a testament to the government's commitment to delivering on its promises and commitments.

private partnership, with 50 per cent ownership by women and youths. This initiative aims to advance the wellness tourism sector in Guyana. Glamping is a form of camping that combines luxury and convenience, and it is a popular choice for tourists seeking a unique and memorable experience.

TOURISM

HYDROPONICS

President Ali also revealed plans for the expansion of the Agriculture Innovative and Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP) in the region, with 100 young people operating a world-class hydroponic facility—an investment totalling over \$200

President Ali also highlighted the rise of Essequibo's tourism industry, with the construction of a state-of-the-art stadium in Anna Regina. Discussions with the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) and the West Indies Cricket Board for hosting tournaments in Essequibo

MORAIKOBAI RECEIVES NEW BOAT TO EXPAND TOURISM ACTIVITIES

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) handed over a boat along with a 25-horsepower engine valued at over \$15 million to the Moraikobai Tourism Committee to expand tourism activities in the Region Five community.

The new boat, which will be used as a river taxi, is expected to make it easier for tourists to visit the community. It will also provide a source of income for the Moraikobai Tourism Group.

Gavin Jacobs, a member of the group, expressed gratitude for the new boat, saying that the lack of a vessel



Members of Moraikobai with officials from the GTA

was one of the issues that was keeping tourists from getting in. "We had lobbied a long time for it and now it has been fulfilled," he said.

Another resident, Garfield John, stressed the future impact that the boat will provide for

the community. He is quite sure that it would make tourism in the village more successful, and more exciting. John is hopeful that with the transportation service now, it would benefit the community when it comes to

financial assistance and development.

Village Toshao, Derrick John, also expressed his gratitude for the new boat, saying that it will now give the Moraikobai Tourism Group something that they can be able to utilise to "not only provide a service, but it will also be able to generate income...it will give clients the comfort of travelling," he said.

Moraikobai is a tourism destination with a rich cultural heritage. One can experience bird watching, cassava processing, and stay at the Ubudi Eco Lodge.

GUYANA SURPASSES 2030 GENDER EQUALITY AGENDA



The Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment commenced at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Kingston Georgetown

President Irfaan Ali announced at the inaugural Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment that Guyana has surpassed the world in promoting gender equality thanks to its strategic policies and initiatives.

He highlighted several success stories, including the increased participation of women in male-dominated industries. **“This came as a result of our strong focus on technical education among women... This came out of a policy matrix that supported and empowered them to believe, decide, and operate in that environment. We have gone far beyond the 2030 agenda in Guyana...By the time the world sets the 2050 agenda, we’ll achieve 2050,”** the president stated.

He also noted that

participants in the One Guyana “Cut Rose” project are women, with women accounting for 35% of new livestock business owners and 47% of new entrants in apiculture practices.

President Ali also announced that the government is investing heavily in a sustainable community housing programme through the establishment of urban eco-lodges that will be owned and operated by 100 women.

He also highlighted the fact that Guyanese women were recently awarded oil blocks offshore Guyana, which demonstrates the level of confidence placed in the system for equal opportunities.

In addition to these specific examples, President Ali also noted that Guyana has enacted a series of legislation to promote gender equality, and that the composition of the government, Neighbourhood

allocated to women.

President Ali commended the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, for leading the system and the ministry’s accomplishments.

The ministerial forum, which was themed “Shared experiences towards developing robust national and regional models for the 2030 Agenda,” was attended by ministers from Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Belize, and was held at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

Minister Dr Vindhya Persaud opened the forum with a compelling call to action, emphasising the need for gender equality to be more than a mere expression. She highlighted the significance of addressing issues such as poverty, employment,



The Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment commenced at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Kingston Georgetown

women are playing a leading role in Guyana’s agriculture and food security sectors, with 60% of females participating in the shade house project through the transformative Agriculture Innovative and Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP). Additionally, 50% of

Democratic Councils (NDCs), and Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs) also have a huge makeup of women. Additionally, 70% of GOAL scholarship recipients are women who had no prior educational opportunities, while 50% of house lots are

and gender-based violence, while noting the importance of the Spotlight Initiative, which aims to combat violence against women.

Resident Coordinator of the United Nations (UN), Yesmin Oruc, emphasised the critical role of gender equality

in development, noting that it is a fundamental human right vital for spurring productivity and economic growth. She expressed the UN’s readiness to support the efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the unfinished business of gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

Similarly, Ambassador Rene Van Nes of the European Union stressed the EU’s commitment to gender equality and empowerment. He said that the EU’s action plan signals an urgent need for significant progress in these areas, while stressing the importance of ensuring that the voices of women and

girls are heard.

Country Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Lorena Solorzano Salazar, emphasized the significance of women’s equal participation in development projects. She said the IDB believes in enhancing women’s skills and capacity, enabling them to access employment opportunities and contribute to the labor force.

Meanwhile, CARICOM’s Secretary-General, Dr. Carla Barnett, called on leaders to pledge to value women and invest in their leadership, mentoring, and entrepreneurship. She said that this will create a pipeline of change-makers who will contribute to shaping policies, driving innovation, and steering societies towards progress.

The three-day



President Irfaan Ali delivering the feature address at the Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment

forum aimed to foster collaboration and share national models and best practices to achieve the 2030 Agenda, focusing on legislative frameworks, financing, gender-responsive strategies, and sustainable partnerships across the public, private, and international sectors.

UN WOMEN, HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRY PARTNER TO HELP VULNERABLE WOMEN



The donation was made on the sidelines of a tour of the Guyana Women’s Learning Institute (GWLI) in Cove and John

UN Women has donated sewing machines and freezers to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in Guyana, through the Spotlight Initiative, to empower women in vulnerable situations.

The donation was made at the Guyana Women’s Learning Institute (GWLI) in Cove and John, on the sidelines of a tour of the facility as part of the recently concluded inaugural Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment.

Human Services and Social Security Minister, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, said the goal of the initiative is to

empower women to become entrepreneurs and achieve financial independence.

One hundred women from Regions Three, Four, Five, and Six have been trained in garment construction and food preparation, and many have already started their businesses.

“This is a big win,” Persaud said. **“We have touched lives and that ripple effect will be felt in their families and now they have the freedom to leave untenable situations, very violent situations because now we have provided the impetus for them to do so.”**

UN Women

Representative, Je’nille Maraj, expressed her appreciation for the collaboration between UN Women and the ministry. **“We are very happy to be supporting the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in women’s empowerment to contribute to sustainable income generation,”** she said.

The partnership exemplifies the commitment to gender equality and empowerment in Guyana, while contributing to the overall economic growth and development of the country.

PRESIDENT ALI ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO TACKLE SOCIAL ISSUES IN 2024



President Irfaan Ali at the launch of the 2023 Annual Salvation Army Kettle

President Irfaan Ali announced a forthcoming special programme aimed at tackling social issues in 2024. The programme will be implemented in collaboration with non-governmental organisations like the Salvation Army and will focus on addressing prevalent social challenges affecting particularly school-aged youth.

President Ali made the announcement during his remarks at the launch of the 2023 Annual Salvation Army Kettle at Umana Yana, Kingston, Georgetown. He expressed deep concern about the current state of schools,

emphasising the need for proactive measures by all stakeholders in society.

The President said that he was dismayed by the disturbing incidents he had seen on social media, stating, **“We now have to proactively deal with what is happening in our schools. I am intensely disturbed by some of what I see on social media. It bothers me we have to nip this in the bud, and there must be consequences for bad behaviour.”**

President Ali insisted that more actions must be taken within schools to tackle these issues, hence the launch of this programme in the new

year. He emphasised, **“More must be done, more has to be done. What I see on social media is not a reflection of who we are. Together we will, together we must.”**

The People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government has consistently prioritised the social welfare of citizens. President Ali’s Men on Mission (MoM) programme is another initiative aimed at addressing social challenges affecting men and youth. This programme equips individuals to navigate complex problems, including violence against women and children.

USAID DONATES SOLAR-POWERED VACCINE REFRIGERATORS TO GUYANA



Ambassador Theriot presented solar refrigerator to Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony joined by USAID-ESC Regional Representative and UNICEF Guyana Deputy Representative

The United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has donated 13 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators to the

Ministry of Health. The state-of-the-art equipment, valued at US\$160,000, will be used in health care centres in remote areas of Guyana to ensure that vaccines are stored

properly and remain effective.

A recent assessment revealed that maintaining a stable cold chain within health facilities in Guyana’s hinterlands is a challenge. Responding

OVER 11,800 SOLAR PANELS DISTRIBUTED TO RURAL, RIVERINE, AND HINTERLAND COMMUNITIES



Over 788 solar panels were recently distributed to households in various communities within the Moruca sub-district, Region One

The government of Guyana is continuing to distribute solar panels to households in rural, riverine, and hinterland regions as part of its Solar Home Systems Project.

Over 788 solar panels were recently distributed to households in various communities within the Moruca sub-district, Region One. The region is expected to receive over 8,500 solar panels at the end of the exercise.

Some 178 solar panels and accessories were also distributed to several villages in the Upper Berbice River.

In addition, 450 households in Swan and Waiakabra along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are also beneficiaries of the government’s Solar Home Systems project.

The project, which is being funded by a US\$7.2 million line of credit from the Government of India, aims to bridge the energy divide between urban and rural communities by providing households with access to affordable, clean, and reliable energy.

The solar panels are being distributed across the country, with a focus on the hinterland, riverine, and rural regions. These are the areas that have traditionally had the least access to electricity, and the government is committed to ensuring

make a big difference in their lives. Many of the residents previously had to rely on candles or kerosene lamps for light, which were expensive and dangerous. The solar panels will provide them with a safe and affordable source of energy for their homes.

The Solar Home



Approximately 450 households in Swan and Waiakabra along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are also beneficiaries of the project

that all Guyanese have access to this essential service. Thus far the government has distributed over 11,800 solar panels to households.

The solar panels are being welcomed by residents of the beneficiary communities, who say that they will

Systems Project is just one of the government’s initiatives to improve the lives of Guyanese in rural and hinterland communities. The government is also investing in infrastructure, healthcare, and education in these areas.

to this need, USAID, in collaboration with UNICEF, procured solar refrigerators that can operate independently of the grid. This will ensure that vaccines are stored at the appropriate temperature, even in remote areas with limited access to electricity.

The donation of these solar-powered refrigerators is a significant step towards improving vaccine coverage and reducing the risk of preventable disease outbreaks in Guyana.

Ambassador Nicole D. Theriot, who presented the refrigerators



Ambassador Theriot, USAID-ESC Regional Representative, Minister Frank Anthony and UNICEF Deputy Representative with a solar refrigerator

to the Ministry of Health, said, **“These solar-powered refrigerators symbolise our shared vision of reaching every corner of Guyana with essential**

healthcare services.” She added, **“Together, we continue to work towards a brighter, healthier future for the people of Guyana.”**

NAMILCO COMMISSIONS NEW MIXING PLANT TO BOOST FOOD SECURITY



President Irfaan Ali touring the multi-million dollar mixing plant

The National Milling Company of Guyana (NAMILCO) has commissioned a new US\$8 million mixing plant at its Agricola, East Bank Demerara (EBD) facility. The plant is expected to improve the company's productivity and contribute to the government's aggressive food security agenda.

NAMILCO Managing Director Bert Sukhai said that the plant took two years to develop, due to challenges caused by the weather and logistics. However, he expressed pride in the company's achievement, noting that NAMILCO is now one of the few, if not the only mill in the Caribbean with a mixing plant.

Sukhai also highlighted that the new plant can be operated remotely through a mobile application, which will reduce the need for personnel. He also expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming gas-to-energy project, which is expected to cut energy costs by 50%.

President Irfaan Ali, who attended the commissioning ceremony, congratulated NAMILCO on its

accomplishment, and urged the company to explore new opportunities in the food and agriculture sector.

Specifically, President Ali encouraged NAMILCO's subsidiary, Seaboard Overseas and Trading Group, to explore reengineering its operations to tap into the US\$30 million feed production industry that the government is developing.

Guyana currently imports US\$23 million worth of corn and soya annually to meet the demand for feed production. The government is working to position Guyana as a prime destination for feed production to the CARICOM market, as part of its efforts to reduce the country's food import bill. **"If Guyana now becomes the prime destination for our production of corn and soya, supplemented with the corn and soya from northern Brazil, then we can have a major feed facility here that then drives up into the CARICOM market ... this will require you to do some reengineering**

of your logistics trade," President Ali expounded.

President Ali also noted that Guyana is working to become a producer of wheat, and that this is another viable industry that NAMILCO and its subsidiary can explore.

US Ambassador to Guyana Nicole Theriot also congratulated NAMILCO on its new venture and praised President Ali's leadership on the issue of food security. **"I must commend His Excellency the President for his outstanding leadership on the issue of food security. Not only is it practical but it's humanitarian-based and that means so much and the rest of the region sees that and the rest of the world sees that,"** the Ambassador stated.

Chairman of the Private Sector Commission Komal Singh and President and Chief Executive Officer of Seaboard Corp Jacob Bresky also shared similar remarks.

GUYANA REMAINS TOP DESTINATION FOR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, PWC OPENS LOCAL OFFICE



The official opening of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Guyana

Guyana's booming oil and gas industry, and its diversification strategy are making it a top destination for investment opportunities, according to Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh.

Speaking at the official opening of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Guyana, Minister Singh highlighted the country's strong economic growth, projected to average over 30% annually over the next seven years.

He attributed this growth to the oil and gas industry, which has attracted major international companies like Baker Hughes and Schlumberger, and to the government's commitment to developing the non-oil sectors. **"As a government, we are**

firmly committed to ensuring that we maintain, that we build a highly competitive non-oil economy because we're entering oil production at a time when everybody who has entered oil production had a finite horizon because their resource was finite."

"A number of those companies have said to us that they anticipate their Guyana operations becoming the hub for their regional operations, given the production trajectory and the anticipated scale of their own operations in the country," Minister Singh added.

Minister Singh also commended PwC for its long-standing presence in Guyana, and its commitment to supporting the country's

development.

PwC, a global professional services firm, officially opened its local office in Guyana, marking a milestone in its long-standing engagement with the Guyanese market.

PwC Guyana Managing Partner Angelique Bart expressed pride in the team's accomplishments, and emphasised the company's dedication to upholding its global standards while serving the Guyanese market.

CEO of PwC Caribbean Frazer Lindsay reiterated PwC's commitment to Guyana and its potential to become a hub for regional operations. With its presence in over 150 countries, PwC is well-positioned to provide Guyanese businesses with the expertise they need to succeed.

you will continue to see more investments in your education, community, infrastructure, and more investments in the various spheres in the country," he said.

The minister underscored that developing a country and a community comes in incremental ways and steps, and that Guyanese will see the country moving forward every day.

He urged the learners to take advantage of all the available opportunities which will enable them to develop their lives, community, and Guyana.

BUXTON PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION CENTRE GETS 14 COMPUTERS

The government has given 14 computers to the Buxton Practical Instruction Centre on the East Coast Demerara, to help learners grow in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The provision of the computers is part of

a commitment made by Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, to enhance the delivery of education at the Centre.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame

McCoy, highlighted that the government's investments and policies in the education sector have resulted in the provision of the best technology, infrastructure, and cash grants, among others.

He said that the government is doing this

because it wants to see the children become the best in whatever endeavour they pursue. **"We take this very seriously and something that we take a joy in doing for our children,"** Minister McCoy said.

He also reminded the students that they are

the future, and that the government is working to provide them with the best opportunities.

Minister McCoy assured that everyone will benefit equitably from the country's resources and initiatives as Guyana continues to advance. **"Overtime,**



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy in handed over the computers

GPHC MAKES HISTORY WITH FIRST CATHETER-DIRECTED THROMBOLYSIS OF PULMONARY EMBOLISM



Interventional Radiologist, Dr. Joel Joseph, successfully performed the first-ever catheter-directed thrombolysis of pulmonary embolism procedure in the country

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has made history by performing the first-ever catheter-directed thrombolysis of pulmonary embolism procedure in Guyana.

A press release from the hospital noted that this life-saving procedure was successfully performed on a 35-year-old patient by Dr. Joel Joseph, GPHC's Interventional Radiologist, in consultation with the hospital's internal medicine team.

Pulmonary embolism is a serious medical condition that can be fatal if not treated promptly. It occurs when a blood clot travels to the lungs and blocks a blood vessel. This can cause chest pain, difficulty breathing, and other symptoms.

Catheter-directed thrombolysis is a minimally invasive procedure that uses a catheter to deliver clot-busting medication directly to the blocked blood vessel. This helps to dissolve the clot and restore blood flow to the lungs.

The successful completion of this procedure is a major milestone for Guyana's healthcare system. It demonstrates GPHC's commitment to providing high-quality care to patients with complex medical conditions. It also means that patients with pulmonary embolism in Guyana now have access to the latest and most effective treatment options.

The release noted that the GPHC congratulated Dr. Joel Joseph and the internal medicine team on this groundbreaking achievement and wished the patient a full and speedy recovery.

GPHC TAKES MAJOR STEP TOWARDS ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE WITH FREE KNEE AND HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERIES

Meanwhile, in a major move to make healthcare more accessible and affordable, GPHC is now offering Knee and Hip Replacement surgeries completely free of cost to patients, including Revision procedures.

Previously, there was a subsidised

cost associated with these procedures, and Revisions were not available within the hospital's services. However, following a proposal from the hospital management, the Board of Directors has approved the removal of all charges for these vital surgeries.

The hospital noted that this decision is a significant step towards achieving GPHC's mission of providing comprehensive healthcare services to the public, regardless of financial constraints.

Knee and hip joint morbidity can have a devastating impact on a person's quality of life, making it difficult to perform everyday activities and lead an active life.

"We are dedicated to prioritising the well-being of our patients and ensuring that they have access to the best possible medical treatments," said Robbie Rambarran, GPHC's CEO. **"This initiative aligns with our mission to serve the public and make healthcare services accessible for everyone."**

Patients seeking Knee and Hip Replacement surgeries, as well as Revision procedures, can now benefit from the expertise of GPHC's skilled medical professionals and facilities without any financial burden. For more information about these services, please contact the GPHC Help Desk at 226-6249/ 227-8210/41/ 227-8245 Ext. 1148.

LOCAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DEVELOP SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR HEARTS PROGRAMME

Health professionals from Guyana's 10 administrative regions gathered at the Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown for a three-day trainer of trainers workshop on the HEARTS Technical Package. The goal of the workshop was to develop an effective surveillance and reporting system for

over 100 health centers are implementing the programme. **"I want the team from the Chronic Disease Unit to work with you to develop that stronger surveillance system, because I would like to see every month the statistics of how this is being**

implemented 117 interventions that have been identified by the health ministry when treating persons living with non-communicable diseases. Additionally, he urged them to acquaint themselves with the new diabetic guidelines. **"We can integrate the two things (HEARTS and diabetes guidelines) and make sure that it is delivered properly to our patients... That's the other thing I want us to make sure that we can focus on and get this done,"** he added.



Health professionals from Guyana's 10 administrative regions

the HEARTS programme, which assists primary healthcare professionals in preventing and detecting cardiovascular diseases and hypertension at an early stage.

In his address to participants, Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony underscored the need for proper surveillance, reporting, and data collection, as

implemented and what is happening with our patients," the minister stated.

He also urged participants and facilitators to come up with a detailed plan to host training sessions in the various regions, based on the outcome of the programme.

Dr. Anthony also reminded healthcare professionals to

The ministry has partnered with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) to facilitate the training sessions. PAHO Advisor of the Health Systems and Services at PAHO, Guyana Country Office, Daniel Albrecht, said the refresher sessions will explore and identify solutions to address challenges in the various regions.

1,000 PEOPLE TO BE RECRUITED FOR NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING



The government's overall goal is to train 5,000 registered nurses

The government will open the application process for the nursing assistant training programme this month. The online course is expected to commence in early January 2024 and will run for one year.

Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony announced the news during the commissioning of the \$120 million Diamond Health Centre. He said that the government is looking to recruit at least 1,000 people into the programme.

To be eligible for the programme, applicants

must have at least three Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) subjects, including Mathematics and English. They will also be required to sign a contract with the government and will receive a stipend of \$16,000 per month.

The initiative is part of the government's efforts to ensure that the health sector is sufficiently staffed to provide healthcare services, as it continues to construct several health centres and regional hospitals nationwide.

Dr. Anthony also noted that persons who are interested in completing the three-year registered nursing programme must meet the eligibility requirements which include five subjects. The government is currently training some 1,200 people in this programme and plans to increase that number to 1,500 next year. The government's overall goal is to train 5,000 registered nurses.

The health minister urged members of the community to spread the word about the nursing assistant training programme and encourage people to apply. He also reminded them that the ministry offers a variety of other courses, including community health workers, biomedical technicians, and pharmacy assistants.



The life-saving procedure was performed on a 35-year-old patient diagnosed with saddled pulmonary embolism

GUYANA STRENGTHENS SECURITY AND REHABILITATION INFRASTRUCTURE WITH CRITICAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Ministry of Home Affairs is investing heavily in critical infrastructure projects to enhance security and rehabilitation across the country. Permanent Secretary Andre Ally recently inspected several of these projects: the Guyana Police Force IT Training Complex in Fort Wellington, Region Five, the Rose Hall Police Station and the New Amsterdam Prison in Region Six, and the Mazaruni Prison

NEW AMSTERDAM PRISON RECONSTRUCTION

In addition to these two projects, the Ministry of Home Affairs



The ongoing reconstruction endeavours at the New Amsterdam Prison

into 10 lots, with construction already underway on Lots 2, 4, and 5. These lots involve the construction of Male and Female Living Quarters, the reconstruction of the Officer's Sports Club, and the construction of the Reception Building.

The remaining lots, which involve the construction of Senior Officers' Living Quarters, the kitchen and a storage bond, the infirmary annex, an overhead storage tank, a treatment plant, reconstruction of solitary and cell blocks, and a training facility for inmates, are in the

reached 75 percent completion at an estimated cost of over \$700 million. Upon its finalisation, this facility will aid in the minimisation of overcrowding while meeting international standards.

• **Extension of 10 living quarters dedicated to the prison officers:** This project, valued at over \$89 million, is currently nearing completion. It aims to significantly improve the residential facilities for the staff, thereby ensuring an optimised working environment.

• **Construction of the Phase II fence:** This project, is also nearly completed. Valued at a cost of over \$66 million, it is a significant step towards fortifying the security infrastructure of the prison, ensuring a safe and controlled environment within the premises.

PS Ally also witnessed firsthand the innovative programmes engaging prisoners in learning practical skills, such as constructing a speedboat. Led by workshop instructor Mr. Benn and an inmate, this vocational training represents a transformative approach towards prisoner rehabilitation.

During the visits, Ally expressed satisfaction with the progress of the projects and emphasised the importance of these developments in strengthening the region's security infrastructure.

MAZARUNI PRISON COMPLEX

Meanwhile, while at the Mazaruni Prison Complex, PS Ally received a comprehensive overview of the facility's ongoing developments and innovative initiatives, including:

• **Mazaruni Prison Phase II:** This pivotal project aimed at enhancing the correctional infrastructure has

is also overseeing the reconstruction of the New Amsterdam Prison. This \$1.7 billion investment will transform the



The IT Training Complex

Complex in Region Seven.

POLICE FORCE IT TRAINING COMPLEX

The IT Training Complex, at over 80 % completion, is a state-of-the-art facility with an allocated budget of over \$80 million. It will serve as a hub for training and technological advancements for the Guyana Police Force, helping to strengthen the technological landscape of Region Five.

ROSE HALL POLICE STATION

The Rose Hall Police Station, nearing completion, and valued at over \$70 million, is a significant upgrade from the previous outpost. It features a variety of facilities designed to enhance law enforcement



The Rose Hall Police Station

prison infrastructure, providing safer and more rehabilitative facilities for both staff and inmates.

The New Amsterdam Prison project is divided

mobilisation phase and are expected to commence construction soon.



The construction of Mazaruni Prison Phase II has reached 75 percent



The Mazaruni Prison Complex

MAHDIA FIRE STATION RECEIVES NEW EQUIPMENT TO BOOST CAPACITY

The Mahdia Fire Station in Region Eight has received new fire prevention equipment to boost its capacity, Officer in Charge Ryan Scott said in a recent interview.

The new equipment includes a cutter, power saw, small and big sledgehammers, and fireman axe. The equipment will be used for breaking into buildings and vehicles in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Scott stated that the fire station is now better equipped to respond swiftly to emergencies, including incidents



Officer in Charge at Mahdia Fire Station, Ryan Scott

Scott also explained that the team is always prepared to respond to any type of fire, and that their response time is based on the severity of



Some of the new equipment

similar to the Mahdia dorm fire. However, he recommended that a well be installed at the fire station to replenish water for firefighting during the dry season.

the fire. "No two fires are the same... What we do is continuous training. So, in the case there is an emergency, we would respond."



The Mahdia Fire Station in Region Eight

PRESIDENT ALI ANNOUNCES DRAINAGE, ROAD WORKS FOR KINGSTON AND ALBERTTOWN



President Irfaan Ali interacting with residents

President Irfaan Ali announced drainage and road works for Kingston and Alberttown, Georgetown, during community engagements. He was accompanied by Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud, and city councillors.

The president stated that the central government would be directly responsible for the works, as the city council was incapable of handling them. "We

can't wait on the city council anymore. It's hopeless, we have to do it directly from the central government. We'll include the councillors from the city council and they will work with the community itself," the president said.

He also announced that a group of residents would be formed to clean all the alleyways and drainage in Kingston, and that road works in the area would be completed before the end of November.

In Alberttown, residents raised concerns about drainage,

street lights, sewage, and police presence. President Ali asked Assistant Commissioner of Police Simon McBean to investigate the issue of Alberttown Police Station ranks not being active in their duties. He also stated that the police would be taken out of the stations and involved in the community, and that outposts would be set up.

Members of the community will work collectively to clean the alleyways and drainage in the area, and work is expected to commence in the next 12 days. Work on the recreational facility is also included.

VICE PRESIDENT CRITICISES FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF GEORGETOWN CITY COUNCIL

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has criticised the financial management of the Georgetown Mayor and City Council (M&CC), saying that it makes it difficult for the central government to work with the M&CC.

Dr. Jagdeo said that the M&CC has not updated its asset register since 2000 and has "large gaps" in completing auditing statements. He also accused councillors of being involved in clandestine or corrupt deals instead of fixing issues faced by residents of the capital city.

"It is difficult for the government to work along with an 'unaccountable' City Council," Dr. Jagdeo said. "The government pays over a subvention to the city, it pays its taxes...but you expect us to hand them money for a road or a canal (when) our experience has been if you hand them money, they will



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

spend it on something else other than a road or the canal?"

Dr. Jagdeo's comments come after PPP/C Councillor Don Singh had told the News Room in August that the M&CC is cash-strapped and needs an urgent injection of finances to run the city for the rest of the year. Singh also highlighted that no financial audit has been done in more than a decade and no budget has been done for this

year. The last M&CC budget, which was in excess of \$2 billion, was approved in 2022.

Despite the issues at the City Council, Dr. Jagdeo said the government is keen on addressing the issues faced by residents and it can do so on its own. He also said that much of the issues already resolved in the city, including fixing roads, drains, and stop lights, were ventures taken on by the government.

FIRST LADY ADVOCATES FOR GREATER INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN MARITIME INDUSTRY



First Lady Arya Ali connected with some Guyanese who have been working and operating in the maritime industry over the years

First Lady Arya Ali was the patron of the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation's (ACMF) Gala and Anchor Awards, which was held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on November 2, 2023. The theme of the event was "Talent in your backyard."

In her speech at

the event, Mrs. Ali advocated for greater inclusion of women in the maritime industry through training and job opportunities. She noted that women represent only 1.2% of the global seafarer workforce, and that this is a missed opportunity for the industry.

Mrs. Ali said that

the current crewing shortages in the global shipping industry make this the ideal time to focus on greater inclusion of women. She also highlighted the fact that the Government of Guyana is committed to supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women through gender-specific



First Lady Arya Ali serve as the patron of the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation's Gala and Anchor Awards

fellowships and other opportunities.

To this end, she mentioned an ongoing collaboration between the Office of the First Lady and the Atlantic Alliance Maritime and Offshore Training Institute (AAMOTI) - a 100% woman-owned Guyanese company - in which 100 women from the hinterland are being provided with scholarships for maritime training.

Mrs. Ali also used the opportunity to urge players in the maritime industry to reassess their individual and collective roles in building an industry that is more resilient, reliable, and inclusive.

The event was attended by a number of officials including

President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International, Michael Bayley; President of the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU), Professor Andrew Spencer; President of ACMF, Dr. Geneive Brown Metzger; and Director-General, Maritime Authority of

Jamaica, Rear Admiral Peter Brady among others.

The annual Anchor Awards of the ACMF honours stalwarts in the cargo and cruise industry for their accomplishments and positive impact on the Caribbean shipping and maritime sector. Funds from the event support scholarships for aspiring Caribbean maritime professionals.

Currently, 42 Guyanese are benefitting from scholarships through the ACMF. The scholarships have been awarded through MATPAL Marine Institute and AAMOTI.



The American Caribbean Maritime Foundation's Gala and Anchor Awards which was held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club, Fort Lauderdale

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CJIA TO SEE 100 WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BY DECEMBER



Director of Air Navigation Services, Rickford Samaroo

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) in Guyana expects to see 100 international scheduled flights per week by December, thanks to growing partnerships and a surge in incoming passengers.

Director of Air Navigation Services (ANS), Rickford Samaroo, stated in a recent interview with this publication that the airport currently has 85 scheduled incoming flights per week, but this is expected to increase to 100 by the end of the year.

Over the past year, Guyana has welcomed direct flights from Canada Jetlines, British Airways, Sky Cana, Qatar Airways, and Ethiopian Airlines. These new flights have helped to increase passenger traffic by 13%, with over 545,000 passengers processed at the airport as of last month.

international landings and 20 offshore flights.

The influx of international arrivals is attributed to Guyana's rapid economic growth and booming tourism industry. The country has been investing heavily in tourism products and experiences, such as eco-lodges, tours, and cultural extravaganzas.



Canada Jetlines operating the Guyana-Canada route

The Eugene F. Correia International Airport also expects to see an increase in international flights, from 45 to 52 per week by the end of the year. The airport has recorded an average of 139 daily landings and take-offs to date, including 12

The increase in international flights will be a boon for Guyana's economy, as it will make it easier for tourists and businesses to travel to and from the country. The new flights will also create jobs and opportunities for Guyanese citizens.

GOVT INVESTS US\$27.5 MILLION TO INCREASE GPL'S GENERATING CAPACITY

The Guyana government has invested US\$27.5 million to increase the Guyana Power and Light Inc.'s (GPL) generating capacity by 28.9 megawatts. This investment is intended to address the frequent power outages and load shedding that have been experienced across the country.

The new generating sets, and six step-up transformers were procured from Apan Energy Service Inc., and are expected to arrive in Guyana on November 22 and November 28, respectively. They will be installed at the "Colombia site" and will increase GPL's reliable operating capacity to 167 megawatts.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, explained during a



Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar

media conference at GPL's office, at Duke Street, Georgetown, that the recent power outages have been caused by a number of factors, including the 7.8-megawatt engine at the Kingston location being taken offline for maintenance. He assured that the maintenance is expected to be completed by November 10.

In addition to the maintenance issue, Indar noted that GPL has also been facing challenges with damaged power lines and sources caused by frequent road accidents.

The government is anticipating that GPL will need to generate an average peak of around 236 megawatts by 2024. Minister Indar said that GPL has already received unsolicited offers from individuals with capacity and proposals to meet this growing demand. These offers are being carefully evaluated.

Chief Executive Officer (ag), Bharat Harjohn, assured citizens that there will be no increase in bill charges as the government continues to implement sustainable solutions to enhance the country's energy source.

AVIATION SECTOR GETS 35 NEW GRADUATES



Guyana strengthens aviation workforce with 35 new graduates

A total of 35 persons graduated from the Civil Aviation Training School, adding to Guyana's skilled aviation workforce.

During the convocation ceremony at the Air Navigation Services Control Tower, Timehri, Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, stressed the importance of air service training in ensuring that Guyana remains efficient in the management of its air navigational operations. He also emphasised the need for

the training school to evolve into an institution capable of educating individuals from across the Caribbean.

Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Egbert Field, charged the graduates to be efficient in their work as they are now considered professionals. He said the training they received has given them the tools and information to make the skies safer.

Principal of the school, Clifford

VonDoimen, expressed the need for more persons to be trained in the aviation industry. He noted that with the advent of the oil industry, aviation is growing tremendously, and Guyana will need trained personnel to support this growth.

The 35 graduates are now expected to be employed at various air services across the regions where they will fully function to ensure safe operations.

ROAD CONTRACTS WORTH BILLIONS SIGNED FOR ECD AND EBD



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, at the simple contract signing in Lusignan

The government has signed contracts worth billions of dollars for road construction on the East Coast and East Bank of Demerara.

On the East Coast, 222 contracts valued at approximately \$7.8 billion were signed, while on the East Bank, 100 contracts worth \$4.1 billion were signed. These projects are part of the government's commitment to improving infrastructure, and making life better for all Guyanese.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar,

urged contractors to adhere to specifications, purchase materials from established vendors, and cooperate with residents to ensure quality work within stipulated deadlines. "We have a lot of contractors who have been in the system for a while and some that are new. I am imploring the new ones to do the right thing so that they may be awarded other contracts when the time comes again,"

Minister Indar stated.

the local community.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, underscored the government's success in surpassing manifesto commitments over its five-year term, noting the unprecedented scale of infrastructural development. "No time in the history of our country has there been this level of infrastructural development," he noted.

The government has also been working



Contract signing between the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and one of the contractor

He also emphasised the importance of constructing high-quality roads that would surpass their expected lifespan for the benefit of

to improve accessibility in other parts of the country, with over 4,000 roads constructed since the administration took office in 2020.

GUYANA LAUNCHES HYDROPONICS PROJECT TO REDUCE FOOD IMPORTS



President Irfaan Ali touring the hydroponics farm

Guyana has launched a hydroponics project in collaboration with private-owned company Victoria Greens, in a bid to reduce its food import bill by 25 per cent by 2025.

Hydroponic farming is a cutting-edge, efficient method that allows vegetables to be grown free from sand, dirt and pesticide residuals, ensuring a clean and safe product.

President Ali accompanied by NAREI's Chief Executive Officer, Jagnarine Singh recently toured the farm at Mon Repos where he was informed about the various operations.

The nursery has a capacity of producing 100,000 crops, and as of now, 25,000 crops are being grown. Soon, the full capacity of 100,000

harvest lettuce, pak choi, basil, kale, rocket, and mustard...We will be harvesting 600 heads of pak choi, and over 650 heads of lettuce. The basil, kale, rocket, and



Produce being processed and packaged at the Victoria Greens Hydroponic Farm

mustard, added together is over 1,000 clusters of those herbs," Azore highlighted.

The fresh herbs and leafy vegetables being grown include lettuce (five types),

of these herbs and vegetables are relatively new to Guyana's soil, Azore explained there is a high demand for these commodities, noting that the farm also

facilitates the processing and packaging of the produce. The crops will be available at the local markets and supermarkets.

Azore explained that the farm attracts high-end hotels because it cultivates foreign crops from seed to maturity, reducing the need for imports and ensuring competitive prices.

Currently, 25,000 of the nursery's 100,000 crops are under cultivation, with the next harvest expected in about two weeks.

Back in December 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the government and the Israeli Company, KARLICO Inc. for the development of the major project.

Although some



A section of the farm

will be achieved.

Crops that are being grown include different varieties of lettuce, pak choi, and 15 high-end herbs that will be supplied to the various restaurants and hotels in Guyana. These include basil, thyme, mustard, and chai among others.

Greenhouse Operator, Aneisha Azore, explained that the primary goal is to supply the CARICOM region with healthy, high-quality food, mainly fresh vegetables.

"We will begin to

THOUSANDS FLOCK FARMERS' MARKET AT BASE CAMP AYANGANNA, PRAISE INITIATIVE

Thousands of people flocked to the farmers' market hosted at Base Camp Ayanganna in Georgetown to snap up agricultural produce and products at unbeatable prices.

services members had passed through the market, and that over 5,000 people had passed through in total. He said that the GDF also wants to promote Guyana in many ways, and that the

Ayanganna, as it was convenient and the prices were reasonable.

Akeem Williams, a representative of the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) Foods, said that the



Farmers' Market at Camp Ayanganna

The initiative was a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Guyana Defence Force (GDF). President Ali, Prime Minister Phillips, Minister of Agriculture Mustapha, GDF Chief of Staff Khan, and other officials were present at the market.

President Ali reiterated the importance of farmers' markets, adding that they create a family-friendly environment. He also noted that the

farmers' market is one way to do this.

Consumers and producers alike praised the initiative. Consumer

initiative bridged a gap between customers and

producers. Consumer Abigail Mentore said that the farmers' market



provided producers with the opportunity to showcase their different products.

Overall, the farmers' market was a success, with both consumers and producers praising the initiative. The market provides a convenient and affordable way for people to purchase fresh agricultural produce and products, and it also supports local farmers and producers.

farmers' market creates a favourable setting for agro-processors to showcase their products, and encourages the purchase of non-traditional agricultural products.

Minister Mustapha said that this is the 14th farmers' market being hosted for the year and expressed his hope that it can be held in all the regions on a monthly basis.

Brigadier Khan disclosed that over 500 GDF and other joint

Linden Moore said that it was good to have the market at Base Camp





Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 54

VREED-EN-HOOP SHOREBASE RECEIVES FIRST COMMERCIAL VESSEL



ONE GUYANA NOW - 2024 CALENDAR



| JANUARY | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| JUNE | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| JULY | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| AUGUST | | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| NOVEMBER | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| DECEMBER | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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VEGETABLE & FRUIT

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GROCERY

Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts, Del Monte Fruit Juice, Foojoy Instant Honey Ginger Drink Series, Nupak Moong Beans, Mega Sardines Series, Aurora Beef/Chicken Poulet, Swan Delight Vermicelli, Vietn Choice Rice, Golden Swallow Rice.

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Broccoli, Green Onion, Spanish Onion, Carrot, Lemon, Cucurber, Garlic In Case, Pelled Garlic, Andy Boy Head Lettuce, Apple Mango, Yellow Plantains, Frozen Panga Basa Fillet, Headless White Shrimp, TYJ Spring Roll Pastry, Frozen Vegetable Spring Roll, Conestoga Free Run Omega-3 Egg, Container S32, Container LF-28W, ADM All Purpose Flour, Monosodium Glutamate, Capri Vegetable Oil, Bamboo Chopsticks.

Trung Nguyen Ground Coffee, Dutch Baby Thick Sterilized Dessert, Diamond Coconut Milk, Ekono Sea Salt, Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce, Flying Goose Brand Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce, Mama Instant Noodles Series, Geoland Brand Jasmine White Rice, Old Dutch Bleach.

FROZEN

THAI GOLD Head-on Frozen Shrimp, Oromar Brand Frozen California Squid, Bavuo Fiesta Marinated Milkfish, Baquio Sweet Tocino, SH Squid Rings, G.L Frozen Tilapia, AA-1/Sarangani Bay Bangus Milkfish Belly, Pinoy Delight Cheesy Juicy Wiener Series, Ocean Mama Frozen Pompano, GreenHat Cabbage Kimchi, Lotte Mozzarella Cheese & Potato Hotdog, Activia Yogurt Series.

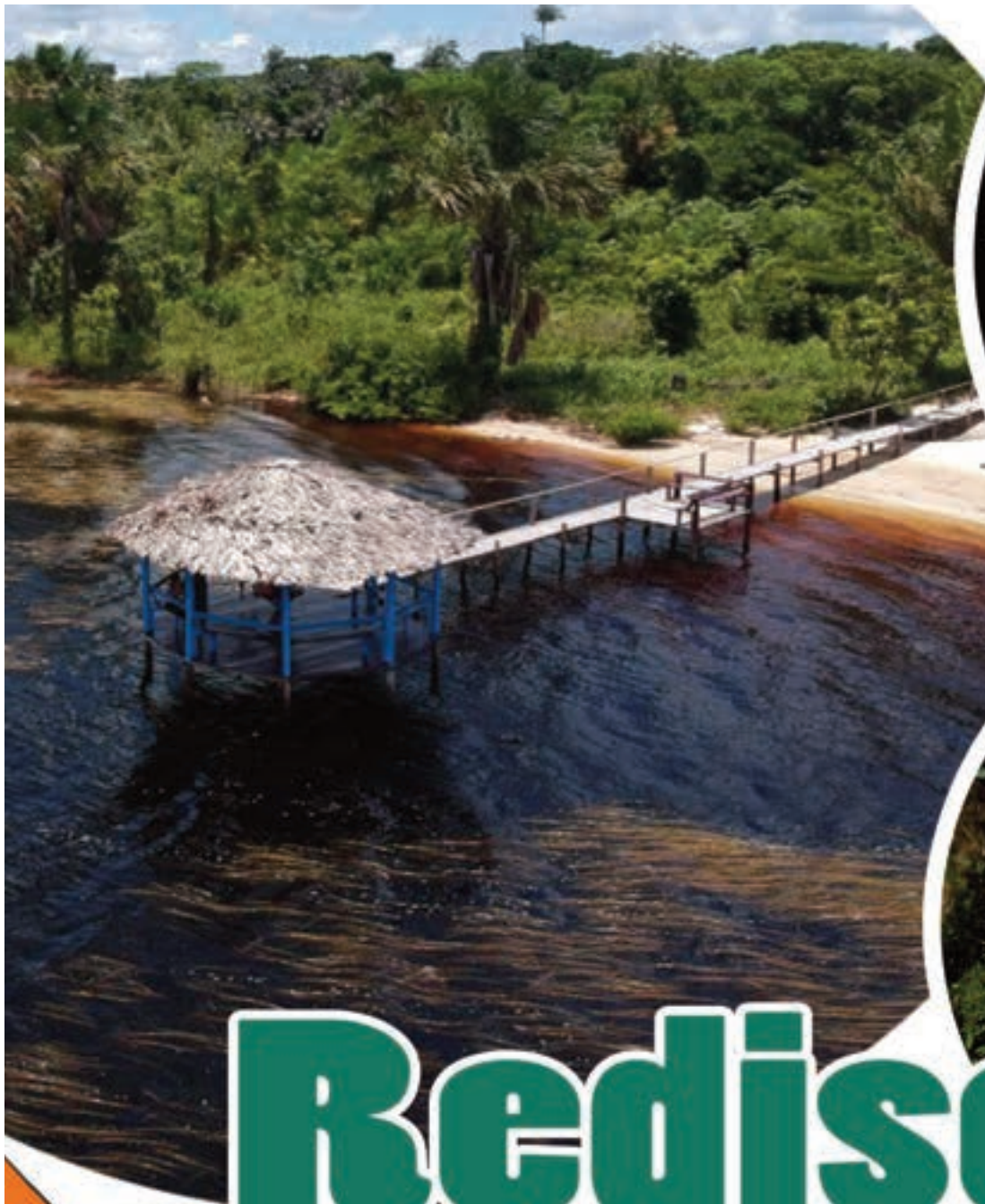
MEAT

PPork Belly, Beef Sirloin Tip Steak, Beef Tendon, Best Choice Sliced Pork Roll, Chicken Wing.

SEAFOOD

Fresh King Fish Steak, Fresh Atlantic Salmon Steak, Fresh Chinese Yellow Croaker, Fresh King Fish Steak, Fresh White Perch, Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillet.

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