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## Celebrating Caribbean cricket

It was a tense competition, but in the end the Caribbean premier League (CPL) final against the Guyana Amazon Warriors and the Trinidad Knight Riders was all fun.

The two teams met on Sunday at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown, and before thousands of cheering fans, went head-to-head in what was expected to be the most competitive final in the tourna-

ment's history. The Warriors shocked TKR in the final, beating the four-time champions by nine wickets in front of a sold-out crowd.

The crowd included Trinidad and Tobago soca icon Machel Montano as well as Guyana President Irfaan Ali and Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo, as well as former T&T Prime Minister Basdeo Panday, pictured together above.

Sent in to bat first after losing the toss, TKR were dismissed for 94 in 18.1 overs with their big guns failing to fire on the big stage.

The Guyana-based franchise, who lost five previous finals, made no mistake this time around, replying with 99 for one with six overs to spare. TKR skipper Kieron Pollard later conceded that the Guyana Amazon Warriors were the better team



### New Director at Guyana Cultural Centre

In a welcoming endorsement at the Swami Vivekananda cultural centre in Georgetown, Guyana, a renowned kathak exponent as well as a cultural activist from Assam, India, Shri Rudra Jayanta Bhagawati has been appointed as the director of the centre.

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) is the Indian Cultural Centre of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Georgetown, a cultural wing under the High Commission of India to Georgetown under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. It is the oldest among all the cultural centres established by the ICCR abroad. The Centre was established in 1972 with the aim of strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and Guyana and their people.

Shri Rudra is an internationally touring and renowned Kathak exponent and cultural activist from Assam, India. He has toured his artistic skills across the globe in places like the USA, UK, Guyana, Dubai, Tanzania, Maldives, Germany, Qatar, etc.





# GUYANA

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# PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE SDGS AMID CRISES

## - at 78th session of the UN General Assembly



*President Ali addressing the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*

In a statement at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN Headquarters in New York, President Dr. Ali called for international partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

President Ali said the world is in a crisis, with food, energy, climate, and the COVID-19 pandemic derailing SDG progress. He also highlighted the rising cost of financing, debt, and inflation, which have placed the

developing world in a precarious position.

“National commitment alone will not be enough to achieve the SDGs, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable. A major part of the problem is the lack of progress with Goal 17 on global partnerships and the failure of the international community to deliver on its commitments,” President Ali said.

He cited examples of international financial commitments that have not been met, such as the 0.7% of Gross National Product for ODA and the one hundred billion

dollars annually under the Paris Agreement to developing countries. He also called for reform of the international financial architecture, which he said is out of sync with the needs of developing countries.

“We will not have a world where everyone everywhere enjoys their full human rights, peace and security, and is free from poverty and hunger unless the right to development is realised and respected,” President Ali said.

He added that Guyana believes that significant progress can only be made in achieving the SDGs if fulfilled commitments match national efforts and an international environment fosters progress for all countries.

President Ali led a delegation to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. In addition

to attending the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, he also discussed Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) extensively during the Concordia Annual Summit on the sidelines of the UNGA 2023. President Ali also participated in various forums and plenaries, including a private reception hosted by former United States President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,



*President Ali interacting with the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, at the United Nations General Assembly, New York.*

and their daughter in New York, engaging Chelsea. Furthermore, he addressed the 2023 meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)



*President Ali attended a private reception hosted by former United States President Bill Clinton and his family*

## TOP U.S. OFFICIAL BACKS GUYANA'S RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

### -President Ali calls out Venezuela for refusal to respect international law

The United States Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brian Nichols, reiterated his support for Guyana's sovereign right to develop its natural resources.

In a tweet, Nichols said the US “supports Guyana's sovereign right to develop its own natural resources.” He added that efforts to infringe upon Guyana's sovereignty are unacceptable.

Nichols' tweet comes after the Venezuelan government issued a statement rejecting Guyana's ongoing oil auction. Guyana's inaugural oil auction



*United States of America Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brian Nichols and President Ali during a recent meeting in Washington DC*

closed on September 12. Fourteen blocks, 11 in shallow water and three in deepwater, were up for auction; eight blocks received bids, and the government is assessing those bids. Venezuela

claims the auction is undesirable in its claim to Guyana's Essequibo region.

However, Nichols has called on Venezuela to respect international law, including the 1899

arbitral award and the ongoing ICJ process between Guyana and Venezuela.

The ICJ is currently hearing the case on the border controversy between Guyana and

Venezuela. Guyana has already submitted its memorial on the merits of its case.

In response to Venezuela's claims, President Dr. Ali, has strongly condemned these actions by Venezuela, viewing them as a threat not only to regional and international peace and security but also to Guyana's investment partners. Delivering a powerful address at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, President Ali recently called on Venezuela to honour its obligations under the UN Charter, which advocates for

peaceful means of settling disputes, including seeking adjudication before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

President Ali reiterated Guyana's stance that auctioning these oil blocks is well within its rights to pursue development in its territories. He expressed confidence in the ICJ's ability to reach a just decision, ultimately confirming that the disputed boundary belongs to Guyana. He emphasised that allowing the ICJ to decide would lead to a peaceful, equitable, and internationally lawful resolution.



# GUYANA'S GDP GREW BY 59.5% IN FIRST HALF OF 2023



President Ali, presenting the Mid-Year 2023 Report to the media at a press conference at State House

Guyana's economy continued to grow strongly in the first half of 2023, with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 59.5%. This is due to solid performances in oil and non-oil sectors, according to President Ali, who presented the Mid-Year 2023 Report to the media at a press conference at State House.

The Mid-Year 2023 Report revealed that agriculture, other mining and quarrying, and services performed well in the non-oil sector. Agriculture grew by 7.6%, other mining and quarrying by 89.9%,

and services by 9.1%.

The oil sector also performed well, increasing petroleum production by 98.4%. This is due to the start of production from the Liza Phase 2 project.

"This is as a direct result of policy the metrics by the government in the country, reigniting the traditional sectors and expanding our economic footing," the president emphasised.

The government's implementation of Budget 2023 has significantly influenced solid economic growth. The budget has focused on stimulating economic

activity and creating jobs.

The government has also taken steps to ease the burden of rising commodity prices. This has helped to keep inflation in check.

The president said that the government is confident that the economy will continue to grow strongly in the second half of 2023. It is committed to delivering on its promises to improve the lives of all Guyanese. The revised full-year real GDP growth in 2023 is now projected at 28.2 per cent and 9.3 per cent for the non-oil GDP.

### KEY SECTOR PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHING:

- The agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries expanded by 7.6 per cent in the year's first half.

- Notable growth was observed in the sugar industry (30.1 per cent), rice industry (3.2 per cent), other crops subsector (9.4 per

cent), livestock industry (4.7 per cent), forestry industry (4.5 per cent), and fishing industry (9.9 per cent).

### EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES:

- The mining and quarrying industries experienced significant growth (89.9 per cent) driven by the petroleum subsector (98.4 per cent) and other mining and quarrying industries (45.2 per cent).

### MANUFACTURING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION:

- The manufacturing sector grew by 17.7 per cent, primarily due to increased production in various areas.

- The services sector expanded by 9.1 per cent, driven by administrative and support services, wholesale and retail trade, and repairs.

- The construction sector saw substantial growth (44.1 per cent) attributed to the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) and private construction.

### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:

- The overall balance of payments recorded a deficit of US\$196.4 million at the end of the first half 2023.

- Export receipts grew by 38.8 per cent, mainly due to higher oil export earnings.

- Total import payments increased significantly (111.8 per cent) because of the importation of the Prosperity Floating, Production, Storage, and Offloading (FPSO) vessel, fuel, and lubricants.

### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:

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vessel, fuel, and lubricants.

### MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS:

- Net domestic credit expanded in the year's first half, driven by increased demand for credit from households and businesses.

- Credit to the private sector grew by 5 per cent, with notable growth in credit to business enterprises and real estate mortgages.

### INFLATION:

- Government measures aimed at easing the burden of growing commodity prices contributed to a decline in the consumer price index by 0.3 per cent compared to the end of 2022.

- Inflation is projected to be around 3.8 per cent in 2023.

The entire Mid-Year Report 2023, is available at: <https://bit.ly/3P9YAS3>

# IMF PREDICTS 38% GDP GROWTH FOR 2023

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that Guyana's economy will grow by 38% in 2023, following a record-breaking 62.3% growth rate in 2022.

The IMF's report attributed the strong growth to the country's oil sector, which is

expanding rapidly. Oil production is expected to grow in the coming years as three new approved fields come on stream between 2024 and 2027.

The IMF also noted that the non-oil sector is performing well, supported by a rapid public investment programme focused on

transportation, housing, flood management infrastructure, and human capital development.

The IMF's report acknowledged some risks to Guyana's economic outlook, such as adverse climate shocks and volatile commodity prices.

However, the IMF said the country's overall growth prospects are positive.

The IMF also praised the government's fiscal and monetary policies, which it said are appropriate for the current economic situation. The IMF said that the government's commitment to fiscal

discipline is welcome and will help to ensure a balanced growth path.

In the medium term, the IMF projects that Guyana's economy will grow by an average of 20% per year. Oil revenues, will fund public investment and public debt will gradually decline as a percentage of GDP. The exchange

rate will appreciate, and inflation will rise as the economy narrows its development gap. International reserves will grow, bolstering reserves coverage. Additionally, significant savings will accrue in the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) offshore.

# GUYANA'S PUBLIC DEBT DECREASES TO 24.7% OF GDP- ECLAC REPORT



ECLAC attributed the decrease in Guyana's debt to the country's strong economic growth

A new report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has stated that Guyana's public debt has decreased significantly.

The report, titled "Financing a Sustainable Transition:

Investment for Growth and Climate Change Action," stated that Guyana's debt was 24.7% of GDP as of December 2022. This is a significant decrease from 90% of GDP in 1992.

ECLAC attributed the decrease in Guyana's debt to the country's strong economic growth. The report stated that

"the upturn in economic growth generated a strong denominator effect since public debt levels remained broadly stable in absolute terms during the year."

The report also noted that Guyana's inflation rate was among the lowest in the Caribbean in June 2023, at 1.9%.

The government of

Guyana has adjusted external and public loan limits to \$900 and \$750 billion.

Decreasing Guyana's public debt is a positive sign for the country's economy. It indicates that the government is managing its finances responsibly and that the country is on track to achieve its economic goals.



## GUYANA AND QATAR SIGN THREE AGREEMENTS TO BOOST COOPERATION



The signing of the agreements

Guyana and Qatar have signed three agreements to promote economic, commercial, and technical cooperation, investment, and law cooperation.

The agreements were signed during a visit to Guyana by the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The agreements were witnessed by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali and the Amir.

The first agreement is focused on economic,

commercial, and technical cooperation. It aims to promote trade and investment between the two countries and cooperation in areas such as agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure.

The second agreement is on the encouragement and protection of mutual investments. It aims to create a favourable environment for investors from both countries.

The third agreement

is a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in law. It aims to promote legal partnership between the two countries, as well as the exchange of legal expertise.

The signing of these agreements is a significant step in strengthening the bilateral relations between Guyana and Qatar. It is expected to increase cooperation in several sectors, benefiting both countries.

In addition to signing the agreements, the Amir and President also held bilateral discussions on a range of issues of mutual interest. These included the oil and gas sector, trade and investment, and climate change.

The Amir's visit to Guyana shows the growing importance of the relationship between the two countries. It is expected to pave the way for further cooperation in the years to come.

## GUYANA WELCOMES DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM CANADA



Fly Always Air Services operates the flights

Guyana welcomed a noteworthy development in its aviation and tourism sector as it inaugurated direct flights from Canada, making it easier for tourists and members of the Guyanese diaspora to visit the country.

Fly Always Air Services operates the flights and will depart from Toronto twice a week. The aircraft will briefly stop in the Dominican Republic for refuelling purposes.

The flights will operate on an A320 aircraft with a seating

capacity of 174. It will depart from Toronto on Mondays and Fridays and will arrive in Guyana at Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA).

The flight time is approximately 5 hours and 30 minutes.

The new route is a

significant development for Guyana's tourism sector. It will provide passengers with more options and lower airfares, making Guyana more accessible to travellers from Canada.

Guyana's government welcomed the launch of the direct flights. "Your government has been working every day to ensure that Guyanese who want to come ... must be able to get here with ease and with comfort, and this is just one of the many interventions that are being made to bring that to fruition," Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill noted.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, added that "Everybody wants to come to Guyana, but the dilemma is how to get here. That's why we always need more airlines serving Guyana."

Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce Oneidge Walrond said that the flights would help to boost tourism in the country.

Tourism is a priority sector for Guyana's government. The government has invested in infrastructure improvements, including airport upgrades, stadium

construction, and hotel development, to diversify its tourism product.

Launching direct flights from Canada signifies Guyana's growing tourism industry. It is expected to attract more tourists to the country and boost the economy.

The new flights are a welcome addition to Guyana's tourism sector. They will make it easier for tourists and members of the Guyanese diaspora to visit the country, and they are expected to boost tourism in Guyana.

## GUYANA SEES RECORD NUMBER OF VISITOR ARRIVALS, MORE EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Guyana is on track to see a record number of visitor arrivals this year, surpassing the previous record set in 2019.

The Mid-Year Report from the Ministry of Finance shows that Guyana welcomed 149,020 visitors in the first six months of 2023, an increase of 16.2% from last year. The highest number of arrivals was recorded in March and April.

The report attributes the increase in visitor arrivals to several factors, including improving air connectivity,



Travellers at baggage claim at CJIA

hosting major events, and expanding hotel

capacity.

Fly Allways began

flights from Guyana to Barbados, Cuba,

Jamaica, and Suriname in February. This was followed by British Airways, which started to twice-weekly operations from Guyana to the United Kingdom and Europe in March.

The report also notes that the private sector has significantly expanded hotel capacity. The Courtyard by Marriott at Timehri and the Aiden by Best Western are scheduled to be completed in January 2024, and the Four Points Sheraton at Houston is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2024.

The report also states that there has

been interest from local investors in the development of lodges.

With a number of major events scheduled to take place in Guyana in the second half of the year, including the International Building Expo, the Cricket Carnival, and the Agri Expo, the number of visitor arrivals is expected to continue to increase.

The government is also working to promote Guyana as a tourist destination. The Ministry of Tourism launched a new website and marketing campaign in June



# GUYANA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASES

## -LABOUR MINISTER CREDITS GOVERNMENT POLICIES

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has commended

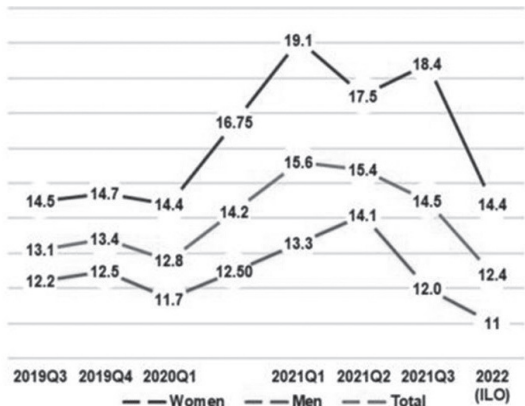
18.4 per cent for women. The International Labor Organization (ILO)

**enacted policies and the measures we have put in place for**

find employment. He said that the IDB's report is a sign

However, Dr Jagdeo believes that the actual unemployment rate may

sectors, and that this had helped to reduce unemployment.



IDB unemployment

Guyana's decreasing unemployment rate, and Minister of Labour Joseph Hamilton said that this is a result of the government's hard work in implementing policies that enhance livelihoods.

The IDB's report, "Global and Regional Economies at a Crossroads," found that Guyana's unemployment rate has steadily declined since 2021.

The IDB Report stated "The unemployment rate declined from 15.6 per cent in 2021 Q1 to 14.5 per cent in 2021 Q3, driven mostly by declines in the unemployment rate of men, which dropped to 12 per cent in 2021 Q3 compared to

estimates further declines in the unemployment rate in 2022, falling to 12.4 per cent, (11 per cent for men and 14.4 per cent for women)."

Minister Hamilton said this is a direct result of the government's policies, such as the part-time jobs initiative and the Board of Industrial Training (BIT). **"What this speaks to is the policies of this PPP/C government working. So, from the report and its findings, people should recognise that we could not be where we are commended by the IDB and other organisations if, from 2020, our government has**



In 2022, a part-time job programme was introduced allowing households to work in public offices for 10 days and earn \$40,000

**the citizens. What is important is the fact that they spoke to unemployment decreasing. We have spoken to this multiple times,"** he said.

The part-time jobs initiative provides opportunities for people to earn money while training for full-time employment. The BIT provides training in various skills, which helps prepare people for jobs in the workforce.

Minister Hamilton also said that the government has made improvements to the Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency (CRMA), which makes it easier for job seekers to

that the government's policies are working and that Guyanese can look forward to enhanced livelihoods under the PPP/C government.

**VICE PRESIDENT JAGDEO SAYS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAY BE LOWER THAN REPORTED**

Meanwhile, Vice President and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, has expressed scepticism about the accuracy of the unemployment rate reported by the IDB.

The IDB reported that Guyana's unemployment rate fell from 15.6% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022.



The growth of jobs has been spurred by new infrastructural projects

be lower than this.

He pointed out that the IDB report does not take into account the high unemployment rate that existed in Guyana before the PPP/C government took office in 2020. He said that the previous administration's "poor policy and negligence" had led to a "lot of job loss".

Dr Jagdeo also said that the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the economy, but that the PPP/C government's "good management" had helped to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. He said that the government had created jobs in the construction, housing, and mining

**"So, the turnaround is often hidden before the reporting period, because if you can't capture the starting point. You can't see a dramatic turnaround. They now see a 12 per cent unemployment rate coming down from 15, but for us, it was significantly more,"** he noted.

The IDB's report is based on data from the Guyana Bureau of Statistics. The Bureau of Statistics has been criticised for its methodology, and some experts believe that the unemployment rate is actually higher than the 12.4% reported by the IDB.

## GOV'T TO REVIEW MINIMUM WAGE, INCOME TAX THRESHOLD

The government is currently reviewing the country's revenues and projected revenues, and based on the review's outcome, further adjustments to the daily minimum wage and the income tax threshold will be implemented.

President Ali made this announcement during a press conference at State House, during which he said that the administration is carefully scrutinising the numbers and ensuring that any decisions made align with the sustainability of the economy.

The current minimum wage for the public sector is \$75,000. The minimum wage for private sector employees rose from \$44,200 to \$60,000 in June 2022.

In the 2023 budget, Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh proposed raising the income tax threshold to \$85,000. This would place an additional \$303B into



the hands of taxpayers.

The government has been actively addressing salary increase issues for various categories of public sector workers. Last year, the government announced substantial salary increases, amounting to over \$1 billion, benefiting 8,000 members of the disciplined services.

Moreover, over 5,000 healthcare workers received significant salary boosts, totalling \$1.5 billion, with salary hikes ranging from 36.4 percent to 74.7 percent. These increments were implemented, in addition to an eight

percent across-the-board raise in salary for all public servants, retroactive to January 1, 2022.

The president has committed to addressing specific categories of public sector employees, with a particular focus on teachers, through a consultative process that considers salary adjustments, housing, and other needs.

The government's review of the minimum wage and income tax threshold is a positive step towards improving the living standards of Guyanese workers.

## GUYANA'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM IMPROVES, CREDIT GROWTH PICKS UP -IDB



Guyana's financial system has seen a decline in unemployment and moderated inflation rates, with private-sector lending growing by over 15% in 2022.

The Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) report "Global and Regional Economies at a Crossroads" suggests that this improvement in lending quality has led to better access to financing

and financial services.

The report also said that the ratio of non-performing loans to gross loans of commercial banks dropped from 10.8% in 2020 to 4.7% in 2022. This signifies that the financial system is becoming more stable and resilient.

The government continues to create the enabling environment for private sector growth, through a myriad of

initiatives and measures. These include establishing the Guyana International Financial Centre (GIFC), developing a new bankruptcy law, and passing the Small Business Act.

The improved quality of lending and the growth of private-sector credit are positive signs for Guyana's economy.



# PRESIDENT ALI MEETS WITH CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS



*President Ali with Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States Senate, Congressman Steven Horsford*

President Ali met with House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Chairman Steven Horsford, and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, DC.

The meeting was part of President Ali's three-day visit to the US capital, during which he met with key stakeholders from the US Congress, the State Department, the private sector, and universities.

The leaders

discussed various global issues, including energy and food security, enhancing regional economic prosperity, and the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship. They also reaffirmed the bilateral relationship between Guyana and the US and committed to continued collaboration.

President Ali also presented at the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the National

Defence University in Washington, DC.

In his address at the National Defence University, President Ali reiterated his government's commitment to establishing a country that will play a central

role on the global stage in climate, energy, and food security. He emphasised that future defence strategies must prioritise climate, food, and energy

security. President Ali also highlighted the crucial role of research, development, and innovation in shaping future defence and strategy.

The meeting

between President Ali and the Congressional



*President Ali addressing a dinner meeting hosted by members of the United States of American Congressional Caribbean Caucus at Capitol Hill, Washington, DC*

role on the global stage in climate, energy, and food security. He emphasised that future defence strategies must prioritise climate, food, and energy

Black Caucus was a positive step in strengthening the relationship between Guyana and the US. The leaders discussed important issues of



*President Ali with member of the US Democratic Party and representative of New York, Congressman Gregory Meeks*

mutual interest and committed to continued collaboration.

Accompanying President Ali were Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd, Minister of Tourism, Industry, and

Commerce Oneidge Walrond, Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud, National Security Advisor Captain Gerry Gouveia, and Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier Omar Khan.

## GUYANA COMMITTED TO ROBUST DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – PM Phillips tells G77 & China Summit

Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips commitment to creating a robust digital environment and fostering resilient and sustainable development in his address at the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China.

He underscored the value of diverse partnerships in facing global challenges and urged continued connectivity and digital inclusion among and between countries. He also noted the critical role of multistakeholder partnerships in fostering strategic long-term investment and support of science, technology, and innovation (STI) initiatives in developing countries.



*Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips addressing the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China*

"This is the time for us to leverage the south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation for continued connectivity and digital inclusion among and between countries, reducing inequalities for a renewed impetus in the pursuit of resilient and sustainable

development." Prime Minister Phillips emphasised the need for technology transfer and strengthening STI programs to close the digital divide. He also urged for added international cooperation to mitigate ethical, legal, and

political implications associated with rapidly evolving technology—specifically focusing on AI and cybersecurity measures.

In highlighting some of Guyana's successes, Prime Minister Phillips stated that Guyana is working to create the required

enabling legislative and regulatory environment and the infrastructure to manage digitisation. He explained that Guyana is incorporating STEM and coding at the fundamental levels of the school system, catering especially for girls, and laying the foundation for its first smart city.

The Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pointing out that 50% of the targets for the 2030 agenda are not being met. He urged more advocacy for outstanding international commitments, a fair global financial structure, a just energy transition, and a democratic international order.

He called for unified advocacy for international obligations to a revision of the global financial system. In addressing development challenges, such as food security and poverty alleviation, he stressed the importance of STI.

"The strategic deployment of technology and innovation has the potential to resolve and minimise tradeoffs among these goals" and promote the accelerated implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda, he noted.

During his address, Prime Minister Mark Phillips also reaffirmed the government's commitment to the G77 group and China.



# PRESIDENT ALI MAKES CLEAR: CARIBBEAN SEEKING REPARATORY JUSTICE, NOT PALACES

In a powerful statement, President Ali asserted that Caribbean nations are not seeking lavish palaces from the British as reparations for the atrocities of slavery. Instead, they are resolutely demanding comprehensive reparatory justice to address the lingering legacy of this historical injustice.

During a live appearance on the 'Good Morning Britain' television show, President Ali underscored the unparalleled cruelty of slavery and its devastating impact on millions of people. He emphasised the urgent need for reparations to empower Caribbean



President Ali during his appearance on Good Morning Britain

nations in their development efforts and enable them to confront the pressing global challenges they face. President Ali

clarified the Caribbean's position: "We are not seeking opulent palaces built with the sweat, tears, and blood of the exploited slaves, or the

revenues amassed from their suffering. We are demanding justice—nothing less, nothing more." The Caribbean

Reparations Commission (CRC), established in 2013, has outlined a comprehensive 'Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice,' which includes a formal apology, repatriation to Africa, the establishment of cultural institutions, addressing public health crises, eradicating illiteracy, fostering an African knowledge program, psychological rehabilitation, technology transfer, and debt cancellation.

President Ali stressed that the Caribbean has waited too long for justice, citing the recent apology from the Gladstone family, who were involved in slavery in

Guyana, after a 200-year wait. He noted, "This year in Guyana, we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Demerara Rebellion, and it took 200 years to receive an apology from the family."

The Caribbean's call for reparations is a moral imperative. The atrocities of slavery inflicted profound suffering on millions of people and their descendants, and the legacy of this historical injustice continues to impact Caribbean nations today. Reparations are essential to addressing this legacy and building a more just and equitable future for all.

# FIVE PERSONS RECEIVE KEYS TO CORE HOMES



Beneficiary, Juann Melville

Five persons from La Parfaite Harmonie and Georgetown received the keys to their brand-new homes from the Ministry of Housing and Water. The hand-over ceremony occurred during the launch of the ministry's Core Home

Support and Home Improvement Subsidy mobile application at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

The core home project falls under the Ministry of Housing and Water's Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility Programme (AHUAP) and is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In addition to the keys, the families were also provided with the electrical certificates.

Minister of Housing

and Water, Collin Croal re-emphasised that the programme will improve the livelihoods of persons in Georgetown's urban and peri-urban areas by providing better access, adequate housing, and basic infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, stated that the core home support and the home improvement subsidy are two important components of the programme to provide affordable and



Beneficiary, Paulette Niles

sustainable housing to the beneficiaries.

Several beneficiaries who spoke with this publication expressed joy after finally receiving the keys to their new homes.

Beneficiary Savitri Persaud said the new home is a big deal for herself and her family.

"My family will be comfortable, and I am happy that I received my keys today," an elated Persaud stated.

Pauline Harry, 67, was beyond excited about her home and said, "While I was out of my house, I was very uncomfortable. I was here and there...So, I am finally glad that I will be going back to a home."

Single mother Juann Melville told DPI, "We got to see the unfolding of our new home. And that was the exciting part about it. Just to see everything about the

foundation started to build and coming up," Melville said.

Previously, the scope of the core home initiative included communities from Georgetown to Grove on the East Bank of Demerara, up to La Bonne Intention, East Coast of Demerara, as well as Westminster, Onderneeming, Recht-Door-Zee, Lust en Rust, and Parfaite Harmonie Phase II. However, the ministry increased the limit to include 19 more settlements along the East Coast of Demerara.

# LINDEN RESIDENTS GRATEFUL FOR \$643M ROAD CONTRACTS

Linden residents are grateful for the \$643M in concrete road contracts signed at Watooka Guest House. The contracts will create direct employment for many people in the area and boost the local economy. One of the 49 contractors, Julliana Whittington, said that she is happy that the government is giving contracts to first-time contractors. She is also eager to see the developments yet to come to her home town. Another contractor, John Waldron, said



One of the female contractors signing her contract

that he supports the government's move to sign these contracts. He said it would provide jobs for many people in Linden and help develop

the community. "Lots and lots of persons can have jobs right now in Linden because of this contract distributed amongst so many

contractors, it never happened before," the excited man stressed. Another contractor, Kevin Barron said the contracts will boost the

town's economy. He said everyone in the community will benefit, from shop owners to taxi drivers. "When the government spends in any community, the community develops, the people develop," the contractor posited. Violet Cines, another contractor, said that she appreciates the government for signing these contracts. She said it is good for Linden as everyone will benefit.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, urged the contractors to purchase

durable cement so that the roads can last for an extended period of time. He also informed them that the roads would be tested upon completion to ensure they were of excellent quality. The minister said that the 5.4 kilometres of concrete roads will be constructed in various areas of Linden. The contractors will receive their mobilisation money one week after the signing of the contracts and work is expected to begin immediately.



## GOVT KEEN ON CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTORS-WELCOMES ANSA MCAL INVESTMENT

The Guyana government is committed to creating a favourable environment for investors. This was evident at the recent launch of Ansa Building Solutions (ABS Guyana), where Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill stated that the government is creating a country where bountiful success is being reaped, and as such, he deems the country as a safe investment hub.

"We have to build partnerships; we have to encourage people to do more and create the environment for more to be done. We are committed to creating

that policy," the public works minister asserted.

While congratulating the company on its new venture, Minister Edghill said the new business is a signal to notify the citizens of where Guyana is going and the opportunities available.

"Now that the country is going in a particular direction, ANSA McAL probably sat and thought about how they can make good use of the opportunities that exist, and based on where we are going, they bring to us a new line, the ABS," Minister



*Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, Chairman of the Private Sector, Komal Singh, and Chief Executive Officer of Ansa McAL, Anthony N Sabga III toasting the business launch*

Edghill stated.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Private Sector Commission (PSC), Komal Singh, said Guyana is growing rapidly and described the nation as "the most transformative

economy in the world." He underscored that the services that ABS plans to supply will contribute to Guyana maintaining its international reputation on the map.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ANSA

McAL, Anthony N Sabga III, said the products supply the Guyanese market at a crucial time. He stated that the company has invested over US \$12.5 million to get ABS Guyana to this point in the country

and will be spending some US \$250,000 for 45 Guyanese to be sent to Trinidad for training. Another US \$12 Million will also be invested in the Guyanese market in the next two years.

The new service aims to bring solutions and make it easier to choose from the shades of paint, clay, and concrete blocks.

This investment by ANSA McAL is a strong signal of confidence in the Guyanese economy, and it is clear that the government is committed to creating an environment where businesses can thrive.

## GOAL PARTNERS WITH CANADIAN COLLEGE TO LAUNCH PLC TECHNICIAN PROGRAMME

The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) and George Brown College (GBC) are partnering to launch a new programme to train **Programmable Logic Controller (PLC)** technicians in Guyana. The PLC Technician certificate programme is designed to help manufacturing companies improve efficiency and reduce costs by providing seamless control and monitoring of machinery and processes. The programme's inaugural cohort will consist of

43 practitioners. The training was set to begin in August 2023 and provide participants with theoretical and hands-on experience in PLC systems. It will cover essential topics for the manufacturing industry, such as PLC hardware and software, ladder logic programming, troubleshooting techniques, system integration, and machinery maintenance. The partnership between GOAL and GBC is aligned with the government's goal of awarding 20,000

online scholarships to help Guyanese enhance their skills and academic qualifications.

President Irfaan Ali welcomed the programme's launch, saying that it will help bridge the skills gap in the manufacturing industry and create new job opportunities. He urged participants to **"seize this opportunity with dedication"** and said that the skills they acquire will enhance their career prospects, and contribute to the nation's technological

advancement. Minister of Public Service Sonia Parag said that the programme is a significant milestone in the government's commitment to providing quality technical education. She said the government is committed to advancing technical education and fostering a skilled workforce. **"Together, let us embrace the future and build a prosperous nation,"** she urged. President of George Brown College, Dr. Gervan Fearon, said the college is excited to

collaborate with GOAL on this critical initiative. He said that the use of advanced technology and machinery is revolutionising the workforce and that the PLC Technician programme will help prepare Guyanese workers for future jobs. High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana, H.E. Mark Berman, said that the collaboration between GOAL and GBC is a testament to the strong relationship between Canada and Guyana. He said that Canada is a leader in

the education sector and that this partnership will help to build a more skilled workforce in Guyana. Minister of Education Priya Manickchand said that the PLC Technician programme is a step in the right direction to create a talented pool of PLC technicians. She said that the government's goal is to produce graduates who are proficient in using PLCs and who have **"strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills."**

## NEW HOSPITAL TO REPLACE SKELDON HOSPITAL

The Auditor General's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, was presented to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir. This is the 19th report of the Audit Office under the tenure of the Auditor General, Deodat Sharma. In addition to the 2022 audit, three performance audits were also presented. These were an assessment of the Ministry of Education

Hinterland School Feeding Programme, the Implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005, and a Review of the Ministry of Labour Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Process. These reports will be made public once laid in the National Assembly. Sharma also disclosed that the Audit Office has issued audit reports for 102 NDCs, six municipalities, and 69 statutory bodies. The

Guyana Post Office Corporation, which was in arrears, now has its account audited up to 2021.

To date, the Auditor General's office has issued 16 performance audits. Sharma noted that capacity building has also been a key priority of the audit office to strengthen the ability to conduct and examine performance audits and reports.

Through its partnership with the Canadian Auditing

and Accountability Foundation (CAAF), 15 management and middle-management officers have participated in a train-the-trainers programme. A total of 17 officers have also benefitted from report writing training, and 23 have attended training to develop the office's capability to perform audits in the extractive industries.

Speaker Nadir commended the Auditor General's office as an



*Workers levelling the ground for the new hospital*

impactful and credible voice in monitoring how the country's resources are expended. He noted that the work of the

audit office is expected to increase significantly as the country receives more resources.



# PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE-PRESIDENT ALI

Guyana is undergoing a major transformation in its health sector, and the public and private sectors must work together to achieve the national vision of providing high-quality healthcare to all Guyanese.

President Ali stressed this point during the commissioning of the Eureka Urgent Care Clinic and Pharmacy on Thomas Street. He said that the government is committed to building a robust and resilient healthcare sector, which requires seamless collaboration between the public and private sectors.

"I do not see the investment in healthcare by all the stakeholders in Guyana as competition," President Ali said. "I see it as part of a holistic infrastructure that is supporting the vision of the country, and that vision is to build a healthcare system that is second to none."

The government is already working to expand healthcare facilities across the country, and President Ali said that this does not conflict with the private sector's investment. He said "There are

niches that public health cannot offer, and if we are to build a national healthcare infrastructure that will be export-earning oriented, then we have to get all of these facilities delivering at an optimum level, and that is exactly what we have here," President Ali added.

The Eureka Urgent Care Clinic and Pharmacy is expected to provide Guyanese with improved access to specialised healthcare on time. It will also help ease the burden on emergency rooms nationwide.



President Ali and other officials touring the facility



President Ali and other officials touring the facility

## ENHANCED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES COMMISSIONED IN REGION NINE



Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony at the commissioning of the Shulinab doctor's quarters



Meriwau's Health Post

With several crucial healthcare institutions opening, the state of healthcare in Region Nine is set to significantly improve. Among these are the improved health post in Meriwau, the newly opened staff quarter in Yupukari, and the doctor's quarters in Shulinab.

Shulinab Doctor's Quarters: This facility was constructed in response to a request made by the village's

toshao (leader) for a doctor to be stationed in the community. Once fully furnished, a doctor will be deployed to serve the village. During the commissioning ceremony, Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, underscored the government's commitment to providing proper housing for medical personnel and expanding healthcare services. The building, with an estimated cost



Quiko's Health Post

of \$7 million, is also set to benefit from internet connectivity, facilitating telemedicine capabilities.

Meriwau Health Post: A \$9 million health facility in Meriwau underwent substantial upgrades over the past two years. Last year, \$4 million funded roof and building improvements, and an additional \$5 million this year went toward installing a sanitary block and a hybrid solar system.

Quiko Health Post: A \$14 million health post has been commissioned in Quiko Village, South Central Rupununi, bringing essential healthcare services to the area. The facility will soon

be fully equipped with a solar system, providing electricity to the entire building. It will also offer training programmes for interested youths.

Medical Staff Quarters at Yupukari: To ensure comfortable and secure housing for doctors and nurses, a staff quarter facility in

Yupukari Village was officially opened. The facility, constructed with \$14 million in government funding through Region Nine's Regional Democratic Council, has a solar power system and can accommodate two medical personnel and their families.

Minister Anthony disclosed that \$100 million was allocated to upgrade health posts, centers, and hospitals in the Rupununi region, with another \$100 million earmarked for constructing staff quarters.

Yupukari is also slated to receive an ambulance in 2024, benefiting the village and surrounding communities during emergencies.



Shulinab's Health Centre



# NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES OPEN DOORS FOR STUDENTS



De Willem Secondary School

## VICTORIA LILY PRIMARY SCHOOL: A \$200M INVESTMENT IN QUALITY EDUCATION

President Ali officially inaugurated the Victoria Lily Primary School in Tuschen, East Bank Essequibo, Region Three. This state-of-the-art school, which costs less than \$200 million, was constructed concisely through a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Education and Housing and Water.

The school boasts a capacity to accommodate over 300 students and has 12 classrooms, each with Wi-Fi connectivity. It includes an auditorium, a kitchenette, two security huts, sanitary facilities, and an assembly area.

President Ali underscored that the modern facility underscores the

number of Spanish-speaking students within the school system. The president pointed out that this community has seen a significant influence from migrants and returning Guyanese citizens, prioritising multilingual education. **"This community is one of the communities that is now heavily and highly influenced by the influx by migrants and the integration of Guyanese back here," he said.**

While the government has substantially invested in improving educational infrastructure nationwide, President Ali expressed concerns about the overall mathematics pass rate. To address this issue, he revealed plans for a comprehensive strategy that includes additional tools and increased hours dedicated to mathematics. This



The new Mrs. Maureen Massiah Wing of the Bishops' High School

government's unwavering commitment to delivering quality education in a conducive environment for the nation's children.

Notably, the school is classified as a 'C' grade institution and will be the first primary school to introduce Spanish instruction from Grades One to Five. President Ali emphasised that this inclusion of Spanish in the curriculum is essential due to the growing

may involve introducing more compulsory hours for mathematics in the secondary school system and exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in mathematics education.

President Ali also mentioned initiatives to streamline bureaucracy within the education system, ensuring more accessible access to essential classroom supplies, including direct



The commissioning of the school

distribution of resources to schools.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education Priya Manickchand highlighted the significant infrastructure development under the PPP/C government's leadership, including constructing seven new secondary schools and primary schools in various areas. She also emphasised that classrooms are well-equipped, teachers receive training and competitive salaries, and students benefit from the hot meal program and textbooks.

## NEW \$93M DE WILLEM SECONDARY SCHOOL: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN REGION THREE

Minister Manickchand commissioned the De Willem Secondary School in Region Three in a ceremony attended by regional officials and educators. The school was completed within six to eight weeks and will accommodate over 350 students.

The commissioning of the school marked another significant step in the government's commitment to providing quality education to all Guyanese children. Minister Manickchand emphasised that education is the key to equalising the country and that the government will continue to prioritise its delivery.

The school was originally built and established in 1972 as Zeeburg Secondary, but it was slated to be refurbished due to its dire

condition. However, the Ministry of Education saw the potential to make the building more than an annexe, and with additional funding, the vision of a new secondary school was realised.

The new school will house students from Saraswat Primary Top, which will be officially closed. It will also accommodate students from Saxcalli, Lower and Upper Bonasika, and other communities unable to access secondary education. These students will be housed in the dormitories.

## BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL'S TRIBUTE: A NEW WING IN HONOR OF A VISIONARY PRINCIPAL

A new wing at Bishops' High School was officially commissioned on September 11, 2023. The building was named after Mrs. Maureen Massiah, a former student and long-serving principal of the school (1987-2002).

The new building houses eight additional classrooms, a laboratory, a canteen, and a common area. It was built at \$95.4 million.

Principal of the School, Mrs. Shandrina Welcome - Lee said that the decision to name the new wing in honour of Mrs. Massiah was made through consultation with old students and stakeholders. She noted that Massiah "was instrumental in steadying and restoring the standard of education being delivered at the institution. This feat came naturally as she understood the school's illustrious history. She

espoused discipline and instilled that to students and staff alike," Mrs. Welcome-Lee noted in her remarks.

The expansion of the school is a part of the Ministry of Education's plan to provide more students with the opportunity to benefit from the quality education offered.

Minister Manickchand said this is the approach at the five national schools

facilities to equip students with the skills needed to contribute to a modern society.

"As I commission this block, I want you to remember that it is not the block that matters, but what comes out of it," Manickchand said. "Each of you here that will matter to this country. Your government promises that you will never be forgotten as students at Queen's College or at any other



The Doodnauth Hetram block commissioned at Queen's College

(Queen's College, the Bishops' High, St. Stanislaus College, St. Rose's High School and St. Joseph High School). She said that more students can be placed and accommodated by expanding these schools.

From 2023, Bishops' High School will allow cross-streaming. This will allow students in any stream to write subjects offered in another stream at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examination.

## QUEEN'S COLLEGE SIXTH FORM BLOCK: EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR A MODERN SOCIETY

Approximately 200 Queen's College sixth form students will now benefit from a new block equipped with the necessary amenities to further their education. The \$103.5 million block, dubbed the Doodnauth Hetram block, features eight classrooms, washroom facilities, and a home economics lab.

The block was commissioned on Tuesday, September 20, 2023, in a ceremony attended by Minister Manickchand, who stated that the aim is to provide safe and comfortable

school and that any day we are working hard to change out the quality of education you get for the better, and you are going to feel that daily."

Queen's College, like many other schools across the country, has undergone a series of transformations to enhance the quality of education delivered. This momentum will continue as the government works to build an education system and sector that is second to none.

The minister added that extracurricular activities and clubs must remain active and operational in crafting well-rounded students, which remains a government priority.

Also delivering remarks at the commissioning ceremony were Chairman of the Board of Governors, Marcel Gaskin, and Principal of the school, Rajkumarie Lall, who both expressed gratitude for the new block and its relief from cramped spaces.

The contract for the block was signed in July 2022 and awarded to Ograsein & Sons.



# GUYANA UNDERGOING MASSIVE TRANSFORMATION, PRESIDENT ALI REITERATES AT NY DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT



President Ali addressing the packed audience



President Ali interacting with Guyanese at the event

According to President Ali, Guyana is undergoing a massive transformation across all sectors. President Ali addressed a diaspora engagement in Queens, New York, reiterating the government's commitment to ensuring that every Guyanese benefits from this development.

To achieve this ambitious vision, the administration is investing heavily in health, education, social services, public infrastructure, food, and energy security. President Ali emphasised that "One Guyana is a Guyana that gives opportunity and brings prosperity to

every single Guyanese in economic wealth and brings positive change in the life of every single Guyanese."

Guyana's economy is also being diversified to position the country as a leader in the regional and global sphere. This economy, he said, will be built on innovation, research and development, scientific advancement, and high-end, high-skilled, and high-value jobs.

President Ali also highlighted the government's efforts to improve the health and education systems. He noted that six new regional hospitals are being built, a new

maternal and child hospital is underway, and the government is working on the conceptual plan for a new teaching, hospital, and research facility in Georgetown.

Guyana's economic growth has been recognised globally, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) highlighting that Guyana has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The IMF also noted the improvements made by the government to ensure transparency and accountability in the newly found oil and gas industry.

President Ali also informed the diaspora of



President Ali interacting with Guyanese at the event

the tremendous growth recorded in the non-oil sectors of Guyana in the first half of the year.

Overall, Guyana

is undergoing a period of significant transformation and development. The government is committed

to ensuring that all Guyanese benefit from this progress, and the country is poised to become a leader in the region and the world.

## PPP/C GOVT'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY UNCOVERS EXXON AUDIT CONFUSION

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), credits the PPP/C Government's unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability for revealing a recent issue surrounding the final audit figure for Exxon Mobil Guyana's expenses. At a recent press conference, he announced the government's plans to launch a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding this audit confusion.

Dr. Jagdeo emphasised that the government's dedication to transparency within the oil and gas sector made it possible to uncover this issue promptly. He



General Secretary of the PPP/C, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

contrasted this with the previous APNU government, where such matters might have remained undisclosed for years, as seen with the 2016 contract and signing bonus. "It took us years to find this out. We have not concluded this matter as yet. But we discovered

it largely because of how transparent we have been," the GS told reporters.

The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has been tasked with reviewing the audit findings related to the country's interests. Dr. Jagdeo clarified that the GRA is providing

necessary technical input, and the government has no intention of rushing the institution to conclude the matter prematurely.

During the audit of Exxon's expenses from 1999 to 2017, concerns arose regarding a US\$214 million sum of questionable spending,

which received no objection from GRA. Dr. Jagdeo affirmed the government's support for this decision.

However, it was later revealed that a Natural Resources Ministry staff member had engaged with ExxonMobil's local subsidiary during the audit, which Dr. Jagdeo deemed inappropriate. The Natural Resources Minister is expected to report this issue to the cabinet.

Dr. Jagdeo emphasised that the government will not accept any subsequent information from Exxon after GRA's closure of the audit at \$211 million. He expressed greater interest in understanding who authorised the contact

with Exxon after GRA's decision.

Regarding the suggestion that these audit issues could have been avoided by establishing a Petroleum Commission, Dr. Jagdeo reasoned that an independent body might have overlooked such discrepancies.

He questioned the outcome if the decision had rested solely with a commission composed of technical experts without political oversight, as politicians would not have had the opportunity to challenge it, and oversight by the Guyana Revenue Authority would not have occurred.



# Guyana, China's relations create opportunities for economic growth

CHINA has now positioned itself as a global powerhouse on several issues confronting the world. To that end, Guyana can draw lessons from the Southeast Asia nation, according to Prime Minister (PM) Brigadier (ret'd), Mark Phillips.

The Prime Minister was at the time delivering remarks at a reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy to commemorate the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, as well as the 30th Anniversary of the Chinese Medical Team to Guyana. The event was held Monday evening at Pegasus Hotel.

At the reception, Prime Minister Phillips congratulated China on its numerous achievements and remarkable journey over the last seven decades, and said that the relations between Guyana and China have created opportunities for economic growth, commerce, and investment.

He related that Guyana can draw some important lessons from China's development trajectory, such as the importance of infrastructure investment, industrial promotion, and support for the manufacturing sector in driving economic growth and employment creation.

He also mentioned China's recognition of the importance of human capital and education in driving economic success, as well as the establishment of economic zones, and incentives to attract foreign investment, technology, and ex-



PM Phillips with guests at the Chinese Embassy reception

pertise, to boost economic growth.

"The Chinese culture makes up part of the fabric of our Guyanese identity. The last 170 years of the arrival of Chinese immigrants in Guyana have paved the way for the robust ties that currently exist, and we are truly appreciative of the contributions made by our Chinese brothers and sisters to our country's development," he said.

The prime minister said that the cooperation programme between Guyana and China is firmly established in a number of areas, including infrastructure, technology, agriculture, and education.

"We are particularly appreciative of

the assistance provided for developments in our health sector, especially during the pandemic. I want to especially recognize the invaluable contributions of the Chinese Medical personnel," he related.

Noting the visit to China by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, he added that this has provided the impetus to advance even further the bilateral cooperation programme with a keen focus on transportation, energy, and telecommunications.

He said they also look forward to collaborating on food, energy and climate security issues that are key to global sustainable development.

Additionally, the Prime Minister said that the maintenance of sovereignty and territorial integrity is at the heart of a nation's existence and development, relating that Guyana is on record as consistently supporting the One China policy.

Likewise, he said, Guyana hopes that it can rely on China to support its efforts to preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Venezuela's claim to two thirds of its territory.

"Guyana looks forward to expanding cooperation and partnership with China and to building on shared values and objectives, to ensure a brighter future for both of our countries," he said.

Moreover, Guo Haiyan, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, said that the celebration marks the 45th anniversary of China's reform and opening up.

"China has transformed from the verge of economic collapse to the world's second largest economy, the largest industrial country and the largest trader of goods in the world," she said.

The Ambassador noted that as a major engine for world economic growth, China will stay committed to the fundamental national policy of opening up, advancing international cooperation in more areas or higher levels and in greater depth and turning its enormous market into tremendous opportunity for the world.

## US\$14M Regional Food Hub for Soesdyke/Linden Highway

GUYANA is spearheading the Caribbean Agriculture sector through the Regional Food Hub, which will be located on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway and will cost US\$14M.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha disclosed this as he made a presentation in a meeting with the President of the Islamic Development Bank, H.E. Dr Mohammed Sulaiman, on Monday.

"We want this Guyana here to be the food hub. The primary production hub of the Caribbean so that we could supply the Caribbean. What we have, our colleagues in the Caribbean don't have. We have arable flat land and abundant fresh water. Now with the investment coming on board, we can modernise the infrastructure and start ramping up of the productions," he stated.

Minister Mustapha said Guyana is looking to play a lead role in reducing the Caribbean's food import bill by 2025.

He noted that Guyana will work with the State of Roraima in Brazil to form a partnership in the development of the Hub.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President Dr Ashni Singh said the government has been in discussions



Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al-Jasser (center) flanked by Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha and Senior Minister within the Office of the President Dr Ashni Singh

with the Prime Minister of Barbados about sourcing inputs from Northern Brazil and transporting them through

Guyana to Barbados and vice versa.

"We see the regional food hub as very much a regional initiative... as a

piece of infrastructure that will contribute to a more efficient market for agricultural products, across the entire Caribbean and Northern South America," Dr Singh said.

He noted that this will also give rise to the growing logistics industry in Guyana moving goods, services, and people. The project will be partly funded by the government.

Minister Mustapha stated that the mission of Guyana is clear, and that is to make the local agriculture sector more competitive while developing high-yielding varieties, pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties.

Meanwhile, this move was commended by Dr Muhammad Sulaiman Al-Jasser.

"I think to have a target to be the Caribbean hub for food; I think that's a great ambition and it's doable and I think the highway that will participate with you in building...connecting you with the largest economy in South America. You have a huge market. Whatever you produce here, you could sell there, and whatever you need you can bring from there also," he said.

The establishment of modern farms, increased use of technology, and more efficient farm practices are also the goal.





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# 2023 CRICKET CARNIVAL MAKES ITS MARK ON GUYANA WITH A STELLAR FIRST WEEK

Guyana rolled out the red carpet for cricket enthusiasts as the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) made its grand entrance on Friday, September 8, 2023. The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) witnessed a colourful reception orchestrated by the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, offering a warm Guyanese welcome to arriving visitors. Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, greeted guests by providing tokens and refreshments. She emphasised the importance of diversifying Guyana's tourism offerings, highlighting that the cricket carnival season would showcase "Guyanese fashion, arts, cuisine, and music, all integral aspects of Guyanese and Caribbean culture."

The event began with DeeJay Sheik, Anthrax, and Golden Chyld igniting the stage with a vibrant array of tunes, delighting the audience. The Feel the Beat Tassa Group set the rhythm, followed by Guyana's Chutney Queen, Vanita Willie, who serenaded the crowd with her popular songs, including "Poowah" and "Live in Harmony." Elsa Lisa from Berbice also graced the stage.

Artie from Trinidad and Tobago brought energy and enthusiasm to the audience, followed by De Hitman, who engaged the crowd throughout his performance. Adhesh Samaroo, a chutney industry veteran, presented timeless tunes, while Tony Cuttz and Vacadi Singh, Guyana's most toured duo, captivated the audience with their hits.

"Master Saleem," also known as Saleem Beharry, delivered a stellar performance,

but the highlight of the evening was the Caribbean's Chutney Queen, Savita Singh, who electrified the stadium. The headline act featured Chutney King Kris Persad, popularly known as KI, who lived up to expectations, delivering a vibrant performance and engaging the audience.

The festivities continued with the "One Guyana" Concert at the National Stadium, showcasing a lineup of strictly Guyanese artists from various music genres. The event featured Timeka Marshall, Natural Black, Alabama, Jackie Jaxx, Vanilla, Bill Rogers, Lil Million, Vicadi Singh, Bunty Singh, Tony Cuttz, Sonia Singh, Diana Chapman, Kevin Singh, First Born, Big Red, CKush, Gully Ras, and many more.

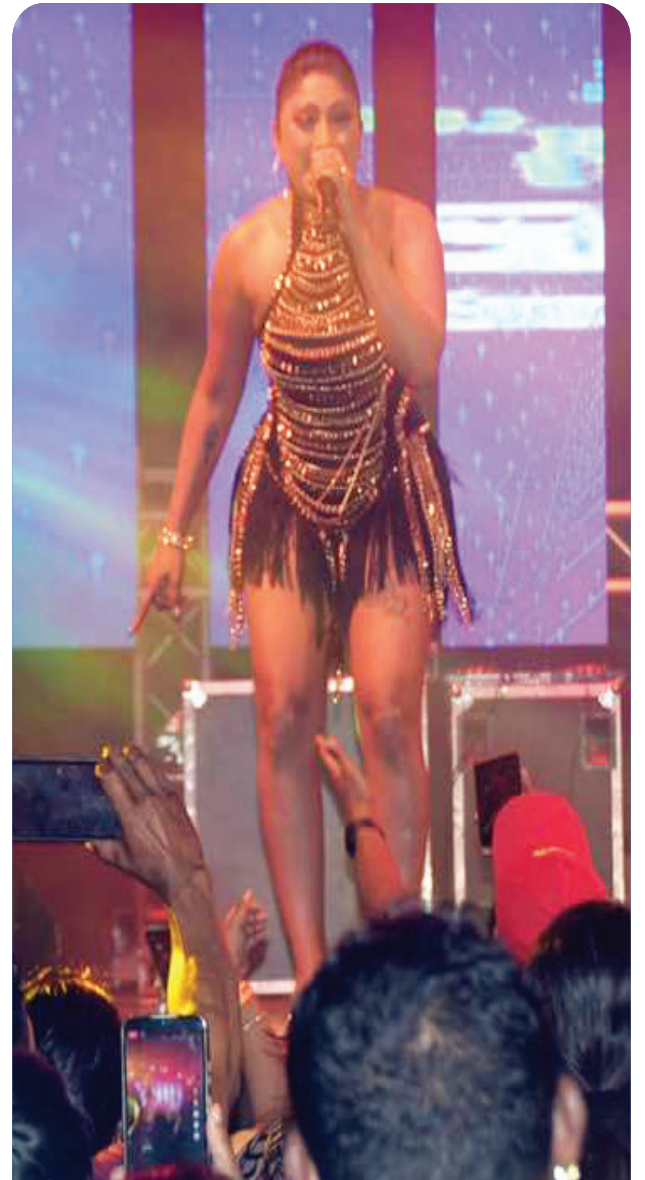
Meanwhile, Main Street in Georgetown dazzled with decorative lights hanging from tree branches, creating a welcoming ambience for patrons as Guyana hosted its second annual Regional Food Festival. The festival offered tourists and locals a tantalizing taste of West Indian cuisine and culture, all in one place.

Live entertainment and a wide variety of drinks and cocktails added to the festive atmosphere. From spicy seven curry to finger-licking barbecue and freshly made pizza, there was something to satisfy every palate.

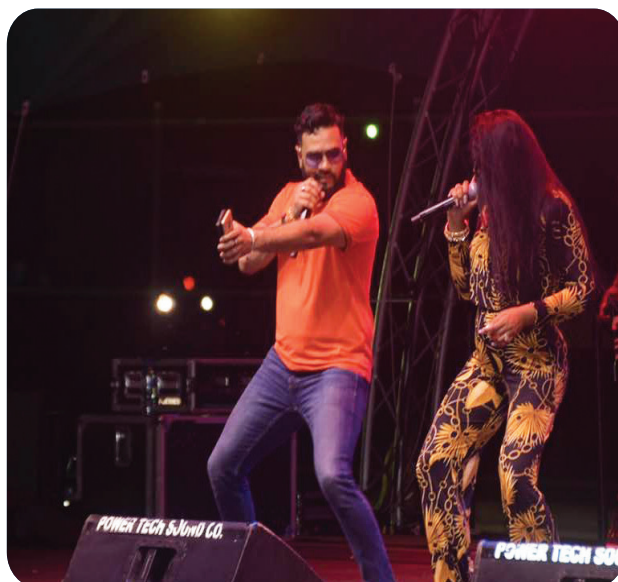
For the second consecutive year, Guyana is hosting the semifinals and finals of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). Numerous events are planned throughout the season to celebrate this sporting extravaganza, with all eyes on Guyana as the CPL's knockout, semi-finals, and finals coincide with these exciting festivities.



*A Guyanese Welcome*



*Chutney Overdose*







One Guyana Mega Concert



Regional Food Festival







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**Grace 100% Coconut Water**  
310 ml

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**Supligen Instant Breakfast Beverage** 250 ml

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**Nestle MILO Chocolate Malt Drink Mix** 900 g

**7.99 each**



**Marshall's Boneless Alaskan Pollock Fillet** 300 g

**3/9.99**



**Carita Ram Jam Soup** 45 g

**99¢ each**



**Hummingbird Carrot Drink** 540 ml

**1.99 each**



**National Plantain Chips or Banana Chips** 40-45 g

**2/1.50**



**National Spiced Bun** 340 g

**1.99 each**



**Lou & Nicky's Apple Cider Vinegar** 1 L

**1.69 each**



**Pickapeppa Original Sauce** 148 ml

**2.99 each**



**Brown Betty Creamed Coconut** 142 g

**89¢ each**



**Benjamins Rose Water** 480 ml

**3.69 each**



**Nupak Dry Pigeon Peas** 540 ml

**2/2.50**



**Grace Sardines In Tomato Sauce** 155 g

**3/2.00**



**Mr. Goudas Red Kidney Beans** 4 lbs

**5.99 each**



**Grace Instant Oats** 1 kg

**2.49 each**



**Linda Laundry Soap** 270 g

**1.69 each**



**Palmolive Dish Liquid** Original ONLY 591 ml

**1.99 each**



**Dettol Liquid Antiseptic** 500 ml

**3.99 each**



**TMPR Alcohol Solution** 473 ml

**1.99 each**



# Five Locations To



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**Frozen Fat Trimmed  
Best Quality  
Easy Cook Oxtail**



**\$6.99**  
lb

**Grown From Australia  
Free Range Goat**



**\$4.99**  
lb Frozen

**Burnt  
Goat Head**



**\$9.99**  
bag

**Jamaica's Choice  
Double Smoked Ham**



**\$3.99**  
lb

**Salted  
Beef Short Ribs**



**\$5.49**  
lb

**Frozen  
King Fish Steaks**



**\$6.99**  
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**Salted Alaskan  
Cod Fillets**



**\$8.99**  
lb

**Fresh Large  
Chicken Feet**



**\$1.99**  
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**Jamaica's Choice  
Smoked Turkey**



**\$6.99**  
lb

**Exceldor Fresh  
Chicken Leg  
Quarters**



**\$5.29**  
18 kg box  
With Purchase of 2 cases or  
More Thursday To Sunday Only  
Or 2.95 kg for Over 18 kg Boxes

## Fresh Seafood Catches

**Fresh Lane or  
Yellow Tail Snappers**



**\$4.99**  
From lb as is

**Fresh  
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**\$5.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Doctor or  
Parrot Fish**



**\$6.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh  
Porgy-Fish**



**\$3.99**  
lb as is

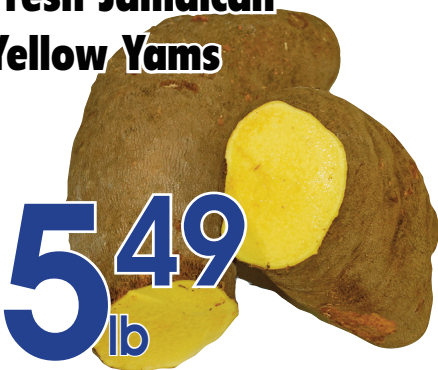
**Fresh Atlantic  
Whole Salmon**



**\$5.99**  
lb as is

### YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

**Fresh Jamaican  
Yellow Yams**



**5.49**  
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**Fresh Costa Rica  
Sweet Potatoes**



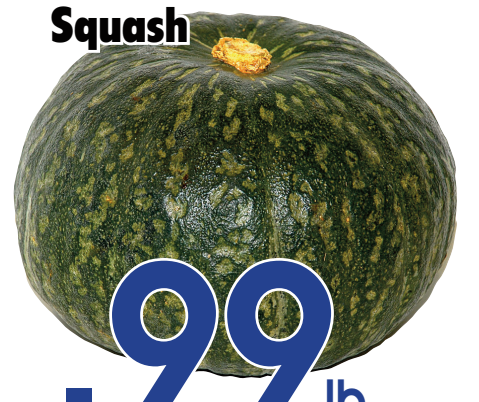
**1.69**  
lb

**Fresh  
Large Eddoes**



**2.49**  
lb

**Fresh Buttercup  
Squash**



**.99**  
lb

## Five Locations To Serve You Better

**Specials in Effect Thu. Sept. 28th  
until Wed. Oct. 4th, 2023.**

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



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**Store Hours**  
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**Store Hours**  
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Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
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**Store Hours**  
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Friday-Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 6 pm



**Store Hours**  
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Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

# Serve You Better





# GUYANA CELEBRATES AMERINDIAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH VIVID CULTURAL DISPLAYS



The entire month of September is filled with events in Guyana to celebrate Amerindian Heritage Month, a happy occasion that showcases the vibrant cultural diversity and age-old customs of the nation's indigenous groups.

The month began with an interfaith service at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre and a cultural extravaganza at the Sophia Exhibition Centre. This grand event featured captivating performances by indigenous dancers, calypsonians, and musicians, as well as a delectable culinary exhibition, offering a tantalising glimpse into the world of traditional Amerindian cuisine.

Promoting the health and well-being of indigenous people, the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs organised a fitness walk enthusiastically led by Minister Pauline Sukhai. Participants were encouraged to prioritise their health, ensuring they can savour the fruits of Guyana's development for years.

A significant date on the calendar was September 10, marked as Amerindian Heritage Day. This day commemorates the historic election of Stephen Campbell, the first Amerindian parliamentarian, in 1957. A compelling play was performed at the Umana

to honour his legacy of empowering indigenous communities and advocating for their rights. Adding an artistic dimension to the celebration, an art exhibition showcased the remarkable creations of indigenous artists at Castellani House. Meanwhile, hinterland schools embarked on an enlightening educational tour, venturing to notable institutions such as the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, the National Library, and the Red House.

President Ali himself participated in the festivities by joining the residents of Batavia in Region Seven for

the Heritage Village celebrations. He lauded the community's beauty and traditions in his address and envisioned it as a potential ecotourism destination. He reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all indigenous Guyanese.

The events of Amerindian Heritage Month are a reminder of the important contributions that indigenous people have made to Guyana's culture and history. They also promote understanding and appreciation of indigenous culture among all Guyanese.



A prayer being said in an Amerindian dialect



Part of the cultural extravaganza at the Sophia Exhibition Centre



Part of the cultural extravaganza at the Sophia Exhibition Centre



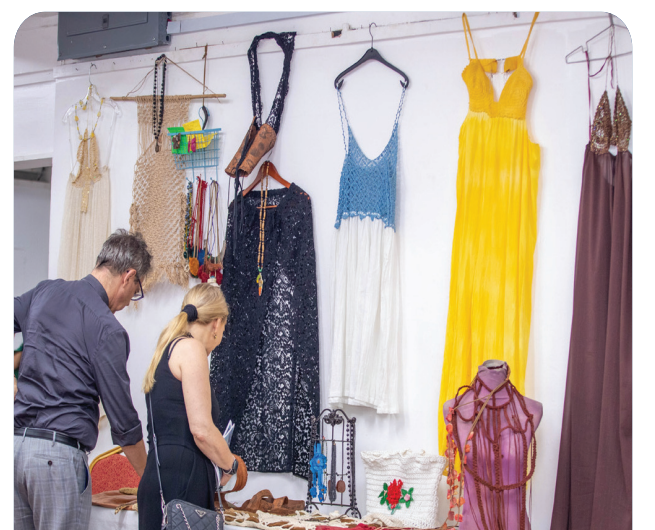
President Ali and other cabinet members at the interfaith service



Student visiting the Amerindian Affairs Ministry as part of the Heritage Month school Tour



Heritage Month Art Exhibition at Castellani House



Heritage Month Art Exhibition at Castellani House



Part of the Heritage Village Day celebration in Batavia



Part of the Heritage Village Day celebration in Batavia



Amerindians decked out in their cultural wear to participate in the Fitness Walk



# GUYANA RECEIVES BIDS FOR EIGHT OIL BLOCKS IN COMPETITIVE LICENSING ROUND

Guyana secured eight out of 14 oil blocks in a competitive licensing round, a significant achievement amid global financing challenges for petroleum-related activities.



*President Ali at the Atlantic Council studios discussing Guyana's role as an emerging global leader*

President Ali has described this as a "tremendous accomplishment" for Guyana, and Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo expressed the government's satisfaction with the offers received. President Ali emphasised the unique challenges faced by Guyana as it ventured into the market for capital at a time when major economies were reluctant to finance oil-

producing nations.

During an event in Washington DC, USA, President Ali highlighted Guyana's success in conducting oil and gas auctions, despite many countries failing to receive responses. "We went to this market for 14 blocks and got a response for eight... That cannot be minimised

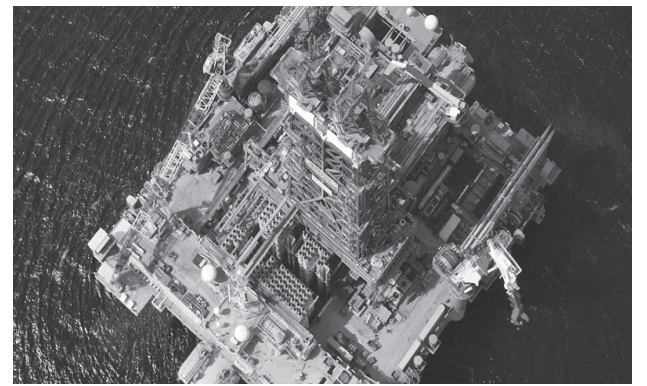
in any way, shape or form," President Ali underscored. He noted countries like India and Qatar were interested in the oil and gas industry, primarily through government-to-government partnerships, but Guyana's commitment to an open, transparent, and competitive process was significant.

At a press conference at Freedom House, Dr Jagdeo highlights the global context of net-zero emissions and scarce financing for petroleum exploration, with bid rounds conducted in advanced countries compared to smaller oil-producing nations.

On the regulatory

front, Guyana implemented a new Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) increased royalty rates and corporate tax, while maintaining 65% cost recovery for oil companies. The Petroleum Activities Bill introduced signing bonuses, work plans, and budget requirements.

The Ministry of Natural Resources received eight offers from companies, including the USA and the UK, despite stringent regulations. This success reflects improvements in the regulatory framework and the government's commitment to move away from the first-come-first-serve system.



*Discoverer*

"Just imagine this bid round taking place under the old conditions, I believe we would have had all 14 of the blocks immediately taken out ... it's a very different context from the Guyana of 2016 when Trotman (Raphael Trotman) signed that agreement," Dr Jagdeo underscored. The evaluation of the bids is expected to be completed before the

end of the year. The government launched the competitive offshore oil and gas licensing round in December 2022, initially with an April 2023 deadline, which was later extended to September 12. Out of the 14 blocks offered, 11 are in shallow water, while three are in ultra-deep water.

## COI INTO MAHDIA DORM FIRE BEGINS HEARING

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the devastating fire at the female dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School in Region Eight began its proceedings on Friday, September 15, 2023.

Chairman of the COI, Major General (retired) Joseph Singh, assured that the commission is committed to conducting the inquiry with transparency, efficiency, and sensitivity.

The commission will adhere to the Juvenile Justice Act of 2018 provisions, adopt best practices, and uphold

international standards to protect the interests of the minors involved. All hearings involving minors and relatives of the deceased and injured will be conducted in-camera. The public hearings are anticipated to conclude within one month.

A total of 15 witnesses, including ministers, survivors, and first responders, are expected to provide testimony during the inquiry.

Steve Jerome, the father of the boy who died in the fire, was the first witness to give

evidence on day one of the CoI. Jerome served as the dormitory father at the male dormitory of Mahdia Secondary School. He was followed by Mohamed Yacob Mazaharally, a pilot attached to Air Service Limited, who captained one of the aircraft that was part of the medical evacuation on the night of the fire.

The commission's main objectives are to investigate the causes of the dorm fire and examine the response to provide care and support to the injured, their families, and the



*From Left Commissioner Mr. Derrick John, Chairman, Major General (retired) Joseph Singh, and Commissioner Dr. Joycelin Kim Kyte-Thomas at the opening of the Commission of Inquiry (COI)*

families of the deceased. The commission will also offer recommendations and observations to prevent such tragedies in the future.

The COI is a welcome step towards understanding the causes of the fire and preventing similar tragedies in the future. It is important

to conduct the inquiry with transparency and sensitivity and to consider the needs of the victims and their families.

## THREE HIGH-END X-RAY MACHINES COMMISSIONED IN REGION SIX

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, commissioned three Siemens Healthineers radiography systems at the Mibicuri, Port Mourant, and the regional hospital in New Amsterdam, Region Six. The total cost of the machines is \$184 million.

Dr Anthony said the brand is very durable and provides high-quality images, hence the significant investment to procure them.

He underscored that

there has been significant investment in the region in recent years, including the upgraded infectious diseases unit and the maternal section at the New Amsterdam Hospital, the current construction of a new Skeldon Hospital, and the upgrading of various regional health centres.

The department had to be retrofitted to facilitate the new X-rays, which also saw a large amount of money being invested.

Meanwhile, Regional

Health Officer (RHO), Dr Vishalya Sharma said she is pleased that X-ray services are now available to residents at Mibicuri, noting that the undertaking is part of expanding and strengthening the diagnostic services in the region.

She observed that expanding services has led to a surge in patients seeking healthcare within the region.

"For the past three years there has been a progressive increase in

the number of X-ray exposures done in Region Six, and for 2022 alone we would have seen 22,400 X-rays being done at three sites in Region Six," she noted.

The commissioning of the new X-ray machines is a welcome development for the people of Region Six. It will improve access to quality healthcare and reduce the need for patients to travel to other parts of the country for these services.



*One of the machine*



## CONVERSATION TREE ROAD PROJECT ON TRACK TO MEET COMPLETION DEADLINE



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill engaging engineers on the Conversation Tree road project

The Conversation Tree Road project, executed by Trinidad-based company Kallco Guyana Inc. and Guyanese company S. Jagmohan Construction and General Supplies Inc., will be completed by November 5, 2023.

The project was previously behind schedule due to non-performance by Kallco Guyana Inc. However, the company has since made strides in bringing the project back on track and has engaged with Guyanese sub-

contractors to accelerate various aspects of the project, Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill disclosed at a recent engagement.

Edghill has expressed confidence that the project will be completed on time and within budget. He has also commended Kallco Guyana Inc. for its efforts to improve its performance.

The Conversation Tree Road project begins at the corridor approximately 1.9 kilometres from the

East Coast Demerara Highway and will connect to Dennis Street. It is also linked to Sheriff Street from the Dennis Street corridor.

The project has been split into two lots, with Lot 8A being executed by S. Jagmohan Construction and General Supplies Inc. at a contract value of \$1,066,358,738. Lot 8B was awarded to Kallco Guyana Inc. at a contract value of \$830.2 million. the highway

## ALBOUYSTOWN, CASTELLO HOUSING SCHEME TO GET \$182M ROADWORKS

Contracts worth \$182 million were signed to advance phase two of rehabilitative works on several roads in Albouystown and Castello Housing Scheme, West La Penitence, Georgetown. The project will see the construction of eight streets and three bridges in the area.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, said that development is a gradual process, but the government is

committed to building out communities across the country.

Phase One of the project, which cost approximately \$140 million, completed 1.8 kilometres of road works, including the now revamped Independence Boulevard.

Two local contractors, Angel's General Enterprises and Fibian Jessop Construction, have been awarded contracts for the second phase of the

project.

Angelina Christie, representing Angel's General Enterprises, said that she is elated to have the opportunity to contribute to her community. "I feel so good because I know that the government is working, and I'm happy that they called us out, as persons living in the community and contractors, and they've given us this work to do," she said.

Fibian Jessop said that he is thankful to



A total of 16 contracts were signed to build eight streets and three bridges in the area.

the government for giving him the chance to be a contractor on the

project.

The project's second phase is expected to be

completed within six months.

## GOVT IMPROVING AESTHETICS OF CJIA



Colour facade at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

The Guyana Government is working to improve the aesthetics of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), the country's premier port of entry.

One of the measures being taken is the installation of colorful designs on the curtain walls of the airport. While this has sparked some controversy, Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, has said that the goal is to create a more inviting and modern environment for travelers.

The minister also noted that the area targeted for renovation

fell within the airport's security zone, and that steps were taken to ensure that the project would not disrupt airport operations or compromise security. "If we had asked everybody to move until we get a modernised facility built that they could be accommodated, the same people that are criticising us for the wall would've been the same people criticising," he added.

In addition to the curtain walls, the government also provides paint and other supplies to businesses operating within the airport

to help them facilitate their facilities. "The partaking of the wall, beautifying and helping wasn't something that was forced upon the businesses there, they were fully aware, they participated, each one of them was given paint to improve their facility," the public works minister highlighted.

Minister Edghill also highlighted the security challenges faced by the airport, including the threat of "swatting," and reiterated the government's collaboration with stakeholders to minimise these risks.



# GOVT GIVES TEACHERS GRANT FOR CLASSROOM SUPPLIES



The grant is also expected to benefit students, as it will help to create a more conducive learning environment.

The Ministry of Education has launched a new school grant programme for teachers. Under the programme, teachers will receive \$4,000 per child on the Coastland and \$5,500 per child in the Hinterland each term. The grant will be used to purchase classroom janitorial, field, and office supplies. The programme

is designed to give teachers more freedom to prepare and manage their classrooms and ensure they have the resources they need to deliver the curriculum effectively. Minister of Education Priya Manickchand said that the grant is a "dream come true" for teachers, and that it will help to make schools more

child-friendly. Teachers have welcomed the grant, saying it will help them purchase essential learning materials and other supplies. Dooranie Singh, Graduate Senior Assistant Mistress at Meten-Meer-Zorg Primary, expressed her excitement: "The grant is like a dream come true for us here. We would not have to go into our pockets to buy learning materials and other stuff that would make learning essential for the children. This initiative is great for us, and the learners will benefit tremendously." Melicia Murray-Chung, Headteacher of Den Amstel Primary,

noted, "I can recall in the previous times that we would have had this sum of money for just one year... But with the grant that will be provided for each term, she said, "This gives us more spending power and getting more items to make our school a little bit more child-friendly." Shivanie Jairam, a teacher at Meten-Meer-Zorg Primary, highlighted that the grant would positively impact many children in her classroom. Tabitha Jagbir, a teacher at Den Amstel Nursery, described the initiative as "extremely amazing," emphasising the improved learning environment it would



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand and other officials handing over grant to headmistress of Windsor Forest Primary School, Leela Inderdeo

create. Dave Singh, a teacher at Meten-Meer-Zorg Primary, expressed gratitude for the long-awaited grant, stating, "We are very thankful to the ministry for this. It will help us to get most of the stuff we need for a better deliverance of the curriculum." Bibi Nickram, Headteacher of Goed Fortuin Primary,

expressed delight over the initiative's implementation in their school, saying, "We are elated to have this initiative in our school. We are more delighted that the minister visited our school personally to do this handing over... Anybody coming after now to Goed Fortuin Primary, it will be bigger and better."

# CHARITY GETS NEW \$28.3M AGRO-PROCESSING FACILITY



\$28.3M agro-processing facility commissioned at Charity

The government has commissioned a new agro-processing facility in Charity, Region Two, as part of its broader plan to establish 13 such facilities nationwide by

the end of 2023. The \$28.3 million facility will benefit more than 300 stakeholders, including farmers, agro-processors, and the region's women and

youth. It has a monthly production capacity of 24,000 litres of cassareep and 3,600 litres of sauces and seasonings. Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha said the new facility will help to harness the untapped potential of the local agro-processing industry and contribute significantly to the region's agro-product output. In addition to the Charity facility, the government has already established agri-

business incubators in Parika, Fort Wellington, St Ignatius, and Watooka, and has procured equipment for agro-processing and packaging facilities in Sophia, Parika, and Mabaruma. Last year, the government also commissioned a \$37 million state-of-the-art food processing factory in Fort Wellington, Region Five, which is expected to benefit approximately 700 persons, including farmers, agro-



The commissioning of the facility

processors, women, youth, and other stakeholders. The government's investment in agro-processing is part of its broader effort to

boost agricultural productivity, increase employment opportunities, and enhance food security.

# 29 REGION TWO FARMERS GET \$2M IN AGRI. INPUTS

The government has distributed approximately \$2 million in agriculture inputs to 29 small and medium-scale farmers in Region Two to expand food production.

The inputs, which include small land tillers, water pumps, and pasture fence materials, were made possible by funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through Component Two of the Ministry of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Development



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, regional officials, staff of the ministry, and residents of Mashabo

Programme (SADP). Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha said the government is keen to transform Guyana's agriculture sector in various communities as part of its robust drive to be food secure. He

also announced that the government will work with farmers to develop all aspects of the sector in the region. In particular, Minister Mustapha informed Mashabo farmers that they will

need to contribute to the supply of goods for the local and regional markets, as many CARICOM countries now depend on Guyana to provide fresh fruits and vegetables. He also said that the ministry

will soon collaborate with farmers to advance pineapple cultivation. The government also seeks to explore red pea cultivation in Mashabo when that project is operational.

In addition, Minister Mustapha added tambaqui fingerlings to one of the fish cages that had been set up in Mashabo. This timely intervention resulted from President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's visit to the area in August, during

which he made several commitments to local residents and farmers who had asked for help with various inputs to advance agriculture in the area.

Through the SADP initiative, farmers from Region Four received inputs totaling \$3.3 million in July. The government's investment in agriculture inputs is part of its broader effort to boost agricultural productivity, increase employment opportunities, and enhance food security.



# INT'L SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATES HISTORY, LEGACY OF MUSLIMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

The first "International Symposium on the History and Legacy of Muslims in the Caribbean" was held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) from September 4-6, 2023. The Government of Guyana organised the event in collaboration with the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The symposium brought together scholars, researchers, and educators from across the globe to discuss the history and contributions of Muslims in the



President Ali addressing the opening of the International Symposium on the History and Legacy of Muslims in the Caribbean

Caribbean. The symposium's goal was to promote a deeper understanding of shared heritage.

In his opening remarks, President Ali urged participants to focus on the history of Muslims in the

Caribbean and craft a strategy for the future of Islam in the region.

"There is a mistaken view that somehow, Islam and the practice of Islam cannot survive or is different from a multicultural environment, but Islam promotes existence

in a multicultural environment," the Head of state asserted. He said that Islam is a religion that promotes coexistence and understanding and that Muslims in the Caribbean have a long history of resilience and resistance.

The symposium featured various presentations on topics such as the role of Islam in Caribbean culture, the experience of Muslims in the Caribbean, and the challenges of Islamophobia. The event also included

several workshops and roundtables promoting understanding and cooperation between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Caribbean.

The symposium successfully highlighted the contributions of Muslims to Caribbean history and culture. It also helped to foster a spirit of unity and tolerance among participants. The knowledge gained and the connections forged during the symposium will be a starting point for further research, dialogue, and collaboration on issues related to Islam in the Caribbean.



The symposium's goal was to foster unity, tolerance, and appreciation for religious diversity

## DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP IMPORTANT IN PROMOTING HARMONY IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY- PRESIDENT ALI



President Ali in attendance at the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists' Centre for South Asian Religions Annual Leadership Development Conference

President Ali has stressed the importance of dynamic leadership

in promoting harmony in a diverse society, noting that leaders have a responsibility to provide a d a p t a b l e and flexible leadership. He made the remarks during the opening ceremony of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' Centre for South Asian Religions Annual Leadership Development Conference in Georgetown.

Guyana is a multi-ethnic country with six main cultural groups.

President Ali said that religious leaders are responsible for providing dynamic leadership shaped by the values and principles of their faith. He also urged them to examine the role of culture and the arts in shaping the minds of young people.

"Religion is the bridge to unity and the vehicle to achieving humaneness," President Ali said. "The leadership that we provide has to be very multifaceted, cross-dimensional and multifunctional because that leadership has to be adapted to every nation, every tribe, every language."

President Ali stressed that leadership in a multicultural society must be based on strong values and

principles. "It must be leadership that stands on a foundation," he said. "It's not leadership by Maslow's theory or anyone's theory. It's leadership that stands on a foundation because you are not leaders of a restaurant; you are leading a church that is birthed out of a religious context."

The President also praised the Seventh-day Adventist Church for its adaptable approach to promoting leadership and guidance in a multicultural society. He said the church's work exemplifies how religious leaders can encourage unity and harmony positively.

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' Centre



Some of the religious leaders in attendance at the conference

for South Asian Religions Annual Leadership Development Conference is a forum for religious leaders from across Guyana to discuss the challenges and opportunities of leadership in a diverse society. The conference is designed to help religious leaders develop the skills and knowledge

they need to be effective leaders in a multicultural environment.

The conference was held at the Regency Hotel in Georgetown under the theme, "Dynamic Leadership for a Diverse Society."

## PM SLAMS OPPOSITION FOR ATTEMPTS TO TRIVIALISE SLAVERY

Prime Minister Phillips, has called on members of the public to vehemently condemn the callous attempts by Opposition Member of Parliament Roysdale Forde to trivialise the magnitude of slavery.

In a letter released to the various newspaper entities, PM Phillips called out the opposition for yet another blatant representation of racism while referencing Forde's comments on the apology offered by the former British

Prime Minister William Gladstone.

Forde had said that "sadly in the 21st century independent Guyana, the Ali government, in many ways, is not different from the colonial masters and enslavers."

PM Phillips identified these comments as devoid of historical awareness, sensitivity, and understanding of the impact of slavery on societies and individuals. He said that comparing the

freedoms that were fought for and are enjoyed today should never be equated to the regime of slavery that existed hundreds of years ago. "These comments only displayed a vile attempt to trivialise the impact of slavery while discrediting the atrocities suffered by countless individuals," PM Phillips said.

He added that slavery is undeniably one of the darkest chapters in human history, marked by immense suffering, dehumanisation,

and the systematic violation of basic human rights. "It is disheartening to witness the extent to which Forde has journeyed to deceive the public in furtherance of his own political agenda, particularly given his own involvement in the orchestrated coup against the leadership of the PNC," the PM relayed.

These comments form part of the opposition's campaign to perpetuate falsehoods and mislead Guyanese, as they seek to

undermine the government's policy of promoting inclusivity and unity.

PM Phillips pointed out that President Ali remains a passionate advocate for the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) reparations initiative, which illustrates a commitment to addressing past wrongs and working towards mutual understanding and reconciliation.

Meanwhile, the government's plans and policies demonstrate an

understanding of the importance of crafting a diverse, multicultural, and brighter future while building on the experiences learned from the past.

"This," he said, "is the approach that should be taken by leaders of a country, as opposed to seeking to cause strife and upset."



# PM OUTLINES PLAN TO TRANSFORM GUYANA'S POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips has outlined the government's plans to transform the country's power infrastructure to meet its growing needs.

At an Energy Mixer event at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Prime Minister Phillips said that the government is committed to investing in a reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy system. He highlighted the following key initiatives: upgrading the transmission and distribution system and adopting a low-carbon strategy.

He explained that the government is investing in upgrading the existing transmission network to ensure it can reliably deliver

power to all parts of the country. This includes laying a pipeline to bring natural gas ashore, building a power plant, and rebuilding the transmission and distribution system.

"GPL [Guyana Power and Light Limited] has undertaken extensive work on its transmission and distribution system and launched various initiatives to enhance its overall functionality and efficiency, addressing the historical problems of inadequate maintenance and frequent disruptions," he said

The prime minister emphasised that the government is committed to reducing Guyana's reliance on fossil fuels and



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips addressing the Energy Mixer

increasing its use of clean and renewable energy sources. By 2030, Guyana aims to produce 500 MW of electricity from clean energy sources

like solar, wind, and hydro. He detailed the medium-to-long-term plans, including the Gas to Energy Project with an investment of US\$1.8 billion that will

substantially solve the energy problem. The project aims to provide 300 MW of power by the end of 2024.

He said the government will continue working with GPL to bring sustainable energy to Guyana's households, businesses, and industries.

The Energy Mixer was held under the theme "Delivering the Energy Benefits: The Transmission and Distribution System".



Part of the gathering

## GUYANA'S ELECTRICITY WOES ARE A RESULT OF APNU+AFC'S SHORTSIGHTEDNESS - VP JAGDEO

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo blamed the country's current electricity woes on the APNU+AFC government's "shortsightedness" and sabotage of the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project.

Dr. Jagdeo said that the APNU+AFC government lied to the people about the Amaila Falls Project, telling them that it would double the cost of electricity. However, he said that the project would have reduced the electricity cost by half. "In fact, at that time, the cost of electricity was \$0.30 per kilowatt per hour. We were going to buy power at \$0.10



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the media

per kilowatt hour. Our generation cost was over \$0.20, so it would have cut the prices by half... Because they had the customers and they were getting cheaper power

because it was costing them \$0.20 per kilowatt hour to generate. Now, they would get it at \$0.10 per kilowatt hour. So, even if they drop it from \$0.30 to \$0.20

per kilowatt hour, they were still making the margin," he said during an interview.

He also said that the APNU+AFC government did nothing

to invest in new power generation capacity during its five years in office. As a result, the country's demand for electricity has outpaced its supply, leading to blackouts.

"They did not invest in that (power capacity); they invested in buying hundreds of millions of vehicles for ministers and a whole range of things, but never in power supply."

Dr Jagdeo said the government is now addressing the problem, including purchasing emergency power plants and investing in the gas-to-energy project. However, he said that it would take some time to resolve the issue.

He also criticised the APNU+AFC government for its "impromptu" decision-making, saying that it has led to a lack of planning for the future.

"We have had to come back and pick up the pieces again and try to form a coherent strategy around power delivery to people."

Dr. Jagdeo said that the APNU+AFC government's "shortsightedness" has hurt the country's economy and people. He called on the opposition to stop its "sabotage" of the gas-to-energy project and work with the government to solve the country's energy problems.

## NEW NDC BUILDING TO BETTER SERVE CANE GROVE RESIDENTS



Newly commissioned Cane Grove NDC building

The newly commissioned \$14.2 million Neighbourhood Democratic Council

(NDC) building in Cane Grove, Region Four will provide residents with a more efficient

and convenient way to access services.

The two-storey building features

office spaces, waiting areas, boardroom, washroom facilities, and storage room. It is also equipped with solar panels to provide sustainable energy.

Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud, who commissioned the building, said that it will "bring tremendous ease" to residents.

He urged the NDC staff to provide timely and courteous service to the community, and to maintain the building.

"I want to let the residents know that you will be better served

in this community," Minister Persaud said. "I want to ask the NDC to take good care of the building and keep the yard clean because these premises can enhance your community."

Minister Persaud also noted that the government is committed to improving the lives of Guyanese through the development of infrastructure, and the provision of essential services.

"The President Ali-led Government is working relentlessly to transform the economic and social landscape throughout the country,"

he said.

Director of the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), Dharamkumar Seeraj, who was also present at the commissioning, said that the NDC will work towards addressing issues in the community, such as the need for better road networks.

"The NDC is more equipped," he said. "It will be more comfortable here to serve the public as we move now to address those pressing needs of access in terms of our road networks, the streets that we have in some of the difficult areas."





President Ali and other officials during a tour of the quarry project



Aerial view of the EKAA HRIM Quarry project in Batavia, Region Seven

## US\$10M QUARRY PROJECT TO TRANSFORM BATAVIA'S ECONOMY

A US\$10 million quarry project in Batavia, Region Seven, is set to significantly transform the economy of the village, and create new opportunities for its residents.

The project, commissioned by President Ali, is being executed by an Indian company, EKAA HRIM Earth Resource Management Inc. It is expected to create over 100 jobs during construction, and 50 permanent jobs once completed.

President Ali said the project is part of the government's plan to create wealth and opportunities at the

community and regional levels. He urged the company to hire and train more people from the community, particularly operators for the heavy-duty equipment.

**“One of the things that you will find in our hinterland communities is very raw and natural talent. What we have to do now is to modify that raw talent with the type of certification and safety that come with it...So that they can be seamlessly integrated into your operations, and that is what we want,”** he added.

Dr Ali asked Batavia's Toshao, Oren Williams, to provide a list with the names of young people who want to be trained in electrical engineering and other technical skills.

The quarry project is expected to boost the local economy by providing jobs and stimulating economic activity. It is also expected to create opportunities in the logistics and transportation sectors, as well as in the mining and quarrying sector itself.

The project is also expected to have a positive impact on the environment. The

company has committed to using sustainable mining practices and to minimising its environmental impact.

The private firm signed two contracts with the Amerindian community to lease the lands for mining operations earlier this year. The contracts, which are valid for 15 years and can be renewed after that time, call for the use of about 1,098 acres of land.

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs will be in charge of supervision to guarantee openness and responsibility.

## NEW \$224M ROAD BRINGS RELIEF TO MATTHEWS RIDGE RESIDENTS

Hundreds of residents in Matthews Ridge, Region One, are now benefiting from a new concrete road that was recently completed for \$244 million. The road, which is 1,150 meters long and 16 feet wide, was built by GV Construction Incorporated as part of the Hinterland Roads Programme.

The new road is a major improvement over the old dirt road, which was often impassable during the rainy season. The concrete road will make it easier for residents to get around and will also help to boost economic activity in the area.

The road was commissioned by Minister of Housing

and Water, Collin Croal, who said that it reflects the government's commitment to improving infrastructure in hinterland communities. He also said that the Ministry of Public Works will supervise the completion of an additional section of the road, which will benefit Station Street, School Street, and Hell Hill.

Residents of Matthews Ridge are very grateful for the new road. They said that it will make a big difference in their lives and will help to improve their community.

The new road is also a major boost for the local economy. The area

is known for its gold and manganese mining, and the new road will make it easier for miners to get their products to market.

Regional Chairman Brentnol Ashley and other regional representatives and contractors were also at the commissioning ceremony.

### \$675M IN ROADS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN MATARKAI SUB-DISTRICT

Meanwhile, residents of communities within the Matarkai sub-district, Region One are set to benefit from the construction of concrete roads, expected to be completed by the end of 2023, and will encompass

areas



Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal and Regional Chairman Brentnol Ashley during the commissioning of the road

Kaituma and Matthews Ridge.

The construction of the concrete roads is part of the government's hinterland road programme, which aims to improve infrastructure in remote areas. Oil revenues are funding

the programme, and it is expected to benefit thousands of people in the hinterland.

They will be constructed by local contractors and are expected to last for many years.

Minister Croal assured residents that every sub-region in

Region One will benefit from the programme. He also highlighted that infrastructure improvements will be undertaken on the access road leading to the newly constructed wharf at Oronoque in Port Kaituma

## AUDITOR GENERAL PRESENTS 19TH REPORT TO SPEAKER

The Auditor General's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, was presented to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir. This is the 19th report of the Audit Office under the tenure of the Auditor General, Deodat Sharma.

In addition to the 2022 audit, three

performance audits were also presented. These were an assessment of the Ministry of Education Hinterland School Feeding Programme, the Implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005, and a Review of the Ministry of Labour Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Process.

These reports will be made public once laid in the National Assembly.

Sharma also disclosed that the Audit Office has issued audit reports for 102 NDCs, six municipalities, and 69 statutory bodies. The Guyana Post Office Corporation, which was in arrears, now has its account audited up to 2021.

To date, the Auditor General's office has issued 16 performance audits. Sharma noted that capacity building has also been a key priority of the audit office to strengthen the ability to conduct and examine performance audits and reports.

Through its partnership with the

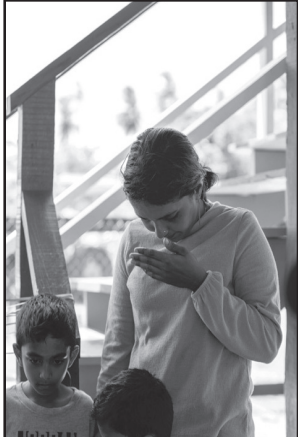
Canadian Auditing and Accountability Foundation (CAAF), 15 management and middle-management officers have participated in a train-the-trainers programme. A total of 17 officers have also benefitted from report writing training, and 23 have attended training to develop the office's capability to perform

audits in the extractive industries.

Speaker Nadir commended the Auditor General's office as an impactful and credible voice in monitoring how the country's resources are expended. He noted that the work of the audit office is expected to increase significantly as the country receives more resources.



# REGION SIX SINGLE MOM RECEIVES NEW HOME THROUGH MOM INITIATIVE



*Sadna Rambarran and her family*

Sadna Rambarran, a single mother of three residing in Lesbeholden, Black Bush Polder, Region Six, is the latest beneficiary of a new, fully furnished home

under President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's Men on Mission (MoM) initiative.

The home, valued at nearly \$8 million, was constructed by contractor Devanand Sawh of D Sawh Mechanical Workshop. The official handover ceremony took place at Rambarran's residence.

Minister Mustapha, who was present at the ceremony, said that initiatives like the MoM are integral to enhancing the livelihoods of Guyanese. He noted that the government is committed to housing all Guyanese, including vulnerable groups such as single mothers.

"Although we

see so many homes and house lots being distributed across the country, we still have vulnerable people. And the president has set aside this programme so that we can help these vulnerable groups in the community," Minister Mustapha noted.

Regional Chairman,

David Armogan, also spoke at the ceremony and praised the contractor's work. He said that Rambarran is employed in the part-time work initiative, which helps to supplement her household's income.

Contractor Devanand Sawh said that



*The new home for Sadna Rambarran and her family*



*Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, Sadna Rambarran, Contractor, Devanand Sawh, and other officials at the handing over ceremony*

he was happy to be part of the MoM initiative and that he hopes other businesses will come on board to support the government's efforts to improve the lives of Guyanese.

The MoM initiative has already seen the

construction of eight homes in Berbice. It is expected that more homes will be built in the coming months.

# BIOFORTIFIED RICE HARVESTED IN REGION 6 – WILL HELP IMPROVE CITIZENS' HEALTH

The Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) has harvested a biofortified rice variety with nutritionally enhanced zinc. The variety, developed in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Fondo Latinoamericano para Arroz de Riego (FLAR), and CARICOM, is expected to benefit farmers and Guyana significantly.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said that the new variety will provide farmers with various opportunities, as it has a higher nutritional value than conventional rice. "We are launching



*Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, officials of the ministry, and extension officers*

a variety of rice that will shortly become an official variety for farmers in our country so that they can cultivate it. This variety of rice will attract preferential prices around the region and different parts of the world."

He also emphasised

the importance of the new variety for the general public, as it will help address the zinc deficiency issue in Guyana.

Speaking at the harvesting ceremony hosted at Karmananda Basdeo's plot at Lesbeholden, Black

Bush Polder, Region Six, Minister Mustapha said that the project's success is testament to the investments made in the GRDB's rice research facility. He also noted that Guyana was chosen to conduct the trial due to the research station's excellent performance,

and the government's commitment to reviving the agriculture industry.

IICA's Country Representative Wilmot Garnett said that the organisation will continue to support the work of the GRDB, biofortified rice, and

other projects financially and with technical expertise. He said that the new variety is a "game-changer" for the agriculture sector, and will help to improve the health and well-being of Guyanese.

Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Madanlall Ramraj, GRDB's General Manager Badrie Persaud, and CARICOM's Programme Manager, Shaun Baugh, also delivered remarks at the ceremony. They all expressed their support for the project and its potential to benefit Guyana.

# TELEMEDICINE SAVES LIVES IN REMOTE GUYANA VILLAGE



*Toshao of Konashen/Masakenari, Paul Chekema*

Konashen/Masakenari, an Amerindian village in the

deep south of Guyana's Rupununi region, is hundreds of miles away

from the capital city of Georgetown. Access to quality and efficient healthcare services is limited in this part of the country. However, a new telemedicine project has been implemented in the village's health center and is already making a difference.

Telemedicine is a two-way, real-time interactive communication between patients and healthcare providers

at different sites. It is supported by audio and video equipment and integrated medical devices that allow clinicians to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients remotely.

Paul Chekema, the Toshao/leader of Konashen/Masakenari, said that the telemedicine project has been a lifesaver. He recently witnessed how it helped to save the life of a mother and her

baby.

"The baby was in a breeched position," Chekema said. "If we didn't have telemedicine, I don't know what we would have done."

The telemedicine project allowed the village health worker to be guided through the delivery, and the baby was born safely. Chekema is grateful to the government for implementing the telemedicine project and hopes it will be

expanded to other remote communities.

The telemedicine project was launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with US company 19Labs. It is part of the government's efforts to improve access to healthcare in rural areas.

The project has been well-received by residents of Konashen/Masakenari. They said that it has allowed them to get the care they need without travelling long distances.



# KINGSTON SEAWALL ESPLANADE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

## -PROVIDING A SAFE AND INVITING RECREATIONAL SPACE



First Lady Arya Ali

The Kingston Seawall Esplanade officially opened on Friday, September 15, 2023. The initiative is part of First Lady Arya Ali's National Beautification Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works.

The area has undergone significant improvements, including a renovated Bandstand, freshly paved paths, a new restroom facility, two promenades, a new children's play area, 18

food vendor stalls in an expansive food court and designated parking spaces along the seawall. A police outpost was also established for security, and surveillance cameras were installed, along with improved lighting. Free Wi-Fi is also accessible to the public.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, First Lady Ali expressed that when she assumed office three years ago, her primary goal was to utilise her position effectively

for the betterment of Guyana and its people. Consequently, she prioritised clean and beautifying recreational spaces across the country while creating safe, wholesome spaces for citizens. She believed this initiative would contribute to the

"For as long as any of us can remember, we have come here to worship, we came here to relax, to find moments of solitude and to feed our soul. And so in considering what we do in this area, we talked about making it more comfortable, more organised, more safe,



The commissioning of the facilities

development projects happening nationwide.

The seawall project was a significant undertaking, as it has always been a popular gathering place for Guyanese to socialise.

and more accessible," she noted.

The First Lady encouraged Guyanese to take pride in and care for the facilities.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan



The public enjoying the upgraded facilities

Edghill, emphasised that as the government leads the transformational agenda nationwide, it is important that spaces are created to promote wholesome family entertainment. "We will continue to work not only here in Georgetown, but wherever we can make safe spaces, green spaces, family-oriented spaces on the direction and initiative of Her Excellency," he stated.

He mentioned

that the entire project was executed by local contractors, pointing out that around 30 small and medium-sized contractors were actively involved.

The Kingston Seawall Esplanade is a welcome addition to the recreational landscape of Guyana. It provides a safe and inviting space for families and individuals to enjoy the outdoors, socialise, and relax.

# GUYANA'S COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES ATHLETES AWARDED \$1M

The Guyana Olympic Association (GOA) awarded \$1 million to the young athletes who represented Guyana at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. The athletes were recognised for their outstanding achievements, which included a gold medal in the mixed 4x400m relay.

The ceremony was held at Olympic House and attended by the GOA President, Godfrey Monroe, and



Awarding ceremony for the participants of Commonwealth Youth Games 2023

the athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders. Monroe said the awards were a way to "acknowledge and celebrate" the athletes'

accomplishments. The 15-year-old sensation, Tianna Springer was awarded the highest prize of \$500,000. She won

the gold medal in the individual women's 400m and anchored the victorious relay team. Narissa McPherson, who also won a bronze medal in the women's 400m, received half of Springer's prize money. Malachi Austin, the silver medallist in the men's 400m, received \$350,000, while Javon Roberts was granted \$100,000.

The coaches of the athletes, Julian Edmonds and Mark Scott, were also awarded

\$50,000 each. Springer said she was "excited" to receive the award and "following her dreams", while Austin said he was proud to be a role model for young athletes in Guyana. McPherson said that it was "great" to represent her country. Roberts said that he saw a "bright future" for himself and would bring home a gold medal at the Olympics for Guyana.

Scott said there is a need for continued

support for athletes and coaches. Edmonds expressed his pride in the athletes' confidence and performance.

The GOA said that discussions have already commenced about the upcoming CARFITA games in Grenada in 2024. With the dedication, talent, and support displayed by Guyana's Commonwealth Youth Games athletes, the future of sports in the nation appears brighter than ever before.

# OGLE CRICKET CLUB GROUND TO RECEIVE \$10M UPGRADE



Minister Ramson meeting with residents of Ogle ECD

The Ogle Cricket Club Ground, East Coast Demerara, is set

to receive \$10 million in infrastructural upgrade. The funds will improve

the ground's condition and make it suitable for various sporting activities.

Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sport Charles Ramson Jr. made the announcement during a recent visit to the ground. He said the upgrade would include levelling the outfield, improving the parking

lot, and erecting a new fence.

Minister Ramson said that the government is committed to investing in sports infrastructure and that the Ogle Cricket Club Ground is essential to the country's sporting landscape. He said that the upgrade will make the ground a more

attractive and accessible venue for athletes and spectators alike.

The Ogle Cricket Club Ground is popular for cricket, football, and other sporting events such as cultural and other community activities.

The government has been investing heavily in sports infrastructure

in recent years. This is part of the government's commitment to promoting sports and physical activity among Guyanese. The Ogle Cricket Club Ground upgrade is just one example of this commitment.



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# Guyana celebrates cricket win



The Guyana Amazon Warriors marched to victory against the Trinbago Knight Riders on Monday evening. This is a recap of some of the moments from this moving and ecstatic day.

Leg-spinner Imran Tahir made cricket history by taking 18 wickets against the Trinidad Knight Riders, a feat only bettered only by fellow South African Dwaine Pretorius' 20 scalps.

Tahir, whose 39 wickets are the most wickets in a World Cup for South Africa, led the Guyana Ama-

zon Warriors to their first CPL title after five previous appearances in the finals.

"It's been a great experience playing for this beautiful franchise and playing for these beautiful people who always come and support us. Winning this is a dream come true," said Tahir with tears of joy running down his cheeks.

He praised the President of Guyana Dr Irfaan Ali for his support of the team. "President Ali provided all that we wanted to be successful as well as a backroom

staff. The little things that happen behind the scenes are also important," informed Tahir, who has taken 54 wickets from 20 Tests and 173 from 107 ODIs.

Above are scenes of the celebration across Guyana that followed the victory as satisfied fans partied well into Monday morning.

Man-of-the-Match was Dwaine Pretorius who bagged 4-26 to take his total for the competition to 20 wickets.

Warriors won by nine wickets.



# AMAZON WARRIORS FINISH GROUP STAGE IN TOP SPOT; SUFFER SETBACK IN FIRST QUALIFIER

The Guyana Amazon Warriors had a mixed bag in the Guyana leg of the 2023 Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at the Providence Stadium.

## DOMINATE JAMAICA TALLAWAHS

They kicked off their home game with a dominant performance against the Jamaica Tallawahs, securing a seven-wicket victory. The Tallawahs were bowled out for 152, with Brandon King (52) and Raymon Reifer (20) leading the scoring. The Amazon Warriors' bowlers, including Imran Tahir, Romario Shepherd, and Odean Smith, each claimed two wickets. In response, the Amazon Warriors comfortably chased down the target, with Saim Ayub's explosive 85 and Matthew Nandu's 37 playing crucial roles.

## LOSE TO SAINT LUCIA KINGS

However, their fortunes took a turn in the second match as they lost to the Saint Lucia Kings by seven wickets. Despite posting a competitive 167/5, the Kings successfully chased down the target with 15 balls to spare, powered by a remarkable 132-run partnership between Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Colin Munro.

## THRASH TRINBAGO KNIGHT RIDERS

The Amazon Warriors regained their winning form in their final group stage match, defeating the Trinbago Knight Riders by six wickets. Shai Hope's unbeaten 54 guided them to victory with ten balls remaining, while Keacy Carty's brilliant 83 was a standout performance for the Knight Riders.

## DEFEATED BY TRINBAGO KNIGHT RIDERS IN CPL QUALIFIER 1

However, their journey hit a roadblock in Qualifier 1, where the Trinbago Knight Riders defeated the Amazon Warriors by seven wickets. The Knight Riders won the toss, chose to bowl first, and executed disciplined bowling to restrict the Amazon Warriors to 166/7 after 20 overs. Chadwick Walton shone for the Knight Riders in the chase, scoring an unbeaten 80 to secure victory.

Now, the Trinbago Knight Riders await the winner of Qualifier 2, which will be contested between the Guyana Amazon Warriors and the Jamaica Tallawahs, with the final scheduled for Sunday following Qualifier 2 on Friday.







# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



## NEW ECCLES/HAAGS BOSCH ROUNDAABOUT COMMISSIONED

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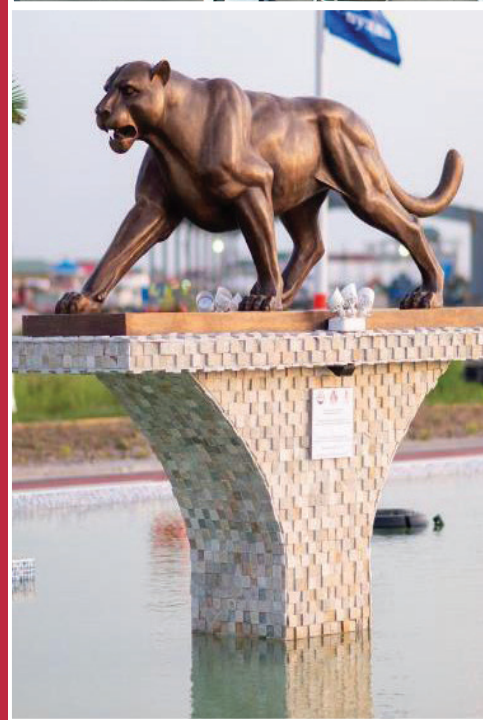
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2023

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM

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VEGETABLE & FRUIT

<p>Chinese Eggplant 长形茄瓜 Reg: \$1.59</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>	<p>USA Tomato 美国蕃茄 Reg: \$1.29</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Butternut Squash 葫芦瓜 Reg: \$0.99</p> <p><b>69¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Napa 绍菜 Reg: \$0.99</p> <p><b>79¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Nai Yu Bok Choy 奶油白 Reg: \$1.59</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>
<p>USA Sweet Potato 美国番薯 Reg: \$0.99</p> <p><b>79¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Green Pepper 青椒 Reg: \$1.39</p> <p><b>JUMBO 99¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Lime 青柠檬 Reg: 2 for \$1.00</p> <p><b>3/\$99¢</b></p>	<p>Shepherd Peppers 红甜椒 Reg: \$1.99</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Mustard Stem 芥菜仔 Reg: \$1.59</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>
<p>Interspecific Plum 青布林 Reg: \$1.99</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Avocado 牛油果 Reg: 2 for \$1.99</p> <p><b>2/\$99¢</b></p>	<p>Banana 香蕉 Reg: \$0.99</p> <p><b>79¢ lb</b></p>	<p>South Africa Orange 南非甜橙 Reg: \$1.29</p> <p><b>99¢ lb</b></p>	<p>Vietnamese Green Pomelo 越南青柚 Reg: \$5.99</p> <p><b>3.99 ea</b></p>

GROCERY

<p>Nongshim Kimchi Flavour Instant Noodle 6pkx75g 乌龙面 Reg: \$9.99</p> <p><b>7.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Dare Breaktime Biscuits Series 250g 早餐饼 Reg: \$2.59</p> <p><b>1.59 ea</b></p>	<p>7 UP 12X355ml 饮料 Reg: \$7.99</p> <p><b>5.99 ea</b></p>
<p>Ampawa Coconut Milk 椰奶 1000ml Reg: \$4.99</p> <p><b>3.59 ea</b></p>	<p>Mae Ploy Sweet Chilli Sauce 730ml 甜辣酱 Reg: \$4.99</p> <p><b>2.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Shing Kee Chili Sauce Series 3830g 素辣酱 Reg: \$25.99</p> <p><b>18.99 ea</b></p>
<p>VINH THUAN Crisp Fried Powder Mix Series 150g 酥炸粉 Reg: \$1.39</p> <p><b>69¢ ea</b></p>	<p>Aji-ngon Pork 170g 浓汤粉 Reg: \$2.29</p> <p><b>1.39 ea</b></p>	<p>American Eagle Pink Salt 1.1Kg 粉盐 Reg: \$2.99</p> <p><b>1.88 ea</b></p>

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

<p>Broccoli 西兰花 <b>28.00 case</b></p>	<p>Green Onion 葱 <b>60.00 case</b></p>	<p>Spanish Onion 洋葱 <b>26.00 case</b></p>	<p>Green Cabbage 椰菜 <b>19.00 case</b></p>	<p>Carrot 红萝卜 <b>32.00 case</b></p>
<p>Green Pepper 25LB 青椒 <b>25.00 case</b></p>	<p>Andy Boy Head Lettuce 圆生菜 <b>52.00 case</b></p>	<p>Lemon 黄柠檬 <b>35.00 case</b></p>	<p>Chinese Eggplant 长形茄瓜 <b>29.00 case</b></p>	<p>Frozen Panga Basa Fillet 8x3.5LB 鱼柳 <b>60.00 case</b></p>
<p>Frozen Shrimp P&amp;D 21/25 无头白虾 10x4lb <b>220.00 case</b></p>	<p>Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 21/25 4x6lb/case <b>150.00 case</b></p>	<p>TYJ Spring Roll Pastry 8.5" 春卷皮 20 sheets x40 pkts <b>55.00 case</b></p>	<p>Large Egg 箱装大鸡蛋 <b>53.99 case</b></p>	<p>Container S32 容器 <b>46.50 case</b></p>
<p>Container LF-28W 容器 <b>28.50 case</b></p>	<p>ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg <b>21.99 bag</b></p>	<p>Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg <b>60.00 ea</b></p>	<p>Capri Vegetable Oil 蔬菜油 16L <b>43.99 case</b></p>	<p>Bamboo Chopsticks 竹筷子 30x100pcs <b>60.00 case</b></p>
<p>Lee Kum Kee Mushroom Flavoured Dark Soy Sauce 李锦记草菇老抽 2X8L <b>39.99 case</b></p>	<p>Lee Kum Kee Soy Sauce 李锦记鲜味生抽 2X8L <b>37.99 case</b></p>	<p>Lee Kum Kee Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记中字蚝油 6x2.2kg <b>39.00 case</b></p>	<p>Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 1.75L 李锦记海鲜酱 <b>53.00 case</b></p>	<p>NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒 <b>28.00 case</b></p>
<p>Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg <b>29.99 bag</b></p>	<p>Squid Brand Fish Sauce 箱装鱿鱼标鱼露 <b>28.00 case</b></p>	<p>Mama Sita's BBQ Marinade 350ml 烧烤酱 Reg: \$3.99 <b>1.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Dole Tropical Fruit Salad 水果什锦 2.84L Reg: \$7.99 <b>4.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Golden Panda White Glutinous Rice 4Lb 顶上糯米 Reg: \$5.99 <b>2.99 ea</b></p>

FROZEN

<p>Frozen Raw White Shrimp 26/30 908g 速冻虾 Reg: \$17.99 <b>11.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Fu Yang Frozen Galungong 454g 池鱼 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Ferma Frozen 3 Way Mixed Vegetables 750g 三混菜 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Supreme Fish Moonfish 月光鱼 908g Reg: \$5.99 <b>3.99 ea</b></p>	<p>AA-1 Blue Anchovy 340g 凤尾鱼 Reg: \$3.99/ea <b>2/\$5.00</b></p>	<p>SH Tilapia 2.5Lb 罗非鱼 Reg: \$6.99/ea <b>2/\$9.00</b></p>
<p>Pinoy Delight Red'n Juicy Sausage Series 香肠 450g Reg: \$9.99 <b>6.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Sarangani Bay Marinated Milkfish 350g 开边牛奶鱼 Reg: \$4.99/ea <b>2/\$7.00</b></p>	<p>Chile Mussels Meat (Cooked) 400g 智利青口肉(熟) Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Supreme Fish Frozen Small Yellow Croaker 320g 特级野生小黄鱼 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Del Monte 100% Fruit Drink Series 1.6L 果汁 Reg: \$4.59 <b>2.99 ea</b></p>	<p>Supreme Fish Baby Cuttlefish 250g 墨鱼仔 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99 ea</b></p>

MEAT

<p>Pork Chop 猪扒 Reg: \$3.29 <b>2.29 lb</b></p>	<p>Pork Back Ribs 猪肉排 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99 lb</b></p>	<p>Pork Eye Round 肉眼 Reg: \$3.29 <b>2.29 lb</b></p>
<p>Beef Back Ribs 牛排骨 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99 lb</b></p>	<p>Chicken Leg 大鸡腿 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99 lb</b></p>	

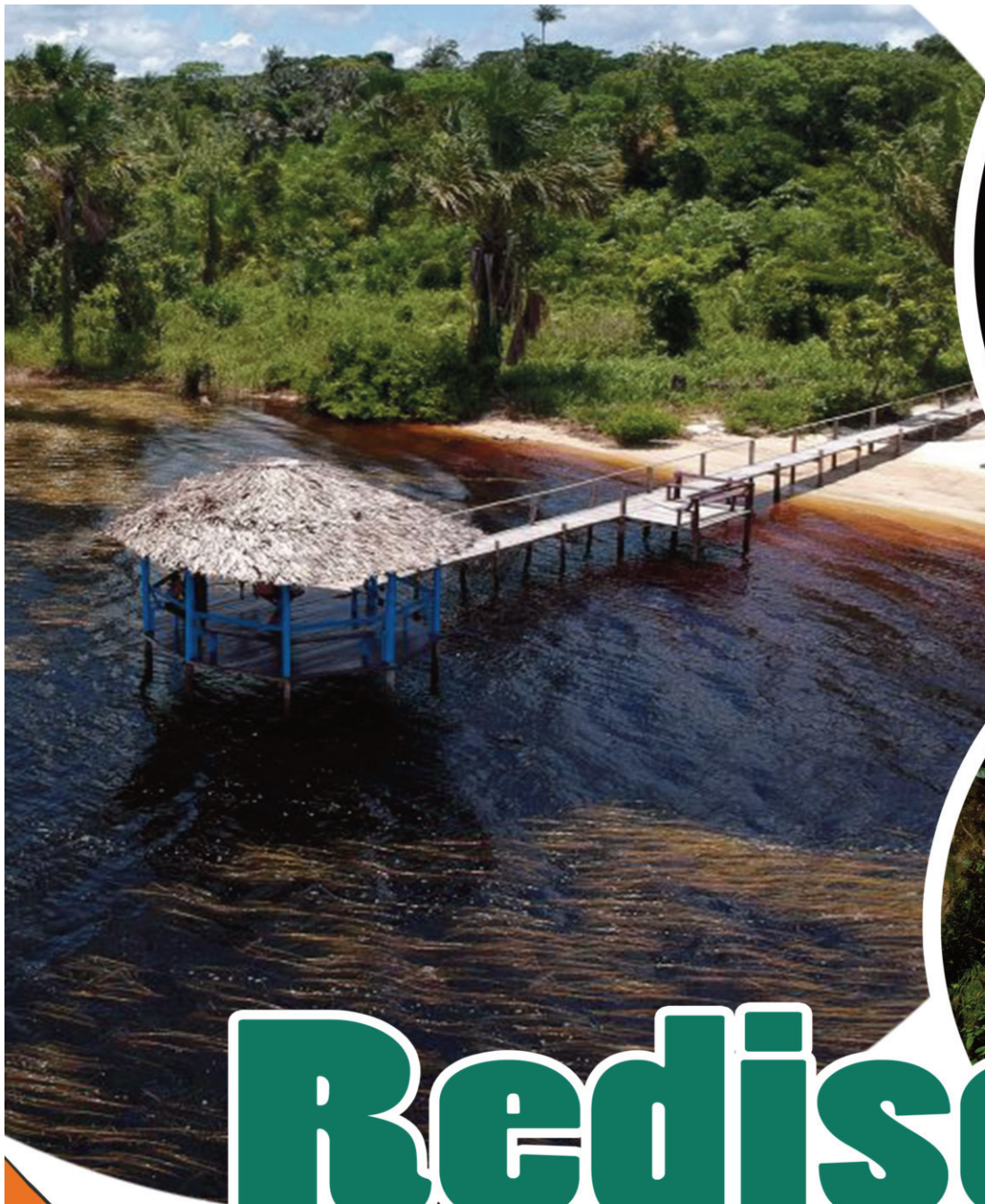
SEAFOOD

<p>Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillet 新鲜大西洋三文鱼柳 Reg: \$11.99 <b>9.99 lb</b></p>	<p>Fresh Atlantic Salmon Steak 新鲜大西洋三文鱼扒 Reg: \$8.99 <b>6.99 lb</b></p>	<p>Fresh Porgys 新鲜黑立 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99 lb</b></p>
<p>Fresh Skate Wing 新鲜翅 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99 lb</b></p>	<p>Live Blue Crab 生猛蓝蟹 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99 lb</b></p>	<p>Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 冰鲜有头南美白虾 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99 lb</b></p>

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