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Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali administered the oaths of office to members of the Constitution Reform Commission yesterday at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

During the ceremony, 18 of the 21 member Commission took their oaths, including Retired Justice Carl Singh, who was sworn in as Chairman.

The political representatives are PPP officials and current Government Ministers: Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC: Gail Teixeira; Dr Frank Anthony; Pauline Campbell-Sukhai and Kwame Warren McCoy; APNU/AFC Members: Vincent Alexander; Sherwood Lowe; Ganesh Mahipaul and Nigel Hughes and A New and United Guyana, the Liberty and Justice Party and the New Movement member Timothy Munro Jonas, SC. There is also a representative each from the Labour Movement:, The National Toshao's Council The Private Sector, the Guyana Bar Association, Women Organisations, Youth Organisations, Christian Organisations, Hindu Organisations, Muslim Organisations and Farmers.



Indian Military Aircraft arrive in Guyana

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A NEW chapter in India-Guyana cooperation began, as an Indian Air Force (IAF) team arrived in Guyana to deliver two HAL-228-201 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).

According to the Indian High Commission, the aircraft are being provided under a Line of Credit (LOC) extended by India to Guyana for which an agreement was signed on March 15 2024.

High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Dr Amit Telang, underscored the



unique relationship between India and Guyana as he interacted with IAF and HAL officials.

The aircraft to be operated by the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) will also provide connectivity to remote areas and can be used for wide range of functions including medical evacuation, disaster response, among other things.

More on the story inside

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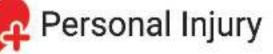
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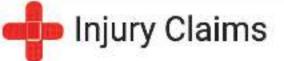
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FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR VISIT GUYANA







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GUYANA AND FRANCE DEEPEN TIES -JOINT PATROLS, EMBASSY PLANNED PAGE 3

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EQUALITY NEWS

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

PRESIDENT ALI BOLSTERS BILATERAL TIES HROUGH HIGH-LEVEL ENGAG

- FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR VISIT GUYANA



The dinner for Clinton and the French Foreign Minister

In a series of Particularly noteworthy diplomatic engagements and cooperation. President

diplomatic engagements, was the presence of extended beyond the President Ali of Guyana former President dinner table, as he has reaffirmed the Clinton, recognised as a received courtesy visits country's commitment longstanding friend of from former UK Prime to fostering robust Guyana for his advocacy Minister Sir Tony international relations in biodiversity and forest Blair and CIA Director aimed at advancing conservation amidst the William J. Burns. economic development challenges of climate Discussions with Mr. change.

Ali recently played host to a visit coincided with his for Global Change,



Blair, also the head of President Clinton's the Tony Blair Institute focused on collaborative efforts in healthcare, digitalisation, and food security. Meanwhile, President Ali's meeting with Director Burns, accompanied by US Ambassador Nicole other Theriot and officials, touched upon areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

STRENGTHENING TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND BRAZIL

President Ali



President Ali receiving a courtesy visit from former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Sir Tony Blair



The delegation after the meeting with the Director of the CIA

agendas of respective Saudi Arabia, and Brazil. trajectory, President

recent engagements open new avenues for the wider international underscore Guyana's growth and prosperity. community.

advancing the shared international relations, diplomatic manoeuvres their prioritising collaboration demonstrate Guyana's countries, and mutual benefit. emergence as a key player reflecting the enduring As the country forges on the global stage, bonds between Guyana, ahead in its development poised to capitalise on these strategic alliances for the Ali's partnerships promise to benefit of its citizens and

Venezuela's President, Nicolás Maduro

Dominican Republic. region. Emphasising the significance of these President Ali visits, highlighted their focus on Guyana's economic development and growth.

distinguished gathering participation as a special at State House, including guest at the Dominican former US President Bill Republic's Chamber of Clinton, French Minister Commerce Caribbean of the European Union Forum. His presence and Foreign Affairs underscores the strong Stephane Sejourne, and ties between Guyana and a delegation from the the broader Caribbean

TONY BLAIR AND CIA DIRECTOR MEETINGS

President

welcomed Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HE Faisal bin Ibrahim Ghulam, Ambassador and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil, HE Maria De Castro Martins. The accreditation ceremonies marked pivotal moments in deepening bilateral relations, with discussions centred on trade, energy, agriculture, and infrastructure. Both ambassadors expressed Ali's their commitment to

proactive approach to Ali's President



The accreditation of the Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Guyana, HE Faisal bin Ibrahim Ghulam

EQUALITY NEWS THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANA AND FRANCE DEEPEN TIES -JOINT PATROLS, EMBASSY PLANNED



President Ali and French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Stéphane Séjourné with their delegations

Guyana and France highlighted announced a significant shared commitment critical priority for both bilateral Séjourné.

strengthening of their to democratic values nations. relationship and international law, following a meeting and pledged to work their partnership, between President Ali together to ensure Guyana and France and French Minister regional security and agreed to establish a of Europe and Foreign stability, particularly in Joint Working Group Affairs Stéphane the Guiana Shield. This to explore deeper includes collaboration cooperation in key In a joint statement on combating organised areas like defence,

their the Amazon rainforest, a

To further solidify issued, the two countries crime and protecting climate change, food

patrol assets France, demonstrating Georgetown. their commitment to enhanced security France collaboration.

In a historic move, France announced plans to open its first-ever embassy in Guyana in 2025. This will not only strengthen ties between the two nations, but also position France as the first European Union country with a full-fledged embassy in Guyana. This embassy is expected to boost economic cooperation, particularly in areas where French companies possess renowned expertise. It will also facilitate relationship. closer

security, infrastructure, between Guyana and the embassy as a sign of technology, and tourism. French Guiana, as well the country's economic Additionally, as France's relationship transformation Guyana announced the with the Caribbean France's acquisition of maritime Community (CARICOM) interest in the Caribbean from headquartered

and growing in region, while the French Republic Both Guyana and welcomes the embassy expressed as a way to strengthen



President Ali and French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Stéphane Séjourné with their delegations

enthusiasm for this the integration of its new chapter in their overseas territories The and expand its global connections Guyana government sees diplomatic network.

PRESIDENT ALI SEES DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS KEY PARTNER IN EXPANDING GUYANA'S RESOURCES



President Ali at the forum

President Alibelieves those gaps," President including

meticulously initiatives for sustainable future.

"We applying worldclass methods, and best arable land and vast practices that exist freshwater he added.

The potential outlined

are partnerships.

President Ali pointed technology, to Guyana's abundant resources for tomorrow so that as having immense we can reduce the lag potential for agricultural time through which development. Guyana will catch "Combining these up to the rest of the assets with existing world," President Ali technology in the explained. "It is for this DR can promote reason we see the DR a g r i c u l t u r a l as a critical partner expansion, causing a in bridging this gap," ripple effect in areas such as trade and president tourism," he said.

President Ali

planned He also highlighted the Brazil. "The future of the next five years. a role the private sector industry, food and can play in fuelling these services in Northern President Bill Clinton

Former US Brazil relies heavily also participated in the



Former President of the United States, William (Bill) Clinton addressing the forum

areas for collaboration, envisioned a "food **on Guyana building** forum, commer including tourism, ecosystem here that **the infrastructure** Guyana's efforts commending in

the Guyana's resources Ali said, emphasising be significantly the can boosted through a commitment partnership with the Dominican Republic. collaboration, This according to President Ali, would position Guyana as a regional hub.

President Ali spoke at a United Caribbean Forum panel discussion held at the Arthur Conference Chung Centre. He highlighted the significant gaps between Guyana and other global players in various industries. "We don't have the time to work in a straightline manner to bridge Part of the audience

government's building,

human

capacity is second to none," and

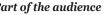
agriculture, considering Guyana's its port to make "I

Dominican President Luis Abinader visited Guyana

With a focus on regional capacity. The building this partnership, next forum is scheduled President Ali expects for July in the Dominican tangible results within Republic.

expanding sustainable agriculture. think your to energy, and technology. proximity to Northern viable," the president a template for other explained. The groundwork **Clinton remarked.** He supportive expressed his willingness

inaugural Caribbean organised investment opportunities to enhance



infrastructure for shared to support Guyana and growth appears to be the Dominican Republic underway. Last year, in fostering regional Republic development. The to United discuss strengthening Forum, bilateral ties. The visit by the Dominican resulted in agreements Republic Chamber of for collaboration in key Commerce in Guyana, areas like air services explored and energy.



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GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

EQUALITY NEWS

GUYANA DENOUNCES VENEZUELAI n law **CLAIMING ESSEQUIBO REGION**



Guyana and Venezuela presidents at the peace deal meeting in St Vincent last year

The Government expressed "It Venezuelan law declaring **principles** the Essequibo region, international two-thirds over Guyana's territory, as Charter." Venezuelan soil.

violation of Guyana's move as a violation commitment to regional Venezuela's sovereignty territorial integrity," order issued by the its sovereignty. a press statement from International the Ministry of Foreign of Affairs and International calling for provisional **under international** controversy.

of **United**

The "This is a flagrant further condemns the Court Justice

Guyana Cooperation declared. measures, and the law to ensure that breaches Argyle Declaration - its sovereignty and grave concern over a fundamental an agreement signed territorial integrity of in December 2023 by remain intact," the law CARICOM a vast area constituting enshrined in the Brazil, the UN Secretary-Nations General's representative, has called on the and the presidents of international community statement Guyana and Venezuela.

and of a December 2023 peace and will not yield expansionism"

"Guyana (ICJ) exert all of its efforts resolution to the border

leaders, statement affirmed.

The Ministry to uphold the rule Guyana maintains its of law by rejecting "illegal and urging them to support will the ICJ process for a final

CALLS FOR CONDEMNATION OEV GUYANA 1 $(\mathbf{0}\mathbf{N})$ **INTER-PAR** ENTA 5

General Attorney and Minister of Legal horrendous events, Nandlall pointed out. Affairs, Anil Nandlall, although occurring Parliamentary Assembly to take action **manifest the deadly** against human rights havoc that armed abuses and democracy.

AG underscored the ability that the absence of the IPU to serve as of an agent of change, produces," and a key instrument Nandlall said. in the promotion of lasting peace understanding.

However, Nandlall disappointment the conference had not Palestinians. addressed the "horror Venezuela.

Union the globe, together Essequibo, a region that of defend conflicts wreaks and the social disorder Nandlall and human sufferings democracy AG

Guyana has and consistently called for a ceasefire in Gaza AG and for international expressed condemnation of that the violence against represents two-thirds of substantiate,"

"More million refugees have agreed to.

" T h e s e fled Venezuela," AG

"It continues to evidence

make this outrageous you to use the theme as a bridge for peace He also addressed claim to date without of this Conference and understanding," urged the 148th Inter- on opposite sides of Venezuela's claim to producing a scintilla and the platform AG Nandlall urged the to of your respective Assembly.



Guyana's delegation at the conference in Geneva, Switzerland

Guvana's territory. This Nandlall told the IPU. than claim directly violates unfolding in Gaza" and 30,000 are dead in the Argyle Declaration, dispute is currently demand compliance Dawn Hasting the lack of democracy in Gaza. Nearly eight which both countries before the International with International Sherlock Isaacs.

The Court of Justice (ICJ).

AG Parliaments to condemn the actions Sonia territorial **of** Venezuela; to opposition Law; and to call for

"Iappeal to each of diplomacy to be used

The Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly was held the under theme " Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Peace and Understanding."

Guyana's delegation at the conference in Geneva, Switzerland also included Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir, Minister of Local Government, Parag, and members and

GUYANA AND INDIA SEEK DEEPER COLLABORATION IN GROWING ECONOMIES

Guyana and India are looking to strengthen their ties collaboration and across various sectors, according to Foreign Secretary at the Ministry



discussed during the financed visits by President Dr projects in Guyana, Renata Mohamed Irfaan Ali such as the Solar Home Sang, Chief Education and Vice-President Electrification System Officer of the Women Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and the ferry vessel MV and Gender Equality to India into tangible MA Lisha. outcomes," said India's High Commissioner to Guyana, Dr Amit Telang. Agriculture was another area identified collaboration, for with Dr Vishnu Chairman Doerga, ActionINVEST of Caribbean Inc., highlighting India's expertise in climatesmart technology that can be incorporated into Guvana's agricultural practices.

the ideas and projects India has previously Treasurer of the Private significant Sector

Commission, Chuck-A-Commission, and Saju

Foreign Affairs of International and Cooperation, Robert Persaud.

With both countries' economies growing exponentially, there is ample opportunity for them to collaborate in emergingandestablished areas, thereby fostering socioeconomic transformation, Persaud said during a panel discussion at the India-Guvana Business Forum held at Marriott Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown.

He highlighted a shift in perception, where both nations are now seen as serious players on

Foreign Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Robert Persaud

engaging in substantive Persaud emphasised. dialogues on energy, climate change, food underscored issues.

"The growth of our these us to move acknowledged, for Guvana and India underway. another level. to

the international stage, the private sector," The forum the security, and geopolitical crucial role of private enterprises in seizing opportunities. economy offers us India's contributions to that grand occasion Guyana's oil sector were with forward in taking the initial purchases of crude relationship between oil for refining already

"We are actively This has to be led by working to translate

forum The also recognised India's thriving service sector, including finance, participating information technology, discussion and communication. Haimwant



India's High Commissioner to Guyana, Dr Amit Telang

Texila in the President of included University. Persaud,

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GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANA CALLS FOR INCREASED AGRI INVESTMENT AT FAO CONFERENCE, TAKES LEAD ON IMPLEMENTAT

Guyana emerged as a champion for increased investment in agriculture at the recent Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) 38th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC38). The conference, held in Guyana at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC), from March 18 to 21, brought together government officials, including heads of state and agriculture ministers, to discuss critical challenges and priorities in the regional food sector.

President Ali, during the opening ceremony, urged a shift from rhetoric to action. "We cannot



President Ali addressing the FAO's 38th regional conference

stating, "political will people and women in is not only shouting agriculture. A target about taking policy being owned by these action and making groups is being pursued policy intervention through initiatives like that addresses the hydroponics farming issue."

translated into action, participation of young out a message, it is of 35% of new farms and the black belly sheep



A section of the FAO's 38th regional conference

come here with the has made significant best ideas and then strides in this direction. Minister, forget that we have 700 million people who we represent living in poverty," highlighted, he emphasising the need to translate political will into concrete policy interventions.

He pointed out that and political will must be

President Ali pointed Mustapha, echoed call to a 150% increase in for increased support budgetary allocations for from the FAO. He agriculture, from \$13.3 highlighted areas like billion in 2019 to \$32.2 early warning systems billion in 2023. The for hazards, improved country is also committed water to new

Guyana

fostering

itself project.

Guyana's Agriculture Zulfikar management, incorporating and promoting digital technologies innovation as crucial for the building resilience and

sustainability in the agri- building food system.

Initiatives the and Programme (AIEP) and agricultural products. production of biofortified rice were presented as healthy and affordable diet for all.

These measures align with the region's ambitious goal of significantly reducing its US\$6 billion food import bill by 2025. Guvana's leadership in transforming the region's agriculture system food was acknowledged, with its efforts complementing the FAO's regional and global goals.

The FAO, through Guyana has hand-in-hand Caribbean.

strategies aimed at like development hunger, sustainable and management,² Dongyu said. emphasising the importance of combining traditional knowledge with cutting-edge science. (LARC38).

W h i l е acknowledging the region's role as a major food exporter, Dongyu pointed to challenges like economic slowdowns, rising food prices, and climate vulnerability that continue to hinder local food security and nutrition. The FAO is prioritising resilience- FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu

collaborating with 14 and climate change like countries through the adaptation. Agriculture Hand-in-Hand Initiative Guyana's Innovation and assisting others and a focus on concrete Entrepreneurship in promoting their action, the region can

Following models for ensuring a successful conference,

efforts, resource management, With leadership move towards a more secure and sustainable the food future.

Minister Mustapha



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha addressing the FAO's 38th regional conference

Dongyu, reaffirmed its establishing a task force, Regional commitment to working chaired by Minister for key recommendations leading efficient

taken will serve as the chairman its Director-General Qu a further step by of the FAO's 38th Conference Latin America with Mustapha, to accelerate and the Caribbean for Latin America and the the implementation of the next two years, discussions "Our approach from LARC38. These on progress made in encompasses recommendations implementing LARC38 comprehensive address crucial areas recommendations. The food next high-level meeting advancing inclusive production, eradicating is scheduled for Chile in sustainable May 2024.



PRESIDENT ALI RECEIVES COMMEMORATIVE COIN HONOURING DEMERARA REVOLT BICENTENNIAL



President Ali receiving the commemorative coin from Governor of the Bank, Mr. Gobind Ganga

President received a \$200 commemorative in Guyana's history. Over coin from the Bank of 10,000 enslaved people Abolition Act and the a Guyana (BoG) marking participated, a powerful official end of slavery sculpture of an enslaved the 200th anniversary act of defiance against throughout the British man, wielding a machete of the Demerara Revolt. their oppression. Empire in 1834. and a chain with a cross. The Governor of the Bank, Mr. The

Ali Revolt of 1823 stands as undoubtedly played a iconic 1823 Demerara

The revolt, and the Gobind tragic deaths of over 250 coin, minted in the coins are available for Ganga, presented the enslaved individuals and United States of America purchase at the cost of coin at State House in a sympathetic English by the Osborne Mint, is \$5,000 each. the presence of Minister priest, resonated deeply. a Brilliant Uncirculated of Culture, Youth and It brought the horrific (BU) bronze alloy piece. Sport, Charles Ramson realities of slavery to Jr., and members of the the forefront of British features the National 1823 Revolt Committee. public consciousness Coat of Arms. The Demerara and Parliament. This reverse (back) depicts the

special the largest slave uprising significant role in the Revolt Monument. This passing of the Slavery monument

> The commemorative The obverse (front)

features powerful bronze

The commemorative



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EQUALITY NEWS

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

WORLD BANK PLEDGES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR GUYANA'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPM



Senior Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh holding discussion with visiting World Bank Vice President **Carlos Felipe Jaramillo**

The Bank during a high-level visit 2024.

World by Vice President for reaffirmed its Latin America and the commitment to Guyana's Caribbean, Carlos Felipe development trajectory Jaramillo, on March 20,

with Mr. Jaramillo and credits. He emphasised payment partnership. The change. of discussions focused on Guyana's Low Carbon Jaramillo Development Strategy Guyana's (LCDS), human capital in development, expanding private sector expressed the Bank's opportunities through continued interest in the Corporation initiatives. Finance (IFC).

Dr. commended highlighting success in

Minister of Finance, conservation and the crucial support for the oil Bank team also visit

President Vice applauded leadership environmental and protection, and International collaborating on climate

The World Bank is a Singh significant development the partner for Guyana, World Bank's support, with over US\$70 million Guyana's invested in human forest capital projects and

Dr. Ashni Singh, met historic sale of carbon and gas sector, national ongoing development systems, his team to discuss the role of the LCDS in education, flood risk further strengthen the ongoing collaboration, attracting investment management, and the partnership, and ensure and explore future areas and combating climate COVID-19 response. The

projects in Guyana to the projects' successful World implementation.



Visit to Good Hope Secondary School

GUYANA STREN ENT WITH US H



Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn and Ambassador Theriot at the signing

The United States at the Ministry of (US), and have increased capacity-building and initiatives.

A signing ceremony agreement.

Guyana Foreign Affairs strengthened March 18, marked announced a significant will launch a new Management Plan. their cooperation on the formalisation of boost in funding - a capacity-building law enforcement and this collaboration. US US\$300,000 award training programme emphasised the shared and security matters through Ambassador Nicole D. from the US State to enhance Guyana's values underpinning partn funding Theriot and Minister of Department's Bureau of Home Affairs Robeson International Narcotics illegal narcotics. signed Benn

During the ceremony on Ambassador the and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

A'S TOURISM

Letter of Agreement to country. better address shared security challenges.

In Ambassador outlined several key implemented by the Pan be providing additional Foundation. support to the Drug Theriot Administration (DEA) 2022-2026 capabilities in combating this

This of Investigations (FBI) the

builds upon the existing will deploy a technical of Guyana is based US - Guyana security team to assist the on mutual respect, cooperation framework Guyana government in collaboration, established through the strengthening border **friendship**," she stated. Caribbean Basin Security security at major ports **"Most importantly**, Initiative (CBSI), and a -of- entry throughout the **our work together** Letter of Agreement to country. **is rooted in our**

A new \$350,000 shared commitment investment will be made to the rule of law, addition, under the "Better Police democracy, Theriot Readiness Programme" human rights." areas where the US will American Development the CBSI is a security under INL programme aims to between the US and 13 Government support the Guyana Caribbean of Guvana: The U.S. Police Force's ongoing including Enforcement implementation of its Through

"The United States' transnational The Federal Bureau **partnership Government** safer communities.

and and

Launched in 2010, This cooperation partnership countries, Guyana. CBSI, the Strategic U.S. has provided over \$900 million in funding Ambassador Theriot to support Guyana its Caribbean underpinning partners in disrupting partnership. illicit trafficking and crime, with ultimately leading to

SHI

The Guyana Tourism Authority proudly announced its **response** its promoting Guyana as a to top travel destination.

to have had the beyond," she added. opportunity to showcase and Representative for the diverse GTA.

" T h Emerging Destinations **in Guvana as a top-tier** the travel industry. Roadshow, solidifying travel destination. commitment to We look forward a platform for the GTA to New York City, and visitors from across sustainable "We are thrilled North America and initiatives, and unique connect with travel The roadshow the spanned eight cities presentations wonders of Guvana across North America, networking to such a diverse bringing together a attendees enthusiastic total of 255 travel trade valuable insights into audience," said Jane members eager to the Behrend, US Market learn about Guyana's opportunities awaiting authentic and immersive offerings. breathtaking From

(GTA) **overwhelming** rich cultural heritage, Guyana's beauty; it was tourism successful participation attendees reaffirms audience, positioning strategic partnerships. in the third edition of the **the growing interest** itself as a rising star in With events held in

welcoming highlight key attractions, Boston, the GTA seized experiences.

> gained Guyana. exciting travel increasingly them in Guyana.

The roadshow wasn't remains dedicated to

travel industry. prominent cities like The events provided San Diego, Los Angeles, tourism the opportunity to industry professionals. Through interactive These connections will and foster collaboration and sessions, drive tourism growth in

> travellers As seek experiences, the GTA

e natural landscapes to just about showcasing promoting sustainable unparalleled practices of Guyana's **from** Guyana captivated the also about building and showcasing the landscapes.

beautv natural



David DiGregorio and Jane Behrend promoting Guyana at the Emerging Destinations Roadshow

GOVT DEFENDS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, QUESTIONS UN REVIEW FAIRNESS

The government is defending its human government rights record following expressed a recent review by with the United Nations handling Committee on Human response. Rights (UNCHR). While acknowledging the a Committee's concerns, from the Guyana is taking strong General review process.

During review, Parliamentary and Governance, Gail response Teixeira presented factual Guvana's case, and highlighting an increased investment – upcoming penalty as evidence of Guyana. their commitment to human rights.

However, the of

According to press release, Attorney Chamber, exception to what they Guyana submitted a perceive as an unfair comprehensive response to the UNHRC's initial the observations, well Minister of within the designated Affairs timeframe. This included corrections additional the information. However, country's progress and the government claims commitment to human the UNHRC published rights. She emphasised their initial observations essentially in education and an preliminary report public without considering the

"This

recently release, emphasising Jagdeo. "There is no UN their **corrections**" report made by Vice few

the Attorney General's Office President Dr. Bharrat also challenged the a country," Minister frustration the UNHRC's failure to follow-up because Committee's focus on "This will lead to UNHRC's consider "substantive there was no police the views of a select the dismantling of Non-Government democracy."



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira appearing before the UN Commission of Human Rights

a **submitted** Guyana.."

Minister is against government she said. regrettable," stated the officials, including Vice

Minister

by News or anybody Organsiations (NGOs). country" else. So, the police "We don't want to significant Teixeira cannot investigate see a situation where "We are striving for consultation on the death corrections submitted by during the review refuted without some form of those who shout the allegations of corruption report or complaint," the loudest and are of leaving no one savvy on social media behind," she said. Teixeira determine the fate of

Human Rights Teixeira said, adding

"Democracy and freedom of expression... is not isolated to one group of people," she asserted. "Every citizen has a right to express their views."

The Minister also questioned the Committee's inquiries into certain matters, considering them "odd" and potentially exceeding their purview.

Guyana, Minister Teixeira highlighted, is "a small, developing making strides. interventions

President Ali vows tech integration in all learning platforms within a year

President Ali announced a bold initiative: integrating intelligence artificial (AI) into all learning platforms within a year. programme to make This ambitious plan aims to revolutionise the country's education modules, sector and propel it into a new era of technological advancement.

came during the launch President Ali declared. of the Guyana Coursera platform, which offers move it to a fully nationwide access to electronic over 6,000 courses from platform so there prestigious international will be continuous

PRESIDENT ALI VOWS TECH INTEGRATION IN ALL LEARNING PLATFORMS WITHIN A YEAR

universities.

"We have agreed time [of] day." in Cabinet that we are now working on a our entire education infrastructure learning curriculum, teaching aid with the aid of Artificial The announcement Intelligence," "We are looking to online

learning anytime any encompasses This vision nursery to secondary.



all Students and parents will operations educational levels, from have 24/7 access to an exciting opportunities online learning system, it presents. In the empowering them to education sector, he learn at their own pace believes AI integration, and convenience.

technology, future-proof workforce **i m p r o v i n g** adaptable to a rapidly accessibility, providing ease learning," of President emphasised.

President Ali is a strategies influence in

and the alongside robotics, is "That is bringing crucial for building a and changing world.

Guyana has already the begun implementing these forward-thinking through strong advocate for initiatives like the Spark embracing AI's potential, programme and the highlighting its growing establishment of smart global classrooms.

GUYANA AIMS TO ATTRACT GLOBAL INVESTMENT, PARTNER WITH TRINIDAD

Guyanese entrepreneurs gain access to resources and expertise to overcome challenges like limited access to capital

Minister of the government's investment. Tourism, Industry, and commitment to building Oneidge an environment that investors Commerce, international **certainty** Walrond, emphasised attracts

Minister Walrond and other offficials at the business 2 business meeting

minimal "We understand Minister Walrond said. growth in both countries. seek "Our government is and committed to creating President environment your investments."

These came during a Business which are the backbone **or** 2 Business meeting co- of both economies. growth hosted by Trinidad's "SMEs Chamber innovation, Chaguanas of Industry Commerce (CCIC) and inclusive Guyana's We Win Network (TWWBN) at our Herdmanston Lodge in **counterparts**, we can for SMEs that fosters Georgetown. The aim leverage each other's generational wealth and of the meeting was to **strengths** for the transforms economies strengthen ties between **benefit of both our** through joint investment Guyana and Trinidad, sectors." fostering а robust

risk," ecosystem for business and markets. According to CCIC Marlon beneficial avenues, and jobs, and promote growth," Together Maharaj said. "By Memorandum Business collaborating Through TWWBN,

TWWBN President Joseph Baldath highlighted the network's a safe and secure Maharaj, the mission commitment to holding for is to explore mutually members accountable. "Those who don't comments particularly for SMEs, follow best practices participate in activities drive may be removed," he **create** explained.

Last year, TWWBN and CCIC signed a of with Understanding (MoU) Guvanese to create an ecosystem opportunities.

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR A MODEL TO MON GUYANA'S GAS ASSETS BEING REVIEWED- DR JAG

Expressions Dr Jagdeo

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

Expressions Interest (EIOs) for a model that will help President Ali announced Guyana monetise its the gas assets are currently plans to accelerate the under review by the monetisation of the government the Ministry of Natural estimated at 17 trillion Resources.

the People's Progressive for this purpose. Party's (PPP) General Jagdeo.

reviews, the ministry consultation. will then recommend a preferred group to Market now working the cabinet from all with us on doing those who submitted a strategy. I saw expressions.

of **forward as quickly as the gas on your own.** investor-driven Interest for a model to **possible to monetize The document would** the government aims **technical work**, **it** assets. monetise Guyana's gas **the gas**," Dr Jagdeo **do a lot of technical** to benefit from more **might tie you to a** assets being reviewed- stated during a press **work**, **since we're** revenue through **particular approach** conference at Freedom of House, Georgetown.

In January, government's through country's gas resources cubic feet (tcf) and This is according to would request proposals

In October 2023, a Secretary, Dr Bharrat draft of the Guyana Gas Monetization Strategy Following extensive was released for public

"We have HIS elements [in] the hoping that this is this initiate a meeting, came recently and I the private sector, Exxon Mobil, and will take a very long informed reporters.

since **do all that detailed** for

monetising gas

Guyana began oil through particular approach production in 2019 in the Stabroek Block offshore. In addition to oil, the offshore block also contains natural gas resources and the government is hellbent on utilising these resources to generate cheaper energy and create other products.

The strategy lists monetization various options, such as using natural gas for power generation and producing methanol, liquefied natural gas (LNG), ammonia/urea, and blue ammonia/ hydrogen.

As per the draft gas investor-driven on monetizing the monetization plan, it is gas resources in the

People's Progressive Party Civic General Secretary and Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

"We will then issue paper that going to be driven by undertaking. a tripartite meeting said, if they do what the government will don't need to do all best approach that cubic feet of recoverable with that group, they want to do, it not invest in it," he the detailed technical the investors want,"

gas, that we don't estimated that there are "That is why we know would be the approximately 17 trillion work. This should be he said, stressing the Stabroek Block. These the Government of time, because you're Dr Jagdeo also done by the parties need for a comprehensive resources mainly include Guyana to discuss getting into, almost emphasised that this that want to develop strategy that creates a associated gas and how we can move trying to monetise strategy should be the project... if you supportive environment condensates.

PRIME MINISTER DONATES BRAILLE MACH TO GUYANA SOCIETY FOR



The handover ceremony at the Prime Minister's office

of

The Guyana Society Minister for the Blind received a declared during the Ms. Julie Lewis, a it will be put to much-needed boost as handover Prime Minister Mark held at his Camp Street Guyana Society for the visually Phillips presented the office. organisation with two Minister's new braille machines.

dedication his to **to** supporting Guyanese visually with disabilities.

"This is just the beginning,'

individuals."

Prime machines were met **but**

Phillips with **impaired** country.

ceremony representative of the good use by many "The Prime Blind. She highlighted individuals." Office the timeliness of the **remains committed** donation, which will representatives This donation fulfils to working with the not only benefit existing the Guyana Society for a commitment made by Guyana Society for members but also serve the Blind, including Mr. the Prime Minister on the Blind and will as a valuable tool for Colin Caesar, Ms. Odessa World Braille Day earlier **continue to provide** those seeking to learn Blair, and Mr. Leroy this year and underscores necessary assistance braille in the absence of Phillips, all attended **empower** braille experts within the the ceremony alongside

The new braille were much needed financially

out of reach," Ms. Lewis expressed. "We are incredibly thankful for this generous donation, gratitude from and we assure you impaired

0 t h e r from officials from the Prime "These machines Minister's Office.

Labour (MOL), its Board of Industrial Training (BIT), and George Brown College (GBC) of Canada have joined forces to expand skills programmes training opportunities enhancing for Guyanese.

Ministry

The

Labour Joseph with met Gervan Fearon, at the effectively ministry's office during workforce. discussions which focused on establishing emphasised a skilled workforce.

Kev areas collaboration developing new training receiving

GEORGE LAB **BROWN COLLEGE TO EXPAND TRAINING**

enhancing existing three years, compared this collaborative effort. "train-the-trainer" to the previous This plan will address "train-the-trainer" to the previous This plan will address Minister initiatives. This will administration's record. the training needs of Hamilton equip Guyanese with The GBC the necessary skills to through BIT, aims to with the priorities of the representatives, be more employable develop new training entities. including President Dr. and contribute more programmes in 2024 to to

increase in training education in Guyana. of opportunities, with include over 11,000 Guyanese all three parties will international training. training meet again to finalise

and nationwide in the past a framework plan for the further equip Guyanese College is a wellwith relevant knowledge established Minister Hamilton and expertise. Minister institution offering over the Hamilton's vision is 170 programmes across a formal partnership to ministry's achievements to make technical and various fields. bolster the government's under his leadership. He vocational training as partnership ongoing efforts to create pointed to a significant valued as academic Guyanese with access to Officials from opportunities

ministry, Guyanese while aligning

George Brown Canadian This provides expertise and potential for



The GBC representatives at the meeting

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

SURINA RWARD ON ſ 1 \

dialogue, the Presidents countries. of Suriname and Guyana announced significant the fixed connection details such as pricing, progress on building between the two technical aspects, and a bridge over the neighbouring nations operational modalities. Corantijn/Corentyne will River.

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

Irfaan Ali Surinamese President cooperation, Santokhi met on March investment 23, 2024, in Guyana, promote tourism," ministers.

The bridge is seen regional and will enhance trade, affordability connections, agriculture, project's financing.

Following strategic and tourism for both

enhance the flow of collaborate on a legal President **people**, **strengthen** and political framework and **a g r i c u l t u r a l** for the project. highlighted.

presidents is Both integration the importance people-to-people concessionality in the ministerial

A team of ministers from both countries will "The building of now work on finalising undoubtedly Additionally, experts will

The target is to Chandrikapersad facilitate trade and complete these steps and within a set timeframe, with regular reports joined by their respective the joint statement being submitted to both presidents. Construction anticipated to as a crucial step towards a c k n o w l e d g e d begin before the end of of 2024, based on and decisions made at the meeting. The recommendations



The meeting between the two presidents

will be presented to President Luiz Inacio meeting is the Presidents for final Lula da Silva expressed for early May 2024 to approval. The announcement project.

comes after a trilateral where

DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE TAKES INSPIRATION

Α summit with Brazil, Strategic Dialogue and Brazilian Cooperation Platform

planned his support for the bridge discuss other areas of collaboration between broader Suriname and Guvana.

With its design echoing the prestigious Cacique Crown of Honour, Guyana's US\$260 million Demerara River Bridge Guvanese flair to advancing through months." is rapidly taking shape. **this** This landmark project structure." which is on track to be completed by the end is of this year, promises to to be a game-changer collaboration. Italian for transportation and company a symbol of the nation's leads burgeoning progress.

"The Crown," Railway (CRCCL), in a recent bring the bridge to life. interview with the of adding a touch of construction

FROM GUYANA'S HIGHEST HONOUR

The а Politecnica construction, ensuring strict bridge's adherence to the lighting at the top American Association of the tower will of State Highway and be designed in the Transportation Officials **shape of the Cacique** (AASHTO) standards. explained A diverse workforce Zhiliang Wang, Project of over 650 Guyanese, Manager for China's Venezuelan migrants, Construction and international experts (International) Limited is working tirelessly to

To expedite the Department of Public project, various phases Information (DPI). "It are being undertaken

impressive the piling stage, with

Spanning

international Politecnica team leader. boasts a 110-meter main Works.



An Artist's impression of the New Demerara River Bridge

also reflects the shape simultaneously. "We expect to finish tower, allowing for for a brighter future. It local flowers, "Currently, all piling work within uninterrupted passage will connect our people, is the next three to four of even the largest ships. boost our economy, and

2.8 weight limitations generations to come. approximately 38% kilometers with a design for trucks," said Siddiq While minor hurdles between testament said Abdul Hameed, per hour, the bridge at the Ministry of Public and shipping delays significantly boost CRCCL's

much more than he said. just a transportation link," Minister of Public to become a towering Works Juan Edghill, in symbol of Guyana's a recent address. The progress, ushering in a new Demerara River new era of connectivity Bridge stands as a and testament to Guyana's opportunity ambition and a promise nation.

"There will be no serve as a landmark for

"This will have been encountered, Project trade and economic Manager, Wang, assures activity." Importantly, swift solutions to keep the bridge caters for a construction on track. variety of users with "We are confident dedicated lanes for that the bridge will be cyclists and pedestrians. completed by the end "This bridge is of 2024, as planned,"

The new Demerara remarked River Bridge is poised economic for the

\$31.8M BRIDGE IMPROVES CONNECTIV

underway in Matthews Ridge.

"The new skills training centre will be commissioned shortly, offering skills opportunities to youth in the area surrounding and communities," Ashley said. The training facility was constructed by the Regional Democratic Council (RDC). These investments follow the September 2023 commissioning of a \$244 million road project Matthews Ridge, in spanning 1,150 meters in length and 16 feet in width. The community has also received a new ambulance, bus, and recreational facility.

newly concrete А commissioned million



The new bridge

bridge in and economic activity community," \$31.8 Matthews Ridge is set in the community and Minister of Housing and development to connect reinforced to boost connectivity surrounding

areas.

Government officials roads. highlighted the project's significance during the **commitment** ceremony.

"The infrastructure another testament to the government's Government **d** e **d** i c a t i o n Regional Development, Brentnol Ashlev also to development in the the

said focus on infrastructure mining Water, Collin Croal. communities.

Minister Croal The bridge replaces pointed to \$500 million that we give proper the old wooden bridge invested in Matthews access to persons linking Pakera with Ridge over the past two who are not only central Matthews Ridge years to complete two traversing...On the and spans 22 by 25 feet. kilometers of concrete bridge, we now have

> "That is **new** plans for a third phase of **is** road construction. Minister of Local and fostering Sonia Parag, echoed highlighted

"We are ensuring

an area where you a can have pedestrians that walking and the free official commissioning the president made," flow of traffic...It is he explained, outlining a development that was needed for the **community**," Minister Parag said.

> Regional Chairman other government's development projects



President Ali at the worksite of the Diamond to Buzz Bee Dam four-lane highway

President expressed optimism for development inspections of two major hope to complete it by

Ali highway projects.

Guyana's infrastructural two projects we have after during ahead of time, we the

Ali said regarding the Public Works, Bishop concrete four-lane Juan Ogle-Eccles highway project.

Ashoka Buildcon Limited is constructing will feature wider lanes of pavement, and two connectivity in West \$21.2 the (US\$106.4 million) Ogle- sidewalks, and a median traffic flow. Eccles highway. This to ease traffic congestion project aims to improve and improve safety. connectivity between the East Coast of Demerara inspection also included the Schoonard to Crane projects (ECD) and the East Bank the Diamond to Buzz Bee four-lane highway on the the of Demerara (EBD).

"We very are pleased the progress," "This is one of the President Ali remarked inspecting 7.8-kilometer construction site

Edghill, technical officials.

billion (3.6 meters

President project. Awarded in with November 2023 with a importance of timely The improved roadways project is overseen by the contractors Water.

and will feature over 30 concrete aims reinforced

President additionally visited the Ali's ongoing construction of infrastructure Dam four-lane highway West Bank of Demerara. commitment

budget of \$11 billion, this completion and urged are expected to enhance Ministry of Housing and advantage of favourable travel times, and boost weather

Divided into 12 The President stressed the region.

November," President alongside Minister of sections, this asphalted that delays will not be project tolerated.

This new route improve to The new highway bridges, 4.6 kilometres transportation each), roundabouts for better Demerara and reduce traffic congestion in Ali Region Three.

> These significant highlight government's to He emphasised the Guyana's development. to take connectivity. reduce conditions. economic activity within

SURVEY'S COMPLETION PAVES WAY FOR GOOD SUCCESS TO TIMEHRI ROAD WORK

The is inching closer to Bridge construction. successful of crucial construction network. surveys for the US\$75.8 million project.

from the Public of meticulously assessed Bank over 60 structures along IDB's the route. This data will climate-resilient be used to determine infrastructure is vital, 23 whether these structures as this project aligns roadway, along with streetlights, clear road and require widening to with its commitment the accommodate the new to road design or need transportation networks and culverts. Safety complete reconstruction. while

much- now under review, the sustainability. anticipated Good Success project is poised to to Timehri Road on the progress to the next States (US) consulting systems, modern LED road service East Bank Demerara stage. China Road and firm Sheladia Associates The (CRBC) will leverage its proven track record Ministry of Public Works expertise in design and in recently announced the construction to deliver development, completion a high-quality road provide

а A six-person team with US\$117 million in transportation, Ministry funding from the Inter- related fields will ensure Works American Development the project's success. (IDB). The support considering remains With the findings environmental with dedicated lanes for year

Renowned United improved Corporation Incorporated, with a infrastructure will expert supervision throughout The project received the project. Their vast significant boost experience in structures, and

The project for encompasses the road rehabilitation of kilometres of restoration improving ancillary roads, bridges, paramount,

pedestrians and cyclists, initiative aligns with the consideration drainage IDB's vision for improved commuters, minimising



Part of the ECD roadway

of markings, and proper The signage into the design.

Projecting a three- during timeline,

incorporated commitmenttoproviding to Lethem, creating a an alternate bypass smooth and efficient the demonstrates

> boats." The

new network Arukamai neighbouring

for quality disruptions while the project progresses.

The Good Success Timehri road project is part of a larger infrastructure development plan. The East Bank corridor will be upgraded to include two additional lanes, significantly enhancing traffic flow.

Upon completion, this project will connect seamlessly with the new Wismar Bridge, the Linden to Mabura road, utility services. and the 45 concrete government's bridges between Mabura construction transportation corridor their for all.

> the Mabaruma airstrip road and the drilling of wells. connects Arukamai itself can to expect a new well by the villages third quarter of this year.

\$44.1M FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD COMMISSIONED IN REGION ONE

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>



The new 10-kilometer gravel surface road network

of Arukamai, a village in to-market road. Region One, finally have they now have access to a commissioned

Over 300 residents new \$44.1 million farm-The 10-kilometer a reason to celebrate. gravel road, constructed After years of relying on by Supreme Contracting boats for transportation, Services, was officially by

Minister of Housing Collin and Water Croal and Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Parag. This new infrastructure is а game-changer for the community, slashing travel time to less than an hour.

"We are so happy with the opening of our new road," said Pamela Joseph, Vice Toshao of Arukamai. "It's a blessing for our schoolchildren. The ambulance was even able to reach our home to take my daughter-in-law to the hospital."

Previously, the lack of a proper road made life difficult for residents. Evelvn Williams, another resident, spoke about the challenges of travelling by boat. "It was difficult to traverse," she said. "Now, we have a road, and we're looking forward to the promised bus service as well." Betinne Wilford echoed Williams' "We sentiment. thankful for are this road," he said. "Getting our children struggle, and so was finding gas for the

like Wauna, Kamwatta, White Water, emphasised and allowing for easier government's dedication movement of people and to ensuring equitable goods. Farmers can now access to resources transport their produce and programs for all Kumaka market Guyanese, to more efficiently, while those living in remote students have a safe and areas. reliable way to get to school. The officials the ceremony their commitment to place, residents can look developing hinterland Minister Croal, spoke transportation, access about other ongoing to essential services, to school was a projects in the area, and greater economic such as the construction opportunities. of a concrete road near

Minister Parag, the including

The commissioning of the Arukamai road government marks a significant present at step forward for the commissioning community. With this highlighted new infrastructure in Guyana's forward to a brighter regions. future with improved

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<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

CORE HOMES INITIATIVE DELIVERS HOMES, FRESH STARTS FOR EIGHT FAMILIES

Eight low-income families are celebrating fresh start after а receiving keys to their new homes, thanks to the government's Core Homes Initiative, executed under the Ministry of Housing and Water's Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility Programme (AH&UAP).

The handover ceremonies, led by Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues and Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, brought smiles and expressions of relief to the recipients.

Gena Barker, а widow who previously lived in a deteriorating



Beneficiary, Shabina Haniff and her daughter in front of their new home

wooden said the new home is a old house – a precarious lifesaver. **"After my** structure surrounded by husband's passing, I a swamp. "I feel safe couldn't afford a new and happy now," La place," she shared with Rose expressed. "The the Department of Public struggles I faced Information (DPI).

another beneficiary, can easing up, thanks to



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal presenting the Certificate of Inspection to 83-year-old, Jennifer Klass

structure, finally say goodbye to her living in Sophia for Dorette La Rose, 20 years are finally this programme."

Candacy Pitt, a single mother of three, echoed similar sentiments. The new home, she said, will provide a safe and comfortable haven for her children.

Cummings Lodge, also have 80 beneficiaries. very long time..." expressed his gratitude Thirty-eight homes have a nice house," remarked. he governmenthasmade (CH&PA)

a reality for me, to and I'm incredibly remaining ones." thankful."

The dwellings.

The targets residents in specific areas a home... I am very began in December 2017 of Regions Three and Four. Participants are required to contribute only \$100,000 towards the construction of their home.

Minister Rodrigues emphasised the programme's positive impact. "We've been building core homes in three areas for the past few years: East Bank, East Coast (including Sophia Cummings and Lodge), and Region Three," she explained. happy now. I was and applications closed Walter April, from "In Sophia alone, we waiting for this for a on June 11, 2024. To

construct the a

The Core Home beneficiaries Support Initiative also expended over \$418 received not just their provided fire victim million. On this entire new homes, but also Jennifer Klass with a programme itself, we electrical and termite fresh start after a fire have expended \$587 treatment certificates, destroyed her previous million...Satisfying, ensuring their well-being residence. "Everything again, a niche or a and the longevity of their was burned out particular target in AH&UAP had nothing left and core homes," the programme, with a **with us**," Klass told minister explained. budget of \$5.8 billion, DPI. **"I am thankful** The core h low-income to be provided with support

homeownership soon issue tenders are required to make \$100,000 down payment.

"We have during the fire. We terms of subsidies

home programme



Minister Susan Rodrigues shares a celebratory moment with Walter April and his wife outside his new home

Minister to the ministry. "I'm have already been highlighted that the 15 more currently under so proud to finally handed over, and the AH&UAP focused on construction on the East Central Housing and low-income individuals Coast corridor. "The Planning Authority in Regions Three and will Four. Beneficiaries

date, 96 homes have Croal been handed over with

FIRST LADY COMMISSIONS RECREATIONAL PARKS **REGION SIX - NO. 63 VILLAGE TO BENEFIT**



"Playground residents of No. 63 activities teamwork their **space**, **one which you** near the beach. must take great pride

enable Village on the Corentyne children to learn Coast can also expect a **problem-solving** new recreational park skills, soon. The First Lady, which can only along with regional benefit them into officials, inspected the adulthood... ongoing works for the This is your safe park, which will be built

The construction



The commissioning of the new play parks

recently commissioned programmes parks in Brothers and **can** between the Office the of the First Lady and ceremony. the Ministry of Public Works.

"Public these. like parks followed by mental well-being.

First Lady Arva Ali frequent recreational for two new recreational **public participation** significantly Lonsdale, Region Six. elevate the status The parks were built of the community under the National and improve the Beautification Project, lives of residents," a collaborative effort First Lady Ali said at commissioning

The parks are equipped with play areas, parks, lights, benches, and fall other amenities. First under the category Lady Ali highlighted that of essential public parks provide a sense of services. A robust belonging and promote ecosystem of public physical activity and

in and utilise exactly of how it was meant to reinforces **be utilised,**" First Lady government's Ali stressed.

from development, the skills acquired playgrounds in contribute immensely to a child's social and psychological development... It also provides an opportunity for children to benefit parental from guidance ... in these activities," the First Lady said during the commissioning. Meanwhile,

these amenities the commitment to " A p a r t enhancing communities physical and residents' lives.

The new play parks



The commissioning of the new play parks

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

EQUALITY NEWS



The Co-operative Republic of Guyana DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRIES AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

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

Procurement of Printers

- 1. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure specified in the Procurement Act 2003.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, inspect the bidding document, and purchase a complete set of hidding documents in soft copy only, at the Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority (address (1) below) from March 18*, 2024. Bids can be purchased from 8:30 hours - 15:30 hours, Monday to Thursday and 8:30 hours - 14:30 hours on Fridays.
- 3. A complete set of the bidding documents (soft copy), in English, may be parchased by interested bidders at address (1) below upon payment of a non-refindable fee of \$3,000.00. The method of payment will be cash, or by cheque payable to the Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority. All bidders should submit I (one) original hardcopy and two electronic copies (flash drive only) with an exact PDF version of the hardcopy to Address (2) below.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address (2) helow on 11" April 2024 at 09:00 hours. Late bids or incorrectly labelled bids will be rejected and returned to bidders unopened.

Address (1) - Purchase and Inspection of	Address (2) - Submission and Opening of
Document:	Bids:
Accounts Department	The Chairman,
Deeds & Commercial Registries	National Procurement and Tender
Authority	Administration Board,
Lot 1 High & Commerce Streets,	Ministry of Finance,
Newtown,	Main & Urquhart Streets, Georgetown
Georgetown,	Guyana.
Guyana.	



The Co-operative Republic of Guyana DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL **REGISTRIES AUTHORITY**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

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Address (1) - Purchase and Inspection of Document: Rids: The Chairman. Accounts Department Deeds & Commercial Registries Authority Lot 1 High & Commerce Streets, Newtown, Georgetown, Guyana. Guyana.

Address (2) - Submission and Opening of National Procurement and Tender Administration Board, Ministry of Finance, Main & Urguhart Streets, Georgetown, be difficult to understand - let me make it easier for you!

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Arrival of military aircraft marks new chapter in India-Guyana relations

A NEW chapter in India-Guyana cooperation began, as an Indian Air Force (IAF) team arrived in Guyana to deliver two HAL-228-201 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).

According to the Indian High Commission, the aircraft are being provided under a Line of Credit (LOC) extended by India to Guyana for which an agreement was signed on March 15 2024.

High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Dr Amit Telang, underscored the unique relationship between India and Guyana as he interacted with IAF and HAL officials.

The aircraft to be operated by the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) will also provide connectivity to remote areas and can be used for wide range of functions including medical evacuation, disaster response, among other things.

To bolster the capabilities of the GDF, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni K. Singh, on behalf of the Government of Guyana, had signed the LOC Agreement of US\$23.27 million, with the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), for the procurement of the two aircraft.

Dr. Singh, while delivering remarks, placed on record the government's great appreciation of India's unwavering support to Guyana, and al-



The Indian Air Force (IAF) team that arrived in Guyana to deliver two HAL-228-201 aircraft

luded to the two countries' long-standing relationship grounded in history, people, and culture, and, in more recent times, economic and commercial cooperation, the release added.

The Finance Minister said too: "We want to see more Indian companies doing business in Guyana. We are open to companies from around the world, including of course India, and India is amongst the economies that

are at the cutting edge of technology, and we want to receive the benefit of that cutting edge technology."

In reiterating the government's commitment to bolstering the country's security sector, he had related that the government was investing heavily in strengthening the capabilities of the GDF, in particular, in some of its specialised wings, such as the Air Corps and the Coast Guard.

He further said that the purchase of the two aircraft was part of the biggest ever investment in the capitalisation of the force thus far.

Guyana and India established diplomatic relations on May 26, 1966, and continue to have a robust developmental cooperation programme aimed towards the mutual benefit of both countries.

Guyana poised to fulfill breadbasket ambition

WITH innovation at its core, Guyana is poised to not only fulfil its ambition of becoming the "breadbasket" of the Caribbean but also pave the way for a new era of agricultural prosperity across the region.

This was according to the Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister of Guyana, Kwame McCoy, who was at the time explaining the imperative for a paradigm shift in attitude towards technology adoption, particularly among traditional farmers.

leveraging cutting-edge Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to revolutionise its agricultural sector.

He stressed that agriculture, inherently dynamic and data-driven, demands real-time information for informed decision-making.

Guyana is also forging ahead with the development of a rice production monitoring system, aimed at digitising rice lands to enhance data collection and analysis.

Minister McCoy pointed out that this initiative is anticipated to bolster efficiency and reliability in monitoring crucial production field data, including sowing, harvesting, yield, and loss. The National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) is set to integrate geospatial technology into their data collection and monitoring processes, facilitating precise monitoring of crop and livestock practices, soil health, and irrigation patterns. This strategic integration, the minister said, is poised to optimise agricultural practices and resource management. Additionally, Guyana's commitment to agricultural innovation is underscored by the establishment of a state-of-the-art biotechnology laboratory at the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI).

for crop improvement initiatives, fostering enhanced crop diversity and resilience in the face of evolving agricultural challenges.

This year, the government has budgeted approximately GY\$97.6 billion for agriculture for investments in drainage, irrigation, flood management, and supporting different sub-sectors like sugar, rice, coconut, and other high-value crops. Additionally, there are substantial funds allocated for agro-processing, poultry, aquaculture, and fisheries, indicating a comprehensive approach to agricultural development The budget also highlights the government's commitment to improving infrastructure, with substantial investments in roads, bridges, and community roadworks to facilitate agricultural activities and enhance connectivity across the country. **Equality's** advertising works!

"The use of technology can essentially transform local agriculture systems in Guyana," he said during a panel discussion at the 19th International Convention and Fair, Informática 2024, hosted in Havana, Cuba.

Guyana has been making bold strides towards reshaping the agricultural landscape of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM.)

It has emerged as a pivotal player, aiming to slash the region's food-import bill by 25 per cent by 2025.

Minister McCoy told the conference that not only is Guyana spearheading this ambitious plan, but

Minister McCoy, as such, emphasised the pivotal role of digital technologies in providing farmers with crucial data and insights.

"Access to information is crucial in decision-making for viable and sustainable agricultural business," he affirmed.

According to Minister McCoy, Guyana's Agricultural Technology (AgTech) initiatives stand as a testament to its commitment to harnessing ICTs for agricultural advancement.

Additionally, investments by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) in drones equipped with multi-spectrum cameras and sophisticated software promise to revolutionise chemical application, leading to increased sugar recoveries and productivity while curbing costs.

This facility will serve as a hub

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

EQUALITY NEWS

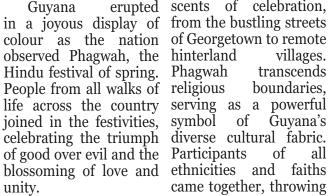
KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANESE CELEB









erupted scents of celebration, of peace and unity. colour as the nation of Georgetown to remote Ali observed Phagwah, the hinterland villages. message of unity and that Phagwah's spirit Hindu festival of spring. Phagwah transcends inclusion as Guyana of inclusivity aligns People from all walks of life across the country serving as a powerful joined in the festivities, celebrating the triumph of good over evil and the blossoming of love and the incities and faiths can to build a can be together throwing on skin colour bain colour colour bain colour colour c unity. The air buzzed with coloured powder and texture, or religion every individual can laughter and the sweet embracing the message has no place in our flourish."

President delivered а villages. message of unity and that Phagwah's spirit

society," the President Irfaan said in a statement.

emphasised He





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<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>





THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

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HAGWAH IN VIBRANT FUNITY

















THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

EQUALITY NEWS

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THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

Delicious Jamaican Dish



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THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GREATER ACCESSIBILITY, QUALITY OF EDUCATION GUYANA

to launch of the Guyana Coursera platform.

Through this initiative, the Coursera platform has partnered with several ministries to offer courses in over 6,000 disciplines.

Some 1,000 individuals are already set to undergo the Nurses' Registered programme through Coursera, with another 800 registered for the Nursing Assistant Programme.

The programme was officially launched at the National Stadium on the well aligned with that partnerships with over of providing quality East Bank Demerara.

his In remarks, Ali noted that human learning development

Guyanese will now transformation remain registered have greater access at the centre of the based on its December president said that the experiences to boost the education. world-class, free country's development, 2023 statistics. education following the and this programme is

learners, credentials,



With

The launch of the Coursera platform

philosophy.

feature Coursera is one of the institutions, including education sector. President world's leading online Yale University and John He challenge platforms, Hopkins. and with over 142 million

325 top Universities and accessibility in

> platform's utilise these to

the intelligence and virtual for world-class online platform is advancing delivery of education, The portal also boasts the government's vision expanding the range of this as the end-all. programmes offered to We are now looking include a wider cross- to position Guyana section of the country.

"We your platform to the Caribbean for design the specialised degree what you have to and in studies in forests, That is the challenge we must now put agenda, the president before ourselves," the said that the government president urged.

The head of state presenting He challenged the step improvement plan Guyanese who seek executives for the sector, to position opportunities to improve artificial the country as a hub their lives.

the

"We don't see as the main hub for can use Latin America and first Coursera and for postgraduate offer in this region. degree programme To do this, we have biodiversity to work on building a our diversified platform attaching that would cater for that programme to all languages and all a leading university, requirements of the and launching it as region," President Ali a global product. explained.

With this robust changing lives, is beacons chronicled a step-by- of hope to countless

CDB DELEGATION VISITS FELLOWSHIP PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION CENTRE, SHOWCASES SUCCESS OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

from the Caribbean Officer-Development (CDB) member recently Fellowship Instruction in Region Three. The agencies like the CDB. visit highlighted the Employability Project refurbishing CDB.

GSDEP The focused on strategically hinterland strengthening Technical schools Vocational Practical and

Representatives Deputy Chief Education Technical, Bank emphasised the and several Ministry of Education's countries commitment to toured the achieving this goal Practical through partnerships Centre with key funding

Project Coordinator success of the Guyana Theron Siebs, explained Skills Development and that the project involved and (GSDEP), funded by the expanding workshops, classrooms, and laboratories at three secondary and three Education and Training Centres (PICs) in Regions five subject areas. (TVET) across Guyana. Three, Four, and Five.



CDB delegation touring Fellowship Practical Instruction Centre

facilitate the Caribbean number of secondary an economic enterprise,

Dr. Ritesh Tularam, This initiative aimed to was to increase the job market, embark into

The main objective successfully enter the Siebs said.

Vocational Qualification school graduates with or pursue appropriate Instruction (CVQ) certification in the appropriate skills postsecondary/tertiary work, woodworking spin Regions five subject areas. and competencies to education and training, food and nutrition.

> The Fellowship

Practical Instruction Centre's Principal, Julian Cambridge, highlighted the programme's positive impact on students' lives. TVET programmes have not only equipped students with technical skills but also helped build their leadership skills and self-confidence, Mr. Cambridge noted.

The CDB delegation the toured facility, observing students engaged in practical training in electrical work, woodworking, and

ORKER GAP



The government remains committed to finding qualified personnel

The Foreign of International and Cooperation addressed the circulation Sector of a letter authorising has Sigma Engineers Ltd. emphasised the need to recruit healthcare to address skill gaps of Guyana remains committed to finding workers from abroad. across various sectors, open This move is a direct including construction, recruitment response to the critical engineering, of shortage professionals plaguing booming economy. the healthcare sector. as highlighted by both ethical and public institutions, the Ministry human trafficking, the **private sectors**," the recruitment practices.

Ministry reported in a press Ministry Affairs statement The skilled services, due to Guyana's which То ensure

statement to reportedly including Bangladesh. and **specialised**

Sigma Engineers Ltd. statement. collaborate with has explained that the Private healthcare professionals healthcare Commission from various countries, are filling vacancies.

"The Government government to do **currently exist in** shortage. This approach an **Guyana** from any emphasises finding a recruitment **part of the globe**, for sustainable private process and prevent **both the public and** while adhering to ethical

authorised Ministry declared in the

Currently, Cuban workers However, the remains the qualified personnel from of anywhere in the world skills to address the ongoing **not** healthcare worker solution

Global support mounts over Guyana's right to develop its resources

PRESIDENT Dr Irfaan Ali's recent interview with BBC's Stephen Sackur has garnered significant attention worldwide, as the Guyanese leader's steadfast stance on climate change, environmental preservation, and his challenge to perceived Western hypocrisy has sparked a global conversation.

During the interview on BBC's HARDtalk, Sackur questioned President Ali about whether Guyana's focus on fossil-fuel extraction contradicts global efforts to combat climate change.

President Ali responded assertively, highlighting Guyana's vast forest, which stores a significant amount of carbon, and its commitment to environmental stewardship.

"Let me stop you right there. Do you know that Guyana has a forest, forever[sic], that is the size of England and Scotland combined? A forest that stores 19.5 gigatons of carbon? A forest that we have kept alive?" he questioned.

Sackur further pressed President Ali on whether Guyana's preservation of its vast forest, which stores a significant amount of carbon, justifies the decision to release carbon emissions through oil and gas extraction.

President Ali, in response, strategically flipped the script and put the question to the host: "Does that give you the right to lecture us on climate change?" adding: "I am going to lecture you on climate change."

In challenging critics' authority to criticise Guyana's actions, President Ali highlighted Guyana's environmental stewardship, which he said justifies its pursuit of oil and gas development, while maintaining a net-zero carbon footprint.

Sackur further questioned Guyana's approach, referencing comments from Vice-President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo expressing the urgency to extract oil amid the climate change imperative.

President Ali defended this stance as "practical" and "honest," emphasising Guyana's commitment to economic development and creating opportunities for its people.

He emphasised the country's need to aggressively pursue its natural resources for economic growth and development, highlighting the lack of external support in bringing opportunities to Guyana. "You can say we are rushing, but we are very practical. We have this natural resource. And we're going to aggressively pursue this natural resource because we have to develop our country. "We are committed to the development of this region. We have to create opportunities for our people because no one is bringing it out for us," President Ali said.

stance on its right to develop its resources responsibly while prioritising environmental sustainability.

According to the global voices, developing states like Guyana reserve their sovereign right to utilise their resources for economic development, recognising that responsible exploitation can uplift communities, improve infrastructure, and enhance living standards.

Guyana, rich in resources like oil, gas, and rainforests, has been developing this resource to address historical underdevelopment and vulnerabilities.

Former Colombian Minister José Manuel Restrepo Abondano took to 'X' (formerly known as Twitter), praising President Ali's response, criticising Western hypocrisy on climate issues and advocating for responsible resource exploitation.

"Brilliant answer! This is the way in which biased questions are answered that hide a lot of global hypocrisy, especially from actors who are part of developed countries that do little about this issue at a global level and are experts in pontificating," Abondano said.

Former Minister of Climate and the Environment of Norway, Erik Solheim, also lauded President Ali's defence of Guyana's rainforest, declaring: "The arrogance of the West is endless. The reply to BBC from Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, is truly priceless. No nation has protected its wonderful forest like Guyana."



President Irfaan Ali

Our Family Caring for Yours

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



Support for the Head of State's stance poured in from around the world, with politicians, environmentalists, and advocates commending Guyana's





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GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

GUYANA SIGNS MOU WITH WWF TO BOLSTER FOR .Ε BL Α

Commission and the World Wildlife targets Fund-Guianas (WWF- healthy Guianas) joined forces natural resources by highlighting on International Day of empowering sustainable immense potential of Forests 2024, signing local Memorandum of development. а Understanding (MoU) to

This MoU will see industry.

propel sustainable a range of initiatives

The Guyana Forestry Guyana" project. This strengthen the forestry The nmission (GFC) \$1.1 billion initiative sector. He expressed emphasised maintaining his appreciation to the Guyana's forests, and EU for its commitment, sectors remain vibrant MoU's significance in community the training center to is that everybody is robust forestry sector significantly impact the **gravitating to the oil** that champions

> "I'm thankful



Attendee at the ceremony at the Yarrowkabra Forestry Training Centre, Soesdyke,

growth within Guyana's implemented to support to the EU and the traditional sectors, forestry sector.

ceremony, the Forestry Centre in Soesdyke, the marks а significant Forestry step forward under the School. European Union (EU)funded Forest Communities of GFC's for

training and provide the **commitment made to** The official signing necessary equipment upgrade this facility, held at to facilitate it. Notably, because there is so sectors." Yarrowkabra financial resources will much more that we Training also be directed towards **can do here**," Minister critical Training

> "Sustainable Resources, Vickram seedling station to unwavering commitment **tools such as GPS** Livelihoods Bharrat, lauded the bolster reforestation to preserving this vital **devices...in addition** dedication to efforts.

Yarrowkabra Bharrat remarked.

The training center recently Bharrat Minister of Natural benefitted from a new the

minister the and thriving.

> **"The** and gas sector. That sustainability is not true," Minister economic growth. Bharrat asserted. "Approximately programme, 6,000 Guyanese are will and gas sector today. communities Even when we start making will never employ aspects the amount of people to running viable that are employed by the Guyana Forestry Commission, because it is designed that way. That is why as a government, we need to ensure that we continue to incentivise the and continue to grow the traditional

Recognising the role forests play within Guyana's Yarrowkabra ecosystem, asset.

EU Ambassador that to Guyana, Rene van traditional Nes, underscored the establishing concrete criticism measures to build a both and

"Under this we now start employed in the oil supporting forested in business producing 1.2 billion plans, with training barrels of oil by 2027, in reducing impact the oil and gas sector logging...and all other relevant



EUAmbassador to Guyana, Rene van Nes

Minister **businesses**. This reiterated **includes** procuring government's forest management to preserving this vital devices...in addition providing to



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat financial

support to the Yarrowkabra training centre," Ambassador van Nes explained.

The ceremony was attended by prominent figures including British High Commissioner to Guyana, H.E Jane Miller, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Yesim Oruc, members of the diplomatic corps, officials and from relevant ministries and commissions.

This year's International Day of the Forests theme, "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World," resonates with Guyana's commitment to fostering a thriving and sustainable forestry sector through collaborative efforts and innovative approaches.

The Guyana Defence Force's (GDF) capabilities will be boosted thanks to a US\$23.27 million Line of Credit (LOC) agreement signed between Guyana and the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).



a

said Mr. Sanjay Lamba, supporting Guyana's General defence sector. "The Manager of the EXIM Government of India Bank's Line of Credit has played a role in Group. Lamba who defence training over signed on behalf of the decades in Guyana," Indian EXIM Bank said, Brigadier Khan noted. "he looks forward He added that this continued signing aligns with relationship between President Ali's vision the of a "strengthened and **Bank**," the press release security sector that will help to maintain Chief -of -Staff of the peace and the GDF, Brigadier prosperity for One Omar Khan, expressed Guyana." his appreciation for India's role in

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, signed the agreement on behalf of Guyana. **"This** agreement represents the latest instalment of **Government's** the ongoing effort to ramp up the capabilities of the GDF," Minister Singh said in a Ministry of Finance press release.

emphasised He the strong relationship between Guyana and India, stating, **"Wewant** to see more Indian companies doing

Finance Minister Ashni Singh signed for Guyana, while Deputy General Manager Sanjay Lamba signed for EXIM Bank.

technology, and we Guard, he explained. want to receive the benefit of that cutting of India to Guyana, Dr. first-ever defence LOC edge technology."

two aircraft is part of a relationship significant investment the

business in Guyana... GDF, in particular, in LOC is just another **India is amongst the** some of its specialised means of cementing economies that are wings, such as the Air its partnership with at the cutting edge of Corps and the Coast Guyana, Dr. Telang High Commissioner agreement marks the

The purchase of the the importance of the Caribbean nation.

two

said. He noted that this Amit Telang, echoed signed by India with a

between This LOC agreement nations. is the eleventh signed in the GDF, according India attaches great between Guyana and the to Dr. Singh. The importance to the EXIM Bank. "Working Government is investing relationship it shares with the Government heavily in strengthening with Guyana, and of Guyana has been the capabilities of the the signing of the very satisfactory,"



US\$23.27 million agreement signed with Indian EXIM Bank to purchase GDF Aircraft

OUTGOING CHAIR, MINISTER BENN SAYS RSS NEEDS TO 'UP ITS GAME' TO FIGHT EVOLVING CRIME



Minister of Home Affairs and outgoing Chairman of RSS Robeson Benn addressing the summit

Regional The growing complexity of rapid evolution and outgoing Chairman, Benn.

The Security System (RSS) pandemic created an focus on the ongoing needs to adapt to the environment for the instability in Haiti. of transnational organised organised transnational Haiti will result in crime, according to crimes, Minister Benn an unstable region," Home Affairs Minister said at a high-level RSS Minister Benn said, RSS Council of Ministers' highlighting Robeson Meeting at the Ramada interconnected security Georgetown

Hotel in Georgetown. Caribbean. "This creates a more complex for the system."

Minister respond to emphasised the need for a "common security architecture" among member states to seamlessly address COVID-19 crises, with a particular

"An unstable the Princess challenges the in

challenge for modernisation was Benn Minister

being the newest member secure Caribbean region. Minister Benn's call of the organisation.

Representatives "Strength security echoed by incoming from the United States, Unity", brought together RSS Chairman, Prime United Kingdom, and security Terrance the European Union military urged the RSS to "up Drew of St. Kitts and also expressed their chiefs, and international its game" to effectively Nevis. He commended continued support for partners to discuss a these Guyana for taking on the the RSS' mission of range of critical issues emerging threats. He chairmanship despite creating a safer and more facing the region.

The meeting, themed through ministers, and police



The meeting brought together security ministers, military and police chiefs, and international partners

Good for news investors! Guyana is making strides to ensure a safe and secure environment for businesses, according he said, to the European Union (EU) Ambassador to Guyana, René van Nes.

"Safety security are obviously kev considerations,' Ambassador van Nes acknowledged during a high-level Regional Security System (RSS) Council of Ministers' Meeting in Guyana, "thanks to your dedication and professionalism, question positively,"



and reflects the Guyanese to supporting Guyana with member government's strategic and the Caribbean through focus on enhancing region through the RSS. and safety. Billions of dollars He emphasised their programmes. have been invested dedication to tackling combined strengthen to enforcement agencies drug trafficking, and as like the Guyana Police cybercrime, which they attractive location for Force (GPF) and the see as threats to "the very investment, with both Customs Anti-Narcotics foundation of societies." Unit (CANU).

we can answer that a strong partner in pursuing

NAS $(\mathbf{0})$ PROV ECU

security measures.

The EU is also committed

van Nes reaffirmed highlighting This positive outlook the EU's commitment continued collaboration law transnational "The EU

security values," Ambassador their states the RSS security other This effort crime, positions Guyana an increasingly the government and the is EU working to ensure a to secure and prosperous these future.



European Union (EU) Ambassador René van Nes

LOCAL AUTHORITIES DESTROY MORE THAN **THREE TONS OF MARIJUANA**

Local

with the destruction he stated. The Ministry nation.

dealt a significant blow these persons will go **outcome for both the** destruction. to the narcotics trade into legal agriculture," **individuals and the** Despite

challenges.

every seizure that against the drug ongoing we make, we put a fight," he revealed. Deputy dent in that person's CANU also business they invest money its officers. "We are and they cannot get looking to invest an income out of heavily in our officers that." CANU, Rayon Samuels, Samuels echoed the commitment, emphasised continued emphasising community engagement, preventative measures. stating, "We "We have been continue to go into conducting education the drives countrywide and work closer with especially at schools our citizens for this to nip the effects fight." and manufacturing Troy

Samuels education. highlighted collaboration as key. **"We have been** working along with our sister agencies and local and foreign authorities [government] wish that envisioning a positive resolutions before the he declared. "With counterparts to aid plans because to invest heavily in to promote them in Deputy Director of the areas of training," said. He will communities

marijuana. of Anti-Narcotics (CANU) and the Guyana Affairs, Robeson Benn.

billion, Minister Benn towards

destruction.

of three metric tons of Home Affairs, in The collaboration with the operation, a joint effort Ministry of Agriculture, between the Customs will offer perpetrators an Unit alternative path.

"We are talking Police Force (GPF), took to both the Police place on Homestretch and CANU...to bring Avenue, Georgetown, **about a diversion** under the supervision of change in their of Minister of Home activities in terms of agriculture," Minister The drug has a street Benn explained. The value of some \$2.5 goal is to steer them cultivating revealed, highlighting "high-value crops" and

Minister get them to grow parts of Linden in commitment. "We are educating young people CANU, James Singh, Benn outlined a **cabbages and other** Region Ten. All cases **fighting the narcotics** about the dangers of along unique plan aimed at **high-value crops**," had undergone legal **trade. It is not easy**, narcotics. member rehabilitation. "We **he emphasised**, proceedings and court **but we are fighting**," In addition to witness



Illicit drugs being destroyed by CANU and the Guyana **Police Force**

The seized narcotics Superintendent the magnitude of the integrate them into the originated from various Whittaker, Head of **of illicit drugs in** narcotics is a standard practice for CANU and Beyond the **is a hope that we can** Regions Five, Six, and Branch, reaffirmed their said. CANU prioritises the GPF. Director of

The destruction of with other members of both forces, addition to witnessed the operation.

EQUALITY NEWS THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED



Prime Phillips said the US\$38 said signing ceremony, in the boardroom of are million contract to construct solar farms in Regions Two, Five and Six is a "crucial step Guyana's towards ambition of forging a sustainable energy future." He emphasised the importance of the project in "advancing renewable energy adoption while simultaneously catering to the needs of vulnerable communities."

project "Every executed by the government must be 'people-centred' thereby their livelihoods and Utility-Scale resilience against the Photovoltaic (GUYSOL)

Minister impacts of climate and a Chinese company where these projects This project also will benefit from the Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark change," PM Phillips known as SUMEC, held are located, they involves the element implementation

located



US\$38M contract signed to construct solar farms in Regions Two, Five, Six

enhancing between the Guyana the Office of the Prime areas that need the program. An additional and Solar Minister on Camp Street. energy more than 20 individuals, including sources of energy," "If you notice us in Georgetown. persons with disabilities, Minister Singh said.

in of training youths two other energy and women in the apprenticeship maintenance of the programmes. solar systems that will be installed," the within the Office of PM noted.

The initiative is responsibility the Guyana REDD+ Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, Investment government managed by the Inter- power being distributed. American Development Bank (IDB). It will see 50 significant additions through an month apprenticeship transition to cleaner

of

Senior Minister the President with for being funded through Finance and Public Fund stated that the project established by the will result in a total of and 18 megawatts of solar

"Those are women benefit from solar to our electricity PV training, including **generating capability**. job opportunities and **And they represent** workforce development a significant step eight- forward in our renewable

GUYANA PUSHES FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES, AIMS FOR 1,000 ON THE ROADS BY 2025

Prime Minister Mark Energy Phillips, who oversees EV "Show and Tell" Guyana's energy sector, exhibition. is calling for a major move towards electric held at the Amazonia vehicles (EVs) to cut Mall, showcased the carbon economy.

"The development of our electric cars and trucks. abundant natural resources, hydropower, natural gas, catalyse **transformation** and Guyana's roads by 2025. at the same time, expansion Guyana," Minister speech at the Guyana infrastructure

Agency's

exhibition, The emissions and transition latest EVs available in the country to a low- Guyana and highlighted the environmental and rapid economic benefits of

> Prime Minister solar, Phillips outlined the and government's ambitious will goal of having over 1,000 energy electric vehicles on

"The continuous electromobility uptake of electric in vehicles on our Prime local roadways and Phillips enhanced low carbon emphasised during his transportation



The Guyana Energy Agency's EV Show and Tell exhibition

demonstrates the said.

and more affordable. **country's gradual** The government is Prime Minister Phillips **shift to eco-friendly** committed to making explained that they will transportation," he the switch to EVs easier continue to provide

"affordable, reliable, renewable and energy" to support the EV transition.

He also highlighted existing incentives, such as zero duty and taxes on EVs and a 50% annual write-down allowance for businesses that invest environmentally in friendly vehicles.

Prime Minister Phillips concluded his remarks by urging attendees to become "EV ambassadors" and advocate for the nationwide shift to electric vehicles.

GETS LONG-AWAIT MARKET ED UPG EONORA

Leonora vendors can look forward to a more them. spacious and improved new

Market a dedicated parking lot, caused by an influx of **issues**. finally is ready to accommodate vendors.

work environment. A from a visit by President the 8,000-square- Ali in 2022, where are with sanitary facilities, challenges faced by the Ali said



President Ali engaging shoppers and vendors

Minister within **"This** will **be** the Ministry of Public This project stems the design of all Works, Deodat Indar, markets we announced at vendor relocation will looking meter tarmac, complete he acknowledged the nationally," President commence soon. during a "We are upgraded drainage, and market due to congestion recent visit to the doing further work. market, highlighting That initial market commitment to tarmac his is these completed. So, we replicating improvements across have to start moving Guyana. "Concrete people in because drains, washrooms, we have to do the accessibility, road as well," Minister parking, washroom Indar explained. "...we facilities. We are will meet with the going to do a highway vendors. We can have coming in, and a transitional period the vendors] where they come in all will come here, so and we will have to we won't have any demarcate here as

that now now vendors well."



A new tarmac, with upgraded drainage, and a dedicated parking lot is now available for Leonora

The Ministry Public Works will be planned for the Hydronie with Market. collaborating the Ministry of Local Government to ensure a smooth relocation

process.

Similar of improvements are also

DRONE TECHNOLOGY BOOSTING GUYANA'S RICE PRODUCTION

Guyana's industry, a cornerstone of the agriculture sector, is General of the FAO, embracing the future to the Burma Rice with the help of drones Research Station in and data. This innovative Mahaicony highlighted approach is leading the the project's progress. way towards a more The programme equips farming experience.

The initiative is (GIS) a collaborative effort These tools provide between the Food and invaluable data, allowing Agriculture Organisation farmers to monitor their (FAO) and the Guyana rice fields and make Rice Development Board informed (GRDB). Launched in for 2023 with backing from management. the FAO-China Souththe transforming the way on those in Regions fields. "The drones fly

rice their fields.

A recent visit by nation's Qu Dongyu, Directorefficient, sustainable, small-scale farmers with and productive rice drone and Geographic Information System technologies. decisions improved

Farmers are programme is Programme, with a focus pinpoint issues within his fertiliser or spray. rice farmers manage Two, Three, and Six. The around and show you the drone's utility in land broader technological



The DG witnessing a drone flight demonstration

project has already seen **whatever** significant participation, the rice has," he crop with over 205 farmers explains. "It shows crop." engaged to date.

GOVT AIDS REGION

problem you three spots: red,

Tyndall highlighted with

H

preparation, him to monitor his fields can give us realremotely. "You could time be at home, send explained. your drone into the benefits the farmers fields to see what's tremendously going on," he says. "It helps us advise them helps you a lot."

Another Balram Rampersaud, GRDB, the farmers, finds the integration **and** of drones and GIS to country." be a welcome relief. "You don't have to this pilot programme do as much manual demonstrates labour," he said. "The potential for machines make it technology easier to control the revolutionise Guyana's

Joshua Tyndall, a yellow, and green. Washington, a GRDB approach, Guyana is South Cooperation receiving training participating farmer, **Red means danger**, Extension Officer and poised for a future of project and a Regional through the GRDB's is impressed by the **and this tells you if** Drone Pilot Trainee, increased efficiency, E-Agriculture project, Farmers Field School technology's ability to you have to apply sees the programme sustainability, as perfectly aligned productivity in its rice

REE FARM

allowing advancements. **"It** data," he **"This** and better. It's a big farmer, step forward for the the entire

The success of the drone to rice farming industry. W i n f i e l d With this innovative and Guyana's production.

With the relentless dry season threatening agricultural yields in Region Three, West Bank Demerara farmers can breathe a sigh Ali the commitment to mitigating the crisis.

all the infrastructure would have been dead in place," President Ali now, and we would Agriculture, emphasised. "We did have had no water to Mustapha, echoed the waterlogging." not anticipate such service the farmers," president's sentiments, a long dry season, President and the magnitude... explained. "So, what efforts. "In all the Authority's so, it is a very costly we are doing now is regions, we are Regional Engineer, Lall but exercise, necessary one."

The severity is evident in the **from the conservancy farmers are facing**," dwindling water levels into the nearby canal he declared. of the conservancy and and other canals in canals. To combat this, the region." a complex operation Hefurtherelaborated irrigation needs. everybody involving over 30 pumps on the long-term Regional Chairman, through their crop," is underway.

The

of relief as President Number One and Two challenge... [We're "We are looking at on infrastructure. He potential solution. has highlighted Polders during which he **building**] a Hope-like both the drainage also interacted with government's engaged the residents.

pumping water into additional "We are putting the conservancy, it capacity." a pumping water into putting systems in Piterahdaue, offered a the conservancy, and place to address positive outlook. "We situation's then pumping water the problems that have been installing

recently visited Canal we understand the excavation services. wasn't solely focused

canal in the region, and Minister

Zulfikar lands, Ali highlighting nationwide and

The focus extends were beyond immediate mostly to ensure that solution: "We want SheikAyube, revealed he stated. president farmers to know that plans for regular

storage process

Drainage National Irrigation (NDIA) pumps... so far, we can say that we successful, brings

President Ali's visit

irrigation residents, "If we were not which would provide sides," he noted. "This concerns about drainage accessibility," enhances and accessibility. While a President Ali suggested, the drainage system road on the Conservancy encouraging residents to of around agricultural Dam is impractical, a discuss the proposal and preventing walkway emerged as a reach a consensus.

"We can build a addressing walkway to improve



President Ali walking along the Conservancy Dam at Canal No.2, West Bank Demerara

swift

RESIDENTS IN INGRATITUTE SETTLEMENT RECEIVE WATER TANKS

Twelve families in access to a clean and Region Three, now have Incorporated (GWI).

Ingratitude Settlement, consistent water supply 450-gallon water tanks it became evident that 12 their gratitude for site of a reinforced West Bank Demerara, thanks to Guyana Water to each of the 12 families. families lacked proper the



Minister Croal and the residents

GWI This initiative addresses storage facilities. GWI intervention. the residents' previous promptly addressed this Sasenarine Kanhai, Street, Samaroo Dam, struggles to obtain water, by providing them with **a** as they often relied on water tanks. rainfall, rivers, or canals, or had to purchase water. highlighted

The stems from commitment directly to 52 families. delivery schedule. However, upon initiating

distributed the distribution process, members

Minister distribution possibility of drilling a thank the Minister is already 60% complete. a well to offer a long-term for his efforts in The pavement measures which solution for the entire bringing water to 131 meters long and 1.52 Minister Croal made community. Residents our area." Similar meters wide. to residents during a were also informed that sentiments were echoed meeting. The initial plan they would be notified by Amanda Williams further assured residents involved providing water of the upcoming water and Jermaine McForth, that the nearby walkway community government's The

stated,

response in providing the water tanks.

In addition to the water tank distribution, Minister Croal also expressed visited the construction government's concrete pavement on Sixth Southern Cross beneficiary, Pouderoyen. The project, "Residents undertaken by Puran Croal struggled for the Brothers Disposal Inc., the past six months... I at a cost of \$16,645,650,

Minister Croal who appreciated the would also be upgraded.

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

Prime Minister Mark fundamental Phillips urged countries **our** across the Americas to to prioritise the integration **protection**, of renewable energy progress, economic sources and innovative growth, technologies into their overall existing energy systems. development."

Speaking at the 6th Ministerial Meeting Guyana of the Energy and strategic Climate Partnership of which includes strong the Americas (ECPA), policies in Santo Dominican Republic, Prime Minister Phillips the emphasised the critical also the government's achieving a sustainable Carbon future.

comprehensive new renewable energy. Prime

to commitment environmental social and human

He highlighted the government's approach, and cost Domingo, efficiency technologies. Prime Minister emphasised role clean energy plays in commitment to the Low Development Strategy (LCDS), "Clean energy is at outlining key initiatives the core of Guyana's such as the 500 MW of

Recognising e n e r g y Recognising the releasing it during emphasised the tools will improve transformation," importance of a stable peak demand," he significance of technology the efficiency and Minister energy supply, the explained. He cited the platforms in integrating reliability of Phillips declared. "It's Prime Minister stressed



Prime Minister Mark Phillips at the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

innovative energy as solutions. showcasing storage "Battery storage and integration of solar PV systems, other solutions are systems with battery technologies, critical for storing storage facilities. surplus energy and the releasing it during emphasised Guyana Solar

an

The Prime Minister he urged. Utility-Scale renewable energy into energy systems." Photovoltaic existing infrastructure.

the need to explore Programme (GUYSOL) "Now is the time example, to utilise advanced its **grid** management smart and data analytics," **"These** the tools will improve our He further discussed

the importance of innovation. financial highlighting the role of digital platforms in attracting investments, lowering capital costs, and accelerating the adoption of sustainable energy solutions.

He stressed the need for regional collaboration accelerate to the energy transition in the Americas. "Private sector involvement is crucial in realising a shared vision for a sustainable future," he declared. He emphasised the importance of enhancing regional cooperation networks and publicprivate partnerships to identify opportunities, address challenges, and foster innovative solutions.

SKY HIGH DOMINICANA BOOSTING TOURISM LINK - OPENS COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN GUYANA



Cutting of the ribbon to the new Sky-High Aviation Services Dominicana

Get ready for breathtaking sunsets and unexplored waterfalls! Blackwater Adventures has launched two exciting new tours, offering of Guyana's natural highlighted eco-tourists in Guyana. below the horizon. Deep within the jungles of Region Seven, Tourism along the Ekereku (GTA) unexplored Falls. Adventures is now practices. adventure seekers. Set sail on the potential," Adventures' Demerara at Sunset Cruise. Departing Marine Inc. sightseeing trip allows accessibility." you to soak in the beauty

Guyanese travellers Commerce, and businesses now Walrond, highlighted the Guyana a more attractive have a more convenient significance of the new tourist destination. This between option for connecting service. "We are really includes with the Dominican happy...that Sky High aspects of the tourism Republic, thanks to Sky Dominicana... has sector that support Dominicana High Dominicana's new been able to cement airlift" and encouraging commercial office in **this inaugural flight**," investments in new hotel Georgetown.

celebrated 16, between Guyana and the the tourism product" Dominican Republic last in Guyana. month.

Minister

airline's inaugural flight the development of Guyana by 2027.

Minister of emphasised

Oneidge commitment to making "building countries. Minister Walrond said. rooms, events, and other The office opening She views this as a visitor attractions. Her ceremony, on March sign that investors are vision is to attract over the "seeing the vision for two million visitors to Jagan

The Dominican Republic's Ambassador Walrond to Guyana, Ernesto Street, Kitty. the Torres Pereyra stated Tourism Industry and government's that Sky High's direct

flights create a "dream" opportunity to develop a "multi destination tourism strategy." Ambassador Perevra envisions increased trade, tourism, and official cooperation the two

Sky High provides weekly flights between Santo Domingo's Las Américas International Airport and Georgetown's Cheddi International Airport. The airline's new commercial office is located at Lot 58 David

BLACKWATER ADVENTURES UNVEILS NEW ECO-TOURISM EXPERIENCES

unique experiences for landscape as the sun dips significance

The Authority HSSE-certified River, lies the largely Blackwater Adventures demonstrating Sakaika for their commitment commitment to safety. Blackwater to sustainable tourism "Sakaika working offering a trek to this and other waterfalls operators across the truly hidden gem, perfect for have a high degree country to develop time," he stated. investment new experiences. "We of said **commendBlackwater** offerings, picturesque Demerara GTA Director, Kamrul Adventures River with Blackwater Baksh at the launch their no-minimum- further establish itself as the from Westzyde Marine at launch is pivotal in Sunset Cruise," said La Grange, this two-hour showcasing Sakaika's Baksh. "This caters to Guyana's growing Baksh also **business**

the sector."

of

tourism

Dillon Ross, Blackwater Adventures proprietor of Blackwater Guyana being one of the first Adventures, emphasised tour their dedication to applauded operators in Guyana, creating unforgettable their experiences for their guests. "Our aim is The GTA is actively to ensure active with tour engagement and a memorable

With these new Blackwater for Adventures is poised to Westzyde **participant policy** a leader in Guyana's eco-"This on the Demerara tourism industry.



A beautiful view of the Sakaika Falls

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANA TEAM YOUTH P 5

The

upskilling

The government is Vocational forging partnerships to Centre ensure young people "We must ensure of support as those are given the same pursuing paths.

This focus Technical and Vocational emphasised. Education Training (TVET) aims to bolster reflected in the success the local workforce, of the GGI's TVET and fuel sustainable programme,

"The long-term "a project with a great project must be purpose." Launched in to education learning in this on New Amsterdam declared and Linden Technical Labour Minister Joseph Institutes. Hamilton at a recent institutions Greater Guvana Initiative a (GGI) Leonora Technical and equipment for electrical effectively

with technical aptitudes the children with emphasises receive the same level technical aptitudes work counsel, guidance, and facilities at academic **counsel**, at on an early age," he

This commitment is which economic diversification. Minister Hamilton called revolutionise 2020, the programme's and second phase focused

Training installation and welding workforce. (LTVTC). programmes.

The **"safe** in isolation. The US\$100 and safe million

Participants at the GGI celebration ceremony

to

declared and Linden Technical working behaviour", programme, a ten-These establishing safety as year investment by received a core value This focus the Stabroek Block comajor overhaul, ensures graduates are ventures (ExxonMobil celebration with workshops being prepared for the real Guyana, Hess Guyana, emphasised the long- the tangible outcomes of ceremony held at the retrofitted with modern world and can contribute and CNOOC Petroleum term vision, stating, "Oil these partnerships. the Guyana)

Ministry the government's Education, the Council more initiative efforts are not happening for Technical and **resources of** Vocational Education **country** Training (C-TVET), and people, and you are LearnCorpInternational, thefuturegeneration, further emphasises the you are the future importance of TVET.

> Guyana President, Routledge, highlighted future of the country. the significance, stating these are critical that the investment because technology these training **helps** in programmes is about competitiveness, raising the standard of and it is all forms of employment, therefore technology." raising the standard of prosperity while concluded having a sustainable and tour of the upgraded competitive economy.

alongside and gas resources...

of are finite, and the important the are its of the economy and Exxon Mobil of society, and by Limited's investing in you, we Alistair are investing in the programme's **Programmes** like drive

The ceremony with a welding and electrical R o u t l e d g e workshops, showcasing

The Women Innovation and Network Investment (WIIN) programme is branching out to approach. focused primarily on WIIN will now extend training added. opportunities to men, as well.

clearly cannot only invest wasn't entirely absent in women and not before. invest in men and been working with significant increase and boys," said Dr. Vindhya our men folk," she in Persaud, Minister of noted, "five per cent offerings. WIIN has Human Services and of the classroom expanded its course even more specialised Social Security, during [had already been] options to a recent NCN televised constituted by men." **"So...** programme. this year, Guyana is Women's Leadership empowering

OPPORTUNITIES, embrace a more inclusive Institute [GWLI], we demographics. Previously will be opening the Persaud emphasised, established courses like women, the initiative to men," Dr. Persaud transforming

marks a significant shift, exists in the girls, new "We understand the Minister highlighted women, men, and been that one that male participation boys." "We have translates The Ministry of committed all

programme "Every day we are child care, elder care, lives and looking at and computer skills. While the expansion **the potential that** Additionally,

to programme installation. to a wider range incorporating and courses interests to **skillsets**.

programme can The

Dr. will continue to offer the garment construction, exciting options have introduced, including design, event **This commitment** management, trades like **a** plumbing and carpentry, even electrical

WV

For those seeking cater knowledge, WIIN is online through explore now



Women participating in the WIIN programme

graphic design, project like artificial intelligence management, Coursera. Participants media marketing, and even delve into topics

social and workplace safety.

ORONOQUE GETS NEW EDUCATION OFFICE - TO BOOST QUALITY

commitment to strengthening education through infrastructure projects. Minister provided details on building's government's plans for to see these investments One. **"The cabinet** academic performance. and approval to expedite Brentnol of Regional Development, the extension of highlighted that the new and several educational facility embodies the Minister of Housing and buildings," he revealed. government's agenda for These children include the Baramita access Nursery and Primary plans for the completion and Schools, which expanded staffing...So that they population. Additionally, Primary, could carry out their work is ongoing on access to education for Minister Hosororo, government's Secondary Schools.

"We also want to the see that transcending system itself to an output essential of increased passes by our students." Croal Minister Croal additional emphasised, highlighting the the government's desire Regional Chairman Ashley extensions transformation. Ashley also revealed will of the Oronogue Primary to School this year. This new the school will function as an student annex to Port Kaituma improving Northwest, children in Four Miles Kwebanna and surrounding areas.

JUCAI IUN DELIV

A new \$25.7 million throughout the Matarkai space for two education Education support staff. education office in sub-district. officers, two schools' facility, welfare officers, staff official commissioning education in Region translate to improved Oronoque, Port Kaituma, The Region One, promises constructed by AAV from the Cyril Potter ceremony was attended Sons College of Education by Minister of Local recently gave its to be a central hub for Ragobeer and enhancing the delivery Contracting Services, (CPCE), and quality education will create a dedicated Departments of



The new educational facility

The other Government Parag, Sonia Water, Collin Croal.

"Our deserve to education system that be a can have the accommodate we **best teachers and** growing functions," Parag said, underscoring and the

PM PHILLIPS CONDEMNS KAIETEUR NEWS FOR INFOUNDED" **OIL SPILL CI**



Prime Minister, Mark Phillips

Prime Mark News for publishing an copies. "unfounded" letter that linked the country's Phillips called the international standards the coast of Trinidad and retraction and apology bidding." Tobago.

in the Kaieteur News' newspaper of **"yellow** the go March 13 edition, **journalism"** and a commitment falsely claimed that GPL "blatant disregard "upholding purchased oil from a for the principles highest standards of sanctioned state and is of somehow connected to journalism." the spill. While the letter The Prime Minister **compliance.**"

Phillips, has it has already been in

Prime from the Kaieteur News. The letter, published He further accused the Minister responsible of

was later removed from also refuted the letter's called the portrayal of

"There will be an

Minister, the newspaper's website, claim that GPL engaged Guyana activity. or illegal criticised the Kaieteur circulated in printed According to Phillips, to GPL's procurement of norms

power company, Guyana publication of the letter and regulations" and is Minister concluded his Power and Light (GPL), a "grave error" and a "transparent process statement by calling to a recent oil spill off demanded a formal of national competitive on Kaieteur News and

The emphasised and government's discourse" to **to** governance integrity." and international He

as "defiant indifferent" international "a gross Minister fuel oil adheres to "all misrepresentation." The Prime

all media outlets to Prime "promote informed constructive and uphold "the the highest standards journalistic

AG NANDLALL CALLS FOR JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILI ON DELAYS OVER WRITTEN DECISIONS

judiciary.

locally," AG Nandlall lamented. acknowledged during his televised programme acknowledging 'Issues in the News'. He challenges like judge who persistently fail to the Time Limit for pointed to recent reports shortages, the Attorney deliver timely decisions Judicial Decisions Act from Barbados where General judges faced formal that "the judiciary, timeframe. complaints for exceeding **like every other** time limits set out in arm of the state and Guyana has a Bar gy/publications/acts-oftheir constitution.

Judicial Decisions Act within

Guyana's Attorney of 2009 outlines specific constitution." General, Mohabir Anil timeframes for judges Nandlall, has spoken out to deliver rulings in of state is enjoined law in relation to the against the persistent civil cases and appeals. to obey the law. writing of decisions issue of slow written "This law ... has been No agency is above within the prescribed decisions from the passed nearly 15 the law. That is the time, will be obeyed." years now and it's essence of what we "This has been not being complied call the rule of law," General's a chronic problem with," AG Nandlall AG Nandlall stressed. highlight

citizens, is expected Association," Similar to Barbados, to uphold and obey Nandlall Guyana's Time Limit for **the laws enshrined** hinting at potential act-2009. Guyana's future

"Every referenced He W h i l e Constitution's provision efficiency in Guyana. past for removing judges To read more about emphasised within the stipulated of 2009, you can visit

"Like appointments.

agency expectation that the The Attorney comments ongoing the concerns about judicial the link at: https:// Barbados, www.parliament.gov. AG parliament/time-limitnoted, for-judicial-decisions-



Attorney General, Mohabir Anil Nandlall

: (() Ξ H

Guyana's healthcare system just got a now cohort! This landmark "Being between the government students...this Medical and International, equipped because maintain vital medical to come." equipment. Ēsha about the programme's along challenges and rewards: employment. "It was a wonderful experience... I had echoed a lot of doubts." Overcoming self-doubt, of family and friends, field. "interesting amazing."

Kumar stationed major boost with the West Demerara **needed for modern** What this **training memory on things** graduation of its first ever Regional Hospital, sees **equipment.**" Bennet **does...allows us I have already** biomedical technician himself as a trailblazer: went on to praise the to troubleshoot learned." Aid a great initiative of support that we we are 38 graduates with the setting the pace for skills to repair and the next generation Persaud values the combination Jaikaran, of classroom learning one graduate, spoke and practical experience, with secure Dervin Bennet Persaud's sentiment, recognising programme's her the Jaikaran significance for Guyana's highlighted the support developing biomedical can always rely on." another **With** calling the programme **implementation** of training and this programme... impressed Bennet, "This existing we have biomedical training ... allows us to be "It

Persaud, technicians equipped biomedical technicians refreshing... It would at **with** the

skills in an evolving field... have refreshed my She sees

skills...we are able to decrease downtime... and it would increase the ability of the medical practitioner to work in a more efficient way." Ramoutar is excited to already apply his knowledge and contribute to the healthcare sector. This programme equips graduates from Goberdhan across Guyana with the technical expertise to maintain medical equipment in their regions upon graduation. Bioengineering is a rapidly growing field, and this initiative reflects the government's commitment to harnessing scientific advancements for national development. These enthusiastic graduates are readv to propel Guvana's healthcare system forward with their innovative mindset and technical skills.

the first programme for its focus issues." This opens this as an opportunity initiative, a collaboration **batch of biomedical** on adaptability: **"We** doors for innovation and to provide better quality is also have a network equipment repair. **T**eanna

service in her field. Bagot,



was

First batch of biomedical technicians eager to build emerging field

the Hands-on

graduate, Ramoutar, empowered calibration highlighted how the by his new skills, particularly programme honed her emphasised the knowledge: importance of medical very engineers: "With these

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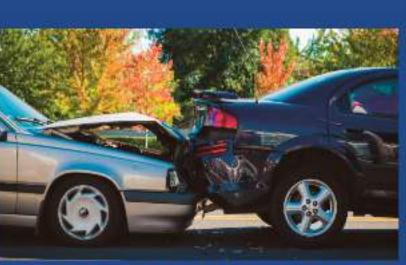


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THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

11 OLK AND FA ENGE \mathbf{P}

Region Five inspected Ali stated. agricultural several projects and met with visited local fisherfolk.

site. inspected the \$600 pledged to improve their we can support you million abattoir which is working conditions. The and deal with some of nearing completion. The fisherfolk requested a the new challenges," abattoir will modernise shed for mending fishing President Ali said to the Guyana's processing capabilities, wharf, lights for night highlights open up new markets fishing, and a paved Ali's commitment to for beef, and create waterfront. jobs. "The abattoir work with them to and improving will become the main [get] the estimate and livelihoods of Guyanese slaughtering area for design for this shed in all sectors. cattle in the country [bytonight] ... and we as Region Five is can get [Ministry of poised to become the Agriculture] to look hub for the 'cattle at the wharf issue,'

door Sluice, D'Edward the area. At the Onverwagt Village, where he met President Ali with fisherfolk and continue to see how meat gear, an expansion of the fisherfolk.

President Ali visited industry'," President President Ali instructed officials. He also President Ali also promised to distribute the Three- seedlings to farmers in

> "We want to This visit President "You'll supporting agriculture the



President Ali speaking with the fisherfolks

167 SQUATTERS NOW LANDOWNERS IN AMELIA'S WARD PHASE FOUR

who have been squatting **costly. So, getting my** in Amelia's Ward Phase own will help me a Four, Linden, Region lot," said Wilma Pigott, Ten are now legal a beneficiary who has landowners after signing been living in Amelia's agreements of sale to Ward for the past five process Certificates years. of Title. This fulfills a commitment made by Chisara Minister within the expressed her gratitude Ministry of Housing and to the government. Water, Susan Rodrigues **"I don't want to be** in 2021.

The exercise was held at landowner means a Linden Secondary Linden, Region Ten

about receiving my you can imagine,"

The first 167 families renting and it is

Another resident, James, an illegal squatter distribution anymore...Being a Foundation lot because it is your School, name to something. It means so much to "I am very excited me, more than what title because I am James said. "I am



Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues handing over agreement of sale document to the beneficiaries

lands...Just do the Rodrigues said. right thing."

old beneficiary, Vandy lands for other areas to Van Lewin is also happy be regularised, including to finally own the land he Coomacka, Silver Hill, has been occupying since West Watooka, and more 2019. "I am happy areas in the Ward. that I was one of the ministry] Lewin stated.

providing affordable housing. **"Your title** will give you financial independence...It

encouraging others gives you the key to so to apply for their much more," Minister

The government is Twenty-two-year- also working to acquire

"So, people do not 167 persons they [the need to squat..." Minister called," Rodrigues emphasised. Over 500 allocations Minister Rodrigues will be made this year highlighted that the in the new area that was government's housing recently acquired in Fitz programme goes beyond Hope and over 200 lots affordable to be allocated in York.



Ruimveldt, East Mocha,

"This allows you to make, amongst the

workshop Monday, soaring high uniting the nation in other a love for kite flying. decorate, and fly colorful creations dotting This festive season your kites, truly Guyana's skies. sees thousands flock to understanding the Easter in Guyana the seawall and public joy of this Easter transcends religious and spaces to partake in the backgrounds, joyful tradition. ethnic

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

Sophia, anu Highway Soesdyke benefitted from funkite-making filled workshops hosted by the government. This annual Easter tradition welcomed children between the ages of eight and fourteen.

The workshops were collaborative effort а between the Office of the Prime Minister's Department of Public Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

Minister within the Office of the



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy interacting with the children at the workshop in East Ruimveldt

Prime Minister with participants. "We want responsibility for Public you, the children Affairs, Kwame McCoy of Guyana, to have visited the workshops the best experience and interacted with for every season," enthusiastic Minister McCoy shared. the

tradition."

workshop The provided a space for creativity, with children crafting and decorating their kites from scratch. The day kicked off at 9 am and concluded at 1 pm, with the children enjoying complimentary snacks and lunch throughout the session.

To celebrate their creations, a competition was held for the bestcrafted kites. The winning kites will take to the skies on Easter



Some of the children at one of the workshop

<u>guyanese diaspora digest</u>

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

PARIKA FARMERS TO GET SHADE HOUSES AND GOVT SUPPORT



President Ali paid a visit to the Parika Backdam, East **Bank Essequibo**

rejoice! They'll receive **in the new week.**" This much-needed support to intervention is expected safeguard their crops, as to the government plans to **enhance** distribute shade house cultivation of highmaterials. This follows value crops in the a productive visit by area." President Ali, where he residents.

key request. One farmer challenge, Ali responded promptly, **farmers...And**

Parika farmers can shade house material Water "significantly the

Land availability for met with farmers and cattlerearingwasanother concern. Shade houses were a Ali acknowledged the stating, directly addressed the "We will have to get president, saying "We one common area These include the Hope- drainage, water, and need shade house that we will develop material." President for all the cattle irrigation channels. we

farming address to limitations.

Residents issues affecting their **additional** road drainage, and irrigation areas." were all brought to the table. President Ali pledged a comprehensive **MEETS WITH GOOD** approach, stating that the relevant authorities, including the Guyana Drainage and Irrigation Hope and surrounding Authority (NDIA), and communities the National Agricultural discuss their concerns. Research and Extension He emphasised the Institute (NAREI) will government's proactive return to the village to approach, address these issues.

President highlighted upcoming community becomes dged the projects aimed at prosperous." boosting the region's agricultural like Canal and additional electricity, including the

"Another thing upgraded assuring them: "We will look into this." we are doing is that grounds. will bring down some He also emphasised the we are investing in President

importance of modern a number of mobile highlighted

PRESIDENT ALI HOPE RESIDENTS

Meanwhile, Incorporated President Ali met with to actively The president also ensuring "every single

Residents raised sector. issues related to roads, need for streetlights and community President Ali

space **deployed throughout** across the East Coast million investment. the region. By the corridor, valued at \$9.3 didn't end of this year, billion and expected to commitment, President hesitate to raise other we should have 40 be completed by April. In Ali promised a team pumps Good Hope specifically, from Guyana Water livelihood. Water access, in the country to be 41 roads have been Incorporated, Guyana infrastructure, deployed in different completed with two more Power and Light, and on the way, and internal the National Insurance drainage projects will Scheme would return soon begin.

new well is being drilled also pledged streetlight in Mon Repos and the installation and the water treatment plant is upgrading of recreational being upgraded for better facilities. (GWI), the National residents of Good service in Good Hope

ongoing and neighbouring areas, techniques pumps that will be infrastructure projects representing a \$600

Demonstrating comprehensively to Regarding water, a address concerns. He



President Ali during the engagement with residents of Good Hope

C



FAO's Director General, Qu Dongyu, Minister of

The Food Agriculture Organisation Guyana youthful movement. visit to the National and and Extension Institute Programme (NAREI), FAO Director "You are lucky," he General Dr. Qu Dongyu remarked, expressed his admiration in for the significant role you have a great young people are playing **leader and a good** in modernising Guyana's opportunity for the agricultural sector.

Dr. Qu Dongyu natural resources...

from and students School agricultural the hydroponics project hydroponics (AEIP). "because country, your economy due to the

the of cultivating high- 54 of value crops in response cultivating a (FAO) is singing the Agriculture (GSA) during to growing local and of high-value praises of Guyana's site visits focusing on regional demand. The including project, cilantro, During a and the Agriculture for example, cultivates pepper. Innovation various crops like pak shade houses have been Agricultural Research Entrepreneurship choi and premium herbs constructed in total, with

shade houses, variety crops, lettuce, kale, and Nearly 300



Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat and other officials during the site visit

directly



FAO's Director General, Qu Dongyu, Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat and other officials during the site visit

addressed water, soil, gas, forest and others just offer you preconditions."

"So, that is why we need the qualified generation who are willing to be engaged modernisation," in

Dr. Qu continued. "You have needs of the expanding schools to prepare yourself." tourism sector. He urged the future agriculturalists leverage their training success of the AEIP to elevate their skillsets, programme, emphasising, you success."

The site provided Qu initiative are successful Dr. Dongyu with firsthand agri-business owners. exposure to the impact

FAO's Director General, Qu Dongyu, Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat and other officials during the site visit

NAREI's

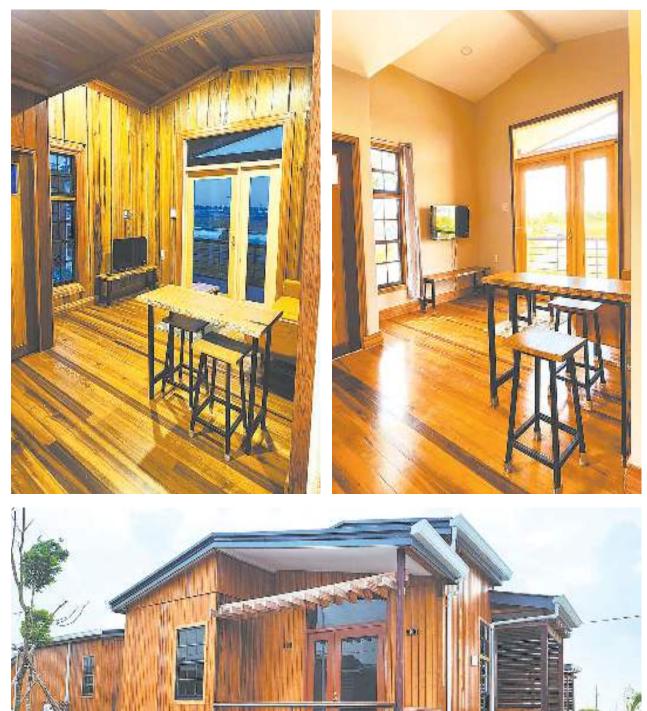
Dongyu specifically to meet the distribution spanning nationwide (13%), farming groups officials (17%), individual to also highlighted the farmers (50%), and the AEIP programme (15%). Dr. Ou Dongvu's which "You utilises shade houses to visit concluded with have to change your empower aspiring agri- the presentation of mindset...I wish all of entrepreneurs. Already, a plaque to NAREI's 70 per cent of the young CEO, Jagnarine Singh, visits people involved in this in recognition of the agency's contributions to Guyana's agricultural NAREI itself boasts sector.

THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024



DIAMOND ECO-LODGES - A SUSTAINABLE ESCAPE BUILT BY WOMEN

Great Diamond, East **Bank Demerara boasts** Guyana's first urbanecolodges. These unique wooden structures were brought to life by a powerful combination: the vision of President Ali, the collaboration the Ministry of of Tourism and related agencies, and the expertise of DuraVilla Homes. constructed 100% by a team of Guyanese women, this project prioritises both sustainability and women'sempowerment,



setting a new standard for eco-friendly tourism with a Guyanese touch.





THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024

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THURSDAY APRIL 4 2024



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STAY FOR THE ADVENTURE!







SEP 19TH THUR WELCOME VIBES

SEP 20TH FRI CPL CRICKET MATCH BERBICE CHUTNEY SHOW

SEPT 21ST SAT LEONORA CHUTNEY SHOW SEPT 25TH WED ONE GUYANA CONCERT

SEPT 27TH FRI EDEN ALL WHITE EVENT

SEPT 28TH SAT CPL CRICKET MATCH JOUVERT **SEPT 29TH SUN**

RISING SUN (JUMBO JET THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMITTEE)

OCT 1ST TUES CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL WATCH PARTY IN LINDEN & BERBICE

OCT 2ND WED

OCT 4TH FRI FOOD FESTIVAL CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL WATCH PARTY In Linden & Berbice

OCT 5TH SAT FOOD FESTIVAL SUPER CONCERT

SEPT 22ND SUN BRUNCH IN THE COUNTRY LINDEN REGATTA CPL CRICKET MATCH

SEPT 29TH SUN CRICKET CARNIVAL PARADE ROAD PARADE AFTER PARTY CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL WATCH PARTY IN LINDEN & BERBICE OCT 3RD THUR PAN ON THE BEACH

OCT 6TH SUN FOOD FESTIVAL CPL CRICKET FINALS CRICKET FINALS AFTER PARTY

