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WHO praises Guyana's immunization coverage

Guyana has received official correspondence from Dr Jarbas Barbosa, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Americas, congratulating the country for its exceptional immunisation coverage for 2023.

Under its Expanded Programme on Immunization, the Ministry of Guyana currently administers vaccines for 17 antigens: Whooping Cough, Measles, Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Yellow Fever, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Mumps, Rubella, Haemophilus Influenza Type b, Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal, Meningococcal, Human Papilloma Virus, Varicella.

Although the country is divided into 10 administration regions, with four of them being classified as hinterland regions and are hard-to-reach and sparsely populated, the Ministry of Health through its strategies and interventions have managed to stay on top of its countrywide vaccination programme.

Guyana's success reflects the dedication of leadership and healthcare professionals, the strength of the healthcare system, and the government's commitment to health investment. This achievement is important in preventing vaccine-preventable diseases and epi-



Dr Barbosa with Dr Frank Anthony

demics and ensuring that key sectors continue to thrive without setbacks caused by public health crises.

This success has contributed to the Region of the Americas being the only WHO region to surpass immunisation coverage levels before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is a need for continued progress to maintain this momentum, restore the region to the forefront of global immunisation coverage, and advance strategies to eliminate communicable diseases.

Despite the positive outcomes at the national level, PAHO/WHO emphasises the importance of achieving consistent coverage across all regions of Guyana, through the use of a detailed internal analysis. With support from their technical cooperation, which includes innovative strategies, it will allow Guyana to reach underserved populations and overcome barriers to accessing vaccination services.



Dave Martins passes on

Tributes are pouring in for the late Guyanese calypsonian and leader of the Tradewinds band, Dr Dave Martins, who died on Sunday at the age of 90 after a period of illness.

Martins is widely known for his many songs, popular among which are his patriotic renditions "Not a Blade of Grass" and "Is We Own." Both songs have since become the unofficial anthems of Guyana in its border dispute with Venezuela.

Martins' wife Annette Arjoon-Martins held a private funeral for her husband on Tuesday, and said a public memorial will be held at a later date.

Martins spent his boyhood days at Hague on the West Coast of Demerara and served the British Guiana Airways at Atkinson Field before departing for Canada in his early 20s. He later migrated to the Cayman Islands for some time and finally returned to Guyana, where he had settled since. In 2022, Dr. Martins was conferred with the prestigious University of Guyana's Honorary Doctorate in Arts and Letters.

In a message of condolence, which was posted on his Facebook page, President Dr. Irfaan Ali described Martins as "An icon of Caribbean identity".

President Ali said: "I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of a true Caribbean icon, Dave Martins, whose music was the heartbeat of our region."

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President Dr. Irfaan Ali reveals the homestead program master plan on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, with Prime Minister Mark Phillips and key officials



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INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXPO 2024: SHOWCASING GLOBAL INNOVATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN GUYANA



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali speaking at the opening of the International Building Expo

The International Building Expo 2024, held from August 8 to 11 at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, was a resounding success, marking a pivotal moment for the country's construction and housing sectors.

Under the theme "Building on the Foundation of Sustainability and Unity", the expo brought together over 500 exhibitors from around the world, including Canada, India, Indonesia, Italy, Trinidad, the United States, and Zambia, alongside a strong contingent of local participants. This diverse assembly highlighted the global interest in Guyana's burgeoning construction industry and the country's commitment to sustainable development.

GLOBAL INNOVATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2024 edition of the International Building Expo was a platform for showcasing cutting-edge technology,



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal

regularisation of housing settlements and the delivery of over 35,000 house lots and nearly 2,000 new homes," he stated.

President Ali emphasised the broader impact of these developments, including the construction of new infrastructure such as four-lane highways and thousands of kilometres of roads, which have enhanced connectivity and eased traffic congestion across the country.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HOUSING SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The expo served as a testament to the achievements of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government in the

experienced remarkable growth, expanding by 30 percent in 2021 and about 27 percent in 2022. This boom has created job opportunities for over 350 new small contractors, and has had a significant positive impact on the national economy. "Affordable housing, as we know, is a critical necessity for the people of Guyana and easier access to financing has made it a dream to owning a home a reality for 1000 of Guyanese... Guyanese from all walks of life, can rely on the promise of our government to provide housing and at an affordable rate," the housing minister, Colin Croal stressed.

GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

The Expo was not only a showcase of government's achievements, but also a demonstration of effective public-private partnerships. Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, highlighted the government's commitment to delivering tangible results in the housing sector. She described the housing initiatives as a means to unite the nation and ensure prosperity for all citizens. **"We are not the do-nothing type; we believe in results,"** Minister Rodrigues declared.

Adding to this, Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal stressed the importance of affordable housing, stating, **"Affordable housing, as we know, is a critical necessity for the people of Guyana and easier access to financing has made the dream of owning a home a reality for thousands of Guyanese... Guyanese from all walks of life can rely on the promise of our government to provide housing at an affordable rate."**

Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) CEO Sherwyn Greaves emphasised the importance of sustainability in new construction areas and



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA), Sherwyn Greaves

urban development, promoting sustainable building methods such as pre-fabricated homes made from recycled materials.

The Private Sector Commission (PSC) also played a crucial role in the expo, with Chairman Komal Singh emphasising the event's significance in driving the nation's construction, real estate, and agriculture sectors. The expo was seen as a gateway to collaboration, innovation, and growth, with the potential to foster strategic alliances, and contribute to Guyana's infrastructure development.

DREAM REALISED

A key feature of the expo was the 'Dream Realised' Housing Drive, which focused on providing equitable access to land, particularly in Regions Three and Four. Close to 2,000 families received house lots at the expo,



A section of the gathering at the International Building Expo 2024

marking the beginning of their journey toward home ownership. The allocated lands at Wales Phase Two in Region Three and Non-Pariel and La Bonne Intention

(LBI) Phases Three and Four along the East Coast of Demerara represent a significant step in the government's goal of expanding homeownership across the country.

Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and excitement, with one recipient, John Nelson, noting, **"Being a young person and having a land is one of the most important things, especially when it comes to being in preparation to start a family... It is a good thing to have."**

Many beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and excitement at receiving certificates of title. The distribution of over 1,500 certificates of title to families from La Reconnaissance, Cummings Lodge, Industry, Great Diamond, Golden Grove, Non-Pariel, and Enterprise will provide landowners with easier access to mortgages from local banks,

enabling them to build their homes. The steel and cement voucher initiative, valued at \$225,000 each, also provided a significant

Cont'd on page 3

PSA FINALISED FOR EIGHT OIL BLOCKS - LICENCES TO BE ISSUED TO OIL BLOCKS BIDDERS



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, announced that the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for eight oil blocks has been finalised. This paves the way for issuing licences to the six companies that successfully bid for these blocks in both shallow and deep-water areas.

"We are going to issue the licence to

the bidders...Some of them, especially the locals were looking for international partners. They were looking for investors, they were looking for operators. A few were ready, but we can't do a separate PSA for every different company. We had to finalise one PSA for all the companies,"

the minister explained, during a media conference, at the Guyana Forestry Commission Complex, Kingston, Georgetown.

The bidding process was highly competitive, according to Minister Bharrat. The PSA, which outlines how oil revenues will be shared between the government and the companies, remained unchanged from previous agreements, maintaining a 10% royalty, 10% tax, 65% cost recovery, and a 50/50 profit-sharing split.

A significant point highlighted by the minister is that the government proceeded with the bid round despite limited data on the oil blocks. Typically, extensive geological surveys would be conducted to provide detailed information about the oil reserves, but this process would have

taken approximately 18 months. To expedite the process, the government opted to move forward with the bid round, a decision that has paid off as all six companies have submitted their applications and are ready to pay the required signature bonus.

"There is already a minimum signature

bonus requirement of US\$10 million for shallow water and US\$20 million for deepwater blocks agreement," Minister Bharrat said, adding that the companies have indicated readiness to pay this bonus.

Minister Bharrat emphasised that the

government is committed to transparency and assured the public that the signing of the PSA will be made public.

The issuance of these licences marks a significant step forward for Guyana's oil industry, with the potential to generate substantial revenue for the country.



(L-R) Ayodele Dalgety-Dean, Abbigale Loncke-Watson, Dr. Melissa Varswyck, and Dee George – the dynamic team behind Sispro Inc., which achieved notable success by securing two exploration blocks

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXPO...

Cont'd from page 2

boost to 81 residents of Region Four, helping them commence or continue construction of their homes.

SILICA CITY: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Another major highlight of the expo was the unveiling of the master plan for Silica City, a visionary urban development project that represents the future of sustainable living in Guyana. Developed in collaboration with the University of Miami, the master plan outlines cutting-edge technologies and amenities for the city, designed to address challenges such as climate change, sea level rise, and urban development. President Ali emphasised the city's focus on sustainability and resilience, declaring, "We will have this Silica City realised by 2030. Nothing will stop us."

Silica City will feature smart homes equipped with energy-saving technologies, recreational parks, community centres, and



Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues

advanced healthcare facilities. The city is envisioned as a hub for innovation and economic growth, offering a modern and sustainable living environment for its residents. President Ali described the vision for Silica City as "a city with sustainable resilience, naturally beautiful, modern, and innovative... built for 100 years."

BANKING AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The expo also provided a platform for financial institutions to introduce new products aimed at increasing homeownership. The

Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI) launched its Home Start Advantage Savings Account at the event, designed to help Guyanese save for their dream homes. The account, with its deposit-only feature, encourages consistent saving and offers incentives such as

waived application fees, discounted negotiation fees, and cashback upon loan approval.

GBTI's Chief Commercial Officer, Rawattie Priya Mohandeo, emphasised that the account is designed to prepare potential homeowners for the financial aspects of homeownership beyond just the down payment. This initiative complements the government's efforts to make homeownership more accessible through various programmes, including VAT removal on building materials and reduced interest rates.

The Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest) was also active at the expo, engaging with local and international investors to explore opportunities for local

products in global markets and attract foreign investment. The agency highlighted Guyana's favourable investment climate,

of the latest trends in construction, housing, and urban development, while also marking a significant milestone in Guyana's journey



The launch of GBTI's Home Start Advantage Savings Account

ongoing infrastructure development, and potential in sectors such as energy, agriculture, and tourism as key incentives for investors.

towards a modernised and inclusive future.

A MILESTONE IN GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT

The International Building Expo 2024 was a celebration of Guyana's progress, and a testament to the country's potential as a regional powerhouse. The event provided stakeholders and attendees with a comprehensive view

The expo underscored the government's commitment to sustainable development, economic growth, and improving the living standards of all Guyanese. With initiatives like Silica City, coupled with strategic partnerships between the government and the private sector, Guyana is poised to continue its rapid development and solidify its position on the global stage.



Chief Executive Officer of the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA), Sherwyn Greaves handing over a steel and cement voucher to a recipient

GOVT TO CONSTRUCT 500 HOMESTEADS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

President Ali has announced that the government will start construction on 500 homesteads for single mothers along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway within the next six months, a project that aims to empower beneficiaries through homeownership and economic opportunities. **"We want to deliver 500 homes**

in six months – a remarkable task before us," President Ali stated.

The 100-acre homestead programme will include coconut or breadfruit trees and shade houses for agricultural purposes, allowing residents to generate income. Additionally, the homes will be equipped with solar energy to reduce

energy costs.

"We will give you an opportunity to earn by giving you an economic opportunity in the plot of land that will repay your loan," the President explained.

The project is a collaborative effort involving the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministries of Housing and Water, Agriculture,

Human Services and Social Security, and the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission.

President Ali emphasised the government's commitment to providing affordable and sustainable housing solutions for all Guyanese.



President Ali unveiling the master plan to members of the Cabinet; technical officials and officials from the banking sector



The handing over of the new home

two Guyanese families have recently received a much-needed boost thanks to the government's Men on Mission (MOM) initiative.

S u m i n t r a

Harripersaud, a 77-year-old resident of Friendship, was presented with a new home by the Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy. Overwhelmed

TWO FAMILIES RECEIVE NEW HOMES THROUGH MOM INITIATIVE

with gratitude, Harripersaud, who has endured the loss of her husband and sons, expressed her heartfelt thanks. **"I [am] glad that I get a [new] home and thank you to the government... god bless them,"** she said.

Minister McCoy emphasised the government's commitment to uplifting vulnerable citizens. **"We have been taking on the initiative**

of constructing homes for people in vulnerable situations and difficult circumstances and it is part of the approach of the government, the approach to prosperity, the approach to wealth creation, the approach to development," he stated. He underscored the importance of homeownership and the government's dedication to making it accessible to

all Guyanese.

Meanwhile, in a separate ceremony, Minister of Natural Resources handed over a new home to Raul Summers, a 20-year-old visually impaired resident of Linden, Region 10. The Summers family has faced generations of blindness, making it difficult to find employment and provide for their loved ones. Despite their challenges, they have persevered, with music becoming a

source of solace.

The \$500 million allocated to MOM in the national fiscal plan has facilitated the construction of approximately 50 homes in 2023, with even more planned for this year.

These initiatives highlight the government's ongoing efforts to improve the lives of its citizens, especially those facing adversity.

40 TURNKEY HOMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT 5 MILES HOUSING SCHEME

The government is fast-tracking the construction of 40 turnkey homes at the 5 Miles Housing Scheme Phase II in Region Seven. The project, expected to be completed by the end of September, is part of the government's wider affordable housing initiative.

Housing and Water

Minister Collin Croal announced that the homes will be three-bedroom flats. **"We have invested in that area, about \$495 million for the houses,"** he said.

The minister explained the turnkey process, where potential homeowners can prequalify for a

mortgage to purchase the completed homes. In addition to the 40 homes, the ministry has allocated 150 house lots in the 99-acre housing scheme, which will feature residential and commercial areas, a community centre, and recreational spaces.

The government is investing over \$1



Ongoing works at 5 Miles Housing Scheme Phase II in Bartica, Region Seven

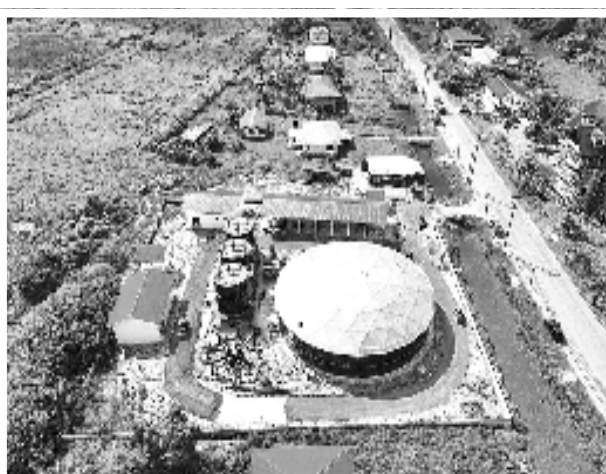
billion in infrastructure development, including drainage, road networks, and connections to the Bartica/Potaro Road and the upcoming Aruwai-Teperu Road.



Over 63,000 residents in Regions Four, Five, and Six are set to benefit from improved access to treated water as the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) signed contracts valued over \$250 million for the construction of 14 small water treatment plants.

The signing ceremony, held at GWI's Corporate Office on Vlissingen Road and Church Street, was presided over by Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal and the water company's CEO Shaik Baksh. Minister Croal emphasised

\$250M BOOST FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANTS - OVER 63,000 RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT



A water treatment plant nears completion at Wales, Region Three

the government's commitment to achieving a 90% treated water coverage for households on the coastland by 2025. This initiative is part of a broader \$1.3 billion investment to expand water treatment infrastructure.

"By the end of this year, we will be on our way to achieving our 90 per cent target for 2025. To our customers and everyone out there,

just a few months more and you will see the effects of our investments that are taking place to ensure that all of the complaints are eliminated relating to the quality of water," Minister Croal stated.

The minister urged contractors to adhere to project timelines, assuring that contracts for five additional treatment plants will be signed shortly. He

also highlighted the government's focus on expanding water access to hinterland regions, announcing a \$600 million supplementary allocation for this purpose.

Meanwhile, Baksh reported the successful performance of a pilot water treatment plant in Sparendam, which has improved water quality and service for over 5,000 residents.

NEW PUC, PSAT CHAIRPERSONS SWORN IN AMID CALLS FOR EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY



New PUC, PSAT chairpersons sworn in

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali administered the oath of office to Dr. Nanda Gopaul as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Justice Beasraj Singh Roy as Chairman of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal (PSAT).

Hydar Ally and Abiola Wong-Inniss were also sworn in as members of the PSAT.

In his address, President Ali emphasised the critical role of the PUC in ensuring reliable, affordable, and high-quality public utilities, particularly electricity, water, and telecommunications. He underscored the government's ambitious goals to improve access to treated water and reduce electricity costs while maintaining

reliability and stability. "At this point in our historical transformation, we are looking to bring treated water by the end of 2025 to more than 85 per cent of the population, we are looking to reduce the cost of electricity and to make the supply of electricity more efficient, reliable, and stable,"

the President stated. Regarding the PSAT, President Ali highlighted its role as a guardian of fairness and due process in public service matters. "Public offices look towards the tribunal for the insurance and provision of a fair and balanced review of contested decisions and the commission must continue to work in fulfilling this mandate," he said.

The US\$2.3 million Wakenaam Solar Project is progressing smoothly, and is expected to be completed by December 2024, according to a recent update provided to Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips.

The Prime Minister received a briefing from key stakeholders including MASDAR, BSW Energy, Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL), and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) during a meeting at

WAKENAAM SOLAR PROJECT ON TRACK FOR DECEMBER COMPLETION

his office. The project, funded by the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAE-CREF), aims to significantly boost the island's energy generation capacity through a 750-kilowatt solar-powered grid-forming system.

Prime Minister Phillips expressed

satisfaction with the project's progress, and emphasised its importance in improving the lives of Wakenaam residents. "It's more than just an energy project - it's a promise of progress, sustainability, and improved quality of life for our citizens," he stated.

The solar project, coupled with planned upgrades to the existing power plant, is expected to transform energy access on Wakenaam Island.



The project is expected to significantly boost the island's energy generation capacity

REGION SEVEN SOON TO GET HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Residents of Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni) are set to experience a digital revolution as the government prepares to roll out high-speed internet connectivity across the region. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips made the announcement during the opening of the Upper Mazaruni District Games.

The initiative, a key component of the government's 2020-2025 manifesto, aims to bridge the digital divide between the coastland and hinterland. Phase one of the project was successfully launched in Region One in July, and the prime minister confirmed that Phase two, encompassing Region Seven, will commence soon.

"Phase two will commence in August and Region Seven will see high-speed internet connection in all the communities," Prime Minister Phillips declared.

A technical team from the National Data Management Agency (NDMA) will be deployed to install the internet service in

various communities. "You can [now] be connected with Guyana and with the rest of the world... That is a commitment we've made to all our people in the hinterland," the Prime Minister emphasised.

The government envisions a significant improvement in living standards through expanded access



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips made the announcement during the opening of the Upper Mazaruni District Games

to digital services. Residents will benefit from online education

platforms like the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) and the Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE), as well as telemedicine services and e-government applications.

Prime Minister Phillips highlighted the government's broader commitment to hinterland development, citing telemedicine as a programme that has already brought substantial relief to remote communities.

The Guyana Power and Light (GPL) has significantly enhanced its internal capabilities with the certification of 15 employees as fibre optic technicians. This achievement, a result of a collaborative effort between GPL and the Ministry of

Labour's Board of Industrial Training (BIT), is expected to reduce reliance on external contractors and optimise the company's operations.

The intensive training programme, which commenced on March 19 and required a

GPL BOOSTS CAPACITY WITH 15 NEW FIBRE OPTIC TECHNICIANS



One of the recipients receiving his certificate from Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton

\$3.9 million investment, produced graduates from various departments within GPL, including System Control and Operation, Information Technology, Human Resources, Transmission and Distribution.

Navin Deonarayan, a top performer in the programme, expressed confidence in applying his newly acquired knowledge to enhance GPL's fibre optic network. "This is a significant step forward for GPL as we build our smart

grid," he emphasised, during the graduation ceremony at the Sophia Training Centre.

Sunil Goriah, GPL's Senior Automation Engineer, underscored the positive impact of the programme on the company's operations. "Previously, we heavily relied on external contractors for fibre optic issues. Now, our in-house expertise will improve efficiency and ensure quality work," he stated.

Minister of Labour,

Joseph Hamilton, commended GPL for its commitment to upskilling its workforce. He highlighted the government's focus on developing human capital to support Guyana's rapid economic growth. "This certification program aligns perfectly with our vision for a skilled and competitive workforce," he added.

Anthony Johnson, GPL's Human Resource Development Manager, explained that the certification of these

employees will lead to cost savings and improved response times for fibre optic cable issues. "Having a core group of trained technicians will significantly enhance our ability to address cable problems efficiently," he noted.

With this new cohort of certified fibre optic technicians, GPL is poised to strengthen its infrastructure, improve service delivery, and contribute to Guyana's overall technological advancement.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GUYANA SET TO LAUNCH IN LONDON - A NEW ERA FOR UK-GUYANA TRADE RELATIONS

In a significant move to enhance trade relations between the United Kingdom and Guyana, the British Chamber of Commerce Guyana (BritCham) is set to launch its chapter in London on September 11. The event, which will be held at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground, promises to open new avenues for collaboration and investment between the two nations.

During a press conference at her Bel Air Gardens residence in Georgetown, British High Commissioner to Guyana, Jane Miller, underscored the importance of this launch, describing it as "another step towards strengthening the longstanding relationship between the UK and Guyana." She highlighted that Guyana is already the UK's leading trade partner in the Caribbean, with trade exceeding £1.6 billion last year.

"The UK has a long-standing relationship with Guyana. We value the trust and partnership we've built over the years. The UK is a

reliable partner, offering quality goods and services,



Jane Miller, British High Commissioner to Guyana (centre), Dr Peter Ramsaroop, Head of the Guyana Office for Investment (left) and Faizal Khan, Founding Chairman of BritCham (Guyana)

and fostering long-term relationships. We're not here for short-term gains; we are committed to sustainable and enduring partnerships," said High Commissioner Miller.

The launch of BritCham in London is expected to provide Guyanese businesses with a prime opportunity to connect with UK companies. Miller emphasised the role of

BritCham in helping businesses navigate the complex business processing, and construction. Ramsaroop also expressed the



environments in both countries, urging them to capitalize on this pivotal moment.

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Guyana's Chief Investment Officer and Head of the Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest), spoke on the vast opportunities available as Guyana continues to diversify its economy. He noted the potential for investment in areas such as technology, innovation, manufacturing, agro-

Government's desire to see the Guyanese diaspora in the UK return to invest in their homeland.

"We're particularly interested in British expertise in the ITC sector. With artificial intelligence and other technologies advancing, Guyana could become a data center hub, powered by our soon-to-be-developed gas resources. As energy

costs decrease with the Gas-to-Energy project, we're poised to rapidly expand our manufacturing sector. The UK, with its wealth of experience, is an ideal partner for these initiatives," Ramsaroop said.

The event is already generating positive outcomes, with Ramsaroop revealing that discussions are underway with a British company that met during Guyana's International Building Expo. The company is exploring the possibility of establishing a manufacturing facility for modular homes in Guyana.

Faizal Khan, Founding Chairman of BritCham Guyana, emphasised that the upcoming launch is intended to foster strategic partnerships and strengthen trade ties between Guyanese and UK businesses. "For businesses in Guyana serious about finding partners in the UK, our event is the starting place. It's the beginning of many productive conversations and

collaborations," Khan remarked.

Over 50 influential business owners and decision-makers from Guyana's leading companies across sectors such as construction, agriculture, tourism, energy, and logistics are confirmed to attend the launch. This includes representatives from major companies like GTT/Brava, ExxonMobil Guyana, Farfan and Mendes, Stena Drilling, and Guysons Oil & Gas.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and the Guyana Private Sector Commission (PSC) will also be represented, further underscoring the importance of the event in promoting UK-Guyana relations.

As the date approaches, anticipation is building for what promises to be a landmark event in the economic relationship between the United Kingdom and Guyana. Attendees can look forward to engaging in discussions, valuable networking opportunities, and insights into the evolving economic landscape of Guyana.

GOVT REFUTES RICKFORD BURKE'S ALLEGATIONS; SEEKS LEGAL ACTION IN THE U.S.

The government has denied allegations made by Rickford Burke, a Guyanese resident of Brooklyn, New York, who recently lodged a formal complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) claiming persecution by the Guyanese government.

According to Mr. Burke, the government also allegedly sent officers of the Guyana Police Force to his Brooklyn home to kidnap him—a claim the government has categorically dismissed as false.

In a statement released, the government expressed satisfaction that Mr. Burke has engaged United States (US) law enforcement on the matter, noting that the issue has already been under investigation in Guyana and is currently

before the courts. The government detailed a series of criminal activities allegedly conducted by Mr. Burke, who, under the guise of consumer protection on his Facebook page, has reportedly engaged in extortion against several Guyanese businesses.

"Mr. Burke has been libelling, maligning, and attacking the reputation, goodwill, and good name of a number of business entities in Guyana, all while privately offering to cease these attacks in exchange for monetary payments," the statement read. The government further outlined that a sting operation conducted by the Guyana Police Force led to the arrest of two individuals implicated in the extortion scheme,

one of whom confessed in writing that Mr. Burke was the mastermind.



Rickford Burke

Subsequently, Mr. Burke was charged with conspiracy to commit a felony under the Criminal Law (Offences) Act, Chapter 8:01. The charges are currently pending before a Magistrate in the district where the alleged

offences took place. The government emphasised that the

process of notifying Mr. Burke of the charges was carried out according to legal protocols. "A duly authorised officer of the Guyana Police Force travelled to New York and retained the services of a licensed Legal

Process Server to effect service of the document on Mr. Burke," the statement clarified. "Mr. Burke accepted service of the documents, and the entire process was video recorded by the Police Officer standing across the street from Mr. Burke's premises."

In response to Mr. Burke's recent complaint to the FBI, the government has invited US authorities to thoroughly investigate the allegations. "We hereby request that the FBI take appropriate actions against Mr. Burke for filing such false and malicious reports," the government stated, adding that they are in consultation with U.S. lawyers to explore legal redress.

The government also revealed that it has filed

a comprehensive report against Mr. Burke with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. State Department, and other relevant agencies. The report details Mr. Burke's alleged criminal incitements, racial hostilities, domestic terrorism, and defamatory attacks against prominent Guyanese individuals.

"The Government of Guyana views this matter very seriously," the statement concluded, expressing hope that justice will be served in both Guyana and the US.

As the legal proceedings continue, the Guyana Police Force has confirmed that the main witness in the extortion case has implicated Mr. Burke. The case is scheduled for further hearings on September 13, 2024.

GUYANA'S RICE PRODUCTION SURGES - EXCEEDS HALF-YEAR TARGET

Guyana's rice industry is experiencing a significant upsurge, with production already surpassing the half-year target for 2024. Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha announced that over 362,000 metric tons of rice were produced in the first quarter of the year.

The Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) has attributed this achievement to the implementation of new strategies and

programmes within the Ministry of Agriculture. The overall target for 2024 is set at



Rice being harvested

approximately 710,000 metric tons, a figure the minister believes will be easily surpassed given the current trajectory.

Rice production has been steadily increasing over the past few years. In 2022, the country produced 610,000 metric tons, followed by 653,710 metric tons in 2023. This growth has translated into substantial revenue, with nearly US\$127 million generated in 2024 alone. A total of US\$212 million

was earned in 2023.

The GRDB has set an ambitious target of 750,000 tons for 2025, a goal the minister believes is achievable based on the current upward trend. Additionally, rice yields have improved significantly, with farmers now producing an average of 41 bags per acre compared to 38 bags in 2020.

Minister Mustapha credited the government's investments in the

agriculture sector, particularly in the rice industry, for these achievements. The introduction of nine new high-yielding rice varieties in the past four years has played a crucial role in boosting productivity and sustainability. The latest addition, a biofortified rice variety launched last year, commands premium prices in the market.

DRONE PILOTS AND DATA ANALYSTS TO BOLSTER GUYANA'S RICE INDUSTRY

The Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) has significantly enhanced its capacity to monitor and improve rice cultivation through the successful completion of a one-year drone technology training programme.

The initiative, funded by the GRDB, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Embassy of China, has produced 12 data analysts and eight certified drone pilots.

Over 350 farmers are expected to benefit from the expertise of these trained professionals. Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha emphasised the government's commitment to



Some of the drones donated by FAO

modernising the agriculture sector: "By introducing drone technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), we are equipping our farmers with invaluable tools to optimise their operations and even

further maximise yields," he stated, at the closing ceremony of the training.

Minister Mustapha highlighted the programme's contribution to achieving CARICOM's goal of reducing the food import bill by 25% by 2025.

Badrie Persaud,

General Manager of the GRDB, added that drone technology will improve crop management and risk assessment.

FAO representative Gillian Smith underscored the importance of digital transformation in agriculture: "The best place for this project and the area that is most ready and committed to the best use of the project was the GRDB. The project started with a small contribution of just under US\$78,000, and there was a supplement of that of US \$45,000, but because of how quickly this project moved forward

in Guyana, we eventually ended up with a project of just over US \$165,000," Smith explained.

In addition to training, the GRDB received a multispectral drone, four DJI Air 2S drones, and subsequently, four more advanced crop-

monitoring drones and three laptops from the FAO. This technology has enabled GRDB officers to map rice-growing plots, identify farmers, and determine rice varieties. It also provides valuable data on land levelling, plant health, and soil salinity.



The handing over of the drones

DR. JAGDEO WARNS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT IF GUYSUCO DOWNSIZES OPERATIONS

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), has warned that a downsizing of operations by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuco) could severely disrupt the livelihoods of Berbicians.

His remarks come in response to Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton's announcement that his party would not support the expansion of the sugar industry if elected.

At a press conference held at Freedom House, Dr. Jagdeo emphasised the crucial role of sugar production in the local economy. "Sugar production is the primary source of

job opportunities and income for many families in Berbice," he said. "Removing this source of disposable income would have a ripple effect, impacting the entire region and the local economy."

He criticised the previous APNU/AFC government for its handling of the sugar industry, recalling their campaign promises not to close any estates, which were later contradicted by their actions. "Over 7,000 workers were left without jobs when estates were shut down," he noted. "This

led to the collapse of the Berbice economy from 2015 to 2020."

The current PPP/C Administration has invested billions to revive the industry. "We have reopened the Rose Hall Estate and rehired hundreds of workers. Efforts are also underway to reopen the Skeldon Estate," Dr. Jagdeo highlighted. "The Enmore Estate is being converted into a sugar refinery, and the Wales Estate has been transformed into the Wales Development Authority."

He also pointed out the role of sugar

estates in maintaining the region's drainage and irrigation network. "Without functioning sugar estates, villages could face flooding and property damage due to the complex drainage system connected to the estates," he explained. "The cost of maintaining this system would increase significantly, and it's something that those outside the industry may not fully understand."

He praised GuySuco's modernisation and mechanisation efforts, which are part of the government's strategy to



The industry not only provides employment opportunities, but also supports the drainage and irrigation network for households in the area

enhance the industry's efficiency. "Our investments are aimed at modernising the sugar sector and ensuring it remains a vital part of Berbice's economy," Dr. Jagdeo concluded.

The PPP continues to emphasise the importance of the sugar industry to Berbice's economic stability and development, contrasting its record with the opposition's stance on the sector.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES \$40B SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET; GOVT REJECTS FPSO SAFETY CLAIMS



Ministers defending the allocation to their respective ministries

The National Assembly has granted a supplementary budget of over \$40 billion to support critical sectors of the Guyanese economy. Meanwhile, the government has dismissed claims by the opposition that the country's oil production vessels are operating unsafely.

GOVT SECURES ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The approved fund will be used to bolster critical areas such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and public services.

A significant portion of the allocation, amounting to \$16 billion, will be directed towards the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) to offset rising fuel costs and prevent increased

electricity tariffs for consumers. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips explained that the funds will also cover the purchase of essential supplies like oil and lubricants.

Additionally, \$1.1 billion has been earmarked to support electricity companies in Linden, Lethem, Mabaruma, and Matthew's Ridge.

The agriculture sector is set to benefit from a substantial injection of funds to support various initiatives. Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha highlighted projects aimed at boosting rice production, eradicating paddy bug infestations, and promoting climate-



Ministers defending the allocation to their respective ministries

smart agriculture.

The Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) will receive \$115

million to expand its operations, while the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary/Agricultural Developmental Authority (MMA/ADA) will get \$60 million for infrastructure



Ministers defending the allocation to their respective ministries

development.

The Guyana Agricultural and Research Extension Institute (NAREI) has been allocated nearly \$110 million to increase coffee production in hinterland regions and support new projects. Furthermore, the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) will receive \$3.2 billion for equipment purchases to enhance its operations.

The Ministry of Public Works will receive \$7.5 billion for road and sea defense infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. Minister

Bishop Juan Edghill explained that the funds will be used to address challenges such as the Linden-Soesdyke Highway, which requires constant maintenance due to heavy traffic and weather conditions.

Other infrastructure projects include the completion of the Bartica Stelling, upgrades to ferry vessels, and the construction and repair of hinterland roads. Additionally, \$600 million has been allocated for water supply infrastructure in remote communities.

A portion of the supplementary funding will be used to settle outstanding payments to government suppliers. Ministries including Labour, Home Affairs, Health, Legal Affairs, Culture, Youth and Sport, Housing and Water, Human Services and Social Security, and the Guyana Defence Force will receive allocations for this purpose. Several regional administrations will also benefit from the additional funds.

The government has emphasised that the supplementary budget was needed to address unforeseen challenges and to ensure the continued delivery of essential services to the Guyanese people.



Ministers defending the allocation to their respective ministries

GOVT DISMISSES OPPOSITION CLAIMS ON FPSO SAFETY

In a separate development, Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat vehemently refuted allegations made by Opposition MP David Patterson concerning the safety of Guyana's oil production vessels. Patterson had claimed that the three FPSOs were operating above their safe limits, citing environmental permits that set maximum production rates.

Minister Bharrat clarified that the actual production limits are determined by the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), which were approved by the previous APNU+AFC government. He

emphasised that the current administration has consistently adhered to these limits and has implemented rigorous monitoring systems.

The minister further explained that production optimisation is a standard industry practice and that the FPSOs are designed to handle higher production levels than initially estimated. However, he assured that all operations are conducted under strict supervision to ensure safety and environmental compliance.

Minister Bharrat accused Patterson of making misleading statements and urged the public to rely on official data and reports. He reiterated the government's commitment to responsible oil production and the protection of Guyana's natural resources.



Ministers defending the allocation to their respective ministries

DR. JAGDEO DEFENDS CRITICISM OF ELECTORAL FRAUD TRIAL DELAYS, SLAMS APNU AND AFC

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), has defended his criticism of the delayed electoral fraud trial, asserting that questioning judicial decisions does not equate to an attack on the judiciary.

During a news conference at Freedom House, Robb Street, Georgetown, Dr. Jagdeo addressed recent criticisms from the People's National Congress Reform (PNC) and the Alliance For Change (AFC) regarding his concerns over the trial's progress. **"We have the right to question judicial decisions, such as the ruling that 32-33 is**



General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

not a majority of 65," Dr. Jagdeo argued. He emphasised that if his party had not challenged such decisions, the opposition APNU might have assumed power based on those rulings.

Dr. Jagdeo criticised the opposition parties

for accusing him of undermining the judiciary. **"It is ironic for APNU and AFC to complain about criticism of the judiciary, given their own history of undermining judicial independence,"** he said. He recalled a period when the People's National Congress (PNC) was accused of compromising judicial independence for political gain. **"If anyone has a history of undermining judicial independence, it is the PNC,"** he added.

The electoral fraud trial, related to Guyana's 2020 General and Regional Elections, has faced repeated delays.

Originally scheduled for August 5, 2024, it was postponed due to the illness of Magistrate Leron Daly and rescheduled to September 17, 2024. The defendants, including notable political figures



Former Chief Elections Officer (CEO) at GECOM Keith Lowenfield; former Deputy CEO Roxanne Myers; former Region Four Returning Officer Clairmont Mingo are among the defendants

and former election officials, face 19 conspiracy charges for

alleged manipulation of election results.

Dr. Jagdeo expressed frustration over the trial's delays, suggesting they might be tactics to frustrate justice. **"The delays and attempts to obstruct evidence**

presentation are concerning," he stated. In April 2023, a

Presidential Commission of Inquiry (CoI) revealed that senior GECOM officials had colluded to alter election results in favour of APNU+AFC. The CoI report, delivered to President Ali, accused former GECOM officials of attempting to undermine the election process and demonstrate bias towards a political party.

Dr. Jagdeo underscored the PPP's commitment to judicial independence, stating that the party's democratic credentials and respect for the judiciary are well-established. **"Our position on judicial independence is unmatched in Guyana,"** he concluded.

GUYANA UNVEILS AMBITIOUS PLAN TO BECOME CRICKET POWERHOUSE

A groundbreaking President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali outlined a comprehensive plan to transform Guyana into a global cricket powerhouse, emphasising the crucial role of youth development in the nation's progress.

During a ceremony at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre distributing sports gear to 450 young athletes, the President underscored the government's commitment to investing

in world-class sports infrastructure and support systems across the country.

"With the transformative plans that will soon come on stream, Guyana will be able to create the best cricket environment to support national, regional and international cricketers," President Ali declared. The centerpiece of this vision is a state-of-the-art cricket academy aimed at producing world-class fast bowlers,

spinners, and batsmen. To foster grassroots development, the government is investing in over 250 cricket grounds nationwide and constructing modern facilities in each region. The President also announced that the Palmyra Stadium in Region Six will host international cricket matches in 2025, while Anna Regina Stadium in Region Two is vying to host the entire Women's Caribbean Premier League (CPL)

tournament that year. "Sports is that interconnection that brings us together," President Ali emphasised. "We are making the necessary investments to develop young people, noting that for them to succeed and make it to the global stage, they must be dedicated and willing to make the necessary sacrifices," added Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr. To ensure a



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, government ministers, members from the Guyana Cricket Board and youths at the distribution exercise

holistic approach to sports development, the government will also focus on football, basketball, table tennis, squash, volleyball, and badminton, with new facilities and equipment to be distributed nationwide. The President's announcement has generated significant excitement among

the nation's youth, who see this initiative as a catalyst for their sporting aspirations. With the government's unwavering support and the guidance of cricketing legends like Sir Clive Lloyd, who will lead the cricket academy, Guyana is poised to reclaim its place as a dominant force in world cricket.



The revamped Cliff Anderson Sports Hall

The first phase of the much-anticipated renovation of the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall is on track for completion by the end of September, according to Minister of Culture, Youth and

Sport, Charles Ramson Jr. Speaking during the recent sitting of the National Assembly, Minister Ramson provided an update on the project's

CLIFF ANDERSON SPORTS HALL'S RENOVATION NEARING COMPLETION

progress. "Significant milestones have already been achieved, including the overhaul of the plumbing system and the restoration of the main roof, side walls, and the exterior of the building's northern section," he stated.

The Minister further disclosed that the final touches, including the installation of the air

conditioning system and interior finishing, are expected to be completed by September 30. "The air conditioning units have already arrived and are ready to be installed," he added. The renovation of the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall, a cornerstone of Guyana's sporting landscape, commenced in 2021 with the aim of elevating the facility to international standards.

To date, approximately \$327 million has been invested in the project. "This investment is aligned with President Ali's vision of positioning Guyana as a premier destination for world-class events," Minister Ramson emphasised. "A modern, air-conditioned sports hall is a crucial component of this vision."

The government's commitment to sports development is evident in the allocation of \$4.6 billion for sports advancement in 2024. In addition to the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall renovation, this funding will support the construction of new multipurpose halls in several regions across the country.

OVER \$20M SPENT TO TRANSFORM KAMARANG/WARAWATTA SPORTS GROUND FOR ANNUAL GAMES

The Kamarang/Warawatta Sports Ground has undergone a significant \$20 million upgrade to host the 25th Annual Upper Mazaruni District Games. The facility is now equipped to comfortably accommodate athletes and spectators.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, who attended the opening ceremony, emphasised the government's commitment to youth

development through sports. "My people, this is how serious we take these games...I want to compliment the organisers for sustaining these games for over 25 years," he stated.

The government allocated \$1.7 million for trophies and equipment for the week-long competition. Prime Minister Phillips outlined the government's vision to revitalise sports in Region Seven, focusing on disciplines like

football, volleyball, archery, and swimming. "That is a commitment that we as a government have made and will continue to deliver to you, the people of Region Seven...This is a sport that we're happy to be part of...And we will continue to support," he expressed.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the government's broader development agenda for the region, emphasising a \$70 billion investment



The opening of the 25th Annual Upper Mazaruni District Games at the sports ground

to spur hinterland progress. Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai expressed

the ministry's support for the games, contributing \$1.5 million for fuel, food, and transportation. "Our government, under

His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has been supporting and fast-tracking our country's development and the Upper Mazaruni has been included," she said.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr emphasised the passion behind the event: "The interest that was paid here came with our hearts and that is something that is bigger than any financial support that you will ever get," he stressed.

Thirteen teams from various villages competed in football and other sports.



Government throws \$7M behind North Pakaraimas District games

The government has demonstrated its commitment to youth development and sports by allocating \$7 million for the upcoming

North Pakaraimas District Games. The announcement was made by Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai, during

the Regional Toshaos Meeting. The games, scheduled for later this month, will feature 22 teams competing in football, volleyball, archery, and cricket. Minister Sukhai emphasised the government's support

for youth initiatives and encouraged community leaders to prioritise youth development. "They [villages] are getting money and they can [afford] a slice for the youth, the women and scholarships. The government is always

willing...to the best of our affordability...to support," she stated. Christopher Chung, President of the North Pakaraimas Sports Committee, welcomed the funding, highlighting that it will impact positively on the region's youth.

This investment aligns with the government's broader strategy to promote sports and youth development across Guyana..

GOVT INVESTS \$7M IN NORTH PAKARAIMAS DISTRICT GAMES

ANOTHER \$42 MILLION SET ASIDE FOR TRANSFORMATION OF MONKEY MOUNTAIN IN REGION EIGHT



President Ali addressing the residents

Monkey Mountain and its surrounding satellite villages in Region Eight are set to undergo significant development with a fresh \$42 million injection from the government, aimed at transforming the area through a series of transformative initiatives. President Irfaan Ali emphasised the importance of these investments during a recent community outreach, where he was joined by Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai.

Among the major projects announced, \$5 million will be dedicated to supporting the Art and Women's Centre, and \$15 million will be allocated to establish a mechanic shop, creating new job opportunities for young people in the community. Residents will also benefit from a block-making project and a shade house initiative, each receiving

\$5 million in funding. Additionally, the village will gain a \$12 million multi-purpose building to support various community activities.

Addressing the residents, President Ali confirmed that these resources would be distributed during the upcoming National Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference, which begins on August 19. **"In all, you will be collecting \$42 million. These cheques and these resources will help you in the community...in all of the different projects that I have outlined,"** the President stated.

Further bolstering the region's agricultural prospects, a 25-acre farmland project and a shade house for cultivating high-value crops will be developed. To address the water challenges faced by the villagers, the government will spend an additional \$20 million and supply a weeding tractor to support local agricultural efforts.

"GWI will be embarking on a new project to ensure all the residents of Monkey Mountain are provided with adequate potable water before the end of 2024," President Ali assured the community.

Over the past four years, the government has invested a total of \$600 million in developmental projects for the Region Eight village. These investments have



President Ali with residents of Monkey Mountain

spanned multiple sectors, with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs contributing \$101 million and the Ministry of Education \$298 million, among others.

"If you look at the impact and opportunities that these investments would have created in your community, it shows that we were able to work with you on delivering projects," President Ali underscored during his address.

These investments have already facilitated numerous improvements in Monkey Mountain, including the

construction of a new village office, a furnished guest house, an upgraded community sports ground, and a village garage through the Presidential Grant programme.

In addition to infrastructural developments, the government has prioritised health services in the region. The Ministry of Health will soon organise a comprehensive medical outreach for Monkey Mountain, set to take place within the next two weeks. Residents will have access to a wide range of medical services, including dental care, eye care, and various testing and screening services.

"We're going to come to your community to do the eye care programme, and if you need

spectacles, we're going to pay for those spectacles," President Ali announced, further stating that residents requiring surgical interventions, such as cataract removal, will have all expenses covered by the government, including post-operative care.

The Monkey Mountain Health Centre will also be connected to the telemedicine service, allowing health workers to consult with specialists at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) in real-time. **"Your health centre will now be connected to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) so that your health worker can talk to a specialist in Georgetown,"**

launched in 2022, is part of the government's initiative to bridge the healthcare gap between the hinterland and the coast, offering residents access to specialised medical services, including ultrasounds, cardiology, and oncology. The programme is set to expand further in 2024, with 25 additional communities in hinterland and rural areas expected to benefit from new telemedicine sites.

As the government continues its aggressive push to ensure the delivery of efficient health services and overall development in the hinterland, President Ali reiterated his commitment to enhancing the long-term prosperity and well-being of Monkey



President Ali with residents of Monkey Mountain

President Ali revealed. Mountain and its The telemedicine residents. system, which was

OVER \$40 BILLION INVESTED IN REGION ONE'S DEVELOPMENT

The government has made a substantial investment of over \$40 billion in the development of Amerindian villages in Region One (Barima-Waini) over the past three years. This funding, allocated across five ministries, has been directed towards improving essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, highlighted the transformative impact of these investments on the region's villages during the Regional Toshaos/CDC Chairpersons Meeting held in Mabaruma. He emphasised the government's



Ministers Croal and Sukhai at the regional meeting

commitment to utilising oil and gas revenues to accelerate development across various sectors.

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector is also undergoing significant transformation. Minister Croal encouraged village leaders to promote the Guyana Online Academy

of Learning (GOAL) programme to young people, providing them with opportunities for education and skill development.

"You can be right in your village, doing whatever job you're doing or even farming, and at the same time... be embarking on your

advancement of your studies. That is the opportunity we're creating for you," he encouraged.

With increased financial resources, village leaders have been urged to prioritise the effective implementation of development projects for the benefit of their communities.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai announced that \$1.6 billion in grants has been allocated to villages in Region One. Both ministers stressed the importance of accountability and transparency in leadership.

NTC Vice Chairperson Sonia

Latchman encouraged leaders to develop governance models that reflect their cultural values while fulfilling their roles within the National Toshaos Council.

Regional Chairman Brentnol Ashley emphasised the significance of

transparency in project execution for achieving sustainable development.

Overall, the government's substantial investment and focus on community empowerment aim to enhance the lives of residents in Region One.



Part of the gathering

PRESIDENT ALI ORDERS INCREASED SECURITY AT BOURDA MARKET



New outpost activated at the Bourda Market

Following an early morning visit to the Bourda Market, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali ordered immediate security enhancements for the bustling marketplace. Vendors had expressed growing concerns about robberies and other criminal activities, particularly motorcycle bandits operating in the early hours.

"The City Council is not doing anything...They are collecting money from the people in the market; they're supposed to have a constabulary out there," President Ali

lamented. In response to these complaints, a new police outpost has been established at the market, and the Guyana Police Force has increased its presence in the area. Additionally, the President has proposed installing a surveillance system to monitor the

market. The government is also exploring infrastructure improvements for the market, including a tarmac and a large covered area for vendors. Addressing the issue of garbage disposal, a longstanding problem, is another priority.



President Ali engaging vendors



Members of the Guyana Police Force engaging market vendors concerning safety concern

"We are the government's considering the commitment to construction of a market tarmac and a huge shed to house vendors," President Ali announced. The President's intervention highlights

STRICT ENFORCEMENT LOOMING FOR GARBAGE OFFENDERS



Minister Indar meeting with the business support organisation representatives

Minister within and individuals the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, responsible for improper waste disposal. The has issued a stern government is set warning to businesses to implement strict

enforcement measures to combat the ongoing issue of littering in the capital city.

Addressing representatives of business support organisations at the Private Sector Commission headquarters, Minister Indar identified businesses as major contributors to the problem. "This is not [just] normal garbage, this is industrial garbage. This is garbage that is construction waste," he emphasised.

As Chairman of the

National Enhancement Committee (NEC), Minister Indar revealed that the committee has gathered video and

photographic evidence of businesses illegally disposing of waste. "We're going to go on a campaign where the



A glimpse of the garbage situation around the city

EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] now will get involved, and the police and everybody else to make sure that we charge people and we deal with them condignly," he asserted.

The next clean up exercise led by the NEC, in collaboration with the private sector and other organisations will target several areas including the Seawall, Stabroek Market, Dennis Street, Linden, Mabaruma, and New Amsterdam.

TOURISM MINISTRY TO ASSESS GLAMPING POTENTIAL IN REGION TWO



Minister Walrond meeting with residents of Mainstay to discuss tourism expansion

The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce is set to assess the feasibility of introducing 'glamping' – luxurious camping – to the region's lakeside areas of Mainstay, Capoey, and Mashabo. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to position Region Two

as a premier tourism destination.

Minister of Tourism Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, made the announcement during a recent outreach to the communities. The move follows Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo's visit to the region and the subsequent surge of interest in tourism development.

"We see immense potential in this region," Minister Walrond said. "The lakes offer stunning

natural beauty, and glamping could be a game-changer."

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) has been instrumental in building local capacity through training programmes in tourism management and hospitality. Over 300 residents have already benefited from these initiatives.

"Our goal is to empower communities to develop and promote their own tourism products," Minister Walrond emphasised.

"We believe tourism is everyone's business. By creating more opportunities for visitors, we create more economic opportunities for locals."

The Minister encouraged community members to share their ideas and concerns, promising follow-up actions.



Minister Walrond meeting with residents of Mainstay to discuss tourism expansion

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VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Grid of vegetable and fruit items with prices: White Radish, Butternut Squash, Roma Tomato, Celery, Green Pepper, Shanghai Mi, Green Bean, Bunch Broccoli, Chinese Eggplant, Hami Melon, Honey-Crisp Apple, Peru Sweet Mandarin, Vietnam Red Meat Pomelo, Green Grape, Cherry, Watermelon, Golden Kiwi Basket.

GROCERY

Grid of grocery items with prices: Red Bull, Eclair Cream Crackers, Herford Canned Beef, Kopiko Coffee Series, Mt. Gouda Sweetened Condensed Milk, Buleon Nela Coconut Gel, Indo-Mie Instant Noodles, PEARL Long Grain White Rice, Maggi Liquid Seasoning, SOG Tuna Series, Arm & Hammer Baking Soda, Nestle Original Lemon Iced Tea, Crispy Foods Sunflower Crackers, BOW Bawang Corned Series, Jack'n Jill Milky Choco Knots, Lee Kum Kee Oyster Sauce, Shing Kee Chili Sauce Series, Chin Sun Fish Sauce.

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Grid of restaurant special items with prices: Spanish Onion, Green Onion, Broccoli, Green Pepper, Green Leaf Lettuce, Lemon, Carrot, US Tomato, Lime, Yellow Plantains, Frozen Pangas Fillet, Headless White Shrimp, Frozen Galungong, Extra Large Egg, Diamond Brand Dried Red Chili, Any-D Coconut Milk, BUNGE Pure Lard, Container 532, Container NG-093, Container NG-081, Kraft Singlefold Towels, ADM All Purpose Flour, Monosodium Glutamate, Capri Vegetable Oil, VALUE Dishwashing Liquid, Lee Kum Kee Kum Chur Oyster Flavoured Sauce, Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce, NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Redpath Sugar.

FROZEN

Grid of frozen items with prices: Seafood Frozen Raw White Shrimp, Seafood Lower Red Fish, Craig Tilapia, SH Raw Peeled Shrimp, AA-1 Mannated Milkfish, Madame Wong Frozen Monthong Durian, AA-1 Blue Anchovy, Coco Glace Coconut Dessert, Roasted Teriyaki Squid, Craig Sardine, Baguro Sweet Tonno, Kraft Singles Original Cheddar, Fresh King Fish Steak, Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp, Frozen Fresh Pompano, Fresh Skate, Fresh Frozen Lobster.

MEAT

Grid of meat items with prices: Boneless Pork Butt, Beef Back Ribs, Frozen Cow Feet, Ground Beef, Young Chicken, Fresh King Fish Steak, Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp, Frozen Fresh Pompano, Fresh Skate, Fresh Frozen Lobster.

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EDUCATION ON THE FAST TRACK: GOVT UNVEILS NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



The Campbellville Secondary School is set to undergo a significant transformation with the construction of a new teaching block, valued at \$143.9 million

The government is making significant strides in improving educational infrastructure across the country. A series of groundbreaking ceremonies have signalled the commencement of several new school construction projects to provide students with better learning environments nationwide.

CAMPBELLVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL TO GET A MODERN UPGRADE

Campbellville Secondary School is set to benefit from a substantial \$143.9 million investment in a new teaching block. The state-of-the-art facility will boast eight classrooms, two sanitary blocks, and a staff room. Education Minister Priya Manickchand expressed her enthusiasm for the project, stating, "This is a significant step forward in our efforts to provide high-quality education and better facilities for our students and teachers." The project is expected to be

completed within eleven months.

TUCVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPANDING TO ACCOMMODATE MORE STUDENTS

Another institution receiving a much-needed



Sod turning for the construction of a brand new wing at Tucville Secondary School

upgrade is Tucville Secondary School. A new wing, valued at \$74,910,780, is currently under construction. The project will deliver 16 modern classrooms to enhance the learning environment for students and staff. Minister Manickchand emphasised the importance of this investment, highlighting

its contribution to the country's future.

DIAMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL TO BENEFIT FROM NEW BLOCK

Diamond Secondary School is also on the list for improvement. A new exterior block, valued at G\$74,056,950, is set to benefit 750 students from the catchment areas of Diamond and the Soesdyke Linden Highway. The project is expected to be completed within seven months.

NEW NURSERY SCHOOL BRINGS EARLY EDUCATION TO ROCKSTONE

Recognising the importance of early childhood education, the government has initiated the construction of a new nursery school in Rockstone, Region 10. This \$52,180,950 project will provide a safe and conducive learning environment for approximately 150 children. Minister



Sod turning for the construction of a new block for Diamond Secondary School

Manickchand underscored the government's commitment to ensuring equal access to education for all Guyanese children, regardless of their location.

LINDEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO BE EXTENDED

Expanding on technical and vocational education, the Linden Technical Institute is undergoing a \$43.3 million expansion to increase its capacity to 250 students. Minister Manickchand emphasized the project's role in the region's economic development. "This expansion



The turning of the sod for the extension to the Linden Technical Institute

opportunities for our youth," she said.

The six-month project, undertaken by Phoenix Engineering Enterprise, will also

provide on-the-job training and income for five students from the institute. They are Esuan Fraser, Electrical Installation; Ksena McKinnon, General Construction; Walter Couchman, General Construction; Latrell Whinfield, General Construction; and Tevonn Layne, Electrical Installation.

Minister Manickchand further noted, "This critical expansion initiative represents

a significant investment in the future of technical and vocational education in Linden and its surrounding areas."

These initiatives underscore the government's dedication to providing quality education and creating conducive learning environments for students across Guyana. As these new facilities are completed, they are expected to significantly contribute to the development of the country's human capital.



New Nursery School to be constructed in Rockstone, Region 10

NEW PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE TO SUPPORT GUYANA'S SCHOOLS

Eighteen new Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) were sworn at the Umana Yana, marking the

conclusion of ten weeks of rigorous training. Of these volunteers, sixteen will be dedicated to

supporting the Ministry of Education, while the remaining two will serve in the health sector.

Deputy Education Officer, Tiffany Harvey, welcomed the new volunteers on behalf of Education Minister Priya Manickchand, expressing enthusiasm for the collaboration. "We are confident that your vision will be realised," Harvey stated, emphasising the Ministry's anticipation for the impact the volunteers will make in nursery, primary, and secondary schools.

Peace Corps Guyana Country Director

Chief Officer, Deborah Conner, outlined the volunteers' roles, highlighting their focus on education and environmental science. "Seven Education Volunteers will be stationed at secondary schools to co-teach, enhance libraries, engage with parents, and provide special tutoring," Conner explained. "Nine Environmental Volunteers will implement eco-friendly projects and teach science, fostering environmental

stewardship."

These new volunteers will join the existing cohort of 36 PCVs already serving across Guyana. Their collective efforts are expected to significantly enhance education and health services nationwide over the next two years.

The Peace Corps' commitment to Guyana is evident in this latest group of volunteers, whose contributions will undoubtedly strengthen the country's educational and environmental initiatives.



18 Peace Corps volunteers to boost Guyana's education system



Ali to Amerindians: Today you're not dreaming, you're achieving

PRESIDENT Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has emphasised the accelerated development of Amerindian rights under PPP/C Governments, highlighting the positive impact of programmes and initiatives that have provided them with more opportunities to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

The Head of State underscored the progress during the opening ceremony of the National Tshaos Council (NTC) Conference 2024 at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre on Monday.

Amerindian villages now benefit from a range of experts and resources, contributing to their overall enhancement, and the enjoyment of freedom of expression.

These freedoms, according to President Ali, stand in stark contrast to the previous reality of marginalisation and exclusion from national development experienced by the First Peoples prior to 1992.

"Amerindians were underrepresented, and had little influence over national policies. Your needs were inconsequential to the PNC government at that time; your affairs were handled by a department within the Ministry of Regional Development. That is where the affairs of the Amerindian people of this country were handled," President Ali said.

He highlighted the significant increase in poverty rates, reaching almost 80 per cent in Indigenous villages across Guyana, with limited access to education, healthcare, and social welfare.

"As a result of this, our Amerindian young people never had the opportunity of dreaming or secondary education. You never had the opportunity of dreaming of a university education; you never had the opportunity of dreaming to become a doctor, a teacher, a lawyer, an engineer, an architect, or a specialist... Today, you're not dreaming; you are achieving," the Guyanese president underscored.

Significant progress has been made in accelerating Amerindian and hinterland development through various initiatives, including financial support from Carbon Credit revenues, Presidential Grants, the Amerindian Development Fund, and other programmes across several ministries.

Over the past four years, the government has invested heavily in improving essential services such as healthcare, education, energy, and social welfare, with billions of dollars being allocated towards these goals.

President Ali also highlighted the substantial investments in infrastructure, including improvements to hinterland roads, with \$20 billion being invested by the Ministry of Public Works and \$9 billion by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC).

Residents are now benefitting from first-time electricity access, as the Hinterland Electrification Programme has been expanded to approximately 30,000 households.

Efforts are also being made to enhance educational facilities, with 42 nursery and 16 secondary schools under construction in 2024 alone.

In support of tertiary education, around 5,000 youths are pursuing their studies through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL).

Additionally, funds have been invested to train 700 teachers to enhance education in the hinterland for future generations.

"Hundreds of scholarships were given to our Amerindian communities and our Amerindian children, resulting in doctors, medics, nurses, health workers... Your villages and your communities went from zero to producing the best and finest in our country," President Ali underlined.

The government's commitment to



President Irfaan Ali

achieving self-sufficiency in food production is evident, with over \$4 billion invested in hinterland agriculture.

Youths are also being empowered through the Youth Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship Programme (YEAP), which has employed nearly 2,800 youths. They are also benefitting from training opportunities across various sectors.

The First Peoples are also benefitting from the \$45,000 'Because We Care' cash grant, increased old-age pension, and public assistance.

The Head of State reaffirmed that Amerindian land rights are guaranteed under the Amerindian Act of 2006, enacted by the PPP/C Administration. According to him, since 2020, 14 land titles have been granted.

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GUYANA TO BUILD \$214 MILLION WASTE-TO-VALUE PLANT

The government has signed off on a \$214 million investment for the construction of a state-of-the-art waste treatment plant in Coverden, East Bank Demerara.

The facility, set to create over 40 jobs, will utilise advanced technology to convert waste, primarily from the oil and gas industry, into reusable products.

Professional Waste Solutions Incorporated (PWSI) will be responsible for the plant's construction and operation. The company's CEO, Mahendra Jettoo, expressed enthusiasm about the project,



Dr Ramsaroop, Jettoo, and Senior Director of Investment, John Edghill

highlighting its alignment with Guyana's sustainable development goals. **so, we are laying the groundwork for a brighter, more prosperous future for all Guyanese,"** the CEO said.

"We are not just treating waste; we are transforming it into value, and in doing The agreement was initially signed by the

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh. It was officially handed over by Guyana's Chief Investment Officer, Dr Peter Ramsaroop to the CEO.

The waste treatment process will involve non-incineration technology to transform waste into reusable oil. A byproduct of this process, a material called slag, will be repurposed for block-making, contributing to the booming construction sector.

Dr Ramsaroop believes this investment positions Guyana as a leader in green

technologies and environmental stewardship. **"This investment is more than just a facility; it is a statement of our commitment to sustainable**

development and our unwavering belief in Guyana's potential to lead in green technologies," Guyana's chief investment officer stated.



Guyana's Chief Investment Officer, Dr Peter Ramsaroop and Chief Executive Officer of Professional Waste Solutions Inc. (PWSI), Mahendra Jettoo signing the investment agreement

\$14 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST FOR GEORGETOWN

Residents of Central Georgetown can expect significant road improvements as the Ministry of Public

Works has opened bids for nearly \$14 billion in construction and rehabilitation projects. Public Works

Minister Bishop Juan Edghill highlighted the increasing traffic flow in the area, necessitating the upgrade of several smaller roads into main thoroughfares. **"If you look in the newspaper you will see a slew of roads that are being advertised. These are not small roads. These are the main access roads,"** he stated.

Major projects include the expansion of Sussex Street from Cemetery Road to

Mandela Avenue.

The transformation of Vlissengen Road to Homestretch Avenue into a four-lane thoroughfare, with the subsequent phase from Homestretch Avenue to Mandela Avenue also in the pipeline.

Also covered are rehabilitation of sections of Thomas Lands and Carifesta Avenue, and the upgrade of Princess Street to accommodate increased traffic, with projects spanning from Cemetery Road to St.



Minister of Public Works engaging with residents of Central Georgetown

Stephen's Street and from St. Stephen's Street to High Street.

Minister Edghill emphasised the government's commitment to

improving infrastructure nationwide, stating, **"Every effort is being made to improve what we are doing in the city and across the country."**



Works are ongoing on several roads

PARIKA STELLING TO BE REMODELLED FOR GREATER SAFETY

The government has initiated plans to revamp the Parika Stelling, aiming to enhance parking facilities for both vehicles and vessels. This overhaul is expected to significantly improve safety and efficiency for speedboats operating on the Essequibo and Demerara routes.

Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh revealed during a recent meeting with Essequibo Coast business owners that preliminary designs for the remodelled stelling are already underway. Addressing concerns raised by local entrepreneurs, Dr. Singh acknowledged



The Parika Stelling

the growing demand at Parika. "We have for improved facilities outgrown Parika

Stelling," he stated.

In addition to the stelling's redevelopment, the government has highlighted several advancements in the Parika-Supenaam ferry service, including the introduction of two new ferries and an online booking system in 2022.

To further address the increasing traffic and transportation needs, the government is encouraging private sector involvement in the water transportation market. Minister Singh expressed openness to the government potentially taking on a larger role in this sector if private operators do

not meet the growing demand.

As discussions on improving ferry crossing frequency continue, the government remains

committed to enhancing transportation infrastructure and services for the people of Guyana.



Boats docked at the Parika Stelling

YOUTH PARLIAMENT IGNITES YOUNG LEADERSHIP IN GUYANA



Scenes from the rehearsal session with the Youth Parliamentarians of the 9th Annual Youth Parliament (senior category).

Minister within the Office of the President, Kwame McCoy, emphasised the critical role of youth in shaping Guyana's future. He was at the time speaking at the kick off of the 9th Annual Youth Parliament.

The event brought together over 80 participants, to cultivate leadership

skills and foster civic engagement. Minister McCoy underscored the platform's importance in providing a space for young people to engage with the political process and contribute meaningfully to national discourse.

"The future of Guyana depends on your ability to rise to

the occasion, to meet the challenges of the 21st century with courage, with vision, with a deep and abiding commitment to the principles of justice," Minister McCoy told participants.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr., encouraged participants to give their all.

"The future of Guyana depends on your ability to rise to the occasion, to meet the challenges of the 21st century with courage, with vision, with a deep and abiding commitment to the principles of justice," he impressed

upon the participants.

Deputy British High Commissioner, Judy Kpogho, offered insights into the UK's parliamentary processes.



Part of the virtual launch of the 9th Youth Parliament

The participants from the junior category were selected by the Ministry of Education within the 11 education districts. Also, the Young Influencers Programme

of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security saw several persons selected to be youth parliamentarians.

Senior category participants were selected from the Second Speaker's National Youth Debating Competition, the University of Guyana (UG), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Government Technical Institute, the Linden Technical Institute, the New Amsterdam Technical Institute, the Essequibo Technical Institute, the Guyana Industrial Training Centre and Nations Inc.

Using a hybrid method, participants

were engaged in training sessions and physical sittings from August 12 – 18, 2024.

The two-day physical sitting, at the Public Buildings, saw young parliamentarians draft bills, debate policy matters, and engage in discussions reflecting the concerns of today's youth.



Part of the virtual launch of the 9th Youth Parliament

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS IN GREATER GEORGETOWN EMPOWER FUTURE LEADERS

The government is investing in the future of the nation through a series of youth summer camps across the country. The initiative, spearheaded by the Office of the Prime Minister's Department of Information and Public Affairs under the Social-Emotional Support Initiative (SESI), aims to equip young people with essential life skills and knowledge.

A week-long camp in North Sophia, Greater Georgetown, focused on management, cybercrime, and information technology. Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, emphasised



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud with some of the youths and teachers of the camp in North Sophia

the importance of self-awareness and personal growth for young people. **"You must be able to understand and master your emotions,"** she said, at the opening. **"I believe that no young person is too young to achieve anything**

in life."

The camps cover topics such as interpersonal skills, self-awareness, effective communication, and ethical decision-making. In addition to skill development, the camp introduced participants to various government

programs, including the Board of Industrial Training (BIT), Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), Get Ready for Opportunities to Work (GROW), and the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL). Similar

programs are being held in Yarrowkabra, Kuru Kururu, Victoria, Timehri, and Festival City, targeting students from Grades Six to 12.

In Timehri, East Bank Demerara, the camp took place at the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) building. Speaking at the opening, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame

McCoy, highlighted the camp's role in complementing formal education. **"The skills we aim to provide will complement your education, enabling you to become fully functional members of society and lead meaningful,**

productive lives," he stated.

Through these initiatives, the government aims to empower young people to become active and responsible citizens, contributing to Guyana's development.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce engaging participants at the summer camp in Festival City, South Ruimveldt

MAINSTAY/WHYAKA'S WOMEN-OWNED BAKERY TO OPEN NEXT MONTH

Women in the Mainstay/Whyaka community, Region Two, are set to benefit from a newly constructed bakery that aims to empower them financially.

The bakery, named "Shaundel's Bakery" in honour of the late Chairwoman of the Mainstay Women's Development Group, Shaundel Fernandes, is expected to open its doors in September.

Yvonne Pearson, the current Chairwoman of the group, expressed

excitement about the project's potential. **"We will have baked goods and we will also have a canteen,"** she said. **"We aim to do our own juices with fruits from our own farm... We want to be a little different, we know that there would be competition. We are looking at promoting local goods, we are looking at showing that we can do with cassava flour and wheat flour,"** she added.

The bakery will be complemented by a soon-to-be-commissioned cassava processing facility,



The newly constructed bakery at Mainstay

providing a local source of flour for the business. Pearson emphasised the group's commitment to offering healthy,

affordable food to the community while also supplying Lake Mainstay Resort, local businesses, and supermarkets.

The bakery project was made possible through a \$77,716,674 contract awarded in March to Faldhari Singh & Son Contracting Service under the Basic Needs Trust Fund's Women and Vulnerable Groups Empowerment SUB Project.

To ensure the bakery's success, the Ministry of

Tourism, Industry and Commerce has provided comprehensive training to the women involved in areas such as digital marketing, tourism, and customer service.

The bakery is anticipated to create employment opportunities for local women, contributing to the community's economic growth and development.

FIRST LADY ALI EQUIPS 500 CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL



First Lady Arya Ali handing over a backpack

First Lady Arya Ali distributed backpacks filled with essential school supplies to approximately 500 children from Better Hope and Tiger Bay communities. The initiative, aimed at supporting students' educational journey, took place at the Better Hope Community Centre, and the One Guyana Kitchen. In addition to backpacks, children received lunch kits, books, stationery, and other school essentials. The First



The Campbellville Secondary School is set to undergo a significant transformation with the construction of a new teaching block, valued at \$143.9 million

Lady emphasised the importance of education, stating, "All of you are fully aware that education is important, education is key so we have brought some supplies not just to equip you for a great term ahead, but to take you all the way to your final careers." The distribution event was met with enthusiasm from both children and community members.

\$46M LAKEVILLE HEALTH CENTRE OPENS



District No.10 Lakeville Health Centre in Region Five

Residents of De Hoop and surrounding communities in Mahaica-Berbice now have improved access to healthcare with the official opening of the new Lakeville Health Centre. The \$46 million facility was commissioned by Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, and Minister of Local Government and Regional Development,

Sonia Parag. Designed to serve approximately 1,200 residents, the health centre is fully equipped with modern medical amenities. Minister Anthony emphasised the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services nationwide, highlighting training programs available for local medical personnel. Minister Parag underscored the importance of both infrastructure and quality service delivery.

She stressed the need for dedicated healthcare professionals to complement the new facility.



Cutting the ribbon of the District No.10 Lakeville Health Centre in Region Five

YOUNG DIABETICS GET FARM DAY EXPERIENCE



Scene from the Farm Day activity for children and young adolescents living with Type 1 diabetes

diabetes management, including the importance of regular eye exams and the dangers of antibiotic misuse. "Having diabetes, you're prone to different infections, and as such, parents, I would like to caution you not to experiment with antibiotics because if misused, they can lead to resistance," warned Chief Medical Officer (ag) Dr. Jeetendra Mohanlall. The event aimed



Scene from the Farm Day activity for children and young adolescents living with Type 1 diabetes

The Ministry of Health's Chronic Disease Unit and the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) hosted a successful Farm Day event for approximately 150 children and adolescents living with Type 1 diabetes. Held at the GSA Auditorium, the event combined educational sessions with hands-on agricultural experiences. Participants from across Guyana enjoyed tours of the GSA and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), gaining valuable insights into agriculture and healthy living. The Ministry also provided essential information on



Scene from the Farm Day activity for children and young adolescents living with Type 1 diabetes

to reinforce diabetes management knowledge and encourage support for young diabetics. Dr. Lachmie Lall, Director of Non-Communicable Diseases, emphasised the importance of ongoing education and support for families affected by Type 1 diabetes. This initiative highlights the government's commitment to providing comprehensive care for individuals with chronic conditions.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION LAUNCHED ON \$75M EAST BANK ROAD EXPANSION



Minister Indar addressing the residents

The government has initiated public consultations on the upcoming US\$75 million East Bank Road expansion project.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar and the Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

with Responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy held meetings with residents in the Soesdyke/Timehri area to discuss the project's details and address concerns.

Minister Indar emphasised the importance of public engagement: **"We are here to mainly inform you and to get some feedback on the project that we are doing and have awarded about US \$75 million ... The road that we are talking about mainly is from the police station (Timehri) straight up to Diamond Front,"** he

stated.

The project, awarded to China Roads and Bridges Corporation, will involve constructing a four-lane road from Soesdyke Junction to Diamond Front, a process expected to take approximately three years. The first phase

will focus on overlaying and expanding the road from Soesdyke Junction to Supply, including the installation of new utility lines and street lights. The second phase will cover the stretch from Supply to Good Success.

A separate project by Guy America



Meetings were held at the Timehri and St Mary's Primary Schools



Small engagements were also done along the roadways with vendors, and taxi and bus drivers

Construction Company will construct a roundabout at the Soesdyke Junction as part of the Soesdyke/Linden Highway upgrade.

Minister McCoy assured residents of continued engagement throughout the project. He highlighted the project's benefits,

including improved traffic flow, increased property values, and job opportunities for residents.

"We are working for your development, and it is only right that your government conduct an engagement with its people," Minister McCoy emphasised.

ABOUT 50 RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM WHITE WATER ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The Ministry of Public Works has announced the commencement of construction on a 1.2-kilometer road in White Water Village. The \$200 million project is expected to create nearly 50 jobs for local residents, injecting approximately \$20 million into the community over a three-month period.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, emphasised the government's commitment to providing equal opportunities for all Guyanese, regardless of location. During a community meeting at the White Water Primary School, he outlined plans to hire both skilled and unskilled workers,

including labourers, sawmen, guards, welders, and clerks.

"We are looking to see if we can hire more people," Minister Edghill stated. **"Because one of the things is, when we do these**

programmes we want to empower community and the money must circulate within the community."

To ensure accountability, residents will be employed under petty contracts and will

receive the same wages as their counterparts in Georgetown. Preparatory work, including road alignment, pipeline relocation, and grading, is set to begin on Monday and is expected to be completed within three weeks.

The road will be 20 feet wide and constructed using high-quality concrete and reinforcement. Minister Edghill stressed the government's commitment to fulfilling President Ali's promise of improved infrastructure for the region.

Senior Engineer Colin Gittens explained that the project will utilise the thickest type of British Reinforcement



Some of the residents that were in attendance at the meeting and who will also be employed

Concrete (BRC) to guarantee the road's durability. Construction plastic will be used on the existing solid surface, and concrete will be sourced from a supplier to maintain quality standards.

Toshao Andrew Cox and the White Water community

expressed gratitude for the government's investment in their area. They look forward to the positive impact the new road will have on transportation, economic activity, and overall quality of life.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill (middle), Senior Engineer of the Ministry of Public Works, Colin Gittens (left) and Toshao of the White Water, Andrew Cox (left)

SMALL CONTRACTORS THRIVE WITH SOPHIA ROAD PROJECT



Marcia Nurse-Cayto, one of the first-time contractors that lives in 'C' Field Sophia

Road contracts awarded to small contractors in Sophia, Georgetown, valued over a billion dollars, are not only improving

the community but also empowering local businesses and individuals.

The initiative, launched in April by Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has provided opportunities for residents to gain valuable skills and contribute to their community's development.

Marcia Nurse-Cayto, a long-time Sophia resident, expressed her gratitude for the experience and financial benefits she gained from

the project. **"I have learned a lot,"** she said, adding that she was able to employ young people from the community.

Young contractors like Curtez Kellman, 26, have also benefited from the initiative. While acknowledging the



One of the completed roads

challenges, he expressed pride in employing local youth and contributing to the community's improvement.

Delroy Williams, another contractor, emphasised the positive impact on the community, stating, **"As a resident living in the area, getting a contract and getting local persons like the youths to do the work, I think that was a very good initiative by itself."**

Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, praised the contractors for their work, noting that the overall quality was high. He also highlighted

the government's commitment to supporting small businesses and creating employment opportunities.

Minister of Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy, emphasised the government's focus on building local capacity and providing opportunities for citizens.

The successful implementation of the road project demonstrates the government's commitment to empowering local communities and fostering economic growth.



(L-R) Commissioner of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Newell Dennison, Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat and Permanent Secretary to the ministry, Joslyn McKenzie

GOVT SEEKING INVESTORS TO REVIVE TROY RESOURCES, RUSAL

The government is actively working to restart operations at the closed Troy Resources and Rusal facilities. Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, announced that the

ministry is currently engaging with both local and international companies to explore the possibility of reopening the Karouni Mine, where Troy Resources was previously located. "I can tell you

safely that I met with about three or four groups that are a mixture of Guyanese and international investors that are interested in the Troy Resources area," Minister Bharrat revealed during a recent press conference.

To facilitate a thorough evaluation, the ministry has granted permission to two groups to conduct independent assessments of the mine's infrastructure, including the plant, mining pit, and

mineral resources. Two additional companies are scheduled to receive similar opportunities.

While the government initially considered forming a local consortium to manage the project, Minister Bharrat acknowledged the need for significant investment and indicated a potential partnership between local miners and foreign investors.

"There is a possibility of having a mixture of local miners and

foreign investors, since the operations require massive investment for it to restart," he explained. Since Troy Resources' closure last year, the government has maintained control of the site, including living quarters, administrative buildings, processing plant, and mining pits. The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) has also maintained a constant presence.

In addition to Troy Resources, the

government is also exploring options to revive the Russian-owned bauxite company, Rusal.

"We are working to restart the operations at Troy Resources, and at some time too, we want to restart the Rusal operation. That is with Rusal or any other investor. We don't know as yet but we are committed to restarting those two major operations," Minister Bharrat stated.

UITVLUGT SUGAR ESTATE TO RECEIVE EXCAVATOR FOR CRITICAL WORKS

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, has announced that the Uitvlugt Sugar Estate in Region Three will receive a long boom excavator within two weeks. This equipment will be used to conduct crucial infrastructural works, including the improvement of access dams, which will benefit numerous cane farmers.

During a meeting with farmers at the sugar factory, Minister Mustapha addressed

concerns about the condition of several access dams, such as Pumpkin and Tiger Dams. While acknowledging the need for extensive repairs, he explained that immediate remedial works will be carried out to restore the dams to usable condition.

"I cannot assure you that we will do the dams now... We will put it in our budget. Right now, as it stands, we will do remedial works to

get the dams back in order," the agriculture minister stated.

Minister Mustapha emphasised the government's commitment to the sugar sector, highlighting the recent approval of \$5 billion for the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) during the 85th Sitting of the National Assembly.

"Over the last four years, we have given almost \$43 billion to GuySuCo. We know that the sugar

industry touches a lot of people in our country, directly and indirectly," Minister Mustapha explained.

GuySuCo achieved a significant increase in sugar production last year, producing 60,000 metric tonnes compared to 47,049 metric tonnes in 2022. With a workforce of 8,000 employees, the industry aims to produce 100,000 tonnes of sugar by the end of 2024.

"The most important thing is



(from left) GuySuCo's CEO, Paul Cheong; Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, and Director-General of the ministry, Madanlall Ramraj

to grow cane. If we don't have the cane, we will not produce the sugar. We also have to get the yield up. We are looking at the variety and we are looking to mechanise," Minister Mustapha underscored. The meeting

was attended by key officials, including the ministry's Director-General, Madanlall Ramraj; GuySuCo's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Paul Cheong; and Guyana Livestock Development Authority's (GLDA) CEO, Dr. Dwight Walrond.



Some of the poultry farmers at the meeting at Uitvlugt

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, has launched a poultry programme in Uitvlugt, West Coast Demerara, with the aim of empowering residents to become self-sufficient

poultry producers. The initial phase of the programme will see 50 residents receiving between 50 and 100 broiler or black giant chickens from the Guyana Livestock

POULTRY PROGRAMME LAUNCHED FOR UITVLUGT RESIDENTS

Development Authority (GLDA).

"We will work along with you through the GLDA. We will work along with you to start the poultry activity that the president would have committed... Dr Walrond [GLDA's Chief Executive Officer], and his team will return to work with the entire group,

so that we can have a group of people producing poultry at a cheaper cost in the community," Minister Mustapha stated.

Similar poultry programmes have already been implemented in Regions Four, Six, Ten, and several hinterland regions.

Addressing concerns about the recent poultry

disease outbreak, Minister Mustapha assured residents that the Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) is actively working to stabilise chicken prices.

"We are working with the large and small poultry farmers. There are a number of persons' businesses that were affected by the disease. Last year, we

gave \$29 million to the poultry industry to purchase vaccines to vaccinate the chickens," he added.

The minister was accompanied by Director-General of the Ministry, Madanlall Ramraj, and Chief Executive Officer of the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA), Dr Dwight Walrond.

GOV'T WORKING TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED D&I SYSTEM IN REGION 5

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha has outlined the government's plans to modernise the drainage and irrigation system in Region Five, with a focus on long-term solutions to flooding and water management challenges.

The minister emphasised the importance of integrated drainage systems, citing the success of the High Level Canal in mitigating flooding in other regions. He announced that the

meeting with farmers from Prospect and other surrounding communities.

The minister emphasised the importance of integrated drainage systems, citing the success of the High Level Canal in mitigating flooding in other regions. He announced that the

tender for a similar canal in Region Five will be released soon, along with the construction of a pump station.

"We are also constructing a pump station at Cottage. That pump will help with the long-term development of this area," Minister

Mustapha said.

In response to immediate concerns raised by farmers, the minister pledged to address drainage and irrigation infrastructure issues in the medium-term. This includes clearing canals and building dams, following a comprehensive survey



A section of the gathering of the area.

"I am optimistic that within a month, those works can commence," Minister Mustapha added.

These initiatives are part of the government's broader strategy to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience in Guyana.

NEW ACTIVITIES UNVEILED TO CELEBRATE AMERINDIAN HERITAGE MONTH



Scene from the launch of Amerindian Heritage month 2024

Amerindian Heritage Month 2024 was officially launched with a focus on honouring and preserving the rich cultural tapestry of Guyana's indigenous people.

The September, month-long celebration, themed "Many Voices, One Song. Celebrating

Amerindian Heritage Month 2024," was inaugurated at the Umana Yana in Kingston, Georgetown, by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs in collaboration with the National Toshihos Council (NTC).

Government Member of Parliament Alistair Charlie

delivered the keynote address, emphasising the importance of recognising the historical contributions of Amerindian communities. He underscored that Amerindian Heritage Month is a testament to the commitment to justice, equity, and recognition of the unique cultural heritage of Guyana's indigenous people.

"Amerindian Heritage Month serves as a beacon of our commitment to the justice, equity, and recognition of the unique cultural heritage that our Amerindian communities bring to our national identity," MP Charlie stated.

This year's celebration features a variety of new activities, including a poem and jingle competition, Amerindians Got Talent (AGT), educational lectures, and events under the moonlight. Additionally, Campbeltown in Region Eight has been designated as the Amerindian Heritage Village for 2024.

A diverse range of events is planned throughout the month,



Scene from the launch of Amerindian Heritage month 2024

such as an interfaith service, a cultural extravaganza, crafts and cuisine nights, a fitness walk, art exhibition,

heritage sports, and a heritage pageant. The highlight of the month will be the heritage sports event, bringing together athletes from Amerindian villages across the country.

The launch ceremony was attended by government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, NTC executives, and other dignitaries.



Scene from the launch of Amerindian Heritage month 2024

GOVT REITERATES COMMITMENT TO AMERINDIAN DEVELOPMENT ON WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to the development and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples on the occasion of World Indigenous Peoples' Day.

In a statement, Minister Sukhai highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to

support Amerindian communities through investments in youth, women, health, education, leadership, tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure.

"The Government of Guyana, directly through the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs has continued to prioritise Amerindian development in Guyana, and will

continue to do so," Minister Sukhai stated.

The minister also emphasised the importance of capacity building among Indigenous communities, noting the training programmes being offered to Community Service Officers in various skills.

Looking ahead, the government is set to host the annual National Toshihos Conference,

providing a platform for Indigenous leaders to engage directly with government officials on development priorities.

Minister Sukhai concluded by reaffirming the government's dedication to partnership, and inclusivity in the pursuit of Amerindian development.



The government is dedicated to partnership, and inclusivity in the pursuit of Amerindian development

DR. JAGDEO ACCUSES APA OF UNDERMINING AMERINDIAN DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), has sharply criticised the Amerindian People's Association (APA) for its historical connections with the opposition coalition, A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC). His comments came during a press conference.

Dr. Jagdeo highlighted the recent introduction of Laura George, a former Governance and Rights Coordinator at the APA, as a new member of the AFC team for the upcoming 2025 General and Regional Elections. He pointed out that



Jean La Rose

Jean La Rose, a former leader of the APA, was also affiliated with the opposition coalition as a Deputy Representative on their 2015 election list.

"This is the same Laura George who, in



Laura George

2022, falsely claimed that the Amerindian Land Titling project was initiated by former President David Granger," Dr. Jagdeo said. He corrected this misconception by noting that the PPP/C

Administration had actually started the project before 2015. **"The project, which had stalled during the previous coalition's tenure, has been revitalised under our administration,"** he added.

Dr. Jagdeo criticised the APA for its silence on Amerindian land titling issues during the coalition's five years in office, and for not responding to Keith Scott, a former coalition minister, who referred to Amerindians as 'avaricious' in the National Assembly.

The APA also faced backlash for its opposition to Guyana's ART Trees carbon

crediting initiative in 2023, which aimed to channel revenues to Amerindian villages. **"Despite being invited to lead consultations on this important issue, the APA tried to block it,"** Dr. Jagdeo remarked.

He accused the APA of masquerading as a champion for indigenous rights while undermining development efforts. **"Their actions show they are more concerned with political agendas than genuine Amerindian development,"** Dr. Jagdeo asserted.

Dr. Jagdeo further criticised the APA for attracting significant donor funding with

little tangible benefit for Amerindian communities. **"It seems they are willing to sacrifice their purported goals of Amerindian development for political motives,"** he said.

The AFC was also criticised for lacking a clear plan for Amerindian development despite its long presence in Guyana's political landscape. **"For over 15 years, the AFC has failed to present a viable development plan for Amerindian communities,"** Dr. Jagdeo concluded.

PRIME MINISTER MARK PHILLIPS ENGAGES INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION ON ENHANCING FLOOD RESILIENCE IN GUYANA AND CARICOM



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips met with representatives from McGill University (Canada), the University of Louisiana (United States), the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK), and Imperial College London (UK) at the Office of the Prime Minister. The visiting delegation briefed the Prime Minister on a new collaborative initiative

aimed at bolstering flood resilience in Guyana and other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nations.

The project, titled "A Collaboratively Designed and Managed Flood Resilience Framework for Affected Communities in Guyana and the Caribbean," is a four-year initiative funded by the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) of Canada, the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States, and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Its primary objective is to mitigate the impacts of flooding on vulnerable coastal and riverine communities throughout the region.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Phillips, who holds ministerial responsibility for Civil Defence, engaged in discussions with the delegation on the key components of the

and response model, capacity-building initiatives for local communities and institutions, and the establishment of new, inclusive flood control systems.

much-needed boost to the preparedness and response mechanisms in flood-prone areas.

Prime Minister Phillips underscored the importance of the project within the framework of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, noting its alignment with the country's broader sustainable development and resilience-building objectives. He expressed optimism about the project's potential positive impact on Guyana and the wider Caribbean region.

attended the meeting, further emphasising the project's importance to Guyana's disaster risk management efforts.

The collaborative effort, which draws on international expertise from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, marks a significant step forward in addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges facing the Caribbean. With the implementation of these innovative flood resilience strategies, the region stands to improve its ability to safeguard communities, protect livelihoods, and enhance overall resilience to future flooding events.



The Prime Minister meeting with the various teams

project. These include the development of a CARICOM flood resilience framework, the implementation of a risk hazard prediction

According to the team, these initiatives are expected to significantly enhance the region's flood risk management capabilities, providing a

The Director General of the Civil Defence Commission, Colonel (Ret'd) Nazrul Hussain, and a team from the Commission also

EDUCATION MINISTER ADDRESSES BARACARA'S NEEDS DURING FIRST-EVER VISIT

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, visited the riverain community of Baracara, nestled along the Canje River. This outreach marked the first time a Minister of Education has engaged with the village in such a manner, making it a historic moment for the residents.

The visit drew a diverse gathering of community members, including parents, teachers, health workers, and rural constables, who welcomed the Minister with open arms. The meeting provided a platform for residents to

discuss pressing issues related to education, infrastructure, security, and overall development.

During the discussions, Minister Manickchand addressed the concerns raised by the community by immediately contacting relevant sector personnel to initiate solutions. Her proactive approach was met with appreciation, as she demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that the community's needs are met swiftly and effectively.

While education remained a key focus, Minister Manickchand emphasised her

dedication to addressing a broader spectrum of community needs. She reassured the residents that even though her visits might be rare due to logistical challenges, her commitment to improving the village's welfare is unwavering.

"Investing in people is our priority. Our goal is to improve lives, whether it's for your children, the elderly, or the entire community. We ensure that resources are used to benefit everyone," Minister Manickchand stated, underscoring the government's dedication

to holistic development.

The residents of Baracara expressed their deep gratitude for the Minister's visit, noting that it was the first time an Education

Minister had engaged with them directly. The community members were inspired by her presence and reassured by her commitment to addressing their

concerns, which fostered a hopeful outlook for future improvements in the village.

Minister Manickchand's visit to Baracara represents a meaningful step towards fostering a more inclusive approach to community development. The engagement not only addressed immediate concerns but also reinforced a commitment to ongoing support and improvement, highlighting the value of direct communication between government officials and the communities they serve.



Scene from the Education Minister visit to Baracara

OVER 300 EAST COAST RESIDENTS ACCESS SOCIAL SERVICES DURING MINISTERIAL OUTREACH

Over 300 residents from communities along the East Coast corridor received much-needed social services during an outreach led by Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud. The meetings took place at the Better Hope Community Center Ground, Success Ballfield, and La Bonne Intention (LBI) Community Center Ground.

During her engagements with the residents, Minister

Persaud expressed her gratitude to the senior citizens for their years of economic contributions and shared plans to keep

them actively involved in community life.

"We are rolling out a community programme where

we will organise activities for older folks to participate in from the communities," she announced. **"The Better Hope community will be the pilot for this initiative that will occur at least twice a week, after which it will be rolled out to other communities."**

The outreach featured staff from various departments within the ministry, including the Difficult Circumstances Unit,

Childcare Protection Agency, and Family Enhancement and Services Section, who were on-site to provide immediate assistance. Residents had the opportunity to register for services such as old-age pensions and social assistance programmes.

"This is something we do all through the year, taking the ministry's services to the communities," Dr. Persaud noted. **"It gives me and the entire team a chance**

to engage with you, to understand how we can better serve you, and how we can address any challenges you may have with our services."

In addition to the services provided, the Difficult Circumstances Unit distributed hampers and walking canes to the senior citizens, further supporting the community's needs.



Scene from the social service outreach

GUYANA LEAPS TOWARDS MODERN LEGAL LANDSCAPE - BY: KESI HENRY



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, at the launch of the automated case management system at the Diamond Magistrate's Court back in December

towards modern legal landscape

By: Kesi Henry
Guyana's legislative landscape is a critical element of the country's socio-economic infrastructure.

To this end, the government has been working to modernise and improve the legal system to address the challenges of a rapidly developing nation.

This effort sees a comprehensive array of interventions, which include the expansion, and enhancement of court infrastructure, among other things.

From August 2023 to date, a number of new courts have been commissioned, while several others are being considered.

Added to this, in December of last year, an automated case management system was commissioned at the Diamond Magistrate's Court, to streamline court processes, reduce backlogs, and enhance efficiency.

The system was launched in partnership with the United States Government.

Efforts are also underway to incorporate more technology into the judicial system for improved case management, electronic

to information.

With the commissioning of the Vigilance Magistrate's Court, the Hope and Justice Centre, the Child Court at Wales, and the new wing of the Court of Appeal, the government has demonstrated its unwavering determination to expand legal aid services and improve access to justice for marginalised groups.

Building on this principle, the government in July also took the critical services of the Deeds and Commercial Registry, along with agencies such as the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission and the General Registry Office to Region One.

This was a commitment made by President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, during a previous visit, when he underlined that his administration is keen on bringing essential services closer to the people.

"Wherever you are located in the country, you don't necessarily have to travel to Georgetown to get services of the government. The government has committed to delivering those services to you in your locality," Attorney

General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, said during the outreach in Barima-Waini.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The nation's restorative justice agenda has gradually unfolded, since the passage of the bill in 2022, with the aim of fully incorporating the doctrine into Guyana's criminal justice system.

Last year, the government embarked on a series of sensitisation sessions, to inform Guyanese of

which outlines 39 recommendations for creating a modern and efficient criminal justice system.

The conference was part of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Support for the Criminal Justice System project.

CRITICAL PIECES OF LEGISLATION

Several key pieces of legislation were also passed over the past year.

Within the legal affairs sector, the passage of the arbitration bill has

and regulate them. Therefore, we are compelled to pursue a most robust legislative agenda to support these initiatives," the AG said.

In 2023, the Guyana Compliance Commission Act was passed in the National Assembly, providing much-needed supervisory oversight for designated non-financial businesses or professions and non-bank financial institutions.

Essentially, this legislation paves the way for enhancing the compliance, guidance, and training regime on money laundering, and terrorism financing in Guyana.

Additionally, the Real Estate Agents and Brokers Bill which was recently passed, established a code of conduct for real estate agents and brokers.

Meanwhile, Guyana has also made significant progress within the Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Regime.

The country was able to join the prestigious Egmont Group which is the International Association of Financial Intelligence Units. With this membership, the country can better tackle these challenges through

legislative ability to forfeit assets and proceeds of crime.

These monumental strides received technical support from the International Financing Agency, the National Centre for State Courts, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, and the Regional Security System Asset Recovery Unit.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Another cornerstone of the government's legislative development agenda has been its firm support for the judiciary. It is no secret that the backlog of cases in the legal system has put a strain on the existing complement of judges, and since assuming office, the government has resolved to fill the gaps and boost capacity to manage this influx of cases.

In February of this year, nine new magistrates were sworn in, as part of this effort. In April and June, three new commissioners of title were sworn in, along with ten new puisne judges.

The future of Guyana's legislative landscape remains bright, as the government is actively working on key pieces



Children's Court opened in Wales

the various tenets of the concept, as well as the circumstances under which it is applicable, in accordance with the legislation.

Further implementation saw the training of community leaders, law enforcement representatives, civilians, and other social groups.

Several participants who completed the knowledge-sharing session in March expressed confidence that the doctrine would transform Guyana's justice system.

Importantly, the Attorney General's Chambers in collaboration with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy of Law successfully hosted the First Legal Conference on Criminal Justice Reform, which featured a stimulating exchange of ideas among Caribbean legal minds, including measures in implementing restorative justice.

Over 200 attendees convened from July 10-11 for this event, which aimed at enhancing the Needham's Point Declaration,

paved the way for Guyana to become a hub for commercial arbitration, while the enactment of the Constitutional Reform Commission Bill brings to fruition the government's model for constitutional reform, which was laid out in its 2020-2025 manifesto.

The act seeks the establishment of the Constitution Reform Commission (CRC), which consists of 20 members, mandated to review the constitution to provide for the current and future rights, duties, liabilities, and obligations of the Guyanese people.

During his 2024 budget presentation in January, AG Nandlall was adamant that the government is taking all the necessary measures to foster a more robust and modern legal system.

This is made even more crucial, against the backdrop of a rapidly expanding economy.

"Most of the transformational policies and projects which we are embarking upon require a modern legislative framework to cradle, embrace,



New wing was commissioned at the Court of Appeal

enhanced collaboration.

Robust amendments were also made to the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act of 2009 in 2023, fortifying the administration's dedication to meeting the best-practiced standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

These amendments significantly strengthen the government's

of legislation, planning the construction and establishment of more courthouses and legal facilities nationwide, and crafting comprehensive policies and initiatives to foster a more modern, efficient, and robust framework.

Journey to Prosperity for all:

Celebrating the 4th anniversary of the PPP/C's Government



Several commissions resuscitated

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EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION AT STATE HOUSE



Emancipation history leading up to Emancipation in Guyana. Performances by cultural groups from regions four, five, and six brought the celebration to life, showcasing the diverse traditions and shared heritage of the Guyanese people. Guests from across the country were treated to an evening of reflection, pride, and festivity, honouring the enduring spirit of freedom.





Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 74

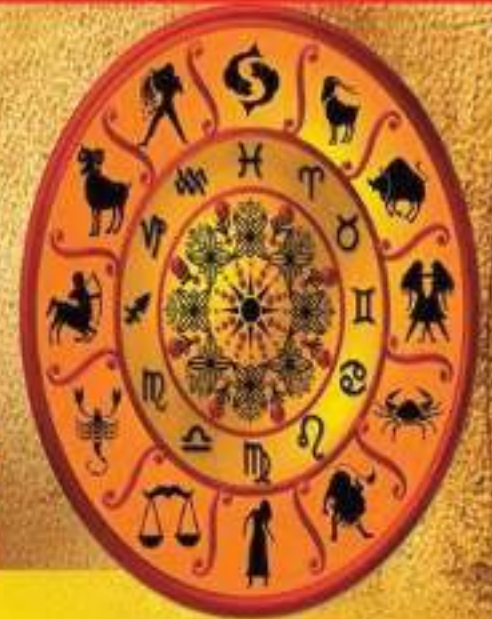
PROGRESS ON CRANE ROUNDABOUT: ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY IN WEST DEMERARA

Construction is well underway on the roundabout at Crane, which will serve as a crucial link between the Schoonord four-lane interconnection and the West Demerara Public Road. This development is set to significantly improve traffic flow and connectivity in the region, easing congestion and providing a smoother commute for residents and travellers alike. The roundabout is part of a broader infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing road networks across Guyana, supporting economic growth and regional accessibility.



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- ★ Enemy Problems
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- ★ Divorce
- ★ Court Cases
- ★ Land Property Issues
- ★ Childless Couples
- ★ Worries About Loved Ones★

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The Five Cs of Credit, Part II

Continued from last issue

Strategic Planning: We can help you plan for upcoming life changes—such as a new job, family expansion, or retirement—that could affect your mortgage needs. We usually get people coming in for a mortgage after a life-changing event like a retirement, and at that time, there is little we can do if the income falls below the required amount. You can secure a mortgage that fits your long-term goals by aligning your financial strategy with your life plans.

The Importance of Early Planning

Starting to think about your mortgage and credit health 24 months before your renewal or application is a smart move that can save you money and reduce stress. Here's why early planning is essential:

-Time to Explore Options:

With ample time, we can shop around for the best rates and mortgage products, avoiding the pressure of last-minute decisions.

-Improving Your Financial Profile: A two-year lead time allows us to work on improving your credit score, reducing debt, and employing strategies to save for a larger down payment, all of which can lead to better mortgage terms.

-Early Negotiation: By starting

the conversation early, you can lock in favourable rates and negotiate perks with lenders, such as waiving fees or reducing closing costs.

-Adapting to Life Changes: Planning ahead allows you to adjust your mortgage strategy to align with life changes, ensuring your mortgage remains a good fit for your circumstances.

-Avoiding Last-Minute Stress: Early planning eliminates the stress of

scrambling to secure a mortgage at the last minute, ensuring you make informed decisions that benefit your financial future.

Credit is a critical component of the mortgage approval process, and managing it effectively is essential for securing the best mortgage terms. By working closely with a Sunlite Mortgage broker and taking proactive steps to manage your credit, you can position yourself as a strong candi-

date for mortgage approval. Don't let poor credit management stand in the way of your homeownership dreams—start focusing on your credit today to ensure a smoother, more successful mortgage experience.

In the coming weeks, we'll continue to explore the other Four Cs of Credit, delving into how each one impacts your ability to secure a mortgage and what you can do to strengthen your financial position.



VantageScore 3.0® Credit Score Ranges

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CREDIT CARDS	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 2,340.00/M		
HELOC	\$120,000.00	\$ 3,600.00/M		
CAR LOANS	\$ 87,500.00	\$ 2,625.00/M		
STORE CARDS	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 750.00/M		
TOTAL	\$989,928.00	\$12,290.56/M	\$989,928.00	\$ 5,014.43/M
SAVINGS				\$ 7,276.13/M



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