

**Proudly the largest weekly Caribbean Newspaper in Canada for 40 years**



**Equality**  
 MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE  
 SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397



**Vettyvel Law**  
 Professional Corporation  
 1457 McCowan Road, Suite 204  
 Toronto ON M1S 5K7

**Our Practice Areas:**

- Real Estate Law
  - Residential
  - Commercial
- Wills and Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

**Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LL.B.**  
 Barrister and Solicitor  
 Dir: 416-261-1544  
 Tel: 416-752-9561  
 Fax: 416-291-1544  
 Email: rishani@vettyvellaw.com



**MARTINA'S CAMBIO**  
 19 Hinck Street, Robbstown, Georgetown, Guyana  
 Best rates for US, Pounds Sterling, Canadian, Euro, TT, EC and B'dos  
**Tel: 226-1933**  
 Email: martinascambio@gmail.com, martinarcacchus6223621@gmail.com  
 www.facebook.com/pages/martina-cambio



**Thursday August 8 2024. Volume 42, Issue #32 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 647-216-2359**

# Seven Guyana hotels to be opened by 2025

GUYANA is preparing itself for the growth in its tourism industry with the development of seven new international hotels, which are set to materialise by 2025.

This development, announced by Vice-President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo during a recent press conference at Freedom House, marks a pivotal moment in the government's economic growth strategy.

The ambitious project is expected to create approximately 3,000 jobs for Guyanese citizens, providing a substantial boost to local employment. This influx of hospitality sector positions is likely to have a ripple effect on the economy, stimulating growth in related industries such as transportation, food services, and local tourism attractions.

Vice-President Jagdeo highlighted the government's proactive approach in attracting international investors.

He explained, "We met with the

people who are interested in the hospitality sector, and in building hotels. In the first few weeks of expression of interest, we had over 20 of them, and we sat at State House, the President, myself, etcetera. And we said here will be the new incentive regime; a tax holiday for the hotels, because this represented a massive investment. And we will work with you to try to find the land to build the hotels."

The government's strategy to offer tax incentives and assist with land acquisition has proven successful in attracting foreign investment, even during challenging times. As Dr. Jagdeo noted, "This was in the middle of 'COVID'; we were working with people, with masks on, trying to move the country forward."

The impact of these new hotels on Guyana's tourism industry is expected to be substantial. With an increase in high-quality accommodation options, the country is likely to attract a broader range of international visitors, including business travellers and luxury tourists.

Moreover, the influx of international hotel brands is anticipated to



**The Aiden by Best Western will be opened soon in Georgetown**

bring global standards and practices to Guyana's hospitality sector. This could lead to improved service quality across the industry and provide valuable training opportunities for local staff, enhancing the overall tourism experience in the country.

The Vice-President emphasised

the immediate impact of this initiative, stating, "Because of that policy we have seven new international hotels now under construction that will start working next year and will employ some 3000 Guyanese."

This development is also likely to have a positive effect on Guyana's infrastructure. The construction of these hotels could spur improvements in roads, utilities, and other public services to support the increased tourism activity. Additionally, it may encourage the development of new tourist attractions and experiences to cater to the expected rise in visitors.

**Fly Direct to Guyana**  
**LOWEST PRICE**  
 30 YEARS



**SkyRoute**  
 TRAVEL SERVICES INC.

**JANE & FINCH MALL**  
 34-1911 Finch Av. W  
 North York, On. M3N 2V2  
**Tel: 416-802-8000**  
 Reg. 50023235


**SCARBOROUGH**  
 106-1200 Markham Rd.  
 Scarborough, On, M1H 3C3  
**Tel: 416-439-4000**  
 Reg. 04488805

**MARTINA'S CAMBIO**  
 19 Hinck Street, Robbstown, Georgetown, Guyana  
 Best rates for US, Pounds Sterling, Canadian, Euro, TT, EC and B'dos  
**Tel: 226-1933**  
 Email: martinascambio@gmail.com, martinarcacchus6223621@gmail.com  
 www.facebook.com/pages/martina-cambio




**Let me simplify the Mortgage Process for you**  
**Niraj Sharma,**  
**Simpleway, The Mortgage Experts**

**647-629-3385**  
 niraj.sharma@simpleway.ca




**SUMMER ADVERTISING SPECIAL NOW ON**  
**Call today for rates: 647 216 2359**

**SHARMA LAW**

Catastrophic injury? Car accident?  
 Slip & fall? Income disability  
 benefits denied?

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca  
 vsharmalaw.ca

**HURT?**  
**CALL VISHAL'S DIRECT LINE**  
**647-972-4440**



# SHARMA LAW

## Your Personal Injury Lawyer

A lawyer who gets to know you, so he can represent you. When you're looking for the best possible result, you need an attorney who knows every detail about you and your case. Sharma Law takes the time to get to know each and every client, so we're in the best position to represent you and your family when it matters most. Backed by proven results and experience at Ontario's highest levels of court, Sharma Law specializes in Personal Injury Law.



**NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM**



### Personal Injury

Injuries caused by the negligence of others can be physically, emotionally, and financially devastating for victims and their families. If you've been injured, you need a personal injury lawyer who knows how to fight for the compensation you deserve.



### Injury Claims

- Motor Vehicle Accident Claims
- At-Fault Accident Claims
- Not At-Fault Accident Claims
- Catastrophic In-jury Claims
- Slip and Falls / Trip and Falls
- Dog Bites
- Long Term Disability / Short Term Disability
- Pedestrian Accidents

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to achieving successful results for every client and case. We accomplish this by providing exceptional legal advice and strategies based on a thorough understanding of your case and your desired outcomes.

### FREE CONSULTATION AND CLAIM REVIEW.

Check out our Google reviews



Available for in-person visits at your home or hospital, anywhere in Ontario. Video Conference and Office meetings available.



**Hurt? Call Vishal's direct line 6479724440**

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca

www.vsharmalaw.ca





# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 73

## EMANCIPATION DAY 2024: PRESIDENT ALI EMPHASISES EQUITY AND COLLECTIVE GROWTH FOR GUYANA

PAGE 4



PPP/C GOVT MARKS FOURTH ANNIVERSARY - 90 PERCENT OF PARTY'S MANIFESTO PROMISES FULFILLED

PAGE 3



GOVT INKS US\$8.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR NATIONAL CONTROL CENTRE IN GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

PAGE 6

## PRESIDENT ALI PRAISES REGIONAL PROGRESS AT 47TH HEADS OF GOVT MEETING



President Ali addressing the meeting

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has lauded the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for its significant contributions to biodiversity, justice, climate change, agriculture, and sports.

Speaking at the opening of the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Grenada, President Ali emphasised the importance of recognising the region's achievements.

He stated, "Sometimes, we do not celebrate who we are and we do not get the glamorous

headlines across the world for the contributions we are making as a region. I think that if we do not correct the narrative that is sometimes used to define us, and the narrative that is used to set us in a certain frame, we will be doing a continuous injustice to those before us, those who are with us, and those who will come in the future."

President Ali underscored CARICOM's role as a global leader, particularly in addressing climate change. He praised the efforts of Barbados Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, in advocating for climate justice and reforming the financial system. Guyana's commitment to preserving its forests and maintaining a low deforestation rate was also highlighted as a significant contribution to biodiversity.

In sports, the region invested millions of dollars to host the International Cricket

Council (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup, showcasing its ability to host world-class



President Ali at the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Grenada

events. Additionally, the Caribbean expanded its reach with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to build financial instruments and attract new investments.

President Ali called on countries to be bold and innovative in driving economic growth, stating, "Take the risk and invest in it, so that we can end this problem in our region. Everything

comes back to the government. I am bold enough to say that we can continue

buying, selling, and distributing, or we can start building our productive capacity and capability in the region. But to do so, we have to start supporting what we do in the region."

The region is working collectively to rebuild its agriculture systems, severely affected by Hurricane Beryl, and address over US\$100 million in damages to the food sector. President

Ali emphasised the need for continued unity to overcome future challenges, stating, "What we fought for, as a people and region is sometimes forgotten...As we fight these battles, we have to fight to ensure that we build systems that work for our region and not systems that are not imposed upon us."

New Chairman of CARICOM and Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, and CARICOM Secretary-

General Dr. Carla Barnett also delivered remarks at the opening ceremony.

During the three-day event, President Ali joined other CARICOM leaders in St. George's for the official unveiling of the CARICOM Roundabout, a symbol of regional unity. He also participated in a working breakfast between CARICOM and a high-level delegation from Canada, focusing on enhancing the partnership for development.



President Ali at the official unveiling of the CARICOM Roundabout

## PRESIDENT ALI VISITS GDF TROOPS IN GRENADA, ASSISTING WITH HURRICANE BERYL RECOVERY EFFORTS



President Ali visiting GDF troops in Grenada

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Dr. Irfaan Ali, visited members of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) stationed in Grenada to support the rebuilding efforts on the island of Carriacou, severely affected by Hurricane Beryl.

The visit took place during the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM, where President Ali and other regional heads were in attendance. Accompanying him were the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation, Hugh Todd, and Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan. Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, and CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr.

Carla Barnett, were also present during the visit to Carriacou. Fifty-eight GDF ranks, led by Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Dale De Mendonca, have been deployed to Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to aid in recovery efforts following Hurricane Beryl. The troops are focused on rebuilding key infrastructure to ensure the restoration of government services such as health and education, vital for meeting the needs of the citizens.

In addition to the manpower, Guyana has dispatched building materials and other infrastructural support equipment to both Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to accelerate the recovery process.

Hurricane Beryl, the first Category 4 storm to form in the Atlantic Ocean in June, made landfall on Carriacou Island on July 1, 2024. The hurricane quickly intensified into a Category 5 storm,

leaving a significant trail of destruction in its wake.



President Ali visiting GDF troops in Grenada



The troops are supporting the rebuilding efforts on the island of Carriacou, severely affected by Hurricane Beryl

## GOVT WITHDRAWS US\$300 MILLION FROM OIL FUND

The government has made its third withdrawal of US\$300 million from the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) for the year 2024. This latest transfer, made on July 22, brings the total amount withdrawn from the NRF to US\$850 million so far this year.

Parliament had

previously approved a total withdrawal of US\$1.586 billion from the NRF for 2024. The funds are being used to support the government's budget and various development projects across the country.

The NRF, established to manage Guyana's oil

revenues, has been a subject of both praise and scrutiny.

The Ministry of Finance has indicated that the remaining approved amount of US\$736 million will be withdrawn in tranches throughout the rest of the year.

# PPP/C GOVT MARKS FOURTH ANNIVERSARY - 90 PERCENT OF PARTY'S MANIFESTO PROMISES FULFILLED



People's Progressive Party/Civic's (PPPC) General Secretary Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

People's Progressive Party/Civic's (PPP/C) General Secretary Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, while reflecting on the fourth anniversary since the PPP/C assumed office following the contentious 2020 elections, said more than 90 percent of the party's manifesto promises have been

fulfilled. He urged citizens to remember the intense struggle for democratic integrity during the electoral crisis, drawing parallels with Venezuela's current situation. **"Democracy is important, especially as the electoral**

**fraud trial begins for those implicated in manipulating the election results,"** he stated.

The March 2020 elections were marred by delays and allegations of fraud, leading to a five-month wait for final results. A Presidential Commission of Inquiry

later found that senior GECOM officials colluded to alter results, with trials now underway for several individuals, including former Chief Elections Officer Keith Lowenfield.

Reflecting on the government's challenges over the past four years, Dr. Jagdeo highlighted its effective handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. **"Upon assuming office, we quickly built healthcare capacity and secured vaccines, keeping our population relatively safe compared to many developed countries,"** he said.

Key achievements cited by Dr. Jagdeo



People's Progressive Party/Civic's (PPPC) General Secretary Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo



Paving ongoing on the roundabout at Crane, which connects the Schoonord to Crane four-lane highway to the West Demerara Public Road

include creating 50,000 to 60,000 jobs for the unemployed, increasing disposable income in the public sector by \$90 billion, delivering over 33,000 house lots and providing scholarships to 50,000 individuals.

Dr. Jagdeo also highlighted the transformative impact

of the upcoming gas-to-energy project, which is expected to lower electricity costs and position Guyana as a cooking gas exporter. **"Today, we are in a very different place than we were four years ago, despite all the challenges we've faced,"** he concluded.

## IDB COMMENDS GUYANA'S LEADERSHIP IN MONETISING NATURAL RESOURCE



Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Country Representative in Guyana, Lorena Solorzano Salazar

hailed as a global leader in monetising its natural resources, particularly its rich biodiversity. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has praised the country's initiative to form a global alliance on biodiversity and develop a financing model for ecosystem services, as announced by President Dr. Irfaan Ali at the Caribbean Investment Forum.

The IDB's Country Representative in Guyana, Lorena

Solorzano Salazar, described Guyana as a "pioneer" in this field, citing the successful carbon credit model established through the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The historic agreement between the Government of Guyana and Hess Corporation, worth a minimum of US\$750 million, to purchase carbon credits is seen as a groundbreaking achievement.

"Guyana is very

aware of climate change and the impact it has on the world," Salazar noted. She believes that Guyana's proposed global alliance on biodiversity can support the decarbonisation efforts of developed countries with fewer natural resources.

Building upon the success of its carbon credit model, Guyana aims to replicate this approach for biodiversity conservation and protection. The country has a rich and diverse

ecosystem, home to numerous endemic species found nowhere else on Earth.

Salazar emphasised that Guyana's pioneering spirit in monetising its natural resources, initially through the Guyana-Norway Partnership, and now through the voluntary carbon market, sets a positive example for other countries.

The IDB official expressed confidence that Guyana's initiative will be successful, given

the country's abundant biodiversity and its experience in monetising environmental assets.

Guyana's LCDS 2030 outlines the country's commitment to preserving its natural heritage while generating economic benefits. With its focus on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, Guyana is positioning itself as a global leader in environmental stewardship.

Guyana is being

## GOVT TURNS TO DIASPORA TO ADDRESS LABOUR SHORTAGE

Guyana is actively seeking to address its growing labour shortage by tapping into its diaspora. A recent Diaspora Job Fair in New York brought together 16 Guyanese private sector companies with potential employees eager to contribute to their homeland's development.

Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud highlighted the government's commitment to involve the diaspora in Guyana's transformation. **"We want them to be drivers, to be leaders and key beneficiaries of the progress and the prosperity that is taking place in**

**our country,"** he emphasised.

The country is experiencing rapid economic growth, particularly in sectors like oil and gas, infrastructure, and tourism. However, this expansion has outpaced the available local workforce. A study by the International Office on Migration estimates a skills gap of around 100,000 workers.

Komal Singh, Chairman of the Private Sector Commission, underscored the challenges faced by businesses. **"Because of infrastructure development and all the growth in the other sectors,**

**especially in the oil and gas sector we have seen a lot of**

**movement of our workforce from the private sector and** explained. The government is implementing several recruitment, efforts include identifying the specific skills needed

strategies to address the labour crisis. In addition to diaspora

across various sectors to inform targeted training me.

Strategies also include expanding vocational and technical training to equip locals with in-demand skills and temporarily filling critical positions with foreign workers while developing local capacity.

By leveraging the talent and expertise of the Guyanese diaspora, the government aims to accelerate economic development and build a sustainable workforce.



Government and Private Sector representatives at the Diaspora Job Fair

## PRESIDENT ALI TO ROLL OUT 2024 INCOME-BOOSTING MEASURES, EXPANDING ON PAST SUCCESSES

Before the end of 2024, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has pledged to introduce new strategies aimed at increasing disposable income for households and expanding prosperity across Guyana. Highlighting the government's efforts over the past four years, Dr. Ali emphasised that these initiatives have been crucial in mitigating the impact of rising global food prices and easing the cost of living for Guyanese.

**"This is the global environment in which we are a part of and operating,"** the President noted in a live broadcast, referring to the economic disruptions caused by the Russian-Ukraine war, the global pandemic, and other global challenges. Despite these difficulties, Guyana has managed to maintain a relatively low food inflation rate, which Dr. Ali attributed to the

government's proactive economic management.

**"When you look at our figures and the inflation rate for Guyana compared to all of these regions, it is remarkable in the way that we have been able to manage our economy... And the way we have been able to cushion these costs,"** President Ali said.

In 2023, Guyana's food inflation rate stood at 3.8 per cent, significantly lower than Jamaica's 7.8 per cent and the Latin American region's staggering 81.67 per cent. Dr. Ali credited this achievement to the government's deliberate investments in boosting food production and supporting key sectors, including poultry and agriculture. **"This is not by any accident. This is by the deliberate interventions of the government,"** he explained. **"This**

**is by the policies and programmes in the budget that are buttressing the economy and creating an environment that leads to stability."**

Among the measures implemented to curb



President Dr. Irfaan Ali

food inflation, the government removed value-added tax (VAT) on essential items such as fertilisers, agricultural implements

pesticides, and various inputs in the poultry industry. These efforts, which come at an annual estimated cost of \$262 million, were complemented by over \$1 billion in expenditures to provide

drainage and irrigation (D&I) fees, and constructed essential infrastructure, including shade houses and farm-to-market roads.

To reduce dependency on imported hatching eggs, the government established a broiler breeders facility. They also addressed rising fuel and freight costs and increased public servants' wages and salaries by more than \$90 billion.

To further ease the cost of living, taxes on building materials were waived, subsidies for utilities were restored, and VAT was removed from medical supplies, electricity, and water—saving citizens nearly \$3 billion annually. The government also reinstated the 'Because We Care' cash grant, injecting over \$22 billion into the hands of parents over the past four years. In addition, old age pensions and

public assistance were increased by more than 75 per cent and 111.1 per cent, respectively, providing over \$13.4 billion and \$2.8 billion to beneficiaries.

Dr. Ali also mentioned the reintroduction of a one-month tax-free bonus for disciplined services, which placed \$4.1 billion in the hands of members. **"These things were removed by the last government... It is clear that our measures are working. It is clear that the measures that we are implementing brought tremendous relief to the population. If we had not implemented these measures the effects would have been severe... We want the best for all the citizens of this country,"** the President stated.

## GUYANA'S ECONOMY RISES SHARPLY IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2024

Guyana's economy continued its upward trajectory in the first quarter of 2024, propelled primarily by the burgeoning oil and gas sector, according to the Bank of Guyana.

Oil production surged by a remarkable 63.8% compared to the same period last year, reaching 55.7 million barrels. This substantial increase is attributed to the commencement of operations at the Prosperity FPSO and

enhanced output.

Beyond the oil and gas sector, agriculture demonstrated robust growth. Rice production skyrocketed by 73.3%, driven by expanded cultivation, technological advancements like drone usage, and the adoption of high-yielding rice varieties. The fishing industry also flourished, with catches increasing by 52.4%. However, the sugar sector faced challenges due to prolonged dry weather

conditions, resulting in a 46% decline in production.

While mining and quarrying exhibited mixed results, with growth in sand and crushed stone offset by declines in diamond, bauxite, and gold production, the manufacturing sector showed improvement in several areas, including beverages, putty, paints, and flour. The construction and services sectors also



Bank of Guyana

contributed positively to overall economic growth.

### BRIGHT OUTLOOK

Based on the strong performance in the first quarter, the Bank of Guyana forecasts a robust 34.3% real GDP growth for the entire year. Continued expansion in the oil sector, coupled with positive developments in non-oil industries, is expected to drive this impressive growth.

The Government of Guyana has issued a statement emphasising the importance of a transparent electoral process following Venezuela's elections on July 28, 2024. The statement highlighted the need for accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law to ensure that the will of the people is respected.

**"Elections are about people exercising their constitutional right to elect a government of their choice in a free,**

## GUYANA CALLS FOR TRANSPARENT VERIFICATION OF VENEZUELA'S ELECTION RESULTS



In Valencia, Venezuela, on July 29, protesters demonstrate against the official election results declaring President Nicolas Maduro's reelection. (Photo-The Associated Press)

fair, and transparent process," the statement read. It stressed the collective responsibility to uphold the integrity of the electoral process through strict compliance with election rules.

The Government of Guyana expressed its support for the call to verify the Venezuelan election results, stating, **"Guyana therefore supports the call for a**

**transparent process of verification of the will of the Venezuelan people as exercised on July 28, 2024. The people of Venezuela deserve nothing less."**

This stance underscores Guyana's commitment to democratic principles and the importance of upholding the electoral rights of neighbouring nations.

## KEY TRANSFORMER ARRIVES AS GUYANA ADVANCES IN MAJOR ENERGY PROJECT

Guyana has marked a significant milestone in its energy sector with the historic arrival of 16 transformers and 244 accessories destined for the Gas-to-Energy and Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Enhancement Projects. Among these, two transformers weighed a staggering 241 metric tons each, setting a new record for the heaviest cargo ever handled in the country.



One of the 241 metric tons transformers being moved from the JFL Terminal on Water Street to its Inland Terminal on Mandela Avenue.

The complex multiple companies operation involved working in tandem.

Cranes Guyana Inc. (CGI), a subsidiary of Muneshwars Limited and John Fernandes Limited, managed the discharge,

The transformers, sourced by Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd and transported by Boltcargo India, will be instrumental in establishing new substations to support the Guyana Integrated Natural Gas Liquids

(NGL) plant and bolster the overall energy distribution network.

Guyana Shore Base Inc., (GYSBI) also played a vital role in the project, handling the offloading of seven transformers for LINDSAYCA CH4, a company constructing an integrated NGL extraction plant and a 300MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant.

Beyond the

transformers, GYSBI has been involved in various aspects of the project, including pipe distribution, earth and soil remediation, and infrastructure development.

The successful arrival and handling of these massive transformers signify a major step forward for Guyana's energy future. As the country continues to harness its natural resources, these new infrastructure components will play a pivotal role in powering the nation's growth.

The government has taken a significant step towards improving the lives of residents in remote areas by commissioning two new solar mini-grids in Region One. The projects, costing over \$45 million, will provide electricity to approximately 1,800 people in the communities of Sebai and Canal Bank.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips emphasised the importance of energy access for development and improving the quality

## REGION ONE COMMUNITIES GET ELECTRICITY BOOST FROM SOLAR PROJECTS

of life for all Guyanese. "These solar systems will help bridge the energy divide and bring about positive changes in these communities," he said at the commissioning ceremony.

The new solar grids will power essential public buildings such as schools and health centres, and residents will also have access

to electricity in their homes. This will enable improved telemedicine services and educational opportunities, according to the Prime Minister.

Dr. Mahender Sharma, CEO of the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), highlighted the project as a key component of the country's Low Carbon Development Strategy. "By utilising solar

power, we are reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and contributing to a cleaner environment," he said.

The GEA will be employing local residents to maintain the solar systems, providing job opportunities and skills training for the community.



Over \$45 M in solar mini-grids commissioned to boost power supply in Region One

## GUYANA CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION ON SDGS AT UN SUMMIT

Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, has issued a call for concerted global action to address pressing challenges.

The upcoming UN Summit of the Future, slated for September 2024, presents a critical opportunity to reinvigorate international cooperation and accelerate progress on the Sustainable



Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett and the outgoing UN Resident Coordinator in Guyana, Yesim Oruc

Development Goals (SDGs).

"I think it's a very important engagement, the summit of the future...I think it's important for the international community to rally around common objectives," Ambassador Rodrigues-Birkett stated, during the UN Summit of the Future Dialogue, at the Cara Lodge Hotel, Quamina Street, Georgetown.

The ambassador emphasised the need for a renewed focus on climate action, food security, and global governance. She underscored the growing mistrust among nations and the urgent need for a more equitable international financial system.

Guyana, a frontrunner in forest conservation and climate-smart agriculture, will advocate for increased support for developing countries in these areas. The country has made significant strides in its own development but recognizes the interconnectedness of

global challenges. "We are hoping that we will have a very ambitious document, the Pact of the Future, one that would bring change for our world," Ambassador Rodrigues-Birkett said.

The UN Summit of the Future is seen as a pivotal moment to forge a new path forward, addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and conflict. By working together, world leaders can create a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Guyana has showcased its innovative approach to climate finance at the Amazonian Forever Summit in Brazil where Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, presented the country's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) as a model for balancing economic growth with environmental protection.

The LCDS has enabled Guyana to secure significant financial rewards for preserving

its forests. The nation has earned US\$224 million through a bilateral agreement with Norway and recently finalised a deal to with Hess Corporation to sell carbon credits worth over US\$750 million.

Minister Bharrat emphasised the importance of scaling and replicating Guyana's model to inspire other

countries to adopt similar low-carbon development strategies. He highlighted the need for increased climate finance, forest protection, and ecosystem preservation in the Amazon region, particularly in the lead-up to the upcoming COP meeting.

The Amazonian Forever Summit,

initiated by the Inter-American Development Bank, aims to foster collaboration among Amazonian countries to achieve sustainable development while safeguarding the rainforest.

## GUYANA'S CLIMATE FINANCE PROPOSAL TAKES CENTER STAGE AT AMAZONIAN FOREVER SUMMIT



The summit aims to foster sustainable development while safeguarding the rainforest

## GOVT INKS US\$8.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR NATIONAL CONTROL CENTRE IN GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips and Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar during the signing ceremony

The government has taken another significant step towards the realisation of its ambitious Gas-to-Energy project. A US\$8.6 million contract was signed for the construction of a National Control Centre, a crucial component of the overall initiative.

Power China

Caribbean has been awarded the contract to build the facility, which is expected to be completed within 384 days. The project will see the construction of a building to house essential equipment for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition/ Energy Management

Systems/Generation Management System (SCADA/EMS/GMS).

The agreement was officially signed at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), with Chief Representative Dan Shen signing on behalf of Power China Caribbean, and OPM's Permanent Secretary Alfred King signing on behalf of the government.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, emphasised the importance of this development. "Today, we have signed the final piece of the Gas-to-Energy project puzzle," he stated. "The 230KV transmission

line, currently being installed by Kalapataru Projects International Limited (KPIL), will connect to Vreed-en-Hoop and Beterverwagting substations. This new control centre will be the brain of the grid, ensuring efficient power management."

To meet the project's timeline, the Minister disclosed plans to construct a temporary building. "We cannot afford to delay the dispatch once the power plant becomes operational," he explained. "The control centre is expected to be completed by

December of this year."

Kesh Nandlall, Head of the Executive Management Committee of the Guyana Power and Light Inc (GPL), highlighted the pivotal role of the control centre.

"This facility will be instrumental in GPL's ability to efficiently manage the power grid," he said. "It will house the scanning equipment necessary for the advancement of the power sector."



Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister, Alfred King and Chief Representative of Power China, Dan Shen signing the contract for the construction of the National Control Centre building

## \$3 BILLION DAIRY PROJECT TO CREATE HUNDREDS OF JOBS

The government, through the Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest), has taken a significant step towards transforming the country's dairy sector with the signing of a \$3 billion investment agreement with Tropical Orcegaras Products Company Limited, a subsidiary of Demerara Dairy Inc. (DDI). The agreement paves the way for the establishment of a state-of-the-art dairy farm and milk processing facility.

The project, a joint venture between Demerara Distillers Limited and Israeli company LG Group, is expected to generate over 270 jobs, including

70 direct positions and 150 indirect roles.

"Milk is a highly competitive global commodity," remarked Komal Samaroo, Chairman and CEO of Demerara Distillers Limited at the handing over of the agreement. "We've incorporated the latest technology to ensure our Guyanese-produced milk can compete effectively in the regional market."

The dairy farm, to be located in Moblissa, will encompass 250 hectares of cultivated land, a 22-tonne per day animal feed centre, and a 13.7-tonne per day raw milk dairy farm. Additionally, a milk



Chief Investment Officer and CEO of Guyana Office for Investment, Peter Ramsaroop and Chairman and CEO of Demerara Distillers Limited Komal Samaroo with the agreement

processing plant will be constructed in Diamond, East Bank Demerara.

The first phase of the project involves

the utilisation of approximately 925 animals, with an

anticipated annual milk production of

10,000 litres per cow. The processing plant is designed to produce 19.2 tonnes, or 18,600 litres, of premium milk products.

"We anticipate producing the first milk in the third quarter of next year," Samaroo added. "This investment agreement enables us to install the necessary equipment for processing and packaging milk to international standards, catering to both domestic and export markets."

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Chief Investment Officer and CEO of Go-Invest, emphasised the project's potential to revolutionise the local dairy industry and reduce reliance on milk imports.

"The Caribbean imports over a billion

US dollars worth of powdered and boxed milk annually," Dr. Ramsaroop stated. "This investment, along with the efforts of other players like Amaya in Region Five, signifies Guyana's progress towards becoming a major dairy producer."

The initiative aligns with President Ali's vision and the CARICOM goal of reducing the region's food import bill by 25% by 2025.

With this substantial investment, Guyana is poised to become a significant player in the regional dairy market, creating jobs, reducing imports, and contributing to the country's economic growth.

## TOUGHER STANCE ON COMPANIES FAILING TO REMIT NIS CONTRIBUTIONS

The government has issued a stern warning to employers who have been neglecting their National Insurance Scheme (NIS) contributions. Minister of Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, has declared a zero-tolerance policy for such violations.

"This Government will not tolerate the failure to pay over or remit in a timely manner NIS contributions on behalf of employees, not only current employees but if you

have any back log please make sure that you come in promptly to the Scheme and pay off that backlog," Dr. Singh emphasised.

The Minister's remarks came during a graduation ceremony for new NIS inspectors at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre. He charged the graduates to be proactive and diligent in their roles, ensuring that employers comply with the law.

The NIS has recently secured over \$20 million

in unpaid contributions from private security companies alone, a testament to the government's commitment to addressing this issue.

Dr. Singh also urged citizens to be proactive in managing their NIS contributions. He encouraged self-employed individuals to contribute regularly to avoid potential shortfalls upon retirement.

I appeal to citizens to check on their records and

contributions in good time and not wait until they reach the age of 60," the Minister stated.

Thirty new employees, including inspectors, customer service representatives, internal auditors, and nurses, graduated. They will play a crucial role in strengthening the scheme and protecting the rights of workers.



Some of the graduates



## CARICOM LAUNCHES AGRI-INSURANCE PROGRAMME TO BOLSTER FOOD SECURITY

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has taken a significant step towards enhancing food security with the launch of the Regional Economic Agri-Insurance Programme (REAP).

The initiative, aimed at protecting farmers and fisherfolk from the impacts of climate change and other risks, was unveiled

at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre in Liliendaal, Greater Georgetown.

CARICOM's Chairman, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, highlighted the importance of insurance in building a resilient agriculture sector. "Today, we are exploring an important financial instrument,

insurance, that has been lacking for farmers in the region," he said.

The programme covers crop farmers, livestock farmers, and fisherfolk, and aims to contribute to CARICOM's Vision 25 goal of reducing the region's food import bill by 25% by 2025. Nine Caribbean nations, including Guyana,

Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica, and St Kitts and Nevis, have already joined the programme with three more expected to participate by August.

CARICOM's Assistant Secretary General, Joseph Cox, emphasised the role of agri-insurance in mitigating climate risks and facilitating recovery

from natural disasters. "The collective commitment of CARICOM member states to sustainable development and resilience is exemplified by this programme," Cox stated.

The launch event was attended by several Caribbean agriculture ministers, including Alfred Prospere from St. Lucia and Saboto Caesar from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The programme was developed in



CARICOM's Assistant Secretary General, Joseph Cox

collaboration with Lynch Caribbean Brokers, GuyCarpenter, Raincoat, and the CARICOM Secretariat.



New \$565.3M pump station commissioned at Greenwich Park, Region Three

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha officially commissioned a \$565.3 million pump station in Greenwich Park, East Bank Essequibo which will significantly improve drainage for approximately 5,000

acres of farmland. Constructed by Roopan Ramoutar Investments, the pump station is equipped with two powerful units capable of pumping 100 cubic feet of water per second. While completed in 2023, the project

faced delays due to site challenges, leading to design modifications for increased durability.

Minister Mustapha highlighted the government's commitment to enhancing drainage infrastructure across the country to support agricultural growth and improve livelihoods. "This project will bring tremendous benefits to the residents

and farmers," he stated. "Another year from now, Region Three will have approximately seven other pump stations."

The Minister emphasised the government's proactive approach to addressing the impacts of climate change through strategic infrastructure investments. "This is the kind of investment that is

being made by the PPP/C Government in every single corner of our country," he said. "We are trying to develop a comprehensive water management system."

Regional Chairman Sheik Ayube expressed gratitude for the new pump station, stating that it would enhance farmers' self-sufficiency and alleviate drainage issues.

The government is currently undertaking additional drainage projects in the region, including upgrades at A-line in Versailles, Pouderoyen, Belle Vue, Canal Number One, and B-line.

These developments are expected to bolster agricultural productivity and resilience in Region Three.

## \$565.3 M PUMP STATION TO BOOST DRAINAGE IN EAST BANK ESSEQUIBO

## GOVT COMMITS US\$45 MILLION TO ENHANCE FLOOD RESILIENCE

The Government of Guyana has taken a significant step towards bolstering the country's defence against flooding with the signing of a US\$45 million agreement with the World Bank. The funds, allocated to the Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (CARes) project, will be used to upgrade and replace over 45 critical drainage structures across the country.

This substantial investment is part of

a broader government initiative to enhance Guyana's flood risk management infrastructure. By strengthening the drainage and irrigation system, the government aims to protect lives, livelihoods, and agricultural lands from the increasing threat of flooding.

The CARes project is funded through the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), which was established under the Guyana-

Norway partnership to support low-carbon development. This marks the second-largest investment from the GRIF to date, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience.

In addition to the infrastructure upgrades, the project will also focus on building the capacity of the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) to better manage and operate the drainage

system. This includes incorporating flood risk management principles into future projects.

Minister Singh emphasised that this investment is crucial for achieving its goal of transforming Guyana into a leading food producer and exporter in the Caribbean region. By safeguarding agricultural lands from flooding, the country can boost its agricultural output and contribute to regional food security.

The World Bank,



Dr Ashni Singh signed the agreement with the World Bank, Resident Representative, Diletta Doretti

as a partner in the project, will provide technical expertise in flood risk management and ensure adherence to environmental and social safeguards.

This initiative is part of a larger government effort to invest in Guyana's infrastructure and build resilience to

climate change. With the additional revenue generated from the country's oil and gas sector, the government is accelerating development across various sectors, including agriculture, transportation, and energy.

The government has made a significant investment of over \$1.9 billion in restoring mangrove forests and bolstering coastal defences, according to Jagnarine Singh, CEO of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI).

Speaking at the National Mangroves Exhibition at the Kingston Seawall, Singh emphasised the government's commitment to environmental



The Mangrove Pledge Wall for attendees to share remarks

protection and sustainable mangrove

## GUYANA INVESTS HEAVILY IN MANGROVE RESTORATION TO PROTECT COASTLINE

use. "These efforts are crucial for building a resilient economy," he said.

Over 500 hectares of mangroves have been restored across five regions, with an additional \$275 million allocated for further restoration this year. The exhibition, organised by the Office of the First Lady, NAREI,

and the Environmental Management Consultants (EMC) Foundation, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of mangroves.

A new mangrove sign was unveiled at the event, and attendees were encouraged to sign a mangrove pledge.

Singh highlighted the potential of mangroves to

support local livelihoods, particularly in honey production. With annual honey demand exceeding production, the government plans to assist communities in establishing more beehives in mangrove areas.

"Mangrove conservation is not only about protecting our coastlines

but also about creating economic opportunities for our people," Singh said.

Guyana's mangrove restoration efforts align with several Sustainable Development Goals, including those related to climate action, poverty reduction, and sustainable livelihoods.

## GUYANA MAKES STRIDES IN GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- LANDMARK LEGISLATION PASSED

Guyana has taken significant steps forward in promoting gender equality and protecting victims of domestic violence. The National Assembly recently passed several crucial pieces of legislation that address long-standing issues in the country.

### DIVORCE LAW REFORM ALLOWS FOR SPOUSAL SUPPORT FOR BOTH GENDERS

A major breakthrough came with the passage of the Matrimonial Causes Amendment Bill 2024. This groundbreaking legislation eliminates discriminatory provisions in the previous law, granting both men and women the right to seek spousal support following a divorce.

This change follows a ruling by Chief Justice (ag) Roxanne George-Wiltshire, which deemed the previous law discriminatory.

Attorney General



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC during the passage of the Matrimonial Causes Amendment Bill 2024

and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC emphasised the need for the law to align with contemporary societal values. "What societal values were 90 years ago...are radically different from what they are today," he stated.

The bill also introduces divorce on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, simplifying the process for couples seeking to dissolve their marriages.

### NEW FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW ENHANCES PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS

The new Family Violence Bill 2024 represents a significant enhancement of protections for victims and harsher penalties for abusers. Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, highlighted the bill's aim which is to "instill



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud supporting the new Family Violence law

confidence in expansive legislation that caters to the dynamic needs of those affected by violence."

The law broadens the definition of abuse to encompass emotional and psychological harm, and it addresses the issue



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand underscored the importance of the new Family Violence Bill

of financial control often used by abusers to trap victims. A notable feature is the introduction of civil litigation, allowing victims to seek remedies beyond criminal prosecution.

Attorney General Nandlall emphasised the importance of removing discretionary power from the police, ensuring swifter action against abusers. Minister of Education Priya Manickchand underscored the bill's message that "anyone in an intimate relationship is entitled to protection."

Govt seeks increased support for key sectors with \$40 Billion Financial Paper

To support Guyana's burgeoning economy, the government sought over \$40 billion through two Financial Papers. These funds will bolster key sectors such as energy, agriculture, and infrastructure. Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh presented the supplementary estimates to Parliament.

### GOVT SECURES NEW LOANS, REINFORCES DEBT MANAGEMENT

The government



Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh presented the supplementary estimates to Parliament

also presented loan agreements to foster development while ensuring effective debt management. Dr. Singh presented these agreements to the National Assembly, noting a reduction in the country's debt-to-GDP ratio from over 600% in 1991 to 27% in 2023.

One agreement amends a loan from UK Export Finance for the Guyana Paediatric and Maternal Hospital Project, incorporating a Climate Resilience Debt Clause (CRDC) that allows for deferred payments during climate disasters. The second agreement adjusts the repayment schedule for a loan from Canada focused on combating human trafficking and supporting women's empowerment. The government reiterated its commitment to using borrowed funds responsibly to improve citizens' lives while maintaining financial stability.

## DR. JAGDEO ANTICIPATES ELECTIONS FRAUD CASE COULD REACH CCJ



General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo speaking at his weekly press conference

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), is confident that the ongoing elections fraud case related to the 2020 general elections may ultimately be heard by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

The trials, which began on July 29 for several individuals accused of irregularities during the 2020 elections, are set to run until September 13, 2024, though they have been adjourned until August 5.

During a press conference, Dr. Jagdeo remarked, "Given what has happened

in Venezuela and the close parallel to what we see here in Georgetown, it is crucial to reflect on democracy, especially now that the trials have started for those found culpable of trying to steal the elections in favour of the APNU/AFC." He emphasised the long wait for this stage of the judicial process.

Dr. Jagdeo expressed frustration with defense lawyers' delaying tactics, stating, "The last attempt was dismissed by the Chief Justice, and the trial has started. The prosecution is frustrated that the defense is making frivolous objections." He believes these tactics may prolong the case, potentially leading it to the CCJ.

"It is crucial that the records be in the public domain," he added, "so that when the case gets to the

CCJ, the full picture of the testimonies will be available." Dr. Jagdeo also underscored the media's role in accurately reporting courtroom proceedings, saying, "It is incumbent on the media to report



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Parag was the first witness to take the stand when the long-delayed trial into attempts to rig the 2020 General and Regional elections commenced

almost precisely what is occurring in the courtroom."

The PPP plans to invite the international community to observe the trial. Dr. Jagdeo noted, "It is crucial that we have the international

community looking at it. They are urging that those who undermine democracy must face prosecution."

### DR. JAGDEO CRITICISES PNC/R FOR UNDERMINING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Shifting focus, Dr. Jagdeo did not hold back in his criticism of the People's National Congress Reform (PNC/R) for

what he described as a longstanding history of election theft and subversion of constitutional institutions. During the same press conference, he addressed allegations of police corruption being investigated by the Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU).

"The PNC and AFC, particularly the PNC, have a habit of interfering with constitutional bodies and undermining their professionalism," Dr. Jagdeo stated. He expressed skepticism about the opposition's ability to accept a fair investigation into the allegations against a senior official within the Guyana Police Force.

Dr. Jagdeo highlighted the PNC's historical manipulation of the electoral process, citing how the party used the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to rig elections prior to 1992. "This has been

well documented, including by the BBC, which reported on overseas voting and ballot box tampering," he noted.

He also criticised the PNC for politicising the military and judiciary, recalling that during its tenure, the PNC flag flew over the High Court, symbolising an era of partyparamountcy. "The army departed from its constitutional duties when they collected the ballot boxes," he asserted.

Dr. Jagdeo emphasised that SOCU, established by the PPP as an investigative arm of the Financial Intelligence Unit, will conduct its investigations professionally, regardless of who is implicated. "Anyone implicated in financial impropriety will be questioned by SOCU. Investigations will be completed, and the results will be made public," he concluded.

## NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL TO TRANSFORM MICOBIE

A groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of construction for a new \$253 million secondary school in the remote community of Micobie, Region Eight. The project, awarded to NK Engineering Services, is expected to be completed within six months.

The school will accommodate approximately 150

students and feature modern facilities including science, IT, home economics, visual arts, and library labs. Education Minister Priya Manickchand emphasised the importance of parental involvement in children's education, urging parents to actively support their children's academic journey. "You don't have

to have a PhD, you don't have to have a big house; you have to have interest," Minister Manickchand said. "I know of a parent who watches her child do his work from beginning to end. She doesn't know or understand what he's doing, but she watches him work. And so, we need your partnership, also."

The Minister also called for collaboration between the community and the contractor, emphasising the opportunity for local employment during the construction phase. "We want him (the contractor) to give the work to you, we want you to benefit as far as you can, but we want the school," she stated.



The turning of the sod

The new secondary school is expected to significantly enhance educational opportunities for

Micobie residents and contribute to the overall development of the region.

Students from Liberty, Hogg Island, and neighbouring communities will soon have a new state-of-the-art learning environment as the reconstructed \$54 million Western Hogg Island Primary School prepares to open its doors in September.

The school's transformation comes after years of operating in deplorable conditions. According to Regional Chairman Sheik Ayube, "The new school will provide a conducive environment for learning, equipped

## WESTERN HOGG ISLAND WELCOMES NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL



Western Hogg Island Primary School completed

with all the necessary tools. It's more spacious and will undoubtedly make

our students more comfortable." To accommodate students during the

reconstruction, classes were held in two government buildings adjacent to the school site. The school's lower flat is currently undergoing expansion to house nursery-aged children and is nearing completion.

In addition to the Western Hogg Island Primary School, Region Three is also investing heavily in other educational facilities. A new classroom

block at Bagotville Primary School is nearing completion, and will accommodate approximately 150 students. Furthermore, the region is inviting bids for the construction of new nursery schools in La Parfaite Harmonie and Canal Number One, estimated to cost \$55 million and \$50 million respectively.

These initiatives underscore the government's

commitment to providing accessible and high-quality education for all Guyanese children. As Regional Chairman Ayube emphasised, "These investments are a testament to the government's dedication to building a stronger education sector through prudent policies and strategic funding."

## PRESIDENT ALI INSPIRES YOUNG GUYANESE AT NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

President Ali addressed a group of 170 young people at the launch of a national youth camp, emphasising the government's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders.

The camp, organised by Men on Mission (MoM) and facilitated by the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), aims to equip participants with

essential life skills and values.

"We are moulding you into the best citizens," President Ali told the young attendees. "This camp is about building character, supporting each other, and understanding the importance of life."

The head of state highlighted the camp's role in fostering unity

and camaraderie among young people from different regions. He encouraged participants to learn from each other and develop a strong sense of community.

The camp, held at the Kuru Kuru Training Centre, will cover a range of topics including problem-solving, discipline, hygiene, and environmental awareness. Participants

will also have the opportunity to engage in team-building activities and outdoor experiences.

Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier Omar Khan and Camp Director Lieutenant Colonel Bhageshwar Murli emphasised the importance of the camp in shaping the future of Guyana. The MoM mentorship programme, initiated by President



President Ali and Men on Mission officials with the participants of the One Guyana, Youth Camp at Kuru Kuru Training Centre

Ali, aims to address societal challenges and develop young people into responsible citizens.

Students from Liberty, Hogg Island, and neighbouring communities will soon have a new state-of-the-art learning environment as the reconstructed \$54 million Western Hogg

## GUYANA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SIGN MOU FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Island Primary School prepares to open its doors in September.

The school's transformation comes after years of operating in deplorable conditions. According to Regional Chairman Sheik Ayube, "The new school will provide a conducive environment for learning, equipped with all the necessary tools. It's more spacious and will undoubtedly make our students more comfortable." To accommodate

students during the reconstruction, classes were held in two government buildings adjacent to the school site. The school's lower flat is currently undergoing expansion to house nursery-aged children and is nearing completion.

In addition to the Western Hogg Island Primary School, Region Three is also investing heavily in other educational facilities.

A new classroom block at Bagotville Primary School is nearing completion, and will accommodate approximately 150 students. Furthermore, the region is inviting bids for the construction of new nursery schools in La Parfaite Harmonie and Canal Number One, estimated to cost \$55 million and \$50 million respectively.

These initiatives underscore the

government's commitment to providing accessible and high-quality education for all Guyanese children. As Regional Chairman Ayube emphasised, "These investments are a testament to the government's dedication to building a stronger education sector through prudent policies and strategic funding."



Labour Ministry and INFOTEP ink historic MoU

# EMANCIPATION DAY MESSAGES

## PRESIDENT ALI EMPHASISES EQUITY AND COLLECTIVE GROWTH FOR GUYANA



In his Emancipation Day address, President Dr. Irfaan Ali honoured the resilience of African ancestors and called for unity and progress for all Guyanese. **“Emancipation brought an end to the horrific institution of African enslavement, but it did not completely eradicate oppression,”** President Ali stated. He praised the African-Guyanese community for their significant contributions, especially through the Village Movement and other fields. **“African-Guyanese carved out opportunities to advance social, political, and economic progress. Their contributions**

**cannot be erased by the passage of time,”** he affirmed.

He stressed the importance of a united nation where

no group faces economic or political marginalisation. **“In the One Guyana that we are now establishing, African-Guyanese, like all other groups, will have no reason to fear economic marginalisation or political marginalisation. We are committed to ensuring that everyone benefits from the progress and development of our nation,”** President Ali emphasised.

President Ali also warned against those who exploit ethnic suspicions for personal gain. **“We must reject those who seek to deploy the banner of racism**

**and discrimination to divide our people and stymie national development,”** he cautioned.

He concluded by urging collective effort to honour ancestors' legacy by striving for a just and equitable society. **“As we celebrate Emancipation Day, let us remember the sacrifices of our forebears and work together to build a nation where all can prosper,”** President Ali said. **“Happy Emancipation Day to all! May we draw strength from our history and work towards a brighter, more inclusive future for all Guyanese.”**

## PRIME MINISTER PHILLIPS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN GUYANESE



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips marked the

186th anniversary of Emancipation Day by honouring African ancestors and highlighting the contributions of African Guyanese. **“Today, we honour the resilience and courage of our African ancestors who fought for their freedom,”** Prime Minister Phillips stated. He emphasised the role of African Guyanese in shaping the nation, particularly through the establishment of villages like Victoria, Buxton, and Queenstown. **“These villages are symbols of our ancestors' strength and determination,”** he said.

Prime Minister Phillips praised the rich African heritage in Guyana, noting, **“The rhythms of African drums, the festivals, and the spirit of community**

**are testaments to the impact of African Guyanese culture on our national**

**identity.”** He reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting and promoting African Guyanese culture, aligning with the United Nations General Assembly's 'Decade for People of African Descent.' **“We remain steadfast in our dedication to the cultural, economic, and social empowerment of African Guyanese,”** he said.

## EMANCIPATION: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND UNITY – GS JAGDEO

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of



the People's Progressive Party, emphasised that Emancipation Day is a time for both celebration and reflection on the contributions of Guyanese of African descent. **“We must reflect on the great contributions that Guyanese of African descent have made to our country and**

**our development,”** Dr. Jagdeo said. He stressed the importance of embracing all cultural holidays equally. **“As Guyanese, we must own all that belongs to us, and that's why I congratulate all Guyanese on Emancipation Day.”**

Dr. Jagdeo urged viewing Guyanese history in its entirety, beyond the arrival of one's ancestors. **“My history, as a son of this country, did not start when the first ship bringing people from India landed in Guyana. My history is the history of Guyana,”** he noted.

He called for an end to divisiveness and urged politicians to promote unity. **“We have to promote an atmosphere where these activities bring people together, rather than divide them,”** Dr. Jagdeo emphasised. Addressing accusations of the government instigating strife, he clarified, **“We must not use these activities to divide people. Our intent is to promote unity, peace, and cultural diversity.”**

He concluded, **“Emancipation belongs to all of us, as Guyanese, because we have Guyanese blood running through our veins.”**

## PALMYRA TO HOST NATIONAL CULTURAL MARKET CELEBRATING EMANCIPATION



President Ali unveiling the groundbreaking initiative

Palmyra, Region Six, will soon be home to a new national cultural market designed to honour Guyana's rich cultural heritage and celebrate the 186th anniversary of emancipation. President Ali unveiled

this significant initiative during a ceremony at the New Amsterdam Technical Institute (NATI) tarmac, where he joined Guyanese of African descent in commemorating Emancipation Day.

The cultural market, which President Ali described as a hub for education and talent showcasing, will provide a safe and inclusive space for families and serve as a symbol of Guyana's vibrant cultural ecosystem. **“This initiative is not just about creating a market; it's about nurturing the future and promoting a shift in societal attitudes,”** President Ali said. He

emphasised that the timing of the market's launch is symbolic, as it aligns with the commemoration of emancipation.

The President highlighted that the market would play a central role in upcoming festivals and events in Region Six. **“As we build the new stadium, and as we build facilities around the stadium, and as we build hotels, an important part of why people will come to Region Six is to be part of this national cultural market,”** he stated.

The market is envisioned to showcase all aspects of Guyanese

culture, from food, clothing, and dance to music and art, with a particular focus on the historical context of emancipation and the abolition of slavery. **“This will be a symbol of the importance of culture in bridging gaps and bringing people together. The importance of culture in economic and social revolution. The importance of culture in developing healthy lifestyles... [and] the importance of culture in celebrating the unity of our people and our country,”** President Ali underscored.

To ensure the market's success,

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, along with technical personnel, has been tasked with conducting

consultations with cultural groups. Within six weeks, community consultations will begin, and a committee will be established to formalise the plans.



Part of the gathering

# GOVT PROVIDES GRANTS TO AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS FOR EMANCIPATION ACTIVITIES



Recipient Akeem Fraser receiving the Emancipation grant from Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility of Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy

The Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports has disbursed grants to African organisations to support Emancipation activities and celebrations across the country. The financial assistance aims to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the African Guyanese community.

of the Victoria CDC, Alex Fraser, highlighted the importance of educating the public about African history. "The government has done a tremendous job in promoting and supporting these efforts," Fraser said.

Bonny Alves of Signal Studio/Productions highlighted the grant's significance in hosting the annual Emancipation Jazz and Soul Concert, which promotes the work of African artists. "Without this support, the event cannot happen," Alves explained.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for

Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy, reiterated the government's commitment to supporting African Guyanese organisations.

He also highlighted the government's efforts to advance the socio-economic well-being of the Afro-Guyanese community.

the year, not just during Emancipation. "Let us stand united, celebrate our shared heritage, and work collectively towards a future where every Guyanese can realize their full potential," Minister McCoy urged.

Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health, emphasised the importance of educating younger generations about the history of Emancipation. "We must take time to remind our young ones of this history," he remarked.

The grants were handed over at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC.)



Recipient receiving the Emancipation grant from Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag

"These celebrations are part of the cornerstone of our national identity," Minister McCoy stated.

The Minister encouraged continued celebration of African traditions throughout

# GUYANA AND CHINA PARTNER TO BOOST INDIGENOUS CRAFT

Thirty residents of Santa Aratack Village in Region Three are acquiring new skills and economic opportunities through a bamboo weaving training programme.

The initiative, launched by Minister of Tourism Industry and Commerce Oneidge Walrond and Chinese Ambassador Jao Haiyan, aims to empower the community and promote sustainable development.

The training,

conducted by Chinese experts, will equip participants with the knowledge and skills to create a variety of

bamboo products. The government views this as a means to diversify the community's economy, preserve cultural

heritage, and capitalise on the growing tourism industry.

"This training is more than just learning a craft; it's about empowering our people,"

Minister Walrond said. She emphasised the government's commitment to supporting indigenous communities, and creating opportunities for economic growth.

Ambassador Haiyan highlighted the potential of bamboo as



Beneficiaries of the programme pose with the visiting officials and trainers

a sustainable resource and expressed hope that the training will lead to increased use of bamboo products in Guyana.

The initiative is part of a broader collaboration

between Guyana and China, focusing on areas such as infrastructure, education, and sustainable development.



Minister Walrond and Ambassador Haiyan enjoying craft items in the village craft shop

# BUILDING EXPO 2024 PROMISES A SHOWCASE OF INNOVATION AND GROWTH

With just weeks to go until the International Building Expo 2024, excitement is building as preparations reach their final stages.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, has announced that more than 350 exhibitors have already signed up to participate in the event, scheduled for August 8-11 at the National Stadium, Providence.

This year's expo, themed "Building on the Foundation of Sustainability and Unity", promises to be the largest and most impactful yet. Minister Rodrigues highlighted the increased participation of

international companies, with 24 businesses from countries across the Caribbean, Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa eager to showcase their latest innovations.

"We have two main auditoriums that are filled to capacity, and this year we have added a third auditorium, which is the One Guyana Development Auditorium," Minister Rodrigues stated. "This auditorium will have some major companies, such as engineering and construction companies, that are participating in transformational projects in the

country." In addition to the extensive exhibition space, the expo will also

University of Miami. This cutting-edge development aims to be a model of sustainable



Ongoing works on the booths at the National Stadium

feature the launch of the master plan for the ambitious Silica City project, a collaboration between the Government of Guyana and the

urban living. "Within Silica City, there will be also the Innovation Village, which will feature the ideas in

terms of research and development for new technology, and sustainable designs," Minister Rodrigues explained. "We are pushing the envelope in terms of what a smart city should be like."

The event will also offer attendees the opportunity to explore various housing models, including the core home, prefabricated house, and young professional home. Additionally, 2,000 house lots are expected to be allocated during the 'Dream Realised' exercise, and the government aims to distribute 1,000 land titles.

Minister Rodrigues

highlighted the focus on sustainable and energy-efficient technologies, stating, "We expect to see many innovative, sustainable, and energy-efficient technologies on display, which can be incorporated in housing models."

The International Building Expo is a platform for homeowners, potential businesses, and industry professionals to connect, learn, and explore the latest trends in the housing and construction sectors. With a strong emphasis on sustainability, innovation, and economic growth, this year's event is poised to be a significant milestone for Guyana.

# A NATION UNITED IN CELEBRATION



### A NATION UNITED IN CELEBRATION

Guyana came alive with the spirit of freedom and resilience as the nation commemorated Emancipation Day. Thousands flocked to join in the festivities, a vibrant testament to the enduring legacy of those who fought for liberation.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali and his cabinet were at the heart of the celebrations, mingling with the joyous crowds. In a heartfelt address, the President emphasised the profound significance of the day, tying it to the freedoms Guyanese cherish today. **"It is a celebration of who we are, the rich culture, tradition and resilient people,"** he declared.

The day was a powerful reminder of the strength and determination of Guyana's people of African descent, whose contributions have shaped the nation's identity.





# Journey to Prosperity For All: CELEBRATING THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PPP/C'S GOVERNMENT



Guyana stands at the threshold of a new era, a testament to the dynamic leadership of President Irfaan Ali. Under his guidance, the nation has not only witnessed a robust return to democracy but also an unprecedented wave of economic growth and strategic infrastructural development for national transformation.

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) administration has delivered on over 90 percent of its manifesto promises, laying the groundwork for a multi-dimensional economy that promises prosperity for all.

This newspaper spread celebrates the remarkable progress in key areas, highlighting how Guyana is forging a path to a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for every citizen.

**UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Under the People’s Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) administration’s policies, Guyana has achieved annual growth rates exceeding 20% from 2021 to 2023, solidifying its position as a global economic powerhouse.



**DRIVING SUCCESS AMIDST CHALLENGES**



Dr. Ali’s leadership guided Guyana through the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 election turmoil, propelling the nation to become one of the world’s fastest-growing economies.

**GUYANA’S ANNUAL GDP GROWTH (2020–2023)**

Year	Overall Real GDP	Non-Oil Real GDP
2020	43.5%	-7.3%
2021	20.1%	4.6%
2022	63.3%	11.5%
2023	33.0%	11.7%

**LOCAL CONTENT EMPOWERING GUYANESE**

The government’s local content policy has been a catalyst for economic transformation, turning the oil and gas sector into a significant job creator. Over 6,000 direct jobs and countless indirect opportunities have been generated, benefiting more than 800 Guyanese businesses, and contributing over US\$1 billion to the local economy.



**UNLOCKING ECONOMIC POTENTIAL**



Oil revenues have surged from US\$198.3 million in 2020 to a remarkable US\$1.6 billion in 2023, fueling critical investments in infrastructure, healthcare, and education. The Natural Resource Fund (NRF) Act, implemented in 2021, ensures responsible management of these resources.

**SURGE IN OIL REVENUE (2020–2023) (US\$ MILLION)**

Year	Government Share of Profit Oil	Royalties	Total NRF In-flows
2020	185.4	12.9	198.3
2021	357.2	52.0	409.2
2022	1,099.1	155.2	1,254.3
2023	1,398.9	218.1	1,617.0

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND TRANSPARENCY**

Dr. Ali’s administration has prioritised environmental protection and transparency in the oil and gas sector. Rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are conducted for all projects, and the comprehensive 2023 Petroleum Act ensures robust oversight. Guyana has established comprehensive oil spill response plans, backed by a substantial US\$600 million environmental liability insurance, and a US\$2 billion guarantee from oil giant, ExxonMobil.

**DIVERSIFICATION AND GROWTH**

Beyond oil and gas, the government is driving economic diversification:



- **Agriculture:** The sector is experiencing a resurgence through investments in technology, infrastructure, crop diversification, and farmers’ empowerment, including targeted programmes for women and youth.
- **Manufacturing and Services:** These sectors are rapidly expanding, creating jobs and fostering entrepreneurship through robust government policies, including grant programmes, loan guarantees, and business development training. Industrial estates support startups and small businesses with mentorship, training, and resources. Additionally, the government’s commitment to local businesses is evident in the allocation of 20% of government contracts to small contractors.

- **Foreign Investment:** Strategic partnerships and strengthened chambers of commerce have boosted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), attracting both global brands, and homegrown success stories.



**ANNUAL FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) FLOWS (2020–2023) (US\$ MILLIONS)**

Year	FDI
2020	2,073.8
2021	4,468.1
2022	4,393.4
2023	7,197.9



**ENHANCING FINANCIAL WELL-BEING AND LIVING STANDARDS**

The expanding job market, driven by significant investment and government infrastructure projects, has created many opportunities for Guyanese. New call centres and job fairs have connected over 10,000 citizens with employers, while the National Pathway Workers Initiative has empowered over 11,000



participants, and is boosting the local economy. The government aims to create 50,000 tourism jobs by 2030, supported by the Hospitality and Tourism Training Institute (HTTI), which will significantly boost the tourism sector and overall economic growth.

**IMPROVEMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS**

Public servants have seen significant improvements in their financial well-being. Since 2020, salaries have increased by a cumulative 23%, complemented by special bonuses, increased allowances, and one-off payments. Income tax relief, with the threshold raised to \$100,000, has provided additional financial breathing room. The government's commitment to fair labour practices is evident in the recovery of over \$162 million in owed wages since 2020.



**COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING LIVES**

Since 2020, the PPP/C administration has injected nearly \$200 billion into the economy, implementing fiscal measures to bolster household incomes, and stimulate various sectors. Key initiatives include:

- **2020:** Reversal of VAT on utilities and introduction of a COVID-19 relief grant
- **2021:** Zero-rated essential food items, and provision of housing tax concessions
- **2022:** Implementation of cost-of-living measures, and elimination of excise tax on fuel
- **2023:** Reduction in freight charges, and increase in the "Because We Care" cash grant
- **2024:** Removal of Excise tax on petroleum, and increase in Old Age Pension and Public Assistance

**These measures have come at a significant cost, with expenditures estimated at over \$40 billion in 2020, \$10 billion in 2021, \$25 billion in 2022, \$50 billion in 2023, and surpassing \$70 billion in 2024.**

**EXPANDING ACCESS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION**

Guyana is undergoing a significant transformation in education, with the budget rising from \$52 billion in 2020 to \$135.2 billion in 2024. This increase reflects the government's commitment to building a stronger education system for all students.



**Infrastructure Expansion:** To ensure quality education for every child, the government is constructing new schools and upgrading existing ones, particularly in underserved hinterland areas. This initiative is essential for achieving universal secondary education by 2025. New schools are being established in Regions 1 (Northwest, Hosororo, Waramuri, Matthew's Ridge, Kwebanna), 7 (Phillipai, Jawalla), 8 (Kopinang, Micobie, Parmakatoi, Monkey Mountain), and 9 (Karasabai, Aishalton, Nappi).

**Empowering Students:** The Because We Care + Uniform Assistance programme, extended to both public and private schools, provides financial support, increasing funding from \$744 million in 2020 to \$9.4 billion in 2024.



**Nourishing Minds and Bodies:** The school feeding programme's budget has grown from \$659 million in 2020 to \$4.9 billion in 2024, ensuring students receive nutritious meals.

**Equipping Learners:** Investments in textbooks have increased from \$506.1 million in 2021 to \$3 billion in 2024, with an additional \$4 billion between 2022 and 2023, allocated through the National School Grant to support teaching resources.



**Innovative Education Programmes:** STEM and Robotics: Initiatives like Robotics Hubs and STEM programmes encourage exploration in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Global Education:** The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) offers online platforms and scholarships, having awarded over 29,000 scholarships and enrolled thousands of students since 2021.



# INJURED? CAR ACCIDENT?

SLIP AND FALL, ALL TTC ACCIDENTS OR TTC SLIP AND FALL, ALL BUS ACCIDENTS, PEDESTRIAN OR CYCLIST STRUCK BY AUTOMOBILES. VICTIMS OF CRIME.

Talk to us first.

The Accident Injury Law Firm maximizes your claim and gets you a bigger settlement. No upfront fees and no hidden costs. We don't get paid until you get paid.

For a free consultation in your home, at the hospital or at your office.

Call Richard Mars Hosein at 416-999-3471, Monday - Sunday 9 am - 8 p.m.

Over 15 years of excellent service to this community.



## BUYING A HOUSE- GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

- ✓ Bank Sales
- ✓ Distress Homes
- ✓ Power of Sale
- ✓ Gov. Seized Property
- ✓ ZERO Down Program\*
- ✓ Up To 5% Cashback\*
- ✓ Fix a Upper
- ✓ Investment Properties
- ✓ Municipal Property Sale



**CLIFFORD JOHN**

REALTOR®

**416-893-3718**



[clifford.john80@gmail.com](mailto:clifford.john80@gmail.com) | [www.gta-home.com](http://www.gta-home.com)

HOMELIFE/MIRACLE REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE | INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED | OFFICE: 905-454-4000 Not intended to solicit buyers & sellers under contract. \*Some conditions apply.

<p><b>END-UNIT TOWNHOME</b></p>  <p><b>\$549,000</b></p> <p>Amherst Drive &amp; Pratt Drive</p> <p>Bedrooms:3 Washrooms:3</p>	<p><b>3 YEAR OLD</b></p>  <p><b>\$579,900</b></p> <p>Camden Rd &amp; Church St</p> <p>Bedrooms:3 Washrooms:3</p>	<p><b>BEAUTIFUL</b></p>  <p><b>\$699,000</b></p> <p>Chaffey &amp; Township Road</p> <p>Bedrooms:3 Washrooms:3</p>	<p><b>IN-LAW SUITE</b></p>  <p><b>\$769,999</b></p> <p>Louisa St &amp; Burwell St</p> <p>Bedrooms:2+2 Washrooms:4</p>
<p><b>2981 SQFT</b></p>  <p><b>\$829,900</b></p> <p>Lakeland Cres &amp; Mara Rd</p> <p>Bedrooms:4 Washrooms:4</p>	<p><b>BIGGER IS BETTER</b></p>  <p><b>\$839,000</b></p> <p>West Main &amp; Jefferson St</p> <p>Bedrooms:4 Washrooms:3</p>	<p><b>POWER OF SALE</b></p>  <p><b>\$849,000</b></p> <p>Wellington</p> <p>Bedrooms:3+1 Washrooms:4</p>	<p><b>CALL CLIFF FOR YOUR FREE LIST OF BANK PROPERTIES</b></p>



SUPERKING SUPERMARKET

鴻發超市



Special Offers Effective: Friday Aug. 09 To Thursday Aug. 15, 2024



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Napa 甜菜 Reg: \$1.29 <b>79¢</b>	Loose Carrot 散裝紅萝卜 Reg: \$1.59 <b>99¢</b>	Celery 西芹 Reg: \$1.79 <b>1.29</b>	US Tomato 美國蕃茄 Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.39</b>	Green Pepper 青椒 Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.39</b>	Green Leaf Lettuce 衛生菜 Reg: 2 for \$5.00 <b>2/\$3.00</b>
Mini Cucumber 迷你黃瓜仔 Reg: 20 for \$5.00 <b>2/\$3.00</b>	Shanghai Miu 上海茼蒿 Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.69</b>	Bunch Rapini 西人油菜 Reg: 2 for \$7.00 <b>2/\$5.00</b>	Whole Jackfruit 整個羅漢果 Reg: \$1.39 <b>99¢</b>	Red Delicious Apple 紅蘋果 Reg: \$1.39 <b>99¢</b>	Hami Melon 哈密瓜 Reg: \$1.59 <b>99¢</b>
South Africa Orange 南非甜橙 Reg: \$1.79 <b>1.29</b>	Yellow Plantains 黃大蕉 Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.39</b>	Seedless Small Red Grape 无籽小紅提 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.59</b>	Watermelon 西瓜 Reg: \$6.99 <b>4.99</b>	Apple Mango 蘋果芒 Reg: \$12.99 <b>9.99</b>	

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Green Onion 蔥 <b>23.00</b> CASE	Celery 西芹 <b>28.00</b> CASE	Broccoli 西蘭花 <b>32.00</b> CASE	Spanish Onion 大洋蔥 <b>32.00</b> CASE
US Tomato 美國蕃茄 <b>34.00</b> CASE	Green Pepper 25Lb 青椒 <b>34.00</b> CASE	Lime 青檸檬 <b>38.00</b> CASE	Head Lettuce 衛生菜 <b>45.00</b> CASE
Yellow Plantains 黃大蕉 <b>70.00</b> CASE	Frozen Panga Basa Fillet 魚柳 8x3.5Lb <b>60.00</b> CASE	Headless White Shrimp 无头白蝦 21/25 10x4Lb/case <b>200.00</b> CASE	Head-on White Shrimp 有头白蝦 20/30 6x4 lb /case <b>132.00</b> CASE
Extra Large Egg 超大大雞蛋 <b>53.99</b> CASE	Diamond Brand Dried Red Chili 钻石牌辣椒干 5Lb <b>20.00</b> BAG	Aroy-D Coconut Milk 椰奶 24x400ml <b>43.99</b> CASE	BUNGE Pure Lard 猪油 20kg <b>68.00</b> CASE
Container S32 容器 <b>42.50</b> CASE	Container NG-093 容器 <b>33.00</b> CASE	Container NG-081 容器 <b>23.00</b> CASE	Kraft Singlefold Towels 紙巾 <b>25.00</b> CASE
ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg <b>19.99</b> BAG	Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg <b>60.00</b> BAG	Capri Vegetable Oil 菜油 16L <b>31.99</b> CASE	VALUE Dishwashing Liquid 4x4L 洗洁精 <b>26.99</b> CASE
Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李錦記鮮味鮮味醬油 6x2.2kg <b>39.00</b> CASE	Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 李錦記海鮮醬 1.75L <b>48.99</b> CASE	NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒 <b>22.00</b> CASE	Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg <b>31.99</b> BAG

FROZEN

SH White Shrimp 41/50 凍凍蝦 400g Reg: \$6.99 <b>4.99</b>	O & C Raw Head On Black Tiger Shrimp 8/12 454g 有头生黑虎蝦 Reg: \$9.99 <b>6.99</b>	Bulacan Fish /Squid Ball 魚丸/魷魚丸 200g Reg: \$2.99/ea <b>2/\$5.00</b>	Pinoy Delight Red'n Juicy Sausage Series 375g 腸仔 Reg: \$9.99 <b>7.99</b>	Qualy Pak Squid 2.2Lb 魷魚 Reg: \$10.99 <b>8.99</b>	Viva Sea Keo Fish 340g 凍蝦 Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99</b>
Ferma Atlantic Chub Mackerel 750g 大西洋鱈魚 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>	BF Whole Milkfish 400g 牛奶魚 Reg: \$4.99/ea <b>2/\$7.00</b>	La Vaquita Cream 475g 奶油 Reg: \$10.99 <b>8.99</b>	Armstrong Cheese Series 芝士 320g Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99</b>	El Corral Mexican Chorizo Sausage Series 350-375g 腸仔 Reg: \$10.99 <b>9.99</b>	Bulacan Birch Flower 227g 神兜花 Reg: \$3.99 <b>1.99</b>

GROCERY

Cedar Pure White Vinegar 白醋 4L Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.88</b>	Kingsford's Corn Starch 鷹標粉 454g Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.39</b>	Lady's Choice Sandwich Spread 470ml 三明治醬 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.79</b>
Pearl White Glutinous Sweet Rice 4Lb 珍珠頂上甜糯米 Reg: \$5.99 <b>3.88</b>	Chewy Japanese Udon 日式冷麵 40x200g Reg: \$3.59 <b>1.99</b>	PEARL RIVER Mushroom Soy Sauce 5Lb 草蝦老抽 Reg: \$5.99 <b>2.99</b>
BOY Bawang Coriok 500g 帶魚 Reg: \$5.99 <b>3.99</b>	Leslie's Clover Chips Series 玉米餅片 2.5kg Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.79</b>	KC Candy Ginger Mint 90g 姜糖 Reg: \$1.99 <b>99¢</b>
Silver Swan Soy Sauce 1L 醬油 Reg: \$3.59/ea <b>2/\$5.00</b>	Ligo Sardines Series 155g 沙丁魚罐頭 Reg: \$1.59 <b>99¢</b>	Bulacan Coconut Gel in Syrup 340g 椰果罐頭 Reg: \$2.59 <b>1.59</b>
Classic Pearl Basmati Rice 珍珠米 8Lb Reg: \$9.99 <b>5.88</b>	SW Pineapple Chunks In Extra Light Syrup 540ml 糖水菠蘿 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99</b>	C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea Series 500ml 清涼綠茶系列 Reg: \$3.99 <b>99¢</b>
Tang Orange 2.2kg Reg: \$9.99 <b>6.99</b>	G7 Instant Coffee 3 in 1 咖啡 1800g Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.69</b>	KIM TU THAP Pan Cake Flour Mix 340g 西餅粉 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99</b>

MEAT

Pork Spare Ribs 豬排骨 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b>	Pork Spare Ribs 豬排骨 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>	Beef Butt 牛腩 Reg: \$7.59 <b>6.59</b>
Beef Short Ribs 牛仔骨 Reg: \$7.59 <b>6.59</b>	Chicken Leg Meat 雞腿肉 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.79</b>	

SEAFOOD

Fresh Whole Salmon 新鮮整條三文魚 Reg: \$1.99 <b>3.99</b>	Fresh Whole Tuna 新鮮整條吞拿魚 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>	Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 凍鮮有头黑虎蝦 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>
Frozen Fresh Pompano 凍鮮黑立鯧 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99</b>	Fresh Frozen Tilapia 新鮮上水魚 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>	Fresh Skate Wing 新鮮翅 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b>

DFM

# Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

We're simply the best West Indian store in town.



Angostura  
Lemon Lime & Bitters  
Drink 750 ml

2/\$3



Grace  
Coconut Water  
With Pulp 500 ml

2/2.20



Jamaican Pride  
Butter Beans  
398 ml

99¢ each



Cedar  
Parboiled Rice  
8 kg

12.99 each



Milo  
Drink Original  
240 ml

2/2.20



Miracle  
Peanut Punch  
250 ml

89¢ each



Dole  
Pineapple Juice  
1.36 L

1.79 each



Big Foot  
Cheese Snacks  
25 g

3/\$1



Raaz  
Canola Oil  
3 L

6.99 each



Grace  
Virgin Coconut Oil  
500 ml

5.99 each



Humming Bird  
Browning  
147 ml

1.99 each



Club Supreme  
Ground Black  
Pepper

2/\$5



Geisha  
Sardines In Tomato  
Sauce 425 ml

1.99 each



Sabina Green  
Pigeon Peas  
398 ml

2/2.50



Nupak  
Green Lentil  
2 lb

5.99 each



Dunya Red  
Kidney Beans  
8 lb

10.99 each



Clorox  
Liquid Bleach  
1.27 L

2.99 each



Dial Hand  
Soap  
Assorted 385 ml

2/2.20



Super Kill II  
Roach & Ant Killer  
375 ml

8.99 each



TMPR  
Alcohol Solution  
473 ml

2/\$3



# Delicious Jamaican Dish

**Frozen Easy Cooked Trimmed Oxtail**



**\$7.99**  
lb  
Frozen or Previously Frozen

**Grown From Australia**  
**Free Range Goat Meat**



**\$4.99**  
lb  
Frozen

**Fresh Beef Kidney**



**\$1.49**  
lb

**Fresh or Frozen Beef Shank Steak Center Cut**



**\$4.49**  
lb

**Salted Beef Short Ribs**



**\$5.99**  
lb

**Frozen Fu Yang Peeled Shrimps 40-50 500 g**



**11.99**  
each

**Salted Cod Fillet**



**\$4.99**  
Lb as is

**Fresh Large Chicken Feet**



**\$1.99**  
lb

**Fresh Chicken Split Wings**



**\$1.29**  
lb

**Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters**



**56.99**  
≥18 kg box  
**Exceldor**  
**59.99**  
≥18 kg box  
With Purchase of 2 cases or More Thursday To Sunday Only

## Fresh Seafood Catches

**Fresh Florida Red Snappers 3/4-1 lb size**



**\$7.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Yellow Tail Snappers Undsr 1/2 Lb size**



**\$4.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Baby King Fish**



**\$7.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Golden Groupers 4-6 lb**



**\$6.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Atlantic Whole Salmon**



**\$3.99**  
lb as is

### YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

**Fresh Jamaican Sweet Potatoes**



**3.99**  
lb

**Fresh Cassava**



**1.29**  
lb

**Fresh Calaloo**



**2.49**  
lb

**Fresh Organic Ginger**



**2.99**  
lb

## Five Locations To Serve You Better

**Specials in Effect Thu. Aug. 8th until Wed. Aug. 14th 2024.**

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

**Finch Ave. W.**  
Danforth Food Market  
3701 Keele St.  
416-398-8123



**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

**Steeles Ave. W.**  
Danforth Food Market  
301 Silverstone Dr.  
416-740-9870



**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 8 pm

**Sheppard Ave. E.**  
Danforth Food Market  
651 Markam Rd.  
416-439-6397



**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

Under New Management

**Bloor St. E.**  
Danforth Food Market  
1225 Dundas St.  
Dixie & Dundas  
Mississauga  
905-949-9990



**Store Hours**  
Mond-Thurs 9:30 am to 9 pm  
Fri.-Sat. 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 6 pm

**Stafford Dr.**  
Danforth Food Market  
144 Kennedy Road  
South  
289-298-0399



**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

**BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE**



**Global Knowledge:** Partnerships with Coursera provide access to world-class education.

**University Expansion:** The University of Guyana is expanding in high-demand fields such as science, medicine, engineering, and education. The \$11 billion Student Loan Write-Off programme offers financial relief.

**Skills Development:** Investments in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) support practical skills for in-demand industries. Upgraded training centres and expanded Board of Industrial Training (BIT) programmes have trained over 11,000 individuals since 2020.

**Industry-Specific Training:** The Guyana Technical Training College (G TTC) and other partnerships bring global expertise to the local oil workforce. Nearly 8,000 personnel have been trained in the tourism sector, with the upcoming Hospitality and Tourism Training Institute (HTTI) set to further enhance industry capabilities.



**Specialised Care:** Subsidised dialysis treatment and expanded units, along with enhanced mental health services, demonstrate the government's commitment to specialised care.



**Vision Care:** Free eye screening and spectacles for specific age groups address common vision issues.

**SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS**



Dr. Ali's government has implemented comprehensive programmes to assist vulnerable groups, including financial aid, housing access, and skill development opportunities.

**Child Welfare:** New daycare centres and expanded subsidies support early childhood development.

**Women's Empowerment:** Programmes in education, entrepreneurship, and business support have empowered women. Over 5,000 scholarships were awarded in 2023, and the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) initiative trained over 6,000 women in technical skills and entrepreneurship.



**HEALTHCARE ADVANCEMENT**



Guyana is experiencing a major overhaul in healthcare under Dr. Ali's leadership, focusing on expanding access, and improving infrastructure and specialised care.

**Infrastructure Expansion:** New hospitals, including a Pediatric and Maternal Hospital, and upgrades to existing facilities bring healthcare closer to communities. The addition of six new regional hospitals will further enhance accessibility.

**Human Capital Investment:** Increasing the number of doctors and nurses, along with enhanced training and retention, is a crucial focus for better healthcare delivery.

**Preventive Care and Early Detection:** Expanded screening programmes and a focus on maternal and child health are supporting vital early disease detection and overall population health.



**Elderly Care:** Increased pensions and expanded care services have improved the quality of life for senior citizens, with pensions rising from \$25,000 to \$36,000 per month.

**Disability Rights:** Enhanced financial assistance, training, and support services have improved the lives of persons with disabilities. Public assistance increased from \$9,000 to \$19,000, and the PWD Support Unit and Learning Resource Centre offer additional aid.



**Domestic Violence Prevention:** The government provides legal protection, shelter, and comprehensive support services. The Hope and Justice Centre provides crucial support and safety for those in need.



**Community-Based Initiatives:** Programmes like Men on Mission (MOM) focus on community collaboration to address social issues, supporting home construction, mentorship, and youth development.

**BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

Under Dr. Ali’s leadership, significant strides in housing and infrastructure are transforming communities across Guyana. These efforts are enhancing living standards, making homeownership more accessible, and improving people’s overall quality of life.



**Expanded Water Access:** Over 90,000 residents are benefitting from new or improved water points, with 31 new wells drilled in 2023.



**Hinterland Development:** Water coverage in hinterland villages reached 82% by 2023, with significant upgrades in areas like Kumu.



**House Lot Allocation:** Nearly 35,000 house lots have been allocated, out of a targeted 50,000 by the end of the government’s term.

**Affordable Homes:** Over 2,600 affordable homes are under construction, with more than 1,600 completed and 1,000 in progress. Major projects include developments in Region 1 and 9.



**Innovative Financing:** New financing options and support programmes are making homeownership achievable for more Guyanese.

- **Core Homes Initiative:** Since 2020, over 100 families have received new 20 x 20 two-bedroom concrete houses through the Core Home initiative, provided for a nominal fee of GYD\$100,000 (approximately USD\$480).



**Investing in Quality Water:** 12 existing treatment plants have been upgraded and 7 new ones constructed, with 5 additional plants planned to serve over 400,000 more residents by this year.

**Efficient Distribution:** Installation of over 65,000 meters of new pipelines reduced non-revenue water to 62% by 2023, with a target of 58% by 2024.

**Sanitation Upgrades:** Solid waste management has been enhanced with new facilities in Blairmont, Bon Success, and Haags Bosch, including tire shredders and compactor bins



- **Affordable Housing Innovations:** VAT exemptions on key materials, local sourcing of construction supplies, and increased mortgage loan ceilings are helping citizens in building their houses. Tax-deductible mortgage interest for loans up to \$30 million, and subsidies through the Steel and Cement Programme (over 1,200 vouchers issued at \$250,000 each) are aiding the housing drive.

**Community Development:**

Beautification projects and the creation of public spaces are transforming communities into vibrant and attractive places to live.



- **Kingston Seawall:** Upgrades include Wi-Fi, dining areas, and new parks.
- **Modernised Markets:** Improved facilities will enhance shopping experiences.

**Infrastructure Development:** Significant investments in roads, utilities, and community amenities are supporting housing development and enhancing citizens’ overall quality of life.



- **Albouystown Boulevard:** A \$1.4 billion transformation of Independence Boulevard features dual carriageways, a pedestrian promenade, and upgraded public spaces.



**Silica City:** A smart urban hub along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway with an initial \$3 billion investment caters for 110 stylish homes for young professionals, a robust road network, and a state-of-the-art drainage system.



## HINTERLAND INVESTMENTS

The PPP/C government has made significant strides in addressing development disparities between the coastland and hinterland regions. With a substantial investment of \$70 billion since 2020, the administration has implemented a comprehensive strategy to empower hinterland communities and improve residents' lives.



- Boosting Indigenous Leadership:** Investments in the National Tshaos Council Secretariat (\$147.8 million) and annual conferences have strengthened the role of village leaders in decision-making and community development.



- Securing Land Rights:** The expansion of the land titling programme enhances land ownership security for indigenous communities.
- Job Creation and Livelihoods:** The reinstated Community Service Officers (CSO) programme and Presidential Grants have provided employment opportunities and supported community-driven projects.
- Youth Development:** Over \$1 billion annually is allocated for job opportunities and training, with more than \$100 million designated for higher education for over 800 hinterland students.
- Cultural Preservation:** Continuous support, with \$147 million allocated in 2024, preserves and celebrates Amerindian cultural traditions, maintaining cultural identity and heritage.



## CELEBRATING CULTURE & BUILDING CHAMPIONS

Under Dr. Ali's leadership, Guyana is experiencing a resurgence in culture and sports. The government's commitment to preserving heritage, nurturing talent, and developing world-class infrastructure is transforming the nation into a vibrant hub for arts, entertainment, and athletics.

- Cultural Preservation and Promotion:** Investments in restoring historic sites, supporting local artists, and celebrating diverse cultural contributions are revitalising Guyana's cultural heritage. A \$100 million budget allocation in 2024 supports the International Decade for People of African Descent, honouring diverse cultural contributions.
- Talent Development:** The government's focus on showcasing Guyanese talent on the international stage, exemplified by the Caribbean Premier League Half-Time Show, is inspiring a new generation of artists.



- Sports Infrastructure:** Upgrades to sporting facilities and the construction of new, world-class stadiums are creating opportunities for athletes to excel, and for Guyana to host major sporting events. The new versatile world-

class stadia in Anna Regina, Palmyra and Linden currently under construction, will host various events and enhance Guyana's sporting and entertainment profile.



- Sports Tourism:** By hosting international competitions like the ICC T20 World Cup and the CPL finals, Guyana is positioning itself as a premier sports tourism destination.

## COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



The PPP/C administration has prioritised environmental sustainability as a cornerstone of Guyana's development strategy. Recognising the delicate balance between economic growth and ecological preservation, the government has implemented ambitious policies to protect the nation's rich natural resources.

### Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030:

- The LCDS 2030 outlines a comprehensive approach to integrating environmental stewardship with economic prosperity. By safeguarding Guyana's pristine rainforests, investing in renewable energy, and fostering a green economy, the government aims to build a sustainable future.
- International Partnerships for Sustainability:** Collaboration with countries like Norway and institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have provided crucial financial and technical support for Guyana's green transition.

### Carbon Credits revenue:

- Under Dr. Ali's administration, Guyana has secured significant revenue from carbon credits, including a landmark US\$750 million agreement with Hess Corporation, which has fueled investments in sustainable development.

### Supporting Sustainable Development:

- Over \$4.7 billion was allocated in 2023 to support 811 sustainable development projects in Amerindian and hinterland communities, empowering residents and fostering self-reliance.

## INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY



To accelerate Guyana's transition to clean and affordable energy, the government has initiated several key projects:

- Gas-to-Energy (GtE) Initiative:** This aims to deliver clean, affordable electricity.
- Amaila Falls and Kato Hydropower Projects:** Developing large-scale hydropower infrastructure.



# Guyana launches legal battle to recoup US\$34M from CLICO

IN an attempt to recoup US\$34,069,057, the Attorney General of Guyana and CLICO Life and General Insurance Company (South America) Limited (the claimants), which is presently in liquidation, have launched a lawsuit naming CLICO Investment Bank (CIB) Limited, which is likewise subject to compulsory liquidation, as the defendant.

The financial turbulence that has beset the CLICO Group for years has garnered attention once again as a result of the matter being taken before the High Court in Georgetown.

The lawsuit said that the roots of the legal dispute go back to the financial collapse of the CLICO Group, a complex web of companies that operated throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean, ultimately controlled by CL Financial Limited and its principal, Lawrence Duprey.

It stated that the collapse, which started around 2007, caused large financial losses throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean, especially in Guyana, where CLICO Life and General Insurance Company suffered greatly. The claimants are asking the court for a number of declarations and orders, including the enforcement of a 2019 decision against CL Financial Limited, that they are now attempting to apply to CIB. They are asking the court to substitute CIB as the defendant in place of CL Financial Limited and to permit the execution of a money judgment against CIB's assets in Guyana. Among the most significant claims is the allegation that CIB, a subsidiary of CL Financial Ltd., was involved in transferring over US\$34 million to CLICO Bahamas Ltd., a sum that was irrecoverable following the collapse of the group.

The claimants argued that this transfer was made with the knowledge that it would cause financial harm to CLICO Life and General Insurance Company and its policyholders in Guyana. The claimants further alleged that CIB and its parent company engaged in a series of fraudulent activities, including insider loan fraud, and participated in a pyramid scheme. They claimed that CIB borrowed extensively from other companies within the group, including CL Financial Limited, with no intention of repaying these debts, and granted loans on favourable terms that contributed to the financial collapse of the entire group.

According to the claimants, the financial crisis within the CLICO Group had far-reaching consequences for Guyana. For instance, they said the Government of Guyana was compelled to intervene, paying approximately GY\$5.6 billion to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) to prevent its failure due to the losses incurred from the collapse of the CLICO Group.

The government is now seeking to recoup these funds from CIB.

The claimants also accused the CIB of breaching its fiduciary duties, acting

dishonestly, and participating in the unlawful and improper transfer of funds. They asserted that CIB, along with its parent company and other subsidiaries, operated as a single, integrated economic unit, disregarding their separate corporate identities to the detriment of creditors and policyholders.

According to the statement of claim, the collapse of the CLICO Group was exacerbated by corporate mismanagement, financial impropriety, and the concealment of the true financial state of the group from regulators and governments. The claimants submitted that the corporate structure was a facade, designed to obscure the group's financial realities and to evade legal obligations. The Attorney General of Guyana and CLICO Life and General Insurance Company are seeking various remedies,



AG Anil Nandlall

including an order that they are entitled to trace the sum of US\$34,069,057 together with interest thereon into the monies being held by the Registrar of Deeds in Guyana and has an equitable title thereto, and that the said sums are being held in trust for them. According to the claimants, CIB was party to certain debentures with two companies incorporated in Guyana, namely, Bosai Mineral Group Guyana Inc. and Bosai Mineral Guyana Services Inc. They said that monies due to the defendant under the said debentures amount to approximately US\$20M and are currently being held by the Registrar of Deeds to the credit of them. According to the lawsuit, the defendant and other members of the CLICO Group are stopped from recovering the sum held by the Registrar of Deeds.

## Our Family Caring for Yours

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



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East  
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

www.ogdenfuneralhome.com

- **Solar Farm Projects:** Expanding solar energy generation in Lethem and Bartica.
- **Mini Grid PV Systems:** Providing electricity to off-grid communities like Baramita and Karaudaranau.
- **Solar Panel Distribution:** Equipping 30,000 Amerindian households with solar power.



## RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Responsible resource management is central to Guyana's development strategy. The government is committed to maximising long-term benefits while minimising environmental impacts:

- **Mineral Mapping and Automation:** This is promoting efficient and eco-friendly mining practices.
- **Support for Small-Scale Miners:** Miners are empowered to adopt responsible gold production methods.
- **Revitalised Bauxite Industry:** Investments have been made in infrastructure and renewable energy in Linden.
- **Sustainable Forestry:** Responsible forest management practices implemented and international certifications pursued.

## A CONNECTED NATION



Guyana's infrastructure is transforming to support economic growth and enhance citizens' quality of life. Significant investments are being made in transportation, energy, and digital connectivity.

**Expansion of Major Highways:** Projects include the Corentyne Highway expansion to four lanes, conversion of the Railway Embankment Road to a four-lane highway, and new roads in rural areas like Parika to Goshen. The Diamond to Grove Bypass has already alleviated congestion, while ongoing projects like the East Coast to East Bank Link and Linden-Soesdyke Highway will further improve connectivity and support regional trade.

### Modernising Bridges:

Upgrades include the B' Field Sophia Bridge for safer journeys and the Tucville Bridge to reduce congestion. Notable projects are the 32 new bridges from Kurupukari to Lethem and the planned landmark Corentyne River Bridge. The US\$260 million Demerara River Bridge, designed to enhance connectivity and safety, is halfway completed and features modern engineering aspects for improved traffic flow and vessel navigation.



### Expanding River Transport:

The MV Ma Lisha Ferry Service and upgraded stelling are enhancing river transport, improving connectivity in remote areas. Key projects underway include upgrades to the Kingston Goods Wharf, Morawhanna Stelling, Kumaka Stelling, and Port Kaituma, all aimed at supporting smoother and more efficient transportation.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Under the leadership of President Ali, Guyana is undergoing a rapid digital transformation that is reshaping its economy and society.



### Liberalisation of

**Telecommunications:** This has dramatically reduced internet costs, fueling the growth of industries like call centres and boosting Guyana's global competitiveness.



**Accessible Services:** The government is committed to making essential services more accessible and efficient. The Single Window System is streamlining financial processes, while the National eID is modernising identity verification. A comprehensive plan to digitise over 70 key government services is underway, starting with vital documents like birth certificates and passports.

**Public Safety and Healthcare:** Investment in technology is improving public safety through expanded camera surveillance and the Safe Road Intelligent System. The healthcare sector is benefiting from telemedicine and electronic medical records, enhancing access to care and efficiency.

### Bridging the Digital Divide:

To ensure that everyone can participate in the digital economy, the government is establishing free ICT hubs in remote communities. These centres provide access to computers, the internet, and digital skills training, empowering citizens and fostering innovation.



## GUYANA'S SOARING TOURISM INDUSTRY



Guyana is experiencing a tourism boom, fueled by significant investments in infrastructure, and a growing global reputation as an eco-tourism paradise.

**Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA):** The expansion and modernisation of CJIA have been pivotal in boosting Guyana's connectivity. Improved facilities and extended runways now accommodate larger aircraft, making it easier for international travellers to reach this hidden gem.

**New Flight Routes:** With major airlines and relaxed visa restrictions for several countries, Guyana is more accessible than ever before. This surge in connectivity has resulted in a dramatic increase in visitor arrivals, with numbers doubling in just two years.

**Visitor Growth**

- **2021:** 158,312 (83% increase from 2020)
- **2022:** 288,322 (82% increase from 2021)
- **2023:** 319,056 (10.7% increase from 2022)
- **2024 (Jan-May):** 141,078 (12.8% increase from 2023)



**Tourism Infrastructure:** New hotels are being built, and thousands of hospitality professionals are being trained to deliver world-class service. The country is also developing new attractions, and strengthening partnerships with neighbouring countries to create unique travel experiences.

**Sustainable Tourism:** Guyana's commitment to sustainable tourism has earned it international recognition, including the prestigious title of World's #1 Best Ecotourism Destination. As the country continues to invest in its tourism industry, it is poised to become a leading player in the global travel market.



**SECURITY AND PROSPERITY**

Security and justice are fundamental to a thriving society. Dr. Ali's government is committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all citizens. Significant investments are being made in law enforcement, crime prevention, and the justice system.



**Modern Court Infrastructure**

- Thirteen new court projects and twelve rehabilitation projects.
- Reducing prison overcrowding by decreasing pretrial detention.
  - Establishing a restorative justice centre and promoting alternative sentencing.
  - Bills to expedite court cases and establish a plea agreement system.

**Legal Education and Reform**

- Expanding legal aid clinics for greater access to representation.
- Appointing more judges to reduce case backlogs.
- Providing specialised training for prosecutors.

**Enhanced Security**

- **GPF:** Expanding police stations, including a twelve-story Brickdam Police Station. Upgrading vehicles, integrating ICT, using body cameras, promoting community policing, and training 2,000 ranks in gender-based violence and restorative justice.
- **GPS:** Upgrading Mazaruni and Lusignan prisons for better security and rehabilitation.
- **GFS:** Enhancing emergency response by upgrading fire stations, acquiring new equipment, servicing hydrants, and training officers.
- **GDF:** Strengthening national defence with an expanded fleet, advanced technologies, and increased personnel.

**Promoting Inclusivity**

- Established the National Coordinating Committee and National Mechanism for Reporting, Sworn in the Judicial Service, Public Service, and Ethnic Relations Commissions. New phase of Constitutional Reform to address governance and legal frameworks.
- Increased women's representation in Parliament to 39% and appointed women to leadership positions. Ensured 12% indigenous representation in Parliament.
- Drafted anti-discrimination legislation for sexual orientation and gender identity.

**GUYANA'S GLOBAL IMPACT**



Guyana is rapidly transforming into a significant global player. Under the leadership of President Ali, the country is strategically leveraging its economic growth and commitment to sustainability to elevate its international standing.

**Strong Diplomatic Presence:** Guyana has demonstrated its diplomatic prowess through successful handling of complex international challenges, such as the border dispute with Venezuela. The country's election to the United Nations Security Council is testament to its growing influence on the world stage.

**Regional Leadership and Global Partnerships:** By hosting major international events like CARICOM and FAO conferences, Guyana is positioning itself as a leader in sustainable development and regional cooperation. The government's focus on building strong bilateral relationships and forging new partnerships, is further enhancing the country's global footprint.

**Empowering the Diaspora:** Government recognises the invaluable contributions of Guyana's diaspora, and is actively working to integrate their skills and expertise into the nation's development.

**GUYANA'S RECOGNITION UNDER PRESIDENT ALI**

Guyana has garnered significant praise for its impressive economic and social progress under President Ali.



**National Accolades**

Domestically, President Ali's administration is celebrated for driving substantial economic growth. His focus on key areas has received praise from local business leaders and civil society.

**Regional Recognition**

Regionally, Guyana's rapid development has been acknowledged by Caribbean neighbours:

- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) recognises President Ali as a visionary leader.
- He was named the 2024 CARICOM Global Leader.
- In 2023, he was awarded the Order of Freedom of Barbados, for strengthening ties within the Caribbean community.

**International Praise and Awards**

- Globally, President Ali's leadership has earned Guyana notable acclaim:
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have lauded Guyana's economic performance as a model for developing nations.
- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has praised Guyana for its efforts in integrating sustainable practices into its development strategy.
- He received the Africa Freedom Award for his transformational leadership.

**A FUTURE OF PROSPERITY AND INCLUSION**



**As Guyana progresses under Dr. Irfaan Ali's leadership, the promise of continued growth and development remains strong. The PPP/C government's vision goes beyond immediate achievements, focusing on**

**harnessing economic successes to foster a resilient and inclusive society. By confronting new challenges and embracing emerging opportunities, the administration is dedicated to ensuring that the benefits of progress are shared by all Guyanese, paving the way for a more prosperous and sustainable future.**

# A NATION UNITED IN CELEBRATION



## 56 REGION THREE FAMILIES SECURE LAND TITLES



President Ali handing over certificates

Fifty-six families hailing from the in Region Three have officially become landowners after receiving their Certificates of Title. This significant development was made possible due to a commitment by President Ali during a recent outreach to the region.

transformative impact of land ownership, stating, **"You have that opportunity to hold your title and say to your children that you now have all the paperwork and legal possession of your land. You will now also be able to use this very important asset to get loans**

**to improve your homes, expand your business, and build prosperity for your family."**

The President further assured residents of the government's ongoing commitment to their well-being, highlighting plans to address land ownership issues in Greenwich Park

North, Anna Catherina Sea Wall, and Acme Housing Scheme.

Kumari Latchman, a recipient of a land title, expressed her elation, sharing that she had been waiting for this moment for 32 years. Ninwattie Ally and Roopnarine Singh echoed similar sentiments, expressing their deep appreciation for the government's efforts.



President Ali handing over certificates

the government's dedication to the region's development.

President Ali concluded by expressing his pride in delivering on the government's promises and assured residents of continued support.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, underscored the importance of land ownership in securing the future for families. Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, also addressed the gathering, emphasising



President Ali handing over certificates

The beneficiaries, emphasised the

## FIVE MORE FAMILIES RECEIVE CORE HOMES



Arisa Richmond, single mother of five and her family

Five low-income families were handed the keys to their new homes, thanks to the Ministry of Housing and Water's Core Home Initiative. The homes, located in Great Diamond, Golden Grove, and Farm on the East Bank of Demerara, represent another step

mobility challenges, expressed her gratitude for the home's specially designed bathroom, equipped with rails for her convenience.

**"I'm also incredibly grateful for the expertise of the builders,"** Best

said. Another beneficiary, Arissa Richmond, a single mother of five, described her new home as a dream come true. **"I went to Diamond and lived a short while, then back over the river. Now, there's no more moving for me, because I have my own home,"** she shared.



Donnette Mc Calmont, another beneficiary who received the key to her new home

Minister Croal acknowledged the anticipation among those awaiting their homes and urged patience. "I want to ask for patience from those who have been informed and who have been identified," he

said. Minister Rodrigues highlighted the government's commitment to providing affordable housing valued at \$750,000 each have already been distributed.



Debra Best, another beneficiary who received the key to her new home

commitment to in 2020, the PPP/C improving living government has provided conditions, mentioning homes to approximately that over 600 home 120 families through the improvement subsidies Core Home Initiative.

## MOM INITIATIVE PROVIDES NEW HOME FOR ELDERLY WOMAN

Seventy-year-old Sandra Hendricks has expressed immense gratitude after receiving a new home through the government's Men on a Mission (MoM) initiative.

Hendricks, who acquired a piece of land in Farm seven years ago, had lost hope of ever building a house due to her age. However, after reaching out to the Office of the President, her situation quickly changed.

**"I called the Office of the President and as soon as I called a young woman**



The newly constructed house that Hendricks will be moving into

**answered. Then I was at home one day and these men came and said that they were from MoM. From that process, they came back again, and we are here at**

**this house today,"** Hendricks shared.

Overwhelmed with joy, Hendricks said she was eager to move into her new home and leave her current living conditions behind. **"I**

**feel wonderful, I am blessed. And I thank President Dr. Irfaan Ali for the MoM initiative because I could never see this happening on my own,"** she expressed.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy, emphasised the government's commitment to improving the lives of its citizens, especially the vulnerable.

**"We have been delivering and we have been meeting**

**the needs of people, fulfilling aspirations, and bringing joy to faces, and families and that is how it ought to be,"** Minister McCoy stressed.

The MoM initiative, a brainchild

of President Ali, has been instrumental in transforming the lives of countless Guyanese. In addition to providing housing solutions, the programme also serves as a mentorship platform for young people.



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy handing over the key to Sandra Hendricks

# PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANUFACTURING TO BOOST ECONOMY

President Irfaan Ali has urged the local private sector to capitalise on the growing electric vehicle (EV) market by establishing EV manufacturing in Guyana.

Speaking at the opening of Banks DIH's new US\$13 million automotive subsidiary at Riverview, Ruimveldt, Georgetown, the President highlighted the country's potential to become a leader in sustainable transportation.

**"Guyana's carbon-negative economy presents a unique opportunity for us to pioneer EV manufacturing,"**

President Ali stated. "This is not just about transportation; it's about building a responsible future and prioritising environmental protection."

He encouraged local businesses and financial institutions to collaborate with international manufacturers to establish a domestic EV brand, emphasising the potential to tap into a market of over 300 million people through existing trade agreements.

**"This kind of forward-thinking will create new businesses and solidify Guyana's**

**position on the global stage,"** the President added.

To support the EV industry, the

expanding the country's transportation infrastructure. President Ali emphasised the government's

a zero-tax policy on electric vehicles.

Banks DIH's new six-storey automotive facility is a prime example of the private sector's contribution to Guyana's economic growth, according to President Ali. The company's investment in modern infrastructure and new automotive brands demonstrates its commitment to the country's future.

**"Banks DIH is showcasing what it means to be a forward-thinking company,"** said President Ali. "This building is a symbol of Guyana's progress."

Engineering Services Director at Banks DIH, acknowledged the challenges faced during the construction of the facility, including delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he emphasised that the investment represents a significant step towards shaping the future of transportation in Guyana.

The new subsidiary will serve as the official dealer for several automotive and related brands, including UniCarriers Forklift trucks, Daikin Air Conditioning units, and SWM vehicles.



Commissioning of the US\$12 million Banks DIH Automotive Subsidiary Company

government is investing in a nationwide charging station network and significantly

commitment to creating a favourable environment for EV adoption, including

Mohamed Shabir

# GOV'T BRINGS DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRY SERVICES TO PORT KAITUMA



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, during the outreach to Port Kaituma

The Attorney General's Chambers has fulfilled a promise made by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali by bringing Deeds and Commercial Registry services directly to residents of Port Kaituma. The outreach initiative, held at the Port Kaituma Community

Centre, allowed residents to access a range of services including business registration, powers of attorney, and notarisation.

Shirley Narine, a local resident, praised the efficiency of the service, stating, **"The service was great. We just came here,**

**waited a few minutes, and got through. It wasn't difficult. We are very much grateful to everybody who provided the service. It's much better than going to Georgetown."**

Pensioner Alvin Obermuller, who lives in Oronoque, expressed his relief at being able to register his small business without the hassle of travelling to Georgetown. **"It is wonderful that they brought it here. I feel very happy because I don't have to pay as much. They brought it right here for us,"** he said.

Sub-Regional Chairman Keith Parker emphasised the significance of the outreach for the Matarkai sub-region, stating that it has opened doors for business expansion. He explained that many businesses were previously unregistered, hindering their access to loans. The outreach addressed this issue by facilitating business registration.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall reaffirmed the government's commitment to establishing a permanent Deeds and Commercial

Registry office in Mabaruma, as promised by President Ali. The government also plans to open similar offices in Bartica, Mahdia, Lethem, and Linden.

Minister Nandlall emphasised the government's goal of bringing services to the people, rather than requiring them to travel to Georgetown. **"What you are witnessing here is that principle at work,"** he said.

In addition to the Deeds and Commercial Registry services, representatives from the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, General Register Office,

and Guyana Elections Commission were present. A team from the General Register Office is scheduled to return to the region to address the high volume of birth certificate registration cases.

The previous outreach programme in Mabaruma resulted in over 100 transactions and the registration of 77 new businesses.

Overall, the outreach initiative has been met with overwhelming positive feedback from residents, who appreciate the convenience and efficiency of having these services available in their community.

# GUYANESE BUSINESSES EMBRACING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

Guyana's business landscape is undergoing a significant transformation as companies increasingly adopt Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) principles in line with international standards. This shift is largely attributed to the surge in foreign investment, particularly in the oil and gas sector, according to the 2024 Investment Climate Report by the United States Department of State.

The report underscores a growing expectation for

businesses to prioritise supply chain integrity, robust health and safety measures, and fair labour practices. Guyana's legal framework already aligns with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, covering areas such as human rights, labour rights, environment, and consumer protection.

**"Local companies have improved RBC as firms react to increased levels of competition, partly to compete or subcontract with**

**companies in the oil and gas sector that emphasise it,"** the report stated. **"Guyanese consumers are increasingly aware of RBC principles as the population becomes more sensitised."**

The Ministry of Labour is actively contributing to this progress through sensitisation sessions aimed at educating workers and businesses about workplace legislation and compliance. Business support

organisations view Guyana as an attractive investment destination, citing the government's pro-business policies and open approach to foreign direct investment (FDI). The Local Content Act, enacted in 2022, further solidifies the country's commitment to local participation in the oil and gas sector.

To create a more conducive business environment, the government is implementing initiatives such as the electronic single window system for permit applications



and modernising the financial sector.

The report concludes that Guyana's business environment is evolving positively, with

companies increasingly adopting responsible practices, and the government fostering an investor-friendly climate.

# 195 PERSONS TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira

A 10-week course, initiated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, will equip 195 participants with a Certificate in International Human Rights Law.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, speaking at

the launch at Pegasus Grand Savannah suites, Georgetown, emphasised the programme's importance in addressing a perceived gap in human rights understanding. "We assumed that people knew about basic things like human rights, and as we went on our sojourn... we discovered that people thought they had [a knowledge of human rights] but didn't have," she explained.

The curriculum will cover a wide range of topics, including Guyana's domestic human rights framework, international human

rights standards, and contemporary human rights issues. The training will be delivered by experts, including Chief Justice Roxanne George-Wiltshire.

Participants expressed enthusiasm about the programme and its potential impact. Colette Ault, a resident of Region Seven,

believes the training will empower her to advocate for marginalised communities. "I do believe that human rights matter... [sometimes] people from the hinterland are not being represented and I believe I can be a voice for someone in that space," she said.

Young human rights volunteer Tyriq Scott praised the initiative, stating, "I think it's a wonderful initiative by the ministry because it is going to give persons, not just educated persons... but persons from all walks of life a chance to learn about human rights which is fundamental...and I am looking forward to seeing how it progresses in the future."

Renay Dettering, a domestic violence clerk, highlighted the practical benefits of the training. "I'm a domestic violence clerk attached to the

court and every day I have to deal with persons...and some of them don't know their rights. So, when I saw the course, I was excited so it will give me a [better understanding] of how to talk to them, and to tell them what they should and should not accept as humans," she explained.

The government hopes that this initiative will foster a deeper understanding of human rights in Guyana and strengthen the country's commitment to upholding these principles.



Some of the participants

# CARIBBEAN LAW LIBRARIANS GATHER IN GUYANA TO BOOST LEGAL RESEARCH

Law librarians from across the Caribbean convened at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Guyana for the 38th Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL) Conference. The event, focused on innovation, capacity building, and collaboration, with the aim of enhancing legal research services in the region.

Recognising the critical role of legal research in various fields, including law, business, and

government, attendees discussed strategies to improve access to legal



Senior Legal Advisor at the Attorney General's Chambers, Chevy Devenish

information. Senior Legal Advisor at the Attorney General's

Chambers, Chevy Devenish, stressed the importance of technology in making legal resources more accessible.

"I do think that governments need to play a bigger role in providing law libraries [and] the resources they need to contribute to this very important work," Devenish said.

Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, highlighted

the need for librarians to adapt to technological advancements while maintaining their crucial role in the legal profession. "AI will not replace you," she assured attendees. "Search engines and tools will just help to make the research faster and simpler."

The conference brought together information professionals from courts, government ministries, parliaments, academic institutions,



Law libraries conference focuses on capacity building and innovation

law firms, and libraries to share knowledge and best practices. CARALL, founded in 1984, seeks to foster cooperation

among Caribbean law libraries and improve legal research services throughout the region.

# OVER 1,600 LOTS REGULARISED IN SQUATTING AREAS

The government has made significant progress in addressing the issue of squatting, with 1,644 lots across 13 squatting areas in multiple regions regularised between 2020 and 2023. This initiative has positively impacted hundreds of households.

According to Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, the regularisation process is ongoing and part of the government's commitment to providing sustainable housing solutions.

## Key Figures

• **Region Two (Pomeroon-**

**Supenaam):** 228 lots regularised in Charity.

• **Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara):** 334 lots regularised across multiple areas including Greenwich Park, De Kinderen, Tuschen Railway, Uitvlugt/Stewartville, Vergenoegen Railway, Vergenoegen South Acme, and Good Hope Railway.

• **Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica):** 441 lots regularised in Bachelor's Adventure, Block CH Chateau Margot, and Annandale Railway.

• **Region Ten (Upper Demerara-**

**Berbice):** 508 lots regularised in Block E Christianburg and Blueberry Hill Wismar, and Conception, Fitz Hope-Parcel Three to Parcel 435 Amelia's Ward Phase Four.

Minister Croal emphasised that while the government is committed to addressing the issue of squatting, there will be no recognition of new squatting areas. He also highlighted the government's efforts to relocate families affected by squatting, such as the seven families displaced from Sarah Johanna who have been provided with temporary housing

and are in the process of securing permanent residences.

The government has identified eight squatting areas in Regions Three and Four for regularisation this year, benefiting an estimated 479

households. These areas include Philadelphia Railway, Barnwell Railway, De Willem, Vergenoegen/Tuschen, DeEndragt Railway, Vigilance/Bladen Hall/Strathspey Railway, Beterverwaging Railway, and Mocha/

Arcadia.

Minister Croal explained, "We are in various regions. We have some areas that we have recorded in terms of the squatting...We have an ongoing exercise for the removal of persons on the river dam along the Demerara River."

He added, "But there have been some small pockets that we have noticed popped up that we had to address...We have been monitoring the areas where we have squatting that we can minimise."



An aerial view of Plantation Fitz Hope (Amelia's Ward Phase Four) in Linden, Region 10, which was regularised

## 500 FISHERFOLK AT MON REPOS TO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS



President Ali engaging fisherfolks in Mon Repo

President Ali with the fishermen announced plans to enhance the working conditions for approximately 500 fisherfolk at Mon Repos, along the East Coast Demerara (ECD). During a meeting

commitment made by the head of state during an earlier engagement.

"We are committed to ensuring that the promises we made are kept," President Ali stated. "The access road construction will start next week, as we pledged to you."

Additionally, a ramp will be constructed to assist the fishermen in bringing their produce onshore, and the waterway in the area will be dredged to alleviate

the current challenges faced by boats due to shallow waters.

"I am here just to tell you that those things that you raised with us, we have already started to work on it," President Ali reassured the community. "I have asked the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Works to make the resources available."

One of the major concerns highlighted during the engagement was the lack of land

transport for households in the area.

"We understand the importance of having proper land transport," President Ali noted. "The Ministry of Housing and Water is actively addressing this issue to ensure you have the necessary infrastructure."

The head of state also emphasised the importance of resolving any outstanding issues among neighbours to expedite the process of providing ownership documents to the

residents. He expressed his commitment to swiftly addressing the necessary legal requirements to facilitate the issuance of transports or titles to residents before the end of August.

"Let [us] see how fast we can get this done and how we can go past the legal hurdle," President Ali said. "Let us see if we can get your title before the August holidays are over."

The improvements at Mon Repos are part of a broader effort by President Ali's administration to enhance the livelihoods of communities across Guyana.

## SPRAYING CAMPAIGN ONGOING IN REGION 6 TO COMBAT PADDY BUG INFESTATION

The Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a spraying campaign to combat a severe paddy bug infestation affecting rice farmers in Region Six.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha announced the initiative during a community meeting at the Albion Community Ground. He emphasised the government's commitment to supporting farmers in overcoming this challenge. "Region Six is a very important

rice-producing area for us," Minister Mustapha said. "We will work collaboratively with farmers to provide the necessary chemicals to spray affected areas."

Currently, 68,000 acres of rice land are under cultivation in the region. Minister Mustapha expressed optimism about controlling the bug

population, and achieving a full harvest at the end of the crop cycle.

To effectively monitor the situation, a paddy bug committee has been established to provide daily reports to the minister. This will allow for timely interventions as needed.

Farmers in attendance expressed gratitude for the

government's ongoing support for the rice industry. They are confident that with these measures in place, they can surpass the rice production target of 710,000 tonnes for this year, exceeding the previous year's output of 653,000 tonnes.

In addition to the spraying campaign, the government is also addressing drainage



President Ali engaging fisherfolks in Mon Repo

and irrigation issues in the region by clearing outfalls.

## GUYANA IMPORTING HIGH-YIELDING VARIETIES TO BOOST COCONUT PRODUCTION

The government is investing in the revitalisation of the coconut industry by importing an additional 50,000 high-yielding coconut varieties from Costa Rica.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, made the announcement during a community outreach programme in Tuschen and Windsor Forest. The government aims to

distribute these coconuts to farmers nationwide to increase productivity and improve the overall quality of the coconut crop.

"We have another 50,000 high-yielding coconuts coming from Costa Rica. We are helping farmers to get these varieties so that they can increase and improve their coconut variety," Minister Mustapha stated.



Guyana to import 50,000 more high-yielding coconuts from Costa Rica

In addition to the Guyana has also Costa Rican coconuts, imported nearly 60,000

Brazilian Green Dwarf coconut varieties, known for their high water content.

"We want to introduce new types of coconut into our country because it is a very lucrative crop and we want to be a main producer of coconut," Minister Mustapha emphasised.

The Minister encouraged farmers to form cooperatives to

maximise the benefits of government support and resources. He stressed the importance of agriculture in the country's economy and urged citizens to take advantage of available opportunities.

By investing in high-yielding coconut varieties, the government aims to boost the coconut industry, create jobs, and contribute to the overall economic growth of Guyana.



Ongoing River defence works on the Mackenzie watershore

A \$95.7 million river defence project is currently underway along the Wismar shore

in Linden to protect the community from the impacts of river erosion. Minister of Public

## \$95.7 MILLION RIVER DEFENCE PROJECT ONGOING IN LINDEN

Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, inspected the project and expressed satisfaction with the progress. The 175-meter structure, which includes rip rap and gabion baskets, is expected to be completed by mid-August.

"We are satisfied with the level of mobilisation and the

speed in which the project is moving. So, this project will be completed by mid-August," Minister Edghill disclosed.

Rip rap, consisting of large boulders, and gabion baskets, filled with rocks or soil, are being used to reinforce the shoreline and prevent erosion.

Minister Edghill emphasised the government's commitment to safeguarding communities from the effects of river erosion. "We have been taking an aggressive approach to monitor and upgrade existing structures," he stated.

The government has

allocated \$6.9 billion in the 2024 budget for sea and river defence projects across the country.

In addition to the river defence project, the government is also planning to construct a docking facility at the Mackenzie boat landing.



## GOVT'S EYE TESTING AND SPECTACLES PROGRAMME A HIT WITH GUYANESE

The government's eye testing and spectacles programme has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm from the public, with thousands of children and elderly citizens benefiting from the initiative.

Launched at locations including Dundee Health Centre, Enmore Hope Primary School, and Diamond Health Centre, the



A beneficiary during the eye testing and spectacle exercise

programme has provided free eye examinations and vouchers for

spectacles to those in need.

Parents and beneficiaries alike have expressed gratitude for the government's initiative. Mariah Ram, a parent, commended the programme, urging others to take advantage of the free service. **"It is free of cost and it is good,"** she said.

Christina Hassan, another parent, shared her relief, stating, **"It is**

**very nice because a lot of parents cannot afford to get their children's eyes tested on their own."**

Renessa France, a mother of three, highlighted the programme's impact on her family, as her children had been experiencing vision issues. **"When I heard that the government was doing this initiative, I brought them out to test their eyes,"** she explained.

Regional Chairman for Region Five, Vickchand Ramphal, emphasised the programme's positive impact on the community, noting that over 2,000 people have already benefited.

Minister of Health,

Dr. Frank Anthony, assured participants that individuals diagnosed with cataract during the screenings would be added to a treatment list for surgery. The

aged 18 and under and those 65 and older.

The initiative is part of the government's commitment to improving the lives of citizens by addressing healthcare needs and reducing financial burdens.

The overwhelming response to the



A beneficiary during the eye testing and spectacle exercise

programme offers vouchers worth \$2,000 for eye screening and \$15,000 for spectacles, targeting individuals

programme underscores the importance of accessible and affordable eye care services for the Guyanese population.



A beneficiary during the eye testing and spectacle exercise

The Ministry of Health has partnered with local fitness group Stride592 to launch the 'Strengthening Our Cardiovascular Advocacy' (SOCA) project, aimed at reducing the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in Guyana.

The initiative focuses on public education, awareness, and physical activity to combat the growing health crisis. Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, highlighted the alarming rate of CVD-related

## GOVT AND FITNESS GROUP JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE



Some of the participants of the SOCA project

deaths in the country, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts to address the issue.

**"If you think about the amount of people who die per year, we probably have about 6,000 people who die every year in our country, and the majority of those deaths are because of chronic non-communicable diseases,"** Dr. Anthony stated at the launch at

the Windjammer Hotel in Kitty, Georgetown.

Dr. Mahendra Carpen, Head of the Cardiology Department at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, expressed concern over the decreasing age of patients diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases. He stressed the importance of physical activity in preventing and managing these conditions.

Onika Jervis,

founder of Stride592, outlined the project's goals, which include educating the public about CVDs, promoting wellness, and organising weekly exercise groups.

By combining the expertise of the Ministry of Health with the grassroots efforts of Stride592, the SOCA project aims to make a significant impact on public health in Guyana.

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS URGED TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO RESIDENTS' NEEDS

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag, has issued a strong call for Neighbourhood Democratic Councillors (NDCs) to prioritise direct engagement with their communities.

Addressing a training session for NDCs and overseers in Region Four at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre at Liliendaal, Minister Parag emphasised the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to residents' needs.

**"You work for the people and communities that elected you,"** Minister Parag declared. **"Your**

**job is not a 9-to-5; it involves constant engagement with residents and addressing their concerns."**

The training programme, a government initiative to bolster local governance, equipped councillors with essential skills for effective community management. Minister Parag stressed the necessity for councillors to be accessible and responsive to the public.

**"You cannot gain or maintain the confidence of the residents if you do not appear,"** she reiterated. **"The foremost thing should always be the people in your community."**

The Minister highlighted the critical role of NDCs in Guyana's development. By strengthening local governance, the government aims to empower communities and enhance the overall quality of life for citizens.

Participants in the training expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to enhance their skills.

**"This training is invaluable,"** said Vanessa Benn, Vice Chair of the Industry/Plaisance NDC. **"It provides a much-needed platform for networking and sharing best practices among NDCs."**

Zaman Shaw, Chairman of the Better

Hope/LBI NDC, echoed Benn's sentiments, stating, **"The training is timely, especially for our many new councillors. It will equip us to better understand our roles and responsibilities."**

Harry Tilku, Vice Chairman of the La Reconnaissance/Mon Repos NDC, emphasised the grassroots impact of the training, stating, **"Stronger NDCs lead to stronger communities."**

Shantie Brumell-Bunbury, Councillor for Diamond/Grove NDC, expressed gratitude for the comprehensive nature of the training, which she believes will significantly enhance her ability to serve her

community.

The training covered a wide range

Participants expressed confidence that the acquired knowledge will



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag addressing the councillors

of topics, including financial management, legal frameworks, and community development.

enable them to better serve their constituents and contribute to the overall development of their communities.

## DE HOOP ROAD PROJECT ON TRACK FOR AUGUST COMPLETION

Residents of De Hoop, Mahaica, can expect relief from the ongoing road construction as Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, has assured that the project will be completed by the end of August.

The \$294.3 million project, being executed by R&B Investment Inc., has faced delays due to design changes accommodating a requested retaining wall. Despite the setbacks, the minister remains optimistic about meeting the new deadline.



Ongoing Road works in Mahaicony Branch Road

**“Now that we got the retaining wall up, my instruction will be that by the end of August, we wrap up everything,”** Minister Edghill stated.

The project involves constructing a sand or sand clay base, followed by an asphaltic concrete layer. Additionally, a 400-meter reinforced concrete curb is being built on both sides of the road.

The minister emphasised the importance of completing the road before the upcoming harvest season to facilitate farmers' transportation of produce. **“We are building the road to ensure that your productivity as rice farmers in the area is enhanced,”** he highlighted.

While the De Hoop project progresses,

the ministry is also undertaking a \$373.3 million road upgrade on Branch Road in Mahaicony. However, concerns about the sub-base quality have been raised, prompting a review by the ministry's design department.

Minister Edghill has ruled out widening the road due to constraints posed by utilities and costs.

## LINDEN TO BENEFIT FROM ADDITIONAL \$1.3 BILLION ROAD UPGRADE

The government has allocated an additional \$1.3 billion for the upgrade of key roads within the mining

town of Linden. This investment will see 26 local contractors engaged in road rehabilitation projects across various

communities.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, announced the initiative during recent site inspections. He emphasised the government's commitment to improving the transportation infrastructure in Linden.

**“We have started with these 26, and within a couple of weeks, we will identify all the other roads to be fixed in phases to ensure that**

**everybody gets their roads repaired,”** Minister Edghill stated.

The minister also highlighted the government's strategy to empower local contractors. **“Last year, some contractors lacked the capacity with pavers and equipment, so we engaged smaller contractors to work on concrete roads in sections. This allowed us to involve over 50 contractors in Linden,”** he



Ongoing Road works in Linden



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, along with regional officials and engineers inspecting ongoing road works in Linden

explained.

The road works will cover several communities, including One Mile, Buck Hill, Wisroc, Amelia's Ward, South Amelia's Ward, Central Amelia's Ward, Block 22, Blueberry Hill, Canvas City, and Christiansburg.

This additional funding complements a previous \$1.8 billion investment for the upgrade of 84 critical roads in the region. The overall goal is to enhance the quality of life for Linden residents and stimulate economic growth.

## GOVT CRACKS DOWN ON HEAVY VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The government is taking steps to improve the quality of life for residents in residential areas by restricting heavy vehicles from using narrow community streets.

Public Works Minister Bishop Juan Edghill announced the new regulations following a meeting with residents and councillors of Lamaha Gardens who had raised concerns about traffic disruptions.

**“We will put up signs prohibiting heavy vehicles, trucks, and articulated vehicles from using small community streets,”**

Minister Edghill stated. **“We will also reduce speed limits and increase police patrols in these areas.”**



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill engaging stakeholders of Lamaha Gardens on traffic disruptions

The minister also addressed residents' concerns about traffic congestion caused by vehicles avoiding traffic lights by using residential streets as shortcuts. He urged truck drivers to respect traffic laws and avoid damaging roads and disturbing residents' peace.

**“We cannot allow these vehicles to destroy our communities,”** Minister Edghill emphasised. **“We will**

**be monitoring the situation closely and making adjustments as needed.”**

The government is also investing in infrastructure improvements, such as the ongoing Conversation Tree Road project, to alleviate traffic

congestion and improve road conditions.

The new restrictions on heavy vehicles are expected to significantly improve the living conditions for residents in affected areas.

## GOVT FULFILS PROMISE TO UPGRADE ROADS IN FARM AND MOCHA-ARCADIA

Residents of Farm and Mocha-Arcadia on the East Bank of Demerara are now enjoying improved road infrastructure, following a significant investment by the government.

President Ali had pledged \$400 million for road upgrades in the area

during a previous visit, and the government has delivered on that promise.

The Ministry of Public Works' Special Projects Unit (SPU) oversaw the project, which included the rehabilitation of Tank

Road, Farm, and the

construction of new roads in both communities. The upgraded roads are expected to enhance transportation, improve accessibility, and stimulate economic growth.

The project aligns with the government's broader plan to

upgrade road networks nationwide. A total of \$204.1 billion has been allocated for road and bridge improvements in the 2024 budget, with a substantial portion dedicated to community roads.



Before and after of Farm main access road, East Bank Demerara

# E-TICKETING SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED ON NEW HIGHWAYS



Massive infrastructural works taking place on the East Bank of Demerara

In a continued effort to improve traffic management and reduce road violations, President Ali has mandated the installation of e-ticketing systems on all new highways.

President Ali announced this directive while inspecting several road works that are part of the extensive interconnecting highway projects on the East Bank

of Demerara, including upgrades to "Red Road" and "Dumpsite Road." These roads are being converted into four-lane highways to facilitate better traffic flow.

Addressing the engineers on-site, President Ali urged them to ensure the inclusion of the e-ticketing systems in the current infrastructure projects. **"Ensure that when**

**you put the street lights, you put the extended arm for the electronic ticketing system, because the entire legislation is in place now. All the new highways [must have them],"** he emphasised.

The e-ticketing systems, which incorporate cameras and advanced technology, will monitor traffic accurately, check speeds, read license plates, and track traffic violations to ensure efficient ticketing. The systems are a crucial part of the amended Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, passed by the National Assembly recently. This amendment aims to assist police in identifying drivers who violate speed limits and

fail to wear seatbelts.

The road intelligent camera system will be installed on traffic lights to support the new law's enforcement. These systems will be managed by the Guyana Police Force. When a vehicle violates speeding or seatbelt laws, photographs will be taken, and a notice of the fine will be sent to the vehicle owner's mobile phone and mailed to their address.

The urgency of this initiative is underscored by the high number of road fatalities in recent years. In 2023 alone, 175 people lost their lives in road accidents. President Ali is confident that the new law will serve as a significant deterrent to speeding and other traffic violations, ultimately

enhancing road safety.

**"We are committed to reducing road accidents and saving lives,"** President Ali stated. "This new system is a major step towards achieving that goal."

The President also inspected other four-lane upgrades in the area. Once completed, these highways will facilitate faster access to and from the East Bank Highway and the new Heroes Highway,

eventually connecting to the East Coast corridor. The construction and upgrade of these roads and the broader road network are expected to significantly reduce congestion and travel time for commuters.

**"This development is crucial for easing traffic flow and improving the daily commute for thousands of people,"** President Ali noted.



President Ali inspecting ongoing road works on the East Bank of Demerara

# IMMINENT COMMISSIONING FOR SCHOONORD TO CRANE HIGHWAY

President Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced that the highly anticipated \$15.1 billion Schoonord to Crane four-lane highway is set to be commissioned within the next three weeks.

The new road is expected to significantly alleviate traffic congestion for thousands of commuters on the West Bank and West Coast of Demerara.

"Within the next two to three weeks we will commission the Schoonord to Crane Highway that will bring tremendous ease to

you," President Ali stated during a land title distribution ceremony in Barnwell, Region Three.

The President further outlined plans for the highway's expansion: "The second phase will soon be launched, extending connectivity from Crane to Parika and opening thousands of acres of new lands within the region." This expansion, according to President Ali, will see Region Three transformed with a new road network connecting Wales to Parika, Mowasi, Bartica, and eventually

Timehri.

President Ali also emphasised the government's broader development agenda for Region Three, including the construction of two new ports, massive housing schemes, commercial and industrial developments, and increased electricity supply. Agriculture expansion and support for farmers are also key priorities.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, echoed the President's sentiments, stating that



Working the night shift to complete the Schoonord to Crane four-lane highway by the end of the month

all infrastructure projects are designed to improve the lives of citizens and reduce transportation costs. He highlighted ongoing housing developments in Anna Catherina, Stewartville,

and Wales, as well as the construction of hundreds of new roads.

## NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE PROGRESSING

President Ali also provided an update on the \$260 million new Demerara River Bridge, assuring the public that despite initial doubts, the project is on track.

**"Now the pillars are coming out the water and you are seeing that the bridge is coming along, the doubting Thomases are being silenced,"** he said.

The completion of the bridge is expected to significantly reduce travel time between Regions Three and Four.

# CORENTYNE RIVER BRIDGE AWAITS CHINESE FINANCING



Artistic impression of the Corentyne River Bridge

The construction of the highly anticipated Corentyne River Bridge, aimed at enhancing connectivity between Guyana and Suriname, is currently pending financial approval from

the Republic of China.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, revealed this during a meeting with the Upper Corentyne Chamber of Commerce. The project has progressed to the point of selecting a preferred contractor following a competitive tender process.

"We have gone through the full tender process, we have a preferred contractor at the end of an evaluation process and both

governments have agreed to approach our partner, the Republic of China to finance the project," Minister Edghill stated.

Suriname's President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, recently delivered a joint letter from himself and President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to Chinese authorities to secure financing for the project.

Once financial approval is secured,

construction of the 100-year bridge, spanning from South Drain to Moleson Creek, can commence. The project is expected to take three years to complete.

Beyond the bridge, the government envisions developing Long Island into a strategic hub, including new farmland, job opportunities, and infrastructure. This is expected to boost agricultural production and contribute to Guyana's food security

goals.

Preparatory work on roads and bridges from Moleson Creek to El Dorado has already begun. Additionally, the government is considering establishing a free zone on Long Island to stimulate economic activity.

The Corentyne River Bridge project is seen as a catalyst for regional development, promoting trade, tourism, and cross-border cooperation between Guyana and Suriname.

The Ministry of Housing and Water and the Ministry of Home Affairs have signed a Memorandum of

## PRISON INMATES TO PRODUCE CONCRETE BLOCKS FOR SILICA CITY



MoU signed for GPS to produce 500,000 concrete blocks for Silica City

Understanding (MoU) for the Guyana Prison Service to produce 500,000 concrete blocks for the upcoming Silica

City development on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway. The initiative, a cornerstone of the Community-

based Employment Stimulation Project (CESP), aims to provide inmates with income-generating opportunities while contributing to national development. Production is set to begin at the Lusignan Prison.

Housing and Water Minister Collin Croal highlighted the project's dual benefits: "This is a startup, and the prison is an example where we talk about vulnerability. These are persons who

will, obviously when they complete their term, be going back to their respective communities, but they will leave with a skill that they can now go back and form their own group and become entrepreneurs."

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "This is another example of how we

can innovate and use various government programmes to reform the lives of prisoners and also to stimulate the economy and employment."

Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn emphasised the importance of prisoner rehabilitation. "The fact that we have people in prisons poses a couple of challenges in relation to their rehabilitation...We

have been looking at finding ways to have them more active," he said.

Director of Prisons Nicklon Elliot assured the public of the high quality of the concrete blocks to be produced by the inmates.

The collaboration between the two ministries marks a significant step towards both economic development and prisoner rehabilitation in Guyana.

## CONSTRUCTION OF PALMYRA TO MOLESON CREEK HIGHWAY TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

The long-awaited construction of a four-lane highway from Palmyra to Moleson Creek is set to commence in August, according to Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill.

The project has been divided into three lots, with the first two already awarded to an Indian contractor. Lot one,

spanning from Canje Bridge to Johns, is valued at \$3,218,817,060, while lot two, from Bloomfield to Number 54 village, is worth \$2,986,009,355. The third lot, from Number 55 village to Moleson Creek, is currently out to tender.

Minister Edghill emphasised that while the contractor is responsible for the

design, the ministry has conducted independent studies to identify the optimal alignment for the road. This includes a new route that avoids populated areas but incurs higher costs compared to upgrading the existing road.

The minister acknowledged the congestion challenges at Rose Hall and

Corriverton, and indicated that bypasses are being considered to address these issues.

To facilitate the road expansion, the government has initiated the relocation of utilities, including those of GT&T, GPL, and GWI. However, the process has faced delays due to space constraints.

"We have to be

able to get the civil works contractor and the utility contractor to operate together because we would have to establish a utility corridor that will allow for cable operators, water, telephone, and electricity," Minister Edghill explained.

The construction of the four-lane highway is



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill during discussions with members of the Corentyne Chamber of Commerce

expected to significantly improve transportation and economic development in the region.



The Cemetery Road Project

The long-awaited construction of a four-lane highway from Palmyra to Moleson Creek is set to commence in August, according to Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan

Edghill.

The project has been divided into three lots, with the first two already awarded to an Indian contractor. Lot one, spanning from Canje Bridge to Johns, is valued

## FINAL TOUCHES UNDERWAY FOR CEMETERY ROAD PROJECT

at \$3,218,817,060, while lot two, from Bloomfield to Number 54 village, is worth \$2,986,009,355. The third lot, from Number 55 village to Moleson Creek, is currently out to tender.

Minister Edghill emphasised that while the contractor is responsible for the design, the ministry has conducted independent studies to identify the

optimal alignment for the road. This includes a new route that avoids populated areas but incurs higher costs compared to upgrading the existing road.

The minister acknowledged the congestion challenges at Rose Hall and Corriverton, and indicated that bypasses are being considered to address these issues.

To facilitate the road expansion, the government has initiated the relocation of utilities, including those of GT&T, GPL, and GWI. However, the process has faced delays due to space constraints.

"We have to be able to get the civil works contractor and the utility contractor to operate together because we would

have to establish a utility corridor that will allow for cable operators, water, telephone, and electricity," Minister Edghill explained.

The construction of the four-lane highway is expected to significantly improve transportation and economic development in the region.

## GOVT TO ILLUMINATE GUYANA WITH 100,000 NEW STREETLIGHTS

The government is set to significantly improve public safety and infrastructure across the country with the procurement of 100,000 new streetlights.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, announced the ambitious plan during a community outreach in Roxanne Burnham Gardens, South Georgetown. The ministry has already initiated the

procurement process by issuing a public tender for the lights.

"We have put out a public tender to buy 100,000 streetlights," Minister Edghill confirmed. "As a matter of fact, the tender document has been prepared and we are just checking all the fine print, and then we will be launching it."

While expressing optimism about the

project's rollout within the next few months, the minister emphasised the importance of a stable power supply to sustain the new lighting infrastructure. He highlighted the upcoming gas-to-energy project as a crucial factor in ensuring uninterrupted electricity.

"A massive streetlight programme throughout the length and breadth



Streetlights along the Heroes Highway

of Guyana is coming in a wave, but it also has to be tied with us getting additional power to the grid," Minister Edghill explained.

The new streetlights will also serve as valuable assets for traffic management, as they can be equipped with cameras for surveillance and monitoring.

The minister urged citizens to protect the lights from vandalism, emphasising the importance of community involvement in maintaining the new infrastructure.

## PRESIDENT ALI SUPPORTS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HEALTH FAIR WITH \$2 MILLION GRANT



President Ali at the annual health fair, business expo, and family fun day

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has shown his support for the Guyana Conference

of Seventh-day Adventists by pledging a \$2 million grant towards their annual health fair, business expo, and family fun day.

The announcement was made during the event's opening ceremony at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia. President Ali emphasised the government's commitment to supporting such initiatives that benefit

the community.

**"We would like to support this initiative with \$2 million to help you,"** President Ali stated. **"I know that your transportation and logistics costs will be high too, so we are going to support you additionally on this programme."**

The government will also provide vouchers for eye care services to those in need. President Ali encouraged the

Adventist body to identify individuals requiring cataract surgeries at the newly operational National Ophthalmologist Hospital in Port Mourant.

The head of state highlighted the importance of community outreach programmes, emphasising the holistic approach of the Adventist Church, which focuses on physical,

spiritual, and mental well-being.

Pastor Osley Edwards, Ministerial and Communications Director of the SDA Conference, expressed gratitude for the government's support and highlighted the church's commitment to providing health services to the community.

The health fair offered a range of services including medical consultations, screenings, eye exams, and dental care, attracting a large crowd.

First Lady Arya Ali's 'Adopt-an-Orphanage' initiative has continued to make a significant impact on the lives of young Guyanese, with the number of beneficiaries now reaching approximately 300 children across nine orphanages.

Launched in June 2021, the programme aims to provide financial relief, resources, and support to orphanages nationwide. The initiative's third phase, launched recently, introduced expanded services including

medical checkups, dental care, eye exams, and counselling.

**"Together we are building a future where every child in Guyana knows their value, and is capable of achieving great things,"** Mrs. Ali emphasised during the launch at State House, Main Street, Georgetown.

Camille Lewis, a representative from the

Ruimveldt Children's Home and Care Centre, expressed gratitude for the initiative. **"It is through your partnership that we can continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of these children and encourage them to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential,"** she said.

The First Lady

and several sponsors, including J's Supermarket, Demerara Bank Limited, and the Chinese Embassy, signed Memoranda of Understanding to solidify their continued support for the programme.

With this expansion, the 'Adopt-an-Orphanage' initiative continues to be a beacon of hope for vulnerable children in Guyana. Orphanages currently

benefitting during the programme's third phase include: Prabhu Sharan Orphanage, Red Cross Convalescent Home, Bless the Children Home, St John's Bosco Orphanage, Shaheed's Girls Orphanage, Shaheed's Boys Orphanage, Hope Children's Home, Joshua's Children Home, and Ruimveldt Children's Home and Care Centre.



First Lady, Arya Ali and a representative from Optique Vision Care

## JUDGES' FORUM AIMS TO ENHANCE JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

A National Judges' Forum on HIV, Human Rights, and the Law was convened at the Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Georgetown to address the challenges faced by individuals living with HIV in the legal system. The forum aimed to promote fair justice and equality for this population.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, emphasised the importance of reducing stigma and discrimination against



Judges' Forum discusses HIV patients access to justice and equality

people living with HIV/AIDS. He urged judicial officers to understand the complexities of

the health system and work collaboratively to create a more supportive environment.

Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, highlighted the constitutional mandate to protect individuals with varying diseases and disabilities. She stressed the importance of ensuring equal treatment for all within the judicial system.

The forum brought together key stakeholders, including Guyana's Chief Justice (ag) Justice Roxanne George, High Court

Judge of Trinidad and Tobago Justice Avason Quinlan Williams, and UNDP Representative Gerardo Noto. They emphasised the need for equity in the judicial system for people living with underlying conditions.

UNDP representative Gerardo Noto highlighted the correlation between a protective legal environment and lower HIV prevalence rates. The forum,

organised by the Judicial Institute of Guyana, the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is the first of two planned events. The second meeting will delve deeper into the role of the judiciary in protecting people living with HIV and other key populations.

By fostering a better understanding of the challenges faced by people living with HIV, the forum aims to strengthen the judiciary's capacity to deliver fair and equitable justice.

## GUYANA LEADS CARIBBEAN WITH INNOVATIVE RESPIRATORY CARE EDUCATION

Guyana has made a significant leap in healthcare education by launching the Bachelor of Science Degree in Respiratory Care programme at the University of Guyana (UG). This groundbreaking initiative positions the country as a regional leader in respiratory care.

The programme, a collaborative effort among the Ministry of Health, UG, and the

Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), was developed in a remarkably short timeframe of 11 months. It aims to address the critical need for respiratory therapists in Guyana, particularly highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, emphasised the importance of this programme in strengthening Guyana's healthcare system and

preparing for future health challenges. "This then became a natural thing to do; we just needed to get a course like this so [that] we can train professionals and have them in the system," he stated, speaking at the launch at the Herdmanston Lodge.

Dr. Waleema Bacchus-Ali, a key figure

in the programme's development, expressed pride in Guyana's pioneering role. **"Guyana will be the first in the Caribbean and one of just a few developing countries to offer a respiratory [degree] programme,"** she said.



Guyana launched the Bachelor of Science Degree in Respiratory Care

# GUYANESE DIASPORA CELEBRATES EMANCIPATION DAY IN BROOKLYN



Scene from the Brooklyn Emancipation Day event

inspiring the current generation to carry forward their legacy.

Guyana's leading role in the reparations movement was also a focal point of the event. Persaud urged attendees to proudly share the nation's history of activism and how Guyana's ancestors inspired the global fight for freedom.

The celebration brought together a



Scene from the Brooklyn Emancipation Day event

The Guyanese community in Brooklyn came together to commemorate Emancipation Day with

Robert Persaud delivered a keynote address, emphasising the government's significant financial contribution to Emancipation Day observances. Over the past four years, nearly \$88 million has been allocated to support these events, with this year marking the highest level of funding. Persaud stressed the importance of reflecting on the struggles of past generations and



Scene from the Brooklyn Emancipation Day event

and recognising the contributions of those who paved the way for the community. She expressed pride in representing her Guyanese heritage in the New York State Senate and underscored Guyana's commitment to advocating for reparations.

The celebration

was marked by festive activities and shared reflections on the enduring impact of Emancipation Day. It served as a powerful reminder of the community's shared heritage and its commitment to honoring the sacrifices of past generations.



Scene from the Brooklyn Emancipation Day event

a vibrant celebration hosted by the Consulate General of Guyana. The event highlighted the enduring cultural ties of the diaspora and their commitment to honouring the legacy of their ancestors.

Foreign Secretary



Scene from the Brooklyn Emancipation Day event

distinguished group of Guyanese leaders, including Ambassador Michael Brotherson, Senator Roxanne Persaud, Permanent Representative Trishala Persaud, and Senator Jabari Brisport. They shared heartfelt reflections on the significance of Emancipation Day and the enduring impact of African ancestors.

Senator Roxanne Persaud highlighted the importance of unity



Scene from the Brooklyn Emancipation Day event

# VICTORIA VILLAGE UNVEILS EMANCIPATION ARCH



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony and children from Victoria. Young artist, Kayden Meusa, in the middle

A new symbol of resilience and heritage has risen in Victoria Village. A magnificent emancipation arch, designed by 14-year-old Kayden Meusa, was unveiled as the community celebrated Emancipation Day.

The project, a collaborative effort between the government and Victoria Village residents, aims to

honor the sacrifices and unwavering spirit of African ancestors. Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, and Attorney General Mohabir Anil Nandlall were among the dignitaries present at the historic ceremony.

Dr. Anthony emphasised the importance of preserving and sharing the history of slavery and emancipation. He stressed that the arch serves as a powerful reminder for future generations to appreciate the struggles endured by their ancestors. The Minister also highlighted the potential for further celebrating Victoria's

rich cultural heritage.

Young artist Kayden Meusa, who conducted extensive research on Victoria's history for the arch's design, was recognised for his exceptional work with a plaque and a token of appreciation.

Victoria Village holds a special place in

Guyana's history. As the first village purchased by freed slaves in 1838, it symbolises the triumph of human spirit over adversity. The 1823 Monument, unveiled in 2013, already commemorates the enslaved lives lost in the Demerara slave uprising.



The arch



# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 73

## PRESIDENT ALI CONNECTS WITH CITIZENS AT STABROEK MARKET

President Dr. Irfaan Ali conducted a walkabout at Stabroek Market Square in Georgetown, engaging with shoppers, vendors, and commuters. Accompanied by Deodat Indar, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, President Ali listened to individual concerns and committed to addressing them.

**"We are here to listen and act on your concerns,"** President Ali affirmed, emphasising the government's focus on improving citizens' quality of life. This event is part of President Ali's ongoing effort to stay connected with the public and ensure government actions meet their needs.





South America Undiscovered

#discoverguyana



*"Make no mistake, and mark my words today, by 2030, no tourism product in this region will come close to Guyana's tourism product. We will have the facilities, we will have the infrastructure" - H.E. Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.*

# Escape to Paradise

## Unwind, relax and rejuvenate in Guyana!



Scan QR



For a full listing of all our licensed tour offerings.



**JAGAN DENTAL CENTRE**

TAKING CARE OF  
**All Your Dental Needs**

Dentists: Dr. Clive R. Jagan, Dr. Shane A. Jagan,  
Dr. Kyle V. Jagan, Dr. Ian N. Jagan

We at JDC have one objective in mind: To make sure you get the professional and personal attention you deserve. So be ready for a relaxed and pain free dental experience.

11 Lamaha and Light Streets,  
Georgetown, Guyana  
Tel: (592) 226-0400  
e-mail: info@jagandentalcentre.com  
www.jagandentalcentre.com

**CLINICAL SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Teeth Whitening
- Laser Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implantology (Implants)
- Endodontics (Rootcanals)
- Prosthodontics (Dentures, Crown & Bridge, Veneers, etc.)
- Pedodontics (Kiddy Dentistry)
- Periodontics (Gum Surgeries, Deep Scaling, De-pigmentation, etc.)
- Oral Surgery (Extractions)

