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THE inaugural continental meeting of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) is being held in Guyana. Military and sports representatives from Canada, The Dominican Republic, Brazil, Barbados, the United States and Guyana are participating in the meeting. Addressing the opening ceremony on Monday, Colonel, Administration and Quartering, Captain (CG) Vernon Burnett welcomed the participants to the meeting, noting that their presence reflected the shared commitment to the ideal of CISM and the promotion of friendship through sport. Guyana's affiliation with CISM was solidified in 2019 during the General Assembly and Congress in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This means that Guyana's soldiers now have the privilege to participate in all CISM activities, often regarded as the Olympics of Armed Forces.

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OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT ALI'S PRESIDENTIAL OUTREACH

- MANY PRESSING CONCERNS ADDRESSED



Overwhelming response to Presidential outreach

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali conducted a walkabout in the communities of Bath Settlement and Ithaca, Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice) where he listened to the residents as they highlighted several issues that have been plaguing their communities.

BATH SETTLEMENT

Bath Settlement livestock farmers voiced their frustration over the unavailability of land for their cattle and other animals to graze. In response, President Ali announced that approximately 5,000 acres of land are being prepared to accommodate all livestock in the region.

To address issues relating to social services, an oversight committee will be established that will be integrated into the decision-making structure at the Regional Democratic Council (RDC).

Residents were also informed that bids have been published for a new water treatment plant at Bath, which is expected to be completed next year, that will improve service delivery.

President Ali further said that monies are earmarked in budget 2024 to improve the community centre and establish a children's park. Additionally, the Ministries of Public Works and Local

Government and Regional Development will be assessing the condition of the community roads in the village.

ITHACA

Additionally, the president announced that the government will be working over the next few weeks to address

community roads in Ithaca, Blairmont and Rosignol.

Farmers also complained of crop damage due to cattle, which is why fencing materials will be provided to alleviate the problem.

Another sore issue affecting residents was the lack of street lights in the community. The

working with the Ithaca Co-op Society to craft a strategy that will see more youths being integrated into the agriculture sector.

According to President Ali, the government will assist in opening up lands and will also provide tillers, planting and shade house materials so that young people can be involved in agri-business and agri-innovation.

Meanwhile, soon, works will commence on improving the kiddie's corner, as well as the recreational facility while the Ministry of Health will be informed of the need for a resident doctor.

The National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) will also ensure that any problem affecting the operation of the sluice in that area will be resolved while the Community Policing Group (CPG) will benefit from working mobile patrols.

concerns, the Head of State assured that he would work with the relevant authorities to solve them.

He also announced that within Budget 2024, several streets in Supply have been earmarked for rehabilitation. A commitment was also made to rehabilitate the tarmac of Sir James Douglas Primary School and have it outfitted with basketball and tennis courts.

The community playground will be upgraded during the first quarter of this year while plans are also in place to renovate the community centre.

Farmers were additionally told that the Ministry of Agriculture will expand the black giant egg production programme while they will work to clean clogged drains and excavate where necessary to bring relief to farmers.

ANN'S GROVE & VICTORIA

President Ali disclosed plans to involve youths, single parents and women in agriculture ventures, empowering them to earn to support their families during his engagements in Ann's Grove and Victoria.

In both communities, he appointed committees consisting of members from the community and technical staff from

assessments, with the aim of rehabilitating streets and main roads and clearing blocked drains and canals.

He also announced that the government's plans to rebuild bridges and install streetlights.

Further, the Head of State committed to having a team from the Ministry of Education assess the reported overcrowding at the school and determine measures that should be implemented.

EAST BANK

The Presidential outreach also Extended to many villages along the East Bank Corridor including Friendship and Surrounding areas

During the meeting at Friendship, President Ali disclosed that a team would be deployed from the Ministry of Legal Affairs to visit the community and mediate outstanding land issues.

At Timehri, he told residents who occupy unregularised house lots, that measures will be put in place to accommodate them along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway where lands are being developed for housing.

Further, he disclosed a team will visit the youngsters in the community to highlight employment and educational/training opportunities

These engagements are part



Residents appreciate the opportunity to raise concerns with President Ali

drainage and irrigation, agriculture, health and infrastructure issues in the community of Ithaca, as well as Rosignol and Blairmont.

Several Ithaca residents complained of the internal drains being clogged, which is leading to flooding in some areas.

Dilapidated and undeveloped streetways were also highlighted, and the head of state informed that the Ministries of Public Works and Local Government and Regional Development would be conducting an assessment of the

Guyana Power and Light (GPL) will be conducting an assessment in the community after which, the installation will be advanced.

"In this year's budget ... we have an item in there that will be dealing with street lights throughout the country because we understand street lights are important for your community, for safety for security, and it also improves the quality of life," he further disclosed.

Additionally, the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture will be

SUPPLY

The president's walkabout and community interactions continued in the villages of Supply, Ann's Grove and Victoria.

While in Supply the President heard residents' call for better drainage and irrigation, agricultural support (both livestock and crops), road construction, and the need for streetlights among other security initiatives.

After listening attentively to the



President Ali engaging the youths in Guyana

various departments to coordinate development projects.

The head of State pledged the government's commitment to rehabilitating the children's playground, enhancing community centres and conducting

of the government's commitment to meet with citizens at the grassroot level to ensure that communities are developed according to the priorities listed by the residents.

PRESIDENT ALI ENCOURAGES MORE TRADE BETWEEN AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali pitched the idea of increased trade between Africa and the Caribbean, explaining that opportunities exist for massive benefits for both Africa and the Caribbean.

President Ali who was at the time on official visit to Ghana underscored the importance of ensuring systems are put in place to achieve the increases. This, the president opined, will serve to fix the trade barriers, and issues with transport and logistics.

During a panel discussion as part of the Africa Prosperity



His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Dialogues 2024 Summit of Heads of State and Business Leaders, President Ali, who is also the current chair of CARICOM, was adamant that both Africa and the Caribbean can benefit from the opportunities

that exist. **“There are tremendous opportunities as we seek to have the issue of food security resolved within the region. When you look at our region’s**

population, you may say that our population is very small, but what we give to Africa, to investors, is access to a market of over 400m people in which we have trade arrangements aa trade agreements,” the President said.

Pointing specifically to aquaculture, the President said that the size of the aquaculture market in the United States is US\$4 Billion annually, and Guyana is among the most competitive countries when it comes to aquaculture and the production of fish products for the US

market.

“You have the know-how, you have the technology, we have the land, and we have the competitive advantage. What if we merge? And for us to do this, we have to think outside of the box. We have to embrace the new opportunities. We have to look beyond the traditional areas. And, the Caribbean and Guyana present this very important opportunity for you,” the President noted.

During his presentation, the President also underscored that the Caribbean and Africa

need to work together on other important issues, such as climate change and energy security.

He lauded Africa’s “fearless leadership”, pointing to South Africa as an example.

“One of the things I want to recognise is that Africa has been a place of fearless leadership, and recently, South Africa reminded us that Africa remains a place where fearless leaders exist, always standing up on the right side of things and on the right side of humanity,” the President noted.

HISTORIC \$1.1146 TRILLION BUDGET APPROVED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- OVER \$200B FOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- HEALTH, EDUCATION RECEIVES \$129.8B AND \$135.2B RESPECTIVELY

Guyana’s first, historic \$1.146 trillion National Budget 2024 themed “Staying the Course: Building Prosperity for All” which will accelerate the nation’s development agenda was successfully approved, without any changes in the National Assembly.

This biggest budget exceeding the trillion-dollar mark for the first time is 46.6 per cent larger than budget 2023.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh piloted the nation’s largest fiscal plan.

The government and opposition parliamentarians participated in extensive budget debates on the fiscal plan for five days, followed by the consideration of estimates for the various ministries and agencies in the Committee of Supply.

The trillion-dollar budget, which imposes no new taxes, is partially financed by revenue earned from Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) under the original Low Carbon Development Strategy



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

(LCDS) totaling \$6.8 billion and is projected to receive a further injection of \$43.7 billion earned from the sale of carbon credits. Moreover, an estimated \$240.1 billion from the Natural Resources Fund (NRF) will be withdrawn and transferred to the Consolidated Fund to support the country’s development agenda.

Budget 2024 is designed to expedite social and infrastructural development, advance food and energy security, develop housing infrastructure, support small businesses and vulnerable groups and improve the welfare of the citizens by creating

new job opportunities and promoting income generation

A huge allocation of the budget is dedicated to improving the country’s infrastructure whether it be roads, bridges, sea defence and airstrips among others, with \$221.4 billion allotted to this sector.

To achieve its vision of a world-class healthcare and education system, \$129.8 billion and \$135.2 billion was approved respectively. Guyanese will continue to benefit from affordable housing and access to potable water, with \$78 billion approved to advance housing infrastructure and \$20.5

billion to expand water access.

Energy security is paramount to the nation’s development which is demonstrated in the \$95.7 billion investment contained in the budget, to develop the energy sector and \$80 billion for the continued development of the landmark gas-to-energy project.

Moreover, Guyana’s security will be bolstered with \$90 billion allocated to the various security arms and \$72.3 billion to upgrade the country’s drainage and irrigation (D&I) infrastructure to reduce the risk of flooding.

Key measures

include the increase in the old age pension from \$33,000 to \$36,000; public assistance from \$16,000 to \$19,000 and the Because We Care student grant has jumped from \$35,000 to \$40,000, injecting billions of disposable income into the pockets of citizens.

Also, the income tax threshold will now move from \$85,000 to \$100,000 thereby removing 13,000 persons from paying taxes.

Additional persons will benefit from employment opportunities as \$10 billion will be invested this year to expand the part-time job programme while small businesses will receive support in the form of lower interest rates on loans up to \$5 million, thereby reducing the cost of financing for establishing new businesses.

The budget also aims to remove Value Added Tax (VAT) and duty on sports equipment, essential cell phone accessories such as chargers, charging cables and headphones, and phone components for repairs.

In order to ease the cost of living, the government will maintain zero excise tax on fuel to absorb fuel prices and the reduction in freight charges will be extended from January 1 to December 31, 2024. Additionally, \$7 billion has been allocated for cost-of-living measures, which will be decided after the government holds consultations with the various stakeholders.

Additionally, as part of its commitment to making university education free, the government will commence the first phase of eliminating outstanding loans owed by graduates of the University of Guyana (UG).

Budget 2024 builds upon the PPP/C Government’s previous budgets that build out a foundation for the country’s transformation and prosperity pathway that will guarantee each and every family benefit from wealth and social opportunities.

GPHC ACCOMPLISHES FIRST LAPAROSCOPIC 'KIDNEY TRANSPLANT'

In a groundbreaking achievement, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) successfully performed its first laparoscopic donor nephrectomy, marking a significant advancement in kidney transplant surgery in Guyana.

The laparoscopic donor nephrectomy was conducted on a female donor who selflessly contributed her kidney to a 17-year-old male relative.

The young recipient had been grappling with



Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) successfully performed its first laparoscopic donor nephrectomy

chronic kidney failure attributed to type one diabetes. The transplant was a resounding success, and the transplanted kidney is functioning exceptionally well.

Notably, the patient has shown no further need for dialysis, demonstrating the effectiveness of the procedure in restoring renal health.

This remarkable achievement is attributed to the collaborative efforts of the transplant and vascular team, working seamlessly with the general surgery, anesthesia, and nursing teams. The multidisciplinary approach ensured a comprehensive and well-coordinated effort, contributing to the overall success of the surgery.

Dr. Kishore Persaud, the lead surgeon for the ground-breaking procedure, expressed

enthusiasm about the positive outcomes, stating: "The successful laparoscopic donor nephrectomy signifies a significant milestone for GPHC and the healthcare landscape in Guyana. This modern technique allows for precision and minimal invasiveness, promoting reduced post-operative pain, quicker recovery, minimal scarring and lower risk of complications."

He further elaborated that both the donor and recipient are currently in recovery and are expected to return to their daily lives soon.

The GPHC said it remains committed to the expansion

of laparoscopic surgical procedures. Additionally, the hospital is set to broaden its spectrum of laparoscopic services, leveraging the enhanced resources and capabilities now at its disposal.

"This decision underscores GPHC's unwavering dedication to maintaining a leading position in medical advancements and delivering top-notch healthcare services while setting a promising precedent for the future of kidney transplant surgeries in Guyana," the hospital said.

Source: Chronicle News

DENTAL CLINIC OPENS AT CUMBERLAND HEALTH CENTRE

A new dental clinic has been opened at the Cumberland Health Centre, East Berbice Corentyne, Region Six as residents continue to benefit from improved health services provided by the government.

The new section of the health centre cost the Ministry of Health approximately \$3 million.

It is equipped with a dental chair which comes with various equipment and components.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony stressed the importance of dental hygiene and encouraged the residents to make use of the

services.

"We want to do one thing, and that is to move away from this thing where, when people get a toothache and they go to a health facility we will pull it out. No, we don't want to do that. We want to save the tooth. And that's why with the facilities that we are opening, we want to ensure that people come and do preventative checkups," the health minister explained.

Minister Anthony said that last year, the ministry did close to 220,000 dental procedures, the largest

of its kind to ever be recorded in the country as it expanded its service.

Additionally, Regional Chairman, David Armogan stated that the added service greatly correlates with the region's rapid health services development that is currently ongoing.

"Our health centres and primary health care are extremely important for all of us in this region. And that is why since we came back into government in 2020, we have ensured that every single one of our health centres has been upgraded," Armogan told the residents present.

The regional

chairman added that dental services have changed in the region, with a range of services such as filling and cleaning coming on board.

Meanwhile, Executive Officer of the Berbice Regional Health Authority, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo recounted how far the region has come in terms of services and infrastructure.

"This facility has grown and not only in size. Under this PPP/C government and this Minister of Health... over the last three years, this region would've received over \$400



New dental clinic opened at the Cumberland Health Centre

million for every single facility to be upgraded, and this is just one example of the facilities," Dr Mahadeo stated.

Over the past year dental cleaning in Region Six has doubled.

This added service at the Cumberland Health Centre will take the region's dental clinic to the eighth one being established.

NEW SCHEP MOED HEALTH CENTRE TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Primary healthcare in Region Six will be further boosted as a new \$20.3 million health centre was commissioned at Schepmoed, East Bank Berbice.

This newly established building will take the number of health facilities in the region to 42, and will serve residents of Schepmoed, Mara, and its environs.

Delivering the feature address at the commissioning ceremony, Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony stressed the government's commitment to expanding and advancing primary healthcare services in the

country.

"We are extending some of the services that we have at other places and we will have people working from here, and we will constantly work to improve it as well," Minister Anthony stated.

He encouraged persons from within the communities to take up training in the health sector so that they can become qualified and work at the facility, while at the same time helping to bring those improved services to the residents.

Additionally, Regional Chairman, David Armogan stated that the new health centre will meet the needs of the people,



New Schepmoed health centre

especially those who suffer from the popular illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

This, he said, will allow them to access their medication in a

faster manner, rather than going to the New Amsterdam Regional Hospital which is quite some distance from the residents of Schepmoed and Mara.

"So, all these

developments are happening within the health sector, billions and billions of dollars are being spent...this means therefore that the government is paying more attention to improving the health facilities in the country to ensure that our people can benefit," the regional chairman explained.

Meanwhile, Regional Health Officer, Dr Vishalya Sharma, noted that disease prevention is extremely important. She said that decentralising the services to the various health centres is more than just reaching the residents, but rather taking down statistics to know how the region can minimise both

communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"We stand here every single day to provide that service to each and every resident of Region Six... This facility is just part of the strengthening of the primary healthcare sector that has been taking place in your community," Dr Sharma told the residents present at the commissioning.

The centre consists of a waiting area, examination rooms along with newly procured and modern medical equipment, and a sanitary block.

LOCAL FIRM TEAMS UP WITH CRYSTAL LAGOON TO INTRODUCE WATERFRONT BLUE WATER COMMUNITIES

The Monarch Group, a local real estate development company, has signed an agreement with US-based technology company, Crystal Lagoon, to bring waterfront communities to Guyana.

The collaboration aims to bring beach life to Guyana, while introducing a new era of waterfront communities.

In a statement, it was explained that Crystal Lagoons' innovative technology has been instrumental in crafting turquoise blue waters and sandy



Crystal Lagoon

beaches in prestigious communities and public access spaces across the globe, including in Saudi

Arabia, Dubai, Egypt, Mexico, Argentina, and the United States.

The centerpiece of

the partnership will be the development of the first-ever Monarch Bay waterfront community

in Guyana.

The investment is led by prominent Guyanese businessman, Clairmont Cummings, who announced the partnership.

"We are thrilled to announce our exclusive partnership with Crystal Lagoons, a world-class technology company renowned for its visionary approach to creating stunning waterfront environments," said Mr. Cummings.

He said the collaboration marks a significant milestone for both companies

and represents a commitment to bringing transformative developments to the heart of Guyana.

As the master franchisee for Guyana, the release said Monarch Group is poised to create iconic waterfront communities that will stand as a testament to the synergy between cutting-edge technology and visionary real estate development.

Source: News Source GY

MULTI-NATIONAL CAPA INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO PROPEL FOOD SECURITY EFFORTS

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) officially launched the Caribbean Agricultural Productivity Improvement Activity (CAPA), a programme that aims at increasing food security efforts, while strengthening the livelihoods of farmers locally.

The three-year project will focus on providing support to farmers to increase the production of fruit and vegetables, and building connections with consumers. It will also input suppliers, and help with improving farm-level extension systems.

Additionally, the project will utilise an integrated value chain approach to support value addition and practical storage solutions to preserve shelf life while easing the implementation of on-farm technology like

climate-smart practices and shade shelters to boost yields.

During the launch at the University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha said the implementation of the programme is being executed at a critical time, where the effects of the Russian-Ukraine war continue to present immense challenges for global food security.



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha

The agriculture minister noted that heavy investments have been pumped into the agriculture

sector to advance food productivity over the years.

This fits into the collective regional food security policies and aggressive food security agenda to achieve the ambitious 25 by 2025 goal.

"I am particularly encouraged by the intention of this project... All of the far-reaching benefits that this project promises can be divorced from other related regional goals such as the reduction of our food import bill by 25 per cent by 2025. In fact, all of the commodities that are being targeted in this project are identified as priority commodities in some form under the 25 by 2025 programme,"

Minister Mustapha stated.

In Guyana, he said hundreds of

young people are also benefiting from the Agriculture Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP).

Over 300 youths from Regions Two, Five, and Ten will benefit from the hydroponics project.

CAPA will be rolled out in Guyana, Suriname, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

US Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot asserted that the CAPA programme is an important milestone in US-Guyana and Caribbean relations in addressing food insecurity regionally.

CAPA aims to lessen the region's poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition, which are made worse by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, inflation, and climate



Launch of the \$5.3 million regional programme at the University of Guyana

change.

Ambassador Theriot highlighted that the US Government is supporting its partners in the region to address the unique and evolving climate, energy, food security, and capacity challenges facing Caribbean nations.

USAID Regional Representative, Mervyn Farroe, UG's Vice Chancellor, Professor Paloma Mohamed-Martin and other officials also delivered remarks.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed by UG's Vice Chancellor,

and Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC) CAPA's Programme Director, Sandford Edwards, to advance policy recommendations and help to mobilise additional technical and financial resources.

It will also improve the turmeric value chain in Guyana, Suriname, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

CAPA is implemented by IESC and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

OUTGOING CHILEAN AMBASSADOR BIDS FAREWELL TO MINISTER TODD



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd & outgoing Chilean Ambassador to Guyana, His Excellency Francisco Sepulveda Valenzuela

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd received a farewell courtesy visit from outgoing Chilean Ambassador to Guyana, His Excellency Francisco Sepulveda Valenzuela.

Minister Todd expressed gratitude to the Ambassador for his contributions to the strengthening of the

partnership between Guyana and Chile. Ambassador Valenzuela noted Guyana's leadership within the region, and expressed his deep appreciation to be able to represent Chile in Guyana.

Minister Todd stated that Guyana will continue to build on the collaboration with Chile to advance its

Foreign Policy Agenda, particularly in energy, food, and climate security.

Guyana and Chile established diplomatic relations on July 22, 1971, and have maintained friendly bilateral and multilateral relations.

GUYANA APPOINTS NEW TOURISM MARKETING AGENCY TARGETING NORTH AMERICA

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) continues to target the international tourist market by appointing market representation firm, Emerging Destinations to promote Guyana in the North American travel markets, specifically in the United States (US) and Canada.

According to a release from the GTA, the North American Market Representation Firm will promote Guyana in North American Travel Markets specifically the US and Canada.

"The United States and Canada are Guyana's core markets in North America,



Guyana Market's Tourism Product

where travellers seek authentic nature, culture and adventure-based experiences.

The market representatives will work year-round to raise awareness and establish Guyana's presence in these markets, increase demand, and strengthen

the direct connections between international tour operators, travellers and the Guyanese travel trade," the GTA stated.

Director of the GTA, Kamrul Baksh noted that 2024 is a year of Strategic Partnerships for the GTA.

"As we embark on a

new chapter in promoting Guyana as a premier travel destination, the partnership with Emerging Destinations marks a pivotal moment for us.

Their expertise in the North American market aligns seamlessly with our vision, and together,

we look forward to strengthening our promotional efforts of the beauty that Guyana embodies. Together, we will continue to develop and promote Guyana as a must-visit destination for travellers seeking authenticity and adventure," he said

The GTA noted too that with the recent increase in airlift options to Guyana from international partners like British Airways, the GTA is also working to secure market representation in Europe shortly.

In the recent 2024 National Budget Presentation, the Senior

Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh, noted that the tourism sector is poised for a dramatic takeoff this year.

He noted increase in airlift and improvement connectivity, along with an addition of 1000 world-class rooms will impact this growth in the sector.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

As Guyana's tourism sector continues to expand more businesses and guides are getting licensed to benefit from the many opportunities that are being presented within the sector.

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) hosted the first tourism business licensing clinic for 2024, at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre where some of the tourism stakeholders expressed their gratitude to the government for this initiative.

Joel Fredericks said he was intrigued by the outreach and the services he received.

"I came here this morning to get my business registered and get some advice about insurance and all the necessary documents because I have been operating and I want to add more to my little tourism project that I'm doing at Mainstay,"

Fredericks explained.

Perspective tour operator, Marlon Joseph welcomed the initiative noting that he was able to receive the necessary information needed to register his business.



Marlon Joseph

"Many of the booths were relevant. We were able to gather the information needed and I think we're on the right path," he stated.

Meanwhile, Jessica John of Singing Chef Adventures said the

programme has been useful.

"They listened to us, and they heard us and I think that's incredibly important," John emphasised.

Meanwhile, GTA's Manager of Training and Licensing, Tamika Inglis said that January marks the period for inspections and relicensing, and the clinic was aimed at streamlining the process, making it more convenient for stakeholders.

"We find that a lot of persons in the industry have challenges being licensed because of various reasons. Maybe they don't have a document from GRA or housing or something

to that extent and they are having challenges obtaining those documents. So, we said let's bring everybody together under one umbrella, so...You're getting served almost immediately. We have all the agencies here," Inglis stated.

Additionally, GTA's Director, Kamrul Baksh noted that the clinics held last year were very successful and a total of 232 businesses and guides were licensed.

The GTA is hoping to surpass the number of businesses and guides in 2023.

Some of the agencies that participated included the Environmental

Protection Agency Guyana (EPA), the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), the

Revenue Authority (GRA), and the Guyana Office for Investment, among others.

TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS WELCOME GTA'S BUSINESS LICENSING CLINIC



Stakeholders welcome licensing Clinic

GUYANA CONTINUES TO BUILD CAPACITY IN TOURISM SECTOR

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) continues to build capacity in the tourism sector with the addition of 22 new tourism experiences in 2023.

The GTA said this is a marked increase from the 17 launched in 2022, bringing the total of new tourism products launched to 49 since 2020.

These new experiences were developed



Tour operators engaged in product development

in collaboration with several tour operators, who work in various regions, including indigenous communities. Additionally, GTA licensed 232 tourism businesses and tourist guides, surpassing the

59 businesses and guides in 2022.

"This includes 16 tourism accommodation establishments, 10 interior lodges and resorts, 173 tourist guides and 33 tour operators," the GTA stated.

With regards to training, 2,250 people were trained in various areas for 2023.

According the authority, this is also a notable increase from the 2,089 persons trained in

2022.

The Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) training in collaboration with the Centre for Local Business Development, saw three licensed tour operators becoming officially HSSE-approved by the centre, these operators are-Tourism Guyana, Blackwater Adventure and Eco-Destination Tours Guyana.

Guyana is making

strides in the developing tourism sector with the country recording the arrival of 319,056 visitors, the highest in history. With this increase in visitors and the advent of several branded hotels in Guyana, it is inevitable that more persons are trained and the capacity is built to facilitate these developments in the industry.

GUYANA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF THE ARGYLE DECLARATION



His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali received the Letters of Credence from the new Non-Resident High Commissioner of New Zealand to Guyana, HE Linda Te Puni at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

President Dr Irfaan Ali received the Letters of Credence from the new Non-Resident High Commissioner of New Zealand to Guyana, HE Linda Te Puni at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

During a brief ceremony, the Head of State underscored that Guyana is on a path of transformational development, and is prioritising being a global leader in the areas of climate change,

food security and energy security.

The President also highlighted that Guyana is diversifying its investment portfolio globally, and wants expanded partnerships with its bilateral partners.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd subsequently received a courtesy call from the newly accredited non-resident High Commissioner.

During the

engagement, Minister Todd and the Ambassador identified and discussed potential areas to further advance bilateral cooperation between Guyana and New Zealand, including agriculture and food security, climate change, culture and sport and capacity building and training.

Minister Todd also underscored the Government of Guyana's commitment to the rule of international law, democracy, good

governance, and the preservation and protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The High Commissioner noted that New Zealand shares similar values and anticipated a mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

GUYANA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF THE ARGYLE DECLARATION

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Guyana and Venezuela held their first meeting of the Joint Commission in Brasilia, Brazil. This meeting was in line with the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace that was agreed upon after the meeting of the Presidents of Guyana and Venezuela on December 14, 2023.

According to Paragraph 7 of the Declaration, the two states agreed to immediately establish a joint commission comprising of the Foreign Ministers and technical persons from



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd

both countries. The commission was to address matters that were mutually agreed upon, and an update was to be submitted to the

Presidents of Guyana and Venezuela within three months.

At the meeting, Guyana proposed an agenda, and Minister

Hugh Todd, who was the head of Guyana's delegation, explained that this country's position regarding the land boundary between Guyana and Venezuela has not changed. Guyana maintained that the settlement of this controversy was properly before the International Court of Justice in accordance with the Geneva Agreement. Therefore, it must remain there until the Court gives its final ruling on the merits of the case, which will be fully respected by Guyana.

Guyana will

not undermine the judicial process or the Geneva Agreement by participating in any other means of settlement of the controversy as long as it is pending before the Court.

Minister Todd suggested that regional and hemispheric statements on peace and security could be a means of moving forward in the discussions. He also offered a number of areas that the two countries could discuss, including agreements already entered into between them on drugs, Jet A1 Fuel, and matters relating to food security.

Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of the Argyle Declaration, particularly the maintenance of peace in Latin America and the Caribbean. The country looks forward to the next meeting to advance the relationship between Guyana and Venezuela.

Finally, Minister Todd expressed his sincere appreciation to the Foreign Minister of Brazil, HE Mauro Vieira, for facilitating the discussions. He also thanked the representatives of CELAC and the United Nations for attending as observers.

POWER PLANT FOR GAS TO ENERGY PROJECT SLATED FOR THIS YEAR

Construction of the power plant for Guyana's flagship Gas to Energy project is set to begin in the second quarter of this year, bringing the vision of supplying over 250 megawatts of energy to the national grid closer to realisation.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh said the government will build on the momentum garnered in 2023 to facilitate the project's start-up by the end of this year.

"Significant advancements in the civil works required for setting up the



Artist Impression Gas-to-Shore Project

integrated plants were completed, along with the Material Offloading Facility," the minister said

A heavy-haul road has been completed

and is currently in use, facilitating the transport of materials to the work site. Additionally, 26 kilometres of onshore pipelines have been installed.

On shore

pipeline installation and first offshore pipeline installation activities which began in 2023 will continue this year to support the start-up of the integrated

powerplant by December 2024," he added.

In the 2024 budget, \$80 billion has been allocated to advance this project, and its associated infrastructure, including transmission and distribution upgrades to offtake the power.

With the potential to cut electricity costs in Guyana by 50 per cent, the highly anticipated Gas to Energy project will see a 200-kilometre pipeline bringing gas from the Liza Destiny and Liza Unity Floating Production fields onshore.

Upon arrival at this West Coast Demerara facility, the

pipeline will continue for approximately 25 kilometres to the Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) plant to be constructed in Wales, West Bank Demerara.

The project will bring a plethora of benefits to Guyanese, including job creation, improved electricity access, foreign investment, and energy security.

The government has partnered with ExxonMobil to develop the necessary infrastructure and facilities to transport and process the gas for use in power generation and other applications.

EXXONMOBIL GUYANA CONDUCTS OIL SPILL RESPONSE INSPECTIONS

Under its commitment to environmental protection, ExxonMobil Guyana conducted a quarterly Preventative Maintenance activity on its Oil Spill Response Crucial Kit equipment at the GYSBI shore base.

This exercise aims to ensure that there is adequate in-country response capacity in the unlikely event of an oil spill.

The team conducted visual inspections of the containment boom and skimmer packages, as well as the oil dispersant stockpile, to ensure that all systems were in place for rapid deployment in case of emergency.

Within the oil spill emergency response

scope, equipment such as the boom and skimmer are integral tools that facilitate containment and recovery.

Booms are temporary floating barriers that help to slow the spread of oil within a water area. This phase of containment enables the skimmer, which is a mechanical device that 'skims' the surface area to remove the oil.

ExxonMobil's Emergency Response and Preparedness Advisor, Ryan Singh, following a tour of the company's stored dispersants at its GYSBI Shore-base & Annex, explained that the exercise is conducted quarterly.

"These activities

were being conducted by a local vendor, EnerMech. Overall, a lot of eyes are on our projects and our preventative maintenance, and they are saying positive things," he said.

The advisor continued, "We also did inspections on our dispersant stockpile. We recently improved the total quantities since we have more projects coming into Guyana, and we had to update the amount," he explained.

Dispersants are chemical agents that are poured into the water to break down oil elements into smaller droplets, so they can be easily diluted. This minimises any environmental impacts from the spill.



The team conducted visual inspections of the containment boom and skimmer packages

"Dispersants are also very important in the whole response effort. We have dispersants placed on our marine vessels for a quick response. We have some at the GYSBI main base, as well as some at our annexe," Singh added.

Devika Samaroo, Environmental Officer within the oil and gas department at

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reminded that the agency's mandate is to regulate development in such a way that is environmentally friendly, but does not stymie the country's development. Hence, their observation of the exercise is with a vested interest in ensuring that there are adequate

provisions for swift oil spill response.

"We were here to see the fulfilment of a permit condition coming out of one of the Payara production permits, where the developer was required to have a stockpile of dispersants at hand. Based on what we have seen, it is really good," she said.

Clive Williams, a representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources, expressed similar sentiments, saying, "These are minimal operational requirements that the operators are expected to show in terms of their capability to respond to emergencies, and I think they have demonstrated that."

Clive Williams, a representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources, expressed similar sentiments, saying, "These are minimal operational requirements that the operators are expected to show in terms of their capability to respond to emergencies, and I think they have demonstrated that."

MORE THAN 20 COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GUYANA ENERGY CONFERENCE

The Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo set for February 19 to 22 has attracted participation from more than 20 countries, with close to 200 exhibitors, and 30 sponsors this year.

This update was provided by the Expo's Chief Executive Officer, Kurt Baboolall during a media conference, at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown.

Meanwhile, Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat noted that the conference is becoming one of the premier energy sessions in the world, and will showcase multiple sectors in the country's economy, creating opportunities and



benefits for everyone involved.

"This conference is important for our local private sector to network, to engage, [and] to build partnerships with international companies because that is something that as a government we advocated for

from the inception. Since we took office in August of 2020, we have always said that we need to bring more opportunities to Guyanese and Guyanese businesses," he stated.

He noted that Guyana and Namibia are two countries that are currently considered

hotspots in the energy sector.

However, Guyana is far more advanced in the development of the sector, compared to Namibia.

"By the time of the conference on the 19th of February we will be producing at 600,000 barrels

a day on average. At the last energy conference, we were about 380,000 to 390,000 barrels per day, so a lot has happened on the last conference to this one," he told the media.

He observed that an uptick in production signifies opportunities for the private sector to provide goods and services.

"Having the traditional productive sectors being incentivised, and the government continues to showcase and bring investment into those sectors it is critical to balancing our economy and

we have done that exceedingly well over the last three years," he stated.

Meanwhile, the conference will see the participation of Prime Ministers of Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, and The Bahamas, as well as the head of state of Suriname, and Dominican Republic at the opening ceremony.

President Ali, as well as several ministers from various countries will also be in attendance.

The theme for this year's expo is "Fueling Transformation and Modernisation." Registration is still open and booths can be secured for persons interested in participating.



Guyanese pacer Shamar Joseph receives heros welcome

HEROES WELCOME FOR GUYANESE PACER SHAMAR JOSEPH

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali welcomed West Indies hero pacer Shamar Joseph home with a special dinner at State House.

The 24-year-old has been the talk of the cricketing world after

his fierce spell of fast bowling dismantled Test World Champions Australia.

The match, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground (Gabba), was the first West Indies Test victory on Australian soil since 1997 and Joseph, the

young Guyanese fast bowler, was its architect as he finished with 7-68 in the second innings, despite playing with a toe injury.

Joseph, was given a hero's welcome upon his arrival at the Cheddi Jagan International

Airport.

At State House, he was joined by members of his family and members of the Guyana Cricket Board.

'ONE-STOP' HOPE AND JUSTICE CENTRE COMMISSIONED IN LUSIGNAN

As part of the government's efforts to combat gender-based violence, a new Hope and Justice Centre was commissioned at Lusignan along the East Coast Demerara.

The centre was built through a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Legal Affairs and Human Services and falls under the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Support for the Criminal Justice System Programme.

The facility is the first of its kind in the region and has a 'one-stop' operational model. This model allows victims access to a range of services including counselling, legal recourse, and medical treatment.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal



The Hope and Justice Centre in Lusignan, East Coast Demerara

Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC lauded the centre as a unique element of the collective efforts to target these offences.

"When the victim comes here, depending on the allegation, you have a number of services that they will immediately receive. And most importantly, there is a facility here

that will allow for that person to be accommodated for periodic intervals," the AG said.

Over the years, the government has designed and implemented a number of strategies to combat the high rates of gender-based violence in Guyana. However, the AG bemoaned that many of these efforts have been in vain.

He highlighted that

crimes of this nature have far-reaching effects, creating a vicious cycle of generational trauma, and innovative measures must be put in place to tackle this phenomenon.

As such, the legal affairs minister pointed to the Family Violence Bill, which will be presented to the National Assembly shortly.

The bill will overhaul the Domestic Violence Act and is touted as a studied piece of legislation that has benefitted from extensive consultations with civil society groups and other stakeholders.

"We cannot give up because this can very well consume all of us. We therefore have to continue to battle and pursue traditional methods while we explore new opportunities and

new innovations, as we continue to march in our efforts to overcome this beast that resides right across the length and breadth of our country," he said.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, dubbed the centre is a timely intervention.

"It is an important thing when we can have the kind of harmonising in the services that we offer towards the common goal of reducing and eradicating gender-based violence which continues to wreak havoc globally and nationally," she said.

The colour scheme and design of this centre will be replicated across the country so it can be easily recognised by

those who use it.

"The distinctive colour of this building – orange, is one that speaks to the recognition of violence, so it has all been meticulously crafted and constructed, taking into account all of the nuances and the details that deal with gender-based violence," the human services minister explained.

She also announced that this year, her ministry will implement a programme aimed at rehabilitating perpetrators of gender-based violence, which will align with the ongoing Restorative Justice programme.

A similar centre is slated to be built in Region Three this year.

PRESIDENT ALI SWEARS IN NEW LAW REFORM COMMISSION CHAIR

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali swore in Attorney at Law Emily Dodson as the new Chair of the Law Reform Commission.

The swearing - in ceremony was held at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

Dodson previously served as a member of the commission under the chairmanship of

Retired Justice of the Appeal Court, Beasraj Singh Roy who resigned before the end of his tenure.

Dodson will serve as chair for the next three years.

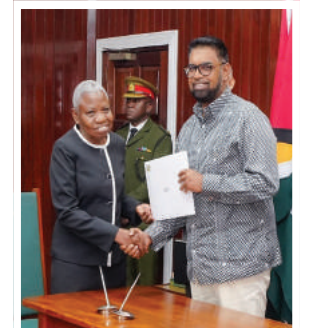
President Ali also administered the Oath of Office to former Member of Parliament and indigenous rights advocate Lenox Shuman,

who will also serve the Law Reform Commission for three years.

The other members, who were sworn in in August of 2021, are Teni Housty, Deenawati Panday and Clarissa Riehl. Their three-year tenures are expected to conclude later this year.



Law reform commission gets a new Chair



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali Swears in New Law reform Commission Chair

PRESIDENT ALI RECEIVES MAHDIA FIRE COI REPORT

Major General (retired) Joseph Singh, Chairman of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the devastating Mahdia Secondary female dormitory fire, presented President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, with the commission's final report

During his report presentation, Major General (Ret'd) Singh outlined several recommendations that may be useful in guaranteeing safety and advancing social improvements.

Upon receiving the document, the Head of State assured the commission that these recommendations would be integrated into areas that need improvements.

"We are going



His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

to continue to do all we can, and I want to assure the commission that your recommendations and your output here is critically integrated. But wherever there is still room for the further integration of your recommendations, you can rest assured

that the Minister of Education, the cabinet and the government will be incorporating those recommendations," the head of state underscored.

Importantly, President Ali highlighted that this integral piece of document will be useful to the nation and its

people going forward.

It was also pointed out by President Ali that key proactive measures identified in the COI's report align with the policymaking, and expenditure of the Ministry of Education for 2024.

The ministry is expected to launch a tender process for systematic improvements for every educational facility, as well as the Ministry of Health in improving sanitation and fire responsiveness.

"All of this, of course, will help us to build stronger systems... I am very pleased, there is strong recognition for the work that is ongoing and the intervention by the

government," he further elaborated.

On the issue of a proper memorial, President Ali disclosed that Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand will engage with the Private Sector Commission to pool resources for a proper memorial for the lives that were tragically lost.

"We have commissioned various artists to come up with a representation of what this memorial should be... Because the memorial of this nature, is one that is very important," he said.

The head of state also recognised his cabinet members for their support and dedication

to ensuring that those families were supported during that difficult period.

The COI's chairman applauded the government's quick response to the situation, and stated that he is optimistic that the report will be an instrument for change that is necessary.

In May 2023, tragedy struck the nation as news of a major tragedy which claimed the lives of 19 female students and one boy swept the country.

Immediate response was dispatched by the government in collaboration with the joint services and the private sector to provide relief and support to those affected by the incident.

GOVT TO SOON START NATIONAL LOCAL CONTENT SENSITISATION

The government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, is set to begin nationwide sensitisation workshops on the Local Content Legislation to educate individuals on how they can benefit from the oil and gas sector while assessing the country's capacity to supply goods and services to the petroleum industry.

During a recent press conference at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Georgetown, Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat revealed that the workshops will commence after the passage of the 2024 national budget.

"We here in Georgetown, we hear about it every



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat

day. We are part of it, we benefit from it, but if you go maybe to Kwakwani, Crabwood Creek, Essequibo coast [or] to Region Nine, Lethem, they probably heard about it...saw it on

the news, but they don't know exactly how they can actually benefit from the local content legislation," the minister explained.

According to the minister, during the drafting of the bill, there was a lack of

understanding of the private sector's capabilities, and this campaign aims to address that knowledge gap.

He pointed out that the sensitisation campaign is not intended to bring about changes to

the legislation, instead, it aims to provide a clearer understanding of the country's capacity.

"By going around the country and by listening to people and engaging them, I think it would put us as a ministry and government in a better position to assess what has changed from 2021 to now in terms of capacity to offer services to the oil and gas companies," he stated.

Additionally, Minister Bharrat noted that other grey areas will also be strengthened, allowing Guyanese to benefit directly from the oil and gas sector.

The natural resources minister

also highlighted the importance of refining provisions related to the qualifications for Guyanese citizenship.

He said the goal is to enhance due diligence procedures, particularly in response to complaints about delays in processing certificates from the local content secretariat, often stemming from attempts to misrepresent affiliations with companies.

Meanwhile, since the local content legislation was passed in December 2021, there have been several joint ventures and partnerships between international investors and the local private sector.

GOVT LOOKING TO ACQUIRE CHOPPERS FOR SECURITY AGENCIES

The government is currently engaged with world-renowned American aerospace manufacturer, Bell Flight to acquire four small helicopters for the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), as well as the Guyana Police Force (GPF).

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo said this will enhance the assets and protection capabilities of the defence force, and aid the police force in the training of its ranks as



Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

it seeks to create an air wing.

"We're in discussion with Bell [Flight] for the

purchase of four smaller helicopters, which would assist not just the army but...Also, policing

because they would be equipped with a whole range of infrared technology," the vice president stated.

Additionally, the administration is exploring the possibility of acquiring maritime assets through a line of credit agreement with the Government of India, which will improve the country's capability to monitor its exclusive economic zone.

An assessment is currently underway to examine whether

the 412-EP helicopter that crashed in 2023 will be replaced or a smaller chopper will be purchased, the vice president disclosed.

"What they found now was part of a conversation where they said these small helicopters, they have low operating cost and they can use a lot to train more of our pilots too," Dr Jagdeo explained.

The government is taking a proactive response towards

safeguarding Guyana's territorial sovereignty in light of recent aggression by Venezuela on two-thirds of the country's territory.

President Ali stated that the budget for 2024 will focus on planned investments geared towards expanding the air wing, maritime assets, and Coast Guard capabilities.

TWO NEW CALL CENTRES TO CREATE 800 NEW JOBS FOR REGION 5 RESIDENTS

The government will construct two new call centres in Region Five, with the capacity to create an additional 800 jobs, thereby ensuring development.

Through the government's direct investment, the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector has emerged to be an employer giant, creating almost 2000 jobs since the PPP/C Government resumed office in 2020.

"The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector is a major employer,



Ministry of Labour

creating more jobs than most other sectors in the country, in particular, jobs that are especially

popular with the female workforce that provide an entry point into the world of work in a technology-

based environment," Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh stated.

Since the establishment

of a competitive telecommunications sector, there has been a significant reduction in the cost of bandwidth moving from US \$950 per megabit of data to US \$50 or lower, resulting in a 95 per cent reduction rate.

Last year saw the construction of four new call centres, two in the Essequibo region and two in the Berbice district.

These call centres can create 800 jobs with the potential to increase to 1,600.

Meanwhile, the

Enmore and Tuschen facilities will be upgraded, each having the capacity to employ 300 more persons.

All facilities are expected to commence operation in 2024.

Dr Singh stated that the government will continue to support the development and expansion of the industry to position Guyana as a preferred BPO destination.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: BUDGET 2024 SCRUTINISED, DISSECTED & DEBATED

Budget 2024 spent a week under the microscope! Every detail was analysed, debated, and dissected, with passionate arguments shaping a vision for Guyana's future. From promises to revive the sugar industry to ambitious clean energy plans, each government speaker took to the floor, crafting a story of progress.

DAY 1: EXPOSING PAST MISUSE, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: MINISTER HAMILTON TAKES THE STAND



Minister of Labour Joseph Hamilton

Labour Minister Joseph Hamilton wasted no time in exposing the staggering \$90.8 million scholarship scandal under the previous administration. This sum, enough to educate over 600 Guyanese, was instead funneled towards a select few, with individual cases like Annette Ferguson's \$2.68 million and Nicolette Henry's \$10.4 million scholarships raising eyebrows. Even more concerning was the allocation of \$49.4 million for ministerial children's scholarships.

In stark contrast, Minister Hamilton championed the current government's commitment to human resource development through programmes like the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarships (supporting 6000 new and 3967 continuing students with \$4 billion this year) and the Board of Industrial Training (BIT), which has empowered 11,275 Guyanese across 549 projects since 2020. Notably, 4283 males and 6992 females participated, showcasing the programme's inclusivity.

Minister Hamilton proudly declared a total investment of \$982 million in TVET programmes, highlighting their diversity with 3,230 youths trained across 50 occupational areas in 2023, along with 235 persons with disabilities and 638 females engaged in non-traditional fields. Even remote hinterland and riverine communities benefited, with 20% of trainees hailing from these regions.

MINISTER INDAR CHAMPIONS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS



Minister in the Ministry of Public Works Deodat Indar

Minister in the Ministry of Public Works Deodat Indar passionately defended the \$1.146 trillion budget, emphasising its appeal to all Guyanese through initiatives addressing diverse national challenges. He pointed to achievements like upskilling 21,442 citizens via GOAL scholarships, raising the tax threshold to \$85,000, and slashing the debt-to-GDP ratio to 27%, the lowest in the western hemisphere.

Minister Indar drew stark comparisons with the APNU/AFC, highlighting the PPP/C's 75% increase in old age pension (compared to minimal increases under the previous regime) and their efforts to revitalise the sugar industry, which suffered over 7,000 job losses under the APNU/AFC. He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to development, stating, **"This government cares for the communities...that's why we've built 4000 roads since coming into power."**

MINISTER PERSAUD APPLAUDS FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Anand Persaud

Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Anand Persaud emphasised the budget's fiscal balance and responsible resource allocation, contrasting the PPP/C's approach to oil with the past administration's mismanagement. He assured the utilisation of oil resources to propel development while prioritising people's welfare. Despite global challenges, Minister Persaud lauded the budget as a testament to Guyana's progress, stating, **"This is progress, Mr Speaker, this is growth, this is vision,"** as his colleagues cheered in agreement.

MINISTER MANICKCHAND INSISTS EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING POTENTIAL



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand highlighted the crucial role of education in national prosperity, citing the PPP/C's consistent investments in the sector, leading to improved outcomes and increased access. She pointed to higher

pass rates (including in hinterland regions), new school construction and rehabilitation, expanded textbook access, the largest ever CPCE teacher graduating class, and GOAL programme expansion as key achievements.

"By investing in education, a developing country can empower its citizens...It is the key that unlocks doors of opportunity, paving the way for a brighter future," Minister Manickchand emphasised, with \$135.2 billion allocated to the sector in the 2024 budget.

MINISTER TODD CHAMPIONS ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC PROWESS



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hugh Todd linked the budget to the government's vision of economic strength and human development. Substantial investments in key sectors are seen as crucial for attracting foreign investment and advancing Guyana's global standing. Minister Todd contrasted the current economic success with past struggles, attributing it to the PPP/C's leadership. He showcased Guyana's improved international image and active bilateral efforts as direct results of government policies, highlighting over 40 MoUs established across the globe.

Minister Todd emphasised the importance of showcasing Guyana's potential to secure beneficial partnerships for the nation's future.



Minister of Home Affairs Robeson Benn's

MINISTER BENN CASTS LIGHT ON SECURITY CHALLENGES

Minister Robeson Benn's address on the second day took a serious turn, accusing the opposition of jeopardising the integrity of the police and disciplined services during their tenure. He painted a stark picture of the **"authoritarianism"** that pervaded the APNU+AFC era, claiming the previous government used the security sector for personal gain and engaged in corrupt practices. **"They had practically destroyed, subsumed, and corrupted the disciplined services,"** Minister Benn declared.

Concrete examples bolstered his claims, including the 2020 election period, where police allegedly turned a blind eye to attacks on PPP/C supporters and failed to provide necessary protection. Minister Benn himself recounted his personal experience of being physically obstructed by police while performing his GECOM duties, further amplifying concerns about the opposition's disregard for democratic processes. While acknowledging the PPP/C's efforts to improve security, Minister Benn expressed concerns about achieving true peace with the current opposition in place.

MINISTER BHARRAT COUNTERS NON-OIL SECTOR NEGLECT NARRATIVE

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat took the stage to debunk opposition claims that the budget neglected non-oil sectors. Armed with

facts and examples, he demonstrated the budget's reach far beyond oil, pointing to investments in forestry and mining, education, housing, and infrastructure. The turnaround of the forestry sector served as a prime example, with Minister Bharrat attributing the increased



Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat

demand to responsible management and investor confidence gained under the current government. The EU-VPA was highlighted as a key tool for ensuring sustainable forestry development.

While acknowledging challenges in the gold mining sector, Minister Bharrat outlined plans to overcome them through increased exploration, streamlined land allocation processes, and financial incentives. The ongoing mineral inventory process and Troy Resources area development were presented as concrete examples of the government's commitment to responsible resource management. **"The future looks bright,"** Minister Bharrat concluded, **"and I want to say to all Guyanese that budget 2024 is continuing the foundation that is laid for a new, modern, prosperous Guyana for every citizen."**

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FROM THE GROUND UP: MINISTER PARAG'S VISION

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Parag unveiled an ambitious plan to transform communities

Cont'd on page 14



The Co-operative Republic of Guyana

DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRIES AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that the following under mentioned companies are in default of lodging with the **Registrar of Joint Stock of Companies its Annual Returns, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Accounts and Auditor's Report AND Beneficial Ownership, as is required by Section 153 of the Companies Act 29 of 1991 and AMLCFT Amendment Act No. 12 of 2023 respectively.**

The said companies have within **twenty-eight (28) days** from the date hereof, to submit same.

Your failure to comply with this request will leave no alternative but to proceed under **Section 487 (1) (a) of the Companies Act and section 4 of the AML/CFT Amendment Act No.12 of 2023 respectively**, that is, to have your company **STRUCK OFF** the register.

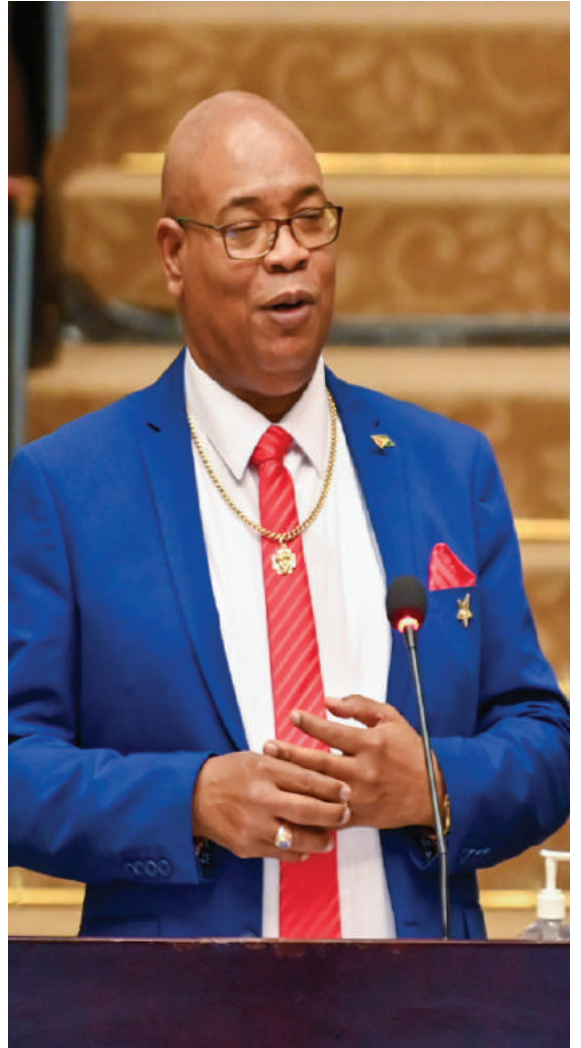
COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9449	WATTSUN SOLAR INC.	2019,2021-2022	BO
9450	READY HOUSES (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	BO
9451	INTERNATIONAL MAINTENANCE GROUP INC.	2019-2022	BO
9452	RNTI INC.	2019-2022	BO
9455	DOLLA GUYANA INC.	2021-2022	Not Applicable
9456	Q GARDENS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9458	GUY MARINE SALVAGING AND GENERAL CONSTRUCTION INC	2019-2021	Not Applicable
9459	MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC SUPPLIES GUYANA INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	Not Applicable
9460	MULTINATIONAL TRADING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9461	REMOTEMD GUYANA S.A. INC.	2019-2022	BO
9462	CARIBBEAN SEX WORK COALITION INC.	2019-2022	BO
9463	ASCENDANCY GUYANA INC.	2020-2022	Not Applicable
9464	EASTERN POWER MINING INCORPORATED	2022	BO
9465	BRONFEL DISTRIBUTION CO. INC.	2019-2022	BO
9466	THE HUMPHREY GROUP INC.	2019-2022	BO
9467	STABROEK CONSULTING INC.	2019-2022	Not Applicable
9468	NATURES ENTERPRISES INC.	2019-2022	BO

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9471	GUYANA FASHION SHOWCASE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9472	FRONTERA RESOURCES (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	BO
9473	REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND TRAINING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9474	GRS ENTERPRISE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9476	SUAREZ ENTERTAINMENT GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9477	B AND R CONSTRUCTION INC.	2019-2022	BO
9478	KOSMOS BAR, GRILL AND LOUNGE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9480	GSE, INC.	2019-2022	BO
9481	WESCAR GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9482	RAYNEAU CONSTRUCTION INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9483	CASL GUYANA INC.	2022	BO
9485	ACTEON GUYANA INC.	2022	BO
9486	PAKARAIMA ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9047	EUREKA ATLANTIC OFFSHORE MEDICAL SERVICES INC.	2018-2022	BO
9049	ALPHA CENTAURI INCORPORATED.	2018-2022	BO
9050	CARIBBEAN MARICULTURE INC.	2018-2022	BO
9052	C R & V PROGRESSIVE INC.	2018-2022	BO

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9053	C F D INTERNATIONAL INC.	2021-2022	BO
9054	INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING (GUYANA) INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9056	PARIKA BAPTIST CHURCH INC.	2018-2022	BO
9059	CITISMART PHARMACY INC.	2020-2022	Not Applicable
9060	KGM SPARE PARTS INC.	2018-2022	BO
9061	"NOBLE DRILLING (GUYANA) INC."	2021-2022	Not Applicable
9062	INDO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & FRIENDSHIP INC.	2018-2022	BO
9063	NEWS-TALK RADIO GUYANA INCORPORATED	2018-2022	BO
9064	"TRIPLE D'S INC."	2021-2022	
9065	S C V INC.	2019-2022	BO
9066	GENESIS MARINE GUYANA INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9068	SADHNA MANAGEMENT SERVICES (GUYANA) INC.	2018-2022	BO
9069	NEXCOM INC.	2018-2022	BO
9073	ZNZ INC	2018-2022	BO
9076	SAVE A LIFE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9077	HEAL GUYANA INC.	2018-2022	BO
9078	G.A. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9080	SALJON TRADING INC.	2018-2022	BO
9081	TECON INDUSTRIES INC.	2022	BO
9082	BUDDY'S AUTO SALE INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9083	CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL COMMERCIAL SERVICES HUB (GUYANA) INC.	2020-2022	BO
9084	THE BH5 GROUP INC.	2018-2022	BO
9085	IPA LABORATORY INC.	2019-2022	Not Applicable
9086	MORNING GLORY INC.	2022	BO
9087	GULF ENGINEERING SERVICES (GUYANA) INC.	2022	Not Applicable

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9089	EL DORADO GREEN INC.	2018-2022	BO
9090	AUTO8 INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9091	KALL GUY INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9092	RELIANCE SUBSEA SERVICES INC.	2018-2022	BO
9093	SABINE MINERALS INC.	2018-2022	BO
9096	CV RENEWABLES INC.	2018-2022	BO
9097	CBP GUYANA INC.	2018-2022	BO
9098	SMART BUSINESS INVESTMENT GUYANA INC.	2018-2022	BO
9099	ALL`S TRADING INC.	2018-2022	BO
9100	KANIMA MINERAL MINING GROUP INC.	2019-2022	BO
9101	PLATINUM FINANCIAL GROUP INC.	2019-2022	BO
9102	ECO HOUSING INCORPORATED.	2021-2022	BO
9103	INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF SHIPPING (GUYANA) INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9104	CYRIL SINGH AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9105	ZAYNE AND ZAYDEN INC.	2021-2022	BO
9107	TECHNIQUES INTERNATIONAL GUYANA INC.	2021-2022	BO
9108	GUYANA HARBOR TOWAGE & SHIPPING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9109	3D TECHNOLOGIES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9111	SOUFRIERE FARMING DEVELOPMENT INC.	2019-2022	BO
9112	ORGANIC FACTORY INC.	2020-2022	BO
9113	CARIBBEAN DIGITAL ASSETS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9115	I.E.M. SALES AND SERVICES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9116	K`S SOUND MACHINE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9117	NMH TRADING INCORPORATED.	2021-2022	BO







Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

Markam Store Under New Management



Lucozade Energy Drink Orange Only 380 ml

1.39 each



Grace Sweetened Condensed Whitener 297 ml

2/2.20



Mauby Fizz Carbonated Beverage 300 ml

99¢ each



Marshall's Alaskan Pollock Fillet 300 g

3/7.99



Boom Energy Drink With Ginseng 355 ml

1.39 each



Mega Malt Original 330 ml

79¢ each



Ann Honeyed Ginger Drink with Lemon 18's

2.99 each



KC Candy Ginger Mint or Dinner Mint Only

99¢ each



Cedar White Vinegar 4 L

1.99 each



Grace Strawberry or Kola Champagne Syrup 750 ml

3.69 each



Grace Jerk Seasoning Mild Only 312 g

2.99 each



Tunnock's Caramel Wafer 8x30 g

2.99 each



Grace Vienna Sausage Assorted 130 g

99¢ each



Brunswick Sardines Assorted 106 g

1.79 each



Kraft Dinner Original 225 g

1.19 each



Mr. Goudas Red Kidney Beans 15 lbs

2.29 each



Lascare Laundry Soap 4's

1.99 each



Maximum Clear Garbage Bags 30's

2.99 each



Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil 25 Sq Ft

99¢ each



Colgate Tooth Paste Kids Cavity Protection 95 ml

99¢ each

Delicious Jamaican Dish

Super Easy Cook Cutted Baby Oxtail



\$7.99
lb/ Frozen

Grown From Australia Free Range Goat Meat



\$3.99
lb Frozen

Frozen Bone In Mutton Leg



\$3.99
lb

Fresh or Frozen Goat Tripe



\$3.99
lb

Salted Beef Short Ribs



\$5.99
lb

Frozen Fu Yang Headless White Shrimp 500 g



\$9.99
ea

Salted Large Cod Fish



\$7.99
lb

Fresh Large Chicken Feet



\$1.99
lb

Frozen Chicken Wings



17.99
5 kg box

Fresh Exceldor Chicken Leg Quarters



49.99
18 kg box
With Purchase of 2 cases or More Thursday To Sunday Only

Fresh Seafood Catches

Fresh Yellow Tail Snappers 1/2-1 Lb



\$5.99
lb as ls

Fresh Red Lane Snappers 1/2-1 Lb



\$6.99
lb as ls

Fresh Porgy Fish



\$3.99
lb as ls

Fresh Parrot Fish



\$5.99
lb as ls

Fresh Atlantic Whole Salmon



\$6.99
lb as ls


From YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

Fresh Green or Ripe Plantains



1.69
lb

Fresh Jamaican Yellow Yams



4.99
lb

Fresh Garlic



3 PCS \$1

Frozen Davao Whole Cassava



2/2.20

Five Locations To Serve You Better

Specials in Effect Thu. Feb. 8. until Wed. Feb. 14th, 2024.

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

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
Monday-Friday 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

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: BUDGET 2024 SCRUTINISED, DISSECTED & DEBATED - CONT'D



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Parag

across Guyana. The \$103 billion budget allocation would be used to empower local democratic organs and drive development nationwide, with a particular focus on improving infrastructure and daily life in hinterland communities.

Minister Parag emphasised the people-centered approach of the budget, aiming to boost economic growth and positively impact the lives of all Guyanese. The government's commitment to the hinterland was also a central theme, with Minister Parag highlighting their track record of supporting indigenous communities. **"This government,"** she concluded, **"is the government with a track record of taking care of our first people."**

MINISTER RAMSON CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS IN CULTURE, YOUTH, AND SPORTS



Minister of Culture, Youth & Sport Charles Ramson

Minister Ramson passionately defended the budget, showcasing remarkable achievements in culture, youth, and sports under the current administration. He contrasted this progress with the previous administration's shortcomings, highlighting the over 350 sports grounds have been rehabilitated,

floodlights and synthetic tracks installed, and new facilities constructed, all enhancing opportunities for athletes.

Minister Ramson proudly pointed to Guyana hosting international squash tournaments with its new doubles court, over 160 medals won in international competitions, the highest in Guyana's history, and thriving CPL, basketball, and football leagues showcasing national sporting prowess.

Additionally, he mentioned the 7,000 Guyanese trained in free swimming programmes, 2,500 youths trained in robotics with robotic hubs established across the country, and the expansion of the President's Youth Award programmes with new activities and accreditation.



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha

MINISTER MUSTAPHA TOUTS SUGARCANE REVIVAL

Minister Zulfikar Mustapha took the stage on Day Three, wielding data as his weapon against the previous administration's alleged neglect of the sugar industry.

"Damaged equipment, abandoned fields, and broken promises," Minister Mustapha declared, describing the state of the industry he inherited. Undeterred, the current government rolled up their sleeves, pouring investments into factory renovations, reopening Rose Hall, and revitalising production. The results speak for themselves: 28% growth in 2023, a projected 66% surge in 2024, and sights set on hitting 100,000 metric tons.

But the sweet taste of success goes beyond numbers. Over 4,000 new jobs have been created, breathing life back into communities once shrouded in uncertainty. **"In just three years,"** Minister Mustapha announced proudly, **"the sugar**



Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai

industry is vibrant again.

MINISTER SUKHAH HIGHLIGHTS LAND TITLING TRIUMPH

Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai took up the mantle of defender, fiercely rebutting opposition claims and highlighting the 2024 budget's unwavering commitment to Amerindian development. Her voice rang with indignation as she accused the APNU+AFC of turning a blind eye to land titling and neglecting the well-being of indigenous communities.

"They had no intention," Minister Sukhai declared, **"but we did. Under the PPP/C, land ownership for Amerindians skyrocketed from 6% to 16%. The ALT project is a testament to our dedication, with the majority of titled land achieved under our leadership."**

Progress is not just a statistic; it's lived experience. Minister Sukhai pointed to the 20 land investigations, eight demarcations, and increased funding for titling, skillset training, and social services. The \$9 billion budget allocation stands as a beacon of hope, with village projects, cultural promotion, scholarships, and other initiatives

designed to empower communities across the



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

country.

MINISTER MCCOY'S VISION - BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING PROSPERITY FOR ALL

Minister of Public Affairs Kwame McCoy emerged as a champion of resilience, countering the opposition's "unfulfilling promises" with a stark reminder of their past actions. He laid bare the devastation wrought by over 200 taxes, slashed subsidies, and crippled businesses during the 2015-2020 rule.

But Minister McCoy offered more than just critique; he presented a blueprint for a brighter future. Budget 2024, he declared, is about breaking barriers, creating opportunities for young people, and ensuring growth across all sectors. He envisions a Guyana where everyone thrives, where dignity is restored, and lives are tangibly improved.

"This budget," Minister McCoy emphasised, **"is for all the people. Every single person has something to gain, something to enhance their lives, something to build a better future for their families. We are committed to listening, to refining policies, and addressing pressing issues together."**

DR. PERSAUD CHAMPIONS THE VULNERABLE, DELIVERING ON PROMISES

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud launched a



Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud

powerful critique of the Opposition's neglect of vulnerable groups. She unveiled the 2024 budget's significant investments in seniors, women, and children, citing initiatives like a new senior citizen home, increased pensions with convenient payment options, disability training programmes, and women's empowerment schemes like the successful WIIN and Spotlight Initiatives. **"In stark contrast to the past,"** Minister Persaud emphasised, **"this budget prioritises the well-being of all Guyanese, fulfilling our promises and investing in a brighter future."**

MINISTER ANTHONY TOUTS HEALING SCARS, BUILDING HEALTHIER TOMORROW



Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony, painted a vivid picture of neglected facilities and inadequate healthcare under the previous administration. He cited the Ocean View Hospital, once facing dire shortages, as a symbol of neglect. Now, he proudly showcased the PPP/C's achievements: upgraded facilities, new hospitals like the Mabaruma Regional Hospital, and improved maternal and child health services.

The 2024 budget dedicates substantial

resources to further advancements, from infrastructure and equipment upgrades to expanded women's health programmes and workforce training. **"Our commitment is clear,"** Minister Anthony declared, **"a healthy and prosperous future for every Guyanese."**



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill

MINISTER EDGHILL EMPHASISES BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT OBSTACLES

Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill's address resonated with a call for collaboration. He criticised the Opposition's blanket disapproval of Budget 2024, urging them to engage in constructive dialogue and specify their concerns regarding projects like the Demerara River Bridge, Hope-like canals, the gas-to-shore initiative, and Cheddi Jagan Airport modernisation. **"This budget,"** Minister Edghill emphasised, **"brings development benefits to everyone, regardless of political affiliation. Let's work together to ensure efficient project delivery and deliver value for money to the Guyanese people."**



Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Water Susan Rodrigues

MINISTER RODRIGUES DEFENDS

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9118	UNIQUE TRINITY GLOBAL INVESTMENT INC.	2019-2022	BO
9119	ACRSSH OIL REFINERY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9120	FALCON TRADING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9121	S & M SECURITY SERVICES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9122	LANCASTER, GLASGOW & STUART ENGINEERING SERVICES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9123	SAGG SECURITY SERVICES INC.	2022	BO
9126	IDEA GUYANA INCORPORATED.	2021-2022	Not Applicable
9128	RID-O-PES INC.	2022	BO
9129	PRIME LOGISTIC (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	BO
9124A	BELINA , BILL & MATOGROSSO INC.	2021-2022	BO
9130	ORION ENGINEERING INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9131	TITAN LOGISTICS AND MANPOWER (GUYANA) INC.	2022	BO
9132	R & R TROPICAL TIMBER TRADING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9133	ISKES GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9134	NEWS ROOM INC.		BO
9135	HEED GAMING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9136	SRT TRADING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9137	RUIQIN QUI , INC.	2019-2022	BO
9139	GE HOLDING INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9140	OZAMA AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT INC.	2019-2022	BO
9141	EAST STREET NEPHROLOGY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9142	LORICK PERSAUD GENERAL STORE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9143	PAULGEN REAL ESTATE AND INVESTMENT INC.	2019-2022	BO
9144	AQUATIC STARZ INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9146	NATIONAL AERODROME INC	2019-2022	BO
9147	G. BOOCHOON & SONS BUILDING AND CONTRACTING SERVICES INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO
9148	DACHIN FOOD SERVICES INC.	2021-2022	BO
9149	GLOBAL ACCESS INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9150	GUYMED TECHNOLOGIES INC	2019-2022	BO
9151	RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICES GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9152	THE OPIBUS GROUP INC.	2019-2022	BO
9153	SCOTCH BONNET INC.	2019-2022	BO
9154	VIROH PETROLEUM INC.	2020-2022	BO
9156	TRIPPLE T CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9157	AVANZI MINING INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO
9159	VARUNA TECHNOLOGIES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9160	TRADEWIND AUTOMOTIVE INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9161	LICHA ENTERPRISES GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9162	HUMUS CONSULTANCY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9163	GRANT VERDUN ENERGY SOLUTION INC.	2019-2022	BO
9164	GOLD PORT MINERAL TRADING INC	2019-2022	BO
9165	SYSTEM INTEGRATED PRODUCTION IN AGRIBUSINESS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9166	LALL-BELCON (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	Not Applicable
9167	CAPRISCROP SECURITYSERVICE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9168	AGRARIA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9171	GREEN AGRO SERVICES AND SUPPLIES INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9172	CPIJ INC.	2019-2022	BO
9177	CONCEPTS AND SERVICES (GUYANA) INC	2019-2022	BO

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: BUDGET 2024 SCRUTINISED, DISSECTED & DEBATED - CONT'D

INFRASTRUCTURE - THE BEDROCK OF PROGRESS

Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Water Susan Rodrigues passionately defended the significant focus on infrastructure spending, citing robust evidence from a World Bank study linking such investments to economic growth, poverty reduction, and improved quality of life. She countered criticism by highlighting the public's demand for better roads and reliable infrastructure, emphasising the positive impact on daily lives and economic opportunities. **"We are responding to the needs of our communities,"** Minister Rodrigues declared, **"and seeing the transformative power of improved infrastructure across Guyana."**



Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal

MINISTER CROAL PROMISES

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HOUSING AND WATER

Ministers Collin Croal and Rodrigues also tag-teamed to showcase the budget's focus on empowering Guyanese through improved housing and water access. Minister Croal passionately argued that Budget 2024's housing investments go beyond construction, aiming to create stable and empowering environments for families. He pointed to simplified loan access, investments in human well-being, and the impressive 60% completion of the 50,000 house lot promise as evidence of the government's dedication. Minister Rodrigues, echoing this commitment, unveiled ambitious water sector plans for the hinterland and coastland, ensuring comprehensive infrastructure development across the nation.

MINISTER WALROND DEFENDS STEERING OIL WEALTH TOWARDS OPPORTUNITY

Minister of Tourism Oneidge Walrond countered criticism of the government's oil revenue approach, emphasising their



Minister of Tourism Oneidge Walrond

commitment to long-term sustainability. She assured the nation that Budget 2024, crafted with this resource in mind, prioritises prudent investments and empowers all Guyanese. **"From improved roads to thriving businesses,"** she asserted, **"our infrastructure projects benefit everyone, not just a select few."**



Attorney General Anil Nandlall SC

ATTORNEY GENERAL NANDLALL PROMISES A BUDGET OF TRANSFORMATION

Attorney General Anil Nandlall, SC, contrasted the historic size and responsible financing of Budget 2024 with the previous administration's wasteful spending. He highlighted the budget's substantial allocations for transformative projects like the Demerara River Bridge and the Cheddi Jagan Airport, emphasising their potential to reshape Guyana's infrastructure and economic landscape.

AG Nandlall further criticised the opposition's past mismanagement, citing the Durban Park fiasco and ineffective projects like the Law Reform Commission. He proudly showcased the PPP/C's focus on education, healthcare, food security, and judiciary modernisation, envisioning a Guyana equipped for sustainable progress.

PRIME MINISTER PHILLIPS TOUTS EMBRACING CLEAN ENERGY, PROPELLING PROGRESS

Prime Minister Mark Phillips took the stage to champion Guyana's dedication to clean energy. He emphasised the LCDS 2030 as the roadmap for this transition, with initiatives like the Wales



Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai

Gas to Shore project promising cheaper electricity and reduced dependence on fossil fuels. The Amaila Falls Hydropower project and Solar Home Systems for hinterland communities further solidified the government's commitment to a diverse and sustainable energy mix.

Prime Minister Phillips confidently declared, **"Guyana is not just talking the talk, but walking the walk towards a cleaner future."**



Minister Within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance & Public Service

FINANCE MINISTER SINGH DEBUNKS LOFTY PROMISES, DEFENDS PRACTICAL PROGRESS

Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh concluded the week with a passionate rebuttal of the opposition's critiques. He dismissed their extravagant promises as unrealistic, reminding the nation of their past actions: slashed jobs, withdrawn cash grants, and cancelled security force bonuses.

In contrast, Minister Singh meticulously outlined the budget's tangible benefits for different groups, from increased pensions and education grants to public sector raises and agricultural support. He accused the opposition of hypocrisy, highlighting their own scandals while blaming the government for self-inflicted problems.

"We don't just make empty promises," Minister Singh declared, **"we deliver practical solutions that improve lives."**

With the debates concluded, the National Assembly shifted its focus to scrutinising individual budget allocations before the final vote.

FIRST MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN REGION SIX

As the Ministry of Health, continues its rapid decentralisation of healthcare services and programmes, Region Six saw the first-ever Medical Laboratory Programme being launched.

The launching saw the first cohort of 25 persons getting ready to be trained for a period of 12 months through the ministry's Health Sciences Education Training Programme.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, who was present, said that such training will equip the students to learn more about the various medical equipment in which the government has been investing.



Medical Laboratory Programme training programme Region 6 launch

"It's one of many decentralised programmes that we would like to have here...We want to train as many people as we need to. What we want to offer to our patients is the best possible care. And so, we want to

train you to be able to do HPA1C using the simple machines that we currently have at the health centres, but importantly we want you to be able to use the more sophisticated machines that we will have at each of our

labs at the regional hospitals," the minister explained.

Minister Anthony noted that as the students learn to operate the more advanced machines, then they will be able to up their skills and work in technical places such as the blood banks.

Additionally, Regional Chairman, David Armogan stressed that training is important for the region's public health development.

He said that with the many transformations that are ongoing in the region, careers in the health sector are in demand.

"I want to first of all congratulate you for

choosing to be trained because that's the first step and taking it on. I want to encourage you to ensure that you stay the course and make sure that you graduate so that we can utilise you in the various areas of the region," Armogan stated.

Also in attendance was Deputy Director of the Health Sciences Education Programme, Chandroutie Persaud, who assured the Region Six youths that they will not be left behind.

She told them that the government is providing the necessary measures that are also being provided to those in Georgetown.

"Before we decide

to decentralise a programme we have to ensure that we have faculties in place," Persaud stated.

As she encouraged the students to take in all of what they can, Persaud also reminded them that they will receive a stipend every month for just being trained.

The ministry will soon be decentralising the programme to other regions, to equip citizens with the requisite skills for the development of the country.

GOVT REACHES OUT TO MORE VILLAGES ALONG SOESDYKE\LINDEN HIGHWAY



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

The government, through the Office of the Prime Minister, executed yet another outreach campaign in more villages across the Soesdyke/Linden Highway.

The outreach exercise was aimed at listening to the concerns of the residents and discussing possible solutions. It was also an opportunity to inform those people from the various villages of the government's commitment to development while also highlighting the programmes and projects included in the 2024 National Budget.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy said the government is actively working to make

life easier for people across the country, especially those along the Highway.

He also listened attentively to the

Banakari.

The minister said the government will help them in whatever way it could to alleviate and resolve the concerns. Based on some of the concerns raised, the minister also proffered various solutions.

While listening to the concerns of the residents, issues such as land regularisation, inadequate water supply, the need for farming inputs, and lack of transportation for school children were raised.

In an effort to find appropriate and timely solutions, the minister said that he will involve the Ministry of Housing and Water to deal with the land and water matters. He has also committed to procuring black tanks for some of

villages to employ a driver to transport the school children to and from school.

Additionally, Minister McCoy will consult the Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, to ensure that the residents' agricultural needs are met.

"I am happy to be discussing some of the challenges that you face as a community...and for us to find solutions to some of these issues. Together, it is our government's intention to make sure that every community right across the country is treated with infrastructure and becomes beneficiaries



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy engages Moblissa Residents

charged residents to take advantage of the courses that are being offered through the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) and the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL).

He said this is a chance for them to develop themselves and take up higher-paying jobs.

"You see, the Guyana that we are building is not only for fancy hotels and large highways and huge infrastructure overall, it is for our people to make the most out of the opportunities that exist," Minister McCoy stated.

Speaking about the recent budget, Minister

McCoy said that it is a reflection of the government's dedication to adequately provide for all the citizens as they seek to further fast-track development.

"The budget is something that will directly benefit the people...it demonstrates that your government continues to make steady investments in the people and their welfare," Minister McCoy stated.



Works being done on Moblissa Bridge

concerns of residents of the three villages, namely Moblissa, Loo Creek, and Tigerbone

the residents as soon as possible.

Arrangements are underway in one of the

of our national programmes," the minister explained.

The minister



BIT LAUNCHES FIRST BATCH OF PROGRAMMES FOR 2024



Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton met with members of the National Commission on Disability (NCD)

The Ministry of Labour's Board of Industrial Training (BIT) officially launched its first batch of programmes for the year 2024, at the Guyana Industrial Training Centre, Woolford Avenue, Georgetown.

Over 40 persons have registered for the courses

including heavy-duty equipment operation, electrical installation, welding and fabrication, and plumbing.

Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton highlighted that BIT programmes have expanded over the past years, due to innovative ways and

the implementation of strategic training courses.

"What we have done in the last year is that we have moved from just training people on how to use the excavator and Bobcat to now including training for persons to use the forklift. We have access to a front-end loader that we take people to go and experience and for agriculture, we added tractors," the minister explained.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS

In addition, the BIT programme, will also be providing training and employment opportunities for differently-abled persons.

Minister Hamilton met with members of the National Commission on Disability (NCD) at his Brickdam office in Georgetown. The consultation sought to establish a master plan going forward, discussing the development of a framework for implementing a series of vocational and skills training courses for persons with disabilities.

Following the engagement, Minister

Hamilton said that the ministry plans to collaborate with the NCD to promote a job fair that will target PWDs before the end of the first quarter.

He said apart from the firm partnership with the commission, more measures will be implemented to ensure all persons living with disabilities receive gainful employment after completion of the BIT programme.

The minister further underscored that the objective is aligned with the government's manifesto commitment to deliver equal opportunities to citizens,

by providing greater support to vulnerable groups.

"They want to be productive citizens and therefore when we train them. We have to work with the system, both public and private sector, to ensure that they can be employed without stigma," Minister Hamilton added.

The job fair will be hosted primarily in Regions Three, Four, and Ten, with the labour ministry's Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency (CRMA) playing a major role.

GRO MOVING TO DIGITISE ALL CERTIFICATES

As the government continues to take advantage of the technology that is being developed every day, Guyana's General Register Office (GRO), through the Ministry of Home Affairs, will soon be digitalising all types of certificates that are issued by the agency.

Although the agency has already developed a database for certain documents, it is currently in the processing of digitalising marriage and death certificates.

During a press conference at the ministry, Minister of

Home Affairs, Robeson Benn said that this move will allow the information of citizens to be more secured.

"I think fundamentally the basic interest of the government and to extension the ministry is to have a more efficient process, one that is more responsive to the needs of our citizens and to ensure that we do not have situations where people make repeated attempts to get certain documents," the

minister stated.

He said with one transaction, every information needed on a citizen will be available, instead of them having to run-around to the agency more than once.

Additionally, Registrar General of the GRO, Raymon Cummings noted that what ever information is presented on the agency's database about a person will remain as that at all times. It will not change. This, he said, decreases the chance of persons making multiple mistakes.

"The documents are

scanned and a database with all the information is created...So, it removes that chance of error when persons writing. In terms of technology, we have secured printers. The security feature on the certificate that is known by the person who is required to know them will be printed on the printer at the time when the certificate is printed. So, your document will be printed on a printer from the database," Cummings explained.

The Registrar General further noted that as the agency moves forward to do this with

the marriage and death certificates, they are in the process of cross-checking to make sure that every information on the database is precisely correct.



Registrar General, Mr Raymon Cummings

Meanwhile, Deputy

Registrar General, Visham Budhoo stressed the importance of Guyana becoming technological savvy in these modern times.

"Those certificates will be more secure as it will have more security features. We also would not like to be left behind. We want to move to technology as the world is going that direction," Budhoo posited.

This technological advanced initiative will also save persons from the many paper-work documentation, and it will help the agency to be always organised.

FIRST BATCH OF 60 LAING AVENUE RESIDENTS RECEIVE \$250,000 VOUCHER EACH FOR HOME REPAIRS



Chief Executive Officer of Central Housing and Planning Authority, Sherwyn Greaves handing over a voucher to one of the beneficiaries

The first batch of 60 residents from Laing Avenue, Georgetown, received vouchers valued at \$250,000 each to upgrade their homes.

In addition to the vouchers, the residents also received \$100,000 to cover the cost of labour.

The vouchers were presented at a simple ceremony at the Ministry of Housing and Water's Camp Street annex. The residents conveyed their gratitude for the assistance, which

will enable them to undertake much-needed upgrades to their homes.

Norma Lashley, one of the beneficiaries, expressed her appreciation for the support. Having resided at Laing Avenue for 27 years, she previously could not afford to make any repairs to her home.

With the vouchers, she will now be able to repair her door, upgrade her floor, replace her windows, and other essential works.

"I'm happy that

I can get this help... I am thanking the government for the great support," Lashley said.

Another recipient, Judith Stephens, said that her house had suffered a fire years ago, and she had been unable to afford repairs since then. She expressed her intention to use the vouchers to rewire the house and address other minor issues.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal in brief remarks, stated that the vouchers distributed are valued at \$15 million.

He explained that the Laing Avenue Housing Grant Project is part of the PPP/C Government's strategy to enhance the living standards of every citizen of Guyana.

He mentioned some of the other projects being executed by the ministry to assist

residents in achieving homeownership and upgrading their living spaces.

The steel and cement initiative, provides materials for individuals to commence the



Minister of Housing and water, Collin Croal handing over a voucher to one of the beneficiaries

construction of their homes.

Additionally, there is the core homes and subsidy initiative under the Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility programme funded by the IDB. The programme targets vulnerable persons in specific areas.

"Our programme is geared towards ensuring that different levels of our society can be able to be part of the developmental process," he

a comfortable life.

The Laing Avenue Housing Grant Project originated from an interaction

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo had with the residents in November of last year, where they expressed their desire for assistance in upgrading their homes.

The vice president committed to supporting them with a project valued at \$50 million.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority conducted the necessary assessments prior to distributing the vouchers.

Chief Executive Officer of CHPA, Sherwyn Greaves explained that beneficiaries can redeem their vouchers for home improvement materials at specific merchants, including Gafoors, Muneshwars, and Toolsie Persaud.

OVER 1700 POLICE RANKS TRAINED IN 2023

More than 1,700 police ranks were trained in 2023 by the Guyana Police Force (GPF) both locally and internationally, demonstrating the emphasis placed on improving the force's capacity, a year-end report by the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated.

An allocation of \$169.9 million was expended by the police force in 2023 to facilitate

training for its ranks, and provide scholarships in various areas.

The government allocated the funds to support the development and growth of the security agency, ensuring they have the necessary skills and knowledge to serve the public effectively.

During last year, 34 overseas courses were offered, training a total of 85 ranks exposed to international

best practices in law enforcement and policing, while 1,746 ranks completed 82 local courses offered by the police force.

Additionally, 25 ELT Officers and Regional Commanders completed the Train the Trainers Programme facilitated by the Justice Education Society of British Columbia (JES).

Moreover, three senior officers attended



Ranks of the Guyana Police Force

the Police Academy in Idaho, United States (US), indicating a proactive approach to learning from established institutions in other countries. Also, four police officers graduated from the

Hugh Wooding Law School with their Legal Education Certificates.

From 2020 to 2023, 2,750 ranks participated in 100 courses to enhance their investigative skills and increase prosecution rates in the country.

Meanwhile, 302 scholarships were awarded by the police force covering varying areas including aviation, law and general academic pursuits while 17 Memorandum of Agreements have been signed with external learning institutions.

Another notable achievement includes the police academy achieving international accreditation on August 24, certifying that it meets global standards for law enforcement education and training.

GOVT ADDRESSING 'HEAVY DEMAND' FOR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL LAND

With growing interest from oil and gas companies looking to invest in Guyana, Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal has underscored the 'heavy demand' for commercial and industrial land.

He reassured investors that the government is addressing the demand based on availability, despite implementing an aggressive housing programme that provides opportunities for Guyanese to acquire land.

Minister Croal was speaking on the televised programme 'Energy Perspective' outlining his ministry's efforts in attracting investors



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal

and facilitating business growth, particularly in the growing oil and gas sector.

The minister spoke of the implementation of the single window electronic processing, an online platform that replaces the current paper-based system, allowing investors

to apply for permits and approvals from anywhere in the world.

The implementation of this information technology platform is facilitated with the passage of the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill in the National Assembly in 2023.

Extensive training was also done with the relevant stakeholders and agencies including the Local Democratic Organs.

"With the new system, you can be anywhere in the world and apply for permits and go through the entire process. So, with that you have transparency [and] predictability," he explained.

However, recognising the significance of the oil and gas sector, Minister Croal revealed a dedicated policy at the housing ministry for expedited approvals.

The fast-track

system, he noted, has already yielded 33 approvals in 2023 alone, and 127 approvals in the last three years.

"That means a lot because it's a lot of investments," the minister emphasised.

Addressing concerns about inappropriate land use, Minister Croal stressed the importance of zoning regulations.

He pointed to areas like Sherrif Street in Georgetown, which have naturally transitioned to a commercial zone over time.

The ministry, he affirmed, plays a crucial role in ensuring proper zoning and land use.

Additionally, Minister Croal noted a

surge in requests from individuals seeking to convert their land use for building apartment complexes.

This trend, he explained, is heavily driven by the oil and gas industry.

"We have been directly playing our part in the oil and gas sector to be able to respond to the demand," he reiterated.

The government has delivered 30,000 house lots over the past three years in keeping with its manifesto commitment to deliver 50,000 house lots to Guyanese by 2025.

30 FAMILIES RECEIVE KEYS TO NEW GREAT DIAMOND HOMES

Thirty families who have been squatting along the eastern side of the Demerara River have obtained keys to their new residences at Great Diamond, East Bank Demerara.

The beneficiaries also received their certificates to apply for electricity, during the handing-over ceremony facilitated by Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal.

The houses, measuring 30 feet in length and 20 feet in

width are similar to the low-income homes and are valued at \$5.2 million each.

Minister Croal highlighted that the event signifies the first process for persons from the river bank who have been able to pre-qualify for houses.

"We have a programme to relocate persons who are living along that alignment. Many of those persons have been there for many

years [and] we have engaged all of those households there. All have to be removed... So similarly, we are moving along in terms of aggressively relocating persons. There are persons who have had their lands identified very close to here. And those persons will be dealt with in another way," the housing and water minister said.

He explained that the newly relocated



It's a dream realised as young family become first time home owners

area could be deemed as prime, especially since the houses are near the Heroes four-lane highway. This will significantly

increase the land value for the beneficiaries immediately.

The successful beneficiaries will pay a monthly mortgage of

approximately \$25,000. They can also apply for their Certificates of Title to have ownership of the land.

A total of 50 of these houses have been built at the Great Diamond location. However, the first 30 houses were pre-approved for the beneficiaries.

LOW-INCOME EARNERS RECEIVE HOUSES UNDER LETHEM HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The first batch of low-income homes were handed over to families in Lethem, Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo) under the Lethem Housing Support programme.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal officially handed over the keys to the beneficiaries in Culvert City, during a simple ceremony.

Each unit measures approximately 550 square feet and features two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a sanitary facility. The total cost of each unit is \$3 million.

This affordable housing initiative was conceptualised by



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal officially handed over the keys to one of the beneficiaries

President Ali.

The initial phase of the programme will see the construction of 100 low-income homes at New Culvert City Housing Scheme, Tabatinga Housing Scheme and Tract CHPA Housing Scheme.

The first 48 homes are at the advanced stages of construction at Culvert City and Tabatinga, while construction will commence on an additional 40 units at the new Tract CHPA scheme.

Some 600 persons are expected to benefit

from the initiative.

To make this initiative accessible to Lethem residents, the government provided \$1 million in support for the construction. Additionally, the ministry partnered with commercial banks to offer loans to eligible landowners for the remaining \$2 million.

Minister Croal highlighted that the units handed over is an investment of about \$54 million.

"It is just not about the handing over of the houses... [we] as government understands that when we make decisions, it is to ensure that all citizens

benefit," the minister underscored.

He continued, "Your government is working very hard, to ensure all of us live comfortable lives."

Minister Croal emphasised that the project not only addresses the critical need for affordable housing in Lethem, but also stimulates the local economy through the use of locally sourced clay bricks and timber.

Seven communities are supplying the building materials including; Kwattamang, Shea, Moco Moco, Surama, Shulinab and St Ignatius.

He reported that

in just one year, the government has invested over \$630 million for the construction of houses alone.

This is in addition to the \$1.2 billion invested in infrastructural development at the new housing scheme at Poke Bridge and other road upgrades in the township.

In addition to the Lethem Housing programme, under the Hinterland Housing programme, over 120 houses are being built in various villages within the region targeting vulnerable families.

DRUG COMBATTING EFFORTS DENTING DRUG TRADE – CANU

The Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) is making significant strides in combating illegal narcotics.

According to CANU's Head, James Singh these efforts have resulted in denting the drug trade both locally and internationally.

Singh made this revelation during the Ministry of Home Affairs' agency review and 2024 projection held at the ministry's Brickdam office, Georgetown.

During the 2023 period, the unit recorded five international seizures, a testament to the strategic measures being implemented at the various ports of entry countrywide.

These, according to Singh, are making it more difficult for narcotics to be transported.

"What we're doing here in Guyana is making an impact in the drug trade...The fact that we have seized a lot more drugs destined for overseas, be it marijuana and cocaine in different regions of the country, is an indication that the systems we have in place are working, especially the partnerships that we have with local law enforcement agencies here in Guyana is making a difference," Singh disclosed.

Furthermore, CANU assisted in overseas operations leading to the confiscation of narcotics that were transported from the Guyanese region.

"This is a demonstration that our role in the narcotics fight, not just here in Guyana but internationally is



Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, CANU's Head, James Singh & CANU ranks

making a significant impact," he emphasised.

The CANU head attributed the unit's success to the support provided by the ministry, and by extension the government as well as partnerships with local and international law enforcement agencies.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's engagements have also proven fruitful with training opportunities being created for CANU's

ranks.

"I would say that the relationship is a lot stronger than before, not just based on what we're doing but all the commitment of the Government of Guyana in fighting the narcotics trade," he further stated.

Meanwhile, Minister Robeson Benn noted that while the unit is functioning remarkably, there is more room for improvement.

"We have to grow

and make bigger and larger efforts at CANU. They are also involved in the question of firearm seizures...On the whole, we are pleased with what the unit is doing," the minister posited.

Permanent Secretary, Andre Ally added that with the success recorded, the ministry sees it fit to invest heavily in the unit. To this end, the sum of \$827.4 million is earmarked in budget 2024.

This sum will advance the construction of a new headquarters on Homestretch Avenue as well as acquire additional vehicles, tactical gear, and modern technology to detect narcotics at the various ports of entry.

In 2023, the unit

cleared approximately 1363.28 kilograms of narcotics consisting of cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, and hashish totalling \$461.5 million. Cannabis was the most confiscated drug, accounting for 94 per cent of the total narcotics seized for the year, with approximately 73 separate seizures amounting to 1,287.88 kilograms.

There were 18 seizures of cocaine amounting to 75.17 kilograms, three seizures of ecstasy totalling 0.124 kilograms, and One seizure of hashish to the amount of 0.102 kilograms.

The seized cannabis was valued at \$386.3 million while the cocaine's value came up to \$475.1 million.



Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn (left) and Commissioner of Police, Clifton Hicken (right)

Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn said his ministry will continue to pursue the government's manifesto promise of ensuring and promoting safer communities by reducing crime.

During a televised interview on the ministry's Facebook page, Minister Benn stated that the Guyana Police Force (GPF)

has seen a consistent reduction in crime and other deviant behaviours.

"These figures are very critical for our country, given the fact that perhaps we are now more attractive in relation to the questions of economic growth, and in relation to the opening up of new industries and new

POLICE FORCE TO FOSTER MORE COMMUNITY RELATIONS THIS YEAR

undertakings," he stated.

Moving forward, the GPF will be more intent on collaborating with civil society and the general public, and has already begun making good on this intention.

The GPF has partnered with more than 17 non-government organisations (NGOs), several government ministries and agencies, and even faith-based organisations, in an effort to achieve its mandate.

Meanwhile,

Commissioner of Police (ag) Clifton Hicken explained that

these partnerships will continue to be extended to the grassroots level, empowering communities to contribute to the shared goals.

"When we are moving, we are moving as a body. When we are going to the communities, the corporate sector, they're coming with us, and so I think we are doing policing from a more contemporary perspective," the top cop noted.

He stated that the force also intends to strengthen marine capacity, noting that there will be an acquisition of 17 state-of-the-art boats, which will serve a myriad of needs.

"We have all the structures in place now. What we're going to be doing is ensuring that the CCU (Corporate Communications Unit) moves into every department, every division, [and] interview the man in the street. Feedback is critical for us," Commissioner Hicken stated.

Additionally, the ministry's Permanent Secretary (PS), Andre Ally believes that the GPF's 2024 budgetary allocation of \$30.3 billion will continue to equip law enforcement to cater to the needs of communities countrywide.

Ally also stated that some of the funds will go toward continued infrastructural development, by rebuilding, renovating, and constructing various policing facilities.

GOVT HOPES TO HAVE E-TICKETING SYSTEM FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS IN PLACE BY MID-YEAR

The government, along with the Guyana Police Force (GPF) is developing an e-ticketing system that will be integrated with relevant agencies to address the challenge of increasing traffic violations.

Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn told reporters that the system is currently at an advanced stage.

"I hope between the middle of the year, that we'll be in a particular position

to have it in place, but they would have to go along with the process and integrate it with other agencies," the home affairs minister highlighted.

He also noted that the necessary amendments to the relevant laws will be made to allow for the smooth implementation of the e-ticketing system.

The e-ticketing initiative will replace the current manual system and will use cameras



police working to advance e-ticketing system

and other technology to accurately monitor traffic, check speeds, and vehicles' licence plates, as well as track any traffic

violations. The digitally obtained information will be transmitted to the GPF and the Guyana

Revenue Authority, and a traffic ticket issued and emailed to the driver based on the customisable parameters.

The license plate recognition function entails real-time licence plate collection, driver and passenger snapshots, and high-powered infrared illumination.

The e-ticketing system forms part of the administration's policy to modernise the security

sector and guarantee safety for citizens.

It is expected to improve efficiency in the drafting and dispatching of tickets, as well as enforce penalties and fines.

It is also expected to eliminate the instances of bribes that occur during the manual ticketing process.

NEW DNA SYSTEM AT FORENSIC LAB HELPING IN CLEARING BACKLOGS

The Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL) is now making strides in clearing the backlogs of (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) DNA testing with the new analysis workflow system acquired through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Speaking to reporters, Minister Robeson Benn said specific tests are being conducted with the new machine although it is not fully operationalised.

“We’re waiting

on specific instrumentation in relation to making that even faster [but] we have seen improvements in making up the backlog, which we had for particular examinations at the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory,” Minister Benn explained.

In 2022, the National Assembly approved \$50.5 million to provide additional resources to support the laboratory, specifically for acquiring

the DNA analysis workflow system. It was acquired since the waiting time for DNA test results was lengthy due to the samples being sent abroad.

Minister Benn also disclosed that officials will visit a regional laboratory soon.

“We should be having a visit shortly to a regional laboratory in respect of their procedures and methodology in respect of the forensic laboratory

issues,” the home affairs minister noted.

Additionally, four experts have been employed in various specialties to enhance the capacity of the forensic laboratory further.

The government was compelled to acquire a new DNA system since the system purchased in 2017 was deemed nonfunctional due to the discontinuation of its production by the company.



DNA testing

GOVT BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS



Restorative Justice Training programme opening

The government is placing significant investments into building its forensic capabilities to enhance the administration of justice.

As part of this effort, 30 officers of the Guyana Police Force (GPF), and five officers from the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security will soon travel to India on fully paid scholarships to receive training in forensic interviews.

This was announced by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall,

SC, at the opening ceremony for the two-day restorative justice training, at the Guyana Police Force Officers’ Mess Hall, Eve Leary, Georgetown.

“We are investing in these programmes and policies right across the divide. You can attest to the dozens of police and prison officers and social workers who are being sent on training across the globe so they can return here and impart this knowledge to others in the discharge of

their functions. We have recognised that we have to change our approach to investigation if we are to be successful,” the Attorney General stated.

He highlighted that with the advent of more innovative and intricate advancements in technology, criminals are exploring creative ways to commit infractions, and as such, the state apparatus must be versed in new areas to curb these acts.

“We are concentrating more on forensic policing, using scientific methods and technological approaches, as well as human resources training to combat crime, because with the technological changes that are taking place across the globe, crime has not remained stagnant and static.

The criminal has wised up, and the criminal takes advantage of the technological

The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) also features a range of programmes in the areas of forensic

These investments in the forensic investigation arena are aimed at building a highly skilled and qualified law enforcement arm, equipped with the necessary tools to combat crime at all levels.

The government has recruited four highly-qualified forensic experts for the next three years, to boost operations at Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL). The experts have a variety of skills in areas including ballistics, handwriting and fingerprint analysis, and crime scene forensics, among other areas.

Another feature of this dedication to boosting the forensic capacity is the government’s engagement with the University of Guyana to integrate these experts’ knowledge into crafting a training programme in the field.



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

changes and the sophisticated apparatus that we have now and they use them to commit crime. In the face of that, we can’t have the same type of approach to policing which we may have had 30 and 40 years ago,” he explained.

investigation that dozens of police and probation officers have pursued, according to the AG.

Thirty officers of the GPF recently graduated from the American University of Peace Studies, completing programmes in Forensic, General, and Clinical Psychology.

INVESTOR FOR BERBICE OIL REFINERY TO BE IDENTIFIED SOON

The government is currently evaluating five proposals that were received to construct an oil refinery in Region Six. The final investor will be singled out by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

Initially, the government received nine proposals following the launching of requests for proposals (RFPs) in 2022, after which potential investors were narrowed down to five, which are now under

evaluation.

“Following this, the top-ranked contender will undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment at Crab Island for a facility designed to process at least 30,000 bpd,” Minister of Finance Dr. Ashni Singh stated.

The investment commitment from these shortlisted firms is expected to exceed



Oil refinery to be established

US\$1 billion, the finance minister underscored.

An oil refinery is an industrial plant where

crude oil is processed to produce marketable petroleum products, such as gasoline, asphalt,

and kerosene.

The construction plan for the refinery is aligned with the government’s vision of promoting value-added production, and ensuring energy security for both Guyana and the Caribbean.

Guyana has the potential to market crude oil components to various industries for a broad range of purposes once a local oil refinery is operational. These

components can be used as fuel for transportation, paving roads, generating electricity, and as raw materials for chemical manufacturing.

It is also an integral part of the government’s developmental plan for Region Six.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PEACE STUDIES

- AS 65 GRADUATE FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PEACE STUDIES

A total of 65 persons graduated recently from the American University of Peace Studies, 30 of whom are members of the Guyana Police Force. The batch consists of Diploma, Degree, and Master's graduates who would have completed programmes in Forensic, General and Clinical psychology.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, who delivered the feature address, explained that the study of psychology is an emerging discipline in Guyana's legal system, which has the potential to revolutionise the country's approach to justice.

The study of psychology includes an examination of biological, social and environmental factors, and the ways in which these aspects of socialisation shape a person's thoughts, ideals, principles and actions.

This microscopic view allows for comprehensive analysis and understanding of a criminal's motivations, as well as behaviours of aggression and violence.

The AG lamented that several constraints have prevented a thorough investment and education into the intricacies of psychology and its application in Guyana's legal system.

"As a people, we have not paid the type of attention we should have to issues like psychology. The reasons are manifold. Paramount among them is the fact that we were not oriented that way. We were not educated that way. The historical evolution of our people, the process that we have endured did not allow for the exposures to concepts like psychology," he noted.

He continued, "We

are now economically and financially better than we were before,

Academy of Learning (GOAL).

"We have now

stage," AG Nandlall pointed out.

The study of

He urged the graduates to continue upskilling themselves in the interest of personal development, noting that the field of psychology will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping Guyana's future.

"Our greatest asset is our people, particularly our young people, and if you are now qualified to shape and influence the lives of those young people, so that they can become the model citizen that we want to create, then the government of Guyana will work with you to provide innumerable opportunities to allow you to achieve that objective," he said.



65 persons graduated recently from the American University of Peace Studies

and we now have greater access to learning,"

As a result of this, there are now multiple institutions and programmes that offer training in these areas, aside from the American University of Peace Studies. These include the University of Guyana, and the Guyana Online

reached the place where we have recognised the importance of psychology to the development of our society. The science that studies the human mind and its behavioral pattern is a science of utmost importance. Courses such as psychology are being incorporated in our national life at every

psychology also aims to address the root causes of many social issues, and this approach is one that is gradually becoming a key facet of Guyana's legal framework.

The AG pointed to the restorative Justice programme, which will soon be rolled out countrywide, as part of this transition.

GUYANA IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN FOOD PRODUCTION - MINISTER MUSTAPHA

Guyana is reclaiming the title "Bread basket of the Caribbean", as the agricultural sector is rapidly approaching food security through the implementation of key initiatives such as the Farmers' Market Day.

The latest event was held at the Eve Leary Police Sports Ground, Georgetown, and saw consumers flooding the gates to take advantage of the fresh agricultural produce at unbeatable prices.

This event is a result of the collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Guyana Police Force (GPF).

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha said that the growth of the agriculture sector since the PPP/C came into office, is evidence that Guyana is an agricultural giant in the production of food.

"The President is putting a lot of energy a lot of effort in terms of the investment that we



Farmers Market a success

have been making. When you look at the investment, we have made over the last three years, today Guyana is a force to reckon with in the production of food," Minister Mustapha declared.

In keeping with achieving the goal for the reduction of the food import bill in the

Caribbean, he shared that the broader vision is for Guyana to not only produce food locally, but also export the local produce regionally.

"We want Guyana to be a hub for the production of food and also distribution. We are seeing here a number of produces that we have here not only fruits and

vegetables, but if you look at the agro processing line, it is very impressive. Things that we have been imported for centuries, we are now producing it in Guyana," Minister Mustapha articulated.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police (ag), Clifton Hicken posited that the Farmers'

market Day is a benefit to all stakeholders.

The commissioner thanked the agriculture minister for collaborating on bringing yet another Farmers' Market to reality. The previous one saw 90 stalls and was deemed successful.

Additionally, Commissioner Hickens further stated that the Guyana Police Force

(GPF) is placing more emphasis on service as they continue to build community relations and partnerships.

"We are integrating with the public through these types of activities because they are getting to meet the higher echelon of the police force. So, they can interact with all the commanders and so we can help to build this gap with members of the public," he said.

Similarly, Deputy Commissioner, Calvin Brutus, reaffirmed the GPF efforts in bridging the gap between law enforcement and citizens.

"I was looking here as the crowd stream in and it is a fast build up. This fits nicely in our partnership arrangement where we use this forum not only for the sale of good and produce helping the farmers in Guyana but also to meet with members of the public and build that support further"

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9178	BLACK GOLD CTC INC.	2019-2022	BO
9179	SCANDIUM (GUYANA) INC.	2022	BO
9180	GIANT TRADING INC.	2022	BO
9181	CARIBBEAN DUTY FREE GUYANA INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO
9182	3SIXT TRADING GUYANA INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO
9183	GLOBAL AVIATION SERVICES COMPANY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9184	DEEPOCEAN (GUYANA) INC	2019-2022	BO
9185	INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS GUYANA CHAPTER INC.	2019-2022	BO
9186	KEE-CHANONA GUYANA INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9187	COURTESY RENT A CAR INC.	2019-2022	BO
9191	MVC INVESTMENTS COMPANY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9192	GUYANA SCHOOL OF ETIQUETTE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9195	CREATIVE JUNCTION (GUYANA) INC.,	2019-2022	BO
9196	KIRIS MINING AND MINERAL EXPORT INC.	2019-2022	BO
9197	VITROLEUM RESOURCES INC.	2019-202	BO
9198	OPTIMUM ENTERPRISE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9199	HADALI ENTERPRISES COMPANY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9200	BANNER HOLDINGS GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9201	AGRO ATLANTIC (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	BO
9203	AGATHA GENERAL CONSULTANTS & ADVISORY SERVICES INC.	2021-2022	BO
9204	SP ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9205	MEADOWBANK ASSET MANAGEMENT (GUYANA) INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9206	NFA INTERNATIONAL INC.	2019-2022	BO

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9207	A & D ENERGY SERVICES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9208	IAN HOPKINSON LOGGING COMPANY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9209	GENERA INVESTMENTS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9210	PV GURU - GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9212	ROY MUNIAN REALTOR AND DEVELOPER INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO
9213	ONE WITH ME MINISTRY GUYANA INC.	2021-2022	BO
9214	RESA MANAGEMENT INC.	2019-2022	BO
9215	JANI JOB AGENCY INTERNATIONAL INC.	2019-2022	BO
9216	RICHMILK INDUSTRIES (GUYANA) INCORPORATED.	2019-2022	BO
9217	REMOTE HEALTHCARE AND SUPPLIES INC.	2019-2022	BO
9218	BERBICE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9219	BEDESSEE DISTRIBUTION COMPANY INC.	2019-2022	BO
9220	INTERNATIONAL ECO-SUSTAINABLE SERVICES INC.	2022	Not Applicable
9221	FUSECON W.I. INC.	2022	BO
9222	TLC (GUYANA) INC.	2021-2022	Not Applicable
9223	CRCC 17TH BUREAU GROUP (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	BO
9224	HYBRID ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE INC.	2019-2022	BO
9228	GIFTLAND OFFICEMAX INC.	2019-2022	BO
9229	GLOBAL SILICA SOLUTIONS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9231	MMP GLOBAL INC.	2019-2022	BO
9232	NOVA INTERNATIONAL INC.	2019-2022	BO
9233	XCESS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9234	READYMIX SECURITY SERVICE INC.	2022	BO
9235	BHW ARCHITECTS INC.	2019-2022	BO
9236	UNISURE GUYANA INCORPORATED.	2022	BO

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9237	QUALITECH INCORPORATED.	2020-2022	Not Applicable
9238	SKILLPOINT SOLUTIONS INC.	2021-2022	BO
9239	RD MINING INC.	2019-2022	BO
9240	PANTLITZ INC.	2019-2022	BO
9241	THE REAL COCONUT WATER INC.	2019-2022	BO
9242	GULF & MARITIME INC.	2021-2022	BO
9243	STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS INC.	2022	BO
9244	SYMMETRY BROKERAGE & LOGISTICS INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9245	GUYANA OIL AND GAS CONSULTANCY INC	2019-2022	BO
9246	F & F GANIE INC.	2022	BO
9247	COLTEDASK FARMS, INC.	2019-2022	BO
9248	THE GUYANA PREMIER DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC.	2019-2022	BO

COMPANY NUMBER	COMPANY NAME	ANNUAL RETURN OUT-STANDING	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OUT-STANDING
9249	KVA INVESTMENTS INC	2019-2022	BO
9250	"ACCESS POINT GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9252	MORNINGSTAR INC.	2019-2022	BO
9256	INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS INC.	Not Applicable	BO
9258	RENOVESH INCORPORATED	2019-2022	BO
9260	MARLOG (GUYANA) INC.	2019-2022	Not Applicable
9261	ENABLE GUYANA INC.	2019-2022	BO
9262	ENTEN NATURAL RESOURCES INC.	2020-2022	BO
9263	GEM TRADER'S INTERNATIONAL INC.	2019-2022	BO

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2024

Mr. Reza Manraj
Registrar of Companies

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STEMGUYANA A DISPLAY OF YOUTHS BRIMMING WITH TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS -MIN EDGHILL

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill said Guyanese youths are brimming with technological prowess, during the Future Innovators Expo hosted by STEMGuyana.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill and Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag with youths from the Future Innovators Expo hosted by STEMGuyana Organisation

The expo welcomed youths from various regions to display their talents and innovations while fostering a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

One noteworthy project that caught the minister's attention was the group from Lake Mainstay that is developing a robot

designed to pick and plant pineapples.

He noted the transformative nature of such projects, highlighting how these innovations allow young people to contribute to development without the

traditional connotations associated with farming.

"I would've never thought about that but I guess young people these days would've been in a world contributing towards development

without looking like they are farmers. Hands clean, high technology and it just shows that once we get people to stimulate thinking... it makes a big difference," the minister stated.

Minister Edghill pledged his commitment to these kinds of initiatives while envisioning a future where more organisations can contribute to shaping the minds of the youth.

"Whatever I can do to help that expansion, I sure want to play a role.

I think there is a paradigm shift and I would like to see this replicated in more places. I applaud the organisations that want to expand their clubs up to a hundred. And this is good for Guyana, it is good for our modernising, it is good for our transformation, it is good for the next level of technology," he expressed.

Meanwhile, the public works minister congratulated the Guyana National Robotics Team, who participated in the World

Robotics Competition in Singapore last year, competing against over 100 teams.

The team's outstanding performance led them to the finals, where they faced off against 18 teams securing fifth place.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag was also present at the event and reiterated the government's commitment to support initiatives that contribute to national development.

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES IN REGIONS 2 AND 3 BOOSTED WITH SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS



Minister Walrond hands over a small business grant to a resident of Region Two



Small Business Grant Distribution Region Three

The government distributed grants totalling over \$30 million to small business owners of Region Three in Santa Mission, Leguan, and Wakenaam.

This distribution was done through the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce under the Small Business Bureau at the Uitvlugt

Community Centre Ground.

Additionally, some 170 small business owners in Region Two also received grants valuing up to \$500,000 from the Small Business Bureau (SBB) to start or expand their entrepreneurial ventures.

Minister of Tourism,

Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond spearheaded that distribution exercise in the compound of the Anna Regina Town Council.

Minister Walrond noted that the government will continue to prioritise support for small businesses, referencing

the \$450 million that is allocated to the Small Business Development Fund this year.

"This year we will continue with the process of taking in applications. We will be a little bit more judicious and careful. There will be priority sectors and we will refine the process

so that most of the applicants would be able to get the impact which we are looking for," she stated.

Minister Walrond urged small business owners to get registered to benefit from various government initiatives.

She also highlighted the law being passed in the National Assembly

that allows 20 per cent of government contracts to be given to small businesses registered under the SBB.

Since taking office the government has distributed more than 4000 small business grants to the tune of some \$999 million.

INSTALLATION WORKS BEGIN ON INT'L STANDARD SQUASH COURT

Internal installation works have commenced on Guyana's outstanding Doubles Court the National Racquet Centre which aims to stage international in-house squash tournaments.

The internal fittings amount to \$40 million for the doubles court and were purchased

last year while \$25 million was injected for the construction of the facility that will house the court.

This project was completed last year.

This is a significant achievement for the PPP/C Administration given that the doubles court is the first of its

kind, and will play an impactful role in the sport's trajectory.

Recently, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Charles Ramson Jnr revealed that this is the only public facility for squash in the Caribbean.

It will also boost the overall capacity of athletes as it will provide

the opportunity for more intense training.

Meanwhile, the facility will add to the nation's numerous complement of sporting facilities geared at fostering growth for Guyana's talented athletes.



Guyanese youths playing Squash

GEORGETOWN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S 2024 MASHRAMANI COMPETITION LAUNCHED

The Georgetown District Children's 2024 Mashramani Competition was launched at the National Cultural Centre (NCC).

This year, the celebration is being observed under the theme 'Celebrating our peoples and our prosperity.'

Declaring the month-long event officially open was Principal Education Officer, Emmanuel Bridgewater, who anticipates that this year's event would be even more exciting than other years, as private schools will be involved.

According to Bridgewater, the department received entries for the various categories of the competition from many

of the private schools across the city, while almost all public schools sent in theirs.

"As soon as the theme was confirmed and shared with us our teachers began to prepare children for these competitions. The activities planned...for children are dances, masquerades, poetry, costume competition, choir presentation, and physical display," the education official stated.

He said the competition will see both the primary and secondary students performing at the venue, while the nursery schools will host their competition at local community grounds near them.

Primary school

students participated in the dance competition which was recently held. This competition was divided into the categories of religious beliefs, games we play, old days, and fantasy.

The hosting of Mashramani competitions in all regions across the country is done annually to get the children involved in the celebration of Guyana becoming a Republic state. As such, Republic Day is celebrated each year on February 23.

However, the Ministry of Education hosts various celebrations to commemorate the event leading up to the date.



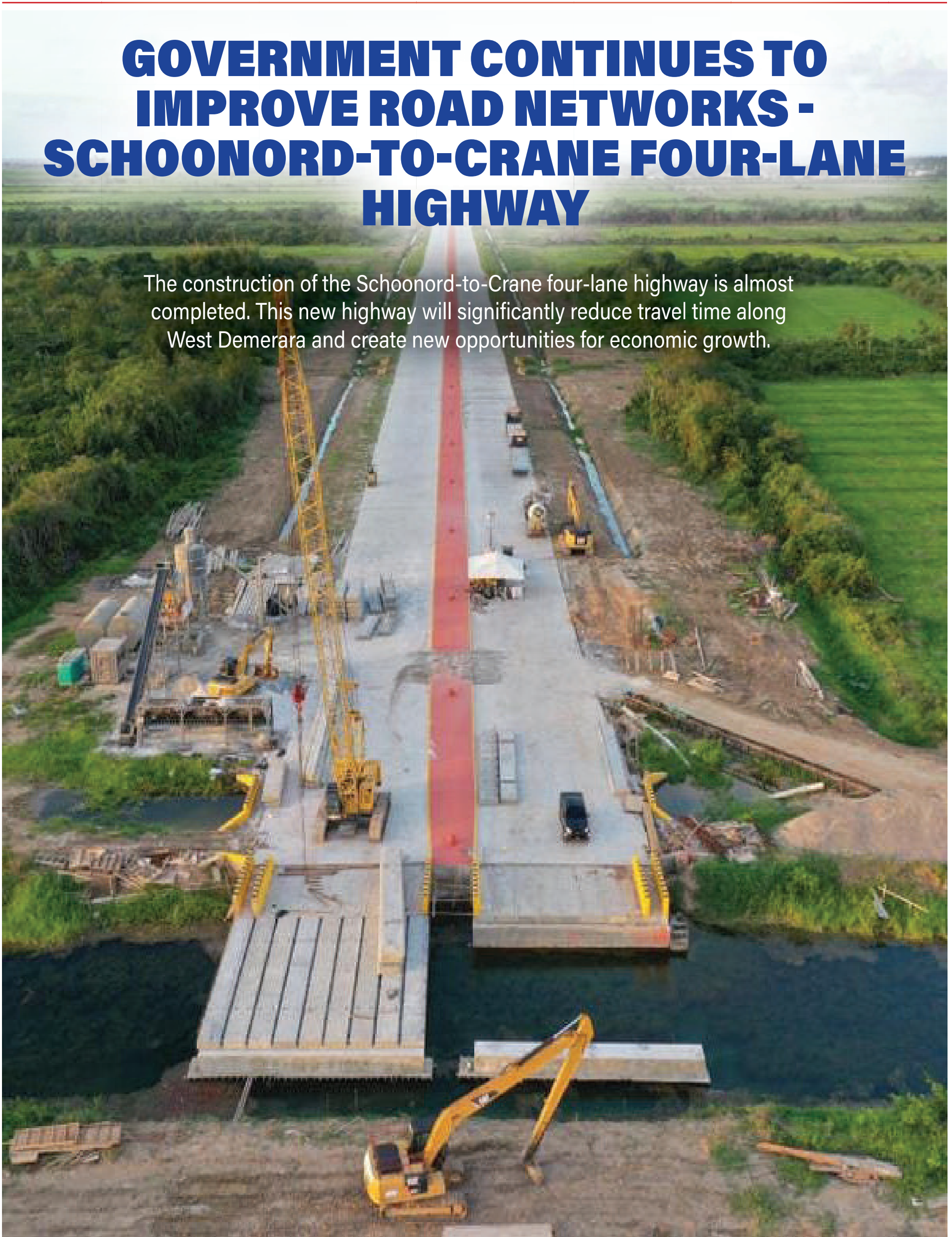


Guyanese **DIASPORA DIGEST**



GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ROAD NETWORKS - SCHOONORD-TO-CRANE FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY

The construction of the Schoonord-to-Crane four-lane highway is almost completed. This new highway will significantly reduce travel time along West Demerara and create new opportunities for economic growth.



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Zucchini 青日本瓜 Reg: \$2.59 1.99 lb	Red Pepper 紅椒 Reg: \$2.99 1.99 lb	US Fuji Apple 美国富士苹果 Reg: \$1.79 1.29 lb	Blue Jay Orange 蓝鸟橙 Reg: \$1.79 1.29 lb	Yellow Plantains 黄大蕉 Reg: \$1.99 1.29 lb	
Bosco Pear 波士啤梨 Reg: \$1.99 1.29 lb	China Red Meat Honey Pomelo 中国紅肉柚 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 ea	Kiwi Basket 盒裝奇異果 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 pk	Blueberry 551ml 藍莓 Reg: \$5.99 2.99 pk	Cantaloupe 粗皮瓜 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 ea	

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Broccoli 西兰花 22.00 case	Red Pepper 15Lbs 紅椒 30.00 case	Andy Boy Head Lettuce 圆生菜 42.00 case	Lemon 18Kg 黄柠檬 42.00 case
Green Onion 葱 45.00 case	US Tomato 美国番茄 50.00 case	Avocado 牛油果 65.00 case	Yellow Plantains 黄大蕉 68.00 case
Frozen Pangas Fillet 鱼柳 8x3.5Lb 60.00 case	Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 21/25.4x6Lb/case 150.00 case	Raw Shrimp 91/110 生虾仁 10x4Lb 160.00 case	Extra Large Egg 箱裝大鸡蛋 53.99 case
Container S32 容器 41.50 case	Container EP-28 容器 23.50 case	Container Y-24W 容器 24.00 case	Container LR-28W 容器 33.00 case
ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg 19.99 bag	Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg 60.00 bag	Jasmine Tea 5Lb 茉莉花茶 20.00 bag	Aroy-D Coconut Milk 椰奶 24x400ml 43.99 case
Capri Vegetable Oil 蔬菜油 16L 36.99 case	Squid Brand Fish Sauce 箱裝鱿鱼鱼露 28.00 case	Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记锦珍味辣油 6x2.2kg 39.00 case	Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 李锦记海鲜酱 1.75L 53.00 case
NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒 24.00 case	Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg 33.99 bag		

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SH Raw White Shrimp 21/25 速冻白虾 908g Reg: \$17.99 11.99 ea	Cool Ocean Frozen Black Tiger Shrimp 26/30 400g 冰鲜去头老虎虾 Reg: \$7.99 5.99 ea	AA-1 HASA HASA Mackerel 450g 马鲛鱼 Reg: \$3.99/ea 2/\$5.00	Supreme Fish Frozen Cooked Oyster Meat 800g 单冻熟制牡蛎肉 Reg: \$13.99 9.99 ea	Qualy Pak Squid 2.2Lb 鱿鱼 Reg: \$10.99 7.99 ea	SH Tilapia 2.5Lb 罗非鱼 Reg: \$6.99 4.99 ea
Gourmet King Vegetable Spring Rolls 1000g 素菜春卷 Reg: \$5.99 3.99 ea	Saputo Mozzarella Cheese Ball 340g 芝士球 Reg: \$5.99 4.29 ea	Supreme Fish Frozen Loligo Squid 300g 野生香港原条火筒鱿鱼 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 ea	Luxury Crab Meat/Black Tie Snow Crab Cluster 蟹肉 400g Reg: \$26.99 19.99 ea	Searay Frog Leg 340g 青蛙腿 Reg: \$6.99 5.99 ea	Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage Series 375g 猪肉加鸡肉腊肠/白油肠 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 ea

GROCERY

Lee Kum Kee Choy Sun Oyster Sauce 510ml 李锦记财神蚝油 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 ea	Merlin Dried Mushroom 干冬菇 400g Reg: \$9.99 7.99 ea	Coconut Tree Dried Noodle 康西米粉 400g Reg: \$2.59 1.59 ea
Golden Panda White Glutinous Rice 4Lb 顶上糯米 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 ea	Ligo Sardines Series 155g 沙丁鱼罐头 Reg: \$1.49 99¢ ea	Reno Corned Beef 340g 威牛肉碎 Reg: \$6.99 3.99 ea
Cha Cha Sunflower Seeds Original 260g 原香瓜子 Reg: \$3.99 2.59 ea	UFC Refresh Coconut Water 椰子水 1L Reg: \$3.99 2.29 ea	Nutrament 355ml 能量饮料 Reg: \$3.99 2.29 ea
Chen Chen Longkou Vermicelli 300g 龙口粉丝 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ ea	Yupin Bamboo Shoots 清水竹笋 2.95L Reg: \$6.99 4.59 ea	Tastie Thai Jasmine Rice 泰国香米 6.8Kg Reg: \$13.99 9.99 ea
UFC Spaghetti Sauce 500g 意大利面酱 Reg: \$3.99 1.99 ea	SW Fiesta Tropical Mixed Fruit 796ml 水果什锦 Reg: \$2.99 1.99 ea	BOY Bawang Cornick Series 玉米零食 90g Reg: \$13.99 7.99 ea
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Pork Stomach 猪大肚 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 lb	Young Chicken (Head on) 有头嫩鸡 Reg: \$3.59 2.59 lb	

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Fresh King Fish Steak 新鲜马鲛鱼扒 Reg: \$10.99 8.99 lb	Fresh Atlantic Salmon Steak 新鲜大西洋三文鱼扒 Reg: \$9.99 7.99 lb	Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 冰鲜有头南美虾 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 lb
Fresh Lane Snapper 新鲜火点 Reg: \$7.99 6.99 lb	Fresh Yellow Tail Snapper 新鲜黄尾立 Reg: \$7.99 6.99 lb	Fresh Skate Wing 新鲜斑翅 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 lb

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SUNDAY 18 CHUTNEY MONARCH Anna Regina Car Park ESSEQUIBO	THURSDAY 22 SPLASHRAMANI National Stadium PROVIDENCE	THURSDAY 22 FLAG RAISING CEREMONY Public Buildings STABROEK	FRIDAY 23 COSTUME & FLOAT PARADE GEORGETOWN	SATURDAY 24 MASHARAMA National Park THOMASLANDS
SUNDAY 25 PANORAMA Marriott Hotel Beach KINGSTON	THUR 29 FEB - SUN 03 MAR LITERARY FESTIVAL CASTELLANI HOUSE - NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE	SAT 9 - SUN 10 MAR BUXTON FOULIS MASH BUXTON		



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