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**EQUALITY ON THE GROUND:** As Guyana unveiled its historic trillion-dollar budget last week, and as the budget debate continues in Parliament, Equality is on the ground in Guyana to check the pulse of the people in response. Leading the team is publisher Bhaskar Sharma, pictured here (centre) with two of the key players in the Guyana government — Attorney General Anil Nandlall, left, and Agriculture Minister Zulkifar Mustapha. Both Ministers are in charge of respective government agencies that received significant amounts in the 2024 budget, and both believe strongly in the government's position that the historic budget means a better life for all Guyanese. See more on the government of Guyana's plans inside.



**\$15.8 BILLION GOVERNMENT COMPLEX:** WORK is set to begin in the first quarter of this year on the highly anticipated \$15.8 billion state-of-the-art Guyana government office complex, which will house numerous ministries and government agencies, according to the Minister of Public Works, Juan Edghill. During an analysis of the trillion-dollar 2024 national budget, Minister Edghill stated that the Government of Guyana, in its modernising on a transformational agenda, will build a modern office complex inclusive of four towers, 12 stories high, with the capacity to accommodate approximately 6,000 staff. According to the Public Works Minister, the state-of-the-art office building is set to be built on 20 acres of land in the 'highly connected and developed' area of Houston, East Bank Demerara, approximately 1 km from the new Eccles/Haags Bosch. With the aim of alleviating the hassle for citizens to travel to the different ministries throughout Georgetown, the minister also outlined that the new facility would meet all of the criteria in order to provide services to the public in the most effective way possible without having to deal with parking issues or traffic congestion.

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## MASH 2024

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# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 59

## HISTORIC BUDGET: \$1.146 TRILLION FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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### Tax Relief and Social Supports:

- Increased income tax threshold: \$85,000 to \$100,000
- Boosted pensions: Old age (+9%), Public assistance (+18%), Minimum NIS (+23%)
- Education boost: Increased cash grant (\$45,000) and eye care support (\$1 billion)
- Women's health: \$2.8 billion for cervical cancer testing
- Fire safety: Duty and VAT waived on firefighting equipment

### Investing in Infrastructure and Development:

- Agriculture: \$97.6 billion total, including \$6 billion for GUYSUCO
- Healthcare: \$10.3 billion for pediatric & maternal hospital
- Education: \$28.7 billion for school upgrades
- Transportation: \$204.1 billion for roads & bridges
- Housing: \$78 billion for nationwide development
- Vulnerable groups: \$48.3 billion for women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities
- Indigenous communities: \$9 billion for Amerindian and hinterland programmes
- Water: \$22.5 billion for improved quality and supply
- Youth: \$1.1 billion for development initiatives



## GUYANESE WELCOME INCREASED SPENDING ON KEY PRIORITIES



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GUYANA AND TÜRKİYE DEEPEN COOPERATION ON SECURITY COUNCIL MATTERS

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US\$28M BRICKDAM POLICE STATION TO REPLACE FIRE - RAVAGED HEADQUARTERS

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# HISTORIC BUDGET: \$1.146 TRILLION FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The government tabled a \$1.146 trillion budget for the year in the National Assembly, making history as it is the biggest budget to date that contains a mix of people centered measures while forecasting the economic performance.

The budget was themed **'Staying the course, building prosperity for all'**, and it was presented by the Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh.

The budget was 46.6 per cent larger than



Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh

2023, and was notably, revelations during his budget presentation at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre said that the 2024 budget is

economically friendly.

According to the minister, the budget met every aspect of the country, from infrastructural development, to resources and to adequate financing of the citizens, ranging from children to adults.

**"Mr Speaker, this is budget 2024. A budget that will improve the lives of each and every single Guyanese citizen. A budget that addresses today's priorities but also blatantly sets the stage for tomorrow,"** the minister stated.

The budget was

designed to navigate every challenge that the country is facing while at the same time keeping its pace at the rate at which development is progressing.

**"Budget 2024 continues the PPP/C work to build out this Guyana, where every single Guyanese family is able to meet their basic needs,"** the senior minister stressed.

Some major announcements included the \$7B to ease the cost-of-living burden increase of the income tax threshold to \$100,000, reduction in the fuel tax, the increase

of the Because We Care Cash Grant to \$45,000, increases in pension and public assistance and increases in NIS pension, among a plethora of measures that benefits all Guyanese.

Additionally, \$129.8 billion was allocated to continue the transformation of the health sector while \$135.2 billion is aimed to upgrade the education sector. Huge allocations were also made for the security sector, infrastructural development, tourism, and hospitality among others.

## GUYANA'S ECONOMY EXPANDED BY 33 PER CENT IN 2023 - MIN. SINGH

Guyana's real gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 33 per cent in 2023 in contrast to the projected figure of 25.1 per cent in last budget.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) is an inflation-adjusted measure that reflects the value of all goods and services produced by an economy in a given year. Real GDP is expressed in base-year prices.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh,

highlighted the country's economic performance while delivering the government's proposed fiscal plan for 2024 in the National Assembly.

Expounding further on the country's performance, Minister Singh highlighted that the non-oil real economy expanded by 11.7 per cent, compared to the projected 7.9 per cent in 2023.

He said the expansion of the overall real economy is attributed to the



Guyana's economy grew in 2023

exceptional growth of the oil and gas activities.

**"Additionally, growth in the non-oil economy was mainly driven by expansions in construction and services, agriculture, forestry, and fishery and manufacturing as well as in other mining and quarrying subsectors,"** Dr Singh told the National Assembly.

Minister Singh, further noted that the government's policies continue to place

emphasis on supporting the growth of traditional sectors in the economy while effectively managing the oil and gas sector.

The agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sub-sectors are estimated to have expanded by 7 per cent overall in 2023, mainly attributed to the increase across all sub-sectors, despite the impact of El Nino.

Additionally, the sugar industry grew by 28 per cent while livestock expanded

by 12.7 per cent and fisheries grew by 37.8 per cent compared to a retraction in 2022.

Moreover, the oil and gas industry expanded by 45.9 per cent in 2023 with a production of 142.9 million barrels of oil.

Budget 2024 was presented under the theme, **'Staying the course, building prosperity for all.'**

## BUDGET 2024 IS 'VERY DISCIPLINED' - MIN. RODRIGUES

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues has dubbed the \$1.146 trillion National Budget for 2024 'very disciplined.'

**"In spite of the increase in the budget, I still believe that the budget is very disciplined,"** she said during a televised interview.

She added, **"Disciplined in the sense that these are capital expenditure, it's not on the recurrent side, so all of these projects that we are investing in right now, will contribute to the overall improvement and the standard of living of every single Guyanese."**



Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues

Minister Rodrigues highlighted the continuity of the host of measures implemented in the past four budgets, emphasising the need to fund those existing initiatives while accommodating

additional ones to be implemented. These efforts have significantly influenced the increase in the budget.

The minister also pointed out that the budget serves as testament

to the unwavering commitment of the PPP/C Government, as outlined in its manifesto.

**"Commitment to those transformational multiyear projects... ensuring that the gas to energy project to its finality so that Guyanese from all walks of life can benefit from a 50 per cent reduction in electricity cost."**

Another thing that is associated with a PPP/C Budget is predictability, in the sense that we do not waver as a government. We made our commitment crystal clear; we have a social contract with the

people of Guyana," the minister stated.

Addressing the over \$100 billion allocation for housing and water, Minister Rodrigues expressed satisfaction with the budgetary allocations, emphasising the substantial increase of about \$28 billion from the previous year.

This allocation will fund major infrastructure projects to meet housing demands, and enhance water quality and improve supply systems nationwide.

In the area of housing, she said the government will continue its house lot allocation exercise targeting 10,000 house lots this year.

Infrastructure development works will also advance in several

areas including Amelia's Ward, Balthyock, Burma, Charity, De-Endragt, De Kinderen, Golden Grove, Good Hope, Great Diamond, Hope, La Bonne Intention, Leonora, Le Ressouvenir, Lethem, No. 75 and 76 Villages, Palmyra, Peter's Hall, Shieldstown and Stewartville.

Similarly, in the water sector a number of projects will be executed to meet the government's target of 100 per cent coverage and treated water.

Five water treatment plants are expected to be constructed at Adventure, Bath, Leguan, Maria's Delight, and Wakenaam, adding to the seven currently under construction.



# BUDGET 2024 PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO THE NATION’S DEVELOPMENT PATH- PRESIDENT ALI

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali provided a comprehensive overview of the transformative measures outlined in Budget 2024 during a televised address to the nation.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President, with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh announced a whopping \$1.146 trillion budget for 2024, under the theme ‘Staying the course: building prosperity for all.’

President Ali emphasised that Budget 2024 provides a holistic perspective on the country’s development trajectory, showcasing key projects aimed at continuing the nation’s transformative agenda.

“We had another opportunity to showcase our model of development and outline a clear strategy through which we are building national prosperity and through which we are creating opportunities for every single Guyanese regardless of which region you live in, regardless of which sector you are



His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

in,” he said. The president underscored that the measures specifically focusing on women, children, the elderly, and the youth with an estimated injection of over \$100 billion.

He said, “All of these measures are aimed at increasing disposable income, putting more money in the pockets of people, bolstering income for vulnerable groups, and of course, improving the system of governance and the provision of services for our country.”

Notably, the President emphasised the government’s commitment to containing the cost of fuel, a move projected to save approximately \$40 billion annually at current prices.

He elaborated on the impact of fuel costs and how it influences the overall cost of energy and essentially dictate the pricing structure across

various sectors.

The ripple effect, he explained extends to the cost of production for farmers, manufacturing, and industries, ultimately determining the pricing of goods and services and transportation.

Additionally, the government’s adjustment of freight charges will continue this year, at a cost of over \$6 billion.

President Ali also highlighted government’s part time job programme which was allocated the sum of \$10 billion.

The sum of \$7 billion is also set aside to directly address and cushion the impact of cost of living.

Among the key provisions of Budget 2024 are increases in various pension categories. The old-age pension will see a rise to \$36,000, benefiting 76,000 individuals, while public assistance will be increased from \$16,000 per month to \$19,000 per month.

The minimum National Insurance Scheme (NIS) pension has been increased to \$43,075, benefiting over 27,000 people.

Additionally, the government will provide an \$8,000 voucher to women aged 21 to 65 to help meet the cost of cervical cancer testing.

Further, the Because

We Care cash grant was increased to \$40,000.

The budget also provides for the eliminating of outstanding loans owed by graduates of the University of Guyana. This marks the first phase of delivering on the PPP/C Manifesto promise to make tertiary education free by 2025.

Another significant change is the increase in the income tax threshold to \$100,000, which will result in approximately 13,000 individuals being removed from the income tax bracket, allowing them to pay fewer or no taxes.



Drone shot of part of Georgetown

## GUYANESE WELCOME INCREASED SPENDING ON KEY PRIORITIES

Citizens residing on the West Coast of Demerara are pleased with the historic \$1.146 trillion national budget.



Valerie Arthur

One resident, **Valerie Arthur** said that the budget is good as it “assists the single parents and the lower-class workers who draw salary below \$100,000 because remember now that the cost of living

high and the money was way below that...so, the increase, I feel a little satisfied about it.”

Further, she shared her plans of taking advantage of



James Cowsill

the Small Business Support provided by the government to boost her vending business.

Overjoyed **James Cowsill** shared his personal view on the

budget noting that “it is a wonderful budget. The budget has been crafted by a man who has a vision.

“We talking about bridges, road, you talking about hospitals, you talking about building schools, and all of this has been put in place



Olatorera Lanferman

from the budget 2024,” he said.

Another citizen,

**Olatorera Lanferman** expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the government for the increase in the ‘Because We Care’ children’s school cash grant.

“The Because We Care Cash Grant is very helpful to me and my child and my granddaughter.”

Similarly, she emphasised that the \$100,000 tax threshold on salary will greatly assist in providing for her family.

Shewelcomedbudget 2024 in its entirety noting its benefits and opportunities now available for the ordinary man.

“We get a far better life through this budget,” Lanferman said.

**Everton Daury** related his confidence in the budget saying, “I can see a lot of deductions



Everton Daury

and these kinds of things allocated in the budget. There is a lot of allocations and I sure that they are going to make progress on it.”

Similar sentiments were shared by **Simone Bowen**. “I think that the government is heading in the right perspective once they hold on to their promises and not just be like the talks things can work out for the better of

all Guyanese people.”

The budget is the largest to be tabled and promises to be economically friendly and meet every aspect of the country, from infrastructural development to resources and adequate financing of the citizens, ranging from children to adults.



Simone Bowen



## U.S. DEEPENS DEFENCE TIES WITH GUYANA - TOP OFFICIAL VISITS

In a move showcasing its continued commitment to Guyana's defence and regional security, the United States (US) sent its top regional defense official, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel P. Erikson, on a two-day visit from January 8-9. This high-profile visit comes amidst ongoing tensions between Guyana and Venezuela regarding the Essequibo region.

Erikson, responsible for U.S. defense policy across the Western Hemisphere, met with officials from the Guyanese government, the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders. These discussions focused on bolstering the existing security partnership between the U.S. and Guyana, while also collaborating with CARICOM nations for

regional stability.

The U.S. Embassy in Guyana emphasised the concrete steps being taken to solidify the partnership between the two countries including improving equipment compatibility and operational synergy between US and Guyanese forces, increased intelligence exchange to combat shared security threats, and regular military drills to refine strategies and

strengthen coordinated responses.

Erikson's visit, his first of the year, sends a clear message about the U.S' commitment to Guyana's security, particularly in light of recent Venezuelan aggression. This aligns with December's joint USSOUTHCOM-GDF flight operations, another example of ongoing collaboration.



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel P. Erikson

## NEW FERRY SERVICE TO CONNECT GUYANA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - BARBADOS TO FOLLOW

Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have taken a significant step towards solving intra-regional transportation woes with the announcement of a new ferry service linking the two nations. Barbados is slated to join the maritime party soon, expanding the network further.

Leading the charge is the Galleons Passage, a Trinidadian vessel capable of comfortably accommodating 400 passengers and 60 cars. As President Ali proudly



Guyana, Trinidad & Barbados to Launch Ferry service

shared on Facebook, the ferry boasts onboard amenities like a cafeteria, a bar, and even a VIP lounge, ensuring a pleasant journey for all travellers.

This initiative

addresses a key issue that has plagued the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for years - inadequate intra-

regional transportation.

Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley of Trinidad at a recent engagement in his country, emphasised the service's potential to revolutionise food security efforts by facilitating the efficient movement of "raw materials and fresh produce" across the region.

This enhanced flow of goods is expected to stimulate food production: Farmers in

producing agriculture a whole.

The benefits of the ferry service extend beyond food security. Compared to airfare, the ferry promises a more budget-friendly travel option, promoting inter-island tourism and cultural exchange.

The operation of the service is expected to create new employment opportunities throughout the region.

Improved connectivity translates to increased trading opportunities, benefiting both businesses and consumers. Moreover, with easier access to diverse food sources, individual nations become less reliant on imports, enhancing regional food security as

## FORMER US SECRETARY POMPEO MAKES PRIVATE VISIT TO GUYANA



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with Former US secretary of State Mike Pompeo

Former United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a recent private visit to Guyana, with President Ali acknowledging a "courtesy discussion" and highlighting Pompeo's past support for Guyana's democratic process.

While the nature of Pompeo's visit remains officially undisclosed,

President Ali's remarks acknowledge a meeting and emphasise Pompeo's past role in advocating for Guyana's democratic stability during the 2020 elections. Pompeo, serving under the Trump administration, had publicly urged then-President David Granger to respect the results, which showed President Ali's victory.

## CARICOM CHAIRMAN AND CDB PRESIDENT DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

In a high-level meeting held at State House, President Ali, Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), met with Dr Hyginus Leon, President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The discussion focused on strengthening the CDB's role in supporting the development

agenda of CARICOM member states, particularly in regard to ongoing projects and concerns ahead of the upcoming Heads of Government Conference in February.

The meeting underscored the CDB's vital position as a regional partner in propelling the development of its member nations. The discussions delved into optimising the bank's support for existing projects, ensuring their effectiveness and timely completion. Additionally, concerns raised by member

states were addressed, paving the way for tailored solutions and targeted assistance.

Dr Ali, emphasising the importance of the CDB, reaffirmed its crucial role in empowering the region's sustainable development aspirations. He expressed confidence in the bank's capacity to provide the necessary support for member states to navigate their unique challenges and achieve their individual and collective development goals.

The meeting was attended by prominent figures from both CARICOM and the CDB.



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with President Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Dr Hyginus Leon

Dr Carla Barnett, CARICOM Secretary General, and Ms Michelle Micheir, Senior Executive Officer (CARICOM), represented the regional body. Joining Dr Leon from the CDB were Chief of Staff Andrea Power and Advisor Ashaki Goodwin. Guyana's Director of Presidential Affairs, Mrs Marcia Nadir-Sharma, and the Director of the Project

Cycle Management Division at the Ministry of Finance, Dr Tarachand Balgobin, also lent their expertise to the discussions.

This high-level engagement signifies a renewed commitment to strengthen the partnership between CARICOM and the CDB. The collaborative efforts aim to leverage the bank's financial and technical resources to drive impactful development across the Caribbean region, ensuring a brighter future for all member states.



# INCOME TAX THRESHOLD MOVES TO \$100,000 A MONTH

Taxpayers in the public and private sectors will be paying less taxes, as the government announced plans to increase the income tax threshold from \$85,000 to \$100,000 in the government's national budget for 2024.

According to the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, the intervention will place \$4.8 billion of disposable income into the pockets of taxpayers in the public and private sectors.

Additionally, 13,000 employees from the



Massive increase in Old age and NIS pensions to benefit the elderly

private and public sectors will be removed from the income tax bracket effective January 2024.

## CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE

Since assuming office, the PPPC government has prioritised caring for the vulnerable. In view of this, old age pension will be \$36,000 per month placing a sum of \$2.7 billion of additional disposable income in the

hands of 76,000 senior citizens.

Additionally, it was announced that NIS Pension will increase from \$35,000 to \$43,075 payable monthly resulting in a \$2.6 billion transfer in disposable income benefiting over 27,000 of the scheme's pensioners.

Meanwhile NIS survivor benefit payable to 12,000 people is now \$21,537 marking a significant increase from \$17,500 and amounting to some \$800 million in disposable income.

Invalidity pension will also see an increase from \$35,000 to

\$43,045, generating an additional \$24 million in disposable income in the hands of over 200 persons.

Persons ages 60 years and up who have not met the minimal requirements of 750 contributions are now being provided the opportunity to receive a one-off cash settlement, depending on the year in which their last contribution was made and it must range from 700 to 749 to benefit.

This intervention will benefit over 3,800 people at a sum of \$550 million.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Minister Singh further announced a significant increase in Public Assistance from \$16,000 to \$19,000 per month placing a sum of \$1.2 billion in additional disposable income in the hands of over 35,000 vulnerable citizens across the country.

The minister said that the government since resuming office has "more than doubled" public assistance from \$9,000 in 2020 to \$16,000 last year.

# EDUCATION SECTOR ALLOCATED \$135.2BILLION



Government continues to prioritise education in Guyana

The government allocated \$135.2 billion for the education sector in the 2024 budget, as it continues to craft strategic strategies that will further spur the nation's education system.

Some \$4.1 billion has been budgeted to

support the University of Guyana's operations, while a total of \$735 million is budgeted for the training of 1,000 young persons in relevant aspects of information and communication technology (ICT) in a wide variety of areas where skills gaps exist.

In order to support technical and vocational interventions, \$2.3 billion has been budgeted. The allocation is in keeping with the government's five-year Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2021-2025-Vision 2030.

## EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A sum of \$28.7 billion has been budgeted for the continued construction, expansion, and rehabilitation of educational infrastructure in 2024.

Several new secondary schools were completed in 2023 including Abram Zuil Secondary, Good

Hope Secondary, Yarrowkabra, St Joseph's High, St Winefride's, and Bishop's High, amongst others.

More than \$16 billion has been allocated for secondary school buildings throughout the country, while at the primary level, over \$3.1 billion has been budgeted for primary school buildings in 2024.

"In 2024, construction will begin at other locations that include Foulis, Mibicuri, and Tuschen. Mr Speaker, over \$3 billion has been budgeted for nursery school buildings. Further, rehabilitative work will be done on

dormitories and teachers' living quarters," the senior minister stated in his budget presentation.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

The Government also continues to prioritise the welfare of Guyana's children with an allocation of \$4.9 billion for the National School Feeding Programme. This is expected to benefit \$126,000 students in 2024. The proposed sum marks a major increase when compared to the \$2.6 billion that was expended in 2023 and benefited 85,000 students.

## BECAUSE WE CARE CASH GRANT

Further a total of \$8.1 billion is budgeted to advance the distribution of the government's 'Because We Care' cash grant and school uniform allowance, benefitting over 205,000 students countrywide.

This year, the Because We Care cash grant has been increased to \$40,000, coupled with the \$5,000 uniform allowance.

Each child in the public and private school system will now receive the financial support, placing an additional sum of \$1 billion into the hands of their parents.

# BUDGET 2024 CATERS FOR MORE HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY BUILDING

## GOAL SCHOLARSHIP

A total of \$4 billion has been allocated in the 2024 budget for the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarship programme.

Minister Singh, while presenting Budget 2024 further revealed the government will introduce 160 new programmes in general and vocational Bachelor's and Master's degrees during the new

year.

In 2023, 7752 scholarships were granted, bringing the total since the programme was started to 21,442, exceeding the PPP/C's manifesto promises of delivering 20,000 scholarships.

## BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for

Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, also announced that \$500 million has been allocated for the Board of Industrial Training (BIT), in keeping with the aim of upskilling the labour force of Guyana.

The year 2023 recorded a total of 4,439 successful graduates, hailing from the 10 Administrative Regions who completed various skill training programmes through the Ministry of Labour's BIT programme.



Welding and fabrication, one of the key programme of BIT

The Senior Minister stated that the government intends to increase the number of persons trained this year to further increase the efficiency of the

work force, leading to Guyanese becoming financially independent and increasing the country's economic standing.

"In 2024 we will

train another 7890 persons, a sum of \$500M has been budgeted to provide this training," he said.



# GUYANA PUSHES FOR RESOLUTION IN PANAMANIAN RICE DEBT

Guyanese rice farmers are still waiting for their dues after a seven-yearsaga involving unpaid rice exports to Panama. Negotiations are ongoing between the two governments, with Guyana aiming for a swift resolution and recovery of the US\$7 million owed.

The issue stems from a deal made during the previous APNU+AFC administration, where large quantities of rice were sold to Panama on credit without proper payment terms. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandall, at his year-end press conference, revealed the government's approach and the challenges it faces.

Panama has presented a payment proposal, offering to settle the debt without interest. While this may seem like a loss, AG Nandall explained the rationale: accrued

interest has ballooned to nearly equal the principal sum due to the lengthy delay in payment.

Guyana has filed for arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce, but pursuing a legal resolution could be costly, with over US\$150,000 already spent. Additionally, enforcing any ruling against a sovereign nation like Panama is notoriously difficult, AG Nandall explained.

Considering the potential for further legal expenses and the uncertainty of enforcement, the government is also exploring a settlement. AG Nandall emphasised the priority of recovering the principal sum of US\$7 million for the affected rice farmers. **“Those are the considerations that are heavily prevailing upon our minds as we negotiate a settlement of this matter,”** he stated.



Rice farming

# AGRICULTURE BOOMING IN REGIONS SIX AND TEN



Agriculture is flourishing in Regions Six and Ten, thanks to a government pouring billions of dollars into critical projects. This investment is driving food self-sufficiency, and boosting local economies, marking a stark contrast to the past.

Compared to the previous administration's \$450 million investment over five years, President Ali's government has pumped \$3 billion into Region Ten's food sector in just three years!

The Agriculture Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme alone will see \$200 million being used to empower 100 young people as agri-business owners.

Drainage and irrigation upgrades, planting materials distribution, and expanded farmland access are fueling diverse crop cultivation.

Agro-processors are reaping the rewards of the \$23.6 million Watooka agro-processing facility, boosting value-added production.

From sugar and rice to fisheries, aquaculture, and farm equipment, Region Six has seen key investments across its agricultural landscape.

The sum of \$14 billion has revived the crucial sugar industry, creating thousands of jobs.

Brackish water shrimp production along the Corentyne

coast is yielding impressive results. A \$90 million aquaculture farm and processing facility will further expand the sector.

Farming communities benefit from improved drainage, machinery, pasture development, livestock distribution, and farm-to-market roads (\$1.7 billion invested).

Agro-processing facilities at Orealla and Crabwood Creek are on the horizon.

This is a new era for Guyanese agriculture. With billions of dollars strategically invested, Regions Six and Ten are experiencing a vibrant agricultural boom, paving the way for a more food-secure and prosperous future for the nation.

# QATARI PRIME MINISTER JOINS GUYANA ENERGY CONFERENCE LINEUP



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani

The upcoming Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo has received a major boost with the confirmed attendance of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, the Prime Minister of Qatar. This prestigious event, slated for February 19-22, 2024, will bring together industry experts, policymakers, and foreign officials to discuss the crucial field of energy and its future.

Sheikh Mohammed's inclusion as a featured speaker underscores the global significance

of the conference. His presence highlights the shared commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions, and fostering international collaboration in this ever-evolving landscape.

He joins a growing list of distinguished guests, including Guyana's President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, The Bahamas' Prime Minister Philip Davis, and Canada's Minister of Industry, Energy, and Technology Andrew Parsons.

Sheikh Mohammed brings extensive experience in finance, investment, development, and accountability. He previously served as Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and

Chairman of the Qatar Investment Authority.

His leadership at the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) has seen the organisation expand its operations to over 70 countries worldwide. This commitment to international cooperation aligns perfectly with the Guyana Energy Conference's goals.

Sheikh Mohammed's role in mediating the 2023 Israel-Hamas ceasefire demonstrates his dedication to international peace and security. This quality further aligns with the conference's focus on sustainable practices and global collaboration.

The Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, Guyana.

# HEALTH MINISTER RECEIVES COURTESY CALL FROM USAID/ESC SENIOR DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST ADVISOR



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani

Dr Frank Anthony, Advisor, Minister of Health, Fchwehm, and the new accompanied by Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh, received a courtesy visit from the newly appointed United States Agency for International Development/Eastern and Southern Caribbean (USAID/ESC) Senior Development Specialist Advisor, Aaron Spencer.

Spencer was accompanied by the previous Senior Development Specialist

Philip Davis, USAID/ESC Economic Growth and Local Work Development Specialist, Durwin Humphrey. Dr Anthony congratulated Spencer on his new appointment and expressed best wishes to Philip for his future endeavours. He also expressed commitment to further deepen collaboration with the USAID/ESC to better improve the health sector's development.



# HEALTH MINISTER VISITS PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SITE



Dr Frank Anthony's meeting with VAMED Engineering and VIKAB Guyana LTD official

Health Minister, Permanent Secretary, project. Dr. Frank Anthony, Mr. Malcolm Watkins, This state-of-the-art visited the construction and officials from facility, with its planned site of the much-anticipated Paediatric and VIKAB Guyana Ltd., 256 beds, promises to and Maternal Hospital the Minister oversaw revolutionise healthcare in Ogle, East Coast the impressive progress for mothers and children. Demerara. Joined by the made on this landmark Upon completion by the end of 2025, it will offer

comprehensive services, cater to a wider range of needs, and provide a welcoming and modern environment for patients and families. The institution marks a pivotal milestone in Guyana's healthcare infrastructure. It reflects the government's unwavering commitment to improving healthcare access, and service delivery for all citizens, particularly mothers and children. This investment in specialised facilities and advanced care signifies a dedication to building a healthier future for generations to come. This hospital

represents hope for countless families. It promises a brighter future for mothers seeking quality prenatal and postnatal care, and for children requiring specialised paediatric services. It embodies a commitment to reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, and ensuring every child has access to the best possible care. The hospital is a promise kept. It stands as a testament to the government's dedication to its people and its unwavering belief in investing in health and well-being.



The construction site

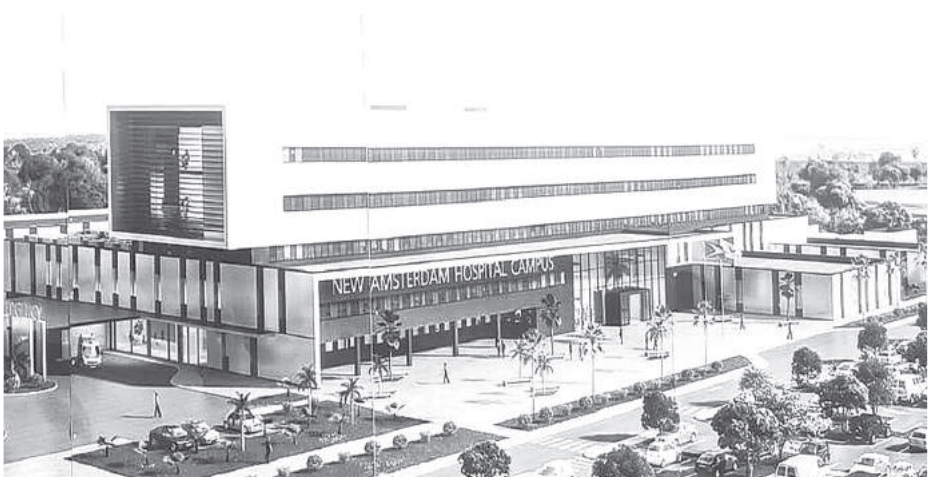
# US\$161M HOSPITAL TO BRING WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE TO NEW AMSTERDAM



The turning of the sod

Residents of New Amsterdam, Region Six can rejoice - a new, state-of-the-art hospital is coming their way! This US\$161 million project marks a major step towards establishing a premier healthcare facility in Berbice. President Irfaan Ali, who officially launched the project, emphasised the hospital's role as a central hub for the region's healthcare system. It won't be just a standalone building; it will be connected to smaller health centers through telemedicine, ensuring everyone gets the care they need, regardless of location. This model extends even further, linking the New Amsterdam Hospital to the national referral hospital and ultimately, to prestigious institutions like Mount Sinai. The four-storey hospital will boast at least five operating theaters, including one dedicated to cardiac surgery. Advanced equipment like digital X-ray and CT scan machines will be readily available, and the facility will even house the second public MRI machine in the country and be equipped for transplants. But the investment doesn't stop there. Two additional buildings are planned - one for medical training and another for a modern psychiatric facility. The project is expected to

be completed within 36 months. President Ali urged the contractor to expedite the construction, highlighting the perfect weather conditions and readily available materials. Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony echoed the excitement, calling the project a "manifestation of the president's vision" and stressing the government's commitment to both infrastructure and training. While the new hospital takes shape, the existing New Amsterdam facility will also see significant upgrades. Millions are being invested to improve services immediately, and plans are underway to increase the number of doctors practicing there. Additionally, a new nursing school will be built, replacing the current one with significantly higher capacity. The New Amsterdam Hospital isn't alone in its transformation. The Skeldon Hospital, expected to be completed by 2025, will further strengthen healthcare in the region. New health centers are also being built in key areas like New Area, Canefield, and Mara, ensuring no one is left behind.



Artist impression of the New Amsterdam Hospital to be constructed

# CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON CHARITY MARKET

Good news for vendors and shoppers along the Essequibo Coast! Construction has officially begun on the new Charity Market, promising a modern and improved space for everyone. The old market, unfortunately, faced a fire in July 2023. Now, the government is rebuilding with a \$286 million investment. Builders Hardware and General Supplies won the contract,



Debris being cleared away from the site

and work has already started with clearing and dismantling the old structures. The new market will be a modern steel structure, designed for both functionality and safety. Elevated flooring (18 inches) will prevent flooding, a common issue in the area, and internal stalls will be designed for convenience and efficiency. After construction, the Charity/Urasara NDC will decide on the placement of vendors in the new facility. The market will be a vital asset for the community, providing a safe and vibrant space for trading and interaction. While construction is underway, vendors haven't been forgotten. They've been temporarily relocated within the Charity area to ensure they can continue their livelihoods.



# BERBICE BRIDGE TOLLS TO DROP AS GUYANA SEEKS INVESTMENT AND PLANS FUTURE CROSSINGS

President Ali has unveiled plans to lower tolls on the Berbice River Bridge through a partnership with investors and hinted at further infrastructure projects, including a new fixed bridge and a Corentyne River crossing.

The announcement came during President Ali's speech at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new US\$161 million hospital in New Amsterdam. He stated that the government is actively formulating a plan to work with investors in the Berbice Bridge Company Inc., (BBCI) to



Government is actively developing a plan to lower tolls for crossing the bridge

increase government's involvement and ultimately reduce tolls. This move aims to **"make it much easier and cheaper for you**

**to cross the Berbice Bridge,"** the President declared. The Berbice River Bridge, vital for connecting Regions

Five and Six, was built between 2006 and 2008 through a public-private partnership. Looking ahead, President Ali revealed plans to fast-

track the construction of a new fixed bridge across the Berbice River, similar to the one currently underway on the Demerara River. This signifies a long-term vision for improved transportation infrastructure.

Furthermore, President Ali announced that the government is close to finalising an agreement with Suriname for the construction of a bridge across the Corentyne River. This ambitious project would enhance regional connectivity and trade between the two countries.

These developments

signal a commitment to improving transportation infrastructure and accessibility within Guyana and across its borders. Lowering Berbice Bridge tolls, constructing new bridges, and strengthening regional ties are key initiatives that are likely to be met with optimism and anticipation by citizens.



# OVER 100 LAND TITLES TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN WEST COAST BERBICE THIS YEAR

The Government of Guyana is set to distribute over 100 land titles to families in several villages along the West Coast of Berbice (WCB) this year. This initiative is part of the government's ongoing land regularisation exercise, which aims to provide legal ownership to residents who have been occupying land for generations.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs is executing the initiative in collaboration with the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission (GLSC). The process

includes land surveys of each area, data collection, and a legal process with the Commissioner of Titles.

**"This is by no means an insignificant accomplishment, as it required every single house lot that these people have been living on to be surveyed [and] streets adjusted. People had to adjust their fences so that we could have proper legal access, [and] then record the information of each**

**occupant or owner of each plot of land,"** Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, explained at a recent press conference.

**"It is a very protracted process, and it took a lot of time, but we are now concluding one phase of it that will result in the issuance of approximately 100 titles very shortly,"** the Attorney General added.

Importantly, the process is executed at no cost to the families. This

is a significant benefit for the residents, who would otherwise have to pay for land surveys and legal fees.

The distribution of land titles is a major step forward for the government's land regularisation programme. The programme has already seen the distribution of titles in Bath, West Coast Berbice; Enterprise, East Coast Demerara; and Tuschen, East Bank Essequibo. The programme will also continue along the Essequibo coast.



Several land titles were handed out in 2023 as part of the government's ongoing land regularisation exercise

# GUYANA'S LAW REVISION PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

Guyana's legal landscape is about to undergo a major transformation. The country's antiquated laws are being comprehensively revised and updated, bringing them into line with the modern legislative framework. This ambitious project, nearing completion, promises to make navigating Guyana's legal system smoother and more accessible.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall SC announced the progress at a recent press conference. The last comprehensive revision of Guyana's



laws occurred in 2012, leaving a significant gap in reflecting the numerous new laws and amendments passed since then.

The revision process involves incorporating all the new legislation and amendments into the existing volumes, creating a comprehensive and up-to-date legal resource. This will streamline legal research and practice, benefiting both legal professionals and the public.

While initially slated for completion by the end of 2023, the sheer volume of work has necessitated a revised target. Now, the updated

Laws of Guyana are expected to be ready by the first quarter of 2024.

Recognising the importance of accessibility, the revised laws will be available not only in printed form, but also in electronic formats (MS Word and PDF), making them readily accessible to everyone with an internet connection.

The revision project is a joint effort by the Attorney General's Chambers, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, and the IMPACT Justice Project, with execution entrusted to the Regional Revision Centre Inc., in Anguilla.

The comprehensive nature of the revision

will see the number of volumes jump from the current 14 to 28, reflecting the extensive changes and additions being made.

Recognising the importance of accessibility, the government plans to print 200 copies of the revised laws, with high-quality covers procured from a reputable US company.

By creating a more accessible and up-to-date legal framework, this project will benefit both legal professionals and the wider public, contributing to a more efficient and just legal system for all.



# SEVEN NEW BRANDED HOTELS ON THE HORIZON

Good news for travellers and Guyana's tourism industry: construction of seven new internationally branded hotels is progressing smoothly, with most set to open by the end of 2025. This expansion promises to alleviate room shortages and cater to the region's growing tourism influx.

Tourism Minister Oneidge Walrond assured that construction for these hotels is "right on schedule." While delays due to project complexity are anticipated, most establishments, including the Pasha Global, Hyatt Palace, AC Marriott, Marriott Courtyard, Four Points, and Best Western,



Minister Walrond and President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali participate in the sod turning for the AC Marriot Hotel which will be established at Ogle

are expected to be operational by late next year. This rapid progress translates to a significant boost in available hotel rooms, addressing a long-standing challenge for Guyana's booming tourism sector.

Recognising the need for skilled personnel to manage these new hotels, the Ministry of Tourism is actively working with the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana to implement

comprehensive training programmes. Partnerships with private entities from Barbados further strengthen this commitment to workforce development. Minister Walrond

emphasised, "Training is a priority... something we will see implemented this year."

The increase in hotel capacity isn't just good news for tourists; it's anticipated to have a

ripple effect on the entire Guyanese economy. With more visitors attracted by expanded accommodation options, businesses in various sectors, from entertainment and transportation to local crafts and souvenirs, stand to benefit from the increased inflow of tourists.

These new hotels won't be concentrated in one area. They'll be strategically located across various parts of Region Four, ensuring visitors have diverse accommodation choices beyond Georgetown. This decentralisation not only improves tourism accessibility but also spreads the economic benefits to wider communities.

# GUYANA'S MILLET CULTIVATION EXCEEDS TARGET BY 100%



Cultivation of millet at Tacama, along the Berbice River

Guyana's forward journey has not only met, but significantly surpassed its initial target for millet cultivation, planting a whopping 1,300 acres

of the resilient and nutritious crop at the Tacama Mega Farm along the Berbice River. This impressive achievement, revealed

by Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha, speaks volumes about Guyana's commitment to exploring new avenues for sustainable food production. "This is only the beginning," he declared, highlighting the potential of millets to contribute to both national food security and economic growth.

This hardy crop can weather even harsh climatic conditions, making them a promising option for Guyana's diverse landscapes. Rich in nutrients like protein, fiber, and essential

minerals, millets offer a healthy and affordable food source for the population. The crop finds application, not only as a direct food source, but also in the production of various food and non-food products. Compared to other crops, millets require minimal inputs and resources, making them a feasible option for small-scale farmers.

With an eye towards further expansion, Minister Mustapha reported enthusiastic interest from farmers across the country

eager to join the millet revolution. This bodes well for the initiative's long-term success and potential to transform Guyana's agricultural landscape.

President Ali's earlier initiative of setting up millet production trials in additional regions like Four, Nine, and Ten further paves the way for large-scale, locally produced millet seeds. This will not only reduce dependence on imports, but also create a robust ecosystem for millet-based value-added products.

# GEORGETOWN LIGHTHOUSE RECOGNISED AS NATIONAL MONUMENT



The Georgetown Light House

Standing sentinel by the Demerara River, the historic Georgetown Lighthouse has received a prestigious new title: national monument. This recognition, presented by the National Trust of Guyana, officially enshrines the lighthouse's importance as a cultural and historical treasure for Guyana.

Constructed in 1830, the lighthouse once guided ships safely through the Demerara Channel. Though technology has rendered its navigational role obsolete, its majestic beauty and architectural significance remain undiminished. Its

distinctive red and white stripes and octagonal form stand as a testament to Guyana's colonial past and maritime heritage.

Hemandri Ramautar of the National Trust of Guyana presented the official heritage marker to Louise Williams, Director of Ports and Harbours at MARAD, marking the lighthouse's new status.

Ms. Williams expressed her gratitude for this recognition, acknowledging the lighthouse's role in shaping Guyana's identity.

This designation as a national monument ensures the lighthouse's protection and



Georgetown Light House now named a national Monument

preservation for future generations. It opens doors for further restoration and educational initiatives, allowing Guyanese to

connect with their past and appreciate the rich history embodied in this iconic landmark.



## KITTY RESIDENTS TO GET RELIEF FROM CLOGGED DRAINS, BAD ROADS -PRESIDENT ALI ANNOUNCES

Residents of Kitty, Georgetown can expect swift action on long-standing issues like poor drainage, road conditions, and lack of jobs, thanks to a commitment from President Ali. Following a walkabout and discussions with residents, the President announced a multi-pronged approach to address these concerns.

He explained that a comprehensive plan will be implemented to desilt clogged drains and improve roadways. This collaboration between the Ministries of Public Works and Local Government will bring immediate relief to residents facing flooding and bumpy commute.

Further, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport will provide around 60 youths in the community with skill training programmes.



*President Ali engaging Kitty residents during the community walkabout*

This investment in skills development aims to empower young people and increase their employability.

President Ali emphasised the importance of Kitty residents' involvement in crafting a long-term development strategy. He encouraged collaboration between citizens and councillors to create a sustainable plan for improving the community's overall well-being.

President Ali pointed out that the goal extends beyond simply fixing immediate problems. He aims to instill a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community to ensure proper environmental care and maintenance. This shift in mindset, he believes, will lead to lasting improvements in the quality of life for Kitty residents.

The President's visit and immediate

action plan highlight the government's commitment to directly addressing issues in communities neglected by the Mayor and City Council (M&CC). Kitty joins Alberttown and Kingston in benefiting from this targeted approach.

### KITTY YOUTHS GET A BOOST

After President Ali's visit, Kitty residents got another treat: a direct line to government

opportunities! Four ministers – Labour, Culture, Public Works, and Public Affairs – came knocking, ready to empower Kitty's youth with training, jobs, and a stake in national development.

Residents like Pastor Selorm and Marquis Bishop saw genuine commitment. "Constant meetings," "people of their word," and "a good thing for the community" were the buzzwords. Adeola Harris even envisioned the offered training becoming reality for Kitty's young men and

women. But amidst the excitement, Minister Charles Ramson delivered a crucial message: this isn't charity, it's a partnership. To build Guyana, they need the "skills, energies, and ideas" of everyone. Kitty's youth have the potential, and the government is opening doors.

Minister Deodat Indar echoed this sentiment, urging youngsters to tap into their existing skills and build upon them.



*The ministers interacting with the youths*

## GOVT MAKING INROADS WITH MOCHA ARCADIA YOUTHS - TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING, JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The government is making inroads within Mocha Arcadia, East Bank Demerara, intervening to provide the youths there with skills training and employment opportunities.

In return, scores of youths expressed their satisfaction and appreciation that they were being involved in government's plan to develop the country while boosting its Human Resources, especially youths.

The youths were engaged by newly appointed Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Parag, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, and Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame Mc Coy.

The engagement, which was held at the Mocha Arcadia Primary School, was a follow-up visit from President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's meeting with the residents last Friday.

However, this specific outreach was to



*Kelvin Gordon engaging with Ministers Parag and Mc Coy*

educate the youths on the many avenues that they can take to help in the development of themselves and their country.

Youth Kelvin Gordon expressed how he felt to be involved.

"This opportunity is great because it's not just for me alone but for everyone within the community, especially the youths. It's a great chance for us to better ourselves. For me, I signed up for health and safety because it is something that I have been pursuing," the young man said.

Gordon encouraged his fellow youths to become educated on what is happening

within the country so that they can help in its advancement.

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Randy Springer said that this engagement will allow him the opportunity to become employed and earn an income at a young age.

"It's nice meeting these ministers and allowing them to get us on board. For me, this meeting was beneficial because I got to sign up for welding. So, when I get through, I'll be able to know more about it and be able to earn an income to help my family," Springer explained.

Additionally, Jave Moore was confident that he will positively

contribute to the changes within his community.

"I'm glad for the conversation I had with the ministers because as of right now I am not doing anything within the community and it doesn't make sense I keep on liming without a job. So, as he came with these opportunities, I

that the young people are getting employed in here. It would occupy their time and give them something worthwhile to do. It would be progressive for them and for the community," Port stated.

As she briefly spoke with the residents, Minister Parag stressed

the understanding the challenges within the communities so that we would be able to help in a better way," the minister posited.

She said that the administration will continue to bring community development to everyone, whether near or far.

Minister Mc Coy encouraged the Mocha Arcadia youths to take advantage of everything that the government is offering and more.

"We want you to know that we can help you get a skill so that you can get a job. The way in which our country is developing right now, there are so many opportunities you have as it pertains to skills and even scholarships," Minister McCoy implored.

The government will continue with its rampant community meetings so as to meet the needs of all its citizens.



*The youths being briefed about skills available*

tried to grasp whatever I could," the patient Moore expressed.

Moreover, an elder of Mocha Arcadia Community Diana Port stressed that with the youths now having the opportunity to make a change, she is adamant that the community will be spiral in its development.

"Well, I am glad

that the government is always willing to engage the youths of the country, since they are the future leaders.

**"Direct engagement has always been a hallmark of the PPP and that will never stop...and we believe that it is the most effective way of understanding**



# GUYANA AND TÜRKİYE DEEPEN COOPERATION ON SECURITY COUNCIL MATTERS

Guyana and Türkiye have taken a significant step in strengthening their cooperation on matters related to the United Nations Security Council. On January 12, 2024, Guyana's Foreign Secretary and High Representative for Security Council Affairs, Mr. Robert Persaud, met with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Burak Akçapar, in Ankara, Türkiye.

The two officials engaged in wide-ranging discussions on several pressing issues on the Council's agenda, including the war in Gaza, the state of various conflicts around the world, and the importance of preventive diplomacy in maintaining



Guyana and Türkiye engage in policy consultations on Security Council matters

international peace and security.

Foreign Secretary Persaud also elaborated on Guyana's priorities for its tenure on the Security Council, including plans for its February 2024 presidency. He invited Türkiye to participate in the High-Level Open Debate that Guyana will

convene on February 13 as President of the Council. The debate will focus on the critical aspects of climate change, food insecurity, and international peace and security.

Beyond the immediate concerns of the Security Council, the two sides also committed

to taking concrete steps to deepen cooperation between their two countries. They agreed on the need to establish a mechanism for regular consultations between Guyana and Türkiye, paving the way for closer collaboration on a range of issues.

This commitment to

enhanced cooperation reflects the long-standing relationship between Guyana and Türkiye, which was established in 1973. Both countries are also members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), providing a further foundation for their partnership.

The meeting between the two officials marks a significant milestone in the relationship between Guyana and Türkiye. The open exchange of views on Security Council matters and the commitment to deepen cooperation bode well for future collaboration between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.

In addition to the focus on climate change

and food insecurity, Guyana has identified several other key priorities for its tenure on the Security Council. These include actively advocating for the use of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts around the world, and championing the protection of human rights, both in conflict situations and in times of peace.

Guyana will also work to uphold the rule of law and the principles of international law.

By focusing on these priorities, Guyana aims to make a positive contribution to the work of the Security Council and to help promote a more peaceful and just world.

# MASSIVE 12-STOREY BRICKDAM POLICE STATION TO REPLACE FIRE-RAVAGED HEADQUARTERS

A new era dawns for the Brickdam Police Station as a magnificent 12-storey, US\$28 million edifice takes shape, replacing the fire-ravaged complex of 2021. This state-of-the-art structure will not only house key departments like traffic and finance but also serve as a symbol of Guyana's commitment to modernising its security infrastructure.

The new headquarters represents a strategic shift, allowing the relocation of services from Eve Leary headquarters, which will be repurposed into a world-class regional police academy.

This move reflects

President Ali's vision of Guyana as a regional leader in security, training officers who will serve not just the nation, but the entire Caribbean.

President Ali emphasised the interconnected nature of security, stressing that the new building is not an isolated project. It's part of a comprehensive national security architecture, where all facets of the security apparatus work together seamlessly.

This holistic approach will be facilitated by digitisation, automation, and infrastructure upgrades across all



The turning of the sod for the construction of the new structure

security services, including the Guyana Police Force, Guyana Defence Force, Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit, and the Guyana Fire Service.

The government is committed to enhancing air and marine capabilities of the GPF, aligning it with the GDF. New hangars, helicopters, and drone technology

will be instrumental in crime prevention and intelligence gathering.

CANU will receive a new headquarters and a regional integrated system, while the GFS will see continued

investments to improve its capacity.

Public awareness programmes, educational initiatives, and community involvement through Neighbourhood Democratic Councils will further strengthen the security network.

The entire system is transitioning to a fully automated digital platform, ensuring transparency and accountability. This marks a significant step towards a future-proof security apparatus.

Construction of the new Brickdam Police Station is expected to be completed within 30 months.

# 'GUYANA POISED FOR TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE AGRI. SECTOR IN 2024' - MIN. MUSTAPHA

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha emphasised that Guyana's agricultural sector is poised for tremendous growth in 2024 due to the direct result of government's prudent management of initiatives and investments.

The \$97.6 billion budgetary allocation for agricultural development this year heavy investment in innovative irrigation and drainage infrastructure.

during an interview

at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, the minister said Guyana has placed a strong precedence on food security while continuing to fast-track the agri-food system in the Caribbean.

The agriculture minister further stated, "We have seen massive growth in the agriculture sector last year... And almost all the sub-sectors in the agriculture sector, we have seen massive growth. This came

about because of the government's vision and investments in terms of driving the agriculture sector."

In 2023, Guyana recorded a 28 per cent increase in sugar production while the rice growing sector is estimated to have expanded by 7 per cent.

The minister also cited the various agricultural interventions that will be undertaken this year. These include the production of corn and soya beans, high-value

crops, fisheries and aquaculture, enhancing drainage and irrigation (D&I) infrastructure, among others.

As Guyana continues to reap significant results due to the strategic investments to transform the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector, 1.2 billion is budgeted for fisheries and aquaculture development initiatives in 2024.

This year, Minister Mustapha stated that Guyana is poised to commence the production of prawns.

"We hope that Guyana will be first country in the Caribbean to start exporting these products coming out of the Caribbean... Generally, in the agriculture sector, I am very satisfied with the tremendous growth coming out of this sector," he added.

Provisions were also included to commence the construction of the US\$14 million Regional Food Hub on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway, this year.

This undertaking will further propel Guyana's goal of becoming the lead exporter in CARICOM, while achieving food security.

"Guyana will be a distribution point in the Caribbean to distribute a number of food items to various parts of CARICOM," Minister Mustapha reemphasised.

In 2023, Guyana's exportation of non-traditional commodities totaled 8,926 metric tonnes valued \$1.8 billion.





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Allowed Battery Weight	16.5 Lbs
Battery Voltage	48 V
Service Weight	275 Lbs



Charging Time  
3HR



Working Time  
6HR



Work Shift  
24HR



48V/6A  
[Charger]



48V/20AH  
[Battery]



Battery Status:  
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Yellow: 40%-70%  
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# Budget 2024 ‘jam-packed’ with projects, policies for all

SPARING no effort to refute the claims that Budget 2024 lacks balance, Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud, maintained that this year’s fiscal package is “jam-packed” with policies and projects for all Guyanese.

Hitting the ground running on the first day of budget debates, Minister Persaud responded firmly to claims from Opposition Member of Parliament (MP), Ganesh Mahipaul.

“...Let me say plainly, this budget for 2024 is jam-packed with projects and policies geared towards improving the lives of ordinary Guyanese in the short term and, more importantly, the long term,” he said.

As he continued to respond to the Opposition, the minister said that the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Government is focused on building household, community and national prosperity with this year’s fiscal plan.

While refuting Mahipaul’s statements that the budget is not for the ordinary man, Persaud remarked that it is pro-people, pro-development, pro-infrastructure, pro-business, pro-welfare and pro-poor.

“This budget is fiscally balanced and shows how we plan to manage our financial responsibility in a prudent manner,” Persaud said.

As the government continues to



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud

accelerate the pace of development in Guyana, the minister highlighted some of the Guyanese who have lauded the number of measures that are being set in place for all.

“Of course, even with oil resources, this PPP/C administration has not lost and will not lose sight of the goal and purpose which are to have better financial management of all resources, including oil and gas, to catapult Guyana’s development while making up time for lost dark ages under the APNU+AFC rule,” Persaud

firmly stated.

Notwithstanding this, he did not conclude his presentation without going through the Opposition’s track record in office.

The minister remarked that forestry, education, gold, bauxite, tourism, health and finance, among other traditional sectors, were all “struggling.”

As he reflected on the brighter days under the Irfaan Ali-led administration, Persaud remarked: “In three years’ time, [the] PPP was healing the

sectors, bringing them back to financial viability while making sound and well calculated investments in our people. Mr. Speaker, this is progress.”

Emphasising that the PPP/C Government does not make far-fetched promises, he said despite the Opposition’s fervent campaign pledges, they failed to deliver their “significant” increase in pension, among other measures.

In just three years, the current government has put measures in place to improve the lives of elders. One such measure is the old-age pension which will be increased to \$36,000 when Budget 2024 is passed. It was \$20,500 when government took office in 2020.

Adding to this, Persaud refreshed the Opposition’s memory of how they treated the different spheres of Guyana such as the youths.

While unapologetically calling them out for reducing the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport to a mere department, the minister said: “I’m going to remind this house of his [Opposition Leader] record on youth and children. The APNU+AFC downsized the youth and sports ministry into a department.

“A whole ministry of youth was not in existence during their tenure, very little investments, if any, were made in young people’s development, and hardly any importance was given to see them excel.”

## Mustapha sues Norton for libel

AGRICULTURE Minister Zulfikar Mustapha has filed a lawsuit over \$5 million against the Leader of the Opposition, Aubrey Norton, for libel over false corruption claims involving the importation of chicken.

Mustapha, who is also the Executive Secretary of the People’s Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C), through his attorneys Sanjeev Datadin and Khalif Cobin, on Monday filed the lawsuit at the Demerara High Court.

According to the statement of claim seen by this newspaper, Norton, who is the leader of the A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) party, made a statement on the APNUAFC Facebook page on December 2, 2023, accusing Mustapha of major corruption related to the smuggling of chicken.

The opposition leader alleged that the minister and other officials in the ministry were involved in illegally importing large quantities of chicken from Suriname and influencing the police to release the smuggled goods.

The Minister promptly responded with a press release from the Ministry of Agriculture, refuting the claims and providing documents supporting the legality of chicken imports.

Minister Mustapha had warned Norton to withdraw the “baselessness, reckless and libelous” accusations immediately, which he did not.

The legal documents reveal that the opposition leader posted another press statement on December 3, 2023, on the APNUAFC Facebook page, reiterating the allegations of corruption and questioning the legitimacy of the minister’s response.

However, Minister Mustapha, a distinguished public figure, vehemently denies these accusations claiming that the statements made by the opposition leader are completely false and without any foundation, causing damage to his reputation and causing distress and embarrassment.

The lawsuit contends that the false statements made by the opposition leader have tarnished the Minister’s image and caused significant harm.

As such, Mustapha is seeking damages exceeding \$5 million for alleged libel, aggravated and/or exemplary damages, an injunction to prevent further publication of defamatory statements, removal of social media posts, a public retraction, and legal costs.



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha



# KEY BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS 2024

## AGRICULTURE

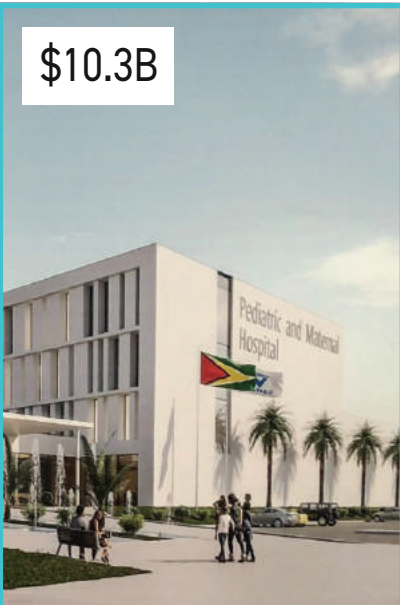
\$97.6B



\$97.6B to advance and catalyse agricultural development

## HEALTH

\$10.3B



\$10.3B to continue construction of the world-class paediatric and maternal hospital in Ogle

## EDUCATION

\$28.7B



\$28.7B for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of school buildings and educational facilities

## INFRASTRUCTURE

\$204.1B



\$204.1B to upgrade and expand all road and bridge networks

\$6B



\$6B for GuySuco

\$6.2B



\$6.2B to construct a new world-class hospital in New Amsterdam

\$8.1B



\$8.1B to continue distribution of the Because We Care cash grant and uniform grant benefit 205,305 children

\$19.7B



\$19.7B to advance the construction of the New Demerara River Bridge

\$1.5B



\$1.5B for livestock industry

\$15.5B



\$15.5B to continue construction and advancement on six regional hospitals at Bath, De Kendren, Diamond, Enmore, Lima and No. 75 Village

\$3.1B



\$3.1B to continue the distribution of school grants

\$8.1B



\$8.1B to improve river and sea transportation services



LEGAL AFFAIRS

\$6.8B



\$6.8B to strengthen the justice sector

CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORTS

\$2.7B



\$2.7B for continuous development of culture and arts

SOCIAL SERVICES

\$172M



\$172M for the construction of a new senior citizens' care home at Enmore

HOME AFFAIRS

\$30.3B



\$30.3B for the GPF

HOUSING & WATER

\$78B



\$78B to further develop housing infrastructure countrywide

\$1.1B



\$1.1B to advance youth development initiatives

\$6.5B



\$6.5B for prison service

\$22.5B



\$22.5B to improve water quality and supply systems across the country

\$4.6B



\$4.6B for the advancement of sports

\$48.3B



\$48.3B for women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities

\$572.8M



\$572.8M to upgrade the physical facilities of the GFS

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

\$800M



\$800M for Amerindian Land Titling

\$9B



\$9B (including carbon credits) to support Amerindian and hinterland development programmes



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# KEY BUDGETARY MEASURES 2024



**BECAUSE WE CARE** - In addition to the uniform voucher allowance of \$5,000, parents of over 205,000 school children will be receiving a total of \$45,000 per child.



**INCOME TAX THRESHOLD** - The income tax threshold is being increased from \$85,000 to \$100,000.



**SUPPORT FOR CERVICAL CANCER TESTING** - Government will provide:

- A voucher of \$8,000 for women between the ages of 21 to 65 to meet the cost of Cervical Cancer Testing. This intervention will cost an estimated \$2.8 billion



**SUPPORTING EYE CARE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PENSIONERS** - Government will provide the following:

- A \$3,000 voucher towards the cost of an eye test for over 205,000 school children and 76,000 pensioners at a cost of over \$840 million
- For those who require spectacles, a \$15,000 voucher towards the cost of the spectacles for the above category.



**SUPPORT UG GRADUATES** - Commence the first phase of eliminating outstanding loans owed by graduates of UG



**INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSION (OAP)** - Increase in OAP from \$33,000 to \$36,000 per month placing an additional \$2.7 billion of disposable income in the hands of 76,000 pensioners



Students can now reach new heights, promises Education Minister

# Education for all Children

EDUCATION Minister Priya Manickchand on Monday reminded the National Assembly how the education sector’s growth was stunted under the A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) administration, and informed the House how teachers and children are now able to reach new heights under the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government.

During the first day of Budget Debates, the minister decided to set the record straight and not allow Opposition Member of Parliament (MP) Coretta McDonald to paint a different picture of the actual reality within the education sector.

“... We’re unapologetic about providing education for every child in this country, whether they are from primary, secondary, or nursery levels, and whether they reside in the deep hinterland, coastland, or Georgetown; whether they are from an APNU stronghold, if any remain, or a PPP/C stronghold, every child in this country will have access to education under the PPP/C government,” the minister remarked.

Despite attempts by the Opposition Parliamentarian to paint the massive investments made by the PPP/C government in a negative light, Minister Manickchand said that education is critical for future development of not only citizens but also the country.

While defending the \$135.2 billion that has been set aside in Budget 2024 to advance the government’s vision of having a world-class education system in Guyana, Manickchand disclosed that Guyana has allocated, on average, more than 13 per cent of the budget towards this objective.

This is a massive percentage, according to the minister, since countries within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) only allocate about 10 per cent of their budget to education.

“That is investment in our people... and we have seen repeatedly how that investment benefits the people of this country,” she said, adding that Guyana is now in a better position for growth and development.

As she turned her attention to teachers, the minister reminded McDonald that in her capacity as the General Secretary of the Guyana Teachers’ Union (GTU), during 2018, she lauded the PPP/C’s investments in the nation’s educators.

Highlighting how much the percentage of trained teachers has grown since 1992, Manickchand said that Guyana is now seeing 99 per cent of its teachers trained or currently undergoing training.

“... From about 33 per cent of our teachers being trained [prior to] 1992 to now 99 per cent of our teachers trained or in training. Those are the numbers; those are the facts,” Minister Manickchand said.

She also said that in 2023, 1,796 teachers graduated from the Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE).

This is the largest number of teachers ever trained in the history of Guyana, Minister Manickchand said while explaining that previously, the capacity for training was around 535 teachers at once.

She boasted: “We almost quadruple that amount, which means you will have a better quality, as well as more teachers in the classroom.”

From 2020 to 2023, 3,198 teachers were trained, and in 2024 1,900 will be trained. And for 2025, the number will be 1,500.

Not forgetting the hinterland, in 2019, there were only 31 teachers from the Regions One (Barima-Waini), Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni), Eight (Potaro-Siparuni) and Nine (Upper



Priya Manickchand

Takutu-Upper Essequibo). However, under the PPP/C, there are 1,011 undergoing training, Manickchand remarked.

While reflecting on the array of benefits that teachers are now reaping, the minister said: “We give each teacher who is being trained in the Teacher Training College a full salary of \$90,000; the APNU gave \$10,000 to those teachers.

“... We’ve [changed] the number of years where a teacher could now become senior from seven years to six years; we’ve added more senior vacancies across all schools so more teachers can become senior. We’ve reduced the records that teachers are required to keep; we’re paying \$10,000 for each teacher with a degree...”

Notably, these are just a few of the new benefits that the nation’s educators could now attain.

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# GOV'T TO BEGIN FIRST PHASE OF ELIMINATING OUTSTANDING UG STUDENT LOANS

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh underscored that government will commence the first stage of eliminating the outstanding student loans owed by graduates of the University of Guyana (UG) this year.

During his 2024 budget presentation at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre on January 15, the minister stressed, **"We will commence the first phase of eliminating**

**outstanding loans owed by graduates of the University of Guyana, on the condition that these graduates can demonstrate proof of being employed or self-employed in Guyana after their graduation, for a minimum period to be specified."**

This significant action is part of the PPP/C government's 2020 manifesto pledge to provide Guyanese with free tertiary education by 2025. Meanwhile, Minister



Graduates of the University of Guyana

Singh also noted that the government will continue to invest in post-secondary education to guarantee that there is

an adequate supply of specialised skills in the workforce while allowing young Guyanese to reach their full potential.

The sum of \$4.1 billion is budgeted to support the operations of UG, in 2024. In 2024, new

programmes will be offered in numerous areas including food security, cyber security, engineering technologies, biopharma, marine studies, earth and climate sciences, and sports medicine.

Investment is being made to construct a major US\$4.9 million health science building at UG, which is slated

for completion in 2025. This educational edifice is critical towards the preservation of the certification of the medical school.

# \$97.6B SET ASIDE TO CATALYSE GUYANA'S ROBUST AGRICULTURE SECTOR

A whopping \$97.6 billion has been budgeted for the advancement of Guyana's agricultural sector this year. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, underscored that the agriculture sector is thriving due to the significant investments and sustainable policies made by the PPP/C Government.

During the 2024 budget presentation on January 15, Minister Singh said the government will continue to promote investments in large-scale agriculture by opening up new lands, while encouraging the establishment of modern

farms to facilitate the use of technology and more efficient farming practices.

**"We will promote increased aquaculture and shrimp farming, cultivate new crops and expand livestock production... modernise, upgrade and strengthen both our drainage and irrigation and farm to market infrastructure and support services,"** Minister Singh added.

## GUYSUCO

Meanwhile, an investment of \$6 billion is expected to be made this year to further stimulate the production capacity and operational

efficiencies of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo).

Through retooling and mechanisation efforts, Guyana achieved the conversion of 2,740 hectares of land for mechanical harvesting at the Rose Hall, Albion, and Blairmont factories. It is expected that the conversion of lands for mechanised harvesting will continue in 2024, targeting an additional 7,100 hectares.

**"Over 4,600 workers were rehired, bringing the total employment to over 8,100 employees across the industry... Many of whom, if not the majority, were callously put out of work and**



Production of high-value crops at NAREI

**an income by the unconscionable actions of our friends on that side,"** Minister Singh underlined.

Additional construction works will also continue for the

Albion and Blairmont Packaging Plants, to increase the production of value-added packaged sugar.

The installation of a sugar dryer at the Blairmont Sugar Estate

and the rehabilitation of heavy and light-duty revetments across the industry will strengthen the drainage system, to allow timely delivery of harvested gains to the factories.

# \$78B ALLOCATED TO DEVELOP HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh announced that the sum of \$78 billion has been allocated in the 2024 budget for nationwide housing infrastructure development, aligning with the government's commitment to providing affordable housing to Guyanese.

The allocated funds will be utilised for substantial infrastructure projects in both new and existing housing schemes. These include the construction of roads, drains, bridges,

and the installation of utilities to meet housing demands.

Dr Singh reminded the National Assembly that the housing sector was previously 'non-existent' under the Coalition Government. He emphasised the government's efforts to resume the People's Progressive Party's outstanding work from before 2015.

Minister Singh mentioned that 30,000 house lots were distributed over the past three years, **"And we are well on our way to exceeding our target**

**of delivering 50,000 house lots during our first term in office,"** he said.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority also processed and delivered 6,822 land titles and transport to landowners, with an additional 5,000 expected in 2024.

The government continued to build affordable homes, completing 1,165 units, and ongoing works for 1,134 units.

Specific efforts were made for low-income earners, with 706 homes completed at Leonora,

Anna Catherina, Great Diamond, and Ordinance Fortlands, while 487 are in progress.

Some 370 moderate-income units were completed in Cummings Lodge, Amelia's Ward, and Little Diamond, while 222 are in progress.

A total of 89 young professional homes were also completed at Providence and Prospect, with 425 in progress.

Under the Lethem Housing Support Initiative, 330 individuals pre-qualified for loans, 100 loan applications were approved, 12 homes



Housing infrastructure in the country

were completed, and 36 are under construction.

Infrastructure works were also executed in various housing developments including Amelia's Ward, Good Hope, Charity, and Great Diamond.

To support home construction, the Supportive Housing

Assistance Programme was launched, issuing over 962 vouchers totalling \$131.6 million.

In 2023, \$52.7 billion was spent on constructing roads, bridges, and culverts in new and existing housing developments.



## BUDGET 2024 ALLOCATES \$204.1 BILLION FOR ROADS, BRIDGES UPGRADE

A whopping \$204.1 billion has been allocated to enhance thoroughfares and bridges countrywide. This significant investment will see the continuation of a series of major projects.

Speaking to roads, Dr Singh noted that a sum of \$10.5 billion is budgeted to continue the Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau four-lane highway project which will eventually be linked to the Mahaica River Bridge.

Another noteworthy project is the construction of a new four-lane highway from Schoonard to Crane.

The minister announced that the major thoroughfare is expected to be completed within the first half of the year. A sum of \$9 billion is allocated to advance these works.

The Minister highlighted some other major infrastructural projects including:

- \$1.5 billion for the Parika to Goshen Road project
- \$15.5 billion to continue the East Bank Highway project from Goed Success to Timehri.
- \$10.5 billion to continue construction of the Ogle to Eccles Road linkage
- \$8 billion for the continued construction of the Diamond to Busby Dam Road, which will connect to the Timehri four-lane highway

\$10 billion for the rehabilitation of the Linden/ Soesdyke Highway to commence this year

Meanwhile, addressing the construction of community roads, the senior finance minister announced, that \$73.2 billion has been budgeted for the rehabilitation of thousands of community roads across the 10 administrative regions.

A total of \$5.5 billion has been allocated for the enhancement of hinterland roads.

Turning his attention to bridges, Dr Singh noted that works have commenced on the upgrading of the Corentyne Highway into a four-lane road with the reconstruction of 99 structures, and removal of utilities on the right away.

The government is also exploring the option of upgrading the Berbice River Bridge into a four-lane high-span bridge.

Minister Singh further highlighted that the sum of \$19.7 billion has been allocated to advance the construction of the New Demerara River Bridge while \$4.2 billion has been budgeted for the construction of the New Wismar four-lane bridge.



## \$129.8B TO BE INJECTED TO BOOST GUYANA'S HEALTH SECTOR IN 2024

The health sector has been allocated \$129.8 billion in Budget 2024 to ensure it mirrors international standards.

**“With the aim of expanding and upgrading health facilities and diagnostic capabilities, key initiatives include the construction of a world-class pediatric and maternal hospital in Ogle,”** Dr Singh stated. Work has started on the project, and will continue in 2024 for which a sum of \$10.3 billion has been budgeted.

Minister Singh noted the commencement of construction of six regional hospitals at Bath De Kinderen, Diamond, Enmore, Lima, and No 75 Village that will continue in 2024 for which \$15.5 billion has been set aside.

The Bartica, Suddie, and West Demerara Hospitals will also be rehabilitated at an estimated cost of \$10 billion, Dr Singh noted.

Kamarang, Kato, and Moruca, will also benefit from the construction of new hospitals while the Lethem Hospital will be upgraded at a cost of \$1.5 billion this year.

Additionally, a sum of \$5 billion has been budgeted for the retrofitting of health centres, health posts, and other facilities countrywide.

Moreover, a sum of \$2.9 billion has been budgeted for the expansion of the equipment inventory, to ensure adequate capabilities in terms of medical and non-medical equipment.

To build human resource capacity, the government is investing heavily in the training of healthcare professionals including nurses with the construction of two new health science training facilities one at Suddie, Region Two, and one in New Amsterdam.

He noted that once persons are qualified, they can train as nurses in Guyana.

**“Everybody who has the qualifications and wishes to be trained as a nurse needs to only apply and will be accepted and will be trained by the government to become a nurse,”** Minister Singh explained.



Government continues to invest in modernising Guyana's Health care Sector

## \$90.6B EARMARKED TO ENHANCE GUYANA'S SECURITY SECTOR

The government's pursuit of a safer country will be accelerated with an allocation of \$90.6 billion in budgetary funding for the security sector.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh said the funds will be spent on acquiring new vehicles, enhancing infrastructure, incorporating technology, and providing training opportunities to the various security agencies.

A total of \$30.3 billion has been earmarked for the Guyana Police Force (GPF). The sum of \$5.4 billion will be spent on upgrading the force's infrastructure, while \$1 billion has been allocated to increase the transportation fleet, with the purchasing of vehicles, boats, and engines.

Dr Singh, further highlighted that \$152.1 million is proposed to support Community Policing Groups (CPG) across the country, while \$250 million will go towards local and regional training for ranks, and \$2 billion to advance the safe country initiative.

**“We will also partner with advancing major strategic institutions like the New York Police Department and...Canada in The government plans to inject another \$6.5 billion into the Guyana Prison Service (GPS). The prison infrastructure will further be enhanced with the sums of \$2.8 billion and \$140.2 million to train inmates and prison officers, respectively.**

An additional \$572.8 million has been earmarked for the upgrading and completion of the GFS' infrastructure among other allocations. In 2023, a sum of \$72.6 billion was budgeted and expended to boost the security agencies.





# MASSIVE INVESTMENTS IN SPORTS, CULTURE FOR GUYANA'S YOUTHS - BUDGET 2024



Advancing the arts & culture in Guyana

The government has allocated the sum of \$2.7 billion to revitalise Guyana’s cultural landscape, making provisions for a new art gallery and museum and outfitting community spaces for cultural performances. Asum of \$100 million has also been dedicated to support activities of the International Decade for People of

African descent, and further amplify Afro-Guyanese contributions to the nation’s cultural tapestry. This is in alignment with government’s commitment to promoting the nation’s vibrant arts, heritage, and identity. **Investments in Sports** Improving sporting infrastructure is critical for the development of budding and seasoned athletes and also adds to the transformation of the sector. Additionally, the government is looking to spend a whopping \$4.6 billion for the advancement of sports in Guyana this year. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh said more will be done to ensure that Guyanese, particularly the young people have access to world-class sporting facilities. One noteworthy initiative coming out of the budget is the upgrading of sports grounds in every region amounting to the tune of \$1 billion. Further monies from the budget allocation will be expended to continue the construction of the

international stadium at Crane in Region Three and another in Palmyra in Region Six. From the allocation works will also continue on the construction of the synthetic track in Region Six, which is expected to be completed this year, adding to the complement of synthetic tracks in Regions Three and Ten. Installation of international standard floodlights will be installed at the Bayrock sporting ground in Linden this year.

## TOURISM SECTOR POISED FOR DRAMATIC TAKE OFF - DR. SINGH

The tourism sector is poised for a dramatic takeoff in 2024 as some major constraints will be alleviated, Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance Dr Ashni Singh stated during his presentation of Budget 2024. **“It is expected, in 2024, you will witness a truly historic year in relation to the developments in the tourism sector,”** Dr Singh said. Dr. Singh stated that in 2023 there were 319,056 visitor arrivals in Guyana, the highest number ever recorded. One of the constraints that has affected the tourism sector, Dr Singh, stated is the volume and cost of airlift to Guyana. However, the government has been working to solve this issue. **“In order to ensure the expansion of airline routes and seat volumes, our government has maintained efforts to improve connectivity between Guyana and the rest of the world with new services and routes,”** Dr Singh stated. He noted the British Airways twice weekly service from London via St Lucia, Canada Jetlines and Fly Always twice weekly service to Toronto, Suriname Airways’ Bridgetown – Georgetown-Paramaribo service, and new services by current carriers, that together added 150, 234 seats in 2023, or 15% more than 2022. In addition to those, he also noted the United Airlines’ announcement of the introduction of a service from Houston to Georgetown four times weekly from April 2024. The senior minister said that, “In June 24, American Airlines will expand their services with an additional daily flight between Miami and Georgetown, Mr. speaker the new services by United and American will add 137,268 new seats to the market in 2024. These will make a huge impact on seat availability pricing and commuter options and convenience.” Another constraint, which is the availability and cost of international standard rooms will also be improved this year with a significant increase in rooms. In this regard, work has been done to attract private investment in the industry and this will add over \$1,000 world class to the stock by the end of 2024. The Aiden Best Western in Georgetown is expected to open its doors by May, with 150 rooms while the Marriott Courtyard at Timehri is expected to open by August with 150 rooms. Additionally, the Four-Point Sheraton at Providence is poised for completion by December adding 172 rooms while the AC Marriott at Ogle is expected to open by December with 152 rooms. Dr Singh also mentioned that a Hyatt Place, which is expected to open by December,



Artist Impression of one of the Hotels that will be completed in 2024

will add 160 rooms while construction will continue on several other hotels. Meanwhile, the government has also prioritised training for persons who will work in the tourism sector.

## EAST BANK HOUSING SCHEMES TO GET MUCH-NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST

Farm, Herstelling, and Covent Garden housing schemes on the East Bank of Demerara are set for significant road improvements, President Ali announced. This timely initiative aims to address the growing infrastructural needs arising from the increasing occupancy rates in these communities. During a recent walkabout in Farm, President Ali emphasised the importance of completing essential



Dr Ali meets with Farm Residents

infrastructure development alongside rising occupancy levels. He stated, **“In this phase, where we have achieved 75 percent occupancy, let’s finish off the**

**infrastructure.”** This approach prioritises residents’ needs and ensures a solid foundation for future growth. Residents can expect major upgrades to the main access road in Farm, along with improvements to numerous cross streets, many of which have already surpassed 75% occupancy. These enhancements will significantly improve connectivity and traffic flow within the communities. To safeguard the newly upgraded roads, President Ali proposed installing barriers at cross streets. These barriers will allow smaller trucks transporting construction materials to access side streets while preventing larger vehicles from causing potential damage. This strategy balances residents’ needs with infrastructure protection. President Ali highlighted the importance of involving local contractors from Agricola and Albouystown in the construction of concrete areas within the housing schemes. This approach empowers local communities and fosters economic opportunities. President Ali was joined by several key officials during his visit, including the Ministers of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Public Affairs, and the Minister within the Ministry of Public Works.



GOVT REACHES OUT:  
ENMORE AND ENTERPRISE RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED  
TO UTILISE SOCIAL SERVICES

Taking a hands-on approach to community development, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security organised an outreach in Enmore and Enterprise, urging residents to take advantage of the diverse social services available. Leading the outreach, Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to improving the livelihoods of all Guyanese, including those in Enmore and Enterprise. Accompanied by departmental heads, she showcased the



Minister Persaud Engages Enterprise Resident

array of initiatives and programmes designed to empower residents and nurture growth within their families, communities, and the region as a whole. Minister Persaud emphasised the crucial role of

community outreach in understanding residents' needs firsthand. **"It's that kind of hands-on approach, that immediacy to dealing with issues, that I value most,"** she stated. **"It allows me to gather insights beyond our existing programs and craft policies and programmes that truly address the needs of those they're meant to serve."** The outreach highlighted the wealth of free services offered by the Ministry, including the Learning Lab programme, the Women Innovative and

Investment Programme (WIIN), and the community advocate programme. Sharing success stories from 2023 beneficiaries, the Minister inspired attendees to explore these avenues and unlock their potential. Recognising that awareness plays a key role in accessibility, Minister Persaud acknowledged, **"Taking the services to the people is also about understanding that some may not know what we offer. It's about awareness, education, and information."** By directly engaging

with residents, the outreach aimed to bridge the information gap and ensure everyone had access to the resources they needed. With a focus on building lasting connections, the Ministry announced plans to hold weekly outreaches across various communities. This ongoing initiative signifies a dedication to fostering open communication, understanding residents' concerns, and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to access the support and resources they need to thrive.

AGRI INTERVENTIONS  
EARMARKED FOR BARE  
ROOT AND ENTERPRISE



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha engages Bare Root Residents

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha pledged a range of interventions to boost the livelihoods and unlock agricultural potential of farmers in Enterprise and Bare Root, East Coast Demerara. Following farmers' meetings where concerns were raised, Minister Mustapha outlined a comprehensive plan addressing various challenges. His commitments included ensuring optimal water management through enhanced systems, developing accessible land for cattle rearing, boosting livestock production, and providing seeds, fertilisers, irrigation pumps, and ploughing services to equip farmers for success. He also spoke of creating avenues for income generation through drainage maintenance contracts and other initiatives, and

providing livestock. For Enterprise, a two-pronged approach is in motion. The Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) will identify land for both pasture development and crop production, creating space for both livestock and cash crops. Additionally, the Minister explained that the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo,) the Housing Ministry, and the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission (GL&SC) will conduct a joint evaluation to explore further land utilisation options. He said, to provide immediate relief, Enterprise farmers will receive free fertiliser and molasses soon. Similar to Enterprise, Bare Root will receive improved drainage infrastructure and land development for agricultural expansion. An integrated approach encompassing cash crops, aquaculture,

poultry, and livestock will be implemented to diversify and strengthen the local economy. A team from the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) will assess the drainage network in Bare Root, paving the way for future improvement and maintenance. Minister Mustapha pledged ploughing services will be provided after drainage works are completed, free seeds, fertilisers, and an irrigation pump will be provided to support successful cultivation, and that farmers' group will receive NDIA contracts to maintain the canals, generating income while ensuring continued functionality. Looking beyond immediate needs, Minister Mustapha highlighted the government's focus on encouraging exploration of high-value crops with promising market potential, providing shadehouses and support through the Agriculture and Innovation Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP) to empower young entrepreneurs in agriculture, and connecting farmers with markets to ensure proper channels for selling their produce and products.

13 SQUATTING AREAS  
REGULARISED,  
BRINGING HOPE TO 1,644  
HOUSEHOLDS

The government has made significant strides in addressing the issue of squatting, having regularised 13 squatting areas across four regions between 2020 and 2023. This initiative has benefitted 1,644 households, providing them with improved living conditions and access to basic amenities. Housing and Water Minister Collin Croal announced the successful regularisation efforts at a recent press briefing. He also revealed plans to formalise eight additional areas in 2024, demonstrating the government's ongoing commitment to tackling the issue. The areas that have already undergone regularisation are spread across Regions Two, Three, Four, and Ten. This includes Charity in Region Two, where 228 lots were regularised, and several areas in Region Three, such as Greenwich Park (44 lots), DeKenderen (17 lots), and Tuschen Railway (48 lots). In Region Four, Bachelor's Adventure [Bare Root] saw the regularisation of 321 lots, while Block CH Chateau Margot and

Annandale Railway benefited from the formalisation of 44 and 76 lots, respectively. Region Ten also saw progress, with Block E Christainburg and Wismar [Blueberry Hill] having 155 lots regularised, and 433 lots formalised in Amelia's Ward Ph 4. In 2024, several more areas are slated for regularisation, including Philadelphia Railway, Barnwell Railway, DeWillem, and Vergenoegen/Tuschen in Region Three. Additionally, DeEndragt Railway, Vigilance/Bladen Hall/Strathspey Railway, Beterverwagting Railway, and Mocha/Arcadia in Region Four are also on the agenda. One of the major focus areas for this year is the removal of squatting along the riverbank between Herstelling and Diamond on the East Bank Demerara. The Ministry of Housing and Water has already begun discussions with residents regarding their relocation, and many have been assigned house lots. Similarly, to address squatting along the Soesdyke Highway, President Ali

announced the creation of 500 house lots for a relocation process. Minister Croal clarified that regularisation does not necessarily mean staying in the same location. In some cases, it may involve relocation to ensure proper living conditions and access to essential services. He explained the detailed process of regularisation, which involves conducting an occupation survey, engaging with each household, assigning numbers to structures, and following a transparent allocation system. The government's commitment to formalising squatting areas is a positive step towards improving the lives of many Guyanese citizens. By providing secure housing and access to necessities, these initiatives are laying the foundation for a better future for these communities.





# LINDEN’S HOUSING SECTOR BOOMING UNDER PPP/C GOVT

Linden, the heart of Guyana’s mining region, has witnessed a housing revolution under the current People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government. Compared to the meager \$400 million spent by the previous administration, the PPP/C has poured over \$3.5 billion into housing initiatives in just three years. This translates to a staggering 875% increase in investment!

President Ali proudly announced this achievement during the recent signing ceremony for the new US\$35 million Mackenzie/Wismar Bridge. He contrasted the current government’s commitment with the previous administration’s lackluster efforts, highlighting that they only managed to build eight kilometers of roads and 22 simple houses in five years.

The PPP/C’s ambitious plan includes constructing 1,000 new homes in Linden, a far cry from the mere 20 built during the previous regime. This ambitious project commenced with the construction of 40 elevated and flat units in Amelia’s Ward, showcasing the government’s dedication to providing quality housing options.

While initial plans to develop Millie’s Hideout were temporarily stalled due to the discovery of valuable bauxite reserves, the government quickly identified a new location at Plantation York. Land clearing has already begun, and the project is expected to gain momentum soon.

Furthermore, over 400 house lots have been distributed in Amelia’s Ward. Essential infrastructure upgrades have been done. This empowers residents to build their own homes and contributes to a thriving community.



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali addresses residents of Linden

# GUYANA’S OIL BOOM NEEDS 1,000 WELDERS: GOVT PUSHES TRAINING AND LOCAL HIRING

Over the next three years, the oil sector will require more than 1,000 certified welders and fabricators, a gap that the government and local businesses are racing to fill.

Public Works Minister Juan Edghill highlighted the urgent need at the opening ceremony of Morgan’s Investment Inc., a local welding and fabrication company. He stressed that the government is taking action, opening a skills training centre in Port Mourant and collaborating with the Ministry of Labour and technical institutions to ensure Guyanese workers are equipped for the job.

The government’s vision goes beyond just filling the oil sector’s needs. Programmes like the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) and the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) are designed to equip the local workforce with skills across diverse sectors, fostering long-term economic growth.

Minister Edghill emphasised the crucial role small businesses play in stimulating growth. He acknowledged their ability to absorb the demand for welders and fabricators with proper training, while also underlining the importance of creating a supportive business environment for their success.

Founded in 2008 with just three employees, Morgan’s Investment Inc., has grown into a thriving company offering a range of services, including rentals and construction. They have worked with major entities like the Ministry of Finance and Guyana Oil Company, and now employ over 80 people.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new headquarters of Morgan’s Investment Inc

# GOVT LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAMMES TARGETING REGION TWO MID-WIVES, MEDICAL PERSONNEL

The government, through the Ministry of Health, has officially launched two training programmes targeting the mid-wives and medical professionals at Suddie Hospital in Region Two.

The programmes are for the Medical Laboratory Technicians while another training will be undertaken in Post Basic Midwifery.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony urged the trainees to use the knowledge to the benefit to patients, especially by advising them on taking the HPV vaccination to prevent cervical cancer, to screen for breast cancer, and to advise mothers on diet and nutrition etc.

“For the midwives, you are in a very important position. We want every mother that comes to us to have a certain set of basic things which includes things like having an ultrasound so that we could understand what is happening with the baby”, he said.

The minister said that government hopes the training programme will have an impact on the timely provision of prenatal and postnatal care.

“We want to make sure that mother save a number of tests to be done whether in the first trimester, second trimester, third trimester, because that is important for us to monitor both the mother’s health and the child’s health and that’s extremely important,” Minister Anthony stated.

He urged the students to further their studies and offered to pay for any course or courses they would like to study through Coursera.

Deputy Director for Health Sciences Division in the Ministry of Health, Chandrawattie Persaud expressed her confidence that the students will be successful in their studies and more training opportunities could be added in the region.

“More than 100 persons would have applied to be on the MLT training programme... that’s how much people in region 2 want a career in health. So apart from this, definitely we would engage those students and give them other opportunities for other training programmes and that alone signal to us that we need to have more decentralized programmes in Region Two because the demand is here and the persons are qualified,” Persaud stated.

Meanwhile, Regional Health Officer Dr Ranjeev Singh noted that the investments in training in the region will the human resource capacity in the region.

“I want to urge you that whatever you learnt, in these courses that you use them and you apply them upon our patients to make sure that our ultimate goal is to satisfy our patients. Our goal is to make sure that we train adequate staff to bridge that gap. Our goal is to make sure that our staff are trained to handle our patients with care, to make sure that we don’t not put strain on the existing human resource that we have but to make sure that we relieve them of that strain,” he said.



Health officials with some of the trainees



## \$881M MODERN NURSING SCHOOL FOR REGION TWO

A landmark moment for Guyana’s healthcare system unfolded as the sod was turned for a new, state-of-the-art nursing training facility in Suddie, Region Two. This marks a significant step towards bolstering the country’s healthcare system and addressing the growing need for qualified medical professionals.

The ceremony witnessed the participation of key figures, including Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony and Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud. The contract for the project has been awarded to Roopan Ramotar, with completion expected within 18 months.



Turning of the sod for modern Nurses training facility at Suddie Essequibo Coast

Dr. Anthony emphasised the transformative impact of this initiative, stating, **“The government is extremely pleased to situate this nursing school here because we know it is going to be a game changer.”** He highlighted the hefty investment as a commitment to

providing a modern training facility for Essequibo residents. Beyond training nurses, the facility aims to address challenges encountered in centrally training healthcare professionals. Dr. Anthony acknowledged the difficulty of attracting trained individuals back to the regions,

prompting the need for decentralisation. He elaborated on the ministry’s efforts to implement hybrid training programmes and diversify training opportunities within each region. With healthcare facilities like six new regional hospitals, a specialist Maternal

and Pediatric hospital, and ongoing upgrades planned, Guyana recognises the crucial role of qualified nurses. The minister proudly announced, **“Right now as I speak to you, we have 92 persons enrolled in various programmes in this region. We train you and we employ you.”**

Dr. Anthony expressed optimism about the region’s potential, citing its history of academic excellence at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CXC) level. He believes the new school will provide fertile ground for nurturing future nursing leaders.

Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and

Regional Development Anand Persaud echoed the message of service, urging graduates to contribute to Guyana’s healthcare needs. He acknowledged the significant investment made by the government and encouraged trainees to cherish the opportunity.

With only three existing nursing schools in Guyana, the Suddie facility represents a pivotal step towards a well-equipped and geographically balanced healthcare workforce. This investment promises to elevate the quality of care for residents across the nation, especially in Region Two.

## \$38M UPGRADE ENSURES MORE BEDS, MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR NEWBORNS AT SUDDIE HOSPITAL

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Suddie Hospital in Region Two has undergone a major transformation, boasting state-of-the-art equipment and a significantly increased capacity to care for vulnerable newborns. This \$38 million upgrade marked a turning point in regional healthcare, offering greater hope for premature babies and their families.

Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony, highlighted the collaboration with a



Retrofitted Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Suddie Hospital officially commissioned

Canadian team to elevate neonatal care within Guyana. Previously, specialised neonatology services were mainly limited to the capital, Georgetown, leaving many regions reliant

on transfers for critical care. This collaboration aimed to bridge the gap and decentralise access to advanced care.

Dr. Anthony emphasised the broader scope of the programme,

encompassing upgrades to NICUs in several health institutions nationwide. This includes establishing robust pediatric training programmes, specifically in neonatology, starting with the Georgetown Hospital Corporation (GPHC), and now extending to New Amsterdam and West Demerara. The ultimate goal is to equip all regional hospitals with similar capabilities, ensuring even distribution of life-saving neonatal services. The minister expressed optimism

about the significant improvement, confident that it will translate to saved lives once the programme fully rolls out. He reassured the public that for cases requiring specialised intervention, transfers to the GPHC or the upcoming Maternal and Pediatrics Hospital will still be available.

Dr. Kalesh Latchminarine, Head of Pediatric and Neonatology at Suddie Hospital, shed light on the practical impact of the upgrade. The NICU has expanded from a

three-bed facility to accommodate up to 10 patients, catering to the significant number of vulnerable newborns in the region. With over 1000 babies delivered annually and a high rate of pre-term births, the upgraded NICU will be a critical lifeline for countless families.

The unit’s new equipment includes vital tools like ventilators, warmers, and infusion pumps, ensuring newborns receive the specialised care they need.

## NEW LIMA HOSPITAL TO BRING MODERN HEALTHCARE TO REGION 2 BY EARLY 2025

The Essequibo Coast in Region Two is set to receive a major healthcare boost with the new Lima Hospital. This state-of-the-art facility, one of six being built across the country, is expected to be operational by the first quarter of next year, bringing much-needed modern medical services to the region.

Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony noted that while finding suitable land in Anna Regina proved challenging, Lima’s central location and ease of access made it the ideal choice

for the new hospital. **“We’re working to finish this by the end of the year,”** Dr. Anthony stated. **“We have the team from Sinopharm and CAMCE working diligently to meet that deadline. We’ve already finalised the equipment list, and it will be installed as soon as the construction is complete. Then comes staffing and training before we can officially open the doors.”**

The Lima Hospital will cater to a wide



Retrofitted Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Suddie Hospital officially commissioned

range of healthcare needs, offering a 24-hour accident and emergency service, advanced imaging capabilities like digital X-rays and CT scans, and a comprehensive laboratory for faster diagnoses. The facility

will boast 75 inpatient beds across various departments, including male and female wards, medical and surgical units, pediatrics, and orthopedics. Two operating theatres and a minor theatre will cater to surgical needs,

while outpatient clinics will provide essential ongoing care.

The hospital will be equipped with a backup power supply, water treatment plant, and waste disposal system, ensuring its self-sufficiency. **“Once operational, the hospital will create a significant number of jobs for nurses, doctors, allied healthcare workers, and other personnel,”** Dr. Anthony highlighted.

Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development,

Anand Persaud, emphasised the importance of the project, stating, **“This hospital is a game changer for Essequibo. It will significantly reduce the need for long-distance travel to Georgetown or even within Region Two for emergency care... This is a truly excellent initiative that demonstrates the government’s commitment to improving healthcare, not only in Region Two, but throughout Guyana.”**



# SIX GUYANESE SELECTED FOR AVIATION SECURITY ROLES WITH OMNI HELICOPTERS

Omni Helicopters has chosen six Guyanese for the roles of search and rescue (SAR) rear crew with additional aviation security responsibilities. The selected team members, who have already commenced training, are set to play a crucial role in supporting SAR helicopter operations, particularly in emergencies that necessitate life-saving interventions and delivering critical support to individuals in distress or imminent danger.

The recruitment process, which spanned several months, involved a rigorous selection procedure that was advertised in the local media. The roles and skills required for the position were clearly outlined, attracting a



Six Guyanese selected for aviation security roles with Omni Helicopters

diverse pool of applicants. After a comprehensive evaluation, Curt Mendonca, Somant Heeralall, Daniel Yorris, Ishwar Parbhu, Kevin Sawh, and Johnelle Ogle, the first female member, were chosen. These individuals will form Guyana's inaugural civilian helicopter SAR team.

The training

programme for recruits is multifaceted. Initially, they will be trained as rescue swimmers and, eventually, as winch operators. Their responsibilities will include acting as observers during SAR missions, and participating in missions to safely rescue individuals from various challenging

environments, including offshore installations, vessels, water, and jungle terrain.

Duncan Moore, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Offshore and Onshore International at Omni Helicopters International, responsible for the group's operation in Guyana, said the company is proud to be able to support national talent and to help develop the aviation sector in Guyana. "Supporting our communities is something we take seriously and is part of the Omni Way. We are very confident of these new members' ability to develop into a world class SAR Rear Crew team," he said.

For the recruitment process, candidates were evaluated on their

character, physical capabilities, and technical proficiency in operating helicopter equipment. Following this, shortlisted candidates attended a detailed presentation about the role, which included video footage of training and missions, and a tour of the SAR aircraft. The third stage of the process involved tests of water skills and capabilities at the 3t EnerMech Offshore Training Centre in Georgetown, including Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET), with an emphasis on communication skills. The final assessment involved observing actual SAR crew training during an offshore flight to ensure candidates were comfortable in a helicopter with open

doors and ongoing tasks. The initial training phase has begun, focusing on aviation security and familiarisation with Omni Helicopters' operations at Ogle Airport. The candidates are also undergoing daily swim training at the Guyana National Aquatic Centre to build confidence and stamina for SAR training.

The comprehensive SAR rear crew training programme will intensify with a trip to an offshore training center in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, before returning to Guyana for continued on-the-job training.

It is anticipated that Guyana's first SAR Rear Crew will be fully operational by mid-2024.

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## AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY DELIVERS ON MANIFESTO PROMISES - MINISTER SUKHAI



Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai speaking at Press conference

Minister of end press conference Amerindian Affairs that the government Pauline Sukhai declared has fulfilled all of its at the ministry's year- manifesto commitments

for Amerindian communities within the past three years. Highlighting key achievements, Minister Sukhai pointed to:

- Increased Presidential Grants:** Small villages saw their grants jump from \$450,000 to \$1 million, while larger villages received at least \$2 million, compared to the previous \$1.2 million maximum. These grants have allowed communities to

undertake numerous development projects.

- Land Titling Resumed:** The ministry has actively addressed the land issue, forming a dedicated unit to handle demarcation and village status upgrades.
- Community Service Officers Programme Revived:** This programme provides valuable opportunities for young people, especially those in remote areas, to gain training and contribute to their communities.

- Visible Improvements in Village Development:** Minister Sukhai emphasised the positive impact of these initiatives on village economies, development, and overall well-being of the Amerindian people.
- Full Budget**

**Utilised:** Minister Sukhai expressed satisfaction with the ministry's performance, highlighting its significant interventions that have improved village economies, development, and the overall welfare of the Amerindian people. She further emphasised that the ministry has utilised its entire budget effectively in delivering on its promises.

## US\$150,000 KITCHEN, CONFERENCE HALL COMMISSIONED AT WINDSOR FOREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

The students and teachers of the Windsor Forest Primary School, Region Three, are now benefitting from a new kitchen and conference hall.

The modern kitchen and hall together cost approximately US \$150,000 and was constructed by the CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited (CPGL).

Aurora Gold Mines contributed \$2.1 million towards the furnishing of the building with amenities including air conditioning units, projectors and laptops. Meanwhile, Power China donated televisions,

refrigerators, and fans.

This project was completed in four months since the commencement of works.

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand expressed her gratitude to the companies which donated to the project.

She said that the commissioning of the facility corresponds with the 171<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Chinese Arrival in Guyana, making it a dual celebration. The minister said further that the Chinese community continue to make a valuable contribution to Guyana's development.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Ambassador to Guyana, Guo Haiyan, emphasised the Chinese companies' partnership and support to the government of Guyana.

Additionally, the Headteacher of Windsor Forest Primary School, Leela Inderdeo, alluded to the expanded benefits the new facility would extend to the community.

She thanked the various personnel and companies responsible for the success of the project.



Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai speaking at Press conference



Chinese Ambassador to Guyana, Guo Haiyan



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- AIWARA



## FRESH ONTARIO MEAT

LAMB \* GOAT \* CHICKEN \* DUCK  
RED HEN \* ROOSTER

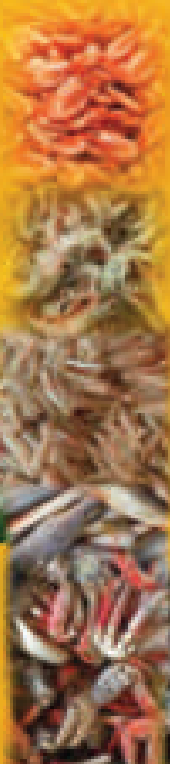
ALL MEATS ARE 100% HALAL



AND MANY MORE  
AVAILABLE

## FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD

- GILLBAKA
- GREY SNAPPER
- CATFISH
- BANGAMARY
- BUTTERFISH
- HASSA
- WHITE BELLY SHRIMP
- BLACK SHRIMP
- CRAB
- SMOKE FISH



3160 EGLINTON AVENUE (1 BLOCK WEST OF MARKHAM ROAD)



# MAHAICONY RIVER RESIDENTS GET RELIEF WITH \$8M WATER TANK DISTRIBUTION

Residents and farmers along the Mahaicony River received a much-needed boost to their water security on January 11. A total of 202 water tanks, valued over \$8 million, were distributed in Green Mill, Mahaicony Branch Road, addressing concerns about saltwater intrusion, and limited access to potable water.

This initiative, spearheaded by Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha and Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Anand Persaud, fulfills a pledge made by Minister Mustapha to address residents' concerns raised at a previous farmers' gathering.

The water tanks provide a reliable source of drinking water and irrigation for farmlands, empowering residents



Distribution of water tank exercise at Green Mill, Mahaicony Branch Road, Region Five

and boosting their livelihoods. Minister Mustapha reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the region's development, promising additional resources like free fertiliser for cash crop and rice farmers. He also highlighted plans for further infrastructure advancements, including a new pump station, a state-of-the-art hospital,

and improved road infrastructure.

"This year, we want to increase our production of rice substantially," Minister Mustapha stated, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts to achieve this goal. "We, from the government, will make it conducive and give you the support...so that all of us can achieve that

target."

Minister Persaud underscored the government's broader efforts to address water scarcity throughout Guyana, stating, "It is not only in Mahaicony that this phenomenon is happening. It is happening throughout Guyana... We have responded in various communities where we had reports of residents not accessing potable water, and we responded because the people and children of this country are important to us."

The distribution of watertanks also extended to other communities like Bamboo Landing, Kumaka, and Kursima, satellite areas in Whitewater Village, demonstrating

the government's commitment to ensuring water security for all citizens across the country.

## NEW PUMP STATION

Additionally, Mahaicony's drainage and irrigation (D&I) system is set for a significant upgrade with the impending completion of a new pump station in Cottage. Minister Mustapha announced the station's capacity to drain an impressive 600 cubic meters per minute, promising major improvements for Region Five.

With this new addition, Mahaicony residents, particularly farmers, can expect better protection against flooding and improved land use

during the crucial May-June and year-end rainy seasons. Minister Mustapha emphasised the government's commitment to supporting agriculture, stating, "We will continue to work with you to ensure farmers have optimal conditions for success."

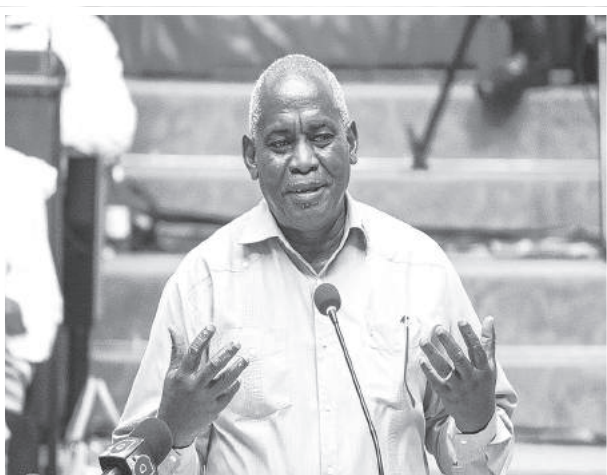
The pump station is part of a broader national push to enhance D&I infrastructure. Almost 17 new stations are under construction across Guyana, alongside five Hope-like canal drainage structures planned for Mahaicony. These combined efforts aim to create a robust network of drainage infrastructure, supporting both agricultural productivity and overall community well-being.

# SAFE COUNTRY INITIATIVE PARTIALLY OPERATIONALISED IN REGIONS THREE AND SIX

Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, revealed that part of the government's 'Safe Country' initiative, police command centres in Regions Three and Six have commenced limited operational activities, with the intention of expanding gradually.

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) is integrating information and communications technology (ICT) into its crime-fighting capabilities to enhance surveillance nationwide.

The initiative will see the entire country being



Minister of Home Affairs, Hon Robeson Benn

connected to closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, which makes it easier for security agencies to monitor

potential criminal activities and deter crime by increasing the risk of detection.

"The others will

come on stream within the next two quarters. The equipment and furnishing and other infrastructure have to go in place to make those others fully operationalised," Minister Benn stated.

Command centres are currently being constructed in Regions Two, Five, and Ten. The undertaking will ensure communities in these regions are secure.

When completed, civilians and police officers will be operating these high-end cameras.

In last year's budget, \$2.4 billion was earmarked to advance the construction of command centres, while \$2.5 billion was expended in 2022 to advance the initiative in the various regions.

Additionally, Budget 2024 contains an allocation of \$2 billion to further support the expansion of the Safe Country initiative.

The programme supports the crime-fighting efforts of the police by providing and installing intelligent video surveillance sites.

It also establishes regional command centres to monitor and manage these sites, as well as facilitate 911 emergency response.

To date, the initiative has demonstrated a tangible impact in reducing serious crimes.

This is just one facet of the holistic approach by the PPP/C Administration to foster a country where there is less crime and safer communities, in keeping with its 2020 manifesto.

# 63 WOMEN GET TOOLS TO BUILD BUSINESSES AND EMPOWER THEMSELVES

Sixty-three Guyanese women are now equipped to become entrepreneurs or hone their skills thanks to the Women Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) programme. This initiative, a collaboration between the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and UN Women, aims to empower women through financial stability.

The women received

sewing machines, gas stoves, and certificates of completion for their participation in WIIN's culinary and garment construction courses. This investment provides them with the tools and knowledge to start their own businesses or enhance their existing skills.

Mamte Kissoon, one of the recipients, shared her inspiring story. "I never had anyone to teach me," she

said, "but the WIIN programme helped me improve my alterations and now I can actually work for myself. Being unemployed before, this programme has been a lifesaver."

Denise Quinton echoed the sentiment, praising WIIN for "empowering women to be independent and productive."

For Trudy Agrippa, the programme is



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud handing over certificate to participant

transformative, offering valuable learning opportunities, networking, and even the chance to interact

with the Minister herself. "It brings out the best in you," she said, "and opens doors for business too."

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, emphasised the programme's core goal: "WIIN is designed to help women transition from dependence to independence. I dream of a future with more women entrepreneurs, enjoying equal pay, and understanding their full potential."



# GUYANA COPPED OVER 160 MEDALS IN INT’L COMPETITIONS IN 2023 – SPORTS MINISTER

Guyana achieved more than 160 medals for the first-time last year since participating in international competitions. This monumental feat was announced by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Charles Ramson Jr during a recent press conference at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC).

“Guyana achieved for the first time ever over 160 medals in international competitions. In fact, we reported to the Ministry of Finance that it was a 135, we did a check today. It’s actually over 160 medals at international competitions. Some of the medals that we



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Charles Ramson Jr during the ministry’s year-end press conference at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC)

have achieved at those international competitions we have never achieved before so from an investment standpoint you can see that, that is already translating into our best performances ever,” the Minister said. The Minister highlighted a series of competitions that

resulted in the country’s sports success. One such noteworthy achievement is Guyana’s triumph in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). The minister underscored that after 11 years, Guyana won the CPL tournament along with the Four-Day tournament in April. Added to this, “We won the under 13 tournaments too,

and we got second in the under 15 tournaments. So, you can see along the trajectory we are doing well, we are continuing to do well,” he stated. Additionally, Guyana hosted the inter-county tournament for the first time in nine years.

Another first for the country was the under-19 tournament. Further, the minister said that football in Guyana is now in the top tier in the Concacaf which is the elite A-League. He said, “First time in ever we are in that category, which is a significant achievement for us as a football-playing nation.”

Guyana also won for the first time, the men, women and veterans

squash tournaments at CASA. Meanwhile, the minister said the contribution of the Sports Academy with the launch of the leagues played a fundamental role in the sports sector’s success. He noted that tournaments are being executed by the National Sports Commission (NSC) under the Sports Academy Programme (SAP). This partnership allowed seasoned and budding athletes to enhance their skills through training and gaming experiences.

As a result, the country hosted a basketball league, achieving another first. Every day until March a league tournament is being executed.

The ministry was able to acquire a long-term sponsor of three years for the league. “We have done that as well for other sports and we are going to continue to do that where the sponsors are committing to a long-term programme as part of the league so no longer the associations will have to wonder about whether they will get their tournaments off the ground,” he said. Moreover, the minister reiterated the government’s commitment to the enhancement of the sports academy to provide athletes with much-needed experience, exposure and knowledge in the various sports.

## MASHRAMANI 2024 GEARS UP TO BE A CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Mashramani 2024 promises to be the biggest and brightest celebration of Guyanese culture ever, with vibrant costumes, electrifying music, and a contagious spirit of revelry ready to sweep across the nation. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport is pulling out all the stops to make this year’s Mashramani truly unforgettable. Director of National Events, Andrew Tyndall, assured

Guyanese they can expect a kaleidoscope of colours and creativity as more costume bands take to the streets, showcasing Guyana’s unique artistic flair. The pulsating rhythms of soca and the energy of the crowd will create an atmosphere of pure joy and celebration that’s impossible to resist. Tyndall advised that the public prepare to be blown away by

the performances of Guyana’s finest artistes, who will paint the stage with their musical mastery. This year, the festivities are expanding to Regions Three, Six, Nine, and Ten, ensuring everyone in Guyana can be a part of the vibrant cultural tapestry. This wider reach promises to bring the nation together in a shared celebration of its heritage and identity. Recognising the

evolving musical landscape, the Ministry is adding a brand-new category to the Soca Monarch competition – dancehall! This genre, popular amongst young Guyanese, will add a fresh twist to the competition, showcasing the diversity and dynamism of the nation’s musical talent. This Mashramani, embrace the spirit of Guyana. Put on your most colorful costumes, let the music move you,



and sing along to the vibrant events, and be infectious rhythms. a part of this cultural Participate in the explosion that celebrates the Costume and Float the essence of Guyana. Parade, attend the

## GOVT PUMPS MILLIONS INTO TRANSFORMING OVER 250 SPORTS GROUNDS

Over 250 sports grounds across Guyana have received a much-needed facelift thanks to a hefty investment from the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports. This “ground enhancement programme” is the largest of its kind in the country’s history, injecting millions into revitalising community athletic spaces. Minister Charles Ramson Jr. emphasised the potential of these upgraded facilities to extend beyond physical activity. They serve as important social hubs, fostering community



Minister of Culture Youth & Sports Hon Charles Ramson Jr inspecting Community grounds

engagement, promoting health and well-being, and encouraging diversity and inclusion. The programme

hasn’t been limited to major centers. A dedicated \$1 million has been allocated to enhance grounds in 100

hinterland communities, ensuring equitable access to sporting facilities across the country. The capital city

hasn’t been neglected. For the first time ever, 31 Georgetown grounds have received a complete makeover. Minister Ramson said, “some of these grounds have never even seen clearing.” This initiative marks a significant shift in investment priorities. Recognising the crucial role of community sports grounds, the government plans to continue its support in a phased manner. All Georgetown grounds are slated for further upgrades in 2024, with first phase focusing on

basic infrastructure like clearing, landfilling, and fencing. Ambitious plans for phase two include amenities like washrooms, pavilions, and stands. Minister Ramson contrasts the current commitment to community sports with the past administration’s neglect. He points out a 50% budget cut to the ground enhancement programme under the previous government, highlighting the stark difference in priorities.





*Guyanese*  
**DIASPORA DIGEST**



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 59

**DIAMOND ROUNDABOUT:  
HEROES HONOURED, PROGRESS FLOWS**

This roundabout marks the heart of the recently commissioned Heroes Highway. Opened in 2023, it's a tribute to the fallen soldiers, a symbol of progress, and a vibrant hub. A giant anteater, Guyana's emblem, stands tall above, its base adorned with the Golden Arrowhead. Silent bronze names honour the five who gave their lives, forever watching over the bustling traffic.







# MASHRAMANI 2024 (MASH 24) SOUVENIR MAGAZINE UNLEASHING THE GRAND SPECTACLE

Get ready for the most spectacular, vibrant, and thrilling event of the year. Guyana’s Mash 2024 Celebrations gearing up to be the ultimate extravaganza that will sweep you off your feet. Brace yourselves, fellow Guyanese, for pomp and revelry as we prepare to dive into a sea of radiant colours, diverse culture, exquisite culinary arts, enchanting music and much more, and which promises to be the biggest and best-ever in the history of our beloved Guyana.

Proudly Showcase Your Brand in The Spotlight at Mash 2024. Get ready to align your brand with the most spectacular event of the year – Mashramani 2024. We invite you to be part of this grand spectacle and proudly showcase your brand and products to a diverse and engaged audience as we gear up for the ultimate extravaganza that will captivate audiences in Guyana and abroad.

## EXCLUSIVE ADVERTISING PACKAGES

We have tailor-made advertising packages to suit your every budget. Stand out from the crowd with premium placements, engaging content, and maximum visibility. Don't miss this chance to be part of Mashramani 2024, where your brand meets excitement.

Secure your spot today and let your brand shine in the spotlight at Mash 2024! Contact us now to discuss exclusive advertising opportunities. Magazine Produced by Equality News and D.V Sales and Marketing



# Cultural Explosion Mashramani 2024

3 F Middleton Street Campbellville Georgetown  
• Bhaskar Sharma 669 5800 • Dowarka Persaud 630 5890  
Email:dowarka@gmail.com

D.V Advertising and Marketing Services and  
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# ADVERTISE WITH US

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## WHY ADVERTISE AT MASH 2024?

- 1.Powerful Advertising Channel: This Magazine is indeed a powerful advertising medium, and your brand, products and services will have the opportunity to reach thousands of people of all walks of life.
- 2.MAXIMISE YOUR ADVERTISING DOLLARS: No matter where your target market is, our Souvenir Magazine provides a unique opportunity for your products, and services to reach audiences in Guyana, across the Caribbean and worldwide. By investing your marketing dollar in Mash 24 Souvenir Magazine you will receive unrivalled exposure on the global stage.
- 3.The Ultimate Exposure for Your Brand: Align your brand, products, and services along with irresistible offers this season with the spirit of joy as we honor cultural diversity, culinary brilliance, musical mastery, and the profound history that unites us.
- 4.Exclusive Content: Your brand will be featured alongside content that highlights the best of Guyana's history, culture, and tourism in a stunning magazine printed in full colour on premium quality paper.
- 5.Facebook & Instagram listing: Your brand will also be featured on our Facebook and Instagram pages for increased exposure and sales opportunities.



## MAGAZINE PUBLICATION DETAILS:

- 48 Pages 8.5 X 11 –
- Glossy Full-Color Print
- Print Quantity of Ten Thousand (10,000)
- Publication Date of February 15, 2024

• Bhaskar Sharma 669 5800 • Dowarka Persaud 630 5890  
Email:dowarka@gmail.com





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Reg: 2 for \$3.99

2/\$3.00

Eggplant (Large) 大茄瓜  
Reg: \$1.99

LARGE 1.59 lb

Zucchini 青日本瓜  
Reg: \$2.59

1.79 lb

US Tomato 美国番茄  
Reg: \$2.59

1.99 lb

Red Pepper 紅椒  
Reg: \$3.99

2.99 lb

Green Beans 青豆仔  
Reg: \$3.59

2.59 lb

Asian Pear 水晶梨  
Reg: \$1.59

99¢ lb

Red Delicious Apple 紅苹果  
Reg: \$1.59

99¢ lb

Yellow Plantains 黃大蕉  
Reg: \$1.79

1.39 lb

Red Meat Orange 紅肉橙  
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1.39 lb

Bosco Pear 波士啤梨  
Reg: \$1.99

1.59 lb

Dragon Fruit 火龙果  
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2.99 lb

Red Seedless Grape 无核小紅提  
Reg: \$3.99

2.99 lb

China White Meat Pomelo 中国白肉蜜柚  
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2.99 ea

Cantaloupe (Jumbo) 粗皮瓜  
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JUMBO 2.99 ea

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Broccoli 西兰花

25.00 case

Green Onion 葱

30.00 case

Green Pepper 25Lb 青椒

35.00 case

Lemon 18Kg 黄柠檬

42.00 case

Zucchini 青日本瓜

42.00 case

Andy Boy Head Lettuce 圓生菜

42.00 case

US Tomato 美国番茄

48.00 case

Fresh Corn 玉米

60.00 case

Yellow Plantains 黃大蕉

65.00 case

Frozen Pangas Fillet 魚柳 8x3.5Lb

60.00 case

Headless White Shrimp 无头白蝦 21/25 4x6Lb/case

150.00 case

TYJ Spring Roll Pastry 8.5' 春卷皮 20 shts x40 pkts

55.00 case

Extra Large Egg 箱裝大鸡蛋

53.99 case

Jasmine Tea 5Lb 茉莉花茶

20.00 bag

Aroy-D Coconut Milk 椰奶 24x400ml

43.99 case

Container S32 容器

41.50 case

ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg

19.99 bag

Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg

60.00 ea

Capri Vegetable Oil 蔬菜油 16L

37.99 case

Bamboo Chopsticks 竹筷子 30x100pcs

60.00 case

Squid Brand Fish Sauce 箱裝魷魚標魚露

28.00 case

Lucky Brand Fish Sauce 箱裝幸福魚露 24x700ml

28.00 case

Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 6x2.2kg 李錦記錦珍鮮味蠔油

39.00 case

Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 李錦記海鮮醬 1.75L

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NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒

24.00 case

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FROZEN

SH White Shrimp 21/25 鲜冻白蝦 400g  
Reg: \$7.99

4.99 ea

Cool Ocean Raw P&D White Shrimp 16/20 400g 翡翠生蝦仁 (去腸)  
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Choysco Frozen Cooked Sweet Corn 3pcs 甜玉米  
Reg: \$3.99/ea

2/\$5.00

Ocean Mama Frozen Pompano 冻深海金鯧魚  
Reg: \$5.99

4.99 lb

Pinoy Delight Cheesy 'n Juicy Wiener Series 375g 肠仔  
Reg: \$6.99

4.59 ea

Baguio Sweet Tocino 375g 甜肠  
Reg: \$5.99

3.99 ea

O' Ya Hoho Frozen Soybean Kernel/Hain/毛豆仁 400g  
Reg: \$2.99/ea

3/\$5.00

Coconut Tree Frozen Mornthong Durian (Seedless) 454g 无核榴连肉  
Reg: \$13.99

9.99 ea

Skipjack Tuna 吞拿魚  
Reg: \$2.99

1.99 lb

Uncooked Chinese Style Pork Sausage 350g 东亚腊腸  
Reg: \$7.59

5.99 ea

BDMP Dried Squid 100g 魷魚干  
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2.99 ea

Choysco Frozen Sugar Cane 甘蔗 400g  
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Allen's Drink Series 6X200ml 飲料  
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2.39 ea

Dare Breaktime Biscuits Series 250g 餅干  
Reg: \$2.59

1.49 ea

Super Q Cornstarch Sticks 米粉 454g  
Reg: \$1.99

1.29 ea

PEARL Long Grain White Jasmine Rich 8Kg 香米  
Reg: \$19.99

13.99 ea

Bamboo Tree Fresh Rice Vermicelli 400g 米粉  
Reg: \$2.59

1.59 ea

Gold Plum Chinkiang Vinegar 550ml 香醋  
Reg: \$2.59

1.59 ea

Knorr Chicken Broth Mix 鸡粉 227g  
Reg: \$5.99

1.99 ea

Mr. Goudas Sea Salt 750g 海盐  
Reg: \$1.29

79¢ ea

Hanami Prawn Crackers 鮮蝦条 15gX12  
Reg: \$4.99

2.99 ea

Egg Roll 208g 虎皮蛋卷  
Reg: \$3.99

2.29 ea

Sky Flakes Crackers 800g 餅干  
Reg: \$7.99

4.99 ea

VINH THUAN Flour for Rice Paper 400g 粉卷粉  
Reg: \$1.99

1.19 ea

NG Fung Brand Rice Vermicelli 400g 潮粉  
Reg: \$2.59/ea

2/\$3.00

Lee Kum Kee Shrimp Sauce 幼滑鮮醬 287ml  
Reg: \$8.99

6.29 ea

Savoy Coconut Cream 椰子奶油 525ml  
Reg: \$4.99

2.88 ea

Food Empire PHO Instant Coffee 15x24g 咖啡  
Reg: \$4.99

3.29 ea

Fleecy Fabric Softener 1.36L 柔順劑  
Reg: \$6.99

3.99 ea

MEAT

Pork Chop 豬扒  
Reg: \$3.29

2.29 lb

Pork Back Ribs 猪肉排  
Reg: \$4.99

3.99 lb

Pork Eye Round 肉眼  
Reg: \$3.29

2.29 lb

Beef Tendon 牛筋  
Reg: \$5.99

4.99 lb

Beef Back Ribs 牛排骨  
Reg: \$3.99

2.99 lb

SEAFOOD

Frozen Fresh Squid 冰鮮魷魚  
Reg: \$5.99

4.99 lb

Fresh Skate Wing 新鮮斑翅  
Reg: \$3.99

2.99 lb

Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 冰鮮有頭南美白蝦  
Reg: \$5.99

4.99 lb

Fresh Chinese Yellow Croaker 新鮮大陸黃花魚  
Reg: \$5.99

4.99 lb

Fresh Mullet 新鮮烏頭魚  
Reg: \$3.99

2.99 lb



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	AFG v UGA		Mon June 3, 2024
	PNG v UGA		Wed June 5, 2024
	NZ v AFG		Fri June 7, 2024
	WI v UGA		Sat June 8, 2024
Semi-Final 1			Wed June 26, 2024



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