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Thursday July 11 2024. Volume 42, Issue #28 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 647-216-2359

Time to brand Guyana globally

WHILE Guyana has been garnering the attention of many international brands, it is the belief of the country's President, Dr. Irfaan Ali that it is now time to take the country's melting pot of culture and unique history to the global market.

Dr. Ali during his remarks at the official launch of international Asian and Chinese food restaurant chain, P.F. Chang's in Georgetown, on Sunday evening urged local private sector players to place emphasis on a 'homegrown' brand that will see Guyana being well-positioned in the global market.

"I believe while we bring international brands to Guyana, we are developing Brand Guyana, and Guyana carries with it a different weight, a different look and different style in today's world and in today's economy."

He added: "How can we develop a home-grown local brand that we will take global? We have a rich culture, a rich tradition in taste buds, in our food. Imagine being innovative and bold enough to first develop a local brand, to believe in that brand, to position that brand and then to take that brand globally."

Guyana, he stressed has much to offer and opportunities are abound beyond the food and restaurant industry. He believes there is room to further push local craft and jewellery.

"We have to start thinking outside of the box and being bold in that thinking in creating a Guyanese brand that we will position globally. These things



President Ali and the First Lady at the opening of PF Chang's in Georgetown

explained.

He reminded those gathered of the country's current economic trajectory, noting that Guyana carries much more 'weight' and this creates opportunities to invest and promote the country.

"Our country and where our country is going gives us that easier opportunity to do this. So, my challenge to us here today is as we expand this economy and welcome all the new brands... I want us to use this opportunity as we celebrate the arrival of a global brand in our country to see how we can now position a local brand that we can develop globally," the Head of State said.





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would set us apart," the Head of State

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Happy Birthday, Chet

Well-known Attorney-at-law, and cofounder of Equality News, Chet Sharma, celebrated his 73rd birthday this past weekend. Here, the lawyer, who was part of the Sharma and Sharma Law dynasty, is pictured with his beautiful daughter and and lovely wife and grandchildren



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

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EQUALITY NEWS

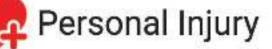


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THURSDAY JULY 11 2024



\diamond IDARITY 225 P 0 AS 4 P P - GUYANA FIRST TO RESPOND





3





GUYANA WELCOMES 10 NEW JUDGES PAGE 3

GOVT TO DISTRIBUTE \$9B IN EDUCATION CASH GRANTS

PAGE 3

EQUALITY NEWS

PRESIDENT ALI URGES SOLIDARITY AS BERYL WREAKS HAVOC - GUYANA FIRST TO RESPOND



President Ali convening an emergency response meeting with regional leaders

Hurricane wreaked havoc several for regional unity from relief supplies. CARICOM Chairman

"I express deep concern and continued anxiety over the passage of Hurricane Beryl through our region," Chairman Ali stated, as reports emerged detailing significant damage to infrastructure and private property across several territories including Grenada, particularly Carriacou Island.

In а message, Chairman Ali relief rallied the Caribbean Grenada.



Beryl time in demonstrating its on commitment to regional Caribbean solidarity and dispatched

"These



Facebook, powerful expected to fortify efforts"

> delivered by the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) included aircraft tarpaulins for temporary shelters, chainsaws to clear debris, generators and batteries to restore power, tools for cleanup and the private sector is and safety, hygiene items encouraged to join the and water purification relief efforts. tablets, and collapsible water bottles for easier Disaster transport. The relief Management aid was handed over (CDEMA) plays a central to Grenada's Minister role in coordinating for Climate Resilience, regional the Environment, and Guyana's Renewable Energy, Kerryne James, the Maurice Bishop Food IOM International Airport. Minister, other Prime Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark organisations. leading Phillips, is Guvana's response

Guyana efforts. is mobilising more supplies for shipment, including chainsaws, mattresses, tarpaulins, rice, sugar, flour, plywood, black water tanks, lumber, zinc sheets, and other roofing materials.

All supplies will be sent by boats.

Emphasising government's the commitment to community solidarity, Prime Minister Phillips stated, "In these trying times, it is imperative that we islands, prompting a plea the first shipment of stand shoulder to shoulder with our relief Caribbean family. and Guyanese President hampers," President Guyana is committed Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali. Ali announced on to supporting our countries, sister

almost fuel and flattened.

First shipment of relief aid to support Grenada

"are providing not only in

immediate relief but also assistance in rebuilding and The crucial aid resilience efforts."

Meanwhile, President Ali remains in close communication with affected countries. Guyana's national emergency response team is fully activated,

The Caribbean Emergency Agency assistance. efforts are complemented by at support from the World Programme. Caribbean, and international Beryl has already left a trail of death and devastation in its



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips conducting a site visit at the Friendship Wharf Facility on the East Bank of Demerara, to inspect two vessels and a bond.

Grenadines, said.

Minister Mitchell said the island of Carriacou, which was struck by the eye of the storm, has been completely isolated, with houses, telecommunications, facilities "The situation is grim," PM Mitchell told a news conference. "There is no power and there is almost complete destruction of homes and buildings on the island. The roads are not passable, and in

wake. Three people **many instances**, they were reported killed in are cut off because Grenada and another of the large quantity in St Vincent and the of debris strewn all officials over the streets." PM Mitchell added, In Grenada, Prime "The possibility that Dickon there may be more

fatalities remains a grim reality as movement is still highly restricted." In St Vincent

and the Grenadines, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves hurricane said the "immense left **destruction"** in its wake, including the destruction of some 90 percent of homes on Union Island.

The last strong hurricane to hit the southeast Caribbean was Hurricane Ivan in 2004, which killed dozens of people in Grenada.



Scattered debris and houses with missing roofs are seen in a drone photograph after Hurricane Beryl passed the island of Petite Martinique, Grenada on July 2, 2024 (Arthur Daniel, REUTERS)

The Government of Guyana in collaboration with the Private Sector invites you to be part of the transformation in Guyana

JOB FA



GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

Grenada's Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Kerryne James received the item at the Maurice **Bishop International** Airport

community for а collective response. "Let us work closely with their respective governments regional and emergency response mechanisms in providing immediate support and relief to those affected by the hurricane," he emphasised.

Guyana wasted no



People walk amidst damage following the passing of Hurricane Beryl, in Union Island, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on July 2, 2024.

- Learn of the many exciting job opportunities
- Network with industry leaders and other stakeholders
- Get to know more about the many small, medium and large companies operating in Guyana
- Get information on Guyana's remigration process
- Become aware of how you can contribute to Guyana's rapidly growing economy

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THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>



Deborah Kumar-Chetty

judicial Guyana's system has received a major boost with the swearing-in of 10 new puisne judges, a ceremony President Ali called a "moment of global positioning" for the judiciary.

President Ali highlighted the significant number of women joining the bench, noting, "Eight of the ten who took the oath today are women." This brings the total female representation in Guyana's judiciary to 70 percent. Guyana's judiciary is led by women, with both the Chief Justice and Chancellor positions currently held by females.

The new judges are Nicola Pierre, Joy-Persaud Singh,

Sharifa Hessaun Yasin, Sherdel Isaacs-Marcus, Deborah Kumar-Chetty, Priscilla Chandra-Jacqueline Hanif,



Joy Persaud-Singh

Josiah-Graham, Zamilla Ally-Seepaul, Nigel Niles, and Peter Hugh.

"Today is the largest ceremony to bring in our new batch of judges since our independence," President Ali said, underscoring the of importance the occasion. He further emphasised that promoting women in the judiciary should be a purposeful effort, with their contributions leading to a more effective system and a



Hesaun Yasin

reduction in backlogged cases.

President Ali urged the new judges to uphold impartiality and establish



Priscilla Chandra-Haniff

strong legal precedents through their rulings. He acknowledged the challenges they will face, stating, "Practice and application of theory is going to be a new dimension of your job that will test Zamina Ally-Seepaul your capability, your

character, and your resilience."

The President also pointed to the evolving landscape legal in



Nicolle Pierre

Guyana, particularly due to the growth in oil, gas, and maritime sectors, which will present new industrial environmental and "Because of cases. the changes that are taking place around





Jacqueline Josiah-Graham

the country, the financial architecture of the country and positioning...all its of it the judiciary



Shedel Isaaccs-Marcus

must be aware of, because in your line work, reading of compulsory," is President Ali stressed. emphasised the He importance of the judges staying informed about the country's economic and legal developments.

President concluded Ali by highlighting the government's significant investments in judicial infrastructure and technology, aimed at improving the efficiency



Nigel Niles

and functionality of the entire judicial system.



Peter Hugh

GOVT TO DISTRIBUT N EDUCATION CASH G **59B I** RANI

Ministry The Education began of distributing the 2024 "Because We Care' Cash (BWC) Grant and Uniform Grant, a cornerstone programme improving for educational access and support for the nation's youth.

This initiative, vital for Guyana's educational advancement, is expected to benefit over 205,000 Guyanese



Minister Manickchand at one of the distribution site

Region One. "Once we Because We Care cash opportunities" arising

The support for brighter future and the explained. realisation of dreams through education.

Nagasar expressed relief, the BWC cash grant stating the grant is "a initiative as a "kind real help" and thanked gesture" and a positive the government for its step for education. contribution.

these additional financial funds to subsidise represents the cost of school more than just money supplies, they can many recipients. divert funds to cover It signifies hope for a other expenses," she

Single mother Nicola Wong echoed this Parents like Vicky sentiment, describing

By the conclusion Others, like Marvin of 2024, the Because

the PPP/C government's unwavering commitment allocation exceeding \$9 billion in the national budget, the programme you have, because sector aims to alleviate financial burdens on families and ensure every child has the resources they need to succeed academically.

into you," declared Minister of Education, Manickchand, Priya during a visit to a is evident in the He elaborated on the GRATITUDE AND A distribution site in substantially increased "incredible

schoolchildren this year. have resources, you grant, jumping from in every sector due to Bardon, will use the We Care programme's a way to make sure we improve what out that the education regardless of that is what this receives government does."

Ashni Singh echoed this a significant jump, from of a previous initiative. sentiment at another \$52.8 billion in 2019 to a Dr. Singh highlighted "Once we have site, emphasising the staggering \$135.2 billion. a resources, we make government's "highest Addressing parents per child cash grant sure we invest it back priority" of ensuring and teachers, Dr. Singh programme "callously young people reach their declared, "This is the removed" by a previous full potential.

The BWC initiative feel it in your pockets \$15,000 in 2021 to the country's growing stands as a testament to and your children \$40,000 this year. economy. Heemphasised feel it in their book Combined with a the bags. And even when uniform allowance, the possibilities. to its young learners. we had little, we total grant per child is that With a significant would always find \$45,000. have Dr. Singh pointed opportunities"

consistently interests or the largest aspirations. budget allocations. This

most exciting time to administration.

This commitment **be young in Guyana!**"

abundance of stating Juco, young peop. "limitless their career

The BWC Senior Minister Dr. year's allocation marks programme is a revival former \$10,000

new BRIGHTER FUTURE

grant to purchase a investment in families laptop for a child writing will exceed a staggering exams. "I feel so very \$25 billion accumulated grateful," he revealed. over the last four years. the grant offers a education ensures a much-needed boost for brighter future for both parents facing economic individual families and hardships.

For Karen Nedd, This commitment to "With Guyana as a whole.



Senior Minister Dr. Ashni Singh handing over the grant to a parent

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANA AND US CELEBRATE STRONG PARTNERSHIP



US Ambassador Nicole Theriot speaking at the 2024 Fourth of July celebration

The United States (US) and Guyana boast a strong and growing partnership, according US Ambassador to Nicole to Guyana, Ambassador Theriot. Theriot at the 4th of July celebration. at the Pegasus Suite and Corporate Centre, in Kingston, Georgetown, highlighted the collaborative efforts between the two countries across various sectors, contributing to significant economic and social progress in Guyana.

"Through missions, trade conferences, and exchanges between of our private sectors, Caribbean's food security significantly to Guyanese States will always Guyana Defence Force our companies are hub. USAID is working to communities. unleashing economic bring Guyanese products alumni leverage their Theriot affirmed. "We development, a better future for international markets. Guyana," Theriot stated.

has led to a significant programmes in increase the between countries. Last year, the women US and Guyana traded a and whopping US\$4.6 billion institutions in Guyana. in goods, a massive jump from US\$100 million Corps plays a vital just a few years ago. role in connecting several the Additionally, Guyanese companies Nearly 40 Peace Corps and the government have volunteers are currently embraced US technology working to boost efficiency and Guyanese government, competitiveness. has not only strengthened schools commercial ties, but literacy also led to an increased healthcare presence of companies in Guyana.

Agency for International like Development (USAID) of is actively supporting and Guyana's

becoming growth that supports like turmeric, coconut, US experiences to foster will continue to grow defence the employment of and West Indian cherries women's entrepreneurial and prosper together cyber security, and thousands, providing to the domestic and Beyond

security, USAID has also This collaboration implemented numerous to trade promote small business two development, empower economically, strengthen

The US Peace countries. two with the This communities, and to improve rates and knowledge US nationwide.

exchange US Young Americas to the vision Visitors

the are also contributing tyrants, the United collaborates with the spirit, train teachers and enjoy young people to become region.' active community leaders.



US Ambassador Nicole Theriot and President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, at the 2024 Fourth of July celebration at Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre

Theriot said the military operations between the partnership between the US Drug Enforcement new US hotels across US and Guyana is the Administration (DEA) Georgetown. This is just The United States alumni from programs strongestithas everbeen, and Guyana's Customs one sign of the many Leaders and the US is committed Anti-Narcotic International collaboration "In the of large quantities of Leadership face of bullies and illegal drugs. The US also Guyana and the US.

These stand with Guyana," spirit, train teachers **and enjoy peace** apprehending fugitives. in inclusive education **and security in this** The US supports the food methods, and inspire critically important Guyana Coast Guard's

> this military of A m b a s s a d o r cooperation include joint which

on areas like institutional air awareness,

The US supports the maritime security efforts Concrete examples through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, provides significant military financing. Guyana's recent hosting of Tradewinds, a regional exercise involving over 1,000 personnel, further exemplifies the US-Guyana commitment to strengthening regional training and promoting stability.

The strong investment relationship between the two countries is evident in the construction of Unit, positive developments maintaining this leading to the seizure stemming from the close partnership between

CANADIAN DIASPORA STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP FH THEIR HOMELAND -PM PHILLIPS



Prime Minister Phillips, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd interacting with Canada's High Commissioner to Guyana, Mark Berman, and his counterparts

Minister Guyanese diaspora in Prime Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Canada for fostering highlighted a strong and mutually Phillips

the between countries.

"Canada is home cooperation." a significant to number Guyanese," Minister commemorating 157th Anniversary of the Minister and Corporate Suites in unity in the region. Kingston, Georgetown. of the Guyanese adherence diaspora has played international law... a significant role in We have always allows

two in friendship, the mutual respect, and the

This deep connection explained. of extends beyond shared Prime heritage. Guyana and appreciates

"Our

international system," the PM

Guyana also Canada's Phillips Canada are members role as a long-standing said at a ceremony of the Commonwealth, development partner. the and according to Prime PM Phillips applauded partnership. Phillips, Canada's efforts in Confederation of Canada Canada has consistently promoting trade and development at the Pegasus Hotel advocated for peace and economic development, exemplified by common renewal of the Caribbean contact "The strong bond values and strict Canada Trade Agreement our countries, but to (CARIBCAN).

"CARIBCAN up for strengthening the recognised these non-reciprocal cooperation," Prime ties that bind our principles as being preferential trade of Minister

Canada to and facilitates improved trade, promotion of investment opportunities, operation of and other shared **benefits**," he stated.

introduction The of a Canadian airline, Canada Jetlines, to the Guyana route in August 2023 serves as a concrete example of this growing

i s Т h has not only increased the people-to-people between opened has also avenues new the in other areas of Phillips

the importance of the beneficial partnership products emphasised. two nations together fundamental to Guyana's

commended for its expanded human trafficking. The programs. country has retained (TIP) report.

The report trafficking. These efforts anti-trafficking include investigations prosecutions, penalties through a new corporations.

Guyana has been anti-trafficking law, and awareness ongoing efforts to combat campaigns and training

Key findings from the its Tier 1 ranking in the report include increased Trafficking in Persons victim protection, and in trafficking victims focus on prevention.

in standards for eliminating also enacted a tougher the previous year. law, increased prescribing stricter allocated and penalties and extending funding stricter criminal liability to trafficking including

GUYANA MAINTAINS TOP-TIER RANKING IN FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Authorities identified programmes and public US State Department's prosecutions, enhanced a significant increase awareness campaigns. 2023, providing signifies The number of them with shelter and commitment to tackling highlights the Guyana investigations initiated other support services. human trafficking. The government's significant in 2023 more than Funding for victim report improvements, doubled compared to assistance programmes the role of the Ministry exceeding the minimum 2022. The government also grew compared to of Human Services' The government interagency Task Force increased in coordinating these for

anti- efforts. initiatives.

training

The Tier 1 ranking Guyana's acknowledges C-TIP Unit and the



THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

GUYANA PARTNERS WITH FULCRUM LNG FOR GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The has selected a US-based generation. Fulcrum company, LNG, as its partner to that the gas-to- realising that the (RFB) attracted 52 the natural gas resources. utilise a relatively This move comes after modest amount of a competitive bidding gas and is geared process launched in more towards power January 2024.

Guyana of consistently made it associated gas were clear publicly that one discussed on several of our priorities in occasions the oil and gas sector ExxonMobil and its is the development partners," the release of our country's gas explained. resources," stated government press discussions а release.

The for activity. However, this gas reserves. project utilises a limited

government amount of gas for power **discussions**

"Recognising operator generation, plans to "The Government utilise and monetise has our total reserves of with

ExxonMobil, the current **for the company, our** evaluation gas-to-shore operator of the Stabroek government decided Fulcrum LNG emerged known, project, a key initiative Block where Guyana's oil to seek a capable as the top contender. government, is reserves are located, the **independent third**expected to significantly government decided to party operator to submission

"After

the Stabroek block

with stated. An and Request for



with **immediate** priority a many its own," the release approach to gas with said company,"

Following gas resource is not an 17 proposals. Following Mr. comprehensive **involvement** process, "Fulcrum LNG's with

development; **hence** the release clarified. international the evaluators were Bids satisfied based on remains submission to develop the country's shore project will development of the registered bidders and of its competency throughout which resulted in process, the company being "The ranked No. 1," the of release highlighted.

The Resources most Natural noted recent inquiries manner regarding LNG's CEO, Jesus the Bronchalo, a former needed to harness ExxonMobil employee.

"At the of the evaluation, interest of national Fulcrum LNG was Guvanese people." and his previous relationship significant step forward was was not seen as fully utilise its natural reduce electricity costs seek a separate partner either work with very detailed and presenting a conflict gas reserves and fuel and stimulate economic to develop the remaining ExxonMobil or carry comprehensive, and of interest, since he economic growth. out this activity on outlined a structured had severed all ties

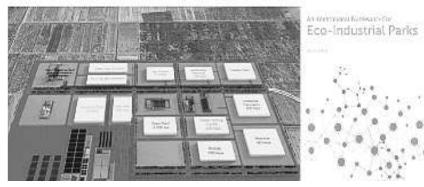
The government committed transparency this emphasising, Government Guyana has every intention of Ministry of advancing, in the transparent possible, Fulcrum the development of infrastructure our country's vast time gas resources, in the Bronchalo's development and in to the benefit of the

This project is a ExxonMobil for Guyana's plan to

GOVT EXPLORING SECOND GAS INITIATIVE TO COMPLEMENT WALES GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

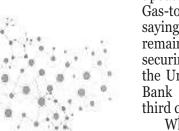


Layout of Industrial Area



Drawing from the ongoing Gas-to-Energy project

President Irfaan Ali revealed plans for a potential second major gas project which aims to complement the ongoing Gas-to-Energy project at Wales, in Region Three. The project's potential was prompted by the recent conclusion of Expressions of Interest (EOIs). A technical team has been assembled to design a model and establish an agreement to assess the project's viability, both technically and financially. "We have the Ali explained. He added Brazil and Suriname. that a company has collaborate to the government and **regional** ExxonMobil on



Wales Development Zone



jurisdictions."

M e a n w h i l e , derail the project. President Ali provided Gas-to-Shore remains hopeful about Ali third quarter of 2024.

and the use of from the US EXIM Bank, offloading natural gas in other the government assures (MOF). that any delays won't

updates on the Wales completion of the importance, allocating project, **pipeline by the end of** \$80 billion to advance saying the government the year," President the Gas-to-Shore project reported. The and securing funding from government of Guyana is infrastructure. the United States EXIM also working in a parallel includes Bank on or before the way to have an NGL to transmission and [Natural Gas Liquids] distribution systems to While a US\$660 storage facility and handle the increased million loan is sought market for the NGL to be power capacity. advertised shortly.

The Indian company anticipated Kalpataru completion this year. President for dredging particularly

facility

The 2024 budget "Exxon expects reflects the project's its supporting This upgrades

The highly Gas-tocontracted for the Energy project promises project's transmission a 50% reduction in lines and substations, electricity costs for Projects Guyana. A 200-kilometer International Limited pipeline will transport (KPIL), also anticipates gas from the Liza Destiny and Liza Unity Floating

Drawing from the ongoing Gas-to-Energy project

venture.

The team to work with economic opportunities between

this **security**

President Ali said. "We president have1.5 billiontonnes identified a technical anticipates a wave of of bauxite preserved Guvana stakeholders arising from this project. and Suriname so, in coming up with He outlined possibilities depending on the cost the model and to such as the development structure, this might negotiate a heads-up of an energy corridor be an opportunity agreement," President stretching to Northern which makes the aluminium plant... "This new project viable. All of these already been selected is expected to be options are being with aligned with the examined. We also energy have the marketing agenda," of the byproducts

Ali Production fields emphasised the need onshore. Upon reaching the the West Coast Demerara country's main channel facility, the pipeline will to facilitate the ongoing extend for approximately Gas-to-Energy project, 25 kilometers to the pipeline planned Natural Gas installation and the Liquid (NGL) plant in operation of a materials Wales.





Drawing from the ongoing Gas-to-Energy project

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

GOV'T SEEKS FOREIGN INVESTORS TO REVIVE TROY RESOURCES MINE



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat meeting with goldsmiths and jewellers

The actively exploring Resources is proposals from foreign Vickram Bharrat. investors to take over operations at main pit of the former with goldsmiths and Troy Resources mine, jewellers in Georgetown.

government according to Natural Minister update This the follows an engagement

In December 2023, terminated agreements property." operate the main pit.

proposals," Minister royalty **Bharrat** explained. rental had talks with the and Gold and Diamond compliance. Miners Association to see if we can have government operation at Troy to ensure its viability. Resources, which

President Irfaan Ali with Troy Resources "We have a few its obligations regarding currently fees, work

"The Ministry of They after the government and monitoring that available as well."

The government are announced plans for Guyana Inc., (TRGI) has also granted government is actively a local consortium to in October 2023. The property holdings to seeking a solution. company failed to meet 100 Guyanese miners Notably, a statement operating from payments, within the area.

"We "We have already programme adherence, reserved the main pit in unpaid rovalties. The environmental area in the interest Attorney General's office of finding another is pursuing legal action Since then, the **investor**, **be it local** to recover these funds. has **or foreign**," Minister a local consortium assumed control of the Bharrat clarified. "We Troy Resources mine established to engage Karouni Mining Site and have had a few remains uncertain, but in the large-scale implemented measures proposals that we are the government's pursuit looking at presently. of foreign investment includes restarting Natural Resources' would have gone into commitment to reviving the mill or the task was to secure the the property and did this significant gold processing plant, as property, which we some assessment on mining operation. well as mining from have done," Minister the plant and what the main pit." Bharrat noted. "We exists there, and the This shift comes have been policing it resources that are

While no agreements finalised, the last October revealed that TRGI have owes over \$2.6 billion

The future of the themselves indicates a strong

GUYANA SUBMITS FORMAL REQUEST TO US AFTER GOLD SMUGGLING SANCTIONS

Guyana has taken companies. a formal step to obtain government information United the following the from the US (US) imposition of sanctions facilitate our own on Guyanese individuals investigation of the and businesses accused matters concerned," of money laundering, and Minister of Finance, Dr. tax evasion.

On June 11, 2024, US the Department's of Foreign Control (OFAC) placed for information from the businessman Mohamed, Azruddin Mohamed, Revenue former

reacted from swiftly, States relevant information "to gold smuggling, as stated by Senior Ashni Singh.

> Initially, Guyana Treasury pursued a two-pronged Office approach. The first Assets involved a direct request

Guyana's seek relevant details. requesting US response arrived. to gather source advised,"

On June 26th, the then work with OFAC following the process "a means through



sanctions on Guyanese US Department of the "We were updated documentation Nazar Treasury by Dr. Singh. by our US partners the matter," revealed his son Secondly, the Guyana that a request should Dr. Singh. Authority now be sent from government utilised the existing Tax **the office of the** update, Guyana adjusted tax official Mae Thomas, and Information Exchange Attorney General to its approach. several Mohamed-linked Agreement (TIEA) to the US Department government will now He anticipates these

Following

of Justice, who will submit the request channels will provide confirmed which Dr. Singh. A formal information can be request has now been shared on matters submitted through the of this nature in a Attorney General's office, timely and effective as instructed by the US. manner."

> While the information gathering maintains process may take time, commitment to working Guyana remains hopeful collaboratively with US for a swift resolution. counterparts. "We will Dr. Singh expressed continue to work confidence in established mechanisms US counterparts in on for exchange, including the this matter in the Mutual Legal Assistance most thorough and this process and the existing expeditious manner "Our sharing arrangements. Dr. Singh.

relevant

The government its the closely with all our information order to advance information **possible**," concluded



The LCS in a press will require contractors, qualified Guyanese stance is to ensure also promoting skills Secretariat (LCS) is release emphasised subcontractors, and applicants overcome any Guyanese citizens have a development among the reminding contractors, that when a Guyanese licensees to provide experience deficiencies. fair chance to participate Guyanese workforce. Failure to comply in the oil and gas licensees in Guyana's necessary qualifications in prioritising Guyanese with these and other sector's growth, while

The Local Content subcontractors, oil and gas sector of but their obligation to experience, prioritise Guvanese for opportunities.

Content Master Plans Guyanese employees. and Annual Plans. The growth.

and applicant possesses the evidence of their efforts lacks qualified must be offered the are giving Guyanese Act can lead to nationals opportunity to gain that nationals a fair chance to serious consequences employment experience training. Companies positions. This directive comes are required to invest in The

specific applicants. Companies requirements outlined they must demonstrate they in the Local Content through apply for new and vacant for businesses. The

Further, they must compliant in line with the Local continuous training and show that Guyanese will be denied the Local Content Act No. 18 of capacity development employees must be Content Certificate of 2021 and approved Local programmes for their offered benefit packages Compliance, a crucial on par with those document for operating release offered to non-Guyanese in the Guyanese oil Act prioritises Guyanese highlighted that the workers, and they are and gas sector. This, employment in the LCS will conduct audits bridging the experience in turn, could hinder oil and gas industry, to ensure companies gap. The companies their ability to secure ensuring Guyanese are adhering to the should provide training business opportunities benefit from the sector's Local Content Act's and mentorship and approvals. regulations. These audits programmes to help

release noted that noncompanies



Guyanese undergoing training

The LCS's firm

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

\$50M BOOST FOR MEADOW BANK WHARF'S REDEVELOPMENT



Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha

The government has announced a further investment of \$50 million to enhance the Meadow Bank Wharf in Georgetown. This initiative, unveiled by Agriculture Minister ZulfikarMustaphaduring National Fisherfolk Day celebrations, aims to improve the wharf's aesthetics and benefit

fish vendors.

the fishmongers who a new wharf, sheds, and are selling there," a paved surface. The Minister revealed.

This follows for investment a recent \$75 million including contract awarded for the facilities, a dedicated wharf's refurbishment. space for fisherfolk, and These efforts stem from fuel installations. concerns raised by vendors and fishermen, underline President Dr. Mohamed sub-sector, Irfaan Ali.

The Three Door Sluice \$1.2 billion.

structure at D'Edwards "We will build Village, Region Five, will highlighted sheds, we will put in receive \$125 million for government initiatives allocated to combat marine water and stalls for improvements, including to support fisherfolk. illegal fishing practices but also ensuring Mustapha Rosignol Wharf will benefit from a similar additional \$75 million investment reconstruction, storage

These investments the and were prompted government's by direct engagement commitment to the These with stakeholders by fishing and aquaculture recent distribution of economic is expected to see vessel Upgrades are also significant growth of 15% devices and plans to benefiting over 10,000 planned for other key this year and has been install comprehensive fisherfolk. fishing infrastructure. allocated a budget of monitoring

Minister Mustapha five years. Additionally, only in other \$2.5 million has been our



A section of the gathering at Fisherfolk Day 2024

include which \$15 million in artisanal protecting systems

the in Guyana's exclusive zones,

"These efforts within the next three to are essential not

protecting valuable resource fisherfolk our continue can to strive in the face of environmental and economic challenges, " emphasised Minister Mustapha.

Themed "Protecting Livelihoods, establishing a Safe and Sustainable Environment for Fisherfolk." our valuable National Fisherfolk monitoring marine resources and Day recognised the critical role of fisherfolk in the country's food security and economic development.

-5(1) C

The government is ramping up aquaculture with efforts the upcoming installation of 50 new marine cages in hinterland communities. This initiative, announced by Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha at the National Fisherfolk Day event, aims to improve livelihoods and boost village economies.

"We have started places like Capoey, Mashabo Mainstay, and we are shortly, we

Guyanese seafarers were celebrated for their dedication and vital contributions to the country's development during a World Maritime Day observance at have benefited and Chung Arthur the Conference Centre (ACCC). The event, held under the theme "Seafarers' Contribution Making the to Maritime Sector a Safer Workplace," highlighted the critical role seafarers play not only globally, but also specifically in Guyana's economic growth. "This occasion special holds significance for all of us," said Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) Director General Stephen Thomas. "It is



One of the cages that was installed in Lake Mainstay

those cages in various This aligns with Guyana establishment of a the trials already in parts of the interior and **locations**," Minister commitment to achieving a and Mustapha highlighted.

These in innovative technology manner for fisherfolk.

CARICOM's the ambitious "25 by cages, 25" goal – increasing results there. Very Embassy, represent a by 25% by 2025 - in significantly will significant investment a sustainable and safe Guyana's aquaculture the potential to produce

" G u y a n a ' s capabilities. aquaculture industry development **been described by** new technology. The His Dr Irfaan Ali as a shrimp **'potential, economic** with a remarkable 755% powerhouse,'" increase from 2021 to Minister revealed. The government is This

further solidifying this generated a revenue of install another 50 of for the fisheries sector. vision with the planned \$1.3 billion in 2023. shrimp hatchery facility, anticipated with the processing facility, and a prawns at Onverwagt, feed production facility. Region Five. With three getting tremendous donated by the Chinese aquaculture production These developments will annual crop cycles across

The focus extends has beyond introducing **Excellency**, country is experiencing **Mohamed** a surge in brackish water production, Mustapha 2023 (112,000 kg to 958,000 kg annually). production

Similar success is fish and shrimp production of Vannamei enhance 10 ponds, Guyana has

\$1.4 billion in revenue. The government's commitment is reflected in the \$1.2 billion allocated this year for fisheries and aquaculture, with a projected growth of 15%. Of this allocation, \$558 million is specifically dedicated to developing the aquaculture sector.

360 tonnes of shrimp,

generating a substantial



The harvesting of Tambaqui from the four aquaculture cages at Lake Capoey on the Essequibo Coast.

SEAFARERS RECOGNISED FOR ROLE IN GUYANA'S DEVELOPM

a reminder that we continue to benefit from the fruits of your labour. It is also a way of saying that you play an integral role in the development of Guyana."

Thomas also acknowledged the growing demand for skilled seafarers, particularly in light of Guyana's booming oil and gas sector. "It is for this reason that the government of Guyana continues to encourage others to join the profession," he noted.

to



The harvesting of Tambaqui from the four aquaculture cages at Lake Capoey on the Essequibo Coast.

initiatives through the Ministry Recent Service's promote gender of Public inclusivity and develop Guyana Online Academy a stronger maritime of Learning (GOAL) workforce include a scholarship programme. training programme Recognising the led by the Office of the importance of seafarers' First Lady that certified well-being, Thomas 40 women in marine- also addressed the related services, and a government's efforts seafarer course offered to improve working

conditions. government only for seafarers but surveying towards ratifying the Guyana's Maritime including accommodation, food quality."

This safety extends to measures as well, with concluded efforts include

The removal of over 20 wrecks will in Port Georgetown, continue to work on the procurement of policy support not advanced hydrographic equipment, also their families," he and the construction of stated. "We are working new beacons throughout rivers. Labour Specifically, 28 new Convention, which will beacons have been built ensure better living in the Demerara River, conditions on ships, 47 in the Essequibo improved River, one in the Waini vacation policies, wages, River, and four in the and Berbice River since the government returned to commitment office in August 2020.

ceremony The with the MARAD spearheading distribution of tokens initiatives to enhance to several seafarers in waterway safety. These recognition of their years the of service.

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

10

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

BATH AND NUMBER 75 VILLAGE HOSPITALS TRACK FOR EARLY 2025 COMPLETION

Construction of the new hospitals in Number 75 Village, Corentyne, Region Six and Bath, West Coast Berbice, Region Five is progressing well, and on schedule for completion by the end of this year. according to Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony.

Dr. Anthony recently inspected the ongoing works, starting at Number 75 Village. "**We** still have quite a lot more to complete," he said. "Our target substantial is completion by the end of this year, and to have them operational early year." The next



Ongoing construction works at the Number 75 Village Hospital

projects are being closely of the Number 75 Village monitored.

These significantly healthcare

Minister assured that the completion, the top floor Hospital will boast two state-of- operating theatres, a the-art facilities will minor theatre, a delivery improve ward, and a 75-bed services inpatient unit. The in the regions. Upon lower floor will house a

Emergency Unit.

Advanced diagnostic of this capabilities will also development, be available with an Minister imaging suite equipped the crucial role these Guyana. These new with a CT scan, digital new hospitals will play facilities are designed to X-rays, and ultrasound. in expanding healthcare elevate local hospitals Additionally, there will services to meet the to meet international be laboratory services.

Minister pointed out limitations of the existing upgrade from Skeldon slated for improvements Skeldon including the lack of a revealed plans for further facility. This upgrade theatre for many years. expansion in the future. will include advanced shortcomings, These he necessitated frequent Bath Hospital, which it to better support other and expensive repairs.

is expected to witness Number 75 Village. substantial growth in the future, especially with underscored that the

round-the-clock growing demand. While the Number

Anthony 75 Village Hospital the New Amsterdam the represents a significant Regional Hospital is

The Corentyne area and services offered at Region Six.

Anthony Dr.

24-hour Accident and the planned Corentyne construction of these River Bridge. In light hospitals is part of anticipated a larger initiative to the establish a world-class emphasised healthcare system in standards.

Furthermore, Hospital, Hospital, Dr. Anthony to become a Level 5 Construction is also equipment such as an explained, have underway at the new MRI scanner, enabling will mirror the features healthcare institutions in

CANEFIELD GETS NEW **S56M**



The new \$56 million Canefield Health Centre

Residents Canefield Berbice

of can now enjoy easier and access to healthcare with surrounding East Canje, the opening of a new \$56 communities million health centre.

This modern facility healthcare system. offers essential services including primary care, we need to invest a situation where and receive the care maternal and child **and** health, and chronic **facilities at every seeking help but** Regional Health disease management, **level of healthcare**," **face difficulties**," he Officer (RHO), Dr significantly reducing the Dr. Anthony explained. stressed. "We can't Vishalya Sharma, echoed need for long-distance "But it's not just make such a big the importance of quality travel to the regional about the buildings. investment and then healthcare, emphasising hospital.

ceremony, of Health, Dr Frank to provide quality highlighted Anthony, emphasised treatment." that the new health centre is part of a larger that while constructing health posts locked or commitment to a robust government initiative facilities is a significant be turned away due primary to create a world-class step, maintaining them to

"To achieve that, build Minister and the equipment

He

ensuring and quality service is an ongoing challenge. Dr. purpose of Anthony urged the staff **facility**," Dr. Anthony to prioritise exceptional underscored. "We want care for everyone who people to come here visits the centre.

good residents come here we aim to provide." pital. We must have the not have the services its role in effectively During the opening staff to run them to back it up." managing illnesses and

The shortcomings, acknowledged residents might find the malfunctioning network.

high- equipment.

"That's not the this easily, access the "We don't want services they need,

> Minister diseases. Dr. Sharma past also pointed out that the where new facility strengthens government's healthcare

oxygen season." А new generation plant has been commissioned at life-saving benefits and the Lethem Regional substantial cost savings. Hospital in Region Nine, Previously, transporting significantly the region's healthcare to the region cost \$2-3 capabilities.

Minister of Health including

The new plant offers boosting oxygen from Linden million monthly, not bottling

NEW OXYGEN PLANT INSTALLED AT LETHEM REGIONAL HOSPITAL

storage support, and to play an incredibly Ambassador Theriot recent US contributions

providing Paxlovid and important role in said. She added that to the region's health.

Dr Frank Anthony led costs. Since the plant's the by United States (US) saved. Ambassador to Guyana, Anthony value of US\$500,000.

crucial ensuring that we emphasised. have a reliable supply to get oxygen in the COVID-19 region, **especially** including during

commissioning operation began, nearly ceremony, accompanied \$100 million have been

"Think about Nicole Theriot. Dr. that \$100 million expressed because we didn't his gratitude to the US have to spend it on government for donating oxygen, we can take the plant, one of three that and go build donated with a total a health centre or do something else "One of the most with it, and that's aspects how important that [of healthcare] is is," Minister Anthony

He highlighted the of oxygen on site," Dr. positive impact of the Anthony said. **"Before** US-Guyana partnership, having this plant, mentioning the US' it was very difficult assistance during the pandemic, vaccine the rainy procurement, cold

antiretrovirals. US also funded the National Public Health Reference Laboratory's construction.

"I want to once again say a big thank you to the United States government for the collaboration," Dr. Anthony stated.

Ambassador Theriot stressed the importance of the visit symbolising the strong partnership between the two nations. She emphasised the link between good healthcare and education for a country's growth.

"These generators are going far-flung

The advancing Guyana's proper maintenance is

The new Oxygen Generating Plant

economic **national emergency** crucial for the generators' **response** capability, long-term sustainability. This oxygen particularly in donation region. places," comes alongside other

Alshalton received insecticide-treated bed nets to combat malaria, and a field hospital worth over \$1 million was donated in November.

"We are committed to the health and success of Guyana and to expanding our strong partnership," Ambassador Theriot affirmed.

The Lethem Hospital is slated for further upgrades, including new operating а theatre and imaging suite, to provide even more comprehensive healthcare services to the

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

Diletta Doretti

first

Representative

its

Guyana,

The World Bank

Resident

in

move

Group has appointed

а

WORLD BANK APPOINTS FIRST RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE **IN GUYANA TO DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP**

collaboration development goals.

seasoned World Bank will ensure that particularly official, assumed the **impactful results can** on education, and innovation. position on July 1. This **be delivered**," Doretti strengthening climate newly created role aims said in a statement. to unify the World Bank's leadership in exploring partnerships initiatives. Guyana, offering a single in critical areas for Doretti government, and private including agribusiness, to the role. Having Group. sector to access the tourism, products and services. small and medium- various

increase operations transportation

designed to strengthen in Guyana and having logistics infrastructure. efforts in West Africa. and and a unified leadership Additionally, support for the country's to partner with the Bank will continue country engagements, Development government Diletta Doretti, a **the private sector** capital development, for private sector growth, International Finance

point of contact for the Guyana's development, wealth of experience effective World Bank Group's ability to address full range of the Bank's access to finance for in 2002, she has held transitioning to a single greater efficiency, and "Our goal is to sized enterprises, and including leading private the International Bank in Guyana and other and sector

resilience

development for

focusing entrepreneurship, and Corporation

through Resident Representative Agency (MIGA). The World Bank is flood risk management in Guyana marks a significant step towards approach is expected to Doretti brings a a more unified and enhance the World Bank education, joined the World Bank one of 21 countries development positions, point of contact for deliver impactful results

Development the Her expertise spans (IBRD), International and its work in human development of strategies Association (IDA), the (IFC), and the Multilateral The appointment of a Investment Guarantee

streamlined This Guyana is global challenges, drive with Reconstruction partner countries.

DR JAGDEO QUESTIONS NIGEL HUGHES' INTEGRI NFLICT OF INTEREST ALLEGATION S H

General Secretary of 2024. Hughes stated he office...you (PPP), Party Hughes. the newly the indicated his **Guyanese** has upcoming elections.

with

has his law firm, Hughes, ideals." raised concerns about Fields and Stoby, which a potential conflict of represents ExxonMobil, referenced interest involving Nigel unless elected into resignation from the elected leader of the Jagdeo criticized this before Alliance For Change stance, expressing with ExxonMobil on (AFC). Hughes, an his "revulsion" and the 2016 Production attorney with ties to questioning Hughes' Sharing Agreement significant entities in suitability for public (PSA). He pointed the oil and gas industry, office: **"Every** out inconsistencies in interest in running for read [the article Global Witness regarding the presidency in the and] how obscene it his connections to is. I can't convey the ExxonMobil and former Dr Jagdeo's concerns feeling of revulsion Minister of Natural were prompted by a that I felt. This is Resources Demerara Waves article someone aspiring to Trotman, citing the titled "Nigel Hughes the highest office in Global Witness report will not leave law firm the country, who has "Signed now, despite conflict- just been elected the which was published in evidence. of-interest concerns leader of a party... February 2020 and later

Dr Jagdeo also Hughes' government. AFC in 2016, just negotiations should Hughes' statements to Raphael Away" oil sector," Now I thought when withdrawn in January behaviour

Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, published on June 30, you're running for 2021, but with the Hughes," Dr Jagdeo critical **have** organisation standing said, highlighting that periods. the People's Progressive would not sever ties with to have some lofty by the integrity of its the law firm representing



Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's **Progressive Party**

in

itself

staff.

and

"This is typical same one Hughes was norms?" he asked. of associated with during

negotiation

Dr Jagdeo further criticised the AFC for "recycled having politicians with history of a corruption" and guestioned the credibility of their internal election processes, contrasting them with the PPP's more efficient handling of internal elections.

"If you can't manage your internal elections, if your competitors are saying: 'you rigged your internal process,' then how are you going to say to the people of this country that you have changed...and ExxonMobil was the you respect democratic

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION DELIVERS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

The Public Procurement Commission (PPC)



began fulfilling their of commissions like mandated duties, which this." include monitoring, Nadir

announced the handover of its first annual report to the National Assembly on July 3, 2024. This marks a significant milestone for the commission, fulfilling a constitutional requirement and ensuring transparency government in procurement practices.

"We are delighted to present this Report as we are mandated to do by Article 212CC of the constitution," Pauline Chase, said Chairman of the PPC. **"Despite** initial setbacks. we are pleased to report that

The handing over of the report

we were nonetheless categories during our faced challenges able to have first year." re-establishing diligently executed The PPC took office and recruiting work across all of in July 2022 after a However, they overcame our main functional three-year hiatus and these obstacles

investigations, training, highlighted

Speaker of the National approach in appointing Assembly, congratulated commission members. the commission on their "It is painstakingly achievement. "First, I long, but in the wish to congratulate end, the objective the Chairman and is a consensus Commission commission the for presenting this has the support of first Annual Report all the parties in the National the Assembly," to Assembly," he stated. explained. "Importantly, we infrastructure ensure that perform oversight summary will **establish the policies** with the constitution.

the and legislative review. importance oi a Manzoor Nadir, consensus-driven that he

also

The report is have the legislative expected to be tabled in to the National Assembly we on July 8, 2024, after have institutions to which an executive be and to independently published in accordance

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

ALISHA SCHELLER TOPS NGSA 2024



Alisha Scheller of the Success Elementary School topped this year's NGSA, copping 503.34 marks

Scheller, Centre, Alisha a student of Success Alisha's Elementary in Region Four, has emerged as the top behind Alisha, Kaiya performer in this year's Daniels of Green Acres National Assessment of Manickchand third Chung

highlighting remarkable School achievement. Following closely

Grade Six Primary secured the (NGSA), second position with securing an outstanding 503.27 marks, while 503.3 marks. Minister Lucas Spooner of Mae's Education Priya Under 12 claimed the position with announced the NGSA 502.44 marks. Skyler results at the Arthur Gopaul, also from Mae's Conference Under 12, attained the



Kaiya Daniels from **Green Acres Primary** School in Georgetown gained the 2nd position fourth position with

502.38 marks.

Three candidates shared the fifth position, each scoring 502.33 marks: Jayin Kissoon of Marian Academy, Khayleigh Ramautar of Academy of Excellence, and Yuan Shen of the Canadian School of Arts & Science.

excellence The continued with Adam Rahaman from Mae's Under 12 securing the eighth position with 502.32 marks, and

Sophia Success gaining the ninth position with 502.30 Success



Lucas Spooner from Mae's Schools in Georgetown gained the 3rd position

also from Success Elementary, achieved the tenth position with 502.27 marks.

Roshine Deonarine Huist Dieren Primary secured the eleventh position with 502.19 marks, while Cumberland Mae's Under 12 shared Itwaru

Miranda of the twelfth position, each Primary shared Elementary scoring 501.41 marks.

Robin Walcott of 501.36 marks. Elementary marks. Abigail Manohar, gained the fourteenth of Mon-Repos Primary position with 501.40 secured the nineteenth marks, and Persaud of New Guyana marks, while Shreya School secured the Singh of Mae's Under fifteenth position with 12 and Emma Singh of 501.38 marks.

of the Canadian School



Skylar Ghopal from Mae's Schools in Georgetown gained the 4th position

Primary Priva Khan of Leonora the country on May 2 and Perla Da Silva of Primary, and Aydan and 3. of Zeelugt

the sixteenth position with

Matthew Persaud Ryan position with 501.34 Academy of Excellence Sydney Cummings achieved the twentieth position with 501.30 marks.

> These top achievers have all been awarded a placement at Queen's College in Georgetown, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey.

> Additionally, Skyler Ghopal from Mae's Primary was recognized for her exceptional talent in the Best Short Story category, while Adalia Edwards from the Academy of Excellence received the award for the Best Letter.

The NGSA saw participation from Khadeja Ramsammy of of Arts & Science, 15,285 candidates across



Minister Manickckand with some of the top performers

LOCAL GOVT MINISTER FAULTS CITY COUNCIL FOR



Canadian School of Arts and Science shared the 5th position



Jayin Kissoon from Marian Academy in Georgetown shared the 5th position



Khayleigh Ramautar from Academy of **Excellence**, Region Three shared the 5th position

WOES, DEMANDS ╞╶┦<u>╵</u>(┍┤╛



Minister Parag

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Paraghas criticised

the Georgetown Mayor municipalities and in fund utilisation. "We recent improvements of that such responsibilities McDonald squarely fall under government negligence the lack of transparency boulevard municipal jurisdiction, in Albouystown, stating, in the council's financial Albouystown. not central government "This is absolute management. oversight.

In recent from Opposition members, never has responsible That is

nonsense. Coretta

response to **McDonald is clearly** challenges, APNU+AFC Municipality Act."

for Georgetown M&CC has people the auditin over two decades, garbage collection," she

Despite criticisms a stranger to the Parag affirmed the disposal, Minister Parag can't keep pushing government's ongoing refuted assertions made their Highlighting efforts to intervene by Georgetown's Mayor with Minister Parag clarified, financial accountability and address sanitation Alfred Mentore. "The and untruths," she "Central Government concerns, Minister Parag issues in Georgetown. landfill site at Eccles emphasised, calling for been pointed out that the "We cannot allow has continued to constructive to suffer operate garbage collection. not undergone a financial for weeks without with no disruptions," **responsibility of the** contributing to opacity she asserted, noting dismissing

and City Council (M&CC) the local democratic don't know how much in infrastructure and interference. over issues of city neglect **organs.**" She further **monies they collect** community spaces, such In conclusion, and inadequate garbage dismissed claims by **and what they do with** as the transformation Minister Parag criticised collection, emphasising Opposition MP Coretta those monies," she of a former garbage APNU+AFC members regarding remarked, underscoring dump into a recreational for what she described

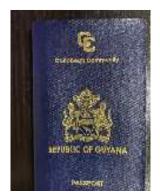
> Responding to claims educate these of restricted landfill before making public Minister access affecting garbage statements. **smoothly** based clarified, allegations

government

in as uninformed criticisms and urged them to themselves 'They agendas ignorance dialogue factual on information.

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

ERAPS C C



Guyanese no longer require a visa to enter Anguilla

Effective sustainable immediately, Guyanese policy. It also mirrors

move by the Anguilla in November 2022. government aims to strengthen relationships pursuing visa-free travel with the two South agreements with other American nations, and countries. Discussions promote tourism and are underway with the business opportunities. This

aligns with Anguilla's secured support from of goal regional and developing migration Area.

and Colombian nationals the UK's removal of visa no longer require a visa restrictions for Guyanese to enter Anguilla. This and Colombian nationals

Guyana is actively British Virgin Islands, decision and last year, Guyana fostering five European Union connections nations for visa-free a travel to the Schengen

Currently, Guyanese



Guyana is actively pursuing visa-free travel agreements with other countries

neighbouring Suriname making travel to Europe or Trinidad to apply for much easier. Schengen visas. The agreements will Guyanese new

travellers need to visit eliminate this extra step, Beyond Anguilla,

citizens

already enjoy visa-free travel to several South countries American (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia), as well as Southeast Asian destinations (Malavsia, Singapore) and major hubs like the United Kingdom.

This is a significant development for Guyanese travellers. opening doors to new exploration and business ventures in Anguilla and beyond.

GUYANA URGES OAS' ACTION CALLS VENEZUELAN BORDER CLAIM A THREAT



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd

Foreign Minister challenges. Hugh Todd emphasised importance the regional cooperation and complexity of these most coordinated action to threats tackle emerging security clear that no single international

Speaking at the Fifty- **confront** Fourth Regular Session impact," Minister Todd Guvana's of the General Assembly stated. the Organisation of American of (OAS) Paraguay, Minister Todd OAS, highlighted the growing international complexity

"The of intensity, make threats in the Americas. state can effectively law,

> States states to work together and stability of the December 1, 2023, Order Guyana and Venezuela and grounded law,

Americas more and prosperous for Guyana's everyone."

Minister also addressed the longstanding controversy Venezuela. claims nearly two-thirds of Guyana's territory, a claim Guyana rejects based on the binding arbitral award of 1899.

"This claim and the actions by Venezuelan the government in nature, furtherance thereof, and in violation of the fundamental it principles of pose a their significant threat to political independence, as He urged member well as the security in Todd said.

of these that can make the importance of the OAS Argyle for Dialogue and disputes and prohibits

reliance on Todd organisation's support. border to count on the support emphasised. with of the OAS as Guyana

"safer, in promoting peace and Peace between Guyana the use of force. The ICJ sustainable, regional stability, and and Venezuela, while is currently considering continued awaiting the ruling of Guyana's request to the the Court on the validity affirm the validity of the of the 1899 Arbitral 1899 Arbitral Award. Guyana will continue Award, Minister Todd

Venezuela seeks to implement the of Argyle, signed by theme

The OAS Fiftv-Fourth Regular Session The Joint Declaration was held under the "Integration



The Fifty-Fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Asunción, Paraguay

in Asunción, to create a stronger hemisphere," Minister of the International in December 2023, for Court of Justice (ICJ) and commits both nations Development in the He underscored the the Joint Declaration of to peaceful resolution of Region".

Security **Sustainable**

ODSCUSS EI

H CGX ENERG

The government plans to meet with Canadian firm CGX Energy to address delays plaguing the Berbice port project. The port, designed to support oil and gas activity, is now expected to start operating by Q3 2024, which is later than initial plans.

"CGX hasn't completed the project despite several years and reduced land allocation,' said Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party told reporters at a



CGX Energy's access trestle at the Berbice Deep Water Port

serving offshore oil press conference. The port on the and gas along with Berbice River includes agricultural exports and a wharf, cargo terminal, construction materials. and trestle, aimed at The operational port

sugar producers.

CGX along with Frontera recently programme in June.

the importance of both they need to show us regional development the notice and the specifics and financing," and economic growth. upcoming discussions. Dr. Jagdeo emphasised. "We need to see if they're ready to move forward. Frontera successfully If so, they'll still need drilled

partner explained.

Energy, The government will have maintained open expressed review CGX's proposal communication with the continued interest in but demands financial government throughout their Corentyne Block details and development their time in discovery with a last- plans to avoid rejecting Corentyne Block. minute notice. This a production licence. The upcoming came near the end of "CGX won't delay us meeting is expected to the block's appraisal any longer. They've had clarify next steps for both ample time. If they're the Berbice port and the Dr. Jagdeo stressed serious about a project, Wei-1 project, impacting

In 2023, CGX and

Wei-1

the

would benefit rice and the port. Otherwise, well, appraising the we'll need to discuss Kawa-1 discovery for Energy, the project's future," he the government. The companies claim to the



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THURSDAY JULY 11 2024





EQUALITY NEWS

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

222 222

A NATIONWIDE SNAPS CASH GRANT













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THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

17

DT OF THE EDUCATION STRIBUTION























EQUALITY NEWS

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<u>Delicious Jamaican Dish</u>



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<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

SECONDARY SCHOOL CLOSER FOR MON MOUNTAIN & KOPINANG IN REGION

The long-awaited dream of secondary in Monkey schools Mountain and Kopinang is finally becoming a reality, with Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, leading groundbreaking the ceremonies.

"This marks а major step towards improving educational opportunities" in the region, declared Minister Manickchand, highlighting the initiative's role the in achieving government's ambitious universal goal of secondary education by 2025.

These projects are part of a significant investment of for \$407,659,560 secondary building schools in Region Eight. The new Monkey

school Mountain



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand and other officials on Monday turning the sod to commence the construction of Monkey Mountain Secondary School.

specifically addresses have the needs of students new from Monkev Mountain, school right here, Taruka, and Tusseneng our children can communities. Minister be educated from Manickchand nursery level all the emphasized that it will way up to secondary," alleviate the burden a resident of Monkey on existing schools Mountain like Paramakatoi by expressing their elation. accommodating roughly "Speaking for most 250students. students face challenges the development of our due to limited schools, village." often requiring them to travel long distances.

"Now

branda secondary exclaimed, secondary-aged parents, I can say we can Currently, now die happily seeing

Following public advertisements, the that we National Procurement

and (NPTAB) the construction to K's Trucking & Construction Recognising remote Minister Manickchand their holistic "Alongside the school, the to accommodate staff," she said. This ensures attracting and retaining Inc. qualified educators for quality student education.

The new Kopinang secondary school, valued at \$199,376,751, is a result of Manickchand's visit to Kopinang Village last year where she pledged a modern educational facility. It will cater to roughly 250 students and boast

Tender modern amenities like construction Administration Board laboratories, an IT lab, through a competitive awarded and a library to create bidding \$208,282,809 a conducive learning overseen by the National contract environment.

Service. no longer have to go Board (NPTAB). the to school outside of establishment of the location, their region to access Kopinang education," highlighted the project's M a n i c k c h a n d addresses educational approach. emphasised, underlining needs but also supports transformative local provisions will be made impact the Kopinang growth by creating for teachers' quarters Secondary School will job opportunities and have on the community. fostering Sheriff Construction development.

secured the

contract process Procurement and "The children will Tender Administration The Secondary School not only economic community



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand and other officials on Monday turning the sod to commence the construction of Monkey Mountain Secondary School.

for



The new building that is being constructed to accommodate students

The New Amsterdam Amerindian Hostel in is Region Six is undergoing **improve the hostel's** a significant expansion, environment with over \$11 million create a more suitable being invested to improve **living** living conditions and occupants," Regional accommodate Indigenous from remote areas.

project "This intended to and space for more Executive Officer (REO), students Narindra Persaud told the Department of Public

AMSTERDAM AMERINDIA N HOST Ξ GETS OVER \$11M EXPANSION

Information (DPI).

Democratic (RDC), and executed Lakhram Singh by Contracting Service.

"We want to make the area more comfortable for the students who reside there to attend school," REO Persaud explained.

The expansion will feature a new two-storey building with separate living quarters for male

and female students The project is being on the upper and lower with the government's riverine areas. overseen by the Regional flats, respectively. There commitment Council will also be a dedicated making study area.



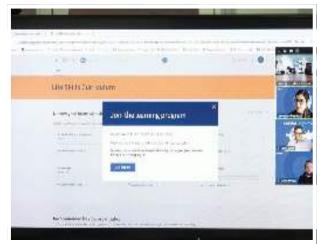
more

Works being executed by the contracting firm, Lakhram Singh Contracting Services at the Amerindian Hostel in New Amsterdam. Berbice

This initiative aligns students from Guyana's The to improved facilities aim education to contribute to their academic success and overall well-being.

local The ministry government received a significant budget allocation of \$23.4 billion in 2024, with a portion designated maintenance for improvement and educational of facilities, including the Hostel's Amerindian expansion.

of Coursera to launch an resources and make training in four areas: back pockets to improve The Ministry Labour's Board of online life skills training training more accessible Literacy, Training programme to improve countrywide. Industrial (BIT) collaborated with the nation's human



Coursea platform

Joseph stressed the importance mandatory skills. "You cannot be a with their interests. good plumber if you don't quantities. If you don't of Learning (GOAL) have an understanding of Jacob Opadevi said the said.

Coursera will provide should have in their have them registered

Health and Wellness, emphasised.

Minister of Labour, and Entrepreneurship. Hamilton After completing the platform is user-friendly courses, and of theoretical skills to participants can choose to complement technical any course that aligns easier,

Director know how to do a bill of Guyana Online Academy summaries, and a 24-English or mathematics skills learned through register at BIT's office. you will lose out on a job the programme are The BIT CEO, Richard as skilful as you are," he valuable. "Life skills are Maugh, assured that skills nobody can take even those not involved Over 115 people away from you once you with BIT can participate

Numeracy, their livelihood," he

accessible

The Coursera offers features make learning including downloadable courses, of the notes, translation tools, hour live chat.

Those interested can registered for the have learned it...they in the programme. programme at launch. are skills that everybody "We will be willing to



Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton

to benefit from these programmes," he said.

The Ministry of Labour also has a Recruitment Central and Manpower Agency (CRMA) to assist individuals in finding jobs.

Guyana could earn more from its forest, biodiversity — President Ali

IN the coming years, Guyana is set to earn more money for conserving its vast forest and biodiversity, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has said.

Dr. Ali during an address at an event held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Sunday evening, explained that while the country has already embarked on an ambitious venture to earn money for its forest through the sale of carbon credits, the continued and advanced conservation of the country's plant and wildlife could see more revenue being generated.

"One of the important plans of our economy in the future would be ecological services, climate services and biodiversity services. These are three sets of services that Guyana would offer globally that will carry a price tag," the Head of State said.

In an effort to address the climate crisis, Guyana introduced the first Low-carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) of any developing nation in 2009. The strategy outlined a vision for equitable, sustainable development while also preserving the nation's forests, which make up roughly 85 per cent of its land mass.

In that same year, Norway and Guyana had agreed to collaborate in order to develop a model advancement payment for forests.

The country's then President, Bharrat Jagdeo and Mr. Erik Solheim, Norway's Minister of the Environment and International Development, signed a deal that called for Norway to pay Guyana for forest climate services.

This approach has enabled the country to conclude transactions of almost US\$1 billion in payments for the climate services provided by Guyana's forests, of which US\$227 million stemmed from the bilateral deal with the Government of Norway, and an additional US\$750 million from the sale of ART-TREES credits made in 2023.

Through its LCDS Guyana has set out a model to balance economic development alongside conserving the country's forests and biodiversity, while being compensated for same. "Already we see our carbon trade has taken on a life of its own. In just four years, less than four years, we have managed to regain our position globally as a lead thinker, a lead activist and lead innovator on forest and forest issues," President Ali said. For those who may not know, the voluntary carbon market gives companies, non-profit organisation, governments, and individuals the opportunity to buy and sell carbon offset credits.

within the aviation sector for its certified carbon units.

Guyana became the first country to receive CORSIA (carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international aviation) eligible credits for airlines. The standards required for the aviation sector under CORSIA were established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

As the country continues to pursue the ambitious venture of earning money for its forest, President Ali noted that the EPA would have to be more proactive.

"The EPA would find itself not only as part of the regulatory body and the oversight mechanism in all the development projects and all the oil and gas projects, but importantly as we



President Irfaan Ali

build out this plan of the economy which is ecological and climate services, the EPA will have to continue to expand its wings."

He noted that soon discussions would be centred on developing an economic modelling for biodiversity services and ecological services.

"There is no formula; there is no modeling as yet globally. And we have to do a lot of this thinking work. We will have to do a lot of this theoretical work, positioning these as important services globally."

He added: "We have already committed to the world that we are going to take on this responsibility and that would require the EPA in its policy orientation to develop this ability so that we can now move one-step further in the expansion of the plank of development in climate service."

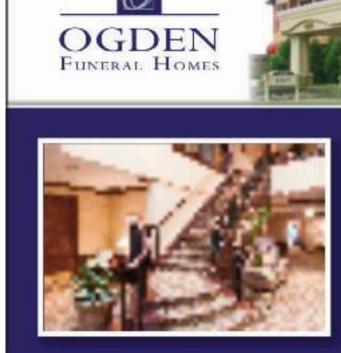
Our Family Caring for Yours

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



A carbon offset is an instrument that represents the reduction of one metric tonne of carbon dioxide or greenhouse gases or emissions.

Currently, Guyana has commenced engagements with several commercial airlines to secure a market



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EQUALITY NEWS

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

17TH GUYANA RESTAURANT WEEK A CELEBRATION OF INCLUSIVE FLAVOURS AND CULTURE



President of THAG **Omodele George** delivering her remarks at launch of GRW17 at **Atlantis Cuisine**

The 17th annual Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW17) was a success, resounding solidifying its reputation as a vibrant celebration of Guyanese culture representation and warm hospitality. Building on its tradition of inclusivity, GRW17 delicious offered а

and affordable dining participating. for all experience Guyanese.

This between the Tourism to inclusivity. **"Our** event, playing a key role Hospitality Association commitment of Guyana (THAG) and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), along with sponsors participating and restaurants.

From June 21-30, GRW17 spread culture and hospitality across the length and breadth of Guyana. This year saw a wider geographical than ever before, with 23 restaurants

THAG Omodele successful emphasised the



Food at Atlantis Cuisine

from inclusivity is our aim, of fresh, local seafood. restaurants, Regions Two, Three, and we want very Participating restaurants included Atlantis Cuisine Four, Six, and Seven much for everyone in were encouraged to offer (Leonora), Amici, Bistro

President go beyond that soon," George George declared.

The Food event stemmed from or g a n i s a t i o n ' s Agriculture Organization on offer, creating a Terra Mare Restaurant a collaborative effort unwavering commitment (FAO) co-sponsored the diverse and exciting (Marriott). to in promoting the use

Guyana to be able to at least one dish featuring Café & Bar, Bia Bia Tex these ingredients. This Mex Cuisine (Bartica), and broader range of cuisines (New Amsterdam), and culinary adventure for diners.

> inclusivity, as we desire all the way and we're Restaurant going to sample and celebrations.

This inclusivitv to reflected in the variety of location or cultural participating background. of which

focus complemented the Ambrosia Restaurant

George's vision extends beyond GRW17. "We're all about He expressed a strong to include said earlier, so we're Guyana's Indigenous going to be inclusive communities in future Week This we're going to tell expansion would embody the stories [of these the true spirit of GRW's restaurants]," George motto, "Explore. Eat. emphasised. Repeat," by allowing commitment every Guyanese citizen was to participate, regardless

GUYANA'S INVESTOR PARADISE STATUS ATTRIBUT **STRATEGIC POLICIES, RESOURCE MANAGEM**

The government's build to country into an "investor commitment Office for Investment.

"Guyana experiencing **unprecedented** coming in, one of the guide for local and with investors from these growth," enthusiastically to understand is what offering stated during a recent is the tax structure," clear regulations, and relationships interview on the Energy Edghill Perspectives "That alone really has there captivated the minds taxes to be paid, countries by permitting diversifying its investor and interests all the around the world."

Several

Guvana contribute to Guvana's to be able to do for entities efforts allure for investors. business." investor The rapid growth of the confidence are paying private sector, coupled a competitive off, transforming the with the government's structure, along with location, with strong paradise," according to maintaining existing tax in John Edghill, Senior levels as outlined in the Act of 1994, fosters a CARICOM Director of Guyana 2024 national budget, welcoming environment Caribbean Community), has significantly boosted overflowing is investment activity.

> Edghill **first things you want** foreign podcast. "If you know that environment foreign becomes much more ownership. This policy factors friendly for anyone is particularly enticing shift away from new

This focus tax to the provisions outlined ties to North America the opportunity. "As an investor Act itself serves as a prosperous partnerships explained. assurances.

Guyana **are** fewer out from many other European Union, further property base.

seeking long-term investment on opportunities.

Guyana's strategic Investment and influence within (the with has enabled the country The to cultivate and maintain investors, regions. Additionally, incentives, Guyana has established with economic powerhouses stands like China and the

Despite a global



Guyana Office for Investment, John Edghill

fossil fuel development, Guvana's energy sector remains a magnet for investors. The country holds a unique position

– one of the few carbonneutral nations actively exploring oil and gas.

Even amidst the global climate crisis, the government's dedication to integrating various forms of clean energy production into the national grid has strengthened Guyana's appeal as an investment paradise. Projects like the Amalia Falls Hydro Project and the Moco mini-hydro Moco power project exemplify government's the commitment to responsibly utilising natural resources for clean energy generation.

MORE LAING AVENUE RESIDENTS GET HOUSING GRANTS TO ENHANCE LIVELIHOOD



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal handing over a housing voucher to a recipient

The government's grants to 37 families. Each family received commitment to improving citizens' lives a \$250,000 voucher for took a step forward home repairs, along with Avenue, an additional \$100,000 in Laing when to cover labour costs. Georgetown Minister of Housing This initiative and Water, Collin Croal, part of a \$50 million housing house presented improvement

by Vice President Dr. "I can finally fix my residents to use their followed by 32 others in Bharrat Jagdeo.

programme's and septic tank." The positive impact was evident in the voices of also shared her plans to in said, "It is something some of the expenses very good that they since my home is in are doing for my dire need of repairs. neighbourhood. It's I plan to start with been a while since the improvements to the avenue has seen any washroom facility." improvement on the **houses... I appreciate** emphasised this a lot."

is

programme's PaulaGillhighlighted significance: the financial relief the **programme reflects** voucher provides. "I the government's am pleased because commitment it's a help for my improving the lives community and our of every Guyanese

washroom

Croal

"This

the

to

Minister

facility vouchers promptly. This

Catherine Whatley marks the latest chapter of the the recipients. Alpha use the grant, stating, rollout. In January, 60 expected Houston, a resident, "It will help offset Laing Avenue residents overall.

programme announced homes," she expressed. citizen." He reminded received their vouchers, March. This ceremony distribution brings the total number beneficiaries to initiative's 158, with 211 families to benefit



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal handing over a housing voucher to a recipient

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

20,000 NEW HOUSELOTS FOR REGION THR

President project in Region Three lamented, (Essequibo West Demerara) during economic ventures. a meeting with residents.

the lands in Wales shift: "Today, Wales to give you another is talking about a 20,000 [house lots] modern power plant, on the West Bank," President Ali pledged, manufacturing plant, highlighting the rapid 20,000 new house development in the lots, a new highway." region.

This ambitious plan is forecasts an estimated strategic house 15,000 developed by demand in Region Three. to Crane highway, the President recent past.

Ali years ago, Wales announced a massive was on the verge of housing development total shutdown," he referring Islands- to the collapse of key

However, he "We will open up emphasised a dramatic an industrial plant, a This transformation

attributed to government lots investments, according Demerara River Crossing with the ports on further noted private 2025 to the President. He as evidence of significant the East Side, and investments in new to meet the growing pointed to the Schoonord Ali Vreed-en-Hoop Shore along the West Side remarked, highlighting contrasted the current Base Inc., (VESHI), ports, what do you the rise of a competitive the boom with the region's Guyana's first artificial see? "Five island, and the new



President Ali meeting with residents in Region Three

progress.

Georgetown ports exceeding US\$700 the "When you drive ports," President Ali million.

spent on community roads in Region Three since 2020. Additionally, \$390 million has allocated been for textbooks and over \$6 billion for new schools, demonstrating investments in education, as well.

Ali revealed that over

\$31 billion has been

The event provided residents with platform to directly address their concerns with the President and government ministers. Specific areas were established to address personal issues, with President Ali assuring Underscoring residents that all matters would be followed up Competition regional economy. He commitment, President on within two weeks, if possible.

MORE ESSEQUIBO RESIDENTS RECEIV Ξ ▏╡╡╻, HO

bravery their in May 2023, which your work." tragically took the lives of 20 students.

during the crisis. Health both unwavering dedication. psychological

involved

M e d i c a l selflessly," Dr. for professionals in Guyana Anthony said, "and we communities. were recognised for want to acknowledge and that with a token of mentioned the report healthcare commitment in the appreciation. It's a submitted aftermath of the Mahdia small gesture to show Commission of Inquiry compassion School dormitory fire how much we value (COI) which detailed empathy during this

The highlighted A ceremony was held comprehensive approach to honour the healthcare taken to address the established at workers' tireless efforts needs of those affected, locations to facilitate Georgetown, reaffirmed Minister, Dr. Frank and in the long term. communication Anthony, praised their This included offering support for those in supporting the families " E v e r y o n e psychiatric care, along gave with grief counselling Executive Officer of

the

Dr. the cause of the fire, as tragic event. Minister well as the emergency the response's effectiveness. which was held at the

immediately swift and effective the and need.

impacted the Ministry of Health, Rambarran, Robbie Anthony also commended the workers' to the extraordinary and

The ceremony, Telemedicine was Police Officer Mess four Annex at Eve Leary in government's and commitment and friends who lost The Deputy Chief loved ones in the fire.



government's

A resident collecting his voucher from Minister Croal

\$2B BEING INVESTED TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER TO REGION TWO RESIDENTS BY 2025

The government is making a significant investment to improve



mains," Croal "We are drilling a complete, with wells also investment. number of wells. We planned for St Monica, are upgrading our Bethany, Dredge Creek, demonstrate system and the new Siriki, Kabakaburi, and government's main lines. We have Wakapau. about \$977 million that is being invested commissioned

Minister new well at Marlborough Hackney and Friendship continued. is already more than 80% also form part of the

initiatives These the commitment to fulfilling recently its mandate of providing wells potable water to every valued at \$22.5 million household in Guyana by

access to clean water in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam). Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, announced a minimum of \$2 billion is being directed towards this initiative during a recent site inspection of the Onderneeming water treatment plant.

"Now, more than ever, we are injecting [funds] in the water sector," Minister Croal said. "We are drilled there." investing a minimum

Ongoing works on the Onderneeming water treatment plant

of **\$2** billion on a of a larger government will provide clean water **new treatment plant** plan to ensure 90% of to over 4,000 households that is currently Guyana's coastland has upon completion. being constructed at access to treated water the well that is being Onderneeming plant new

itself is already more This project is part than 75% complete and

"We have also provide potable water **Onderneeming**, and by the end of 2025. The been investing in access to every household transmission in the area. Work on a

here in this region." Additional projects include a new water treatment plant at Maria's Delight to serve residents from Charity to Queenstown, with construction expected to begin before the end of the year.

Also covered is the drilling of 10 new wells along the Pomeroon River by year-end to

Two in the communities of 2025.



An aerial view of Onderneeming water treatment plant

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

EHER IGNITES GROWTH FOR WOM :74 WEEKEN ES **ROXO**



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud addressing the opening ceremony of AccelerateHer programme

Centre The for Local Business Development kicked off its AccelerateHer programme with a dynamic weekend boot camp, welcoming a new generation of female entrepreneurs.

With over 80

applications and final cohort of 25, the see programme is fiercely **mushroom** competitive and poised things beyond their two-day for impact.

AccelerateHer aims **expectation** to empower female **become way more** equip participants with participant business operators, and managers statistic in Guyana." across diverse industries, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Guyana's Minister of Human progress Services and Social equality, Dr. Persaud Security, declared at the pointed to a rise of 18 launch. The programme places in the nation's offers a unique blend of gender one-on-one mentoring 2022. and a supportive peer- this advancement to learning environment, government fostering growth for that create opportunities ambitious women. urged participants to at the end of this

seize the opportunities year, we can see the presented: use of

a **opportunities** them into imagination

Highlighting learning in gender index in She credited policies for women to thrive. Minister Persaud "I am hoping that "Make strides women are those consistently making

and in every sphere of our and the development of valuable insights to the

grow, country," she stated. and featured a range of and activities designed to former include significant business pitch practice, programme,

business model canvases, new cohort. The action-packed all crucial for building on your goal, what is boot camp successful ventures.

Filisha Duke, owners, than a number or valuable tools. These mentor and CEO of year, next five years peer-to-peer Sure Gig Inc., shared and bring your A sessions, her experience with the game because we will offering



Opening ceremony of AccelerateHer programme

"Focus it that you want for a your company, where AccelerateHer you see yourself in turned the next two years, be paying attention," she motivated the participants.

The boot camp also featured presentations from prominent figures like Rowena Elliot, President of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Guyana, and Dr. Natasha Gaskin Peters, Director of the Centre for Local Business and Development.

Lethem in Region Nine is the latest community to embrace the Men on Mission's (MoM) Youth Empowerment Mentorship Programme.

About 50 young people, aged five upwards, and will now have access to a comprehensive support system designed to equip them with valuable life skills. This includes after-school activities, academic assistance, counselling, and motivational sessions.

initiative, The launched at the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) Training Centre by Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat, has been met Michael, staff at the different villages and with positive reactions St Ignatius Secondary backgrounds." from parents

LETHEM YOUTHS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

and residents.

will bring positive Officer "I'm very happy change because our Thomas echoed this he explained. about this," said Betsy boys come from sentiment, highlighting



MoM launches empowerment and mentorship programme in Lethem

and School Dormitory. "It

the

involved...and they stressed.

Minister in his keynote address, to be disciplined." emphasised that MoM goes beyond simply Coordinator, MoM tackles Welfare **societal**

Matthias **from the grassroots**," solve complex problems

programme's participants to prioritise societal change. potential for long-term education and stay impact. "This is not committed to their follows something that you studies. "You must programme currently should start and stay in school and underway in Georgetown stop," he noted. "Once be educated; that's for 36 youths. Expansion you get children the first thing," he is planned for Regions put most of their trust you have to be future. into something...it committed, you have Wi can make a change." to be dedicated and mentorship, Bharrat, **importantly you have** Youth Empowerment

underprivileged. "The the programme's goals, to Guyana's programme which include equipping development various young people with the prosperity. challenges tools and knowledge to

while promoting He urged the young education and positive

> The Lethem launch similar а "Secondly, Five and Six in the near

With a focus on MoM's Programme aims to MoM Programme shape future generations Col. of leaders, address social building homes for the Sheldon Howell, detailed issues, and contribute overall and

> of services, including rehabilitation therapy, training programmes, and dormitory housing for adults and children

PTOLEMY REID REHAB CENTRE BENEFITS FROM ATVS, COMPUTER DONATION

School



One of the ATV's donated to the Ptolemy Reid **Rehabilitation Centre**

Rehabilitation significantly benefiting individuals disabilities in Guyana.

Centre vehicles (ATVs), 10 received a generous laptops, and wheelchairs donation from The to enhance the centre's the ATVs' role in a Church of Jesus Christ ability to provide care of Latter-day Saints, are among the donation. "This

flung communities visits, across the country," children explained Dr. Ariane disabilities Mangar, Director of **receive** Disability the Rehabilitation Services Department at the computers address Ministry of Health. another critical need, "Patients in these according to Dr. Mangar. Rehabilitation Centre surgeries. areas often struggle "These are vital for offers a wide range to access the rehab supporting our new department due to electronic high costs and limited record transportation she options." system will track all Dr.

Mangar wheelchair users in specifically highlighted Guyana, giving us comprehensive improving accessibility view of not just the for children in Regions wheelchairs you've donation One and Nine. "These donated, but also with will aid in facilitating vehicles will allow those provided by regular visits to far- us to conduct school the government.

and **services**," she said. **crutches**, ervices The laptops and **assistive**

medical system,"

"This

stated.

ensuring This will allow us with disabilities. Over with to better manage the past three years, the can the distribution of essential wheelchairs, canes, ne said. crutches, and other devices address across the regions." The Ptolemy Reid

centre has received over \$36 million for various projects nationwide, approximately with \$745,000 specifically allocated for prosthetic



The Laptops that were donate

SOPHIA RESIDENTS ACQUIRING NEW SKILLS THROUGH BIT TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Board Industrial (BIT) is skill opportunities focused fabrication, electrical installation. This

of Centre in Sophia, aims by October 2024. Training to equip participants During the opening offering with valuable skills ceremony, BIT completion, participants technology, development that will enhance their Technical Officer Rohan will receive certificates, electrical installation. to employability. The Bishop emphasised empowering them to residents of Sophia with welding & fabrication the importance of pursue various economic of \$500 million has 20 of them currently programme includes this opportunity, and ventures and contribute been allocated to train enrolled in technical 10 participants, with encouraged participants to Guyana's ongoing over 7,000 individuals training programmes two females and eight to actively engage development. This through the BIT. on welding males. The remaining 10 in their training and initiative builds upon a cation, and residents are enrolled in leverage their electronic previous programme in llation. the electrical installation devices to access September 2023, where initiative, course. The training is additional information 71 Sophia residents launched at the Training expected to be completed relevant to their chosen gained certifications in

programmes.

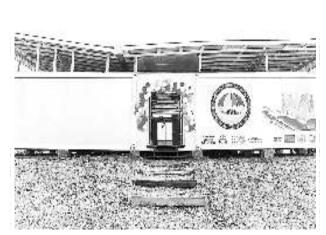
Upon

welding & fabrication, successful plumbing, information and

This year, a budget



BIT Technical Officer, **Rohan Bishop delivering** remarks at the launch of BIT programmes in Sophia



The Gender-Based Violence Mobile Remote Unit in **Region One**

In a significant step (UNFPA), towards the Ministry of Human One. Services and Social Security (MHSSS), ceremony the Population

The was in collaboration with gathering of key figures, GBV Mobile Remote services, United Nations including Minister of Unit is a testament assistance, counselling, incidents of gender-Fund Human Services and to

MABARUMA GETS NEW MOBILE UNIT TO COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Social Security (MHSSS) corner Dr. Vindhya Vasini country, Persaud, EUAmbassador that no one is left and Ms. Yesim Oruc, and representatives Guyana's and NGOs.

This Unit the commitment of the inclusivity officially MHSSS to fighting GBV hallmarks of the through eradicating opened a GBV Mobile in Guyana's hinterland. MHSSS gender-based violence Remote Unit in Khan's "Our commitment to provision." (GBV) in remote regions, Hill, Mabaruma, Region eradicating genderbased violence is will now have access Mobile opening unwavering," declared to immediate support, Unit is expected to closely monitored by the a Dr. Persaud. "The including intervention improve **reaching** every shelter. to

of to underscores Dr. Persaud highlighted, unwavering "Accessibility

Survivors of GBV medical **and** our dedication legal advocacy, and based The Mobile explained

our Unit will also provide Liaison Officer Mr. ensuring community education Adler Bynoe, "enhance Mr. Rene Van Ness, UN behind in our fight programmes to prevent for Resident Coordinator against this scourge." GBV and promote fostering a safer and The Mobile Unit gender equality. This more from brings a range of comprehensive approach community, increase government critical services directly mirrors the recently awareness Mabaruma and opened Hope and Justice education on GBV Mobile surrounding areas. As Center in Region Four.

are supportive community gender equality." enhanced service survivor networks.

> "The response to violence," **UNFPA**

awareness the support **network** survivors. supportive and prevention and The initiative is **response**, leading to a and expected to foster a more cultural shift towards

The Mobile Unit support represents a significant milestone in Guyana's **GBV** fight against GBV, **Remote** and its impact will be reporting MHSSS and its partners.

FOUR MAMMOGRAM MACHINES TO ARRIVE SOON - WILL BOOST EARLY BREAST CANCER DETECTION

Good women's health! Dr. challenge for early breast strategically of Health, announced, Anthony explained that outlined that upon Antigen (PSA) testing complications." four new mammogram only one mammogram arrival, the machines for prostate cancer encouraged men to take machines are expected machine is available at will be assigned to the will be launched advantage of this new to arrive significantly improving Hospital Corporation Hospital, the New months," he declared. prostate cancer rates. access to breast cancer (GPHC).

news for system presented a (IAEA), will be deployed shared positive news which is crucial for across for Amsterdam Hospital,

men's Similar to the HPV

health. preventing prostate Frank Anthony, Minister cancer detection. Dr. Guyana. Dr Anthony "Prostate-Specific cancer or minimising He shortly, the Georgetown Public West Demerara Regional within the next two initiative to help reduce



screening. The new machines, the Lethem Regional test for cervical cancer, Previously, limited a generous donation Hospital, and the Linden Dr. Anthony explained, mammogram machines from the International Hospital Complex. PSA testing allows Dr. Anthony also for early within the healthcare Atomic Energy Agency detection, The new mammogram machines will boost early breast cancer detection in Guyana



Some of the employees from the various NDCs and Town Councils that are being trained to become auxiliary firefighters in their respective areas

REGION SIX BEGINS AUXILIARY FIREFIGHTERS' TRAIN

approach to fire safety, to fires until staff of the prevention, the safer our areas where the fire Region Six has begun Guyana Fire Service communities will be." employees (GFS) arrive. training Neighbourhood from Democratic (NDCs) and Councils to auxiliary firefighters. This announced by President more." Ali in January, aims to equip local authorities that,

become Narindra Persaud. "This protection, training is a step firefighting techniques. initiative, towards preventing Station Officer Channon "The

Taking a proactive with the skills to respond people understand fire **especially in remote**

bourhood **"We've lost too** programme, facilitated This pilot Councils **much due to fires,"** by the GFS, will focus programme in Region Town said Region Six REO, on fire prevention, Six paves the way for a Crawford explained, Persaud emphasised "We're training them more to handle small fires,

service might take The five-part training longer to respond."

and nationwide rollout.

SANTA MISSION GETS BUZZI NEW H ON ΞY PRO

The village of Santa what your in agriculture, President Ali announcing a new honey production distributed project.

a community outreach, production revealed plans to support encourage local honey production. sufficiency. "I want to see the included best-packaged honey limestone, coconut and available here so citrus plants, chainsaws, when the tourists brush cutters, a fogging [visit], all of them machine, a knapsack can go back with two sprayer, as well as bottles of honey," he cutlasses, shovels, rakes, said.

To get things rolling, ant bait. the president announced the a and the donation of between the 500 25 beehives to the coconut trees that also and safety equipment eco-lodges." to ensure the project's success.

Mission (Santa Aratak) in are in expanding frozen chicken, I he Region Three is set for a **agriculture** in this **don't want to see eggs** acquisition of a new Incorporated] to come undertaking major boost, particularly community," the head coming in. I want to 40-horsepower engine into the communities repairs at the primary with of state emphasised.

President supplies out." agricultural President Ali, during and plants to increase and self-These fertilizer, hoes, insecticides, and

With a vision for formation of the future, President Ali local committee said, "In three years...

He outlining his goals village. "You didn't ask for self-sufficiency: "I for this. We brought don't want to see in demonstrating this because we know the next three years commitment

needs boat coming in with the see chicken, going and a boat for their use. and work with the school. Allocations for Ali out, citrus going out, "I told the Toshao community on extending ongoing maintenance various dry coconut going [village chief], get the the water supply to give

announced



President Ali with students from Santa Aratack

Essequibo Islands-West we will plant and the pledged government's engine because we Demerara community. more than 200 citrus collaboration with the want to get this done educational needs, the million disbursed in The government will plants that we will forestry sector to explore as soon as possible," provide training **plant**, **I want to see** ways to assist residents, he said. as logging is a primary continued, source of income for the benefit from a new \$19 eliminate the burden of \$10 million in public

President Ali also we are going to get the

to water access.

community, only that, I have asked facilities, the GWI [Guyana Water teachers' quarters, and boat right here and the pipe network and Santa Mission Primary they are going to spend School in 2024 amount \$10 million to extend to \$9.5 million. the pipe network in the community," he further residents revealed.

> The government's installation investment in Santa solar home systems, Mission over the past each equipped with four years is substantial. a 3-kilowatt solar PV The community has system and batteries at a received millions of cost of \$4.4 million each. dollars through various The village also received initiatives, the 'Because We Care' cash grant for children, initiative. resulting in a \$125,000 per child investment investment over the years.

government allocated old-age pensions, \$1.5 Residents will also in the last two years to pension grants, nearly million well, expected learning material costs assistance, and \$3.4 F u r t h e r to begin construction on parents. Additionally, million for individuals his shortly, to improve \$17 million was allocated with disabilities. "Not for constructing sanitary

maintaining essential and rehabilitation at

Santa Mission have also benefited from the of 75 including \$18 million under the Carbon Credit Fund

The government's extends to social programmes Addressing as well, with over \$36 \$924,000 to schools million in old-age

GOVT TO SECURE LAND TITLES FOR EAST COAST HOUSING CO-OPS

The General's Coast Demerara (ECD) ownership. transports, residents documents crucial for in improvements." securing loans for home construction.

and The regulations. effort to improve with 62 letters of no "their potential is e m p l o y m e n t co-op department the quality of life objection sent to the undeniable. Properly opportunities in actively supports these

Ministry of for residents," said Ministry of Housing managed, Labour and the Attorney Labour Minister Joseph and Water, facilitating can Chambers Hamilton. are taking steps to have been members and transports. So far members." empower residents of of these co-ops for in 2024, an additional housing cooperatives years, occupying the 40 letters have been beyond housing co- Farmers' along Guyana's East land without official submitted. This corridor. The initiative initiative provides Plantation Hope and cooperatives play in a prime example. The aims to secure long- **them with the** Bath Settlement in awaited land titles and **documentation they** Region Five were among granting **need to leverage their** the first beneficiaries in ownership property and invest 2023.

Minister Hamilton cooperatives face contributing to alongside rice the challenges," Minister increased highlighted **food** cultivation. "Thisisanongoing progress made in 2023, Hamilton acknowledged, production Ministry's

"Many the acquisition of titles improve the lives of explained.

Residents the Bath Settlement in Guyana's

W h i l e cooperatives

significantly Minister

The initiative extends Corentyne sector.

"Several scale

they communities," Hamilton

He cited the Youth Cooperative ops as the government Society, cultivating over of recognises the vital role 3,000 acres of rice, as agricultural Hopetown Multipurpose Cooperatives Society large- Limited has further farming diversified. venturing are into transportation



A beneficiary with her transport

groups by providing technical assistance and ensuring they adhere to necessary guidelines and

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) in Guyana is on its way to a smoother takeoff for international moving apace.

The apron, also 2023. are parked, loaded, September 6, unloaded, refuelled, and completion date. boarded. This \$703.2

CHEDDI JAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S APRON UPGRADE PROGRESSING

travel with a major awarded to Avinash stockpiling of essential functionality upgrade to its apron Contracting and Scrap materials like sand, lifespan of the apron. Metal Inc., in December stone, cement, and Construction crusher run, and the

known as the tarmac, is began in March 2024 completion of sand the area where airplanes and is on track for a placement, compaction, 2024 and testing.

The project aims made to replace the current Progress million project aims includes the erection asphaltic concrete to replace the existing of fencing around the pavement with a more asphalt surface with a designated construction durable rigid surface. more durable and long- zone, the excavation meeting international lasting rigid pavement. of the existing asphalt standards. This will The project was concrete pavement, the enhance the overall

Ongoing work on the Cheddi Jagan International Airport international apron

and The apron upgrade a is just one part of development plan for the



comprehensive CJIA. The government's vision is to transform the airport into a world-class facility. This includes additional projects like the installation of an inline baggage handling system, construction of a commercial centre, building a VIP lounge. and the development of a new administrative building.

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

GUYANA LAUNCHES \$2.8B CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony delivering remarks at the launching of the cervical cancer screening programme

Guyana has taken a significant step in the fight against cervical cancer with the launch of a new \$2.8 billion screening programme. The initiative, officially introduced by Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony at the Arthur

Chung women between the ages public health threat.

"Cervical cancer includes is the second most prevalent cancer among women and the third prevalent most cancer among population, the Dr. Anthony said, highlighting the urgency of the programme. The programme is a cornerstone of Guvana's 2024-2030 National Action Plan for cervical cancer and aims to screen over 211,000 screenings, but also HPV Guyanese women. Anthony Dr.

explained that early interventions.

not

Conference detection is key to the Anthony has previously of Non-Communicable strain of the human Centre (ACCC), targets programme's success. expressed concern about Diseases at the Ministry papilloma virus that "We want to make the low HPV vaccination of Health, emphasised is present in patients. of 21 and 65 and aims sure that we detect rate in Guyana, and the importance of This to ultimately eliminate very early and we urged the public to take collaboration. cervical cancer as a **intervene very early**," advantage of the vaccine, **ambitious** he said. The programme which has been available cannot be achieved appropriate course only for over a decade.



NGOs, ministries' representatives, and various agencies with the vouchers that will be distributed to women aged 21-65

vaccination and ensuring ambitious scope of proper

Recognising Dr. Latchmie Lall, Director it will also tell us the

in isolation," Dr. of treatment for each Lall stated. To address woman." this, the Ministry has partnered with hospitals ceremony included the and private facilities distribution of vouchers "to offer testing in to representatives from a safe, secure, and NGOs and various timely manner." Test government agencies results are expected to for distribution be available within 72-96 eligible women. hours.

Dr. Lall explained the importance participation by private the partnership healthcare of determining in appropriate course of signed Memoranda of treatment. "**That will** Understanding (MOUs). not only identify if treatment the programme, Dr. you have the virus but

information "The plays a vital role target in determining the

The launch to The Ministry of Health also has also formalised providers the through recently

OREALLA AND SIPARUTA RECEIVE NEW \$14.5M WATER AMBULANC



NGOs, ministries' representatives, and various agencies with the vouchers that will be distributed to women aged 21-65

and Siparuta in Region Anthony Six can now breathe a "It is sigh of relief with the investment that we arrival of a new \$14.5 are making because million water ambulance. we understand the This vessel replaces the needs that you have previous ambulance that moving from Orealla/ was tragically destroyed Siparuta to come out by a fire in March.

ambulance is a testament this." to the government's commitment to serving goes beyond just the remote communities, ambulance itself. Dr. as Minister of Health Anthony Dr. Frank Anthony further emphasised during the efforts to improve handover ceremony.

"This is insignificant an investment,"

declared. a major here to Skeldon, and The new water we want to facilitate

> This investment highlighted government healthcare services in **not** Orealla and Siparuta.

"The area has Dr. received an all-terrain to



the

Minister Anthony with healthcare providers from the community

Dr.

from several medical recently missions and upgrades nationwide, including the care of the to its health facility," he Eye Test and Spectacle ambulance, explained.

Residents forward Screening programme. look also participation in

no community is left behind when it comes to healthcare. "We don't want

vision is clear: to ensure

any place to be left out, and that is why we are working to make sure that everything that we are working to provide... We are determined that we must be able to provide at least 115 different interventions at a health centre," Dr. Anthony underscored.

The Minister vehicle and benefited additional programmes concluded by urging launched residents to take good water and to Voucher initiatives and anticipate further can the Cervical Cancer advancements in their community's healthcare Anthony's landscape.



NEW MEDICINE REGULATIONS BILL BEING DRAFTED TO **ENHANCE FDA AND COMBAT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony speaking at the event

The Ministry of working Health is on a new Medicine Bill Regulations to strengthen the Food and Drug Administration management (FDA), according to Minister of Health. Dr Frank Anthony.

Hotel and Corporate particularly Suite in Georgetown. "We do medications And so, if you effect have remove this from the they system."

take a formal stand legislation, drafted with explained, emphasising on the falsification assistance from the the importance of medication," Dr. Pan American Health monitoring Anthony asserted at the Organisation (PAHO), variations in individual 21st annual Pharmacists aims to streamline the medication responses. Convention the Pegasus food and drug system, Kingston, computerisation. have problems where some of the areas the of pharmacies selling **are** bill addresses including antibiotics being counterfeited. registration and side proper monitoring **counterfeit** of medications. medications in the is important for senselessly system it can create medical practitioners antibiotics problems in the to monitor the side are of effects of various prescribed patients. We want to medications so that persons," Dr. Anthony

of due to The bill also covers through regulation of antibiotic sales. The Minister Dr. Anthony outlined highlighted the problem without prescriptions. many "We have "It reports of pharmacies selling that not properly to **can report** said. This, he said, it to the relevant contributes significantly proposed **authority**,"Dr.Anthony to the resistance to other



Personnel from the Ministry of Health at the event

medications." The new bill aims to strengthen legal enforcement to curb this practice.

The new regulations come amidst a global address push to antimicrobial resistance. Dr. Anthony pointed to a high-level meeting at the United Nations (UN) in September where an inter-governmental panel is expected to be created to monitor this critical issue.

"We want

to

The

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

GUYANA'S TRUE STRENGTH LIES IN GLOBAL FOOD EXPORTS - PRESIDENT ALI



President Ali engaging the Chairman of the Board of Directors at GMC, David Fernandes at the ceremony

President believes Guyana's riches Ramada New Guyana Marketing environment" Corporation's

Ali awards ceremony at the Georgetown lie not only in its natural Princess Hotel, President potential to become a government's plan for major exporter of food agriculture, which aims products. Speaking at the to create an "enabling for (GMC) high-quality Guyanese

produce to become the country. "differentiating а brand" on international market.

to food import bill, with aside for agribusiness as a country for too a projected saving of **incubators**, " soybeans, and shrimp These incubators will product. Now is the alone by 2027.

President acknowledged challenges faced by and support services. agro-processors, such the GMC and Ministry of facilities. Agriculture throughout

the of the sector, and President's within the next two on adding value to This plan is expected **to three years, a lot of** Guyanese reduce Guyana's resources will be set "We recognised that US\$60 million on corn, President Ali said. exporting primary provide processors with time that we add Ali a centralised location, value to our very own the technology, knowledge, Guyanese products,"

The government also

Minister

Agriculture products. long, we have been Minister Mustapha said.

The focus on as production scale and plans to improve product value-added products proper packaging. He shelf life and logistics by appears to be working. resources, but in its Ali highlighted the urged them to utilise establishing regional and The number of agrothe food processing sub-regional hubs with processors in Guyana has facilities established by additional processing more than doubled since 2020, from 116 to 283. of The GMC has also seen

Zulfikar a significant increase in "In the financing Mustapha echoed the the number of Guyanese emphasis products it carries.



President Ali handing over awards to an agroprocessor and exporter

GOVT TO CRACK DOWN ON AGENCIES DEVIATING FROM STANDARD BIDDING PROCESS

A stern warning has been issued to agencies which are not adhering to standard bidding procedures for procurement, and those found guilty will face sanctions.

"We now have to take a strong disciplinary approach to these agencies that procurement the process," said Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's emphasised that the Progressive (PPP), in response to and recent surrounding government (NPTAB) acted lawfully requiring bids to be approval. contracts.

the awarding of a \$2.1 Document (SBD) when

The Hope and Justice Centre (HJC), a beacon of support for vulnerable individuals, has served nearly 100 people since opening its Offences and Domestic ceremony. She revealed each session. doors in April.



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

do billion contract to Kares statement, clarifying that in Engineering Inc., for the the GDF Wharf contract highlighted the public domain Guyana Defence Force was awarded to the 23(3) of the Procurement that depart from (GDF) Wharf, which "lowest standardised has been under public bidder" Dr. scrutiny.

Dr. Party National Procurement Correia Ltd. challenged National Board. These controversies Administration Board 2024, citing a criterion with the National Board's and within the guidelines at least 80% of the This warning follows of the Standard Bidding engineer's estimate.

the lowest bidder.

"There is standard **bidding** criteria. document that should single 19 criteria that you insert their own the can use," Dr. Jagdeo criterion... and then adhering explained to reporters.

following that evaluation by Jagdeo independent committee. the standardised forms

Tender the decision in March can only be modified Dr.

"If you allow this give the award to standardised process. NPTAB echoed this **anyone**," he warned.

He further Section **responsive** Act, which mandates government an tender boards utilise However, Correia & and criteria set by the

> "The GDF didn't Jagdeo pointed out,

awarding the contract to dismissed this criterion the tender board is this is not an isolated as outdated, and not part right... They inserted incident, and pledged to a of the approved SBD's 19 a criterion that is not strengthen enforcement part of the standard." measures to prevent

Dr. Jagdeo assured future deviations. be used by every to go through, every the public that the government single government contract award was managed to keep entity... There are agency can corruptly legitimate, but stressed most importance to

is the standardised form of bidding," he clarified. He acknowledged

departure from what

"We have of these of contracts outside the of corrupt practices because of the battle

350(3)32553 Goayl Saind Whith Skillers on both desceding univ-

Teedare	2 deno	Bid Price (05)	Engineeris Esti mase (65)	Devision from Calimons
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	Consisti Consistie	\$2,176,004,004	62.523.900.053	42.068
	Sugaritza Contraction	22.1 10 (291) (51)	\$2,221,303,053	48.20%
	Adarte Christine October	\$198.03.03	82,523,983,083	21,074

Kares Engineering was the lowest of the 8 bids

not that we constantly "This is do this," Dr. Jagdeo corruption... wage," Dr. Jagdeo "so What we have is a concluded.

HOPE AND JUSTICE CENTRE OFFERS LIFELIN NEADIV 1/

Dr. Cona Husbands, Manager of the Sexual



announced

Hope and Justice Centre, at Lusignan

Violence Policy Unit, that the HJC tackles a this range of issues, with is a collaborative effort milestone during the domestic Centre's official opening currently 50% of cases. Elder abuse Social Security and Legal follows at 30%, while Affairs, made possible legal matters like land through disputes and restraining American Development orders account for 15%.

The Centre fosters for collaboration, working Justice System (SCJS) with the Child Protection programme. Agency (CPA) to address childcare concerns. against Additionally, its weekly violence is receiving sessions, a counselling held every Thursday, see through the consistent participation "one-stop" 30 This roughly with individuals

This vital initiative violence between the Ministries comprising of Human Services and the Inter-Bank's (IDB) Support the Criminal

Guvana's fight gender-based significant boost HJC's model. comprehensive attending approach offers victims



counselling, medical and even accommodation severe cases.

The location serves as a model residents from Industry for future centres, with to Mahaica in Region plans to expand services Five.

legal aid, to Region Three through treatment, another HJC. The temporary current centre operates in from Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Lusignan providing free services to

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

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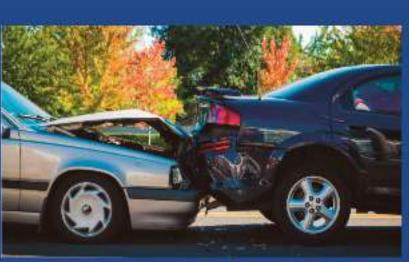


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GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

CARIBBEAN LEADERS CHART COURSE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT CDB MEETING



Minister Singh with the President (Ag.) of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Isaac Solomon

Caribbean Annual Meeting of the "Partnerships Caribbean Development Resilient Prosperity", Canada. to critical issues

leaders achieving sustainable gathered for the 54th development. The theme, for Bank (CDB) in Ottawa, underscored the region's address commitment to building for a future resistant to

challenges and brimming education, with opportunity.

The meeting was prioritised disaster preparedness, 2025" food security plan the mitigation and leveraging Guyana's carbon development. Guvana's Senior Finance Minister, Dr. Ashni Singh, presented nation's "One the **Guyana Digital Skills** Initiative" as a model for fostering economic growth. Discussions also explored strategies for regional economic advancement, including disaster resilience, digitalization, private and sector engagement.

The importance gender equality, of

and food security to emphasised. achieving leadership resilient and prosperous and climate Guyana's strategies, received recognition.

The CDB meeting with key partners. He met representatives



Minister Singh with reps from the European Development Bank (EIB) including the Head of the Caribbean Regional Office, Yves Ferreira,

health, for Caribbean nations of International Trade, on Mary Ng, to promote more continued economic commercial change, focusing on in CARICOM's "25 by future. Dr. Singh used relations, and with the to European Development strengthen Guyana's ties Bank (EIB) and CDB to experience in low- served as a platform with Canada's Minister discuss potential funding for priority projects in Guyana. Discussions with Canada's Minister International of Development, Ahmed Hussen, focused on solidifying longstanding the between relationship the two countries and exploring avenues for expanded cooperation, particularly in economic and commercial spheres.

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

GUYANA'S INVESTMENT BOOM CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Guyana's Investment (CIO), Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, is urging boom entrepreneurs exponential local opportunities the country's resources.

"Better come, do not lose are the country's and the of growth for the he pointed out. "When reduce the food import next five years. We you listen to the bill. are looking at a budget speech and transformation that you listen to where is now larger," he wine, exemplifying the is unbelievable in the government is stressed. our country," Dr. spending money, you President Ramsaroop emphasised have to look around Mohamed Irfaan Ali offerings. at the Econome III the room and ask speaks about 25 per Business Conference and yourself where do you cent in the reduction Business Mixer at the Marriott fit...The answers are of our food bill, or and Mixer plays a key

Chief Hotel in Officer Georgetown.

This led has to to seize the surge in across various sectors, examples of growth to Trinidad or get and created and Dr. Ramsaroop sees areas, highlighting the your products into by the government's a bright future for those development of new **Barbados? Just think** significant investment in who can capitalise on it. hotels, the upcoming **about** it...Whatever

has and private sectors Guyana to Trinidad **opportunity largest spenders**," CARICOM's initiative to

You just have to take ferry service coming entrepreneurs investment that opportunity."

Dr. growth provided "The government ferry service connecting your Barbados, and

"Your

our to Ramsaroop Are you ready to growth specific **drive your canter** sharing business opportunity is...think of where your market is."

He also showcased innovative local market products, like a coffee "When kind of creativity that **Dr** can elevate Guyana's

> The Econome Conference

Kingston, right before our eyes. when he talks about role in connecting events empower local region... fostering this kind of in the new economic mindset. By landscape. knowledge ideas, these

collaborate

opportunity

а

and businesses to thrive



Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of the Guyana Office for Investment, Dr Peter Ramsaroop showcasing a locally made coffee wine

TOURISM MINISTER URGES GREATER COLLABORATION

G STAKEHOLDERS TO CAPITALISE ON OPPORT



Minister Walrond addressing the meeting

industry is poised for among hotels, upcoming events like and the ICC T20 World Cup according Tourism,

increased collaboration options. among all sectors.

have travel seasons," make sure that we hotels, and the taxi Minister emphasised during a of these visitors," should be able to moment for Guyana's here." meeting with industry stakeholders. "Every single month is an opportunity to entertain visitors."

This shift demands Guyana's tourism seamless cooperation taxi a major boost with services, tour operators, restaurants, to the semi-finals. To capitalise Minister. Streamlined on this, Minister of coordination would allow Oneidge for better marketing and Walrond, is calling for a wider range of visitor

"We all "We no longer work together to integration with the tours."

Minister



Stakeholders at the meeting

Walrond have easy access or great

Walrond capture the attention drivers... So, people games are a significant of first-time visitors

tourism industry, as the country's growing collaboration, global presence will be Guyana that positive word- session soon.

"Showcase best of our people, have some service the best of our solutions that we hospitality, the best want to sensitise the of our service at members on," said this time," she urged GTA Director, Kamrul attendees. "This is a Baksh.

opportunity can stressed. "Having that information about for us to use word of mouth marketing The upcoming ICC because we have a lot

> To facilitate this the Tourism showcased. Minister Authority (GTA) plans Walrond highlighted to host a networking "We of-mouth is the most want to roll out a effective marketing tool. session, not only for the networking, but we

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

GUYANESE TOUR COMPANIES TAKE HO RIPADVISOR TRAVELERS' CHOICE A

local tour companies, Excellence). have been recognised on with Choice Awards for 2024. standards.

TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel Managing platform, businesses consistently

Guyanese adventure reviews through its the positive reviews like Suriname and is getting a big thumbs Travelers' Choice Awards and up from travellers! Two (formerly Certificate of the Touring Guyana and rank within the top service. "Our clients offer, for Guyanese Blackwater Adventures, 10% of all listings are investing their people and the world TripAdvisor's demonstrating she said, "and we prestigious Travelers' exceptional hospitality want to ensure acknowledged

honours of Touring with expressed great appreciation for



Ongoing work on the Inline Baggage System

emphasised **Trinidad**, Winners exceptional customer what Guyana has to TripAdvisor, time and money," to experience." unforgettable Guyana an Shivana Gulchand, experience, whether Authority's Director they're local or role in supporting her Guyana, **international** company's growth. her visitors."

> Touring founded just three years owned company based ago, offers adventure in Canje Creek, is a twotours designed to time Travelers' Choice for Guyana's winner. showcase hidden gems. started as a passion their success to a project," Gulchand relentless pursuit of explains, "a desire to excellence. "We cater help people discover to a diverse clientele." beauty. he Guyana's We often hear praise focus on exceeding destinations their for

and Ι importance of wanted to highlight

She also the Tourism (GTA)

Blackwater Guyana, Adventures, a family-Proprietor "It Dillon Ross attributes "and says,



Ongoing work on the Inline Baggage System

authentic of experiences, reservation. especially Every trip is unique." had to cancel a trip." Ross highlighted the importance of reliability: Adventures "Commitment key. When someone the GTA for its continued expectations books, they deserve support. the assurance

a confirmed We're those proud of our perfect connected to nature. record - we've never Blackwater also **is** extended its gratitude to

'AMITY' STEEL BAND RETURNS AFTER HIATUS, CELEBRATES TEAMWORK AND GUYANESE CULTURE

Unit revived the vibrant we are doing today is the COVID-19 pandemic, talent. the event celebrated the talents and creativity Demerara Secondary, Volunteerism, Language, as many pans and of students from across The Bishops' Guyana.

"We in Ministry Education, responsibility

Guyana's tourism sector is experiencing a boom, with projections for a record-breaking 350,000 visitors in 2024. This expected growth will surpass pre-pandemic levels. according to the Guyana Tourism Authority's (GTA) 2023 Tourism Statistical Digest. GTA's Director, Kamrul Baksh, attributes drivers. Guyana's success to international tourism. private The UNWTO World Tourism reports global arrivals "Guyana's pre-pandemic air connectivity, and a and public sectors." strong resurgence in

The Ministry of **if we continue to** Guyana's Education's Allied Arts enhance it. And what heritage. sounds of steel pan music a testimony of that," emphasised with its annual "Amity" said Education Officer Ministry's commitment Arts Unit, Nicholas Steel Band presentation. with Responsibility for to expanding steel Fraser, Held at the Kingston Music, Joel Gonsalves, band Seawall Esplanade, after highlighting the event's aligning with Minister instrument maintenance a three-year hiatus due to role in nurturing young of Education Priya and

School, St. Rose's and the High School, Dolphin Education and Training). country. But we do of Secondary with Buxton Steel Orchestra, committed to three instructors who will for President's College, and bands every year to a be able to hone those music, believe that Berbice High School all school... Before this talents," he explained. music can only grow took part, showcasing year ends, the Cyril

G o n s a l v e s he declared. the programmes, challenges Manickchand's focus on availability. "We may Schools like West fostering Music, Sport, be able to give out High and TVET (Technical as many bands to School, "The ministry has need to have more

artistic Potter College will receive a steel band,"

Head of the Allied addressed like instructor Vocational schools around the Fraser also



Buxton Steel Orchestra performing at Amity

highlighted the event's showcasing the fruits spirit of collaboration. of "'Amity,' meaning effe meaning effort." friendly relations, perfectly captures and the spirit of this Education officials all event," he said. "It is joined in celebrating the **not a competition**, return of this cultural but a **celebration** event. teamwork. of

collaborative

Parents, teachers, Ministry

Interestingly,



YOUNG GUYANESE ACTORS TAKE CENTRE STAGE WITH HOLLYWOOD STAR SILVIO SIMAC

Guyana welcomed 11% development of new industry

already South/Central America



Silvio Simac sharing his knowledge and experience

He emphasised mirroring a global the crucial role of trend of recovering collaboration between and public in Guyana's sectors Barometer tourism achievements: tourism nearing 1.3 billion in industry is part of this 2023, reaching 88% of global trend, which can levels. be attributed mainly to Baksh highlights "pent- the support received up demand, expanded from both the private The statistics Asian markets" as key speak for themselves.

more visitors in 2023 tourism a total of 319,147 tourists. conferences are also The first four months of contributing 2024 saw a continuation industry's vibrancy. of this trend, with a 112,751.

Several factors are propelling Guyana's tourism growth. The addition of 595 new hotel roomsprovidesincreased accommodation options visitors. Major for events like the Rupununi Rodeo, Mashramani, and Cricket Carnival are expected to draw crowds. Guyana's ongoing oil production, increased marketing efforts,

compared to 2022, with and hosting of major jobs in 2023. to The World Travel the Guvana's



Participants gathered at the workshop

products, supported over 18,000 (6%). nearly half (45%) of these Data reveals that visitors were Guyanese

the the majority of visitors diaspora, highlighting in 2023 came from the country's cultural United States draw. Leisure travel 12.4% increase in visitors and Tourism Council (47%), followed by the dominated reasons for year-over-year, totalling (WTTC) reported that Caribbean (27%), Canada visits (69%), followed by tourism (9%), Europe (6%), and business travel (17%).

Baksh expressed optimism for the future: "I am confident that we are on the right path to achieving remarkable success with support from all key stakeholders, including the Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce. Guyana is on an undeniable path to greatness."

THURSDAY JULY 11 2024



DEMERARA HARBOUR BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The western end of the Demerara Harbour Bridge is undergoing a transformation with the construction of a new roundabout. This project aims to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in the area.



THURSDAY JULY 11 2024



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THURSDAY JULY 11 2024

Guyana gov't, private sector to host job fair in Queens, New York

THE Government of Guyana, in collaboration with the private sector, will host a job fair on July 27, 2024, at the La Guardia Marriott, 102-05 Ditmars Blvd, Queens, New York, targetting Guyanese in the diaspora.

According to a press release, the event which will be held from 09:00 hours to 17:00 hours, presents a unique opportunity for skilled Guyanese abroad to explore career prospects in Guyana and actively contribute to the nation's ongoing development initiatives.

The job fair will feature participation from key private sector leaders and stakeholders, offering attendees insights into the diverse opportunities available across various sectors within Guyana.

Participants during the event can interact with prominent figures from key industries in Guyana and have the opportunity to explore job opportunities which includes a wide range of exciting career openings.

Persons can learn about companies, gaining insights into small, medium, and large enterprises operating in Guyana. Additionally, they will be able to understand the Remigration Process and according to the release, they will receive information on the process of returning home.

Participants also can expect to learn how their skills can contribute to Guyana's rapidly expanding economy.

"This job fair underscores our commitment to harnessing the talents and expertise of our diaspora community. By deploying their skills and experience, they can play a pivotal role in the country's development and economic growth.

"We invite all Guyanese in New York and surrounding states to join us and explore the abundant opportunities available in our vibrant nation," the release said.

For more information and registration details, persons can visit https://guyanaconsulatenewyork.org/jo b-fair-registration

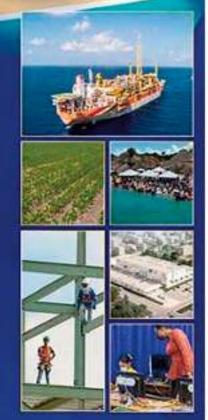
> Advertising in Equality News works

The Government of Guyana in collaboration with the Private Sector invites you to be part of the transformation in Guyana

DIASPORA JOB FAIR

- Learn of the many exciting job opportunities
- Network with industry leaders and other stakeholders
- Get to know more about the many small, medium and large companies operating in Guyana
- Get information on Guyana's remigration process
- Become aware of how you can contribute to Guyana's rapidly growing economy

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"The tourism sector is a "low-hanging fruit" for local investment, as the industry is poised for dramatic takeoff in this year and the years to come." H.E. Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

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