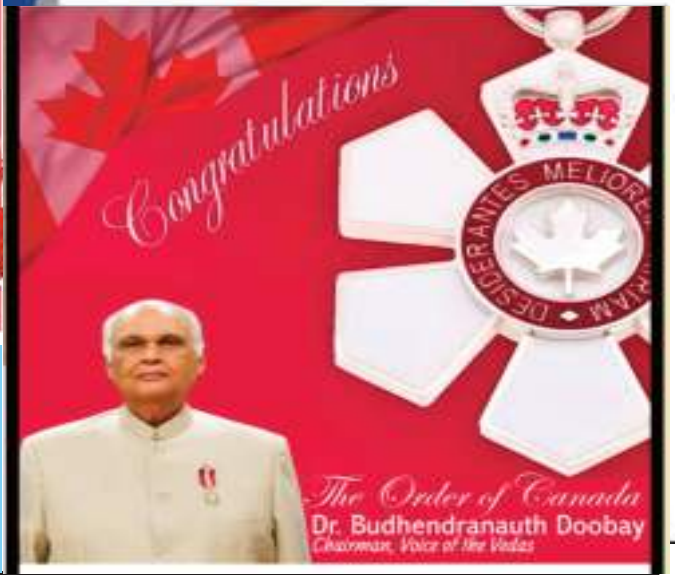


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Guyana Tourism sets records

Guyana's Tourism sector has recorded a productive and historic period in the first half of the year, boasting more licensed tourism businesses, operators and guides, among other accomplishments.

The agency's accomplishments were outlined by Director Kamrul Baksh while giving a half-year sector review.

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and its tourism stakeholders "worked on several extensive, collaborative projects, programmes and initiatives to achieve significant strides in promoting and developing Guyana's tourism product," said a report.

For this period, 36 properties were officially entered into the GTA's ICC T20 Bed & Breakfast Property database after being officially inspected by the GTA to receive their conditional approval.

"As of June, the GTA recorded 82 licensed businesses and tourist guides includ-



Visitors enjoy kayaking in one of Guyana's many rivers

ing 16 tourism accommodation establishments, 11 interior lodges and resorts, 18 tourist guides, and 37 tour

operators," the report stated.

At the end of June, the GTA has trained 1267 persons in priority areas. These include tour guiding, digital marketing, food, preparation, and customer relations among other areas.

This training contained theoretical and practical aspects, ensuring that the participants could exercise any of the content administered.

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Cherie Blair Foundation seeks to empower Guyanese women

A TRANSFORMATIVE wave of female entrepreneurship is sweeping across this nation. At the forefront of this is distinguished British King's Counsel, Lady Cherie Blair, whose advocacy and initiatives have empowered the lives of scores of women in Guyana and around the world.

Through her non-profit organisation, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, Blair has not only championed the cause of gender equality, but also advocates for women to be at the forefront of economic development.

Blair, the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is an advocate for women's rights and has long been a vocal supporter of female entrepreneurship.

During her appearance on this week's episode of the Energy Perspectives Podcast, she shared that she was forced to learn independence at a very young age because she was raised by her mother and grandmother, after being abandoned by her father when she was eight years old.

She strongly believes in the untapped potential of women to drive economic success and this led her to establishing the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women in 2008. The foundation's mission is to empower women entrepreneurs by providing them with the skills, technology, networks, and access to financial services they need for self-sufficiency and to succeed.

With an ambitious goal to revolutionise business opportunities for 1,000,000 (one million) women around the globe by 2030, Guyana has become the foundation's focal point.



Cherie Blair — a King's Counsel and wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair

Blair gave an update on the foundation's work towards this mission, stating: "Well, so far, we have reached 250,000 women. So, we are not doing too badly. But, I'm very proud in particular of the contribution that Guyana has made to that figure.

"The work my foundation has been doing these last three years here in this

country has been very, very important to us."

Recognising that education and training are pivotal to entrepreneurial success, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women has introduced comprehensive capacity-building programmes in Guyana.

"I am very proud to say that one in

25 women in Guyana use our HerVenture app which is a mobile app free to use. [The app] teaches women skills, helps them to build their confidence and gives them that basic business training. The outcomes from this app are amazing," she shared.



In Memoriam Derek Budhoo July 21, 2021

On behalf of Charlie, Sue, Sharda, Anita, Lawrence, our Grand-Children, immediate and extended families, brother's, sister's, nieces and nephews; We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our customers, suppliers, well wishers and colleagues for your ongoing support and understanding since the passing of our beloved son Derek.

As you all know, Derek played a very prominent role both in our family and businesses.

Derek tirelessly and optimistically fought to overcome his illness, but sadly, was taken from us on July 21st 2021.

Three years gone by and we are still grieving his passing which has left a profound emptiness in our lives.

It has taken us so long to muster the courage to write this very difficult note of thanks and appreciation to you all. We will continue to carry on his legacy, with your love and support.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers and in your hearts and again thank you, God Bless.

To Derek: "If tears could build a stairway, and memories were a lane, I would walk right up to heaven and bring you home again..."



Newcomers paying up to 12 months' rent up front to secure housing: CBC

From the CBC:

Andrea Carranza and her husband vied for at least a dozen condo units when they first arrived in Toronto last summer.

Every single landlord rejected their application.

"It was really frustrating. They were really crappy places, but they still said no," said Carranza, who worked at IBM in Lima, Peru, for nine years before leaving the politically unstable country.

For two months, Carranza and her husband slept on a couch in a small, one-bathroom apartment in downtown Toronto that they shared with two other couples as they searched for a home.

The real estate agents Carranza was working with said the reason they were rejected was because they were newcomers with no credit scores, no reference letters and — at the time — no jobs. So the agents suggested they offer up to a year of rent up front.

Desperate, Carranza started looking for options on Kijiji. There, she found a one-bedroom-one-den apartment near Kipling Station for \$2,250. The landlords were willing to meet with Carranza and her husband in person.

They ended up handing over \$28,300 — their life savings — to prove their reliability to the landlords and, finally, secure a home.

They're part of a growing number of newcomers who are paying thousands of dollars up front to persuade landlords to rent them apartments. CBC News spoke with eight newcomers who said they felt this was the only way they could secure a home.

It's not technically illegal, but lawyers and housing experts say this unregulated grey zone leaves many newcomers, as well as other would-be renters, vulnerable to exploitation.

Like Carranza, Raffaella Cruz was desperate to find housing in Toronto after a couple of weeks of paying more than \$270 a night for an Airbnb with her husband and their Dalmatian.

They moved to the city from Quito,

Ecuador, in 2023 and were told by friends to work with a real estate agent to find an apartment as soon as possible.

Angela Chaves, a transitional services manager at the Halton Multicultural Council who works with newcomers to Ontario, says it's typical for those who can speak English to work with real estate agents, because agents can advocate for them with landlords, which increases the chances of having their applications accepted.

Chaves also says that these days, landlords would rather work with agents than with tenants directly, because they trust agents will find them a reliable tenant.

Cruz said two real estate agents suggested she and her husband pay at least 12 months' rent up front.

"One of them told us, 'You're Latin American. People won't trust you, so they will ask for more [money].'"

Another real estate agent told her they could find them a home with "just six months of upfront pay." Cruz and her husband accepted.

"Even six months was crazy for us, but we were like, 'It's this or we don't have any other place to go.'"

According to Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act, a landlord can only legally ask a tenant for two months' rent up front: for the first month, due on the first day of the first rental period, and one month as a deposit, typically referred to as last month's rent. But nothing stops a tenant from offering to pay more.

More and more, realtors are suggesting it.

Sue Heddle, an Oakville, Ont., real estate agent who represents landlords, says she first saw the practice in 2017. She says it's the norm now — and that it's "impossible" for newcomers with no credit score or job history in Canada to find a home in Ontario unless they offer more money up front.

"It's hard for you to say no to a cheque that's coming across the table for \$60,000, right?"



New Ambassador to Belgium

Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is pleased to announce that His Excellency Sasenarine Singh, Guyana's newly appointed Ambassador to Belgium, presented his Letter of Credence to His Excellency Hubert Roisin, Chief of Protocol of the Federal Public Service – Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. This marks a significant step towards Ambassador Singh becoming fully accredited as Ambassador and Head of Mission to the Kingdom of Belgium, with the final presentation to His Majesty King Philippe announced to be completed in September of this year.

Ambassador Singh conveyed warm greetings from His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the Government, and the people of Guyana, reaffirming a strong commitment to advancing the partnership between Guyana and Belgium. Both parties expressed eagerness to collaborate closely on addressing shared challenges and exploiting common opportunities, thereby forging a prosperous future for both countries.



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Efficiency and Transparency

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, July 17 2024

SENIOR public servants must be held accountable to the citizens of Guyana in the way they manage the affairs of government departments and agencies and also in the conduct of their professional lives.

This point was emphasised by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, during her remarks at a recent roundtable discussion on ethical behaviour within the Public Service.

The roundtable was held under the theme, 'Promoting integrity and effectiveness in public bodies and authorities responsible for preventing corruption.'

The minister could not have been more candid when she urged those in positions of authority in the Public Service to conduct themselves in the discharge of their duties with integrity and professionalism within the framework of the applicable Public Service rules and regulations.

The roundtable is being held at a time when the government is stepping up on training and capacity-building in the Public Service to ensure higher levels of efficiency in the Public Service.

The importance of an efficient Public Service cannot be overemphasised, especially at this time of accelerated economic growth and development. The efficient delivery of social services is a critical component of the governance process. As the econ-

omy grows, the expectations of the Guyanese people of enhanced delivery of social goods and services also grow.

Of no less importance is the question of integrity. According to Minister Teixeira, the government is working on amending the Integrity Commission law to ensure that individuals submit their statutory declarations as required and within the specified timeframe.

The roundtable aims of identifying mechanisms to prevent the abuse of public funds and institutional strengthening are commendable. As pointed out by Minister Teixeira, 'we have to now reached [sic] a point where as a government, as a Public Service, we are holding ourselves to high standards.'

This is what good governance is all about.

According to President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the government is working to strengthen institutions to put an end to corrupt practices in public offices. In this regard, systems, institutional arrangements, guidelines and procedures to ensure there is accountability are being implemented. 'I can assure you of working to strengthen our institutional capacity to improve the system of governance, making government more open and transparent, creating avenues for greater public involvement in the governance process and opening up myself to questions the public might have on the work of government.'

These are indeed the hallmarks of good governance for which the PPP/C administration must be commended.

Hughes is trying to mislead the public on sugar

By Donald Ramotar

I read, with interest, the report of Mr. Nigel Hughes first press conference as leader of the Alliance For Change (AFC) in the July 9 2024 issue of the "Kaieteur News" I was disappointed.

My disappointment stem from the fact that Mr Hughes has adopted the same methodology of the former and present PNC and AFC leaders. From the very beginning he has chosen to mis represent and distort events in our country.

It was reported that he urged government not to undertake big projects without feasibility studies he used as his example the Skeldon Expansion Project.

That project had a very good plan. It was conceived at a time when the European Union was saying that they would bring an end to the Sugar Protocol which had guaranteed prices for sugar produced in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

The government joined with their ACP colleagues to resist the EU plan. At the Sametime it began to plan for the eventuality of the EU succeeding to

abandon the decades old agreement.

The administration was faced with two options, one was to close the industry down, the other was to take steps to keep it going and save jobs in the industry.

The government chose to take steps to save the industry and jobs. It charged Guysuco's Board to come up with a feasible plan for the industry.

The Board tapped into the talents it had in the sector and to use international experts to craft the plan. Booker/Tate was chosen as the international experts.

The plan was to transform the sugar industry from being just a producer of raw sugar into a complex with other revenue streams and at the Same-time to reduce the average cost of producing raw sugar. It envisage the average cost of producing electricity (co-generation); a new distillery and to refining our raw sugar into industrial sugar.

The plan was sound, the problem was it's implementation which Booker Tate, the International experts was contracted to do. Without going into details ot was the boards view that Booker Tate was responsible for the

many problems that developed with that project.

Because of that conviction the Board with held payments to Booker Tate. B.T decided to take the issue to court. Guysuco crossed charged Booker Tate and I thought we had a good chance of winning the case.

Unfortunately when the government changed in 2015 the PNC, AFC decided to pay Booker Tate and to withdraw the Board's case from the court. That allowed Booker Tate to walk away with millions.

The PNC/AFC regime then proceeded to close estates and dismissed thousands of workers. This was a blatant racial and political attack on sugar workers when the PNC/AFC considered to be PPP supporters.

I say this because at the time the PNC/AFC decided to close the estates, the industry was overcoming the problems at Skeldon. This can be confirmed by the production figures of 2014 and 2015 when Skeldon took the lead in sugar production.

Mr. Hughes must have known all this since the issue was ventilated publicly for many years. As late as April of this year Mr. Vickram Ouditt and I had

an exchange on the issue. The debate was not the lack of planning but whether the plan was changed.

In addition to all of the above Mr. Huges had to be aware since he was Booker/Tate lawyer in the case. Therefore to make the statement which he was reported to have made was a deliberate attempt to mis lead the public for narrow political ends.

In closing let me say that almost all the big projects that were undertaken by successive PPP/Civic governments were carefully planned and all had feasibility studies done.

The only one that I am aware of where the PPP did not go along with the advise of the experts related to the Bauxite operations in Linden. The experts advised that the company be closed but Dr. Jagan refused to do so, so did President Jagdeo. They both worked to save the industry and workers job.

Mr. Huges should aim at putting some integrity to the opposition's propaganda instead going along the old dishonest and racist path.

Donald Ramotar is a former President of Guyana



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LCBO strike: Ontario accelerates alcohol expansion plans

As the LCBO strike enters its second week, the Ontario government is speeding up its alcohol expansion plans, announcing licensed grocery stores will be able to start selling ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages as of July 18.

The announcement marks a two-week acceleration of the province's plan to expand alcohol sales across Ontario, with an end goal of introducing beer, cider, wine and RTDs to convenience stores by Sept. 5.

"Our government is keeping our promise to give people in Ontario choice and convenience while supporting Ontario-made beverage producers across the province, including the Ontario businesses that produce more than 80 per cent of the ready-to-drink beverages sold here in our province," Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy said in a news release issued Monday.

The first phase of the plan – which was scheduled to begin on Aug. 1 – gives grocery stores which are already licensed the ability to order RTDs and large-pack sizes of beer and sell them as soon as they arrive.

Those 450 grocery stores will also be able to temporarily display alcohol in multiple areas of the store, the govern-

ment said, adding that retailers with the same owner and or affiliated licensees can transfer some alcoholic beverages between locations to help bars and restaurants manage inventory during the strike.

RTDs have been a hot topic in the ongoing negotiations between the LCBO and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which is representing the Crown corporation's more than 9,000 striking workers.

OPSEU has argued that the expansion of RTDs and other alcoholic products to grocery and corner stores will impact the \$2.5 billion in revenue it generates for public services every year and result in job losses.

In a news release issued after the province's announcement, OPSEU said that the "rush" to expand alcohol sales in the province will cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion.

"We are getting tired of others trying to tell us what our strike is over. This is about way more than ready-to-drink cocktails." Colleen MacLeod, chair of OPSEU's bargaining team, said in a statement of the strike that began on July 5.



LCBO employees have been on strike since July 5



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Conflict of Interest Questions and Answers



Joel Bhagwandin

In light of a disclosure through a press statement made by the undersigned in the undersigned's capacity as a Director for a private firm, SphereX Professional Services Inc. (hereinafter "SphereX"), wherein SphereX terminated a contract with ExxonMobil Guyana (hereinafter "EMGL"), a Stabroek News (SN) reporter, namely, Khadidja Ba, wrote to the Public Procurement Commission (hereinafter "the Commission"), where the undersigned also sits as a Commissioner, enquiring whether the Commission was ever made aware of the undersigned's business relationship with EMGL, and whether any conflict of interest was appropriately disclosed by the undersigned involving EMGL.

First and foremost, let me say that as an independent constitutional office holder serving the public's interests, I am duty bound to subject myself to this level of public scrutiny.

I would therefore like to thank SN for this opportunity, as I welcome these enquiries, which I am more than happy and willing to address.

The Commission is well aware of my private consulting practice through the aforementioned firm (SphereX). As regards conflicts of interest at the Commission level and my previous business relationship with EMGL; to date, there hasn't been any matter regarding EMGL that has ever engaged the attention of the Commission for a decision or deliberation. As such, there was never any conflict-of-interest situation specific to EMGL and the undersigned as a commissioner of the Public Procurement Commission.

Moreover, it is important to note, too, that EMGL has nothing to do with the Public Procurement Commission, per se; since EMGL does not tender for government contracts. Accordingly, EMGL's operation is gov-

erned by the Petroleum Agreement (2016), the Local Content Act, the Petroleum Activities Act, and the Environmental Protection Act. Thus, there is absolutely no conflict of interest.

Suffice it to state, the Commission's records would confirm (i.e., the minutes of the Commission's meetings), however, that whenever a conflict of interest arose, I had promptly made such disclosure and recused myself accordingly.

For example, the Commission's records would confirm that there were two separate occasions in the past where two "private companies" had lodged complaints in relation to public tenders they participated in, of which, one was a past client and the other was a current client of SphereX. These were promptly disclosed to the Commission, and I had recused myself accordingly.

Furthermore, I have appropri-

ately and as a matter of principle disclosed and recused myself in the recruitment process for staff of the Commission as well. To this end, there were two instances when two candidates had applied for various positions who were personally known to me.

All of the foregoing disclosures can be confirmed by the Commission.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to put on record and to state explicitly that I am not the leader of any political party, I am not an executive member of any political party, and I am not an ordinary card bearing member of any political party.

Of note, SphereX is a professional services firm that provides economic, financial and investment advisory services and political analysis to both local and foreign corporate clients/investors.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Strategic measures against inflation are a triumph

Dear Editor,

THE ill-placed critique on cost-of-living increases fails to consider the full picture of a government that has acted with empathy and strategic foresight, absorbing many costs through the Treasury to keep living expenses manageable for all Guyanese.

It is astonishing how the opposition and certain sections of the media continue to propagate a narrative that ignores our government's Herculean efforts and strategic measures to shield Guyanese from the worst effects of global inflation.

The government's comprehensive approach has safeguarded our economy and enhanced the well-being of our people in these challenging times.

We tend to forget that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the price of every commodity escalated due to

halted production. For instance, when Indonesia and Malaysia stopped exporting oil, the price of cooking oil surged by 300 per cent. This increase's domino effect resulted in the cost of shipping a 40-foot container from China skyrocketing from US\$3,500 to US\$20,000.

Global conflicts like the war in Ukraine and unrest in the Red Sea further strained the global supply chain, driving costs higher. Despite these external pressures, our government led by Dr. Irfaan Ali, maintained an inflation rate below the regional average that was no accident. This stability is a direct result of strategic interventions and substantial treasury expenditures.

While other countries have faced massive increases in transportation and utility costs, Guyanese were insulated against such occurrences because the Guyana Power and Light

Ltd (GPL) was allocated a large subsidy by the central government, a decision that positively impacted both the business community and ordinary citizens.

Similarly, the government made significant efforts to reduce the cost of the burden of fuel by removing a 50 per cent excise tax on gasoline and diesel, saving the population US\$384 million annually. This tax relief translated into a savings of approximately GY\$500 per gallon of fuel, significantly reducing transportation costs and thus the overall cost of living.

The government has indicated that since taking office, they have increased wages, salaries, and benefits by \$90 billion while pensioners now receive \$20 billion more annually and over 60,000 new jobs have been added, turning economic despair into opportunity. Every part-time worker, every pensioner, every new job holder

– that's real, tangible income in the hands of Guyanese.

These are just a few examples of how the government has mitigated the impact of global economic pressures on the local economy. This government has managed the complexities of global inflation, not with empty promises, but with strategic, people-focused actions.

Every time one buys fuel, pay their electricity bill, or turn on the tap, just know that government is working tirelessly behind the scenes, absorbing costs to shield you from economic hardships – a triumph for Guyanese.

Sincerely,
Anson Paul

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Canada provides over \$1.2M to Caribbean nations following Beryl

Canada has announced significant support for the Caribbean in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, with over \$1 million in humanitarian assistance. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, revealed the funding, aimed at providing critical relief and aiding recovery efforts.

This substantial aid package will enable Canada's humanitarian partners to deliver essential services, including emergency food and nutrition, protection, and logistics, ensuring that humanitarian goods reach those in need and that relief workers can operate effectively amidst the crisis.

Of the total amount, \$500,000 will go to the World Food Programme (WFP) for emergency food assistance and logistics services. Additionally, \$160,000, as part of a Government of Canada project with the Canadian Red Cross Society's Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund, will be directed to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for relief operations in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Jamaica.

Canada is also deploying essential relief items to the Jamaica Red Cross, valued at up to \$350,000. Furthermore, Minister Hussen announced that \$200,000 will be allocated to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to support the mobilization of regional deployment teams and provide direct assistance to countries in immediate need.

In collaboration with UN Women



One of the aid shipments sent to the Caribbean after Hurricane Beryl

and the UN Population Fund, Canada's Build Back Equal project will distribute hygiene and dignity product kits in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The country is also supporting the deployment of emergency humanitarian personnel in the Caribbean through funding to the United Nations Disaster Assessment

and Coordination and the Canadian Red Cross.

Additionally, Canada is enhancing the region's disaster preparedness through the WFP's Resilience and Enhanced Adaptability to Disasters in the Caribbean project. This initiative, in collaboration with response organizations including CDEMA, focuses on

readiness actions to ensure prompt and effective international support for affected communities and governments.

With the increasing frequency of climate-related natural disasters and the rise in tropical storms due to global warming, Canada reaffirms its commitment to supporting those impacted by severe weather crises.

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Guyana's growing economy attracts Trinidad's MAC cosmetics

GUYANA'S rapidly growing economy continues to make its mark and draw in investors from across the region. Among the most recent and eager additions to Guyana's cosmetology field is the Trinidadian-based brand MAC Cosmetics, one of the region's leading makeup producers and retailers.

The company celebrated its grand opening on Saturday at the MovieTowne mall, where dozens of women gathered to meet skilled makeup artists and experience personalised makeovers. Vivia Dialsing, Head of Retail for MAC Cosmetics, explained that the company's move was a strategic one.

Speaking to the Sunday Chronicle during the launch, Dialsing elaborated on the motives behind the company's expansion to Guyana.

"We decided to make the move with the boost in the economy and the upcoming markets. We are actually in other Caribbean islands, originally from Canada, and we saw an opportunity in Guyana because Guyana doesn't have many high-end makeup brands."

Dialsing further added, "We've been seeing a lot of Guyanese in Trinidad. And we in Trinidad, we follow a lot of Guyanese. Also, we have a mix of people, and a lot of them come over to shop with us. So, we saw an opportunity and we decided to take it."

Maintaining high standards is one of the many pillars of MAC Cosmetics. Dialsing explained that the company is still finding its footing in the Guyanese economy. As she stated, "It was a lot of work and a lot of criteria getting here. But with any emerging economy, there's a lot of learning to take with."

Emphasising the importance of standards, she further added, "When it comes to shipping, clearing stuff, and getting workers who are professional enough – because we have a lot of standards as the franchise for MAC Cosmetics International – everything has to



Vivia Dialsing, Head of Retail for MAC Cosmetics

be according to guidelines, standards, and codes."

She continued, "They [MAC Cosmetics International] were involved from the design of everything, and it was up to us to execute. So, it took a lot of preparation, but we got it done. Customers visiting MAC can look forward to a unique experience. According to Dialsing, one of the many things that sets MAC Cosmetics apart from similar brands is its skilled personnel and inclusive approach. "Our professional service is what helps us stand out. All of our makeup artists are internationally trained, and MAC prides itself when it comes to service and that luxury experience," Dialsing explained.

She further explained, "We will sit

you down. We will test. We do makeovers. Anything that you want when it comes to makeup, our make-up artists will guide you. So, when you come in here, it's a full experience. It's not just coming and just taking what you want. They're actually going to sit down, explain, and ensure you get the right treatment. They're going to ensure that when you leave here, you'll be comfortable and you'll be happy. That is our experience. That is what we offer."

Moving forward, MAC Cosmetics hopes to cater to all levels of society while maintaining its stance as a luxury brand. Dialsing expressed the company's intention to connect with Guyana's elite and influential figures.

"I would say we would try to invite all of the who's who. Yes, we'll try to get the ministers. We'll try to get, you know, social media influencers, makeup artists who will be interested to just come in and see what we have to offer because I'm sure we have something there for them," she stated.

In closing, Dialsing extended an open invitation: "I just would love to invite everyone to come and visit us. We're here every day."

As MAC Cosmetics establishes its presence in Guyana, it aims to blend its international reputation with local market needs, potentially setting a new standard for luxury cosmetics in the country's flourishing economy.

Trade MoU signed with Guyana, Canada

A LANDMARK Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Saturday between Guyana, Suriname, Canada and the Dominican Republic (DR) business chambers, and the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency to foster greater relations.

During an interview with reporters, the Chairman of the Suriname-Guyana Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Vishnu Doerga outlined how these MoUs formalise a framework for collaboration between Guyana and these partners while building capacity through joint ventures.

The MoUs signified collaboration among the three agencies and were signed by a representative from the European Union (EU)-Guyana Chamber of Commerce, Alista Bishop; Executive director for the Dominican Republic (DR)-Guyana Chamber of Commerce, Leonida

Foo Lily; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce, Rochelle Parasram; and the Chairman of the Suriname Guyana Chamber of Commerce, Dr Doerga.

The signing of these MoUs took place after the launch of the International Business Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

Dr Doerga said, "We've been meeting now for months, looking at ways how we can better collaborate to reduce redundancy, to share more information between ourselves and for all of us to operate more effectively to serve our members more effectively. And we have already been collaborating but today (Saturday) we've decided to put this formally on paper to ensure that we clearly outline the rules by which we will operate to make it a lot more efficient."



Representatives of the various trade agencies at the MoU signing



Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud, recently met with the Peruvian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Peter Camino, in Lima, Peru

Guyana, Peru to pursue stronger ties

GUYANA and Peru have pledged to increase co-operation in the areas of energy, food security and climate change.

This is according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which, in a press release, said that Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud recently met with the Peruvian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador

Peter Camino, in Lima.

During that meeting they discussed specific areas of ties between the two governments and their people.

The ministry said that the government of Peru plans to expand its framework of co-operation with Guyana to enable greater collaboration in the mining, agriculture, tourism, and construction sectors among others, through direct

investment and technical assistance initiatives.

“The Vice Foreign Minister noted Guyana’s leadership in the region as well as its commitment to advancing a number of issues of mutual interest both within the hemispheric fora including in ACTO and the Brasilia Consensus, as well as at the multilateral sphere including the United Nations Security Council.

“Foreign Secretary Persaud took the opportunity to update the Peruvian Vice Foreign Minister on the current case before the International Court of Justice regarding the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy,” the ministry said.

Guyana and Peru established diplomatic relations on July 17, 1971.

The World Guyanese Congress (WGC) is a federally incorporated non-partisan global organisation that represents the interests of citizens of Guyanese heritage around the world. The organisation focuses on the successful development of our communities globally with an emphasis on leadership development and collaborative activities in diaspora communities to strengthen the community worldwide.

The organisation is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and led by a Chairman and Executive Committee supported by an Advisory Council and various Committees as well as a Board of Governors that acts as ambassadors for the organisation. It has nine national and regional chapters:

Key priorities of the WGC include:

- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
- Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
- Engage diaspora communities in the social and economic development of Guyana.

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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

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Culture lab will help Guyana meet goals of 4 million plants annually

WITH the construction of a tissue culture laboratory, Guyana is expected to grow four million plants annually, meeting both its local and regional demand for food.

This was last week disclosed by the country's Vice-President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, who, during a news conference where he told reporters that the government is already looking to construct a second laboratory.

"We probably will get another tissue culture lab. We are expanding all of our nurseries. The nursery at Charity is inadequate to service the needs of the people there. In places like the Amerindian communities, they want to expand cultivation," Dr. Jagdeo said.

To further support farmers, the government, he noted, will be expanding the capacity of existing plant nurseries across the country.

"We will be providing a lot of planting material," Dr. Jagdeo added.

Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, stated that the project will see the country being able to produce high-quality products for the regional and international markets.

He also revealed that the facility will feature a food-safety laboratory.

"This here will take our production level to new heights, where we will produce and comply with international standards. Our produce will be of a better quality to export, and we will be ready for the global market," Minister Mustapha said.

Tissue culture involves the cultivation of plant cells, tissues, or organs on a specially formulated nutrient medium. Under the right conditions, an entire plant can be regenerated from a single cell.

Plant tissue culture is a technique that has been around for more than 30 years.

In 2023, an agreement to establish a tissue culture facility was signed by the Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Agriculture and The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) of India.



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha

This will see the establishment of a commercial-size tissue culture and micropropagation facility at the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI).

Mustapha had said the project is extremely good for Guyana, as it will support the increased demand for planting materials.

"Over the last three years, we have seen a serious demand for planting materials...What we are producing now is just around 13,000 to 15,000 plantlets. When this lab is completed later on like mid-point 2024, we will be able to produce millions of plantlets for our farmers."

Additionally, works are in progress to upgrade 11 nurseries across the country, which will result in an increase in seedling production from 200,000 to 500,000.



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Guyana, France relationship built on foundation of respect, shared values

The bilateral relationship between Guyana and France continues to prosper through the firm establishment of mutual respect, shared values and common goals.

This was emphasised by Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips Monday evening, while attending the French National Day 2024 celebrations at the Umana Yana in Kingston, Georgetown.

Prime Minister Phillips noted that over the years, the two countries have managed to enjoy an amiable relationship that has been strengthened through the cooperation of French Guiana.

“Since the establishment of our diplomatic relations, our countries have enjoyed a cordial partnership in part buttressed by the active cooperation between Guyana and French Guiana. In recent times, this partnership has been significantly strengthened through dialogue on fostering various cooperation initiatives,” the prime minister stated.

Through several high-level interactions with the French delegation, additional avenues have been created to foster collaboration in areas such as climate change, defence, infrastructure, technology, agriculture and tourism, among other crucial sectors.

The prime minister stressed that Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and France’s National Climate Action Plan are evi-



Prime Minister Brigadier Retired Mark Phillips with Ambassador Nicolas de Bouillane de Lacoste and his spouse Maya de Lacoste

dence that the two countries shared a dedication to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to promote a sustainable environment.

“Collaborative initiatives, such as the developing a pilot model on biodiversity crediting and supporting the expansion of Guyana’s Protected Areas

System, further testify to our commitment. By working together, we can innovate and implement sustainable practices that benefit not only our countries but the entire planet...” Prime Minister Phillips emphasised.

While turning his attention to defence, he stated that Guyana’s partici-

pation in the Guiana Shield Strategic Dialogue has allowed the country to strengthen its security cooperation.

“The III Guiana Shield Strategic Dialogue, hosted by Guyana on April 29-30, 2024, provided a platform for military stakeholders to address common security concerns and share best practices. This dialogue underscores the importance of regional collaboration in addressing security challenges and ensuring the safety and prosperity of our nations,” PM Phillips explained.

With Guyana on the drive to improve its food security by reducing its importation bill by 25 per cent by 2025, France’s expertise in agriculture will significantly contribute to the goal, when best practices are shared, and joint projects are developed.

As it pertains to infrastructure, France’s advanced knowledge will aid in Guyana’s transformation of modern architecture within the country.

Moreover, while building a resilient partnership in technology, the two countries can drive economic growth and spur digital transformation.

“Our shared commitment to democracy, human rights, sustainable development, and peace, unites us in our efforts to build a better future for all. Together, we will continue to strengthen our bilateral relations, foster cooperation, and create opportunities for growth and prosperity,” Prime Minister Phillips posited.

Jamaica recruiting foreign teachers

Jamaica’s Ministry of Education and Youth is in the process of recruiting teachers from overseas to fill the gaps left by massive teacher resignations. This will be one of the many retention strategies use by the ministry for the 2024/25 academic year, which begins in September.

Acting Chief Education Officer, Terry-Ann Thomas Gayle, advised that teachers are being sought from various countries.

“We currently have engaged Nigeria, Ghana, the Philippines and India. So, we are looking all over,” she said in response to a question posed during the ministry’s Region Six 2024 Back-to-School Conference at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston.

The conference was held under the theme ‘Shaping the Future: STEM/STEAM and the Transformation Agenda’.

In an effort to aid schools with the recruitment process, last year the Education ministry dispatched various strategies weeks in advance of the academic year.

Schools received pre-approval to make early recruitment decisions, with



Fayval Williams

the green light given for engaging part-time teachers, retired educators, and pre-trained graduates in their final year of study.

Reports are that schools were also advised to utilize an array of classroom management tactics, including merging small classes and increasing the use of

information communication technology.

“There are areas within that bulletin that will remain. But we’re giving you an additional pool from which you can select your teachers,” Thomas Gayle said.

She explained that school administrators will be able to use the ministry’s job portal, <https://jobs.moey.gov.jm/>, to identify and recruit teachers who are being engaged from foreign countries.

Trinidad records dengue deaths

Trinidad and Tobago is currently an increase of Dengue Virus cases with more than 200 recorded since the start of the year. Despite the increase in cases health authorities says the situation is not yet at an outbreak level.

Technical Director, Epidemiology at the Ministry of Health, Dr Avery Hinds, told a news conference that “at this point pending the next batch update from the laboratory, we are still at 229 confirmed cases and two confirmed deaths.

“We do not have hospitalization figures. We just know that the hospitals have indicated that they are seeing more of these cases, we have taken note of that and this is part of the reason we are encouraging the population to take note of the symptoms, to be aware of the warning signs in particular and to seek care when they are feeling unwell.”

Chief Medical officer, Dr Roshan Parasram, told reporters that in different parts of the country there are different levels of patients being seen.

He said while there has been an increase in dengue cases in the Siparia, Victoria and Caroni counties “for the last month or so” and that he has spoken to all chiefs of staff of the hospital and the other institutions are saying “there are not a large number of cases coming to them. “Over the last two weeks there would have been a slight increase in those arears but the San Fernando Hospital and the Point Fortin Hospital are seeing a greater number of cases...”

Increased protection for victims of family violence imminent

AIMING to bring significant changes to Guyana's domestic violence laws and policies and provide increased protection for victims of family violence, the Family Violence Bill was recently laid in the national assembly.

The Family Violence Bill No. 11 of 2024 was presented at the 83rd sitting of the twelfth parliament by Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud.

According to the bill's explanatory memorandum, it seeks to make practical and philosophical changes to the entire landscape related to domestic violence laws and policies and as such, it proposes to repeal the current Domestic Violence Act Cap. 11:09 even as it retains several provisions from the said act.

"The first significant change which this bill seeks to achieve is an expansion of the kinds of violence it addresses and the categories of persons who are entitled to seek and obtain protection from the courts," the explanatory memorandum detailed.

As such it was noted that domestic violence has been recognised as violence between current and former partners in intimate settings. This, it said is a limited definition and does not address the kinds of violence perpetuated on a daily basis and does not provide protection to persons from violence arising out of familial relationships.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud

As a result, this is the reason the term 'family violence' is being used and is an expansive term that relates to all forms of violence between family members.

The memorandum added, "It seeks to expand protection to more categories of persons. It is expected to reshape the landscape of laws providing protection. Persons who were never before able to

seek protection would now be able to approach the courts and receive protection from any or all forms of violence perpetrated by persons who fall to be considered 'family' members."

Earlier this year, Dr Persaud told members of the media that when approved, the bill would replace the current Domestic Violence Act.

Against this backdrop, she indicated that the bill benefitted from widespread input through consultations from civil society and other stakeholders.

Further to this she explained that this new bill will facilitate more punitive measures and the removal of discretionary powers from the police so as to ensure that action is taken.

The Human Services Minister indicated that there is not a discretion that will be used in relation to when they act but once there is visible evidence of bodily harm, they [police officers] must take the report.

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Matrimonial Bill to make way for men to apply for spousal support

SEEKING to amend Guyana’s longstanding Matrimonial Causes Act to reform the law relating to spousal maintenance, proposed amendments to the act were last week laid in the National Assembly.

The Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Bill No. 10 of 2024 was presented during the 83rd sitting of the twelfth parliament by the Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney General, Anil Nandlall S.C.

According to the explanatory memorandum of the act, it reforms the existing act by removing existing discriminatory provisions to bring the law into conformity with certain fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution.

Section 14 of the Principal Act states that on the dissolution or nullity of marriage, the court may order that a husband must pay maintenance or alimony to a wife.

“This provision was held by the High Court to be discriminatory based on the grounds of sex and gender as it does not provide that a wife may be ordered to pay maintenance or alimony to a husband,” the explanatory memorandum stated.

As a result, that provision is said to be in violation of Articles 149 and 149D of Guyana’s constitution which speaks to discrimination on various grounds including sex and gender and equality before the law respectively.

The intended amendment follows a ruling by Chief Justice (AG) Roxane George-Wiltshire, who recently deemed Section 14 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, Chapter 45:02 discriminatory based on sex and gender, as it exclusively permitted wives to obtain maintenance post-divorce.

The outcome emerged when a divorced man contested the prevailing legal structure after being barred from seeking maintenance from his ex-wife.

The Chief Justice highlighted that the current stipulations of the Matrimonial Causes Act unjustly discriminated against men, contravening constitutional mandates against sex and gender-based discrimination.

Meanwhile, the amendments laid in the National Assembly once passed, will significantly influence future divorce proceedings in the country and promote a fair approach to post-marital financial support.

Earlier this year, the Attorney General highlighted that the amendment underscores the government’s commitment to legal equity and further the nation’s commitment to gender neutrality in legal rights and responsibilities.



Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney General, Anil Nandlall

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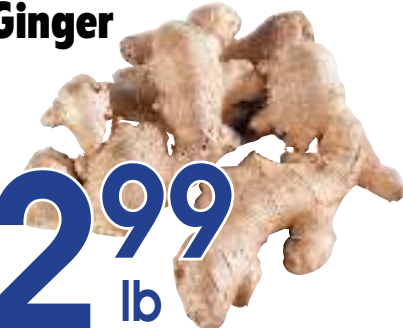



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Guyana starts program to eradicate filaria

SOME 1,401 persons from households in Cove and John to Nooten Zuil, along the East Coast of Demerara have so far taken filaria pills.

The initiative is part of the Ministry of Health's Mass Drug Administration campaign to eliminate filaria in Regions Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and Four (Demerara-Mahaica).

This was disclosed by the Nurse-in-Charge of the Victoria Health Centre, Chrisny McKinnon on Saturday last.

The ministry recently launched the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign (LFEC) to eradicate filaria in these two regions over the next two years.

Nurse McKinnon also pointed out, "We are going around to various communities and homes to provide filaria medication to persons. We have been having high rates of refusals from households. However, we are trying to see how much we can best answer their questions to alleviate any of their fears so that we can eliminate this disease from our communities and country."

Individuals with doubts about the filaria pills can visit the ministry's website, Facebook page, or the health centres in their communities for information about filaria.

"Before you go ahead and take the medication, we also have supervisors coming out to speak to those persons who have refused to take the medication to find out a little bit more about why they have refused it and what we can do to alleviate some of the fears



Dr Frank Anthony

they may have," she explained.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony underscored that Guyana has been working to eliminate this disease for over two decades. The ministry has successfully eradicated filaria from eight of the ten regions in Guyana.

He emphasised the importance of taking the pills because filaria symptoms may not manifest for 15 to 20 years, although the parasite could be present in the body.

To tackle this issue, the ministry, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), has trained 700 pill distributors to assist with the distribution in the communities.

"But that doesn't mean that you do not have the parasite. It's living within your body. If you take these pills, it will help to kill those parasites and you will be free from filaria. And that is what the campaign is about. We really want to encourage everyone to take their tablets," Dr. Anthony underscored.

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Call for improved policing, financial accountability

HOME Affairs Minister Robeson Benn on Tuesday called for a significant enhancement in the quality of policing, emphasising the need for improved standards and accountability.

He made this call for action while addressing the Guyana Police Force’s (GPF) 185th Anniversary Symposium held at the Police Officers’ Mess Annex, Eve Leary, Georgetown.

Minister Benn’s appeal comes amidst growing concerns over alleged police corruption and the public’s demand for greater integrity within law enforcement agencies.

“The standards and the things we want for ourselves at a personal level are those which we must accord to the people who pay our taxes[sic]. We need to pull ourselves up in relation to how we view ourselves and our people,” he said, addressing the assembly consisting primarily of senior law enforcement officers.

“It is not good enough to be looking beautiful in uniform. The most telling thing about yourself is how you speak, how you relate to people. Whether you disrespect people—that speaks volumes about you. I want the disrespect to people to stop at police stations. Police must speak properly and politely. Police must help people. Police must not extort people. Police must not wait for things to build up and get worst and then intervene only to find people in a situation where they have to pay money, where they have to pay bribes. This must stop,” Minister Benn added.

He reasoned that if police ranks decide to take bribes, it is not only a discredit to them but to the entire police force.

Further, he drew attention to the importance of senior ranks conducting themselves in an appropriate manner and how their attire can lead to negative conclusions.

“... police commanders and others who find themselves in authority must not think that after arriving at the job they need to award and reward themselves and to walk around with plenty gold and diamonds around their neck and fingers. If they have that, it means they are men who can be bought. I can buy you because that’s what you like and you flaunt it. It must stop! It must stop!” stated Benn.

Furthermore, the home affairs minister disclosed that although there have been notable advancements in the realm of law enforcement, the primary challenges facing the police force at the moment relate to procurement and financial accounting.



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

Minister Benn said: “If we can’t account for the monies in the procurement process and monies goes [sic] out in ways in which it should not be, then there is a problem... I have to account for it at the Parliament and other places. We have a Procurement Commission, we have an Auditor General, we have an Accountant General, we have an Integrity Commission and other places and persons. All of them will have to fall in line in relation to cleaning up and tidying up this problem.

“If monies go to places they should not go that means there is massive collusion and corruption. That’s the only explanation for it. And if people think they can hide and carry monies wherever, and that we wouldn’t find out... you don’t need a doctorate to find out.”

Minister Benn made it clear that there will be evaluations, investigations, and audits of the finances of the police force and allied organisations in view of the current events.

He compared the situation to cancer and expressed his hope that neither surgery nor chemotherapy would be required.

“And we hope that it ain’t reach stage three or four,” Benn stated, ex-

pressing his desire for new, accountable policing as well as improved, and honest work to be done.

He shared his vision for transforming the police force into a more competent, professional, and community-oriented organisation.

In closing, the minister of home affairs urged the police force to address the problem of corruption and collusion. He emphasised that “we need to root it out,” citing the force’s mission of service and protection.

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Guyana could meet regional sugar needs by 2027

BY 2027, Guyana could produce and supply enough sugar to meet the demands of the Caribbean region, the country's President, Dr Irfaan Ali has said.

"We are ensuring that we build the viability of the sugar sector which require tremendous investment, but we are very confident that Guyana will be in a position in another two years to satisfy the full sugar requirements of this region," President Ali said at the recently concluded Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF).

While noting that the government is not depending heavily on the oil and gas sector, he pointed out that attention is being given to traditional sectors which includes sugar, and a lot of investments are being made.

Earlier this year at the Albion Sugar Estate in Berbice, Region Six mechanisation works commenced with the estate setting a target of producing more than 55,000 tonnes of sugar by 2026.

"We can have a wall of cane because this mechanised planting is a guaranteed process where we can safely say our replanting programme will be completed; all fields will be into production now," Yudhisthira Mana, the estate manager had said.

By 2026, it is projected that the Albion Estate will have the capacity to produce over 55,000 tonnes of sugar.

Simplifying the mechanisation process, GuySuCo's agricultural engineer, Andre Paul explained that it is the modernisation of the field operations to make it more efficient and effective.

Over time, this process is anticipated to decrease operational expenses; lands are undergoing a conversion as part of this process.

"Initially, these were narrow Dutch beds about two to three rods in width and the beds would run from the cross canal to another cross canal, which is a short run and there is a centre drain at the middle that we refer to as four foot... these lands would have had some form of vegetation on them, so the first activity is to clear the lands."

Over the decades, land preparation for the sugar industry has been done by traditional means, and according to Mr. Mana, it's 'fascinating' to see the mechanisation process come to life. An estimated 2,000 hectares of land were undergoing conversion.

Historically, the manual planting of sugarcane has been the customary practice. The manual harvesting of sugar-



The sugar industry is being re-energised

cane is also a common practice.

Once the cane is harvested, occasionally the roots are left in the ground to foster the growth of new plants.

Intersecting the sugarcane fields are numerous canals.

A typical sugarcane field has canals covering nearly one-eighth of its surface. For irrigation, this complex network of canals is employed. To get the

canes to the factories, these canals are also used for transit. From the fields to the factory, sugarcane is transported aboard punts, which are small, flat-bottomed boats.

However, with mechanisation, planting is done using heavy machinery.

Earlier this year, the President announced that the Enmore Sugar Estate is being converted into a sugar refinery.

The proposed Enmore sugar refinery is expected to refine 180,000 metric tonnes of sugar annually and according to President Ali, the government may be looking at importing more.

"Whatever we can supply, we'll supply then we'll have to fill the gap so refining will occur here," he said.

He said that the private sector is expected to play an active role in spurring this progress, as the refinery will present additional demand for transport and logistics services to fuel its operations.

In 2017, the then APNU-led government had closed several major sugar estates across the country, leaving thousands of persons without jobs.

A former Vice-President of the APNU+AFC government, Khemraj Ramjattan, had maintained that the coalition's move was transformational, as it is not wise to spend "good money behind bad sectors."

Over 40,000 persons had either directly or indirectly lost sources of income when the estates were closed and investments were stymied.

At the last general and regional elections, the People's Progressive Party (PPP) government vowed to reopen these estates and upon assuming office, major investments were made to fulfil the manifesto pledge of rehiring sugar workers and increasing sugar production.

According to recent statistics provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, over 8,000 persons are now employed across the sugar belt.



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Radhika Merchant and Anant Ambani

Million-dollar performances, stunning jewels at Ambani wedding

Billionaire heir Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant married over the weekend — and no expense was spared for the youngest Ambani heir's flashy nuptials.

The couple wed in a glamorous three-day celebration in Mumbai where celebrities and political leaders attended the lavish events. The nuptials come after months of glitzy — and pricey — pre-wedding events that saw performances from Rihanna, Katy Perry and Justin Bieber.

A running tally calculated by The Guardian estimated that the current wedding cost, which includes the pre-wedding parties and payment for the pop-stars' performances, is \$600 million. While it appears to be a steep tally, it is only a drop in the bucket compared to the approximate \$123 billion Anant's father, Mukesh Ambani, is worth, according to Forbes.

The hefty price includes the couple's pre-wedding party at the luxurious Ambani Estate in Gujarat, where they kicked off the wedding festivities. Rihanna was paid \$6 million to perform at the soiree, according to Forbes.

Billionaire Heir Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's Glitzy Wedding Celebrations Kick Off in Mumbai!

The celebration also included a jungle-themed party and light show with 5,500 drones. Several high profile and wealthy figures attended the event including Ivanka Trump, Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates and members of Bhutan's royal family.

Ambani and Merchant also chartered a cruise ship for a pre-wedding sail through Europe in May. The couple and their guests making several stops along European cities — such as Rome, Cannes, France and Portofino, Italy — for special events, according to The Sunday Times.

The bash in Cannes reportedly saw Perry performing for the guests, and other stops had performances by Andrea Bocelli, the Backstreet Boys and Pitbull, according to The Guardian. The outlet estimated that the cruise and parties cost another whopping \$150 million.

Justin Bieber Performs for Billionaire Heir Anant Ambani and His Fiancée Ahead of Their

Wedding

During the couple's sangeet held in early July, they also tapped Bieber to perform for an estimated \$10 million, according to Entertainment Tonight. In clips the entertainer posted on Instagram, he appeared onstage singing hits, like "Love Yourself," "Where Are You Now" and "I'm the One," as guests danced and cheered along.

Ahead of the highly anticipated three-day wedding ceremony, guests' received invitations that hinted at the lavish nuptials. According to The Guardian, they sent an engraved box depicting a Hindu deity that was filled with gifts and played Hindu mantras.

There was no shortage of stunning jewels worn by the family over the weekend with Anant in custom-made lion brooch covered in jewels, including one giant diamond with more than 50 carats.

Jewelry designer Lorraine Schwartz, who created the piece, shared a few photos on Instagram on July 11, including pictures of Ambani wearing the brooch and pictures of the brooch being made. According to Vogue India, Anant's mother Nita Ambani wore a 100-carat yellow diamond necklace for the wedding.

Expenses were also made in order to transform the Jio World Convention Center into the waterfront steps of Varanasi, per the couple's request, according to The Guardian. The convention center reportedly had local craftsmen, street food stalls, bangle sellers, puppeteers and astrologers available for guests to enjoy.

Wedding events also reportedly took place at the Ambani's Mumbai billion dollar home, which is 27-stories high and has several high-end amenities, including a cinema, pool and ballroom, per the outlet.

Ambani's nuptials appear to be much more expensive than sister Isha Ambani's 2018 wedding to Anand Piramal, which cost approximately \$100 million, according to The Guardian. The wedding costs also incorporated the \$6 million the family paid for Beyoncé to headline a show during the ceremony.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): The next few days could bring major opportunities of a professional or financial nature your way, so be ready to act and don't let others' doubts hold you back. They may not believe the risks are worth it but they don't possess your winning mentality.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): Having got it into your head that someone is out to get you it will be difficult to stop looking over your shoulder every five minutes. The good news is what occurs next will dispel those anxieties and make you realize how foolish you have been.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): There is something about you at the moment that others find amazingly attractive, so expect to get the red carpet treatment over the next few days. No doubt they are also motivated partly by self interest but it's still nice to be looked up to.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): Whatever plans you may be cooking up at the moment you must make sure they are going to be palatable to employers and colleagues as well as profitable for yourself. You won't get far without other people's assistance, so go out of your way to be friendly.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): Take a few risks over the next few days but make sure you know what the potential downsides are going to be, and make doubly sure you can afford to cover any losses you may incur if it all goes wrong. Be positive but be sensible too.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): The situation you are faced with this week could get out of hand unless you call on your leadership skills to keep the warring factions in line. If you let them just fight it out the planets warn there will be no winners, and that includes you.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): Keep your eye on the big picture and let others take care of the boring details. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to your career, where by making educated guesses as to what your superiors are planning you can position yourself ahead of your rivals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You may be a creature of habit but you must break free of routines that are holding you back. Some people will be annoyed that they can no longer predict and therefore profit from your actions but they're the ones you need to get rid of.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): What is your highest ideal? Are you striving for it? If not, why not? Your actions in the world at large must reflect what your heart knows is best, because no matter how successful you may be you won't be happy if you are not being true to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): There is an optimistic look to your chart at the moment but don't get carried away and start thinking you can cut corners and break rules as that is sure to invite some sort of cosmic retribution. Plan an honest route to success and then really go for it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Don't worry too much if family members play up a bit over the next few days as their words and actions, though negative in nature, are not intended to make life tough for you personally. They just need to get all that pent-up frustration out of their system.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You may be feeling a bit world-weary at the moment but what occurs next will give your mood a boost and put the spring back in your step. All things considered, life has been good to you of late and will favor you even more this week.

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Grenada seeks debt suspension as it battles aftermath of Beryl

The Grenada Government has reached to its financial agencies and multilateral partners requesting that the debt payment suspension clause in several loan agreements be triggered after the island was devastated by Hurricane Beryl.

In 2022, the national debt of Grenada amounted to an estimated US\$0.77 billion.

“The Minister of Finance has already written to some of our multilateral partners to indicate to them that this catastrophic event has happened and to trigger our debt suspension clause in some of these agreements,” Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell told a news conference.

Following the passage of Hurricane Ivan in 2004, then Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell had advocated and successfully campaigned for a debt suspension to be included in all new loan agreements.

The clause is triggered whenever the country is experiencing hazards from natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes or a health pandemic. The last time Grenada requested a triggering of that clause was in 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

Prime Minister Mitchell said that the passage of hurricane Beryl is having both fiscal and social impacts on the economy and the country will need significant resources.

He told reporters that the clean-up exercise alone will run into the “tens of millions of dollars,” while announcing there will be a national clean up on the weekend.

Mitchell acknowledged that “it is going to be a mammoth task to rebuild Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique”.

He said that the Cabinet during an emergency meeting on Tuesday evening had agreed to establish several



Damaged buildings in Grenada following the passage of Hurricane Beryl

task forces to assess the damage and the impact the category four hurricane has had on the country.

“We have agreed to create a task force to treat with this significant catastrophic event this will have on the 2024 budget, the economy and the current fiscal situation.

“We are going to create a task force to deal with coordinating relief efforts in conjunction with NaDMA (National Disaster Management Agency) as it relates to our foreign

partners,” said Prime Minister Mitchell, who is also responsible for National Disaster and chair of the National Emergency Advisory Council.

“The Cabinet also agreed to establish a task force to do a detailed assessment of the loss and damage to know how much the island has suffered in the area of agriculture, fishing, housing, public buildings, private buildings, public infrastructure and the environment as a result of hurricane Beryl,” he said. “I want to stress that the environ-

ment has taken a severe battering as a result of this hurricane, not just the built infrastructure, we need to make sure that we record accurately the loss, the damage and that we are able to quantify this because it has significant implications for the economy of Grenada, for the government’s fiscal situation and for some of our contractual obligations, liabilities as well as benefits,” Mitchell added.

Bahamas to legalize marijuana use and possession

Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis announced on Monday his support for a series of bills aimed at legalizing cannabis for medical and religious purposes and decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of cannabis.

Addressing Parliament, Davis endorsed the measures designed to regulate the cultivation, sale, and use of marijuana and related products within the country’s borders, emphasizing the health and safety of Bahamians.

“For years, Bahamians have called for an administration to have the courage to step up and take this issue on in a decisive and responsible manner,” Davis stated. “While many other countries, including nations within our region like Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, and Barbados, have taken steps toward



Cannabis use for medical and religious purposes will be legal

decriminalization and legalization for medical use, Bahamians were left wondering when it would be our turn to modernize our local approach to

cannabis.”

Davis noted that national dialogue on this issue has been ongoing for nearly a decade, with significant

progress marked by the Marijuana Commission’s preliminary report in January 2020 and its final report in August 2021. The Commission’s research indicated widespread public support for the legalization of cannabis for medical purposes.

“It was clear that the times had changed, and it was time for our laws to change as well,” Davis said. “Today, the wait is over. We are taking action on behalf of all of the people who simply wanted the ability to legally consume medical cannabis to help them with their medical conditions.”

Davis highlighted that the government is acting to help those burdened with criminal records for carrying small amounts of cannabis, aiming to expunge these records and prevent future criminalization.

Dominica elections board wants mandatory jail for bribery

The Dominican Electoral Reform Coalition (ERC) is advocating for a mandatory prison sentence of at least two years for anyone convicted of bribery or treating to secure votes during a general election in Dominica.

On Sunday, the ERC urged the government to implement recommendations they say were left out of the draft legislation aimed at modernizing the electoral system, which is set to be presented to Parliament before the end of the year.

Last June, Sir Dennis Byron, the former president of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), submitted a report on electoral reform to the Dominica government. Sir Dennis was the sole commissioner working on electoral reform, a contentious issue that led opposition parties, the United Workers Party (UWP) and the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), to boycott the last general election. This boycott resulted in the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) winning 19 of the 21 seats, with the remaining seats going to independent candidates.

ERC executive member Pastor Randy Rodney emphasized the need for strict penalties for bribery, treating, and undue influence in campaign finance regulation.

“For the offence of bribery, there must be a compulsory prison term of not less than two years,” he stated. Rodney also highlighted the importance



Sir Dennis Byron, former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice

of transparency in campaign finance, urging that the sources of election funding be disclosed.

The ERC also recommended prohibiting the use of public resources and state projects as campaign tools, and ensuring equal access to publicly funded media for all political parties and independent candidates. Rodney insisted that the House of Assembly Election bill should guarantee media access for all parties and prohibit public media from denying any party or candidate paid time or space for their mes-

sages.

Among the recommendations made by Sir Dennis Byron that were omitted from the draft legislation are provisions related to campaign financing, voter identification, and residency requirements. Rodney stressed that only those “ordinarily resident in Dominica” should be eligible to vote and that all eligible voters should receive a voter identification card with comprehensive security features.

The government has provided the Electoral Commission with copies of

the proposed electoral modernization legislation, following extensive public consultations. These proposals will be available for public review on various platforms and shared with international organizations like the OAS, OECS, CARICOM, and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The proposed legislation includes the Registration of Electors Act and Regulations 2024, the House of Assembly (Elections) Act and Regulations 2024, and the Electoral Commission Act 2024.

Former Bahamas slave now a National Hero

On Wednesday, The Bahamas conferred the Order of National Hero to former slave Kate Moss, as the nation celebrated its 51st anniversary of political independence from Britain.

A statement from the Office of the Governor General announced that Kate Moss received the Order of National Hero posthumously. The National Honours Committee recognized her for her “timely and determined courage demonstrated against racism and slavery.”

In the 1820s, Henry and Helen Moss, plantation owners on Crooked Island, accused Kate Moss, a young house slave, of theft, insubordination, and insolence.

“During her early service, Kate refused to mend clothes as instructed by her owners, and consistently refused to carry out negative orders from her ‘owners.’ Her refusals in the era of slavery caused her repeatedly severe punishment from which she eventually died,” the statement from the Governor General’s office noted.

“Abolitionists in England learned about the plight of Kate and called Kate ‘Poor Black Kate,’ and when the authorities in Nassau heard about her death, they charged Henry and Helen Moss



Former slave Kate Moss has been honoured as a National Hero in the Bahamas

with murder. They were found guilty, and the magistrate sentenced them to pay fines totaling £300 or spend five months in Nassau’s common jail.”

Kate’s death and her defiance against slavery gained significant attention on both sides of the Atlantic in the late 1820s and 1830s, bolstering the growing abolitionist movement in Eng-

land, led primarily by William Wilberforce.

“Kate’s actions to stand up for herself would become an act of defiance that was strong enough to make an impact on slavery worldwide and impacted the history of The Bahamas and the world and must never be forgotten,” the statement said.

The Order of the National Hero is the highest honor bestowed by the government of The Bahamas. Established in 2016, the first recipients included Sir Lynden Oscar Pindling, Sir Roland Theodore Symonette, Sir Milo Boughton Butler, and Sir Cecil Vincent Wallace-Whitfield, all posthumously awarded on July 10, 2018.

Aftermath of Hurricane Beryl: damages could run into billion\$

Leaders across the Caribbean are still assessing the financial toll of damages to their respective countries following the passage of Hurricane Beryl, the earliest Atlantic storm on record, which claimed the lives of at least 12 people when it swept across the region two weeks ago.

Early reports indicate damages and losses projected in the “hundreds of millions” for some countries, based on preliminary assessments by local officials.

“We are talking hundreds of millions of dollars in losses and hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild,” Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell stated during a briefing, according to Reuters.

Hurricane Beryl made landfall as a Category 4 storm over Grenada’s Carriacou Island on July 1, with sustained winds up to 150 miles per hour, heavy rainfall, and life-threatening storm surge impacting Carriacou and other Windward Islands, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The storm subsequently made landfall over Jamaica on July 3, before continuing past the Cayman Islands and across Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula on July 4 and 5.

Preliminary damage assessments from Grenada’s National Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Health, and other stakeholders indicate the storm damaged or destroyed approximately 98 percent of structures on Grenada’s Carriacou and Petit Martinique islands, including the roof of Carriacou’s Princess Royal Hospital. Additionally, Mount Gay Psychiatric Hospital on Grenada’s main island sustained damage.

Preliminary reports also show extensive damage to St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Union Island, where the storm damaged or destroyed 90 percent of houses. Early assessments from St. Lucia estimate the damage at \$2 million, which includes infrastructure, sea moss harvests, and banana plantations.

In Jamaica, initial reports estimate damages in the billions of Jamaican dollars. Prime Minister Andrew Holness stated that the National Works Agency’s (NWA) preliminary estimate for road infrastructure damage due to Hurricane Beryl stands at J\$10.25 billion. More than 5,000 parochial roads have been affected to varying degrees, disrupting access to critical services, including healthcare. Approximately 38 percent of public hospitals sustained damage, including roof damage necessitating patient relocations. The estimated cost to repair infrastructure damage to hospitals is J\$1.8 billion.

Jamaicans will also face food shortages, with an estimated US\$6.4



Damaged homes and buildings in Carriacou after Hurricane Beryl

million in food crops and supporting infrastructure destroyed.

Agriculture Minister Floyd Green reported significant damage to crops including vegetables, tubers such as yam and cassava, and fruits like breadfruit, ackee, mangoes, and bananas. Livestock and fishing sectors were also severely impacted. “We have seen about 85% of our bananas and our plantain lines go down in Portland and St Mary,” Green noted after visiting farms in the southern parish of St. Elizabeth.

Farmers who grow crops in greenhouses in the parishes of Clarendon, Manchester, and St. Elizabeth have been hard-hit as well, along with scores of residents who lost their homes.

According to Green, a significant number of people in all communities across the constituency, from Treasure Beach to Barbary Hall, have lost their roofs.

As it relates to schools, Jamaica’s

Ministry of Education reported that preliminary damage assessments of schools due to Hurricane Beryl total over J\$797 million, a figure expected to rise as access and communication challenges persist. Most of the damaged institutions are in the parish of St. Elizabeth and Manchester.

Munro College in Potsdam, St. Elizabeth, has estimated its damage at US\$2 million (J\$310 million), with 31 of the 35 buildings on the school’s compound significantly damaged.

The 168-year-old institution, often called ‘The City on a Hill,’ suffered severe damage to buildings, including the principal’s office, staff cottages, and the sixth-form block, losing roofs, windows, and doors. Furniture, solar panels, and sections of the tennis court’s fencing were also damaged. The school’s principal and staff have appealed to corporate institutions, alumni associations, and members of the dias-

pora for assistance.

As Caribbean nations grapple with the extensive damage and the daunting task of rebuilding, the reality remains that the hurricane season has only just begun. Scientists have predicted an above-average season this year, suggesting that the region may face further challenges in the coming months. This ominous forecast underscores the urgent need for preparedness and resilience as communities brace for what may lie ahead.

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Dreadlocked students barred from school wins on Appeal

The Court of Appeal in Jamaica ruled on Monday that Kensington Primary School in St. Catherine violated the constitutional rights of a female student who was denied access in 2018 due to her dreadlocks.

Outgoing president of the Court of Appeal, Justice Patrick Brooks, stated, "It is declared that the policy of the board of management of Kensington Primary on the wearing of dreadlocks hairstyle has breached the following rights as they related to ZV rights."

Justice Brooks highlighted that the child's right to freedom of expression and the right to equitable treatment by a public authority was infringed upon.

This landmark ruling partially overturned a 2020 Supreme Court decision, which had originally found that the school's policy did not violate the child's constitutional rights.

Kensington Primary School had defended its stance by arguing that the hairstyle could harbor lice and mold. The school threatened to withdraw the child's admission if the then five-year-old's hairstyle was not altered.

However, the student's parents, Dale and Sherine Virgo, refused to cut their daughter's hair and instead filed a lawsuit against the school's board, the education ministry, and the attorney general, claiming that their daughter's constitutional rights were violated.

But in the 2020 Supreme Court ruling, justices Sonia Bertram-Linton, Evan Brown, and Nicole Simmons ruled that Kensington Primary School did not breach the child's constitutional rights when it denied her access.

The claimants then sought multiple court orders, including a declaration that the school's grooming policy excluding dreadlocks was unconstitu-



The Virgo family poses for a portrait in 2019.

tional and violated the child's rights to freedom of expression, equality before the law, and freedom from discrimination based on race, social class, color, religion, or political opinions.

In their ruling on Monday, the Court of Appeal judges clarified that the case was centered on self-expres-

sion rather than religious rights and freedoms.

Attorney-at-law Isat Buchanan, who represented the Virgos in the lower court and served as instructing counsel in the appeal, celebrated the ruling as a victory for Jamaica. Buchanan emphasized that the court "got it right."

"I am very pleased with the outcome of the recognition of human rights in particular freedom of expression and equitable treatment as it relates to dreadlocks, Rasta, and Afro identity in modern Jamaica," Buchanan said.

School re-openings could face delay due to Beryl

The Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) says that there could be major delays to the opening of the new school year in September due to the damage caused by Hurricane Beryl to schools across the country.

The Ministry of Education has reported that the damages to school is in the region of a billion dollars based on early assessments.

JTA President Leighton Johnson recommended that the Ministry establish a special fund to deal with natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and floods, as well as fires that may damage or destroy school infrastructure.

"The damages done to several schools were extensive and will require significant amounts of money to effect repairs. We are urging the Ministry of Education to expedite the process of assessing the damage done to these institutions, to ascertain the true cost of repairs. The summer holidays presents a very small window for these repairs to



A school in Jamaica damaged by Hurricane Beryl

be affected," he noted.

The JTA president also urged the government to consider insuring schools against disasters – a move he believes will improve the sector's resilience.

In the meantime, Mr. Johnson has proposed that the Education Ministry

fast-track the awarding of low-level contracts to commence the repairs to the affected schools, especially early childhood institutions.

He said immediate and urgent attention must be placed on primary and infant schools that were damaged, since

these institutions receive "minimal amounts of monies from the Ministry of Education each year for maintenance purposes" and administrators will undergo immense pressure to effect the necessary repairs in time.

Kamla after bloody weekend: We will bring crime under control if re-elected

Trinidad Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar has repeated her promise that the UNC will reduce crime when it wins next year's general election.

In a statement on July 14, Persad-Bissessar said, "To our citizens, I urge you all to hold strong, and keep the faith: soon a new UNC government will give you the legal firearms and legislation to level the field and fight back against vicious criminals."

She lamented 18 murders which took place from July 12-14.

"It has been a most bloody and brutal weekend."

Persad-Bissessar repeated that the Opposition had supported 37 pieces of anti-crime legislation government had brought to Parliament, the latest being the Bail (Amendment) Bill 2024.

She repeated the UNC's call for the Prime Minister to fire National Security Minister Fitzgerald Hinds.

"Whether one politically supports or opposes the UNC, one must acknowledge that brutal violence and murders are out of control under Hinds. Criminals don't care who is UNC or PNM, everyone is targeted in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Political rivalry in our country can be heated and passionate, but it must always be driven by a sincere love for our country and fellow citizens."

She added that based on this, Dr



Kamla Persad-Bissessar: population is terrified because of crime

Rowley "must act in the best interest of citizens and remove Hinds now as the National Security Minister."

Persad-Bissessar repeated UNC promises of "legal firearms and legisla-

tion to level the field and fight back against vicious criminals" when it returns to government.

"It is time for our citizens to be given the means to protect themselves,

because the State cannot protect them. It is now a matter of life or death for our terrified population."

MP: If criminals don't kill you, mosquitoes will

"I can only conclude under the PNM if criminals do not kill you, mosquitoes will kill you." Those were the words of the UNC MP for Couva South Rudranath Indarsingh as he spoke on the issues of crime, the One Caribbean Media (OCM) board appointments and VAT returns.

At an opposition media briefing on July 14, Indarsingh gave some of the crime-fighting initiatives the Opposition would implement if elected to government next year. However, he first apologised for technical issues which saw the live stream of its briefing disrupted.

Proper compensation for police, appointing a police commissioner in a decisive manner, easier access to firearms and revamped legislation were among the initiatives.

Crime was the leading headline, as Trinidad and Tobago recorded 18 killings last weekend.

Before he spoke on crime, Indarsingh addressed the dengue outbreak.

Indarsingh said, "We continue to condemn the Government and Minister of Health for not being proactive but reactive to this threat, this outbreak that has engulfed TT and presents a major challenge to the wellbeing and health of our people."

He said when the Opposition tried to raise the issue in Parliament through an approved question, the Government took the position that the Opposition was being unpatriotic.

Indarsingh said the Opposition continued to ask Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh about the state of readiness of the country's Insect Vector Divisions, the divisions' human-resource capacity in each county and the availability of vehicles, fogging machines and chemicals.



Rudranath Indarsingh

Addressing crime, Indarsingh said the country had had to confront the worsening crime situation for the past nine years.

"Every weekend these are the common headlines we have grown accustomed to," he said, referring to daily newspapers speaking of the weekend killings and crime.

Addressing home invasions, Indarsingh said there was one in his constituency in which a taxi driver was robbed and assaulted in a home he shared with his 81-year-old mother and 50-year-old physically-challenged brother. The taxi driver's mother was severely beaten.

Indarsingh said it was clear that people did not feel safer and did not trust the Government and the Prime Minister. He added that police were unsuited to fight crime.

He said the PNM's crime plan seemed to revolve around four points and a praying police commissioner.

"We have a peace pole being planted, a singing competition to fight crime and a Commissioner of Police who has instituted suggestion feedback boxes in police stations, hoping to win the war against crime in the 21st century."

Indarsingh said he was forced to ask what more the Government wanted from the Opposition, as it had supported the Government on 35 pieces of legislation, the recent Bail (Amendment) Bill among them.

He said the Government was rehashing an old script full of old measures that has had no impact on reducing crime.

Speaking to recently announced crime initiatives for Tobago, Indarsingh said the E-999 call centre for Tobago mirrors the one in Trinidad, from which many citizens did not get a prompt response.

"The deployment of Trinidad police officers in Tobago brings no comfort, as the nation is already concerned by the presence of criminal elements in the TT Police Force," Indarsingh said.

Windies coach Andre Coley: We have skills to match England

WEST Indies Test coach Andre Coley believes his players have the quality to rebound and compete against England in the second Test match after a humiliating innings defeat in the first Test match, which ended inside three days on July 12.

The second Test match will bowl off on July 18 at Nottingham from 6 am, TT time. The third Test will begin on July 26 in Birmingham.

West Indies were pummeled by an innings and 114 runs in the first Test at Lord's Cricket Ground.

They only had a few moments to smile about. Coley wants his players to build on that.

"If you think about it you look to expand or extend some of those (moments), especially from a batting stand-out – extend longer partnerships," he said in a Cricket West Indies media interview.

"(You want), when players actually work hard and get in, that they take responsibility and take it as deep as possible. We know the conditions will be testing: that is why it is called a Test

match. And we are not playing at home, so conditions are going to be slightly different, but we do have it within our ranks to be at our best and to compete with England."

An inexperienced batting line-up failed to deliver for West Indies at Lord's. Entering the series, it would have been a challenging task for the Windies batsmen, as four of the top five batsmen had only played nine Test matches combined heading into the match.

Mickyle Louis (debut), Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze and Kavem Hodge are all trying to cement their place in the team. Opener and captain Kraigg Brathwaite is the only seasoned campaigner among the top five in the batting order, with 90 Test matches to his name.

In the first innings the regional side could only muster 121, followed by 136 in the second.

"The result was not what we would have wanted and planned for, but I do believe that there is a lot to be had in terms of learning and takeaways from the game."



England's Gus Atkinson (R) after taking the wicket of WI's Kavem Hodge

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Self-esteem plays crucial role in your health

Continuing our discussion on relationship and marriage, today, we will look at self-esteem.

Self-esteem plays a crucial role in the health and longevity of a relationship or marriage. Here's why it's important:

1. Personal Well-being: Individuals with healthy self-esteem are generally happier and more content within themselves. This contributes positively to the overall atmosphere of the relationship, as they bring a sense of security and fulfillment into their relationship.

2. Communication: Healthy self-esteem enables individuals to communicate effectively and assertively. They are more likely to express their needs, desires, and feelings openly and honestly, which is essential for maintaining healthy communication patterns in a relationship.

3. Resilience: Self-esteem acts as a buffer against challenges and setbacks. Individuals with strong self-esteem are better equipped to handle conflicts, stress, and disappointments within the relationship. They are less likely to take things personally or feel threatened by differing opinions.

4. Mutual Respect: When both



partners have healthy self-esteem, they are more likely to respect each other's boundaries, opinions, and individuality. This fosters a relationship built on mutual admiration and support rather than dependency or insecurity.

5. Intimacy and Connection: Self-esteem influences how individuals perceive themselves and their ability to engage in intimate relationships. Those with healthy self-esteem are more likely

to feel deserving of love for affection, which enhances emotional intimacy and connection with their partner.

6. Role in Growth: Relationships are dynamic and require personal growth from both partners. Healthy self-esteem encourages individuals to pursue personal development and goals outside of the relationship. This growth not only benefits the individual but also enriches the relationship by bringing new perspectives and experiences.

In essence, self-esteem forms the foundation upon which a healthy, thrive relationship can be built. It influences how individuals perceive themselves and their parents. how they communicate, handle conflicts, and contribute to mutual growth and happiness within the relationship. Therefore, nurturing and maintaining healthy self-esteem is vital for the well-being and success of any relationship or marriage.

P.S. If you are faced with challenges in your relationship or marriage, give up a call to chat and to see how you can help you get back on track. You deserve a happy, healthy, and loving union.

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