

Proudly the largest weekly Caribbean Newspaper in Canada for 40 years

Equality

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397

\$1.00

MARTINA'S CAMBIO

19 Hinck Street, Robbstown, Georgetown, Guyana
Best rates for US, Pounds Sterling, Canadian, Euro, TT, EC and B'dos
Tel: 226-1933
Email: martinascambio@gmail.com, martinabacchus6223621@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/martina-cambio



VettyvelLaw

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

Our Practice Areas:

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

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



Thursday July 25 2024. Volume 42, Issue #30 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 647-216-2359

Criminal Justice System Vital to Democracy: Ali

THE bedrock of democracy, the rule of law and political stability must be solid, for the criminal justice system to properly function, according to Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali.

As the Caribbean continues to advance on the path to modernising its criminal justice system, President Ali left no stone unturned in his analysis of how the region can design solutions to tackle the challenges it is facing.

At the opening of the inaugural ‘Legal Conference on Criminal Justice Reform – Advancing the Needham’s Point Declaration,’ earlier this month, President Ali engaged stakeholders from across the Caribbean who gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

The fabric of democracy, the rule of law and maintaining political stability, were some of the topics that Dr Ali touched, emphasising that it must not be overlooked.

He said, “The criminal network and enterprise feed off of certain elements.

If there is political instability, if the rule of law does not exist, if society operates in an undemocratic environment, criminality feeds off of that. So, it is very important that in also examining the entire ecosystem... political stability, the rule of law and democracy form an important platform for the system to operate under.”

While the President underscored that the criminal justice system does not operate in a vacuum, he also stressed that the Caribbean region must approach societal, environmental, cultural, economic and value issues as one.

The world continues to rapidly change and so do behaviours. In this regard, President Ali highlighted that how Caribbean countries respond to this is an important part of the criminal justice system.

He believes the best approach is as a holistic community.

“As a community, we can take collective ownership and reduce the risk that sometimes prevents us from making bold moves and bold steps.”

The Head of State also urged for solutions to go beyond the surface level. He noted that if the legal ecosystem is not fixed, it is not only a problem for the judiciary or the dispensation of justice but it is a problem for the entire Caribbean.



President Irfaan Ali addressing the Legal Conference on Criminal Reform

“We have to learn to put our brain power together... to design and develop solutions that meet our needs and our problems.”

The President also focused on digitisation, the key role it plays and how it will shape the future.

Dr Ali did not shy away from the blunt truth that Guyana is “way behind” the curve as it relates to digitisation.

Within the legal context and in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the President noted said it is important that the judiciary is given the necessary attention.

Fly Direct to Guyana

LOWEST PRICE

30 YEARS

SkyRoute

TRAVEL SERVICES INC.

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

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

MARTINA'S CAMBIO

19 Hinck Street, Robbstown, Georgetown, Guyana
Best rates for US, Pounds Sterling, Canadian, Euro, TT, EC and B'dos
Tel: 226-1933
Email: martinascambio@gmail.com, martinabacchus6223621@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/martina-cambio





Let me simplify the Mortgage Process for you

Niraj Sharma,

Simpleway, The Mortgage Experts

647-629-3385

niraj.sharma@simpleway.ca

See my ad on Page 14

Equality

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416-759-6397

SUMMER ADVERTISING SPECIAL NOW ON

Call today for rates: 647 216 2359

SHARMA LAW

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

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca
vsharmalaw.ca

HURT?

CALL VISHAL'S
DIRECT LINE

647-972-4440



SHARMA LAW

Your Personal Injury Lawyer

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



NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM



Personal Injury

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



Injury Claims

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

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

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

FREE CONSULTATION AND CLAIM REVIEW.

Check out our Google reviews



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



Hurt? Call Vishal's direct line 6479724440

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca
www.vsharmalaw.ca





Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST

 KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 72

GUYANA DEPLOYS TROOPS TO AID GRENADA, ST VINCENT AFTER HURRICANE BERYL



PAGE 4



GUYANA ON TRACK TO DELIVER THREE NEW HOSPITALS BY YEAR-END
PAGE 10



BRAND GUYANA TAKES CENTRE STAGE AS P.F. CHANG'S OPENS IN GEORGETOWN
PAGE 11

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR TECH-SAVVY JUDICIARY AT FIRST LEGAL CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



President Ali addressing the opening ceremony of the First Legal Conference on Criminal Justice Reform

President Irfaan Ali has emphasised the critical need for continuous education within the judiciary system to address the challenges of the modern world, including the increasing presence of artificial intelligence (AI).

"It is important, especially in this era of AI...that judges and the judiciary itself are given the necessary attention," President Ali underscored at the opening ceremony of the First Legal Conference on Criminal Justice Reform. "What is AI-generated and what is not?" he questioned, highlighting the skills judges will need to navigate such situations effectively.

The President acknowledged the existing digital divide between the developing and developed world. He stressed the urgency for Guyana to bridge this gap in order to keep pace with global progress.

"We are always forced to match the speed of change globally without understanding where we started, and this is the same for the judiciary," President Ali explained. He pointed to the historical challenges faced by developing nations, still grappling with the effects of colonialism while simultaneously striving to adapt to a rapidly evolving world.

President Ali proposed the CCJ's

that we are facing now and will face in the future," President Ali proposed. He pledged Guyana's full support in this endeavour.

The First Conference on Criminal Justice Reform – Advancing the Needham's Point Declaration, held at the Marriott Hotel in Kingston, brought together legal professionals from across the region to discuss crucial topics like reducing case backlogs, establishing sentencing

the environment, culture, and economy.

President Ali identified three pillars for maintaining order: political stability, rule of law, and democracy. "A strong legal system upholds these principles, which in turn, weaken criminal activity," he stated. He explained how criminal activity flourishes in environments lacking these foundational elements.

don't build strong, relevant institutions, then we will not build for the future," he asserted. He highlighted the importance of institutions that can withstand transitions in government, fostering long-term political stability.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL PLEDGES SUPPORT

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, pledged the organisation's continued support for criminal justice reform efforts in the Caribbean during the conference.

"We have the collective opportunity to be the pathway for the rest of the world," Secretary-General Scotland declared, highlighting the Commonwealth's and the Caribbean's need for their "acuity, wisdom, and courage."

The conference also addressed the role of technology in



Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland KC

modernising justice systems. Secretary-General Scotland pointed to the Commonwealth's pioneering efforts in using artificial intelligence (AI) within government and society.

The conference, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), aimed to build upon the progress made during the CCJ Academy for Law's 7th Biennial Conference in 2023. There, the Needham's Point Declaration was adopted, outlining 39 recommendations for establishing a modern and efficient criminal justice system.



The conference, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank

Academy for Law as a key player in this educational initiative. He suggested the academy focus on emerging societal issues and develop specialized certification programmes for legal professionals.

"Maybe through an accreditation process, [the academy can] design short executive programmes that give our lawyers and judges specialised training and certification...on key issues and challenges

guidelines, and exploring restorative justice and plea bargaining practices.

President Ali stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of crime, rather than solely focusing on statistics.

"The criminal justice system does not operate in a vacuum," the President explained. He underscored the interconnectedness of the justice system with various societal elements such as

The President also emphasised the importance of judicial predictability, achieved through sound and consistent decision-making. He highlighted the urgency of addressing regional crime rates, citing a 2023 study showing a violent crime rate in CARICOM nations nearly triple the global average.

President Ali concluded by emphasising the necessity of collective action beyond executive measures. "If we



President Ali flanked by the organisers of the conference

GUYANA REAFFIRMS STRONG TIES WITH NEW UK GOVT



President Ali with the UK's new Foreign Secretary, the Right Honourable David Lammy

President Ali reached out to the newly formed United Kingdom (UK) government, expressing his desire for a strong and continued partnership. The new government is Labour-led, with Keir Starmer as the Prime Minister.

In a Facebook post, Dr. Ali highlighted his conversation with the UK's new Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, where he reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to a close relationship. The discussion also covered

regional support in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.

"I updated him on the impact of Hurricane Beryl on the region and the need for support and collaboration from the international community," President Ali stated.

The Guyanese leader also received assurances from Mr. Lammy regarding Guyana's territorial sovereignty, a topic of ongoing regional tension.

"Regarding our sovereignty and territorial integrity, he assured me of the continued support of the United Kingdom," Dr. Ali said.

Economic prospects and future investments were also on the agenda. President Ali expressed optimism about the potential for bilateral relations and investments, mentioning the UK Export Finance (UKEF) support for Guyana's development.

Mr. Lammy, with

his Guyanese heritage, brings a unique perspective to his new role. He expressed enthusiasm for strengthening ties with the Commonwealth.

This appointment is expected to foster further engagement between the UK and Commonwealth nations. Mr. Lammy's background and commitment to foreign policy are seen as assets for the UK's role on the global stage.

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR INCREASED PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT TO BRIDGE CARIBBEAN FUNDING GAP

President Irfaan Ali has urged the Caribbean to tap into its private sector wealth to address critical development shortfalls. In a candid address at the Caribbean Investment Forum held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Liliendaal, President Ali highlighted the vast amount of capital currently sitting idle in Caribbean commercial banks – an estimated US \$61.5 billion.

"It will be interesting for us to learn about the liquidity that exists in the private sector arm of the CDB [Caribbean Development Bank]. How have we grown that liquidity over the last ten years? How did we invest



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

that liquidity over the last ten years, and how did we create the innovative approach of bringing the regional private sector together to make use of that liquidity?" President Ali questioned.

The President emphasised the need to channel these funds into initiatives that generate new wealth for the region.

He pointed to several areas where significant investment gaps are hindering progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include infrastructure development, digitization, and telecommunications.

"The region's shortfalls in achieving these goals cannot be attributed to lack of willpower or commitment, but rather, a lack of adequate financing," President Ali explained. He cited the staggering financial requirements to achieve just some of the SDGs related to water and sanitation – an annual average of US \$373 billion.

President Ali

provided a breakdown of these costs: "New infrastructure requires allocations of US\$256 billion; US\$90.6 billion to improve access to safely managed drinking water, US\$148 billion and US\$16.8 billion in sewerage treatment." The need for investment extends beyond infrastructure. An estimated US \$577 billion is required to achieve universal access to electricity and decarbonize the region's

towards improving electricity generation new models to achieve access to safely mix. regional SDGs. managed sanitation, These challenges

are further compounded by recent disasters like Hurricane Beryl, which caused widespread devastation across several Caribbean nations. In light of these pressing issues, President Ali stressed the urgency of developing



Some of the attendees at the Caribbean Investment Forum, which was held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

GUYANA OPEN FOR BUSINESS, SEEKS INVESTORS FOR SHARED CARIBBEAN PROSPERITY SAYS CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER



Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Guyana's Chief Investment Officer and head of the Guyana Office for Investment

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Guyana's Chief Investment Officer and head of the Guyana Office for Investment, is extending a warm invitation to investors and business leaders: "Guyana's success is the region's

success," he declared in his keynote address, "Guyana Unlocked Vision 2030," at the Caribbean Investment Forum.

Dr. Ramsaroop outlined Guyana's impressive transformation, highlighting significant investments in social development, food security, climate resilience, and energy independence. "Seven new hospitals are being built, more than 20,000 scholarships have been awarded," he said, emphasising the country's commitment to its people. Additionally, "when the Gas-to-Energy Project comes on stream, Guyana will be a provider of

cheap and reliable electricity." But that's just the beginning of the "Guyana story," Dr. Ramsaroop enthralled the audience at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre. He painted a picture of a nation blessed with a tropical climate, vast water resources, and fertile lands. Guyana is "at the forefront leading efforts to increase agricultural production and reduce food importation in the regions," while also serving as "the lungs of the world" through its expansive forests.

Dr. Ramsaroop then introduced a captivating vision for the future: "The Jaguar Economy." He

explained, "You know the Asian economies of the past often referred to as the Tiger Economies... I want you to know of the Jaguar Economy. I want you to part of it."

Guyana is not just positioning itself for prosperity, but for partnerships. Dr. Ramsaroop assured investors that Guyana is "an investor-friendly destination, believes in democracy, transparency and accountability... is the fastest growing economy in the world, is resource-rich, offers generous incentives, honours trade agreements and has a stable

financial system." He emphasised the strategic location bordering Brazil and Suriname, opening doors to "new markets and boundless opportunities for trade and business."

"We are here to help you to make your investment worthwhile," Dr. Ramsaroop reassured the audience. "Our job is if you develop a product is to ensure that it gets to the wider world." He encouraged collaboration with local companies, highlighting the benefits of "improved brand visibility" and business expansion.

Dr. Ramsaroop concluded with a powerful message of unity: "We in the

Caribbean like to call ourselves small states, but if we look at putting ourselves together, we are not a small state, we have quite a bit of investment opportunities." He proposed exciting possibilities, like combining "beach and jungle tours" for eco-tourists or co-creating "internationally branded pepper sauces."

Guyana's "Jaguar Economy" is poised for a mighty leap, and Dr. Ramsaroop's invitation is clear: join the success and be a part of a brighter future for the entire Caribbean region.

GUYANA TAILORING FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS WITH CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP

Guyana is working with the International Trade Center (ITC) to design projects that address the country's specific needs for food security. The ITC team is currently visiting Guyana to assess priorities and potential areas of collaboration.

This initiative aligns with the European

Union's focus on strengthening food security in the Caribbean and CARICOM's 25x25 plan, which Guyana leads. The ITC will assess the needs of Guyanese companies, including small and medium businesses, to ensure projects directly benefit Guyana.

Foreign Secretary,

Robert Persaud, welcomed the ITC's mission, highlighting the government's commitment to aligning national projects with regional goals. He emphasised the importance of tailoring interventions to Guyana's specific needs to avoid duplication of efforts.



Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Guyana's Chief Investment Officer and head of the Guyana Office for Investment

GUYANA DELIVERS LIFE-SAVING AID TO HURRICANE-STRICKEN CARIBBEAN: "VERY GENEROUS," SAYS PM GONSALVES



Some of the items that were sent with relief supplies to hurricane affected country

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St Vincent and the Grenadines has extended heartfelt gratitude to Guyana for its generous aid following the devastation of Hurricane Beryl. "I am very happy to see our Guyanese brothers and sisters who came

on the vessel bringing the shipment of relief aid such as food and building materials," PM Gonsalves said. "Guyana has been very generous."

Guyana's swift response has provided critical support to Caribbean nations

struggling to recover from the hurricane's wrath. A shipment delivered via the MV Hien included essential items requested by St. Vincent and the Grenadines, including food, shelter materials, household essentials, hygiene products, and first-aid kits.

This aid mission reflects a unified approach to regional support. The government, private

sector organisations, and local NGOs collaborated to acquire these supplies.

The Caribbean Community's commitment to helping its members was further emphasised by PM Gonsalves. "The Caribbean Community has come together quite well. We have had meetings already on the relief matters... We are moving with a lot of advocacies



Some of the items that were sent with relief supplies to hurricane affected country



Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves interacting with an official

in the world for assistance for the Caribbean countries who are affected," he stated.

The impact of Hurricane Beryl has been severe, with over 80% of St Vincent and the Grenadines' agricultural sector reportedly damaged. Grenada's situation is also dire, with Carriacou and Petite Martinique experiencing widespread destruction of crops and livestock. Fortunately, relief is on the way. PM Gonsalves confirmed that another shipment of essential supplies from Guyana is expected to arrive soon in Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

GUYANA DEPLOYS TROOPS TO AID GRENADA, ST VINCENT AFTER HURRICANE BERYL

Guyana has delivered on its promise of regional support, by deploying a contingent of the Guyana Defence Force's Engineering Corps to Grenada. They join the eight troops already deployed, bringing their

total contribution to 50 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Dale De Mendonca.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali previously sent the troops off with a message emphasising unity,

service, and positive impact. Their mission focuses on rebuilding critical infrastructure in Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines, which will allow essential services like healthcare and education to resume functioning.

"The prime minister and people of Grenada are eagerly awaiting your arrival," President Ali said, highlighting Guyana's unwavering commitment to regional support. "Guyana was the first deployment to arrive in Grenada, and that support [has] continued from then to now."

The President

underscored the importance of Guyana's people in fostering positive change. He urged the troops to leave a lasting mark on the lives of their CARICOM neighbours.

"Today, you take with you the love, pride, and rich tradition of what makes us Guyanese, strength of character, and a sense of purpose as you help assist the nation within CARICOM to rebuild," he declared.

Hurricane Beryl's impact was historic, being the first Category Four storm to form in the Atlantic during June. It intensified into



President Ali sending the troops off

a Category Five after sending multiple shipments of essential items to their sister states. With the arrival of the Engineering Corps, Guyana's boots are now firmly on the ground in Grenada, ready to assist in the crucial task of rebuilding.

President Ali has been a champion for supporting the affected countries. Under his leadership, Guyana coordinated a swift response that included



The contingent from the Guyana Defence Force's Engineering Corps as they landed in Grenada

GUYANA, PERU TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Guyana and Peru have pledged to increase cooperation in the areas of energy, food security and climate change.

Recently, Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud met with the Peruvian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Peter Camino in Lima where they discussed specific areas of ties between the governments and

peoples of Guyana and Peru.

The government of Peru plans to expand its framework of cooperation 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.

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



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

US SOLIDIFIES PARTNERSHIP WITH GUYANA

- PLEDGES DEVELOPMENT AID, DEFENCE COOPERATION, AND BACKS SOVEREIGNTY

The United States (US) has significantly strengthened its relationship with Guyana in a historic first-ever Strategic Dialogue held in Georgetown. During this high-level meeting, the US offered concrete support for Guyana's development, defence capabilities, and most importantly, its territorial integrity.

Officials from both countries convened at Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Dan Erikson, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere



Guyana, US hold first strategic dialogue

Affairs, acknowledged Guyana's efforts towards inclusive development, particularly the management of its oil wealth through the Natural Resource Fund. **"The US is aware of the government's**

efforts to develop an equitable and thoughtful path towards inclusive development," Erikson said, specifically mentioning Guyana's Natural Resource Fund. He emphasised the US'

readiness to **"support you in that effort,"** suggesting potential collaboration on development initiatives tailored to Guyana's needs.

Demonstrating a strong stance on Guyana's sovereignty, Erikson declared, **"The US fully supports Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty,"** underscoring that this position comes directly from President Joseph Biden himself. Guyana's Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud, expressed his appreciation for this crucial stance,

particularly in light of the ongoing border controversy with Venezuela. The US' support of Guyana's border and Essequibo region has been "Persaud noted. The country is seeking a definitive resolution through the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The Strategic Dialogue encompassed various global topics, including energy and food security, climate change initiatives like the US-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis (PACC) 2030, and security and defence cooperation.

The dialogue featured prominent figures from both sides. The US delegation included Assistant Secretary of State Brian Nichols, Special Advisor to the Vice President Scott Winton, and representatives from various US departments. Guyana's delegation boasted the presence of Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn, Ambassador Samuel Hinds, and senior officials from the Guyana Defence Force, National Security Council, and various ministries.

GUYANA AND FRANCE'S PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON RESPECT AND SHARED GOALS

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips reaffirmed the strong bonds between Guyana and France during the French National Day celebrations at the Umana Yana in Kingston, Georgetown.

The Prime Minister emphasised that mutual respect, shared values, and common goals form the bedrock of this successful bilateral relationship.

"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," Prime Minister Phillips highlighted. He pointed out that recent years have seen a significant

strengthening of this partnership, fueled by discussions on various collaborative initiatives.

High-level interactions between Guyana and France have opened doors for collaboration in a wide range of areas. Climate change, defence, infrastructure, technology, agriculture, and tourism are just some of the crucial sectors where the two nations are forging closer ties.

The Prime Minister noted the alignment between Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and France's National Climate Action Plan, both reflecting a shared commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting environmental sustainability.

"Collaborative initiatives, such as developing a pilot model on biodiversity crediting



Scene from the French National Day 2024 celebrations at the Umana Yana

and supporting the expansion of Guyana's Protected Areas System, further testify to our commitment," Prime Minister Phillips stressed. **"By working together, we can innovate and implement sustainable practices that benefit not only**

our countries but the entire planet."

Guyana's participation in the Guiana Shield Strategic

Dialogue was cited by the Prime Minister as an example of strengthened defence cooperation. **"This dialogue underscores the importance of regional collaboration in addressing security challenges and ensuring the safety and prosperity of our**

nations," PM Phillips explained.

Guyana's goal of reducing its food import bill by 25% by 2025 can

be significantly aided by French expertise in agriculture, the Prime Minister suggested. Sharing best practices and developing joint projects hold great promise in this area.

Similar benefits are expected in infrastructure development, where France's advanced

knowledge can contribute to Guyana's transformation with modern architecture. Building a resilient partnership in technology is seen as another key driver of economic growth and digital transformation for both nations.

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

GUYANA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM OUTLINES COOPERATION AREAS



His Excellency, Sasenarine Singh, Guyana's newly appointed Ambassador to Belgium, today presented his Letters of Credence

Guyana's newly appointed Ambassador to Belgium, H.E. Sasenarine Singh, has taken a key step towards full accreditation by presenting his credentials to the Belgian authorities.

The official presentation to King Philippe is expected in September.

Ambassador Singh's visit highlighted the positive relationship

between Guyana and Belgium. He proposed several areas for collaboration, including climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and strengthening trade ties, potentially boosting prosperity for both countries.

Ambassador Singh highlighted Guyana's booming economy and its potential for Belgian investment, particularly

in agriculture.

He emphasised Guyana's dedication to fighting drug trafficking, and its desire to collaborate with Belgium on this issue.

Belgium's Chief of Protocol, H.E. Hubert Roisin, welcomed the proposed areas of cooperation, particularly climate change mitigation. He also expressed Belgium's interest in becoming

a strategic partner for Guyana in South America, with a focus on boosting trade and investment, especially in agriculture.

Both sides expressed enthusiasm for working together on shared challenges, and opportunities to build a prosperous future for their nations.

DR JAGDEO MAINTAINS FIRM STANCE NIGEL HUGHES' EXXONMOBIL TIES AMID AFC LEADERSHIP



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

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has maintained his strong stance on a potential conflict of interest following Nigel Hughes' election as leader of the Alliance

For Change (AFC). The concern stems from Hughes' legal firm's representation of ExxonMobil.

Dr. Jagdeo underscored the ruling party's commitment to protecting Guyana's best

interests, emphasising the seriousness of the issue during a press conference at Freedom House. He reiterated the government's dedication to good governance, highlighted by an ultimatum given to a minister with ties to ExxonMobil to either cut those ties or leave the cabinet.

Dr. Jagdeo pointed out the conflict of interest inherent in a political leader benefiting from financial ties to ExxonMobil while leading a party with members in the National Assembly. "It is a

political contribution to him and his party to ensure that the interests of ExxonMobil are protected in any future government or even in the National Assembly now. How is this not a conflict of interest?" he questioned.

He further expressed concern about the potential consequences if Hughes were to become president, suggesting that Hughes' continued relationship with ExxonMobil would undermine national interests. Dr. Jagdeo

criticised Hughes' refusal to sever ties with his law firm unless elected into government, describing this position as obscene.

Doubting the credibility and trustworthiness of the AFC, Dr. Jagdeo refuted claims that the PPP's focus on this matter was driven by fear. Instead, he argued that the party is motivated by the impropriety of the situation. **"We want to point out that AFC is an obscene party. The man says minutes after he is elected, I will put ExxonMobil's interest above that of**

national interest... but we have strong positions. We defend what we believe is good for Guyana," he emphasised.

Dr. Jagdeo also criticised Hughes for allegedly denying his involvement in legal matters concerning ExxonMobil and referenced Hughes' past resignation from the AFC just before the government concluded negotiations with ExxonMobil, as well as the damning information contained in a Global Witness report.

PUBLIC SERVANTS MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE TO CITIZENS - MINISTER TEIXEIRA

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, stressed the importance of public servant accountability during a round table discussion on ethical behaviour within public service at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Georgetown.

"High-ranking public servants must be held accountable to the citizens as they manage their affairs," Minister Teixeira said. **"This includes Permanent Secretaries, Regional Executive Officers, Procurement Officers, and other technical persons and government agencies like the**



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira

Ombudsman."

The discussion, held under the theme **"Promoting integrity and effectiveness in public bodies and authorities responsible for preventing corruption,"** focused on developing the capacity of public officials to eliminate

corruption.

Minister Teixeira argued that public servants have a moral obligation to ensure citizens receive value for their tax dollars. **"We are now looking at how we develop capacity, what are the kind of training we need to do to make sure that every public servant who is at the highest level knows very well what the rules are...and [these are ones] that does not condone corruption,"** she emphasised.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of adhering to the Integrity Commission's regulations. **"They**

represent the people," she said of public servants. **"They must operate and build a culture that is fair and transparent."** The government is working on amending the Integrity Commission

law to ensure timely reporting from public officials.

"We have to now reach a point where, as a government, as a public service, that we are holding ourselves to high standards," Minister

Teixeira concluded. The discussion aimed to identify mechanisms to prevent the abuse of public funds and strengthen institutions for more effective functioning.



Some of the public servants that were present at the discussion

GOVT CRACKS DOWN ON PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES WITH TRAINING PROGRAMME AND BLACKLISTING

In a significant move to tighten procurement practices, the government has announced a comprehensive public procurement training programme. This initiative aims to improve compliance with the Procurement Act by equipping all those involved in the process with the necessary knowledge.

The announcement comes after Vice President and PPP General Secretary, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, expressed concerns

about irregularities in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam). He highlighted instances of procurement officers deviating from standard bidding procedures without proper authorisation from the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB) and the Ministry of Finance.

"We're committed to better training and clear communication of expectations," Dr. Jagdeo stated, emphasising the need for fairness in the system.

The government is also taking steps to identify and address fraudulent practices. A rigorous review of bidding documents will be conducted to detect companies attempting to deceive the system by submitting bids through multiple family-owned entities. Dr. Jagdeo stressed the importance of scrutinising the list of bidders to prevent such practices from going unnoticed.

Furthermore, authorities are urged to carefully evaluate the past performance of

contractors. Those with a history of delivering substandard work will be excluded from future contracts.

The Vice President reiterated the consequences for violating procurement regulations. **"We will blacklist contractors who do shoddy work,"** he declared. The Ministry of Finance will ensure all procuring authorities nationwide are aware of these measures.

This announcement follows a previous commitment by the

government to address corruption in the procurement system. A comprehensive review

is currently underway across local, regional, and national levels.



EXXONMOBIL EYES 1.5 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY FOR GUYANA WITH NEW OIL PROJECT

Guyana's oil production is poised for a significant leap with ExxonMobil seeking approval for its seventh Stabroek Block project, the Hammerhead development. This ambitious project has the potential to push the country's daily oil output beyond the 1.5 million barrel mark by 2029.

HAMMERHEAD EXPECTED TO ADD UP TO 180,000 BARRELS PER DAY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) confirmed that it's currently reviewing ExxonMobil Guyana's application for the Hammerhead project. According to the project summary published on the EPA's website, the development is expected to contribute an additional 120,000 to 180,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) upon its projected start-up in 2029.

EXXONMOBIL HINTS AT POTENTIAL FOR HIGHER PRODUCTION

While the initial

production capacity is estimated at a range of 120,000 to 180,000 bpd, ExxonMobil highlighted in the project summary its intention to "explore opportunities to safely optimise that capacity" after the project's launch.

HAMMERHEAD TO JOIN GROWING LIST OF STABROEK BLOCK PROJECTS

Once operational, the Hammerhead project will join a growing list of ExxonMobil developments within the Stabroek Block. This includes six already sanctioned projects:

- Liza Phase 1 (averaging 150,000 bpd)
- Liza Phase 2 (averaging 250,000 bpd)
- Payara (averaging 230,000 bpd)
- Yellowtail (expected to start production in 2025 with a capacity of 250,000 bpd)
- Uaru (anticipated to begin production in 2026, aiming for 250,000 bpd)
- Whiptail (scheduled for a 2027 launch with a target of 250,000 bpd)

COMBINED PRODUCTION COULD REACH 1.56 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY



The Hammerhead project will join a growing list of ExxonMobil developments within the Stabroek Block

Taking into account the Hammerhead project's projected output, and the existing Stabroek Block developments, Guyana's total oil production could reach a staggering 1.56 million barrels per day by 2029.

Environmental

Impact Assessment Required

The EPA, in a public notice issued on July 14, 2024, emphasised that the proposed

project.

The EPA is inviting public participation in the review process. Members of the public have 28 days from the July 14 notice to submit written questions and concerns to the agency. These will be considered during the EIA evaluation.

Documents submitted to the EPA detail the project's location within the Stabroek Block, approximately 160 km from Georgetown and existing developments. The plan involves utilising drill ships to extract oil through an estimated range of 14 to 30 production and injection wells.

The project proposes the installation of subsea equipment on the seabed alongside processing equipment situated on the ocean surface, known as a Floating, Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel.

EXPORT AND GAS MANAGEMENT

"The vessel will have the capacity to store roughly 1.4 to 2 million barrels of oil,"

the project summary specifies.

"Third-party oil tankers will be scheduled to offload the oil from the FPSO, making it available for export to the international market."

The FPSO will also be responsible for processing, dehydrating, and compressing any associated gas produced from the reservoir. The project summary mentions that various options for managing this associated gas are currently under evaluation.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS ANTICIPATED

The Hammerhead Project is expected to generate both direct and indirect contributions to Guyana's economic growth. This includes increased national revenue, opportunities for local procurement of goods and services, and the creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities, which are anticipated to have a positive multiplier effect on the local economy.

GOVT'S MANAGEMENT HELPS TO AVOID "DUTCH DISEASE" PITFALLS - DR. JAGDEO

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), highlighted the government's success in managing the economy and avoiding the pitfalls of the "Dutch disease" in a complex global landscape.

Jagdeo emphasised the importance of maintaining a balance between supply and demand to prevent the economy from overheating.

"This is an economic phenomenon that you cannot get away from," Dr. Jagdeo said. "Whether any party is in government... you can't defy the law of economics; there is upward pressure on price movement, because the demand for goods and services, far outstrips this supply."

He pointed to the

booming construction industry as an example, where a shortage of sand and stone led to price hikes. The government responded by opening more sandpits and granting additional licences, which Jagdeo said led to a significant reduction in stone prices.

"It's down back to \$10,000 because of the increase in supply because of our government's action," Jagdeo said. "So, it is navigating a complex period when you have growth."

Dr. Jagdeo attributed the nation's low inflation rate, despite rapid economic expansion, to the government's measures. He argued this achievement is unmatched by other countries experiencing similar growth.

"This is no small task or no small achievement of a

government to be able to grow at the rates at which we're growing and the demand for goods and services,

counterparts that are not growing at all," Jagdeo said.

Looking ahead, Dr. Jagdeo underscored



The government has been maintaining a balance between supply and demand to prevent the economy from overheating.

the pace at which we are growing and still keep your average inflation rate lower than your

the government's focus on maintaining a competitive exchange rate and bolstering traditional sectors. He

mentioned using revenue from the oil and gas industry to diversify the non-oil sectors, ensuring economic stability and

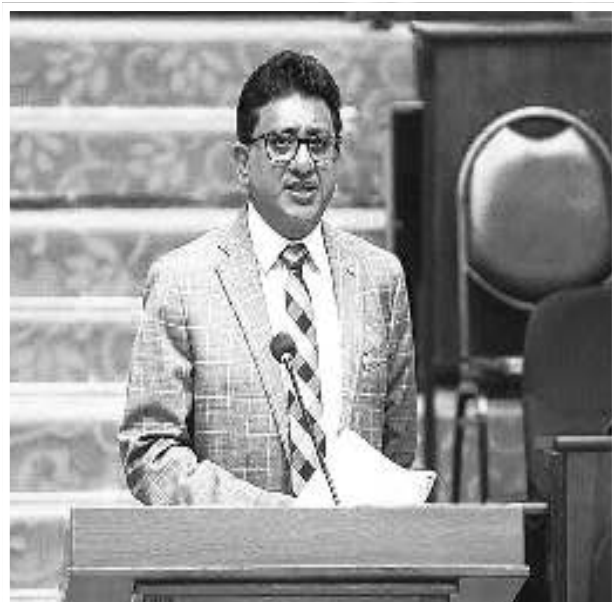
but stressed the need for sustainable approaches that may not always be popular in the short-term, but will yield significant long-term benefits.

"This principle sometimes gets lost when I read editorials and newspaper articles and listen to the opposition," Dr. Jagdeo exclaimed. "We lose sight of this principle when we hear the pronouncements, they make about how we should spend revenue at this point."

He concluded by emphasising the administration's commitment to long-term sustainability, encompassing environmental concerns, climate resilience, and the resilience of vulnerable sectors.

long-term sustainability. Dr. Jagdeo acknowledged criticism regarding the government's policies,

PARLIAMENT ROUND-UP: GUYANA STRENGTHENS LEGAL SYSTEM ON MULTIPLE FRONTS



Attorney General Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC

Guyana's National Assembly has been busy enacting important legislation aimed at improving public safety and the justice system.

Here's a breakdown of the recent bills passed:

EXTRADITION LAWS BOLSTERED TO FIGHT TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

The Fugitive Offenders Act has been amended to streamline extradition proceedings and enhance cooperation with other countries in

combating transnational crime. **"This is a positive regime of amendments," stated the Attorney General. "It will modernise our extradition law and enable Guyana, along with other territories, to collaborate more efficiently in tackling transnational crime and criminals."**

Foreign Affairs Minister Hugh Todd and Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn both stressed the need for international collaboration to counter



Government ministers defending the bills

combating transnational crime.

Attorney General Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC, presented the bill, emphasising its role in **"augmenting and bringing greater efficiency to Guyana's extradition proceedings."** He explained that current limitations on admissible evidence hampered the process.

Extradition, a formal process where a country surrenders a person facing criminal charges to another, relies on cooperation and reciprocity between

transnational threats like human trafficking and drug trafficking. These amendments are a crucial step towards achieving this goal.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STREAMLINED WITH PAPER COMMITTAL BILL

The National Assembly also passed the Criminal Law Procedure (Paper Committal) Bill 2024. This legislation replaces lengthy preliminary inquiries with a faster paper-based system.

Under the new

system, prosecutors and defence lawyers will submit written evidence and arguments, expediting the process and reducing the backlog of cases. This reform is expected to benefit the justice system in several ways:

- **Reduced backlog:** Faster processing will lead to a smaller backlog, ensuring swifter case resolution.

approach. This bill received widespread support and paves the way for Guyana to join other nations that have adopted similar paper committal systems.

NEW LEGISLATION UTILISES 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TO COMBAT TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS



Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Hugh Todd

- **Improved prison management:** Fewer individuals will be held in pre-trial detention, easing prison overcrowding.

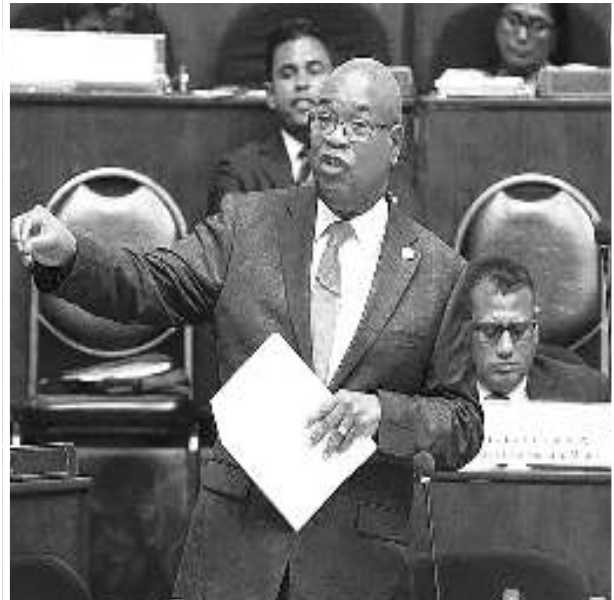
- **Lower costs:** The financial burden of maintaining pre-trial detainees will decrease.

- **Enhanced fairness:** Speedier trials will protect the right to a fair trial for defendants.

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand specifically

In another move to bolster public safety, the National Assembly passed legislation utilising 24-hour surveillance cameras to combat speeding and seatbelt violations. This initiative aims to significantly improve traffic safety in Guyana.

The new law, championed by the Minister of Home Affairs, allows authorities to identify drivers who break the law using

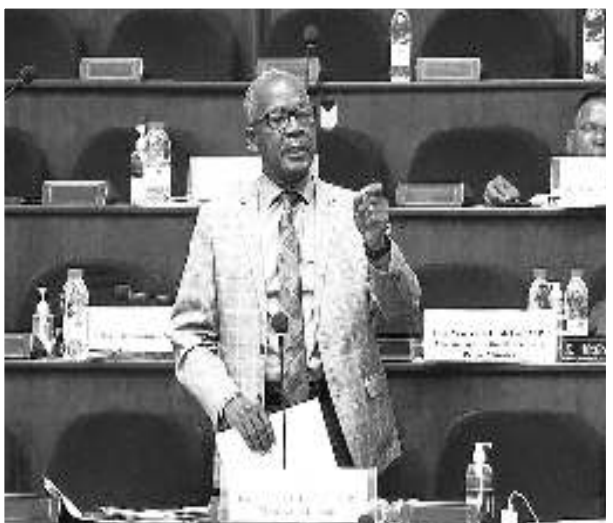


Government ministers defending the bills

highlighted the positive impact on victims of sexual offences: "Lengthy preliminary inquiries in sexual offence cases often retraumatise victims by forcing them to relive their experiences," she stated. Paper committals offer a less invasive

cameras mounted on traffic lights. These cameras will capture evidence of speeding and not wearing a seatbelt.

"We have noticed generally... the growth and development of our country," explained



Government ministers defending the bills

the Minister. **"Along with this growth and development, along with the investment in our roads [and] an increase in vehicles on the road, we still struggle with road traffic accidents and deaths."** Guyana has seen hundreds of traffic fatalities in recent years, with a staggering 175 deaths recorded in 2023 alone.

ultimately leading to safer roads. The legislation received backing from both government and opposition lawmakers, demonstrating a united front on this critical public safety issue.

These recent legislative efforts by Guyana's National Assembly represent a multi-pronged approach to strengthening the country's legal system



Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn

Following an offence, a photo along with a fine notice will be sent to the registered vehicle owner's phone number and mailed to their address.

The expectation is that the new camera law will deter speeding and other traffic violations,

and promoting public safety. By streamlining extradition procedures, expediting the criminal justice process, and implementing stricter traffic enforcement, Guyana is taking concrete steps towards a more secure and just society.



Government ministers defending the bills

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA'S COUNCIL EXPANDS TO FOSTER INCLUSIVITY AND EXPERTISE



Education Minister Priya Manickchand, while proposing the changes

The National Assembly voted on July 9, 2024, to expand the University of Guyana's (UG) Council from 26 to 32 members. This aims to increase inclusivity and incorporate wider expertise in the

university's decision-making processes.

The expansion will include representatives with specialised knowledge in information and communications technology, environment, climate change, and national defence. Additionally, youth representation has been formally added to the council.

Education Minister Priya Manickchand, while proposing the changes, highlighted the importance of increased consultation. She stated, "[We] want to hear from our young people," reflecting a global shift

towards greater youth participation.

The Minister positioned this amendment as part of the ongoing national education sector expansion. "Whenever the PPP/C is in office," she said, "you have seen growth in education... We are adding persons to the council for more inclusivity and a stronger University of Guyana."

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr., endorsed the changes. He criticised the previous APNU+AFC administration for neglecting UG's development during

their time in office.

Minister Ramson emphasised the amendments' significance due to the "significant investments"

being made in the

university. "Increased government oversight is the responsible thing to do," he asserted, given the growing financial

commitments.

The UG's Council serves as the institution's governing body, deriving its authority from the University of Guyana Act 39:02.



University of Guyana's (UG)

NEW MEDICAL SCIENCES SCHOOL TO OPEN IN GEORGETOWN IN SEPTEMBER

The government has announced the opening of the New St. George's School of Sciences in September 2024. This new institution will be the first of its kind in the country, specialising in preparing students for careers in the medical field.

The announcement was made by Education Minister Priya Manickchand during a recent ceremony. The school is seen as a "second pathway" for students who may not have qualified for the top national schools but still



The New St. George's School of Sciences

have a strong interest in science.

"This school will be strictly preparing

students for careers in medical sciences,"

Minister Manickchand said. "We believe these

students have great potential and we're going to show that in five years."

The school will be located in Georgetown, Guyana's capital city, and will replace the former St. George's High School that was destroyed by fire in 2022.

The Minister also outlined the eligibility criteria for attending the new school. Students must be Georgetown residents, have not been accepted into a national or List A school, and achieved a minimum of 80% in English, 60%

in Math, and 65% in Science.

This initiative highlights the government's commitment to

providing accessible and quality education, with

a focus on specialised skills development for the nation's youth.



The New St. George's School of Sciences

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HOSTS WORKSHOP TO BOOST CAPE PERFORMANCE



Educators and administrators during the workshop

The Ministry of Education's Secondary Sector recently hosted a CAPE Workshop aimed at improving student performance in the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination

(CAPE) across Guyana.

The workshop, held at Queen's College from July 9th to 11th, 2024, brought together educators and administrators specialising in Caribbean

Studies, Communication Studies, Integrated Mathematics, Physics, and Pure Mathematics.

The Ministry's focus on strengthening CAPE education comes as part of a wider effort to elevate educational standards in Guyana. The workshop addressed key areas such as curriculum delivery, challenges faced by teachers and students, best practices in teaching and learning, and internal assessment standards.

"The workshop's primary aim was to refine teaching methods and optimise student

performance across CAPE examinations," a Ministry of Education press release stated. "By leveraging the expertise of seasoned educators and the Ministry's strategic guidance, participants gained invaluable insights into improving instructional quality and fostering an enriched learning environment."

The workshop also focused on ensuring schools are prepared for internal assessments and external moderation procedures set by the Caribbean Examinations

Council (CXC). This emphasis on upholding academic standards is intended to strengthen the overall integrity of Guyana's secondary education system.

The Ministry of Education anticipates

the workshop will lead to improved academic achievement among students, enhanced teaching methodologies, and streamlined administrative processes within participating schools.



Educators and administrators during the workshop

GUYANA ON TRACK TO DELIVER THREE NEW HOSPITALS BY YEAR-END



The new hospital at Diamond

The government is making significant progress on its campaign promise to build six new hospitals by 2025. According to General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP/C), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, three regional hospitals are on schedule for completion by the end of this year.

"The last report I had, a few months ago, indicated three are on track for completion this year, with the remaining three following in the first quarter of 2025," Dr. Jagdeo said at a press conference. While celebrating the construction progress, Dr. Jagdeo

acknowledged the challenge of adequately staffing the new facilities. He mentioned the build hospitals; we need qualified personnel to run them. We're



The new hospital at Bath

possibility of recruiting medical professionals from abroad, alongside the government's ongoing efforts to train Guyanese healthcare workers. "We can't just

exploring recruiting from abroad while continuing to train our own people. We will support their education, including nurses and nursing aides," Dr. Jagdeo

explained. The Diamond and Enmore hospitals in Region Four, along with the Bath hospital in Region Five, are expected to be completed by December 2024. Hospitals in Lima (Region Two), De Kinderen (Region Three), and No. 75 Village (Region Six) are

slated for completion in the first quarter of 2025. The successful construction of these six hospitals will be a major accomplishment for the government's pledge to enhance Guyana's healthcare system. This initiative aims to provide citizens across the nation with improved access to quality medical services.



The new hospital at Enmore

GUYANA STEPS UP FIGHT TO ELIMINATE FILARIA IN KEY REGIONS

The Guyanese government, through the Ministry of Health, has launched an intensified campaign to eliminate filaria, a parasitic disease, in Regions Three (Demerara-Mahaica) and Four (Demerara-Mahaica).

The Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign (LFEC) officially began at the Carmel Secondary School in Charlestown, Georgetown. This initiative targets the two regions as the latest survey results indicate a filaria prevalence exceeding the national target of 1%.

"Out of an abundance of caution," explained Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony,



Campaign launch to eliminate filaria in Regions Three and Four

"we decided to go back to Regions Three and Four... to ensure we reduce the prevalence below 1%." Over the next two years, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), will focus on eradicating filaria in these regions.

A crucial aspect of the campaign is the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) programme. To ensure its success, the Ministry has trained 700 pill distributors who will visit communities and distribute filarial medication.

Dr. Anthony emphasised the importance of clear communication. "We have to explain to patients the benefits of the pills and how it helps the country," he stated, urging distributors to take their time and address any questions or concerns from residents.

Campaign Coordinator Dr. Anastacia Sampson encouraged the public to actively participate in the initiative. She highlighted that filarial medication will be available at various locations, including schools, health centres, workplaces, and marketplaces. Regional Health Officers (RHOs) Dr.

Erica Forte (Region Three) and Dr. Gavinash Persaud (Region Four) assured residents of the medication's safety and effectiveness. It's important to note that Guyana has already made significant progress in combating filaria. Previously, Regions Seven, Eight, and Nine were classified as partially affected,

while Regions Two to Six and Ten were considered epidemic areas. Only Region One was free of filaria endemicity. This targeted campaign in Regions Three and Four demonstrates the government's ongoing commitment to achieving complete filaria elimination nationwide.



Some of the pills that will be used to eradicate Filaria

VP JAGDEO EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN SOCU'S IMPARTIALITY AMID INVESTIGATION INTO SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

The Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) has launched an investigation into alleged malpractice involving at least one senior officer of the Guyana Police Force. Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has expressed full confidence in SOCU's ability to conduct an impartial investigation.

Speaking to reporters, Vice President Jagdeo emphasised,

"There will be no pressure to alter the outcome of this investigation or any similar probes into malpractice anywhere in the country. There will be no cover-up." He also mentioned that President Irfaan Ali is personally overseeing the investigation.

SOCU is currently investigating Deputy Police Commissioner

(ag) Calvin Brutus over allegations of financial impropriety. Brutus has taken annual leave to allow the investigation to proceed unimpeded. Dr. Jagdeo cautioned against vilifying police officers during the ongoing probe. He criticised the call by Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton for an external agency to conduct the investigation, labelling

it as duplicitous. He referenced a 2019 investigation by the Office of Professional Responsibility that cleared then Crime Chief Lyndon Alves. Jagdeo stated, "It is in a similar fashion that SOCU has been asked to investigate the allegations against Brutus." "We don't want to vilify policemen too. A lot of them



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

do a great job and are hardworking people," VP Jagdeo said, defending recent comments made by Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn. In his remarks, Dr. Jagdeo reiterated the government's commitment to transparency and fairness in all investigations, reinforcing the administration's stance against corruption.

BRAND GUYANA TAKES CENTRE STAGE AS P.F. CHANG'S OPENS IN GEORGETOWN



Cutting of the ceremonial ribbon for P.F. Chang's Restaurant

President Ali emphasised the importance of promoting "Brand Guyana" globally as the country welcomes new investments, including the recent opening of the P.F. Chang's restaurant in Kingston.

"While we embrace international brands," President Ali said at the opening ceremony, "we must also develop strong Guyanese brands to compete on the world stage. We have the

potential to influence global markets."

He highlighted Guyana's unique character and the government's ongoing investments in infrastructure, health, and education, all aimed at improving the lives of Guyanese citizens and creating a more attractive economy.

"We can think outside the box and be bold," the President urged. He revealed plans for two additional American fast-food franchises to open soon, along with ten new hotels with bars and entertainment spaces by 2025.

President Ali acknowledged the need to ensure sufficient demand for these new services.

He emphasised the collective responsibility of all Guyanese to protect and promote Brand

contribution to Guyana's growing economy.

Clairmont Cummings, CEO of the Corum Group, which secured the P.F. Chang's franchise, spoke of the 18 months of effort leading to this milestone. He emphasised their commitment to fostering a sense of community through the restaurant, offering a place for friends and families to gather and create memories.

Guyanese can now experience a taste of Asian-inspired cuisine and a fine dining experience at the new P.F. Chang's establishment.



President Ali interacting with staff of P.F. Chang's Restaurant

"The private sector must get involved in promoting tourism and Brand Guyana to attract visitors and fill these facilities," he stated.

Guyana. "We must be unified marketers," he declared.

The President commended P.F. Chang's for their investment, highlighting its

BUILDING EXPO GEARS UP FOR SUCCESS - 85% OF BOOTHS ALREADY BOOKED

The Guyana International Building Exposition is on track for a record-breaking year, with 85% of the booths already reserved. This marquee event, scheduled for August 8-11 at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, carries the theme "Building on the Foundation of Sustainability and Unity."

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, expressed his satisfaction during a recent site visit. He highlighted the significant progress on the auditoriums and booths, noting that only a few of the spaces remain.

"The core business



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal inspecting the layout of the National Stadium for the building expo

area is practically filled," Minister Croal explained. "This translates to roughly 341 booths available for exhibitors."

This highly anticipated expo boasts a wide array of attractions. Nearly 500 exhibitors and sponsors are expected to participate, showcasing

the latest advancements in housing and construction. Minister Croal encouraged larger companies to join the remaining opportunities.

"We urge major sponsors and corporations to step forward," he emphasised. "There's still space for them to be a part of this

event."

Aligned with the government's push for homeownership, the Ministry's "Dream Realised" initiative will distribute house lots and land titles to thousands of Guyanese citizens during the expo. Attendees can also explore various house models, including core homes and options designed for young professionals, offering a glimpse into Guyana's ongoing housing projects.

The Ministry is collaborating with the Small Business Bureau (SBB) to ensure unmatched networking opportunities for small businesses participating in the expo.

An additional highlight will be a special presentation showcasing the transformation of Guyana's first smart urban center, Silica City. The event will unveil the master plan, designed by the University of Miami.

The International Building Exposition serves as a central meeting point

for homeowners, entrepreneurs, potential homeowners, and businesses from the construction and manufacturing sectors. This collaborative environment fosters innovation and paves the way for a brighter future in Guyana's building industry.



Ongoing works for the International Building Expo

CO-OP MARKET DAY - A SHOWCASE OF LOCAL PRODUCE, INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Co-operative Market Day hosted at the Ministry of Labour's Tarmac

The aroma of local honey mingled with vibrant displays of fresh produce and handcrafted goods at Guyana's Co-operatives Market Day. Held at the Ministry of Labour's tarmac, the

event brought together cooperative societies from across the country, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit, and fostering a sense of community.

For Abigail John,

owner of Propa Local Wines, the market day was a chance to connect with customers and promote her locally-made beverages. "It allows us to interact and ensure they leave feeling proud of their Guyanese purchase," she beamed.

Karen Nelson, a relatively new entrepreneur who launched "Secret Garden" during the pandemic, echoed the sentiment. "This initiative is a lifesaver for small businesses like mine," she

shared, highlighting the opportunity to showcase her products to a wider audience.

The event also served as a testament to the government's support for small businesses, as Keshan Ramjattan, owner of Richard 100% Honey, pointed out. He commended the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture for initiatives like these, which provide crucial exposure and sales opportunities.

Radhika Basdeo, the owner of Basdeo Agro-processing, showcased her value-added

products, emphasising her commitment to enriching Guyanese households. This was her second time participating, and she credited the market day with expanding her customer base.

Environmental responsibility was also on display. Omodilla John, representing a Yarrowkabra charcoal production association, highlighted their use of waste wood from sawmills, transforming a potential environmental burden into a valuable resource.

Chief Co-operatives Development Officer Janaknauth Panchu underscored the government's dedication to fostering a supportive environment for local businesses and facilitating direct interaction between producers and consumers.

"This aligns perfectly with the theme of this year's International Week of Cooperatives: 'Building a better future for all,'" Panchu remarked, celebrating the event's success and the vital role co-operatives play in community development and economic resilience.

FSRA #13658

THE MORTGAGE PROCESS

Niraj Sharma | +647-629-3385

Niraj.Sharma@simpleway.ca | Simpleway.ca



1



PRE-APPROVAL

Get pre-approved fast so you know your budget and can start house hunting with confidence.

2



EXPERT GUIDANCE

Our experienced agents help you find the perfect home within your budget.

3



EASY APPLICATION

Submit your mortgage application effortlessly with our streamlined process.

4



FAST LOAN PROCESSING

We handle the details quickly and efficiently, so you don't have to worry.

5



SMOOTH CLOSING

Close on your dream home without a hitch and move in with peace of mind.

Simpleway
◆ The Mortgage experts



月饼上市
Mooncakes on sale



SUPERKING SUPERMARKET

鴻發超市



Special Offers Effective: Friday July 26 To Thursday Aug. 01, 2024



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Napa 白菜 Reg: \$1.29	Zucchini 青豆苗 Reg: \$1.29	Taiwan Bok Choy 台湾白菜 Reg: \$1.29	US Tomato 美国番茄 Reg: \$1.99	Celery 西芹 Reg: \$1.99	Green Leaf Lettuce 绿生菜 Reg: \$1.99
79¢ lb	99¢ lb	129¢ lb	139¢ lb	139¢ lb	139¢ lb
Green Pepper 青椒 Reg: \$1.99	Nai Yu Mu 茼蒿苗 Reg: \$2.29	Mini Cucumber 迷你黄瓜 Reg: \$2.69	Santa Claus Melon 圣诞瓜 Reg: \$1.59	US Fuji Apple 美国富士苹果 Reg: \$1.99	South Africa Orange 南非橙子 Reg: \$1.99
159¢ lb	179¢ lb	199¢ lb	99¢ lb	99¢ lb	129¢ lb
Thai Bananas 泰国香蕉 Reg: \$1.99	Yellow Nectarine 无毛黄桃 Reg: \$3.99	Seedless Small Red Grape 无籽小红葡萄 Reg: \$3.99	Watermelon 西瓜 Reg: \$7.99	Apple Mango 苹果芒 Reg: \$12.99	99¢ box
129¢ lb	259¢ lb	299¢ lb	599¢		

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Cucumber 长黄瓜 11.00 case	Spanish Onion 大洋葱 26.00 case	Green Onion 青葱 26.00 case	Broccoli 西兰花 32.00 case
US Tomato 美国番茄 33.00 case	Green Pepper 青椒 35.00 case	Carrot 胡萝卜 39.00 case	Head Lettuce 圆生菜 52.00 case
Yellow Plantains 黄大蕉 75.00 case			
Frozen Pangas Fillet 冷冻大比目鱼 6x4.5lb 60.00 case	Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 2lb/25 110041/R/Case 200.00 case	Head-on White Shrimp 有头白虾 20/30 6x4.1lb/Case 132.00 case	Extra Large Egg 特大号鸡蛋 53.99 case
Diamond Brand Dried Red Chili 钻石牌辣子 5lb/5 20.00 bag	Arroy-O Coconut Milk 椰奶 24x400ml 43.99 case	BUNGE Pure Land 猪肉 20kg 68.00 case	
Capri Vegetable Oil 菜油 1.8L 42.50 case	NEW GEN Dishwashing Liquid 洗碗精 33.00 case	NEW GEN Dishwashing Liquid 洗碗精 23.00 case	NEW GEN Dishwashing Liquid 洗碗精 25.00 case
Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记蒜茸豉汁 6x2.2kg 39.00 case	Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 李锦记蒜茸豉汁 1.75L 48.99 case	NC-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 环保包装 22.00 case	Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg 31.99 bag

FROZEN

SH Raw White Shrimp 鲜冻白虾 16/20 400g Reg: \$7.99	Frozen Squid Tentacles 鱿鱼 1kg Reg: \$11.99	Frozen Raw Breaded Squid Rings 450g Reg: \$6.99	Black Tie Squid Tube & Tentacle 鲜冻大鱿鱼 1kg Reg: \$2.99	Black Tie Squid Crab Cluster 400g Reg: \$15.99	Kababayan Hase Hase Indian Mackerel 500g Reg: \$3.99
5.99	8.99	5.99	1.99	10.99	2.99
SH Frozen Clam 400g Reg: \$2.99/ea	Viva Sea Moonfish 500g Reg: \$2.99	Blue Ocean Onion 250g Reg: \$4.99	BF Cut Diced Bangus 400g Reg: \$6.99	Manteca Pork Lard 猪油 Reg: \$8.99	Katsuka Frozen Baked Sweet Potato 500g Reg: \$8.99
2/\$5.00	1.99	3.99	4.99	6.99	6.99

GROCERY

Cedar Vegetable Oil 2.6L Reg: \$1.99	Unico Diced Tomatoes 罐装丁 700ml Reg: \$2.59	Candela Panda Sugar 1000g Reg: \$1.99
6.99	12.99	2.99
Chachok Coconut Water 椰子水 32.7ml Reg: \$1.75	Rice Bubble Milk Tea Drink Series 350g Reg: \$1.99	Premium Roasted Seaweed Snack 100g Reg: \$5.99
99¢	12.99	3.59
Leslie's Clover Chips 85g Reg: \$1.95	Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Soy Sauce 500ml 李锦记豉汁 500ml Reg: \$2.99	Lucky Fish Sauce 700ml Reg: \$2.99
12.99	1.59	9.99
Mazda Corn Tortillas Chips 240g Reg: \$3.59	Kinn Milk Tea 1.5L 牛奶奶茶 Reg: \$4.99	Fruite Drinks Series 2L 果汁 Reg: \$4.99
2.29	2.88	1.79
Slack Chocolate Wafer Stick 280g Reg: \$3.99/ea	Regent Cane Series 400g 100% Cane Sugar Reg: \$4.99	Cebu Dried Mango 80g Reg: \$2.99
2/\$5.00	2.99	1.69
KIM TUI THAI Tempura Better Mix 340g Reg: \$2.99	Bamboo Free Hot Hot Vermicelli 100% 25 1/2 lb Reg: \$2.99	Old Dutch Bleach 24L 漂白剂 Reg: \$3.99
1.99	1.88	2.59

MEAT

Boneless Pork Butt 无骨猪肩肉 Reg: \$3.99	Beef Hind Shank With Bone 牛后腱 1kg Reg: \$3.99	Ground Beef 牛肉碎 Reg: \$3.99
2.99	3.99	3.99
Frozen Cow Tongue 牛舌头 Reg: \$6.99	Chicken Wing 鸡翅 Reg: \$3.99	
5.99	2.59	

SEAFOOD

Fresh Whole Salmon 新鲜整条三文鱼 Reg: \$2.99	Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 冻鲜白虾 500g Reg: \$4.99	Fresh Skate Wing 新鲜鲑鱼翅 Reg: \$3.99
3.99	3.99	2.99
Fresh Whole Tuna 新鲜整条金枪鱼 Reg: \$4.99	Fresh Frozen T. Jaws 新鲜冻三文鱼 Reg: \$4.99	Frozen Fresh Pompano 冻鲜黄骨鱼 Reg: \$4.99
3.99	3.99	4.99

1635 Lawrence Ave West, North York ON, M6L 3C9 Tel: 416-241-8988 MON - SUN 9AM - 9PM, OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK www.superking.ca

Although We Strive For Accuracy In Both Copy & Illustration an occasional Error May Occur, We Reserve The Right To Correct Any Error. Specials Available While Quantities Last. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. Design and advertisement by Promote Solutions Tel: 416-778-1688

PRESIDENT WITH WEST DEME



Over one weekend, President Dr. Irfaan Ali visited several communities in West Demerara, engaging directly with residents to listen to their concerns and discuss ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

At each location, President Ali's engagement was marked by attentive listening and responsive dialogue, reflecting his administration's hands-on approach to governance. His visits also included personal interactions with residents, where he addressed concerns ranging from land repossession challenges to the need for improved community spaces.

President Ali's weekend tour underscored the government's proactive stance on community development, emphasising collaboration and direct action to ensure that every resident benefits from Guyana's progress.



LI ENGAGES RA COMMUNITIES



DFM

Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

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



Supligen Instant Breakfast Beverage
250 ml

139 each



National Banana or Plantain Chips 40-45 g

3/\$1



Grace Corned Beef Regular Only 340 g

299 each



Angostura Chill Lemon Lime Bitters Drink 750 ml

2/\$3



Ocho Rios Nectars
Except soursop & Sorrel Ginger 473 ml

2/220



Rubicon Organic Coconut Water 1 L

349 each



Horlicks Original Malt Drink Mix 500 g

599 each



National Charlie Biscuits Assorted 50 g

2/99¢



French's Tomato Ketchup 1 L

349 each



Nu Chef White Vinegar 4 L

199 each



Governor's Choice Hot Pepper Sauce 88.5 ml

99¢ each



Grace Organic Coconut Milk 400 ml

199 each



Titus Sardines Assorted 125 g

2/250



Nu Chef Peas & Carrots 400 g

79¢ each



Nupak White Corn Meal 10 lb

1199 each



Five Roses All Purpose Flour 10 kg

1699 each



Royal Oak Lump Charcoal 8.81 lb

1199 each



Dial Hand Soap Assorted 395 ml

2/250



Dettol Bar Soap Original 100 g

99¢ each



TMPR Alcohol Solution 473 ml

2/\$3

Delicious Jamaican Dish

Frozen Extra Easy Cook Young Milk Fed

Oxtail



\$6⁹⁹

lb/ Frozen

Don't Over Cook Your Oxtail Ready in 30-45 Minutes Top!

Frozen Square Cut Mutton Shoulder Meat



\$3⁹⁹

lb

Grown From Australia

Free Range Goat Meat



\$4⁹⁹

lb Frozen

Fresh or Frozen Beef Shank Steak Center Cut



\$4⁴⁹

lb

Salted Beef Short Ribs



\$5⁴⁹

lb

Frozen Fu Yang Headless Tiger or White Shrimp 400-500 g



\$9⁹⁹

ea

Extra Large Salted Cod Fish



\$6⁹⁹

lb

Fresh Large Chicken Feet



\$1⁹⁹

lb

Fresh Chicken Split Wings



\$1²⁹

lb

Fresh Flamingo Chicken Leg Quarters



46⁹⁹

≥ 18 kg box

With Purchase of 2 cases or More Thursday To Sunday Only

Fresh Seafood Catches

Fresh Yellow Tail Snappers 1/4 -1/2 lb size



\$4⁹⁹

lb as is

Fresh Brazilian Red Snapper 1/2 -1 lb size



\$5⁹⁹

lb as is

Fresh Golden Groupers 4-6 lb



\$6⁹⁹

lb as is

Frozen King Fish Steaks



\$7⁹⁹

lb as is

Fresh Atlantic Whole Salmon




\$3⁹⁹

lb as is

from YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE


Fresh Cooking Banana



1¹⁹

lb


Fresh Jamaican Sweet Potatoes



3⁹⁹

lb


Fresh Calaloo



2⁹⁹

lb

Fresh Jamaican Pumpkin



1⁹⁹

lb

Five Locations To Serve You Better

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

Specials in Effect Thu. July 25th until Wed. July 31st, 2024.

Finch Ave. W.

Danforth Food Market

3701 Keele St.

416-398-8123



Store Hours

Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm

Saturday 8 am to 9 pm

Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

Steeles Ave. W.

Danforth Food Market

301 Silverstone Dr.

416-740-9870



Store Hours

Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm

Saturday 9 am to 9 pm

Sunday 9 am to 8 pm

Sheppard Ave. E.

Danforth Food Market

651 Markam Rd.

416-439-6397



Store Hours

Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm

Saturday 9 am to 9 pm

Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

Under New Management

Bloor St. E.

Danforth Food Market

1225 Dundas St.

Dixie & Dundas

Mississauga

905-949-9990



Store Hours

Monday-Thurs 9:30 am to 9 pm

Fri.-Sat. 9 am to 9 pm

Sunday 9 am to 6 pm

Stafford Dr.

Danforth Food Market

144 Kennedy Road

South

289-298-0399



Store Hours

Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm

Saturday 8 am to 9 pm

Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

AIEP EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE GRADUATES



Agriculture graduates listening to Minister Mustapha

Guyana's Agriculture and Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP) is expanding, offering recent agricultural graduates valuable hands-on experience and a chance to earn a living. Launched in 2022, AIEP provides graduates with an opportunity to put their knowledge to work, as Talitha Braithwaite, a graduate of both the University of

Guyana and the Guyana School of Agriculture, enthusiastically shared: **"It can enable me to be more independent and earn cash and be my own boss,"** Braithwaite said. The programme's exciting expansion includes new areas like poultry, aquaculture, and sustainable farmstead projects. The sustainable farmstead project is particularly

innovative. It will see the construction of 500 low-income houses along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, each equipped with a coconut or breadfruit tree and a high-tech 20x40 shade house in the back. These advanced shade houses are designed to empower families to significantly boost their food production and income. Another graduate, Kestron Wilson, expressed his excitement about the poultry programme, highlighting its potential to create opportunities: **"It is providing a lot of people who don't have jobs an opportunity to make money and do things that help improve their lifestyle, better themselves,"** Wilson

said. President Ali echoed this sentiment, emphasising the programme's focus on modern poultry farming techniques to meet the growing demand for poultry products, during a meeting with 121 graduates at the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) in Mon Repos on the East Coast of Demerara. For those interested in aquaculture, the programme offers opportunities to participate in prawn production projects, like the one located at Onverwagt, Region Five. AIEP's core objective is to empower young people to become not just employees, but agricultural business owners. **"We don't**

only want you to get a job. We want you to eventually own your own agribusiness that takes you beyond an employee," President Ali said. The programme is designed to achieve this goal in three steps: translating theory into practical results, providing opportunities to earn and build capital, and facilitating access to banks to help graduates establish their own businesses. **"So, [this is] to do three things. One, bring your theory into practice, transfer the theory into results, give you the opportunity to earn, build capital, capital formation. Then we're going to help you with the banks also, so that we can create**

entrepreneurs. That is what we want. We want to lift you at a higher level," the president explained. The AIEP programme has already seen significant success with over 1,500 young people participating, including a commendable 35% women. Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture, highlighted the programme's positive impact: **"Four years ago, we had a very low number of young people who were involved in agriculture. Today, we have almost 23% of young people who make up the agriculture sector. And that's a plus for us,"** Minister Mustapha said.

ASHTON CHASE HONoured WITH LAUNCH OF NON-PROFIT DEDICATED TO HIS LEGACY

A new non-profit organisation has been launched to celebrate the remarkable life and work of Ashton Chase, a giant in Guyana's political and trade union history. The official ceremony took place at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Liliendaal. President Dr. Irfaan Ali lauded Chase's dedication to public service, calling him **"a model of true service, setting an exceptional standard."** He highlighted Chase's deep connection to the Guyanese people, stating, **"His ability to connect with the people of this country allowed him to understand**



President Ali speaking at the event

contribute to their solutions." **"It is crucial that we embed the history and contributions of individuals like Ashton Chase into the consciousness of the next generation to preserve this legacy,"** President Ali

on to say, **"His ideals must be preserved and propagated, for within them lie the seeds for building a just, inclusive, and democratic society."** Chase's distinguished career included serving as president of the Guyana

Bar Association, vice president of the Guyana Economic Society, and holding positions on the Public Service Commission and the Council of Legal Education. Notably, he was the last surviving founding member of the governing People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and served as Minister of Labour in the party's first government in 1953. President Ali stressed the importance of ensuring future generations benefit from Chase's knowledge and ideals. **"While Ashton Chase's legacy remains perfectly intact,"** he said, **"it is imperative that both**

present and future generations benefit from the ideals he championed and the wealth of knowledge he left in his writings, legal submissions, and speeches." Reflecting on Chase's unwavering commitment to workers' rights, President Ali reaffirmed his government's dedication to improving the lives of all Guyanese. **"Our commitment to One Guyana and the enhancement of every Guyanese's quality of life is steadfast and equal for every single citizen,"** the President declared. The newly formed Ashton Chase Inc. will

work to immortalise Chase's legacy across the fields of law, politics, and trade unionism. One of their key initiatives is to reprint and update Chase's eight written works, with only one currently in print despite high demand. Proceeds from these publications, along with other income streams, will be used to fund scholarships in labour law. Ashton Chase Inc. has also secured a domain name to establish an online resource centre where people can learn more about this extraordinary Guyanese leader's life and lasting impact.

STRINGENT PENALTIES FOR GOLD SMUGGLING YIELD RESULTS, SAYS DR. JAGDEO

During a press conference at Freedom House, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), announced that stringent penalties for gold smuggling are proving effective. Dr. Jagdeo shared updates on recent successes in combating illegal gold activities. Dr. Jagdeo revealed that three Chinese nationals—two men and one woman—were arrested at a City Hotel following an intelligence-led operation. These individuals are suspected of involvement in gold

smuggling, money laundering, and other illicit activities. In connection with the case, a wanted bulletin has been issued for another Chinese national wanted for money laundering and serious offences. **"This is the result of months of hard work by our intelligence personnel,"** Dr. Jagdeo stated. **"One of the major rings involving Chinese nationals, which was heavily involved in buying gold and smuggling it out to Suriname, has been dismantled thanks**

to the undercover operations that have been ongoing." He emphasised the government's proactive stance, noting that when information about gold



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

immediate actions were taken to identify the key players. **"About six months ago, I mentioned that we were focusing intently on gold smuggling. When we noticed a decline in gold declarations, the President convened several meetings with industry participants and made it clear that there would be consequences for illegal activities,"** Dr. Jagdeo explained. Dr. Jagdeo also criticized the media for underreporting the achievements of intelligence officials. To address these

"The major undercover operation, which lasted nearly six months, has begun to bear fruit. Yet, it often goes unnoticed in the newspapers because it doesn't fit the narrative that this government is ignoring these issues," he argued. A little over a month ago, in his role as Vice President, Dr. Jagdeo emphasised the need to strengthen the gold exportation system and increase penalties for smuggling. He highlighted that ongoing efforts have helped local authorities identify new smuggling tactics.

To address these challenges, a task force has been established, including the Attorney-General, the Minister of Finance, the Commissioner-General of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), the Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Governor of the Central Bank, and representatives from the Guyana Gold Board. This task force has already identified regulatory loopholes and is working to tighten the regulations to prevent future smuggling.

McCoy rubbishes Olive Sampson’s claims of affiliation to IDPADA-G

Olive Cannings Sampson, the Chief Executive Officer of the now disgraced and virtually defunct International Decade of People of African Descent Guyana -IDPADA-G, has written to newspaper editors to brazenly assert exclusivity for its ‘sister’ political organisation, the African Cultural Development Association-ACDA, regarding emancipation celebrations and to continue attempting to fraudulently arrogate to herself and IDPADA-G, the right to pronounce and make national representation for and on behalf of Guyanese of African Descent.

It is now therefore more than apparent that the management of this organisation has cocooned itself into a shameless rhetorical state of denial about its fall from grace and consequentially, its revoked locus standi to continue meaningful representation of Guyanese of African descent.

Guyanese at home and abroad bore witness to the shocking revelations a few years ago, of IDPADA-G’s self-inflicted unravelling; of its incestuous mismanagement and misappropriation of public funds amounting to more than a billion dollars of taxpayers’ money at the expense of dozens of community-based organisations which were genuinely positioned to facilitate the empowerment of their various communities through what should have been equitable sharing of those public funds.

IDPADA-G hopes that Guyanese will forget the embarrassing spectacle of learning how a small cabal of greedy and entitled individuals at the helm of the organization siphoned the member’s money into a private company structure with vulgar emoluments and other benefits swirling only in that circle of Afro-demigods, and allowing only for crumbs and trickles to fall slavishly to the feet of member groups; often, none at all.

Those criminal revelations all of Guyana would recall, resulted in a rebellious exodus of the vast majority of member groups from the wretched, corrupt halls of Mama IDPADA-G; demanding instead, that their government engage them directly and help revive their unshakable commitment to genuine representation of their respective constituent communities across the country. Their message was loud and unambiguous; for the government to periodically release the committed funds for the extended International Decade directly among them, to finally allow for transparent and credible adumbration of the cause for upliftment and empowerment beyond what is embodied in the government’s national transformation agenda.

How ironic and utterly disrespectful it is therefore, that having unshackled themselves from the corrupt tyranny of Cannings-Sampson, Alexander et al, the new Association of People of African Descent-APAD is being subjected to continuous public lynching by IDPADA-G; this time around, for where, when, and how it chooses to carry out the wishes of its members for the cele-

bration of emancipation 2024.

As if it were not previously clear enough, allow me to reiterate the government’s position concerning the deployment of public funds and support for the vision of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the deserving extension of the ‘Decade of People of African Descent’; recognition and unwavering support will flow unabated to those organisations genuinely engaged in representing Guyanese of African Descent, and whose ethos is NOT self-serving, incestuous, and corrupt.

Consequently, the Government’s support for observances and celebrations of the 186th emancipation in Guyana is assured for the dozens of community-based organisations that have boldly and judiciously unshackled themselves from the disgraced IDPADA-G.



Kwame McCoy, Minister for Information and Public Affairs

Our Family Caring for Yours

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

Family owned and operated since 1948.



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

www.ogdenfuneralhome.com

MEN ON MISSION INITIATIVE PROVIDES SECURE HOUSING FOR TWO MORE FAMILIES

The Men on Mission (MoM) initiative continues to make a positive impact on communities across Guyana. Doreen Yansen, a 79-year-old retiree,



Doreen Yansen is now a proud owner of a two-bedroom house

finally achieved her lifelong dream of owning a home thanks to the programme. "I feel so

happy," she beamed. "I've gotten what I've been waiting for." Yansen's story is one of many where MoM has stepped in to provide stability and hope for families facing challenges.

Another beneficiary, Shamdai Pumu, a 53-year-old widow with two grandchildren, can now rest easy in a safe and secure home. Previously living in a deteriorated dwelling, Pumu expressed her relief, "This has now changed my life because I have a home to live in and



Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony and Doreen Yansen inside her new home

we are happy." Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health, emphasised the initiative's focus on transforming the role of men in society. "We believe that men can do a lot of good things," Dr. Anthony stated. "This is one

of those good things that the Men on Mission is doing." MoM aims to go beyond just building houses; it aspires to build a future filled with opportunity. Investing in the next generation is a key part of the programme. The recently launched

Youth Empowerment and Mentorship Programme provides a comprehensive support system for young people, offering after-school activities, academic assistance, counselling, and motivational sessions. "This is one way to ensure men can contribute positively to society," explained Roger Rogers, a committee member of MoM. "By strengthening families, we strengthen the community." Through a well-structured selection

process, MoM prioritises supporting vulnerable groups like the elderly, single parents, and those with disabilities. Considering both living conditions and individual needs, MoM ensures its resources reach those who will benefit most. The Men on Mission initiative is proving to be a powerful force for positive change in Guyana. By providing secure housing and fostering a supportive environment for families and youth, MoM is building a brighter future for the nation.

LA PARFAITE HARMONIE BUSINESSES RECEIVE \$2.5M LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION GRANT



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal handing over cash entitlement to beneficiaries

Fourteen (14) small businesses in La Parfaite Harmonie, Region Three, recently received a total of \$2.5 million in compensation for income disruptions caused by infrastructure projects in their community.

This initiative falls under the Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility Programme's (AHUAP) Livelihood Restoration Plan, designed to support residents impacted by such projects (Project

Affected Persons - PAPs). The cheques were presented by Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, and Minister within the Ministry, Susan Rodrigues, at the ministry's headquarters. Minister Croal emphasised that AHUAP goes beyond simply building houses. It prioritises community development through infrastructure improvements across the West Bank of Demerara. "This project alone involved \$3 billion spent on infrastructure works, including road networks and

drainage systems," he revealed. Minister Rodrigues echoed the programme's significance, highlighting the importance of compensating business owners for lost income. "This is a crucial and comprehensive

programme," she stated. "We acknowledge the inconveniences caused by infrastructure works and strive to compensate those affected." She added that the

beneficiaries will receive training facilitated by the Small Business Bureau (SBB) and the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA). "These training sessions will equip you with valuable knowledge in financial management, business management, and taxation – knowledge that will prove even more beneficial than the financial grants," Minister Rodrigues explained. The AHUAP programme also includes the Core Homes Support initiative, which continues to improve the lives of vulnerable families in Regions Three and Four.

Residents of Cane Grove, Strathaven, Victoria, Nootenzuil, Foulis, and surrounding areas on the East Coast Demerara are celebrating better vision thanks to a new Ministry of Health initiative. The program offers free eye screenings and eyeglasses for those most in need. "It's good. It helps the community and me," said 14-year-old Arianna Thomas, a beneficiary of the programme. The initiative targets two specific groups: people 18 and under and those over 65 years old. This focus ensures that both children and elderly residents, who may be more susceptible to vision problems, can access essential eye care. Minister of Health, Dr. Frank

NEW EYE SCREENING PROGRAMME BRINGS CLEAR VISION TO SEVERAL ECD COMMUNITIES



A beneficiary with her voucher

Anthony, emphasised the importance of accessibility. "We want to make sure everyone can benefit, not just those in Georgetown," he explained. To achieve this goal, the Ministry has partnered with eye testing and spectacle companies to bring the programme directly to

communities. Bhagwandin Ransarran, another programme beneficiary, expressed his appreciation. "This eye clinic and voucher program is a great help, especially for children and the elderly," he remarked. Chandrowtee Ramnarain echoed this sentiment, highlighting the convenience factor. "This benefits everyone," she said. "It saves on transportation costs, and parents don't have to take their kids far to see a doctor. It's a great service to have in each community."

The programme has already had a life-changing impact on many residents. Lloyd Fraser from Victoria, who never had his eyes tested before, is grateful for the opportunity. "I am very thankful because I have to put \$10,000 more into this money for my glasses because my eyes are very bad," he shared. Nine-year-old Aseanna Lawrence from Victoria is another beneficiary whose life will be improved by the programme. "I am happy because my eyes have been hurting a lot. Most of the time when I am

in school, my eyes hurt... I couldn't see what I was doing. I would have to erase my work and do it all over again," she explained. Aseanna is looking forward to a brighter future, "I feel very happy that I have my chance to get a pair of glasses so I could see." Veronica Joseph from Foulis is also thankful for the programme. "It's a good thing because my daughter needs glasses and this \$15,000 voucher is very helpful for all the school children and my daughter," she emphasised.

The Ministry of Health's new eye screening program is a shining example of a government initiative that directly improves the lives of its citizens. By ensuring easy access to eye care, the programme is promoting better vision and a brighter future for Guyanese communities.



A child getting his eyes tested

GUYANA TO IMPLEMENT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE UNITS NATIONWIDE



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC, announced a significant initiative aimed at reducing crime and promoting rehabilitation: the establishment of restorative justice units across the country.

"These Probation Departments enjoy a functional relationship with the court systems across the country,

particularly the Magistrates' Court. We are twinning the services. That is to say, that each Probation Department will also offer restorative justice services," Minister Nandall explained during his presentation at the First Conference on Criminal Justice Reform.

The programme leverages existing infrastructure by integrating restorative justice services within the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's probation centres.

"There are striking similarities between restorative justice and the services offered by probation officers," Minister Nandall said. **"I hope that there will**

be great synergy in the delivery of these services."

This combined approach ensures easier access to restorative justice services for magistrates nationwide. **"The probation officer and the restorative justice officer will both attend Magistrates' Court,"** the Minister elaborated.

This initiative follows the passage of the Restorative Justice Act in 2022. The government has undertaken extensive efforts to introduce this concept into the legal system.

Community outreach programmes have been conducted in various regions to educate community leaders, law enforcement personnel, religious figures, and educators

on the principles and implementation of restorative justice.

This process aims to promote healing, accountability, and a deeper understanding of

to unprecedented levels," he stressed.

"This morbid reality demonstrably establishes beyond doubt that penal sanctions and the conventional approach to punishment have abysmally failed to achieve the conceptual objective of deterrence," Minister Nandall continued.

Restorative justice is not intended for all crimes. The programme targets specific minor and petty offences, allowing for community-level intervention and focused rehabilitation efforts.

The act specifies that restorative justice is applicable to offenses carrying a penalty of three years or less.



Part of the gathering at the First Conference on Criminal Justice Reform.

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative justice offers an alternative approach to criminal justice. It focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime by facilitating communication between victims and offenders.

the situation.

The Attorney General emphasised the limitations of traditional justice methods. **"The harsh and inconvenient truth is, that despite the use of these highly punitive sanctions, including death, crime has not only increased but has increased**

GUYANA POLICE FORCE CELEBRATES 185TH ANNIVERSARY WITH AWARDS CEREMONY- OVER 100 AWARDS PRESENTED

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) marked its 185th anniversary with a prestigious award ceremony held at the Police Officers' Mess Annexe in Georgetown. The event honoured officers and support groups across various divisions for their dedication to public service.

Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of exemplary service and unwavering integrity. **"I want to entreat you all today to keep focus on integrity, to keep focus on**

the questions of improvement. This is what we need now more than ever... We must not take our eyes off of that ball," Minister Benn stressed. He further encouraged officers to prioritise personal growth for continued improvement.

Minister Benn reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to supporting the GPF in its mission to reduce crime and violence nationwide. This commitment is reflected in billions of dollars invested to strengthen the force's capabilities.

[government] want the investments that we are making in new buildings, in



Guyana Police Force (GPF) 185th Anniversary and Awards Ceremony

equipment and all assets, those have to be commensurate with the progress that we are making," Minister Benn underscored.

Some key investments highlighted by the Minister includes

\$1 billion allocated for expanding the force's land and water fleet, enhancing mobility



and response time; \$2 billion earmarked for advanced technology and innovative crime-fighting initiatives; \$5.4 billion designated for infrastructural development to improve working conditions; \$250 million set aside

to bolster training across various fields, equipping officers with necessary skills; and \$152 million



dedicated to community policing initiatives, fostering stronger relationships between officers and residents.

Commissioner of Police (ag), Clifton Hicken, commended the officers for their exceptional service

in maintaining law and order throughout Guyana. **"Your efforts have not gone unnoticed as we remain steadfast in fulfilling the mandate of the Guyana Police Force,"** Commissioner Hicken remarked. He emphasised the pivotal role officers play in achieving the Force's goals.

The ceremony served as a platform to recognise outstanding achievements. Over 100 special awards and tokens of appreciation were presented to various departments and individuals.

MABARUMA TO RECEIVE LONG-AWAITED DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRY OFFICE

Residents of Mabaruma in Region One will soon have their own Deeds and Commercial Registry office for the first time, according to an announcement made by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC during an outreach to the town.

"This service has never been extended

to this region before," Minister Nandall said. **"This is the first time in Guyana that the Deeds and Commercial Registry is having or will be having a presence here...We will establish an office here permanently."**

The new office will be located within the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) building

and will allow residents to register businesses, file property deeds, and access ownership records without leaving Mabaruma.

"It is good because [some of us] don't have that money all the time to go to Georgetown and come back," resident Claudette Wong told the Department

of Public Information (DPI). **"I am glad that they are bringing it here because it would be very convenient for the people here in Mabaruma."**

Lloyd Cameron believes that the new office is a step in the right direction for Region One. **"This is something [we have] been looking for, for a long time,"** he said.

"It will help because people wouldn't have to go to renew their papers and documents in town... Having it nearby will be good and it will also bring revenue."

The announcement is part of a larger government initiative to bring essential services closer to the people. The government also



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC

plans to open Deeds and Commercial Registry offices in Bartica, Mahdia, Lethem, and Linden.

MORE GUYANESE UNDERGOING OIL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Guyana is ramping up its oil and gas sector expertise with a three-week training programme for government personnel. This collaborative effort highlights the country's commitment to responsible resource management and workforce development.

Twenty-five technical staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources are participating in the intensive programme, held at the Guyana Forestry Commission's Complex in Georgetown. The initiative is a joint effort among the Ministry, the Chinese Embassy, CNOOC Guyana, and the Development and Research Centre of China Geological Services.

Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat, in underscoring the critical importance of capacity building, said, **"We must build [expertise] fast."** He acknowledged the rapid development of the oil and gas industry.

The training programme will equip participants with the knowledge to effectively manage and regulate the sector while addressing global climate change concerns and promoting

environmental sustainability. and monetisation, highlighting the development and strengthening its oil and



Guyana upskilling 25 for oil boom. The training programme targets sustainability and gas development

Minister Bharrat encouraged participants to leverage the acquired skills for long-term benefits. He stressed the need for a strategic shift towards gas utilisation importance of gas framework. She described the training programme as the second of five planned for 2024, signifying a commitment to knowledge exchange. Chinese Ambassador Guo Haiyan emphasised the value of collaboration in supporting Guyana's Ambassador Haiyan

also underscored the programme's objective of sharing best practices to minimise the environmental impact of fossil fuel development.

The training programme concludes on July 28, with participants expected to travel to China for further development opportunities. This comprehensive approach signifies Guyana's commitment to building a skilled domestic workforce and ensuring the responsible management of its oil and gas resources.

SMALL BUSINESSES GET EQUIPPED FOR GOVT CONTRACTS



The one day event, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of small businesses in competing for government contracts

The Small Business Bureau (SBB) and Public Procurement Commission (PPC) joined forces again to deliver a successful Procurement Training aimed at empowering small businesses. Over 109 participants attended the event at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC), marking a significant step in boosting small business involvement in government contracts.

This training is part of an ongoing effort to fulfil a legal requirement. The Small Business Act mandates that at least 20% of government procurement comes from small businesses. The PPC is also fulfilling its constitutional obligation to promote public awareness of the procurement process.

"This Small Business Procurement Programme ensures that small businesses have fair access to these opportunities," said Tracy Gibson, Deputy Chairman of the SBB. "We encourage all participants to actively engage and ask questions."

Pauline Chase, Chairman of the PPC, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the commission's commitment to providing guidance and training.

Mohammed Shazim Ibrahim, CEO of the SBB, provided an overview of the Bureau's resources available to small businesses, including the online supplier portal. This portal streamlines the bidding process and offers a centralised view of government tenders.

The training covered key aspects of public procurement, including the legal framework, tendering procedures, and evaluation processes. Experts from the PPC facilitated the sessions, equipping participants with the knowledge to confidently navigate government procurement and leverage the 20% set-aside programme, which ensure that at least 20% of government contracts are allotted to micro and small businesses in accordance with the Small Business Act.

GUYANA GAINS 45 NEW HEAVY-DUTY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Guyana's workforce received a welcome boost with the graduation of 45 individuals as certified heavy-duty equipment operators (HDEO). The graduates completed a training programme offered by the Ministry of Labour's Board of Industrial Training (BIT) at the Guyana Industrial Training Centre (GITC) in Georgetown.

This first batch of 2024 HDEO graduates marks a significant milestone for the programme. Kitty resident Jonathan Garnett, a graduate, highlighted the program's impact on his skills and future. **"The programme has enriched my skill set and prospects,"** Garnett said, looking forward to utilising his newfound expertise and pursuing online courses offered through a collaboration between Coursera and the Ministry of Labour.

Remona Williams, another graduate from La Parfaite Harmonie, defied traditional norms by entering a male-dominated field. "It is an overwhelming feeling because at first when I started, I was scared of getting onto the machine and doing the basic stuff," Williams shared. Overcoming her initial fear, she became a skilled operator, crediting supportive mentors for her success. **"Now, I**

was able to overcome that feeling...And they cannot get me out of the machine," she declared with pride.

John Bowen from Plaisance emphasised the programme's transformative power. **"Now that I am certified, I am going to push myself more to be employed in a company that has benefits,"** Bowen stated, encouraging others to take advantage of this opportunity.

Robert Cave from Kitty echoed this sentiment, acknowledging the programme's long-term benefits and his intention to explore further training options with BIT.



Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton along with other officials and the graduates

Labour Minister, Joseph Hamilton, commended the graduates for their perseverance and contribution to Guyana's development. He offered special recognition to the women for excelling in a traditionally male field. Minister Hamilton revealed that the programme stemmed from a community walkabout in Kitty initiated by President Ali.

Officials encouraged graduates to utilise services provided by the Central Manpower and Recruitment Agency (CRMA). The Board of Industrial Training (BIT) remains committed to offering skills development opportunities through training programmes across Guyana.

The second batch of 50 trainees recently began training under the programme to meet the growing market demand in this field.

PRESIDENT ALI ANNOUNCES \$1.5 BILLION INVESTMENT IN REGION THREE INFRASTRUCTURE

President Mohamed Ali announced a significant investment in improving infrastructure in Region Three during a community walkabout. **"An investment of over a billion dollars in those three areas alone...Close to \$1.5 billion,"** President Ali stated, highlighting the substantial allocation. **"So, that is to tell you the amount of resources that have to be spent to do these roads."**

This initiative focuses on rehabilitating approximately 25 roads in Recht-door-Zee, Westminster, and Onderneeming, with the project aiming for swift completion by utilizing local contractors and asphaltic concrete for construction. President Ali revealed, **"The design for the entire network will be finalised soon, along with surveys**

to determine priority areas based on occupancy rates." Addressing drainage and irrigation issues, the President disclosed, **"We have mobilised four excavators in Schoonord, La Parfaite Harmonie, and Lust-en-Rust,"** acknowledging identified blockages in distribution lines. Residents can also expect improved water access, as President Ali reported, **"Residents were also assured of receiving first-level treated water by December."** This progress is tied to the near-completion (65%) of the new water treatment plant at Lust-en-Rust.

The project involves **"running of transmission lines and drainage of two wells at Westminster and L'Oratoire to supply the plant,"** explained President Ali. The transmission lines

are 95 percent complete, and once finalised, interconnection works and network upgrades will follow.

President Ali also addressed challenges **and get them to pay,"** President Ali stated. He highlighted the misuse of government resources currently allocated for cleaning neglected lands, noting, **"In many cases, we invest our own resources that should go to roads and infrastructure to clean the land."**

During the walkabout, President Ali identified community grounds in Cornelia Ida and La Parfaite Harmonie in need of rehabilitation, pledging **"immediate**

intervention" to address these concerns. He also visited Zeelugt (Old Scheme and Railway View) and expressed frustration with the slow progress of road and bridge construction, urging the Public Works Ministry to take **"the necessary steps to expedite the works."**

Meeting with squatters residing on government reserve land, President Ali assured them of continued support for their relocation to developed housing schemes. **"All who got house lots when you move, we are going to help you... you got this steel and cement vouchers,"** he said, **stressing the importance of relocation. "Importantly, you can't stay here.... It's not good for the children, it's not good for you."**

President Ali underscored the government's commitment to tackling squatting nationwide and ensuring citizens have access to safe and comfortable living conditions. **"We want to work together to improve this... Because we want the children to have the best environment... Makes no sense you invest your money and build here and use it,"** he said.

A follow-up visit by the Ministries of Housing, Public Works, and Local Government is scheduled to further discuss the relocation process with residents. The President was joined by key officials, including Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, and Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag, along with technical officers.



President Ali during a walkabout exercise in several communities in Region Three

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN LINDEN TO ADDRESS REGIONAL FLOODING



Prime Minister Phillips meeting with key stakeholders to address flooding issues

unplanned meeting at the Watooka Guest House in Linden, Region 10, to discuss the severe flooding affecting the area. Key stakeholders, including opposition MP Jermaine Figuera and representatives from the Linden Town Council, were present.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of collaboration, urging all parties to

set aside political differences to tackle the current challenges. He highlighted the urgent need to repair critical infrastructure, particularly drainage systems, throughout the region.

"We need a comprehensive plan from this committee, the Town Council, and the Regional Democratic Council," PM Phillips stated. "The

government will support you in moving forward."

While acknowledging a lack of preparedness for the rainy season by local authorities, the Prime Minister stressed the government's role as a facilitator, providing resources as requested by the region. He emphasised collaboration between central, regional, and local governments, as well as the private sector,

Prime Minister Mark Phillips announced a significant investment in Guyana's agricultural sector during a recent outreach programme in the Lower Pomeroon River area.

"This year alone, we will spend \$1 billion in the Lower Pomeroon," Prime Minister Phillips revealed. **"To date, we have spent \$422.3 million in this area. And we have another \$588.6 million in ongoing projects that are on target and will be completed before the end of this year."**

These investments aim to transform the region into a major



Prime Minister Phillips addressing residents

"We have decided to resuscitate the coconut industry in the Pomeroon," said Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha. **"We are importing high yielding Green**



Some of the residents of Friendship Canal, along the Pomeroon River

smart agriculture industry," he explained.

The outreach programme also included the distribution of farming tools to further

empower local farmers. With these investments and support systems, the Lower Pomeroon River area is poised to become a leading agricultural producer in Guyana.

\$1 BILLION TO BE PUMPED IN LOWER POMEROON TO BOOST AGRICULTURE

the government's steadfast support," he stated.

This support includes the distribution of essential farming supplies. Additionally, the government is focusing on introducing high-value crops, aiming to reduce Guyana's food import bill.

"We are working to transform our agriculture sector and to move it from a more labour intensive to a climate

GUYANA PROPOSES GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE AT CONCORDIA AMAZONAS SUMMIT

President Ali has made a passionate plea for the integration of biodiversity into the global agenda. During a presentation at the Concordia 2024 Amazonas Summit, President Ali proposed the creation of a **"global biodiversity alliance"** to develop a scalable model for environmental protection.

"It is a short timeframe; it's a lot of work, but I think in the interest of the planet, we have to do that," President Ali remarked. He expressed confidence that this initiative would foster international collaboration, innovative financing solutions, and sustainable development.

The President outlined an ambitious plan with a target completion date of 2025. He emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement, envisioning a viable and scientifically sound model that can be presented to the United Nations.

Guyana has positioned itself as a leader in this potential alliance. The nation boasts a successful Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and demonstrably low deforestation rates. Guyana has also pioneered the monetisation of carbon credits, generating an innovative climate finance instrument. A President Ali highlighted these achievements as **what we're doing is aligning national strategy with global** explained.

The President also proposed the creation of a prestigious **"global Oscar for climate and environment"** to raise global awareness and focus on sustainable development initiatives.

The Concordia Amazonas Summit, held at the Baganara Island Resort in Guyana, brought together leaders from various sectors to address the critical issue of preserving the Amazon rainforest. The presence of dignitaries like Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat and former Colombian President Iván Duque underscored the summit's significance on the world stage.

Former President of the Republic of Colombia and Concordia Leadership Council Member, Mr Iván Duque contributing to the discourse during the summit

US \$750 million carbon credit sales contract specifically allocates 15% of the funds to indigenous villages for sustainable livelihood initiatives.

a foundation for future endeavours. **"A lot of work has already started... So, you see [as part of] maintaining Guyana's forests, action. It is the same strategy I believe we can develop for biodiversity and to bring all the stakeholders together,"** he

GUYANA NOMINATED FOR WORLD'S LEADING SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION AWARD

Great news for Guyana's travel industry! The country has been nominated for the prestigious World's Leading Sustainable Destination Award by the World Sustainable Travel & Hospitality Awards (WSTHA) 2024.

"The Guyana Tourism Authority is thrilled to share this news," said Kamrul Baksh, Director of the Authority. This nomination adds to Guyana's impressive record of sustainability awards over the past five years, including World's #1 Best of Ecotourism, Top 10 Sustainable Destination, Leading Sustainable Adventure Destination, and recent recognition as a leader in Responsible Tourism in South America.

Launched at COP28 in Dubai, the WSTHA is a new sister programme to the established World Travel Awards (founded in 1993). It aims to recognise and celebrate individuals and organisations making a positive impact on sustainable travel and tourism.

The inaugural programme's applications were evaluated by Nova Business School, with a final shortlist approved by the WSTHA Advisory Board, a distinguished group of sustainability experts. This board includes representatives from organisations like the World Travel & Tourism Council, Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, and International Council on Hotel, Restaurant & Institutional Education.

VOTING NOW MAKES A DIFFERENCE

"We encourage all Guyanese residents and travel industry members to vote for Guyana today," urged Annarie Seecharan, Senior Marketing Manager at the Guyana Tourism Authority. A win in this category would further solidify Guyana's reputation as a global leader in sustainable travel, attracting more tourists and benefiting local communities, the economy, and protected areas.



This nomination adds to Guyana's impressive record of sustainability awards over the past five years

EPA GETS BROADER MANDATE - TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC MODELS FOR NATURE



President Ali during his speech at the EPA's 28th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Ceremony

President Ali is calling for an expanded role for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition to its current responsibilities of regulating development projects and enforcing environmental laws,

the EPA will now be tasked with developing economic models for ecological and climate services.

President Ali made this announcement during a speech at the EPA's 28th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Ceremony. He highlighted the need to move beyond traditional economic sectors like oil and gas, and to recognise the value of climate services in Guyana's development strategy.

Noting that there is no model as yet globally, President Ali said, **"We have to do a lot of the thinking and theoretical**

work ourselves." He emphasised the EPA's crucial role in establishing these models and frameworks.

While environmental protection remains a priority, the President also urged EPA staff to embrace innovation and continuous learning. **"Being at the centre of everything requires constant awareness,"** he stressed, **"and that comes from reading, understanding, and a love of learning about where our country is going."**

Guyana's commitment to sustainability is well documented in its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, a plan that positions the country as a leader in forest and biodiversity conservation. President Ali also mentioned plans to revitalise and modernise "green parks" as a model for international promotion.

"We're aligning our environmental standards with those of the U.S.," he stated. **"The Western Hemisphere demands a unified approach to regulations and laws. We're still learning best practices, but Guyana also has the opportunity to showcase its own unique models."**

The ceremony concluded with President Ali congratulating the EPA's awardees and recognising the significant responsibility they hold in overseeing and monitoring development projects. He emphasised that the event served not only as a celebration, but also as a springboard for the EPA's future direction.



Part of the gathering

GOVT AXES CONTRACTORS FOR MISSING DEADLINES ON KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



Bridge connecting Zeelugt North and Tuschen North

The government is taking a firm stance against delays in critical infrastructure projects. Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, displayed the government's zero-tolerance policy by terminating several contracts. These terminations were a direct response to incomplete projects

exceeding their deadlines. The affected projects were deemed crucial for improving the lives of citizens, and the overall development of the country.

During an inspection in the Essequibo Islands-West Demerara district, Minister Edghill made the immediate decision to terminate several projects. He acknowledged the inconvenience this caused residents, stating, "As a Ministry, we have to take

responsibility for the inconvenience and the difficulty that you are facing... The intent was that we should have brought relief to you by building the road because when we embark on a road project, it is to improve the lives of people but to the contrary, it would have made life more difficult."

One of the most significant projects

affected is the Bendorff to Maripa Access Road. This \$55 million project, awarded to JP General Construction and Services on August 2, 2023, had a six-month deadline. However, with only 45% of the 1,000-meter road completed, the Minister took decisive action. "We have to work with principle. So, you are no longer on this project," Minister Edghill declared.

The rehabilitation of a bridge connecting

Zeelugt North and Tuschen North, as well as the First Cross Street (SH) project in Aracari, also faced substantial delays.

Minister Edghill provided reassurance to residents, stating, "I am committing to you that this work will be completed within a few months. Whoever it is contracted to it will not be six months. They will have to work day and night to complete it." To expedite the completion of these vital projects, a shortlist of qualified contractors will be made available soon.

The government has announced a \$200 million project to improve critical roads in South Georgetown's Rasville and Roxanne Burnham Gardens communities.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, revealed the plans during a community meeting. He assured residents that engineers from the Ministry's Special Projects Unit will be deployed shortly to begin work.

"The goal is to substantially complete, if not all,

\$200M ROADS UPGRADE PLANNED FOR RASVILLE AND ROXANNE BURNHAM GARDENS

of the roadworks by September, before the new school term starts," Minister Edghill said.

The project goes beyond just road repairs, Minister Edghill emphasised, creating a more attractive environment for vendors, improving their working conditions and those of their customers.

"We want residents to benefit from this project,"

he said. "There will be opportunities for small contracts involving cleaning and drainage improvement, ensuring the community itself sees a positive impact."

This initiative aligns with the Ministry's Main Access Roads Programme. Upgrading Cane View Street in South Ruimveldt Gardens is also on the agenda, aiming to



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill speaking to the residents of Rasville and Roxanne Burnham Gardens

improve traffic flow from the Heroes Highway.

Foreign Affairs Minister Hugh Todd

joined Minister Edghill at the meeting, reiterating the government's commitment to

inclusivity. "We are here to serve you," he said to residents. "Your concerns are our priorities. No community will be left behind under our administration."

The meeting also encouraged residents to explore and participate in various government programmes available to them.

BOAT OPERATORS IN MALALI AND MURITARO NOW LICENCED AND CERTIFIED

Following a safety training and evaluation programme by the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), 79 boat operators from Malali and Muritaro villages have been awarded licences and Certificates of Competency Master.

This important



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, MARAD Director General Steven Thomas along with boat operators from Malali and Muritaro

achievement signifies that these operators have now acquired the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the rivers safely and effectively.

Forty-three (43) operators from Malali and 36 from Muritaro successfully completed the programme,

demonstrating their commitment to enhancing safety on the waterways.

Toshao (village chief) of Malali, Hanun Chattergoon, expressed his gratitude for the initiative. He acknowledged that the licences and certificates not only improve safety,

but also provide crucial documentation required for operating watercraft.

Similarly, Toshao Owen Bowling of Muritaro highlighted the increased confidence among the boat operators in his village. He commended President Irfan Ali for prioritising this programme, and encouraged the government to continue its good work.

Residents and farmers in Victoria Village, East Coast Demerara, have reason to celebrate as the Ministry of Agriculture announced a range of initiatives aimed at revitalising the community's agricultural sector.

"These interventions are aimed at increasing food productivity," declared Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, during a recent farmers' meeting in the village.

Minister Mustapha outlined key plans,

including emergency works to desilt canals and the employment of local farmers for ongoing maintenance.

Furthermore, the Minister committed to clearing three acres of farmland, addressing a major concern for farmers and improving accessibility to their land.

"We want to help farmers in the community," Minister Mustapha emphasised. "We want to bring back these communities to their former glory. Agriculture

D&I BOOST FOR VICTORIA VILLAGE

is important to us because it is the production of food," he stressed.

The Minister's commitments extend beyond land clearing. The community will receive black giant chickens, tillers, and mist blowers to enhance agricultural production.

"There are a lot of exciting opportunities, but we have to be prepared to work. That is why we are coming into the communities to listen

to the concerns of the grassroots farmers," Minister Mustapha stated, underscoring the importance of collaboration.

Victoria Village has benefitted from various government initiatives over the years, including planting materials, an access bridge, road rehabilitation, breeding bulls, and previous D&I projects. The Minister assured residents of continued support.

Adding to the good news, 16 streets



Minister Mustapha outlined key plans to the farmers

in the community will be constructed or rehabilitated by the Ministry of Public Works. Streets slated for

improvement include Benn, Last Cross, Spencer, Cato, Church, Well, Bagrice, and Dublin Streets.

MORUCA SUB-DISTRICT GETS ONLINE -HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

The residents of Moruca Sub-District in Region One can now celebrate improved connectivity! The National Data Management Authority (NDMA) officially commissioned a high-speed internet service in the area, aiming to bridge the digital divide for hinterland communities. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, speaking at the commissioning ceremony at the Kamwatta Primary School, emphasised the crucial role of improved connectivity. **"We are in phase one of the roll-out period," he declared, "and our intention is to connect 53 communities in this region during this phase, expected to be completed within the month of July. We are currently at**



Prime Minister Phillips at the commissioning of the Kamwatta ICT Hub, Region One

33 communities." Following the connection of 20 more communities, the project will move on to phase two, bringing internet access to additional villages. The facilities that are already enjoying high-speed internet include Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hubs, schools, and health centres. Prime Minister Phillips reiterated the government's commitment to development and bridging the gap between the coastland and hinterland. **"We will connect every Guyanese to the future," he asserted. "So, every community will be connected digitally... You will do better... in terms of education, health, agriculture, and those other crucial areas that are being developed..."** This improved internet access will empower beneficiaries of programmes like the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), and scholarship

programmes. Students and teachers can now conduct research, assignments, and projects more efficiently. The Ministry of Health's Telemedicine Programme is also poised to benefit significantly from this faster and more reliable connection. Adding to the good news, Prime Minister Phillips also commissioned the Kamwatta ICT Hub, which will further enhance the benefits of the new high-speed service. Residents can also look forward to upcoming training sessions. **"We intend to conduct a programme [which] will see you trained on how to have proper internet hygiene, [and] proper cyber hygiene,"** explained General Manager of NDMA

Christopher Deen. **"Not every message or advertisement which you see is intended for your own well-being... You need to be very careful with how you utilise this service."** Project Manager of the ICT Access and E-services for Hinterland, Poor, and

infrastructure is very important to these communities," he stated. **"But we also believe in building human resource capacities because that goes hand-in-hand with the infrastructural work that we have been doing to close the digital divide."**



Moruca Sub-District now accessing high-speed internet connection

Remote Communities With high-speed internet access and training initiatives, the Moruca Sub-District is well on its way to a more connected and empowered future.

GUYANA PITCHES ITSELF AS "JAGUAR ECONOMY" TO INVESTORS, CALLS FOR COLLABORATION IN THE CARIBBEAN



Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Guyana's investment chief, (left) at the recent investment promotion meeting in the Dominican Republic

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Guyana's investment chief, made a strong case for his country at a recent investment promotion meeting in the Dominican Republic. He urged investment

promotion agencies across the Caribbean and Central America to work together to maximise investment opportunities in the region. During the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) meeting, Dr. Ramsaroop highlighted Guyana's potential as a "Jaguar Economy" – a powerhouse fueled by recent economic growth,

and investments in social development, food security, climate change solutions, and energy. He presented Guyana as a prime destination for sustainable investments in various sectors, including tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, information and communication technology (ICT), and forestry. Dr. Ramsaroop also emphasised the

growing partnership between Guyana and the Dominican Republic. The two countries have recently strengthened diplomatic ties, signed cooperation agreements, and established a Dominican embassy in Guyana. Their private sectors are also collaborating in areas like tourism, energy, and construction. This outreach aligns with President Ali's Vision 2030 plan to

transform Guyana into a global hub for business, ecotourism, and leisure. Dr. Ramsaroop has been actively promoting Guyana at investor conferences worldwide in support of this vision. The WAIPA meeting itself focused on building a regional agenda to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). Dr. Ramsaroop even extended an invitation to host the 2025 WAIPA meeting in Guyana.

GUYANA TO IMPLEMENT IMPROVED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR TRACKING RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

The Ministry of Health is partnering with the Pan American Health Organisation-World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) to implement a new surveillance system at regional hospitals. This system will allow for more effective tracking, diagnosis, and response to respiratory viruses like influenza. **"We have several databases and sometimes it takes some time for us to analyse what we have in those databases,"** said Minister of Health

Dr. Frank Anthony. **"The crucial software will enhance surveillance services countrywide, and ensure a coordinated response, for the first time."** The new system will streamline data collection from various databases, allowing for faster and more accurate analysis. Timely data will enable a quicker and more targeted response to outbreaks of respiratory viruses. The system will help to distinguish

between influenza and other similar illnesses, leading to more accurate diagnoses, and appropriate community responses. Guyana currently has four sentinel sites for surveillance, but this number is expected to increase in the coming months to cover more of the country's hospitals. The aim is to expand the services offered at these medical institutions and improve overall healthcare preparedness. Dr. Anthony emphasised the importance of this new

system in preparing Guyana for future pandemics. **"We need to be able to understand what is happening," he said. "We are working to build out a system to track viruses and bacteria in the population."** A three-day workshop was recently conducted to educate medical professionals on using the new surveillance system. The workshop covers topics such as sentinel surveillance, data entry, case follow-up, and



Minister Anthony addressing the three-day workshop

system functionality. **"I urge all of you to pay keen attention to the concepts being taught here,"** Dr. Anthony told the participants.

CHARLEY'S CARIBBEAN CUISINE

For all your catering
needs

1158 Morningside Ave, Scarborough
(at Morningside)

(416) 282-8608

Fabulous authentic Guyanese food. We can't make this for these prices. (Grandma is from Berbice Guyana and knows country Guyanese food - even she will eat it!) Try the dhal puri and okra / shrimp.

Actual Review from Yellow Pages

Come savor a savory meal at
Charley's Caribbean Cuisine



Not sure how much food you need? We'll help you suggest the right amount of food to minimize your cost.

Pork free halal foods. Catering for Hindu religious events, as well as all Caribbean events.



PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE!



LOTUS
Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

121 City View Drive
North of Belfield Road, East side of Highway 27
647-547-8188 www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com



Seating for more than 500+ guests!

Crematorium inside our building!



INJURED? CAR ACCIDENT?

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

Talk to us first.

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

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

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

Over 15 years of excellent service to this community.



B HALAL MEAT (BAKSH)

EAST & WEST INDIAN GROCERIES

416-261-8564

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

FROM THE CARIBBEAN

- BORA
- EGGPLANT
- SAIHE
- SQUASH
- PUMPKIN
- WIRI WIRI PEPPER
- HOT PEPPERS
- OKRA
- MARRIED MAN
- THYME
- FROZEN KATAHAR
- COCONUT CHOKA
- EDDOES
- SPIKE MANGO
- GINER
- GOLDEN APPLE
- AWARA



FRESH ONTARIO MEAT

LAMB * GOAT * CHICKEN * DUCK

RED HEN * ROOSTER

ALL MEATS ARE 100% HALAL



AND MANY MORE
AVAILABLE

FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD

GILLBAKA

GREY SNAPPER

CATFISH

BANGAMARY

BUTTERFISH

HASSA

WHITE BELLY SHRIMP

BLACK SHRIMP

CRAB

SMOKE FISH



3160 EGLINTON AVENUE (1 BLOCK WEST OF MARKHAM ROAD)

\$478 MILLION INVESTED IN UPGRADED COMMUNITY GROUNDS IN REGION SIX

The government has delivered on its promise to significantly upgrade community grounds in Region Six, East Berbice-Corentyne.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, shared the positive news after a recent series of community meetings. **"We had undertaken, in the second half of last year, to spend \$400 million on upgrading community grounds in Region Six,"** Dr. Singh said. **"To date, we have executed in total, works and equipment valued at \$478 million."**

This impressive investment represents the completion of Phase One of the project. According to the Minister, the funds were directed towards crucial improvements like landfilling, fencing, construction, repairs to sanitary facilities, and regular ground maintenance. A total of 122 community grounds benefitted from this initial phase.

Dr. Singh's commitment went beyond financial investment. He personally visited over 16 communities during his outreach programme, actively listening to the concerns of residents. The initiative also included the distribution of equipment to further empower communities. **"Twenty tractor-drawn slashers and five tractor lawnmowers were also handed over to the various Neighbourhood Democratic Councils,"** Dr. Singh explained. This equipment will significantly enhance local efforts to maintain the upgraded grounds.

"This is not the end," Dr. Singh assured residents. **"We want every single ground to be upgraded to a point where it is a good quality ground, and the community can make good use of it. That is our objective, and we will continue to do that work in the weeks and months ahead."** The government is already planning Phase Two to ensure all grounds receive the necessary attention.

Dr. Singh emphasised the government's broader vision for Region Six. **"The future is bright for Region Six, as we enhance everyday life,"** he declared. He highlighted projects like the construction of the Hospitality and Tourism Training Institute at Port Mourant, the Palmyra Stadium, and the expansion of the Corentyne Highway as examples of the region's ongoing transformation. **"We are doing the big transformative things that will modernise the region, but we're also making the local village-level investments that matter to people's day-to-day lives because that is of equal importance,"** Dr. Singh stressed.



Scene from Minister Singh's outreach to Region Six

PM PHILLIPS OPENS "WORLD-CLASS" GUYANA KARATE COLLEGE, TARGETS KARATE CLUBS IN EVERY SCHOOL WITHIN 10 YEARS



Prime Minister Mark Phillips officially opening the Guyana Karate College and International Karate Daigaku Technical Headquarters

Prime Minister Mark Phillips officially opened the Guyana Karate College and International Karate Daigaku Technical Headquarters, hoping it would serve as a base to expand karate clubs nationwide.

"I look forward to the college elevating the standard of karate," Prime Minister Phillips asserted. **"I see the college playing a leading role in making karate more visible and popular in Guyana and attracting more enthusiasts."**

The Prime Minister believes the college's holistic approach will ensure young practitioners excel in martial arts and grow into well-rounded individuals.

"We have to plan and in planning, we have to set targets," he added. **"We should set a bold target to establish karate clubs in every secondary school in Guyana within the next 10 years. While this goal is challenging, it is a vision worth pursuing."**

Prime Minister Phillips stressed the importance of the college implementing ongoing training programmes to develop a large pool of instructors.

"The loss of skilled and experienced instructors leaves a gap that hinders the sport's growth and continuity," he said.

Founder of the college, Frank Woon-A-Tai, assured those present that the instructors are professionally trained and take their responsibility seriously.

"This facility will be an environment that will foster upward mobility within martial arts," Woon-A-Tai noted. **"It consists of four practicing areas, washrooms, a general office, and an instructor's lounge. This facility will be the best in the world...Already, people from India and Africa would like to come here to study."**



The Guyana Karate College and International Karate Daigaku Technical Headquarters

MALTEENOS SPORTS CLUB LAUNCHES CRICKET ACADEMY FOR YOUTHS

The Malteenos Sports Club (MSC) is offering a boost to young cricketers with the launch of a new academy programme. Seventy (70) youths will have the opportunity to participate in an intensive training programme designed to hone their skills and prepare them for future success.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr., delivered a keynote address at the launch, stressing the importance of academics alongside sports. **"I want to transfer this now to your academics,"** Minister Ramson Jr. declared. **"Don't think today that you can succeed in the sporting world without being good in school, at least up to a certain level."**

The Malteenos Sports Club academy goes beyond basic cricket training. The programme aims to equip young players with a comprehensive skillset, offering instruction in core cricket fundamentals, media training, and proper cricketing etiquette.

"Everything that you are going to do during this academy is talent," Minister Ramson Jr. stated, highlighting the importance of overall development. **"You are developing your talent whether it is batting, bowling, fielding, wicket keeping, catching, running, all of that are versions of talent."** He even recommended the "Talent Code" book to coaches, suggesting its principles can be applied across various disciplines.

The Minister also highlighted the government's commitment to This new academy in Guyana.

Supporting cricket through infrastructure development. A noteworthy project is the construction of an elite cricket academy at the National Stadium, a first-of-its-kind facility will address a key challenge for cricketers in Guyana - the limited training window due to weather conditions. The facility will feature six clay cricket pitches with innovative transparent roofs, allowing for year-round net sessions regardless of the weather.

The Malteenos Sports Club cricket academy training sessions run from July 15 to 27, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Youths participating in the programme will automatically become members of the Malteenos Sports Club upon completion of the two-week training programme.

Lead Coach Queesen Nedd also presented at the launch, while Coach Neil Barry was recognised for his exceptional service and contributions to the cricketing community.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr. with youths at the launch of Malteenos Sports Club cricket academy

CELEBRATION AS GUYANA'S WOMEN U-19 CRICKET CHAMPIONS RETURN HOME



Excited faces during the welcome home celebration

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) was a scene of jubilation as Guyana welcomed home its victorious women's U-19 cricket team. The team secured the coveted Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Female Under-19 T20 title in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago.

Leading the enthusiastic welcome party was Minister of

Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag, who expressed immense pride in the team's accomplishment, stating, "The investment you have made in your talent and ability has made this country beyond proud, and we want you to know that. We want you to understand that."

Minister Parag, representing the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, revealed plans for further government support. "The government is proud to foster development for youths [and] sports, and to foster the talent that you have," she declared. "You

have gone regionally and internationally and you have done Guyana immensely proud with your representation. I can't wish you anything better than even more success going forward."

Minister Parag also highlighted the team's role as positive examples for young women in Guyana. She urged the players to "continue on national head coach and an assistant coach were hired for women's cricket as part of the five-year strategic development plan, he disclosed. The plan, he explained, targets "interested persons aged seven to 17, including persons in far-flung areas."

Singh concluded by emphasising, "This victory is not just a win on the field but a testament to the potential and the talent of women's cricket in Guyana."



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag, leading the welcome home party



Part of the celebrations at the CJIA

Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag. Minister Parag expressed immense pride in the team's accomplishment, stating, "The investment you have made in your talent and ability has made this country beyond proud, and we want you to know that. We want you to understand that."


Minister Parag, representing the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, revealed plans for further government support. "The government is proud to foster development for youths [and] sports, and to foster the talent that you have," she declared. "You

that path and remain consistent."

Meanwhile, Guyana Cricket Board President, Bissoondyal Singh, hailed the achievement as a monumental milestone. "The recent under-19 women's cricket tournament has marked a significant milestone in the history of Guyanese Cricket," he said. "This tournament has not only showcased the incredible talent of young female cricketers, but also set the stage for the future of women's cricket in Guyana."

Singh shed light on the board's strategic investments in women's cricket. Since becoming president in 2021, a

JOB FAIR









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

DIASPORA JOB FAIR

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

SCAN OR CLICK TO SIGN UP:





DATE:
July 27, 2024

TIME:
9.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m

VENUE:
New York LaGuardia Marriott
102-05 Ditmars Blvd
East Elmhurst, NY 11369



DATE:
July 27, 2024

TIME:
9.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m

VENUE:
New York LaGuardia Marriott
102-05 Ditmars Blvd
East Elmhurst, NY 11369



Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST

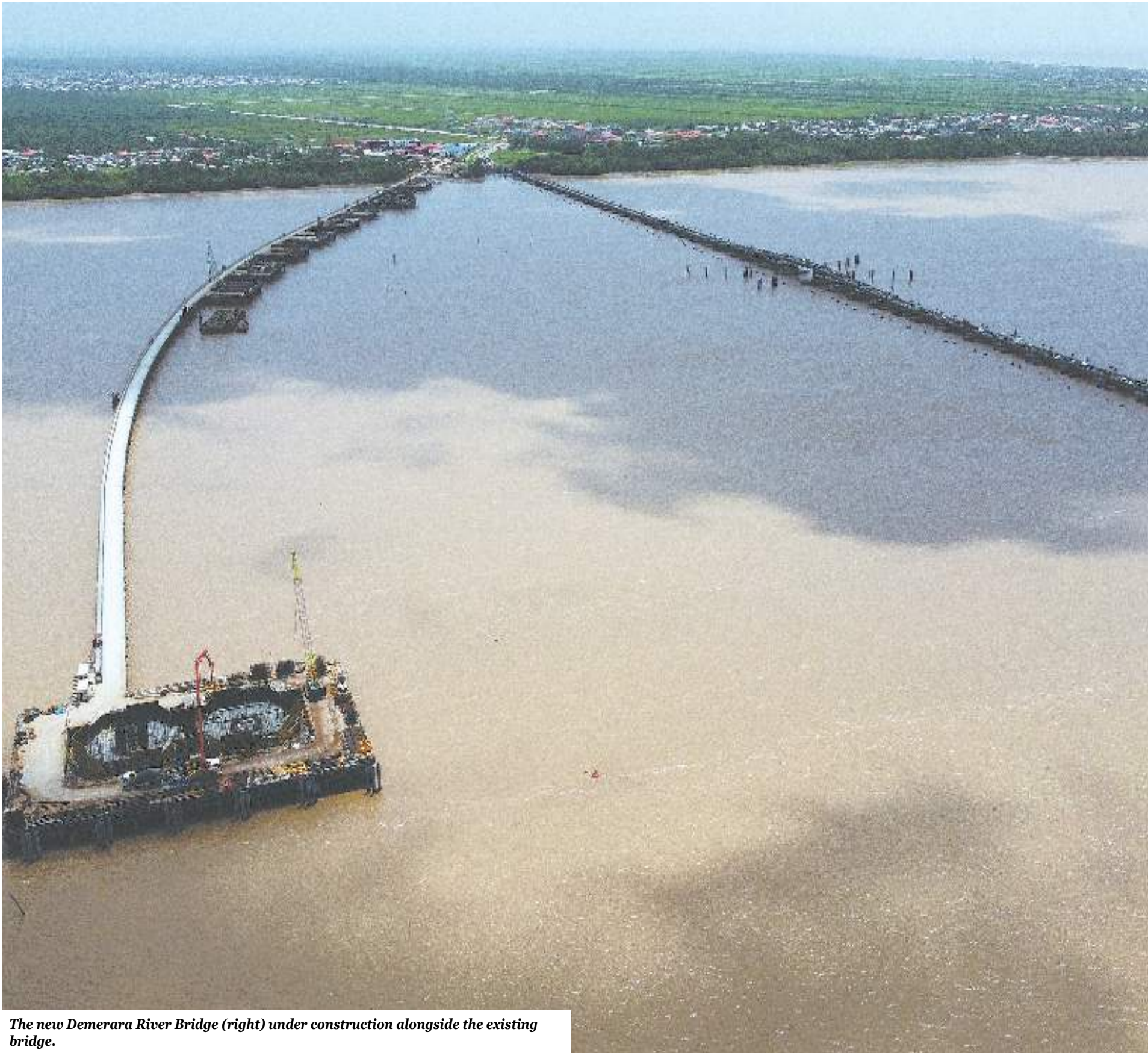


KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 72

**NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE:
HALFWAY THERE**

The new Demerara River Bridge is well on its way to completion, currently at the halfway point in construction. This modern bridge will replace the aging Demerara Harbour Bridge, significantly improving traffic flow and accessibility between Regions Three and Four.

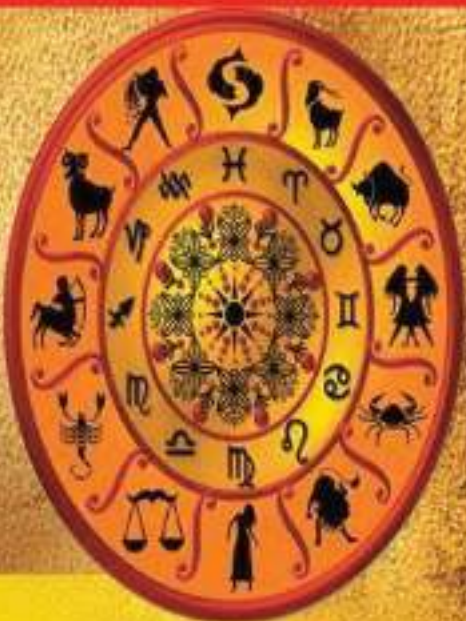
The 2.8-kilometer bridge will feature four lanes, a design speed of 80 kilometers per hour, and a clearance of six meters to allow for unobstructed passage of water vessels.



The new Demerara River Bridge (right) under construction alongside the existing bridge.

ASTROLOGER & PSYCHIC

Scan Me



PALM READING · FACE READING · HOROSCOPE
Astrology Prediction is God's Gift

An Expert Pandith At Your Service!
He Can Solve Problem Regarding, Job, Love, Business, Sickness,
Education, Employment, Marriage, Court, Enemy, Jealousy, Black Magic, Secret Matters etc...

10% OFF ON READING

**MASTER IS GENIUS IN GETTING RID OF BLACK MAGIC, JADOO, BUTU, VODOO SPIRITS, OBEAH,
GENERATION CURSES, EVIL ENERGY, WITCHCRAFT, EVIL SPIRITS & BAD LUCK.**

**ALL RELIGIONS
WELCOME**

**ALL READINGS ARE
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

**WALK-INS
WELCOME**

- ★ Money Blessings
- ★ Love Problems
- ★ Health Problems
- ★ Relationship Problems
- ★ Husband & Wife Disputes
- ★ Family Arguments
- ★ Depression
- ★ Sexual Problems

- ★ Business Problems
- ★ People's Jealousy
- ★ Enemy Problems
- ★ House Protection
- ★ Divorce
- ★ Court Cases
- ★ Land Property Issues
- ★ Childless Couples
- ★ Worries About Loved Ones★

- ★ Drinking Problems
- ★ Marriage Problem
- ★ Education
- ★ Job/Work Problems
- ★ Drug Addictions
- ★ Intimacy Problems
- ★ Children's Problems
- ★ Negative Energy



SPECIALIST IN BRINGING BACK LOVED ONES

If You Want To Find Solutions For All
Your Problems Or Clear Any Doubts Then This Is The Right Opportunity.



If You Have Visited Other Astrologers Before & Got No Results,
Don't Be Disappointed. Visit Me Once & See The Difference!



GET RID OF ALL YOUR PROBLEMS!
CALL TODAY FOR APPOINTMENT:

647-391-2133

ALL OVER GTA, CANADA

100%
Result Guaranteed
GIVE LIFE LONG PROTECTION

100%
Removal of Witch-Craft,
Black Magic & Evil Things
Permanently



PRICES VALID BETWEEN JULY 25-31, 2024. AVAILABLE AT SELECT LOCATIONS ONLY.

CELEBRATE
CARIBBEAN
FLAVOURS
FOR LESS



.50

CHUBBY SODA DRINKS
250 mL

3⁹⁹

CHELSEA BONED SALTED
FISH BITS
400g, frozen

.99

GRACE COCONUT MILK
or COCONUT WATER
400 mL/500 mL



South America Undiscovered

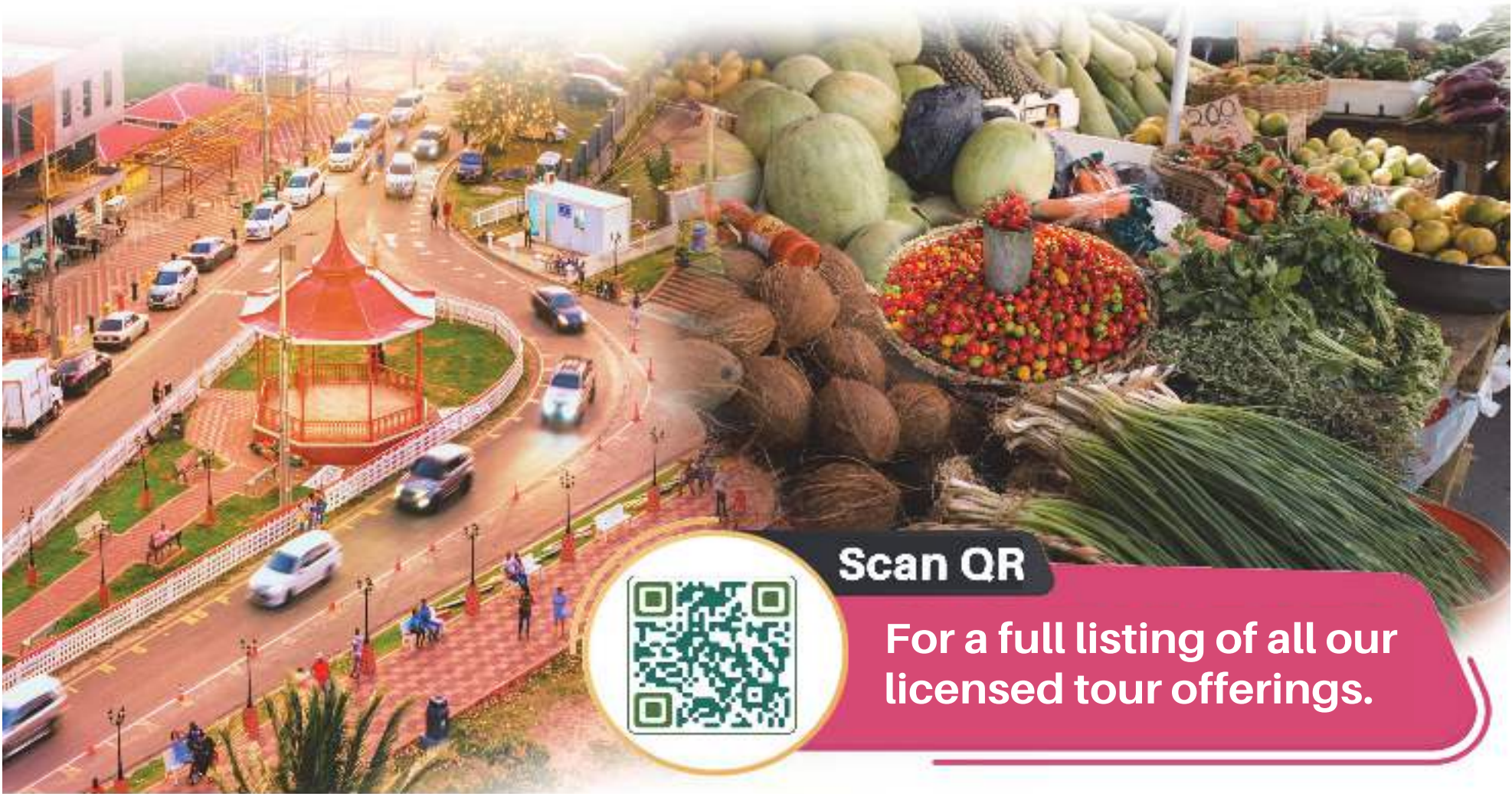
#discoverguyana



“Make no mistake, and mark my words today, by 2030, no tourism product in this region will come close to Guyana’s tourism product. We will have the facilities, we will have the infrastructure” - H.E. Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.


Reconnect with Your Roots

Unforgettable Adventures Awaits



Scan QR

For a full listing of all our licensed tour offerings.



JAGAN DENTAL CENTRE

TAKING CARE OF
All Your Dental Needs

Dentists: Dr. Clive R. Jagan, Dr. Shane A. Jagan,
Dr. Kyle V. Jagan, Dr. Ian N. Jagan

We at JDC have one objective in mind: To make sure you get the professional and personal attention you deserve. So be ready for a relaxed and pain free dental experience.

11 Lamaha and Light Streets,
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: (592) 226-0400
e-mail: info@jagandentalcentre.com
www.jagandentalcentre.com

CLINICAL SERVICES OFFERED:

- Teeth Whitening
- Laser Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implantology (Implants)
- Endodontics (Rootcanals)
- Prosthodontics (Dentures, Crown & Bridge, Veneers, etc.)
- Pedodontics (Kiddy Dentistry)
- Periodontics (Gum Surgeries, Deep Scaling, De-pigmentation, etc.)
- Oral Surgery (Extractions)