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## VP Jagdeo has succesful visit to TO

Guyana Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo was presented with a Luminary Distinction Award in recognition of his global leadership in areas such as sustainable development, forest management, climate change mitigation, and green energy, during his visit to Toronto last week.

The award came from the International Muslims Organization (IMO) of Toronto Mosque on Rexdale Blvd.

During his visit, the VP was kept busy, attending the Guyana Day Festival where he met with thousands of Guyanese in the Diaspora, as well as meeting with members of the diaspora and business community during an engagement at the Pearson Convention Center, Brampton.

Jagdeo also interacted with worshippers and other attendees during his visit to the Brampton Triveni Mandir in Brampton.

The visit coincided with what turned out to be a scorcher by Canadian standards — typical hot, humid Guyana weather as if ordered for the visit.

The Festival lent a great start to the Guyanese-style celebrations, which included the opening ceremonies, a food



The VP being presented with his global leadership award from the IMO







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#### The VP with younger members of the Diaspora

festival, arts and crafts fair, trade show, tourism display, softball competition, soccer tournament, dominoes tournament, cultural show, children's activities and the Guyana Independence Lime.

The last time the Vice-President travelled up to Canada to officiate at the ceremonies, and to meet with the Diaspora, was in 2019.

More photos inside on Pages 2 and

The VP with Guyana High Commissioner Keith George and Equality Publisher Bhaskar Sharma

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

いた sharma@vsharmalaw.ca などの vsharmalaw.ca



## Album Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo visits Toronto

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 21** 











**THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024** 



## **GUYANA TO RAMPS UP GOLD EXPORT OVERSIGHT** - PRESIDENT ORDERS STRICTER CHECKS, FORMS TASK FORCE

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#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

#### **EQUALITY NEWS**

#### **GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST**

#### KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## PRESIDENT ALI LAUDS AFREXIMBANK FOR BOOSTING CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT



President Ali delivering the keynote address at the 31st Afreximbank **Annual Meetings** 

President Ali Export-Import (Afreximbank) Caribbean impact on regional are

Afreximbank Meeting in Caribbean nations to we're making." maximise these benefits.

continue working to Caribbean engagement, region: "This region get all outstanding with over 50 African collectively can give members of region to Afreximbank... we are indeed family," President Ali said.

emphasised He the importance of showcasing commended the African Afreximbank's Bank success stories in the for Western Hemisphere, its dedication to the underscoring its global region, impact. "That's highlighting its positive why these forums important,"

development. At the 31st he remarked, "and in Annual it's crucial for all since Nassau, **stakeholders to show** involvement Bahamas, he pledged to their support for significant rise compared collaborate with other the positive changes to just three years ago.

"We are going to to the increased Africa- market potential in the the delegations exploring your

Caribbean the Afreximbank's

He reminded President Ali pointed investors of the vast businesses join economic opportunities access to more than



A number of regional leaders were at the event



A number of regional leaders were at the event

one billion people feature for sustainable because of our trade investments. relationships and agreements."

President highlighted promoting the fostered also footprint as an attractive partnerships.

**ECONOMIC SURGE** 

This year's AfriCaribbean Trade Ali and Investment Forum the (ACTIF) marked the Caribbean's potential third edition, building on in agriculture, oil and the success of the 2023 gas, and tourism, while forum in Guyana, which productive region's minimal carbon discussions and strong

Guyana's economy is booming, making it a leader in economic progress for the Caribbean and Latin America according to projects a recent World Bank economic Report.

of 2024, far exceeding reliance on imports. the projected growth and 5.7% in 2025).

This surge attributed to Guyana's areas. oil discovery in 2015 Ali's implemented

to including initiatives to The report predicts expand non-traditional projects that Guyana's GDP will crops, improves food the new Demerara The grow by 33.4% by the end security, and reduces River Bridge and the administration

Investment rate for the rest of the processing facilities will improve connectivity growth Caribbean (7.1% in 2024 add value to agricultural and economic activity in investments products, boost exports, mining and agriculture. is and create jobs in rural

and the effective development is another energy project to provide efforts position Guyana management of these crucial contributor to affordable and reliable as a leader in the region's resources by President the country's GDP. energy, while administration. The government has investing in solar energy The government has allocated 34,000 house for remote areas. several lots to Guyanese across

drive various income brackets, biodiversity is success, stimulating the economy. being leveraged

**AND LATIN AMERICA IN** 

upgraded Linden to committed to driving in Mabura Hill road will long-term In the

sector, the government innovation, H o u s i n g is pursuing a gas-to- entrepreneurship. These Guyana's

rich

also to Infrastructure attract tourists, generate including revenue, and create jobs. Ali

**GUYANA LEADS CARIBB** 

is economic through in physical and human energy capital, technological and also economic development.



Guyana's economy is booming

#### **27 AFRO-GUYANESE GROUPS EMPOW** WITH \$100M IN PROJECT ΈU



wide range of areas, to advance cultural game-changer healthcare to essential "These funds will in the **contributions** supplies and services to share it with the their programmes. The Dr. Renaissance will use their allocated commitment Cultural preservation funds to champion transparency

these groups to address representing the Afro- particular emphasis on critical needs within Guyanese Union, social justice issues, communities. expressed her gratitude according to Chairman Projects encompass a for the opportunity Elisha Ali. "This is a for from agriculture and awareness initiatives. the African diaspora Guyana," Ali allowustohostevents remarked. "We can Dr. Ruackel Easton, showcasing the rich finally give back to of our communities in Association of People of the Afro-Guyanese a meaningful way, African Descent, outlined **diaspora in Guyana**," **promoting** active their plans to utilise she explained. "We civic participation." active the funds for a much- have so much to offer Previously, Ali noted, needed health outreach in dance, fashion, the organisation relied **arts...** solely on fundraising medical and this is a chance and donations to support

Previously, funds were disbursed through the International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly -Guvana (IDPADA-G), with a significant portion used for operational

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, and the government ministers with representatives from some of the Afro-Guyanese groups

A second tranche prominent to 27 Afro-Guvanese Phillips, organisations across the Culture, development projects.

ceremony at the Arthur Oneidge Walrond. Conference Chung Centre included injection

figures of government funding like Prime Minister, was recently distributed Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark providing Minister of Youth and country, supporting their Sport, Charles Ramson, and Minister of Tourism, communities," The official handover Industry and Commerce, Easton explained.

This

their skills training.

representing programme. "We'll be performing to vulnerable people wider community." underserved in

funding is another key focus increased empowers area. Rojeria McWatt, engagement, with a of these

The current funding African distribution system Outreach reflects the government's to and civic maximising the impact resources.

costs. This limited the amount reaching the intended beneficiaries.

"Under the old system, IDPADA-G's operational costs ate up 60% of the funds." explained Prime Minister Phillips. "That meant only 40% was actually available for projects." The new approach ensures "100% of the money goes directly to support programmes that improve the lives **Afro-Guyanese** of people." The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport now absorbs the operational expenses.

### GUYANA TO RAMPS UP GOLD EXPORT OVERSIGH - PRESIDENT ORDERS STRICTER CHECKS, FORMS TASK FORCE



President Ali addressing the press conferenc

Ali, has announced a prominent family in the series of measures to Guyanese gold tradestrengthen within the gold export Permanent Secretary system. This move follows Mae Thomas, alleging recent concerns about corrupt practices. potential irregularities, gold exports comply highlighted the need with regulations and to strengthen our contribute legitimately gold export system,"

of the Treasury recently at State House. "We tax policies, enforcement improvement.

President, Dr. Irfaan imposed sanctions on a oversight the Mohameds and

"The recent and aims to ensure all developments have to the nation's economy. President Ali declared The US Department at a press conference improvement, including need for continuous driving smuggling and

**committed** to mechanisms, are gold exports comply with regulations partners. with and contribute legitimately Guyana's economy." the

The plan includes incorporating stricter checks on gold technologies like GPS official This increased scrutiny is designed to identify **things this group will** which and prevent discrepancies.

government officials, will emphasised. conduct a comprehensive review of the current boasts

The task force recommendations. to will also explore possibility system, President Ali has can work on further this

While а gold export framework. framework for lawful Their focus will be on gold exports, President acknowledged identifying areas for Ali acknowledges the economic

and emphasised international force in delivering a swift proposed

of commitment new strengthening gold industry extends like money laundering or shipments. The Guyana tracking for mined and beyond export controls. drug trafficking, such as Revenue Authority will exported gold. This Speaking at a separate asset forfeiture. be tasked with verifying could provide real-time press conference, Vice that the quantity of data on the movement President Dr. Bharrat going on for a while," exported gold matches of gold, further reducing Jagdeo highlighted Dr. Jagdeo added. "We declarations. the risk of irregularities. the ongoing challenge are determined to "These are all of gold smuggling, address this issue any look at and report Guyana's financial well- benefits fully from its to me in a short being. "Clearly, we gold resources." To further bolster the timeframe so that we have to strengthen ordered the formation enhancement and further," Dr. Jagdeo force's review and of a new task force. This improvement of the remarked. "We are potential technological group, comprised of key system," President Ali exploring all possible advancements, aim to avenues to ensure create a more robust Guyana that gold smuggling and reliable gold export robust is eradicated."

> Dr. the incentives He suggested that the

> > legal proceedings.

the penalties need to be ensuring that all potential collaborations importance of the task more substantial. He significant report with actionable financial burdens on smugglers through hefty The government's fines and penalties, to potentially mirroring the those used for offenses

> "This has been undermines and ensure Guyana

The stricter checks, **arrangement** coupled with the task system that benefits the Jagdeo nation's economy.

#### **US SANCTIONS OF THE MOHAMEDS: "NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW," PRESIDENT ALI DECLARES**

In the wake of US asserting, prominent family President Irfaan way." Ali has emphasized personal connection.

Facing public that his judgment also suspected. remains untainted. The US Treasury Department use of a vehicle from sanctioned Mohamed's the Mohamed family, Enterprise for alleged President Ali explained gold smuggling and tax it was a temporary evasion.

President

"I sanctions targeting the **not compromised** office. Mohamed and would not be business, compromised in any sworn in," President

The US accusations his commitment to centre on Mohamed's upholding the law Enterprise omitting over despite a long-standing 10,000 kilograms of gold from official records, questions leading to millions in about his relationship evaded taxes. Bribery with the Mohameds, of customs officials for President Ali assured the falsified documents is

Regarding his past security measure during

am longer used after taking presidential vehicle Mohameds but insisted "On the day I was then."

President Ali

Reporters at the press conference

Ali his extensive election Ali emphasised, "the acknowledged applies equally," he

The Guyanese has been used since it wouldn't influence government is actively responding to the US "The rule of law sanctions. They've requested details from the US investigation, revoked the Mohameds' Cambio license, and placed a government official implicated in the case on leave. Additionally, Nazar Mohamed, head of the family, resigned from his political position as a People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) Councillor.



vehemently denied any campaign travel. He car took me home, nis longstanding declared. "No one is PUBLIC INFORMATION official relationship with the above the law." involvement, stressed the car was no **and** the personal

#### FORMER MINISTER ACCUSED OF FABRICATING SECRET GOLD UNIT DISBANDMEN

The Natural Resources recent current dismantled а "highly gold smuggling upon Public Security Minister agency led it, and why no

Ministry of taking office in 2020. "Mr. (MNR) has fired back at **continues to revel** The statement further gold-smuggling unit a report where Trotman "fantasy". himself admitted This comes after to significant gold nation in Trotman alleged the production losses due to **suspense**," government smuggling. The

Ramjattan charges were filed during Khemraj Trotman took significant action. Trotman's tenure. former Minister Raphael in delusions of criticised a perceived by stating, "For the Trotman, calling his grandeur," the MNR attempt by Trotman to public record, no accusations said in a statement. They shift the narrative on the **such** regarding a disbanded pointed to a 2016 news source of smuggled gold. investigations "Mr. Trotman were admitted cannot leave the at the Office of the MNR continued. They that Raphael MNR demanded details on Trotman is enduring secretive questioned why, if aware the alleged intelligence another flight of his **intelligence-led** of the issue, neither operation, including **usual fantasies.**" **operation**" targeting Trotman nor former who was involved, which

The MNR concluded operations/ discovered such President... We are the forced to conclude



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#### EQUALITY NEWS

### **GUYANA STRENGTHENS MARITIME DEFENCE WITH** NEW PATROL VESSEL NAMED AFTER FALLEN SOLDIER

Guyana's maritime received security а significant boost with the addition of a new offshore patrol vessel to the Guyana Defence Force's (GDF) fleet. vessel, named The 'GDFS Shahoud' the in honour of Colonel Michael Shahoud who died in a helicopter crash last year, will enhance Guyana's ability to defend and monitor its territorial waters.

President Ali officiated at the ceremony, highlighting primary commission vessel, we honour presence. their



The GDFS Shahoud'

While emphasising our commissioning diplomacy as Guyana's to strengthen our the significance of the strategy, President Ali capability." vessel's name. "As we acknowledged the need this for a strong military growth and ambitious "We are development his memory and the a peaceful nation, necessitated a more sacrifices of all who but we are also robust national defence have served, ensuring vigilant and must strategy, enduring understand contributions threat that surrounds government's response billion this year, marking

and safeguard our acquisition of GDFS Irfaan nation," he expressed. Shahoud manifests commitment defence **defence** response

> Guyana's economic plans explained the President Ali.

includes not acquiring new assets and increase over previous that the GDF is physical enhancements, allocations. President Ali well but also building human also pledged to expand meet contemporary capacity through an the existing quota of security challenges." inter-agency approach. fleets in the Air Corps.

n commissioning 2020 this vessel, we are we have expended by US-based not only adding to \$11.4 our naval fleet, but recapitalising reinforcing GDF," also our commitment to Ali stated. a defence strategy that investment reflects vessel. protects our national **interest**," he said. President Ali pointed out that the GDFS Shahoud will also play a role in combating illegal fishing and transnational crime.

government's The commitment to bolstering the GDF is reflected in the substantial budgetary The allocation of \$42.2

only a more than \$20 billion our efforts, ensuring

and billion comprehensive s u b s t a n t i a l operationalising

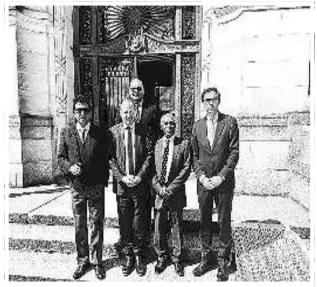
equipped to

The 115 Defiant " B e t w e e n Monohull patrol vessel 2023 was designed and built Metal in Shark Builds. The the company pledged its President continued assistance "This to the Coast Guard in the



President Ali and other officials at the GDFS Shahoud'

#### **GUYANA AND VENEZUELA DISCUSS NEXT STEPS IN BORDER CONTROVERSY AT ICJ**



Guyana's delegation

Minister Parliamentary Teixeira, contested claims of **manipulation**," United States (US) stated. meddling in the nation's 2020 elections. Her Teixeira, response follows an elections Stewart in the Chicago Guyana's interference. Minister "flawed" as "constructed poorly," 2018 documented from statements and leaders. author d i s m i s s e s the European Union

of documented events. Affairs and ignores legal and Governance, Gail evidence to support strongly their claim  $o\bar{f}$  US she For 2020 respect the were а article by Amber Symone critical moment for Teixeira Journal of International threatened by attempts Law alleging US to manipulate results Minister Bruce Golding, "unconstitutional head of the OAS Electoral attempts by the and delay the power Observer Mission, who former government Teixeira transition. The prolonged criticised the article period (19 months) "I've never seen a officials to derail and between the December more arguing it disregards motion, and the August evidence 2020 declaration of the Ongoing legal cases like court decisions, national recount results media coverage, and exemplify these efforts. She international observers the crucial role of "The international and invents regional observers – minister's response early as April 2020. information, OAS, CARICOM, and was

The Court of Justice (ICJ) Guyana proposed a six- for six years. to discuss the next steps depending on the Court's previously in their ongoing border schedule. controversy case. The however, case centres on the a more validity of the 1899 12-month window to establishing Arbitral Award that prepare its rejoinder, deadlines for both established the legal citing border between the two complexity. South American nations.

Both acknowledged the need proposed timeframe, presented by each side. for a second round considering the case has

Venezuela, arguments. requested the

parties concern over Venezuela's account the arguments

International of written pleadings. already been ongoing Thev convened a meeting on month timeframe for emphasised that the June 11, 2024, between submitting its reply, purpose of the next representatives of with some flexibility for round of pleadings is Guyana and Venezuela a late October deadline not to simply reiterate presented

will The Court expansive now issue an order official case's parties to submit their respective written Guyana expressed pleadings, taking into Guvana's delegation

was headed by Mohabir A. Nandlall, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs. The delegation also included Carl B. Greenidge, Agent for Guyana at the ICJ, along with legal counsel Philippe Sands and Pierre D'Argent, and Lloyd Gunraj, Guyana's Chargé d'Affaires to Belgium.

Venezuela's team was led by Samuel Reinaldo Moncada Acosta, Agent for Venezuela at the ICJ, and was supported by a larger delegation and legal team.

The Guyana-Venezuela border controversv stretches back over a century.



– in pressuring the US Minister then-government Minister US processes. democracy, former Jamaican Prime were a response to in May 2020 remarked, and no-confidence attempt to alter an clarified these were not election's outcome." against election officials accused the claim of solely US emphasised of fraud provide further action, noting the EU international evidence.

differentiating

actions trom to broader international democratic pressure. She argued actions, like highlighted announcing sanctions, GECOM transparent the elections." She interference but efforts to al cases "uphold democratic Guyanese integrity." She refuted A key point in the of possible sanctions as efforts to

The



that the stressed democracy. Minister Guyanese people

stood firm, not alone for the first time, but with the world supporting their fight to ensure democracy prevailed. We are **eternally** grateful," she asserted.

She reiterated that the US accusations are unfounded and the focus should remain on those who attempted to subvert the electoral process. The minister expressed hope for publication in Guyanese people, with the Chicago Journal of support, International Law to Ambassador's warning primarily drove the provide a more accurate maintain account of the 2020 "The elections.

### **GUYANA TO LURE BACK SKILLED DIASPORA** WITH NEW YORK JOB FAIR



President Ali with Guyanese diaspora in New York

The burgeoning economy. they can contribute,"

"This will be he explained. happening in a very

Guyana short while," revealed this targeted approach government is taking a Foreign Secretary stems from a significant bold step to address a Robert Persaud in an skills gap identified by critical skills shortage exclusive interview with international and local by hosting a job fair the Department of Public assessments. Guyana's specifically targeting the Information. "We'll be rapid Guyanese diaspora in targeting the persons transformation New York. This initiative who are there, letting created a demand for aims to entice skilled them know what roughly 100,000 skilled professionals back to opportunities exist in professionals, a void their homeland and Guyana, what skills the current workforce contribute to Guyana's we need and how cannot fill.

economic has

The situation is further compounded The impetus for by a historical trend of

Studies International (CSIS) indicates that beyond between 1965 and 2000, generation, who have nearly 90% of Guyanese built their capacity in nationals with tertiarylevel education and 40% of those with secondary education emigrated from Guyana.

However, a positive shift is underway. With Guvana's recent economic advancements, there has been a noticeable trend of Guyanese nationals returning their homeland, to Persaud observed. The government is actively capitalising on this renewed interest. "We have seen an influx of persons returning to

Theriot

the

continued

outward migration. A Guyana, addressing various sectors. They research paper by the **the skill gap of over are also returning** Centre for Strategic and **100,000**," he said. **to Guyana**," Persaud This trend extends noted.

the first a staggering number generation of emigrants. Guyanese professionals of Guyanese have left "What we are seeing not only fills the critical the country seeking is that there is a skills gap but also fosters opportunities abroad. renewed interest a sustainable economic The study reveals that **from the second** environment.

The return of skilled



President Ali with Guyanese diaspora in New York

#### US SUPPORTS GUYANA'S COA RD WITH FUNDING AN t



**United States** Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot

Guyana's Coast Guard US\$1 million for the added. with a US\$1 million sustainment of the shot in the arm for **Coast Guard's other** aims to solidify the remarked. vessel and ongoing training U.S. Coast Guard Guyana

to US Ambassador to **for Guyana**," she Ambassador Guyana, Nicole Theriot. said. **"Hand in hand** pledged

during came commissioning and SOUTHCOM defence and security ceremony of the GDFS (Southern sector, Shahoud, a new 115 Command) Defiant monohull patrol **continue** Ambassador provide vessel. Theriot, in highlighting matter the expansive nature training, maritime- the government of of this collaboration, **focused** "We sad, The United States recently approved security assistance peace and prosperity is bolstering **approximately opportunities**," maintenance vessels, as well as effectiveness of the

This announcement with the private US collaboration to the sector, our embassy transform just cooperation, This

Guyana's promoting will regional stability and to collective security. subject "Together, expertise, United States and security Guyana will uphold and our commitment to she for all, and maintain this region as a partnership zone of peace," she

Building on this Defence alliance, Guyana's (GDF). Chief of Defence Staff, forms an integral concluded.

Brigadier Omar Khan, revealed discussions underway with the US Military Liaison's Office to facilitate crew training for the GDFS Shahoud. "This is being facilitated through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative platform," he explained.

Brigadier emphasised Khan the importance partnerships shared He underscored that capability. And I acquiring is just one aspect, been doing just and Guyana capitalise on training and experience partnerships are at offered by regional their highest peak



Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan

of part of enhancing for our capacity and development. consolidating our equipment must say, we have must that to the point the that our existing partners to enhance in the history of our its capabilities. "This defence relations," he



#### **GOVT CRACKS DOWN ON 'FRONTING' PRACTICES IN OIL INDUSTRY**

The Natural Resources, foreign through the Content announced intensified of issue citizen" or .

Guyana foreign companies using the nation's natural ethical standards. government is tightening Guyanese individuals or resources sector. its grip on unethical entities as mere fronts business practices within to satisfy local content actively the country's petroleum requirements mandated measures to curb "rent- and equitable petroleum industry. In a statement by law. In reality, control a-citizen" practices. This industry that benefits released on June 10, and benefits remain includes a strengthened all Guyanese. They urge 2024, the Ministry of firmly in the hands of collaboration Local undermining the spirit Authority (GRA). This the integrity of the local Secretariat, of the Local Content Act. closer The Act efforts to combat the established to ensure penalise those engaging "rent-a- Guvanese citizens in "fronting", ensuring meaningfully participate adherence to the Local This practice involves in and benefit from Content Act's legal and

was aims to identify and

The Ministry's The Ministry is commitment is clear: pursuing fostering a transparent with everyone to support companies, the Guyana Revenue these efforts and uphold partnership content framework.

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

#### **GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST**

#### EQUALITY NEWS

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## **GUYANA AIMS FOR "TOP TIER" BANKING STATUS WITH FIA REFORMS**

Ali President announced plans to update the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) during a press conference at State House. He said the amendments aim to modernize Guyana's banking sector, align it with international standards, and attract foreign institutions.

These amendments will allow us to take us to the top tier beyond any other jurisdiction in this region in relation the banking to sector," President Ali emphasised.



#### Bank of Guyana

incorporate financial and improve

The changes will process for transferring financial companies will modern assets regulations financial institutions. representative the Additionally,

between be allowed to establish offices foreign with approval from the

bank.

representative offices certain will not be allowed to requirements. carry on banking or Additionally, sanctions financial business, for non-compliance by they can offer the financial institutions will **service that will be a** be increased. stimulant for foreign direct investment by is connecting to opportunity," explained.

give regulators oversight the very sophisticated over fees charged by financial institutions financial promoting fairness and deal with," he said, financial inclusion.

that the amendments system.

aim streamline to W h i l e oversight by removing consultation

"The economy growing [and] capital we have all the investment sophisticated he financial instruments that we will have to The updates will also deal with and we have institutions, that we have to underscoring the need President Ali noted for an updated financial

## **GUYANA LEAPS FORWARD IN AML/CFT REGIME** - 88% compliant, joins prestigious Egmont Group

President Countering the Financing CFT) Regime, crediting embark on a novel transparency, Commission Act (2023) the government's firm collaborative accountability, policies and legislation process," he said, enforceability within the for designated nonimplemented 2020.

"Approximately, stakeholders 88% of our legislative finance, requirements were resources, found to be compliant enforcement for their view of the country's of conduct for real estate or largely compliant," the President reported a recent press addressed at conference, attributing shortcomings identified addressed deficiencies Anti-Money Laundering the success to measures upon taking like drafting new bills on including companies, trusts, and asset management.

President acknowledged

Irfaan challenges inherited for Ali highlighted from the previous enacted legislation group in Fe Guyana's remarkable a d m i n i s t r a t i o n, for confiscation and facilitating improvement in the particularly the lack of targeted financial collaboration Anti-Money Laundering, action in 2018 and 2019. sanctions; and building a of Terrorism (AML/ therefore had to actions

since applauding private and sector natural law and contributions.

The government critical office, that increased resources for Special the supervisory oversight for

public AML/CFT regime.

framework," President explained.

hindered Financial the Unit's(FIU)participation Act (2009) strengthened Organised in the Egmont Group, the government's ability Ali Crime Unit; established an international body to forfeit criminal assets. FIUs. Guyana

accountants; successfully joined the legislation group in February 2024, enhanced financial collaboration.

Legislative "The government Stronger System. These Enhancements included strengthened the Guyana Compliance and which provides oversight financial businesses and "We completed financial institutions and from **our national risk** the Real Estate Agents assessment in 2021... and Brokers Bill (2023) providing an updated that establishes a code the professionals.

Additionally, robust The government also amendments to the the and Countering the Intelligence Financing of Terrorism The President



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall during the recent scrutiny of Guyana's Anti-Money Laundering efforts by CFATF

highlighted significant at all," President Ali enforcement including cash and gold his satisfaction with the seizures by various collective effort that led authorities.

"These results are not accidental

actions, concluded, expressing to this achievement.

EGUYA ESE 



Guyana economy is booming following recent oil developments

Dr. that are critical to House. He highlighted President Mohamed Irfaan Ali the **development** the digitisation of the this modern economy, the speed outlined an ambitious of plan to cultivate a **infrastructure that** and efficiency of modern and competitive we want to build here transaction processing, enĥancement on economy in Guyana. in Guyana," President the enhancement on international Act (FIA) to align the the "There are a Ali stated during a recent of public service part nerships, banking sector with underscored. **number** of areas press conference at State efficiency, the openness

transparency the system, and the IDB-Invest. "This highlighted the reestablishment of a **confidence** rule-based, systematic when framework. and

President the you're acknowledged government's legislative and the approach to \$20 million, reforms' impact on the you're economy. "Credit to towards economic loan the private sector has development," surged from \$259.9 asserted. billion in 2020 to \$376 billion in 2023, a 44.7 this momentum, of strategi percent increase," the government will planning, he revealed, signalling implement private sector expansion to and confidence. Highlighting

government's international Act (FIA) to align the the President Ali noted international standards.

of the contributions institutions "The Ali trust the system mortgage he **to** То maintain infrastructure. the includes updating the targeted policies we focus Financial Institutions are implementing,"

President **comes** energizing of the housing investors programme since 2020. low-income ceiling building rose from \$8 million taking extending special conditions higher-value mortgages," he said. "This is a result momentum, of strategic financial the measures strength and viability modernize of our financial This **system**, and the

President

### PRESIDENT ALI URGES UNITY AND COMPASSION **IN EID-UL-ADHA MESSAGE**



President Ali during Eid prayers at the Leonora Sunnatul Jamaat

his heartfelt greetings generosity, and solidarity that a kind heart has worldwide, particularly Guyanese. acknowledging the Islamic community in this Guyana.

Excellency the His emphasised the **of** universal themes of faith, neighbours,

sacrifice, and kindness supporting the less Ali reminded the nation Allah's command.

President highlighted the Adha, describing it as a charity are fundamental time for special prayers, aspects the act of Qurbani (the expressing sacrifice of an animal), devotion to Allah by and the distribution uplifting others. "A kind family, and friends. possession,'

**reminded of** than any are importance possession. helping our

inherent in the festival, **fortunate**," President of the blessings that come President Ali called for peace, and lives with which commemorates Ali stated. He urged with generosity: "**The** embracing the spirit of blessings. the Prophet Ibrahim's everyone to give with a example of those who Eid-ul-Adha by reaching (Abraham's) willingness generous heart, noting **spend their wealth** out to those in need, "Feast of Sacrifice," is a to sacrifice his son, that such acts of charity **in the way of Allah is** extending friendship major Islamic holiday Ismail, in obedience to and kindness honour Allah and reflect His Ali compassion and mercy.

The President significance of Eid-ul- stressed that acts of of faith. one's of meat to the needy, heart is a priceless he He underscored that remarked, "enriching this festival is not only not only the bearer On the auspicious central to the Islamic but also everyone occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, faith, but also imparts who encounters its President Ali extended lessons of compassion, warmth." He added and blessings to Muslims that resonate with all the power to heal, like a seed of grain across cultural and Ibrahim's sacrifice. To mend

and Holy Quran, President and Knowing."

In his message, happiness, hearts with

Eid al-Adha, the



Eid prayers at the Leonora Sunnatul Jamaat

relationships, that sprouts seven religious divides, and commemorate, Muslims "As we observe and inspire goodness, ears, in every ear a working together to attend prayers, celebrate occasion, we making it more valuable hundred grains. Allah build a compassionate with family, and share material multiplies for whom and cohesive society. sacrificed meat with He wills, and Allah He expressed his hope those in need. Quoting from the is all-Encompassing that this joyous occasion

would fill homes with

honouring Prophet

#### **OUTDATED ETHNIC CATEGORIES IN POLICE RECORDS UPDATED**

The government categorise replacing colonial

after years of silence People's was from the National (PNC) and the PNCR-led Amsterdam APNU+AFC Coalition, cybercrime which governed Guyana According to Minister like "negro" for a combined 39 Teixeira, PNCR leader "east Indian,"

Guyana years between 1966 Nigel Hughes has and 2020. Minister of the PNCR coalition new announced changes to Parliamentary Affairs suddenly became vocal Police, the way police forces and Governance, Gail about the issue, a stark and health sectors will ethnicity, Teixeira, pointed out this contrast to their previous now use categories outdated inaction in a statement, silence. She further such as "Guyanese terms like highlighting that these criticised their lack of of African descent" "negro" with more outdated terms were condemnation for a and "Guyanese of respectful options. inherited from British caller who threatened Indian descent." The move comes colonial times.

Congress the arrest of Kidacke of the colonial era. on

the beheading The recent change government leaders, a include, prompted by violent act reminiscent Amerindian,"

Recognising charges. offensiveness of terms of

and Cabinet has mandated classifications. immigration, of Other new classifications "Guyanese "Guyanese of mixed the ancestry," "Guyanese Portuguese and **descent.**" and the "Guyanese of Chinese



These new classifications aim to be more respectful of Guyana's diverse population

**descent.**" These new government classifications aim to have been instructed to be more inclusive and implement the Cabinet's diverse population. The relevant

entities procedures accordingly.

respectful of Guyana's decision and update their

The by the Inter-American to basic necessities. Commission on Human

Guvanese the Akawaios' collective government is preparing territorial rights, equality to refute a recent report under the law, and access The Parliamentary Rights (IACHR) Affairs Ministry is concerning the treatment currently compiling a of the Akawaio people of response to challenge Isseneru. The IACHR these accusations. Vice report accuses the President Dr. Bharrat government of violating Jagdeo has publicly

#### H $(\mathbf{0})$ $(\mathbf{U})$



The government has implemented several initiatives aimed at empowering Indigenous communities

criticised the IACHR's the Amerindian People's findings, asserting that Association (APA). they misrepresent the government's communities.

"I these individual He questioned report's been influenced by communities advocacy groups like development projects.

Jagdeo Landing Dr. efforts highlighted to support Indigenous government two matters that are any part of Latin America initiatives aimed at taken by the APA, and the Caribbean in believe empowering Indigenous the same APA that terms of benefits from bodies are communities, including is trying to block government directly on alienated from what the Amerindian Act and the LCDS funds," is happening here, a significant increase in Dr. Jagdeo observed. you will see that not a and often they are titled land for Indigenous He emphasised that single country in this activist bodies and peoples. He pointed out the LCDS programme hemisphere has treated very subjected to the potential benefits has already delivered Indigenous people the hypes," of the Low Carbon substantial investment way we have done," he Dr. Jagdeo remarked Development Strategy to Indigenous villages declared. at a press conference. (LCDS) 2030, which in areas like tourism, the the APA opposes. This agriculture, impartiality, programme channels infrastructure. suggesting it may have funds into Indigenous

"These about] and

The Vice President for expressed confidence in Guyana's record on

**[things** Indigenous rights. "If **Chinese** they were to come to this and country and compare various Isseneru, these are Indigenous people with all the basic things...

Inter-American Commission

on Human Rights

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

#### **EQUALITY NEWS**

#### **GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST**

#### KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

#### GUYANA GOVT TO SUBMIT US\$66M IN ENTARY **BUDGET TO EASE FUEL PRICE STRA**

The government plans to been absorbing these Dr. supplementary budget electricity price hikes. proposal to the National Assembly to combat rising fuel costs.

This initiative was announced by Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, who emphasised government's the ongoing efforts to shield Guyanese citizens from the global cost-of-living surge.

Dr. the highlighted significant rise in fuel prices, from \$70 to explained He

Guyana the government has **price** 

Jagdeo submit a US\$66 million increases to prevent "This \$66 million



Jagdeo The government has been absorbing these increases to prevent electricity price hikes

" W e ' r e budget request is rates, over \$100 per barrel. s u b s i d i s i n g necessary before the grants for people with These initiatives aim to supplementary budget that **electricity to avoid parliamentary recess** disabilities,

increases," due to rising fuel businesses, said. prices."

> to various initiatives has implemented to lessen Additionally, including and people previous administration disposable income by included Measures

along

patients, and indigenous taking action. He pointed of about \$75 billion, various been removed. Guyana. valuefreight

Government year. and boosting household interventions, as well, over \$300,000 annually. drainage and irrigation impact of rising fuel also systems, increased access prices and global costinclude subsidies for to farmland, and free of-living pressures is electricity and water distribution of planting evident through these with materials and fertilisers. actions and the upcoming small boost crop production proposal.

dialysis and farmer income.

Dr. Jagdeo The Vice President communities; the 50% emphasised that prices **supplementary** countered claims that excise tax on fuel, for essential food items the government is not translating to a benefit remain stable across markets in

The 2024 budget the burden on Guyanese added tax adjustments already allocated \$7 cost billion for further costreversing over 200 taxes calculations for taxes of-living measures to be implemented by the have been implemented. implemented later this

> The government's improved focus on mitigating the

#### STBANKDEM =:+ **UPGRADE TO START IN** AUGU

The highly anticipated project, funded the Development (IDB), will focus on the

and improve the overall traffic flow. transportation network. Corporation will be undertaking the the construction.

То minimise road, disruption, the project and

sections: Section A: culverts, upgrading the confined to one side of Guyana Police Force be available on the US\$75.8 million East Good Success (Ganga roadway to a two-lane the road at a time. Bank Demerara Road Temple) to Supply; highway, installation The public will be maintain improvement project is **Section B:** Supply to of sidewalks and cycle kept informed through traffic flow. set to begin in August Soesdyke Junction; and lanes for pedestrian the RESOLV 75 app, 2024. This 36-month Section C: Soesdyke and cyclist safety, and providing real-time by Junction to Timehri implementation Inter-American Junction (near Bank Timehri Police Station.) markings, LED street critical stretch from be a new roundabout at Good Success to Timehri. the Soesdyke/Linden flow is a priority. A The project aims to Highway intersection, comprehensive plan is in

> The (CRBC) overhaul of 24 kilometres of widening

of the thermoplastic road A key feature will lighting, and traffic signs. Managing traffic tackle traffic congestion designed to improve place, with construction strategically starting in project Section B to minimise China Road and Bridge encompasses a complete disruption. At least one including lane of traffic will remain rehabilitation open at all times.

Efforts will be made reconstruction to maintain two lanes

The wait is over! will be divided into three over 58 bridges and construction will be project updates. The bill of quantities will will also be present to Ministry's The public will be maintain order and allowing public scrutiny

Transparency expenditure. real-time is key. An unpriced

website, of project progress and



of whenever possible, but | Drawing of the proposed US\$75.8 million East Bank Demerara Road

GUYANA TEACHERS' STRIKE - NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME ON SALARY INCREASE BACK PAY



The return to schools will bring much relief to parents and students who have faced disruptions for over two months

The

It ensures

agreement,

iob

After a two-month- June 2, 2024. long strike, teachers across Guyana will shared on Facebook by return to classrooms Education Minister Priya next week following an Manickchand, outlines agreement between the a swift end to the strike Guyana Teachers' Union with teachers resuming (GTU) and the Ministry work within two days. of Education (MOE) on

with teachers, victimisation, no loss agreement states. of service, and no transfer" upon their Mark Lyte, GTU General years. return.

Negotiations determine the timeframe Secretary for salary increases. Hoosein-Outar, The GTU is pushing for Chief Education Officer retroactive from 2019 to 2023, while the agreement. the MOE is proposing to determine whether but the

GTU

Coretta Secretary

GTU, 2019 to 2023 the Ministry and the improve or the MOE 2024 and Union resumed in March country onwards should form after court intervention to

security for returning **part of a new multi-** but stalled when the added, "no year agreement," the Ministry said it could the not accommodate pay ongoing investments in President increases for the past education.

Recent statements Jagdeo will McDonald, Ministry of from both President sentiment, mentioning however continue to Education Permanent Ali and Vice President "good engagements" Shannielle Jagdeohinted at progress and and in the negotiations.

increases Saddam Hussain signed **be some movement in** GTU.

relation to getting to The strike, which **an initial agreement**," schools will bring much raises for 2024 onwards. began on February 5th, President Ali reported relief to parents and "Conciliation will saw teachers demanding at a press conference. students who have faced commence forthwith not only higher salaries "We are committed disruptions for over two also duty-free **to ensuring that** months. Negotiations timeframe concessions and other teachers are treated over salary increases are proposed by the benefits. Talks between fairly and their lives expected to continue in continues develop," he

highlighting government's Vice President echoed the

recent communication between "There seems to the government and the

The return to **as our** the coming days.

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

#### EQUALITY NEWS THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024

#### KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## **OVER 7,700 GUYANESE AWARDED GOAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2024**



Tamika Beharry

The Guyana charge. government's commitment education GOAL (Guyana Online expressed accredited worldwide,

"We have to seize to all the opportunities allow me to go into continues that they are giving to the as 7,782 individuals us under education and have been awarded by the government," give Academy of Learning) Beharry, a Governance health-related programme's Academy of Learning) Benarry, a Governance **neartin-related** position. This initiative provides Councillor from Region **people**," Wellington Guvanese with the Seven. Beharry is excited highlighted. The Degree in Business The government's their nation forward. Guyanese with the Seven. Beharry is excited highlighted. opportunity to pursue to utilise her Bachelor of flexibility of online Administration, sees investment in GOAL online Science in Public Policy learning allows her the value of a Political degrees at universities and Governance to better to continue serving free of serve her community. her



Mahindra Sharma

Outreach efforts in her area, Upper Mazaruni, have resulted in 12 scholarships awarded, and Beharry hopes to see that number grow as others witness the programme's success.

Registered Nurse Alana Wellington from Kamarang District Hospital exemplifies the power of perseverance. Initially rejected, she reapplied and is now thrilled to pursue a public health bachelor's degree at Texila University. "This course would communities at the Department of explain or Public preventative (DPI) Michael Younge, in Tamika measures and other exemplifies community while enhancing her his understanding of knowledge.

Mahindra Sharma, development. "Guyana an Education Officer at needs more political the National Centre of scientists," Educational Resources pointed Development (NCERD), encourages the especially applauded governmentforproviding from opportunities. backgrounds, to embrace such "Empowerment this through "Do comes education," Sharma this stated. He believes his to pass you by ... doctorate in marketing Take advantage of management will not the government's only elevate his career, incentives to get but also contribute to yourself skilled and Guyana's growth on the qualified," world stage.

"Each



Information

Science

Degree in advancing

politics and community

not

Younge

others,

those

allow

Younge

out. He

challenging

opportunity.

opportunity

Ariefa another Education highlighted programme's educators. on postgraduate

Reman, supported 6,000 new NCERD students and 3,967 Officer, continuing students. the Last month alone, impact over 1,700 individuals Her graduated through studies the GOAL initiative.



Michael Younge

leadership the management for teachers equipping is significant. With Bachelor's a \$4 billion budget allocated in 2024, GOAL

and These scholarships are Guyanese diverse will allow her to "better with the skills and



Ariefa Reman

### **"BECAUSE WE CARE" CASH GRANT DISTRIBUTION BEGINS ON JUNE 24**

urged.

Great news for uniform allowance. This a good attendance from every school the information had Manickchand elaborated

of Guyanese students! billion being injected loaned textbooks. The government has into the pockets of announced the start of Guyanese parents. the "Because We Care" voucher distribution on Guyana June 24, 2024 which will **two-week** Education Priya Manickchand.

Manickchand programme. announced an increase of \$45,000 each, which Students must

"This is going to cash grant and uniform happen all across over period benefit over 205,000 for collection and public and private school **distribution**," students, according to Minister Manickchand Minister, said in a Facebook post, highlighting the M i n i s t e r nationwide reach of the

To ensure a smooth in the "Because We Care" and transparent process, grant this year. Students the Minister explained will now receive a total the eligibility criteria. be includes a \$40,000 enrolled in a public or cash grant and a \$5,000 private school, maintain

parents and guardians translates to over \$9 record, and return all had to submit the to be verified by the on verification the children's names regional education process. teacher from the registers and department," Minister This



The 'Because We Care' Cash Grant was increased to \$40,000 in 2023, delivering \$2.1 billion to the parents of 214,000 qualifying pupils

year's builds initiative on the programme's achievements in 2023. Last year, over 201,000 students benefitted, with a total of \$8.1 billion being distributed.

The Because We Care programme aligns with the PPP/C government's commitment to providing financial aid to families, encouraging better school attendance, and fostering a more attentive learning environment.

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

#### **EQUALITY NEWS**

<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

**KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED** 

Guyanese President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo at a recent President press conference. While concerns commitment to the but there could be project's development.

"We cards are envisioned everything," he said. to transform various sectors, healthcare ("e-health") replace the existing cards and sectors.

citizens security, police, and card

Vice The addressed regarding acknowledging potential implementation delays, he emphasised timelines. "I know the the government's company is working, ongoing some delays because we have to also get the want to local team to manage build a whole range all of this here, of things," Dr Jagdeo because this database explained. These e-ID will be crucial for

He also clarified that including the e-ID cards won't education issued by the Guyana to deal with the ID Solutions, a German-("e-schools"). "It would Elections Commission that GECOM issues based company. The Identity Card Bill of vision for a modernised transform all these (GECOM). "We did independently." including not change the ID

"We didn't

**requirement.** follows the government's identity can expect their new e-ID security matters," he This is a second ID," signing of a US\$35.4 cards soon, assured Vice elaborated. Dr. Jagdeo explained. million contract in 2023 want with Veridos Identity



The e-ID cards won't replace the existing cards issued by GECOM

This initiative a

project aims to establish 2023 mandates robust

system, with a focus on years of age and older. integrating identification The new e-ID cards services across various will contain various government agencies, data points, including enhancing and user experience, and place of birth, and acquisition of IDs.

with the recently passed signature. Data Protection Bill, will create a comprehensive allocated digital repository for million for the project, personal information. with card issuance The Data Protection Act anticipated to begin will ensure adherence in the second quarter to strict data protection of this year. This protocols.

The national registration of

management Guyanese citizens 14 security a person's name, date streamlining the photo or facial image, unique identification The e-ID card number, sex, citizenship, system, in conjunction fingerprints, and

Budget 2024 GYD\$783.4 initiative aligns with the Digital government's broader the and efficient national all infrastructure.

### **GUYANA AND SURINAME INK AGREEM TO BOOST TRADE, INVESTMENT OPPORTUN**



**Chief Investment Officer** of Guyana and Agency Head of the Guyana Office for Investment, Dr Peter Ramsaroop addressing those gathered at the 4th Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit (SEOG

Dr Peter Ramsaroop, Head of the Guyana Office for Investment, highlighted the potential vast for collaboration between

Dr. Ashni Singh, oil and gas production. Senior Minister in the with

Guyana and Suriname easier at the Suriname Energy transactions (SEOGS) 2024.

He the strong relationship between the two the countries' stating, "The close ties opportunities, and between President, highlighting the recent diversification." "We can form joint Investment and Dr Mohamed Irfaan surge Ali and President due to Chandrikapersad improve Santokhi nations our become key players introduced the "Brand in regional energy Guyana" and food security."

Dr pointed to imminent of the bridge, a project that wider regional markets. will significantly ease business made trade and transactions. bridge will facilitate in

"Irrespective of Office of the President the sector in which Responsibility you operate, there

and and Oil and Gas Summit bolstertradebetween production," the two countries," he Ramsaroop said, "along their investments" emphasised remarked.

> He importance Guyana He in efforts to connectivity position and reduce energy to costs. Dr Ramsaroop initiative, which promotes local Ramsaroop products, and advocated the for collaboration in completion agro-processing and Corentyne manufacturing to reach

"Guyana has significant "The advancements agriculture,

business particularly with our burgeoning aquaculture. underscored aquaculture sector, of **which** strengthens envisions



The Guyana Office for Investment and the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance trade and Foreign **Direct Investment** 

**corn** Suriname's sovbean in rice and banana will enhance market Dr production, in and

Ramsaroop Dr future а **economic** combine their expertise: acknowledged ventures to create

supply integrated chains." He believes the recently announced ferry service connecting Guyana, Barbados, and progress Trinidad and Tobago alongside reach, trade efficiency, agricultural collaboration between the two nations.

Further solidifying presidents, integrating investment our food security where the two countries the partnership, the Guyana Office for the Suriname Investment Trade Agency and signed a Memorandum Understanding of (MoU) to promote trade and foreign direct investment. The MoU, signed by Dr Ramsaroop and Director Amar Alakhramsing of the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency, covers information sharing, research, and export and investment promotion.

#### **FIND YOUR NICHE,** FINANCE MINISTER URGES BUSINESSES

for Finance and Public Service, delivered a keynote address at the Business Brunch & Finance Seminar where he encouraged micro and medium business owners to "discover **their niche**" to prosper Guyana's rapidly in transforming economy.

The event, held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel and co-hosted by the Women's Chamber of Commerce American Chamber of growth, largely driven by Singh highlighted.



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

and is no shortage of Industry Guyana and the **demand** for what you can produce in Commerce (AmCham), Guyana today. And informed participants that will only grow about Guyana's booming over the near and 30% annual economic medium - term," Dr.

He emphasised the importance of identifying a niche, stating "what is critical, is that this identify we niches, to respective what it is that we, we the

what it is that we as are interested in whatever you do... immediately and what it is that competitiveness is a position to do we are good at and essential." will be able to do successfully." the

Singh forming Dr. underscored the partnerships competition Guyanese businesses. growing in Guyana's economy, both domestically and Local internationally. "In the Legislation longrun, you will only identified survive and succeed categories in which if you are globally oil and gas companies & Finance Seminar competitive," he **are** stressed. "We consider to a national with our imperative... companies," ensure that Singh create individual environment where owner, you may financial players. entrepreneur, we are competitive not be necessarily

a importance "The do said.

country... automatically or in business directly with He also highlighted an oil and gas major, of but the 40 categories strategic give you a good among idea of who is doing business with the oil landmark and gas majors, and Content therefore, who you has could potentially be 40 doing business with."

The Business Brunch **required** aimed to help small **business** and medium businesses Guyanese understand how to **Dr.** secure financing, create "As effective financial plans, an a small business and network with key

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

## **12 FAMILIES RECEIVE KEYS TO CORE HOMES**



The sod turning for the new recreational park in Anna Regina

families across Guyana struggled celebrating are life-changing receiving the keys to of Housing and Water, their new homes. The Susan ceremonies, held in presented the keys to the East Coast Demerara, mark a turning point for wooden house and these families, offering I didn't have all the them a safe and secure conveniences," shared place to call their own. Leon Stanford, speaking

The initiative, funded by "I am really happy the Development (IDB), provides twobedroom houses for Sophia

Twelve low-income families who previously with a inadequate housing. event: Minister in the Ministry Rodrigues, La Parfaite Harmonie, five overjoyed recipients Region Three and on the in La Parfaite Harmonie.

"I had a small core home on behalf of his family. Inter-American for this...My whole Bank family is happy." Single mother Paul echoed

that I can move out," accessible. she expressed. "My children are happy, announced and security for Paul and the her children. Helena

Duncan's story exemplifies the transformative power of this initiative. "I paying rent was and everything and the place was in a deplorable condition and nothing was being done,' she explained. "So, it is a very good feeling to me knowing that I can own my own home."

The core home support empowers families by offering them a path to homeownership, a dream Demerara, that might have seemed stories of hope and given) unattainable before. The relief unfolded as seven the modest contribution of more families received hardships she faced

Stanford's sentiment. "I \$100,000 required from their keys. Father of while raising her feel happy that I get the recipients makes this three, Carlos Jules, family. "Many days it [house] today so programme even more described his new home I am not well and

Minister Rodrigues family.





Sonita and family receiving the key to their new home

homeownership. In East similar

initiative experience the joy of My family will be able pay the rent. it is to grow and things Coast will be better."

Sonita (only name recounted financial

as "a start" for his I would remind "Sometimes myself not to give the I feel like giving up up. I want to thank government we needed it," she tearfully conveyed.

Sewmattie Narine, another recipient, expressed her gratitude after losing her husband last year. "One of neighbours my encouraged me to go and see if I can get through with a house and I went and I got through. I am happy about it; thank God. Thanks to the president, because I couldn't afford to expensive," Narine shared.

#### **TEARS OF JOY AS SINGLE MOMS RECEIVE NEW HOMES** FROM MEN ON MISSION



Denise Lampkin receiving the keys to her new home from Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd

in our society, a key pillar of the One Guyana vision."

The Men on Mission initiative goes beyond simply building houses. Yogeita Bhagwandeen, another single mother of three who received a new home through the programme, said "It has been rough," referring to the struggles of living in a rented home. "I am very much grateful for this," she expressed, overwhelmed with emotion. "Mv children will now



The makeshift home where Ms Lampkin and her children resided

Lampkin, she now has a brand- this small makeshift have everything that our country. And this projects and is on track my I could never have is a good example." to complete 50 homes The Men on Mission for vulnerable Guyanese boasts a across the nation. A MoM goes beyond just successful track record. recent youth programme a roof over their heads. Since its inception, the launch also aims to equip Minister of Health, group has spearheaded Georgetown's youth with Frank Anthony, numerous improvement vital life skills.

Denise Linden, Ward,

a 50-year-old mother new home. "This is a shelter of three from Amelia's blessing," Lampkin children is told the Department out to the president celebrating a "blessing" of Public Information led me here. I thank thanks to the Men on (DPI), wiping away tears God for what they've Mission initiative. Her of joy. "My previous done." previous house burned house burned down, Min down, but with the leaving me with no Affairs and International help of the programme, choice but to build Cooperation, Hugh Todd,



The makeshift home where Ms Lampkin and her children resided

for Lampkin children. Reaching given them."

Minister of Foreign Dr presented Lampkin with the keys, highlighting the project's alignment with the government's vision of widespread homeownership. "President Āli committed to is leaving one no behind," Minister Todd emphasised. "This initiative ensures we can reach even the most vulnerable

The support from initiative offered Bhagwandeen access to counselling mentorship or programmes that could benefit her sons. "This organisation is changing that. It's changing people's attitude," Dr. Anthony commending said, MoM's efforts to help vulnerable people. "This organisation wants to show men that they

can do positive things

to improve the life of



The makeshift home where Ms Lampkin and her children resided



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KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

# PRESIDENT ALICH IN DOMINANT T20





Stadium was abuzz spinner Akeal Hosein's with excitement as His outstanding bowling Excellency President Dr. spell. Hosein claimed Irfaan Ali joined cricket five wickets for just 11 fans to witness a thrilling runs, leading the charge encounter between the as Uganda was bowled West Indies and Uganda out for a mere 39 runs, in the ICC Men's T20 matching the lowest World Cup. The home total in T20 World Cup side delivered a stellar history. performance, securing a resounding 134-run presence was a morale victory.

West Indies set a cheered enthusiastically formidable total of 173- from the 5 from their 20 overs, embodying the nation's with contributions from support for the cricketing several key batsmen. The heroes highlight of the match,

The Guyana National however, was left-arm bowling

President Ali's booster for the home Batting first, the team and fans alike. He stands,





**THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024** 

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## RESONWESTINDIES RLDCUPVICTORY











#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

#### **EQUALITY NEWS**

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**THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024** 

## Delicious Jamaican Dish



#### **Specials in Effect Thu. June 27th** 2 6 5 2 0 $\left( 0 \right)$ 0 UNCE LOCCAUOUS IO SCHWE IOU DEUCEN until Wed. July 3rd, 2024. ough 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.



#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

#### **<u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>**

#### KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

#### **OVER 100 SOESDYKE-LINDEN** H A **ECEIVE LAN** $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{0}|\mathbf{R})$

Over 100 residents from the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are celebrating a fresh start after finally receiving ownership land documents. This comes after a lease distribution ceremony led by President Irfaan Ali and Minister of Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy.

Previously living as squatters in Hill Foot or renting in various highway villages, these residents are now brimming with joy.



months." Echoing sentiment.

Over 100 residents receive land in Swan Village

Lovern Prince couldn't Florrest hide her excitement. "I'm so thankful for the land and the lease," she exclaimed. "This is a true pleasure for me and my family."

Latoya Hudson is another resident eager to embark on a new chapter. received a "I've been waiting a long time for this," she told the Department of Public Information "We were (DPI).

his gratitude to the residents to discuss loans government addressing their needs. "It's been a long journey, but the time has come for us to have what's rightfully ours," he said.

Each resident 50ft bv 100ft plot. Minister McCoy, who oversaw the allocation process, assured them of the government's squatting before, but commitment to making

within the next two reality for all. While going to my land to the allocated land is the situated further down Kenneth Swan Village, Minister McCoy emphasised that development is on the horizon. "You'll see the establishment of facilities that will improve this area," he said.

Following the allocation of land and leases, the Ministry of Housing and Water took the initiative to connect residents with financial institutions. A face-toface engagement was expressed held in Timehri, allowing mortgages with for and



An engagement was facilitated between the residents and the commercial banks

representatives from various banks. They were also introduced to the ministry's steel and cement subsidy programme.

Daniel Primo, who qualified for the ministry's subsidy programme, expressed his excitement to break ground. "With how I am feeling now, a tomorrow Ĭ see what is going on and if I can start my foundation...Because I am thankful for the little materials and it will help me a lot," Primo said. Previously residing in Hill Foot, Primo lost his home to demolition.

For Susan Singh, who currently lives along the highway, securing a lease and meeting with a bank representative eased her worries about providing a secure future for her family. "I am so proud of the initiative that His Excellency has given us," Singh said.





Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy assisting a resident to mark his land

am "I am so thankful for event, my lease especially. the I am so happy that I commitment will be able to own a improving the lives of all home for my children citizens. "Our presence

impressed streamlined process. "It will tell you that as was a fast process," a government how

emphasised government's to and grandchildren." here is a commitment Maria Pierre was by His Excellency," by the he stated. "This alone



Some of the residents engaging with finance officers from the various banks

she said. "It is nice committed we are that they brought all to ensuring that by these programmes every possible means to the highway for our citizens can have us. I want to thank an opportunity for a the president and the better life." ministries for this initiative."

Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal, who was present at the outreach

development

## 74 HOUS

Highway, Silica City is the soil type is "We do have a list next stage in regard to brainchild of President sandy, we would've of persons who that."



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal giving an update on Silica City

government-backed Minister Croal its planned 110 young have professional houses, And Collin Croal.

"We have the first set of 110 contracted the

Silica City, Guyana's houses to be built," said 'smart" urban center during a recent visit to under development, has the construction site. "In broken ground on 74 of fact, 74 of those units commenced. within according to Minister next two weeks, the has of Housing and Water, remaining 36 will Minister Croal added, under start."

> Situated along Soesdyke-Linden

represents had Ali and Guyana's first attempt at **expenditure in terms interest**," developing a sustainable, of concrete drains. Croal \$3 billion government run." investment.

The young hurdles, professional homes will is come in four distinct establishment of roads styles, with flat units and drainage systems is priced at \$25,200,603 underway, and electricity and \$25,290,178, and poles are being installed elevated units costing to provide power. The \$33,980,153 \$34,450,145.

the infrastructure work water well for the area. been done." acknowledging challenges by engineers contractors. "Because gualification

Despite

evident.

and ministry is also in the procurement phase to "The first base secure an independent While houses are construction, the the allocation process faced for potential residents and remains in its prephase.

additional have indicated an This **Minister** marks a significant step explained. forward for Silica City modern urban centre. And we would've put "So, we are first of and Guyana's vision The project reflects a the road as crusher all going through for a more modern the pre-qualification and inclusive urban these **phase.** No, we have landscape. progress not allocated, but we The will be moving to the



One of the houses under construction

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**











## Guyana VP visits Toronto

While visiting Toronto last weekend, the Vice President of Guyana Bharrat Jagdeo attended a number of community events. These included visits to the Brampton Triveni Mandir, as well as meeting with members of the diaspora and business community during an engagement at the Pearson Convention Center, Brampton.

Vice-President Jagdeo also interacted with attendees at the Guyana 58th Independence Anniversary Festival hosted on Saturday at the Malvern Family Resource n Center in Brampton, and met with worshippers and other attendees at the International Muslims Organization (IMO) of Toronto Mosque on Rexdale Blvd., Toronto.

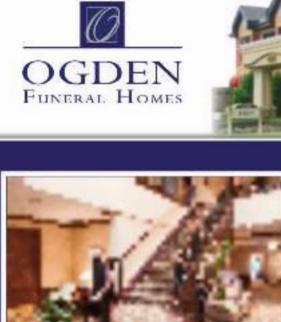
He was also presented with a Luminary Distinction Award in recognition of his global leadership in areas such as sustainable development, forest management, climate change mitigation, and green energy.

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#### **GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST**

#### **EQUALITY NEWS**

## **GUYANA MARKS 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENMORE MARTYRS**



Prime Minister Mark Phillips laying a wreath at the **Enmore Martyrs monument** 

Phillips honoured the symbols of Guyana's fight five plantation workers for justice and dignity. who died fighting for

Prime Minister Mark He called them enduring The Enmore Martyrs,

workers' rights in 1948. as they are known, were

shot during a strike for recent recreation of the **committed** "indelible mark" on well-being. Guyana's history.

"They stood up against oppression," the Prime Minister said at the commemoration ceremony at the monument on the East Coast of Demerara. bravery "Their symbolises the importance of standing up for what is right."

The Prime Minister pointed to progress in labour laws, safety standards, and minimum wage as fruits of their struggle. He also mentioned the

better wages and working Ministry of Labour to continuing conditions. PM Phillips show the government's **fight for justice and** the consaid their sacrifice left an commitment to workers' **equality**," PM Phillips ceremony. "We

are

concluded.

to officials the diplomats

and attended commemoration

government Other



The commemorating of the 76th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs

### WORKS

improvements aimed at your life easier." enhancing their lives.

Tourism, Industry, Minister, and Commerce Minister, McCoy, Oneidge Walrond, the assured residents that commitment interventions development timely Walrond stressed. "It is in important for us to Minister

Following a visit by you, to listen to your government ministers to needs, and see the North Sophia, residents best way in which we can expect a series of **can help you to make** 

Public Affairs Kwame reiterated government's to across were on the way. "As the country. "We a government, as have been working ministers, we are here aggressively to fastto serve you," Minister track development villages," all McCoy always be amongst affirmed. He emphasised



Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond speaking to the residents during the outreach

the importance community engagement, stating, "It is by us the benefits of new being able to have programmes. these frequently, that we community uplifted. are able to work You want to have and attend to the better drains and matters that affect better roads," Minister you most and satisfy Persaud observed. "So, your desires as a I want to urge you community." Minister at all times to work McCoy promised that road and when drainage improvements happening would begin soon.

Local Government and Regional

Development Minister, Anand Persaud. residents encouraged collaborate with to their Community of Development Council (CDC) to maximise "You interactions all want to see your specifically together, especially work is within your community."

The Guyana government remains committed to eliminating all forms of child labour, according to Minister of Human Services and Security, Social Dr. Vindhya Persaud.

Speaking the at

#### GOVT RENEWS COMMITME ADICATING CHIL D LABOU

MINISTRY OF LARGE

International Organization conventions child labour as

Labour One and Four and an art to raise awareness and (ILO) competition for children empower communities against aged 8 to 16 years will be to work together to end evidence launched. child labour in Guyana.

culmination of the Ministry of Labour's annual child labour awareness walk, Dr. Persaud emphasised the importance of ongoing efforts. "We began a conversation looking at the merits of having a conference focusing on child labour among the kev stakeholders," she stated, highlighting plans for further collaboration.

The walk served as a reminder that child labour is defined as work that harms children's development, and denies them their childhood. Dr. Persaud stressed the distinction between child labour, and helping with chores at home.



Scene from the Ministry of Labour's annual child labour awareness walk 2024

She emphasised that all understand the negative echoed the government's effects of child labour resolve. He pointed to and their fundamental Guyana's existing legal rights.

Chief Labour Officer, children should Dhaneshwar Deonarine, framework and ratified

of this commitment. These conventions include the Minimum Age Convention and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.

The Ministry of Labour plans a series of awareness activities throughout June, aligned with the World Day Against Child Labour theme: "Let's Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour."

Labour officers will visit at least 40 secondary schools nationwide to educate students about the dangers of child labour.

Awareness walks will be held in Regions

These initiatives aim



Scene from the Ministry of Labour's annual child labour awareness walk 2024

#### **GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST**

#### KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

#### GUYANA **PRAISED FOR LEADING THE WAY IN** HEA **REPAREDNESS AND ONE HEALTH APPROACH**

titled in Guyana's Guvana's fight against COVID-19 as a breeding ground and its emergence as a for health threats, this forerunner in regional initiative promotes a health preparedness.

Guyana's swift and mitigation. effective response to the COVID-19 The Guyana COVID-19 Anthony, Emergency Response the Project, a collaborative a between effort the World Bank, and devastation of neglecting international partners, these interconnections, is praised as a model for using COVID-19 as a other countries.

Guyana's Health"

A recent blog post launched in 2023, is we don't have this is real," Dr. Anthony human population to leadership health healthcare. Recognising and COVID-19 is of thinking about interconnections." preparedness win" the interconnectedness just one of those human health as just throws a spotlight on of human, animal, and reminders that this working within the initiative successful environmental health more holistic approach The blog applauds to risk identification and

Guyana's Health pandemic. Minister, Dr. Frank emphasised importance of comprehensive the approach. He Guyanese government, highlighted the potential stark reminder. "When "One we think about the initiative, **consequences** 



if Regional food hub works advancing

"Progressing another reason for its approach, it can said during a meeting get health, we have implementing the partnership: growing reputation in really be devastating last year. "Instead to think about those One Health initiative.

collaboration sectors, moving away trajectory from programmes towards leader broader efforts. the strengthening The establishment of "These a National One Health partnerships Committee and finalized National Action commitment Plan for Health Security **innovation** demonstrate Guyana's transforming commitment to vision.

The blog concludes commending Guyana's within the region." strategic partnerships, commitment to innovation, and

in the "Beyond COVID-19, The One Health Guyana is on the fosters path to regional across leadership. Its toward disease-specific becoming a regional in One system- Health is eminent," blog stated. strategic and a **the** country's to in the this **health** landscape make it an inspiration post and a leader in the by **One Health initiative** 

#### OR

both

professionals in Guyana **appreciation**. It's a comprehensive approach psychological were recognised for small gesture to show taken to address the psychiatric care, along braverv their commitment in aftermath of the Mahdia School dormitory fire in May 2023, which tragically took the lives of 20 students.

A ceremony was held to honour the healthcare workers' tireless efforts during the crisis. Health Minister, Dr. Frank Anthony, praised their unwavering dedication.

"Everyone involved gave selflessly," Dr. Anthony said, "and we want to acknowledge

Prime Minister Mark Phillips, speaking at the end of a Men on Mission

M e d i c a l **that with a token of** highlighted the your work."

The



Tokens presented to medical practitioners

the This included offering and **how much we value** needs of those affected, with grief counselling immediately for the Minister and in the long term. communities.

Dr. Anthony mentioned the report submitted the to Commission of Inquiry (COI) which detailed the cause of the fire, as Executive Officer of Police Officer Mess response's effectiveness. Robbie

and

impacted

Telemedicine established at and swift communication support for those in tragic event. need.



A medical practitioners collecting his teoken from Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony

well as the emergency the Ministry of Health, Annex at Eve Leary in was also commended the the four healthcare locations to facilitate extraordinary supporting the families effective compassion and empathy during this loved ones in the fire.

The ceremony, The Deputy Chief which was held at the

(MoM) Father's Day walk against violence, urged fathers and men to take charge and build a better society, stressing the need for them to be cognizant of their environment.

#### "Men need to



President Ali and Prime Minister Phillips led the fivekilometer walk

#### <u>TERSOCIET</u> Ү – АТ ҒАТН R'S DAY

PM URGES MEN TO TAKE CHARGE AND BUILD

be aware of their responsible leadership. health, at home, in and nationally," the led the five-kilometer the Prime Minister said. walk that included He He

activities. He mentioned President Ali and their plan to build their communities, Prime Minister Phillips nearly 60 homes for emphasised that participants from the importance of fathers good health is key to military, government, taking leadership roles and businesses.

The Prime Minister communities. praised the MoM's role in supporting those in need Commission and empowering men. He believes the MoM will keep playing this vital MoM initiatives. role under President Ali's leadership.

Acting Defence of Guyana. Chief, Colonel Kenllovd Roberts, reaffirmed the programme fights social MoM's commitment problems character-building training, to

underprivileged. stressed the in both their homes and

The Private Sector Chair, Komal Singh, promised ongoing support for

Similar walks happened in all regions

The MoM through mentorship,



Similar walks happened in all regions of Guyana

and community support. clinics, and a youth It brings together men empowerment program. from all backgrounds to help vulnerable people. organised improvement projects, job fairs, health

Several government ministers also The MoM has already participated in the walk.

**GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST** 

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

**KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED** 

## **SIMILAR WALKS HAPPENED IN ALL REGIONS OF GUYANA** - THOUSANDS TO RECEIVE HOUSE LOTS, LAND TITLES

The Exposition innovative yet. This to premier regional event solutions. provides a platform for exploring cutting-edge history of introducing solutions in housing and groundbreaking construction, with the technologies. potential to transform year's edition featured Guyana into a model for 3D-printed sustainable development solar technology, and in the Caribbean and eco-friendly South America.

the expo at the Ramada to progress. Princess Hotel, Minister of Housing and Water, Croal Collin Croal, emphasised the the event's significance. unwavering focus on "The International ensuring access to Building Expo 2024 sustainable housing for will give us another all Guyanese citizens. opportunity to see He **new products and impressive achievements industry.** services," he declared. to

Guyana Highlighting (IBEX) sustainable is back for its 2024 materials, Minister Croal completion. edition, promising to encouraged local and results, he emphasised, from be the biggest and most international suppliers showcase their

The expo boasts a Last houses. building materials-atestament to Officially launching the event's commitment

> Minister reiterated government's date, exceeding

the 1,067 houses delivered invitation building with over 1,500 nearing Minister

to international



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bishram Kuppen unveil layout of the expo

are a product of visionary delegations. highlighted the partnerships within the **design**, Extending

leadership, and strong want to see their of the past three- and businesses, with many and an **trends**," he remarked. Guyanese

the With 20 companies receive their own plots of International Building demand for affordable, to new homeowners, diplomatic community, already registered, the land. Croal expo is shaping up to These encouraged participation be a vibrant hub for just about government knowledge sharing and initiatives; collaboration.

Ministry of Housing and established businesses Water, Susan Rodrigues, alike. The event has announced that Guyana's witnessed climate-resilient urban 2022 to 450 in 2023. centre - will once again This year, an estimated be a key focus of the 500 exhibitors expo.

year's event will be a projected audience the "Dream Realised" of over initiative, featuring the visitors - mirroring the distribution of house overwhelming support lots and land titles to from both regional and thousands of Guyanese international partners. citizens. This programme The expo is a boon for "We builds upon the success small and medium-sized products, -a- half years, which start-ups leveraging it construction has seen over 34,000 as a springboard for families success.

The expo is not it also provides a launchpad Minister within the for entrepreneurs and consistent ambitious Silica City growth, with exhibitors project – a low-carbon, increasing from 356 in and sponsors are expected A highlight of this to participate, attracting 120,000



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill addressing residents

Residents Region Ten, can look million, Works, Edghill.

and we sat with the NDC commuters in Kwakwani, and allotted \$200 and we forward to significantly walked with them, improved infrastructure found out what are thanks to a \$489 million their priorities and investment announced **we delivered on every** by Minister of Public one of those roads we Bishop Juan committed to. Now in 2024, we are doing "We came and another \$489 million

#### **\$489M INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST FOR KWAKWA**

in road Minister highlighted during a months. recent inspection visit.

substantial Enterprise This upgrade aims enhance and accessibility within to community. The planned million. The road will be accessibility Kwakwani Waterfront expected to be completed schoolchildren. 1,000 meters in length route. and 6.1 meters in width.

works," June 14 and are expected Incorporated Edghill to be completed in six be responsible

Orin's Kwakwani Road Hururu,

Additionally, Works commenced on VG Group Guyana emphasised

rehabilitating internal Supreme roads and drainage of is works. This includes works being done to undertaking the massive upgrading the road in the sub-region connectivity 20-kilometer Orealla between Kwakwani and is for the benefit of the mining and logging project valued at \$181.8 focusing on improving as the economic projects include the 7.62 meters wide and is commuters, especially region." The Road, a \$225.6 million within a similar six- project is valued at in project awarded to month timeframe, with \$82.2 million and will infrastructure Jemcrop Engineering a target completion date involve the construction expected to improve and Imports. This project of December 14. This of a 600-meter asphalt transportation of goods will see the construction project represents a road, 6.1 meters wide. and services, benefit of a rigid pavement continuation of ongoing Works are expected to forestry operations in concrete road spanning works on this critical be completed within four the area, and create a months. Minister

will significance of these for projects, stating that "the magnitude infrastructural particularly the people, as well for development of the

These investments Kwakwani's are more connected and Edghill accessible community the for residents.

> We are targeting 500 families in the first

### FOR 500 FAMILIES ALONG SOESDYKE-LINDEN HIGHWAY

PRESIDENT UNVEILS INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROJECT

The government has Irfaan Ali stated at a swift implementation, unveiled an ambitious media conference. plan to construct 500 low-income along the earn a living.

The added along the 45-mile- production, the massive smart urban stream. centre, 'Silica City',"

houses will be similar in cost to we can have this Soesdyke- those built elsewhere project move from Linden Highway. This in the country, but with **conceptualisation** innovative project aims a twist: each property to implementation." to not only provide will come with a 20x40 Additionally, affordable housing for foot shade house in the government vulnerable families but backyard and several committed to making also empower them to fruit trees in the front these houses energyyard. Equipped with efficient by incorporating

new advanced technology, solar panels. development is another these shade houses are long highway, apart from families a steady income **will** 

President President Dr. Mohamed emphasised the project's **that family income**.

stating, "I am hoping These unique homes that within six weeks the is

"And when you feature that will be designed to boost food **do the economics of** offering it, that shade house comfortably carry the load for Ali the home and give



The Soesdyke-Linden highway

instance. This is a project that is around the cost parameter of about \$6 billion," the President underscored.

billion This \$6 will project involve collaboration with the local private and banking sectors. It represents the administration's ongoing efforts to improve living conditions and economic stability for Guyanese families, potentially setting a new standard for low-income housing globally.

### **WORLD BANK APPROVES US\$45M** FOR DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Guyana's agriculture plight, highlighting a eliminated flood risks. and population stand recent study. "Based a US\$45 million project rising sea levels approved by the World expose the country's Bank. This investment coastal agriculture to targets drainage infrastructure, with potential GDP crucial for a nation losses that could vulnerable to climate exceed 46.4 percent," change.

"Approximately 320,000 roughly 40 per cent of canals, culverts, sluices, Guyana's population, and pumps to manage are set to benefit from drainage. improved drainage "consistent efforts to infrastructure," the improve operations, World Bank stated in new a release. This project systems, comes as a welcome increased relief for a country **for** battling frequent floods. acknowledged Guyana's haven't

to benefit greatly from on recent studies, on over 45 drainage land use, population improved **flooding and erosion**, the release warned.

Guyana currently persons, relies on a network of However, management and funding the Drainage The World Bank Irrigation Authority" will be designed with drainage efficiency, lives and reducing release clarified.

"These The project will focus will consider future explained.



The project will focus on over 45 drainage structures, particularly sluices

National structures, particularly growth, and climate risk and sluices. These upgrades change to improve while

upgrades irrigation," the release long term."

Diletta World Bank Group REDD+ Investment Resident Representative Fund (GRIF), established Guyana for Suriname, emphasised with Norway. "Under the project's significance. **this** "This project is a Norway compensates critical of Guyana's Low greenhouse Carbon Development emissions caused by Strategy, and aligns deforestation with the country's forest degradation. vision for climate Guyana resilient she said. Doretti added, implementingits Low "With this operation, Carbon Development we are reinforcing Strategy, and the Guyana's efforts to Coastal Adaptation disaster and maximise entirely the future in mind. flood protection, and inequalities in the

This initiative is Doretti, financed by the Guyana and through an agreement agreement, element Guyana for curbing gas and utilises growth," these revenues for Resilience management Project is part of protecting these efforts." the

Guyana joins several Caribbean nations in a new initiative aimed at fortifying the region's agriculture sector against climate change and achieving food security.

The funded million project, titled agricultural and Food Systems across in the Caribbean," nations. was launched at the Barbados.

Organization (FAO), the women target Guyana, Belize, (20% of beneficiaries). Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

### **GUYANA AMONG SEVERAL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO BOOST FOOD SECURITY** - WITH CA\$10M AGRI-PROJECT

The project's goals the project's success. Canadian- cover enhancing climate CA\$10 resilience within the organisations, including "Regional Gender- contributing to regional youth, will be involved. Responsive Climate- economic growth, and Smart Agriculture bolstering food security includes

United Nations House in directly impact 2,500 resilient individuals over four value chains, promoting Implemented by the -and- a- half years, with the adoption of climate-Food and Agriculture a focus on empowering smart (50% four-year project will beneficiaries) and youth practices among farmers,

> Collaboration decision-making between Canada, the stakeholders within the regional food security. hydroponics projects, FAO, local governments, agricultural sector. society and civil

Over 30 farmers' sector, those led by women and

The project focus fostering of participating the development inclusive, gender-The project aims to responsive, and climateagricultural innovations, of technologies, for and

organisations is key to history of investing in technologies and data- and honey production



Officials at the project launch

contribute These efforts include and supporting Guyana has a long implementing advanced black belly sheep project

to value crops, encouraging of 2025. the

initiatives.

Corn and SOY production is expected to make Guyana selfsufficient in livestock feed by the end of 2025, significantly reducing dependence on imports.

CARICOM Chair, and Guyana's President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, recently projected that Guyana's agricultural advancements will and sustainable agricultural driven farm operations, enable the region to save practices among farmers, projects to diversify increasing production over US\$150 million on and enabling data-driven its agricultural sector of corn, soy, and high- crop imports by the end

#### **ESSEQUIBO COAST GET DRAINAGE** ND IRRIGATION BOOST







Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, other officials, and residents at the commissioning of the new amphibious excavator

The significant investment in million improve productivity on Esseguibo coast.

Minister Agriculture,

Guyana Mustapha, recently government is making a commissioned a \$110 amphibious drainage and irrigation excavator in Tapakuma (D&I) infrastructure to Village, Region Two. agricultural "This machine will be the very useful for the people on the Essequibo coast," Mustapha prioritise of Minister Zulfikar stated. "It will help

them tremendously in clearing.

clearing the waterways to provide them with expressed area," he explained.

powerful This excavator will be used for large-scale canal clearing projects, essential improvements access to water, we drainage to irrigation systems across in rice production," he the Essequibo coast.

ensure То the N used is excavator effectively and delivers maximum benefit to farmers, a dedicated management committee will be established to oversee the deployment of the excavator and areas in greatest need of canal

Minister Mustapha optimism proper freshwater in the that the improved D&I infrastructure will lead to an expansion of rice

"With this investment stated. providing in drainage and better and expect to see an increase



The new amphibious excavator

The new sluice in Capoey Village

also officially opened a improved drainage and \$260 million sluice in irrigation thanks to this Capoev Village. This project. new structure replaces outdated an malfunctioning drainage upgraded sluice, is system, providing a expected to provide significant upgrade for improved access to a the area.

in Little Westfield, Dageraad, Queenstown, security for the region.

and the surrounding Minister Mustapha areas will all benefit from

The new excavator, and combined with the total of 1,000 acres of The positive impact farmland and residential of the new sluice extends land. This translates to beyond Capoey. Farmers more opportunities for Alliance, agricultural production Mocha, and increased food

## **FORT WELLI** NGTON HOSPITAL GETS



The \$97M digital x-ray unit commissioned at Fort Wellington

Residents of Wellington **constant** Fort surrounding before and communities in Guvana machine. can now breathe a sigh of frustration, relief. A new, \$97 million Regional digital X-ray unit was Vickchand Hospital, the outdated analogue of

There delays" the new explained Ramphal this

Mahaica-Berbice." This efficiency, only also improved safety Hospital patients. for units emit smaller evaluation. radiation that is less harmful people to X-rays," highlighted **the** Minister Dr He elaborated, doesn't harm people Anthony explained. and that by itself is a very important the Office of the President were consideration... with you're exposed to for Finance and the a lower dose of Public Service, causing radiation, but you're Ashni Singh, reiterated getting a higher the Chairman quality of image."

officially commissioned at the commissioning is projected to benefit class healthcare system. at the Fort Wellington ceremony. "Now, with over 4,000 residents, replacing the commissioning according to Regional objective modern Health Officer (RHO) ensure that good machine that plagued equipment, there will Dr. Theresa Sarju. The quality healthcare is patients with long wait **be no more delays** improved technology **available to everyone** times. **for the people of** boasts superior image **within reach...** 

quality that can be to "The (GPHC) for further

"This is part of Diletta to a joint partnership applauded **Government** access of Health, of Guyana as part Frank Anthony. of the One Health "It programme," Minister

Senior Minister in responsibility Dr government's unwavering commitment The new X-ray unit to building a world-"Our government's is to

every Corporation seen in that context." The World Bank compared between the World government's initiative facilities traditional Bank Group and to expand healthcare Guyana. in outlying

**single** regions. She pledged the significant uploaded to a server Guyanese citizen," organisation's continued upgrade promises not accessible by radiologists he emphasised. "This collaboration to achieve but at the Georgetown Public x-ray machine is to be the One Health goals in Guyana.

> Approximately 15 Group's representative, digital machines have Doretti, already been installed the in various healthcare throughout



Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony and Senior Minister, Dr Ashni Singh witnessing a demonstration of how the machine is used

towards spectacles for those in need.

This programme prioritises addressing vision issues correctable with spectacles. Those problems will be referred government's to separate programmes.

Vouchers can be Health used at various optical target outlets across Guvana. of eliminating cervical including: Da Šilva's cancer by 2030, is to Optical, Miracle Vision screen over 211,000 Care, Regina's Optical, Courts Optical and Vouchers for eye Optique Vision Care.

The national budget the has earmarked \$840

### **HEALTH MINISTRY SIGNS MOU FOR CERVICAL** CANCER SCREENING, EYE-CARE PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health is partnering with private institutions to launch vital healthcare programmes focused on cervical cancer screening and eye care. Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was recently signed by the institutions at the ministry's headquarters, Brickdam.

Recognising the importance of earlv has allocated \$2.8 billion voucher for cervical be redeemed at five Centre, to provide women aged cancer testing.

Residents of Long Creek along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway benefited from a medical outreach programme, thanks to the strong ties between with Georgetown Corporation for looking into the Hospital the Long Creek Health our citizens," Minister a wide Centre for a day to McCoy told the medical services, medical services to the partnership is a result radiology, community. Minister within bilateral relationships." the Office of the Prime Minister with commitment responsibility Public Affairs, Kwame of its people was explained highlighted evident McCoy, the importance of the forging of partnerships specifically initiative, emphasising



private medical facilities: Limited, HUIAQI Health a \$15,000

Service, Eureka Medical Laboratory, and Balwant with more complex eye Singh Hospital.

The aligned with goal, World the Organization's women.

exams and spectacles

Meanwhile, Ministry will provide a million for eye tests and Woodlands exams and, if necessary, spectacle cost. voucher

#### HINESE MEDICAL TEAM EXPERTISE

LONG CREEK RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM

the 19th Chinese Medical Team. The team, good work that you have to take full advantage of go into remote areas or came here to provide working alongside the always demonstrated the free medical services places where persons are healthcare for these Public here in Guyana and available.

The Chinese (GPHC), set up shop at various conditions of medical team provided range of including provide much-needed team. "I know this ophthalmology, pediatrics, of the many years of and nephrology.

Dr. Zhao Changyong, The government's a Consultant of to General Surgery and for improving the lives GPHC's representative, that the their outreach programme targeted

in

international remote areas where not really able to see a people of Long Creek.

A pediatrician examining a child from Long Creek

This is an important job for our Chinese Medical Team, especially in this specific area."

The Chinese Medical Team's dedication to serving Guyanese communities is evident in their impressive track record. Over the past 31 years, they have conducted nearly million medical 1.7 interventions across the country.

**GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST** 

#### ALL'S 2024 BUDGET MIRED SPARENCY- VICE PRESIDEN



Georgetown City Hall, which houses the offices of the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Engineer

Vice Bharrat the Georgetown City highlighting a troubling lack of financial accountability and transparency.

> He pointed out

The Ministry of Natural Resources in Guyana recently held a meeting with goldsmiths, jewellers, and licenced gold buyers to remind Commission sellers of regulations and Minister listen to their concerns Bharrat improvement.

Guyana Gold Board relationship Geology and Mines **the** 

President that the budget lacked Jagdeo has information about past cast a critical eye on expenditure and that the City Council did not to operate in that lamented. He suggested City Council's proposed \$3.297 billion budget for Council's 2024 Budget, conduct audits. "If you environment because that any attempt by revenue-generating 2024, with a heavy focus don't have audits, in that environment, the you can't verify how you can spend on promote transparency is much you collected or whatever you want, misconstrued as a power and increased rates and spent," he stated. "So, you are not guided by grab. they operate in this

deliberately."

Dr. questioned the City already occurred in core neglecting audits. "It's in place. "Who made from not that they can't the call on what they government. statements and you questioned. hire an auditor," he explained.

opaque environment a budget," Dr. Jagdeo

that the Mayor and deals. **"They refuse to** central government for a of properties in the City. opposition Councillors **address this, despite** lack of support. The cash-strapped relish this lack of of all the efforts of government to measures.

asserted. He pointed argued that the City APNU+AFC-led City Jagdeo out that spending had Council's neglect of **Council**," he declared. responsibilities Council's motives for 2024 without a budget necessitates intervention suggested that these the **"The** broken do the audit, because spent substantial lack of attention promise. He added that it is simple to get amounts of money on real work in the this move also exposes an audit done - you on from January of City forces Central the untruth peddled by prepare the financial this year to date?" he Government to step the APNU+AFC at the in to address issues 2023 Local Government Dr. Jagdeo warned such as drainage, Elections, that it will that such an environment etc.," he remarked. be the PPP/C that will The Vice President creates fertile ground for He added that the City increase rates and taxes expressed his belief corruption and backroom Council then blames the and embark on the sale

oversight. "They want our part to do so," he scrutinised some of the recently approved a hefty property foreclosures rates and taxes. taxes. "Now we see

The Vice President the true nature of the

Dr. Jagdeo central proposals expose a campaign

The cash-strapped Dr. Jagdeo also Georgetown City Council including on collecting outstanding

### NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTRY, ENGAGE GOLDSMITHS ON REGULATIONS AND COLLABORATION

engagements, stakeholders from the a better working worth." with (GGB) and the Guyana the jewellers and raised issues related all the conditions that



Stakeholders at the meeting

Vickram country... We have for gold purchases. He emphasised to ensure that there urged goldsmiths and for the gold industry's the importance of such is compliance and jewellers to adhere to stating: that the consumers all regulations, stating: The meeting included "We have to develop get their money's "When you apply

Gold goldsmiths to decentralising GGB existed. You were services, safety, and the quality or permit based on and quantity of gold being what existed sold. Minister Bharrat that is what you acknowledged concerns and outlined potential solutions. He emphasised that the mentioned scheduling industry's GGB visits in various hinges on compliance regions and exploring from all stakeholders. ways to facilitate safer He gold purchases.

> The reminded those present of the collaboration that the GGB is the that we want and to

(GGMC). throughout the entire sole authorised entity for your goldsmith traders licence you knew of purchasing granted that licence and these accepted." Bharrat Minister

success envisioned а collaborative future: Minister "So, this is all part



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat addressing the meeting

start building that communication, relationship where ensuring compliance, we open a line of and working together, **communication** Guyana's gold industry between and among can flourish and serve the Guvana Gold Board. sellers and consumers. GGMC, and you the jewellers."

**ministry**, the best interests of both

By fostering open

趱

## UTILISE FULL CAPACITY OF POWER SHIP

power ship.

Vice Dr Bharrat Jagdeo emphasised, power." This is crucial you would

The government is power generation from areas," Dr Jagdeo have brought in the working to improve the the new 36-megawatt explained. To address bigger Powership, national electricity grid power ship and the this, to boost its capability to upcoming Gas to Energy Power and Light (GPL) megawatts of power, deal with the generation project, projected to has issued tenders and connect it here of the recently hooked up add 300 megawatts, Dr for Jagdeo explained at a million worth of grid lines can't transmit President recent press conference. improvement projects, it, so we had to take "We sources will significantly transformers have to look at the boost electricity supply, transmission lines. existing system [to the existing grid needs ensure] that with upgrades. "Even if you the current grid can't Upgrading the Kingston all that new power have more power, handle the full capacity to Sophia transmission now, we have grid if, in your area, they of the 80-megawatt line is underway to solve stability to transmit don't have adequate power ship. Dr Jagdeo this issue. and distribute the transformers, etc., elaborated, "If we to handle the increased blackouts in these megawatts...we could plans. This includes Essequibo

the roughly While the new power focusing on upgrading it to Berbice and

Guyana which is nearly 80 \$200 at Kingston, but the and hook it there, and then bring back the One challenge is that **power to Demerara.**"

The government is



transmission line to emphasising that the Linden and using gas technical feasibility of turbines to generate this move is still under power in Bartica, study. Coast. Essequibo Lethem, and Linden. aim to ensure a more However, Dr Jagdeo stable electricity supply cautioned, **"We are** throughout Guyana, of the gas to move have previously faced have can integrate the 30 also exploring broader turbines into Bartica, power shortfalls and

potentially bringing a Lethem and Linden,"

These upgrades exploring using some benefiting citizens who **Coast**, outages.

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

## **GUYANESE BUSINESSES INVOLVED IN BUILDING WORLD'S LARGEST FPSOS**

Guyana's technical areas.

upcoming Uaru project benefits. will see the construction vessel named Errea their Wittu. This sustainable designed to produce production Japanese firm.

Here's Guyanese in: come Oil and Gas Support fabrication

content laws are opening Asequith Guyana, and Jaguar's construction. doors for Guyanese ZECO Group of Services companies to participate have been contracted beyond in the oil and gas by MODEC to provide ExxonMobil is looking Guyanese benefit from between SBM Offshore, is industry, not just in fabrication services for basic services but also in the FPSO. This could lead to even more Exxon Mobil's local partnerships and

Whiptail The of a massive FPSO project's FPSO, called (Floating, Production, Jaguar, is being built Storage, and Offloading) by SBM Offshore using Fast4Ward® highly programme. This FPSO, FPSO, designed for similar capacity 250,000 barrels of oil as Errea Wittu, will daily by 2026, is being benefit from Guyana's built by MODEC, a skilled workforce, as for Guyanese suppliers the oil and gas boom, ExxonMobil, and the content legislation and well. SBM Offshore for pipe fabrication, not just through basic Guyanese government, government initiatives where is actively companies Guyanese companies engineering services. a cutting-edge FPSO training for Guyanese this future. Guyana with structural steel This multi-year project simulator named FacTor technicians.

Opportunities extend government

local Services Inc. (GOGSSI,) to contribute to the jumpers within Guyana. at Guyana's Technical landmark G u y a n a ' s Training College. This to train 3,000 welders is \$100 million project, through internationally fabrication. committed to ensuring led by a collaboration accredited institutions



Government has been providing vital training for Guyanese in the sector

seeking assembly, and related jobs. Towards this aim, will expertise will involve building well was recently launched

provide

Additionally, а

programme underway. These skilled welders will find opportunities across various oil and gas operations.

Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat in an invited comment emphasised that Guyana's oil sector is about more than resource extraction. The goal is to build a sustainable future where Guyanese play a leading role. The local vital are paving the way for

### **BOOMING TIMBER INDUSTRY FUELING CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS**



Guyana produced enough timber in 2023 to build more than 20.000 homes

forestry contributing to the fight Guyana's sector is experiencing a against climate change. surge, with production in 2023 reaching record Ministry of Natural levels. This growth is Resources, the country benefiting produced a staggering only not

enough to build over reaching 20,000 homes based million. on US standards. When considering the typically by a rise in production market. This is expected smaller size of Guyanese across the board, with to drive a particular houses, the true number increases in logs, sawn increase in value-added of homes this timber wood, and round wood wood products. construct could estimated to be over in fuelwood. This surge isn't prioritising profit 25,000.

This boom has significantly ongoing impacted Guyana's boom, highlighted timber exports are all demanding lumber. expected to jump by contribution is

declines is outweighing with

the economy, but also 446,000 cubic meters of forestry sector's GDP Gas-to-Energy project dioxide equivalent. also promises to significantly

timber products in 2023, projected to rise by 3.9%, reduce energy costs, US\$89.68 making Guyanese wood products even more This growth is driven competitive in the global

Guyana planning. However, in timber is expected to over the environment. production further fuel Guyana's The country boasts one model for balancing construction of the world's lowest economic development new deforestation rates at economy. The ministry homes, businesses, and 0.059%, a stark contrast responsibility. that infrastructure projects to the global average of sector is not only fueling 0.533%. Over 99% of The future looks Guyana's forests remain 53% in 2024, reaching even brighter for the intact, storing a massive a US\$31.4 million. The sector. The upcoming 19 billion tons of carbon preserving

Sustainable practices heritage.

are key to this success. Guyana's forestry sector adheres to principles outlined in the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). This includes responsible forestry codes, reducedimpact logging techniques, strong forest governance, and meticulous prepost-harvesting and

Guyana's forestry industry is thus a with environmental The economic growth but also demonstrating commitment to Guyana's natural irreplaceable

Guyana's First Lady, Her Excellency Mrs. Arya Ali, urged the international community step up efforts to

**GUYANA'S FIRST LADY PUSHES FOR GLOBAL** ACTION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS AT UN

towards disability rights at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

"We need more support for Inclusive **Development,"** Mrs. Ali declared in her address. She painted a sobering picture of the current situation, particularly for developing countries, where many persons with disabilities face unemployment and lack access to education.

Highlighting mobility the progress Mrs. Guyana, by Ali



First Lady, Mrs. Arya Ali and the Guyanese delegation at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with **Disabilities** 

country's legislation, Mahaica disability registry, and Complex – a training and programmes financial made specialised education. The pointed to the establishment of the promoting

According to the

services to Guyana's Disability thriving consumer market," she explained. offering empowerment centre assistance, - exemplifies Guyana's technology's potential aids, and focus on equipping to bridge the gap, persons with disabilities Mrs. Ali emphasised recent with valuable skills and Guyana's efforts to economic improve digital access

grants and interest-free for loans further bolster this opportunities initiative.

allowing them to

offer products and

Recognising

Looking to the future, Mrs. Ali announced her concluded leadership in creating acknowledging a Business specifically for persons resource-constrained **Development in these** with disabilities. "This developing center will empower them financially by

educational **create** persons with disabilities. said. The First Lady calls for increased Centre challenges faced by **Disability-Inclusive** 

independence. Business and utilise technology "Limited resources significant for **barriers**," she "Guyana by international the financing to propel countries. nations."



First Lady, Mrs. Arya Ali at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

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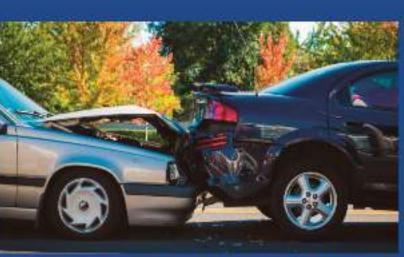


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#### GUYANA CLOSER TO ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL SECONDARY **EDUCATION- SOD TURNED FOR TWO NEW SCHOOLS**



Sod turned for new secondary school at Waramuri Village, Region One

Trevon

classrooms,

Jawalla community to receive new secondary school

modern

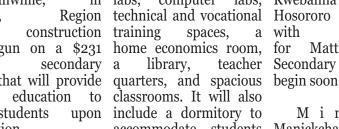
government emphasised. The working is why you see five turning actively is towards its goal of secondary schools in "After the successful of whose achieving Secondary (USE) by 2025, with years." groundbreaking ceremonies for new Construction has been wonder how they're second of its kind in secondary schools in awarded the contract to getting Waramuri Region One, and Jawalla, art Waramuri Secondary leave their region to Minister Manickchand, Region Seven, marking School, which will boast attain same." significant progress.

"This is a historic well-equipped science Secondary moment for this labs, a library, and will be a modern Secondary School in village," said Minister dedicated of Education, Priya facilities. Manickchand, at the Waramuri ceremony. The first-ever secondary school in the village expected to be is completed by March 2025 and will cater to about 350 students. "The idea is to bring universal secondary education," Minister Manickchand

Meanwhile, Jawalla, Seven, million completion.

project," Manickchand "That at the Jawalla sod- Jawalla and surrounding Universal one region [Region completion of the currently lack access Education **One] in less than five** school, the students to proper secondary o25, with years." of the community education. "The new David will no longer have to school will be the Village, build the state-of-the- and if they have to District,"

sports learning environment Waramadong." equipped with science



This school will Minister ceremony. communities, The new Jawalla ease overcrowding

construction training spaces, a with school that will provide quarters, and spacious begin soon. quality education to classrooms. It will also 250 students upon include a dormitory to accommodate students Manickchand **"This is a crucial** from nearby villages.

> said be a game-changer for many students education, the Upper Mazaruni explained "and will help to School at the DC Caesar Fox

> > bidding process.

Ministry of Education's accessible several other school, seen secondary Northwest Secondary, and will comfortably

Secondary, students. construction has begun on a \$231 home economics room, for Matthews Ridge has also been made at secondary a library, teacher Secondary also set to Hosororo Secondary

> inspected the ongoing quarters for teachers works at Northwest and ready. This massive Hosororo Schools. At Northwest 800 students and boast Secondary, the expansion 40 classrooms, a full suite

in labs, computer labs, Kwebanna Secondary, accommodate over 600

Significant progress School, with the road and drainage M i n i s t e r networks complete and also prefabricated living Secondary school will accommodate



Ongoing works on Northwest Secondary School in **Region One** 

and Sheriff Construction project is more than training facilities, Inc., awarded the project 85% complete. This two- canteen, a multi-purpose through a competitive storey building will be a hall, modern marvel, featuring spaces, a dormitory Both new schools 23 classrooms, three for over 300 students, are part of an aggressive science labs, TVET labs, and living quarters programme that has and an elevator. This teachers. schools by fire in September were signed in July under construction in 2021, is expected to be 2023 to construct this Region One, including completed by mid-July impressive facility.

reconstruction of labs and vocational а recreational amenities, for approximately 30 Contracts destroyed totalling over \$2 billion

#### NEW AMSTERDAM SECONDARY SCH **MODEL CARIBBEAN VOCATIONAL**

The upon New Amsterdam Secondary recognising it as the a leading institution for approach, Caribbean Guyana.

This follows а with

Caribbean preparedness, Examinations Council meticulous organisation, offers Levels 1 and 2 of (CXC<sup>®</sup>) has bestowed and robust infrastructure the CVQ framework, a prestigious honour for technical education. providing a structured The CVQ path School, programme emphasises excellence. competency-based Vocational students Qualification (CVQ) in practical skills valued improvements. Facilities by employers. Training, were upgraded to meet distinction assessment,

rigorous certification align with with clear signage and evaluation of nine schools occupational standards designated safety zones Secondary was officially exceptional performance He across the country. New established by industry implemented. Amsterdam Secondary experts and approved by dedication culminated model institution. impressed CXC officials CARICOM, facilitating in a grand celebration its exceptional regional job mobility.

The school currently vocational to

In preparation for ensuring the CXC audit, the school acquire implemented significant and industry benchmarks,



New Amsterdam Secondary School recognised as model Caribbean school

dedication were lauded, setting a new benchmark for the entire region.

Dr. Ritesh Tularam (Deputy Chief Education Officer - Technical), commended the school's tireless efforts and reiterated the Ministry of Education's focus delivering highon quality, equitable, relevant, and up-todate TVET (Technical Vocational and Education and Training) programmes. emphasised the

where New Amsterdam underscored the school's innovative initiatives and standards across the

This recognised as a CVQ and The

commitment ceremony vocational education. Its overall

unwavering significance of such to achievements in raising educational Caribbean.

#### **GUYANA POLICE FORCE ENHANCES** TRANSPARENCY WITH BODY CAMERAS

Guyana from the force stated. The Police Force (GPF) Officers a completed training on criminal, civil, and traffic-Superintendent is undergoing modernisation push, using these advanced related court cases, Jermaine Johnson, who deploying 1,200 4th-generation across cameras. body cameras This training is planned to cases. Additionally, by an additional benefit: all regions. initiative to ensure they become capturing interactions these cameras will also aims transparency, experts in this new between officers and the help safeguard the wellboost accountability, and technology. efficiency in police operations, a release serve a dual purpose. and foster trust within

They will capture digital communities. recently audio-video evidence for body leading to more accurate oversaw the training Ongoing reporting and stronger programme, highlighted public, the cameras will being of police officers. The body cameras promote transparency

S e n ior



These cameras will also help safeguard the well-being of both the police officers and the citizens

#### <u>GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST</u>

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

## SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM LAUNCHED **STREAMLINE BUSIN**

Through Ministry of Housing and and Planning Authority unified (CHPA), the government for officially launched the and Electronic Planning and applications. Development Window System to the progress of their improve the ease of doing applications, and track business for both local them from anywhere and foreign investors.

totally for the type of status via email, and the **d** e v e l o p m e n t process adheres to strict and the speed of deadlines to ensure development taking timely completion. place. The only way **be relevant is with** permit processing times, technology highlighted Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, 30-45 days. emphasising the urgency

the advancement.

The Single Window Conference all development Users Single can submit, monitor globally. Applicants will "The system is receive real-time updates **antiquated** on their application

The introduction of we can catch up and this system is expected the only way we can to significantly reduce process. It allows the gains," from a previous three President months to a streamlined

Arthur the entry point out that this system goes **system must work**," planning beyond expediting the he asserted.



#### President Ali delivering the feature

government to identify Platform was developed the human biases with Speaking at the and making it more Data for this technological launch ceremony at **rule-based**, **system-** Agency

The Single Window the Management system (NDMA). the

Chung based and that is President Ali sees the commitment Centre, how we want the potential to share this modernisation, Water's Central Housing System serves as a President Ali pointed country to run...The technology with other transparency, countries. "This entire efficiency in delivering platform is meant government to be transferred "For many years to all the countries we have heard the within this region so clarifying call we can all improve reduce bureaucracy, our doing business cut through indicators, enhance infamous red tape, competitiveness and and create a businesstransparency," stated.

The launch expected to position forward in fulfilling Guyana in the top 10 for planning and stated. development permits, according to President's vision.

Minister within the areas for improvement. locally by the private Ministry of Housing and marks a significant step "It is taking away sector in partnership Water, Susan Rodrigues, towards a more efficient National emphasised that the and investor-friendly government's Guyana.

to and services. to the he friendly environment in Guyana. Today we is are taking a giant leap that promise," she

The launch of the the Electronic Planning and Development Single Window System represents business environment in

#### **CHEDDI JAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** MODERN MAKEOVER NEARS COMPLETION

Extensive renovations "Transit underway are accommodate passengers flying and out of Guyana, improving." significantly improving tourism industry.

Bishop Edghill, Minister of Minister. Public Works, recently inspected the ongoing encompasses work and emphasised the key upgrades including departure terminals and like crowds, you should importance of modern Inline Baggage System. a new business lounge. facilities, particularly for This will streamline the

a major transformation! America," he stated. behind the counters, to must have a positive flow. the experience. We have growing number of to keep modernising, complete (courtesy of the over 300 airport staff in keep adding, and keep PD Contracting), a new members.

Passengers the travel experience and expect to see significant house boosting the country's enhancements within 15 new duty-free shops, the next two to three food concessions, bars, Juan months, according to the and a children's play dining because you have

The

The Cheddi Jagan to be a connecting physically bring their further elevating the International Airport point between the bags to the scanner. travel experience for (CJIA) is on the cusp of Caribbean and South Screening will occur premium passengers. passengers ensuring a smoother new

> Nearly 60% two-storey Commercial approximately project also look forward to

Construction transit passengers. "We process, eliminating the also progressing on a to be able to put those are building out Guyana need for passengers to dedicated VIP lounge, facilities in."

> Asian markets" as key drivers. emphasised He

Additionally, а Administrative Building will enhance operational efficiency for

Minister Edghill can Centre building will highlighted the focus on catering to a wider range of traveller preferences: "If you want to have fine area. Passengers can a four-hour layover, or you come early to the several additional seating in airport because you don't be able to sit and have is a hot meal. We want

propelling

for

visitors.



Ongoing work on the Inline Baggage System

The project also shopping experience. prioritises supporting local Tourism, and collaboration, designated convenient and curated

These renovations businesses. are part of a broader With the Ministry of vision to transform CJIA Industry into a world-class facility. Commerce's By offering modern a amenities, streamlined section processes, and support will be constructed for local businesses, the specifically for small revamped airport will vendors to showcase and not only enhance the sell Guyanese products. travel experience but Passengers can expect also act as a catalyst for organised cubicles for a Guyana's tourism sector.

#### **350,000 TOURISTS EXPECTED**



Ongoing work on the Inline Baggage System

tourism Guyana's success to Guyana's sector is experiencing a mirroring a global from both the private boom, with projections trend of recovering and public sectors." for a record-breaking international tourism. 350,000 2024. This expected Tourism growth will surpass reports global arrivals more visitors in 2023 pre-pandemic according to the Guyana 2023, reaching 88% of a total of 319,147 tourists. Tourism Authority's pre-pandemic levels. The first four months of (GTA) 2023 Tourism Baksh highlights "pent- 2024 saw a continuation Statistical Digest.

GTA's Kamrul Baksh, attributes strong resurgence in year-over-year, totalling

the crucial role of between collaboration and public  $\overline{112,751}$ . private in Guyana's sectors tourism achievements: tourism "Guyana's industry is part of this global trend, which can be attributed mainly to the support received

Rodeo, The statistics visitors in The UNWTO World speak for themselves. Barometer Guyana welcomed 11% production, levels, nearing 1.3 billion in compared to 2022, with marketing tourism up demand, expanded of this trend, with a Director, air connectivity, and a 12.4% increase in visitors contributing to

#### <u>TO VISIT GUYANA IN 2024</u>

industry's vibrancy.

Several factors are addition of 595 new hotel Guyana's roomsprovides increased industry already Major jobs in 2023.

events like the Rupununi Mashramani, the majority of visitors achieving and Cricket Carnival are in 2023 came from success with support United expected to draw crowds. the Guyana's ongoing oil (47%), followed by the including increased Caribbean (27%), Canada Government of Guyana efforts, (9%), Europe (6%), and through the Ministry of development of new South/Central America Tourism, Industry and products, (6%). and hosting of major nearly half (45%) of these on an undeniable path to conferences are also visitors were Guvanese greatness." the diaspora, highlighting

the country's cultural The World Travel draw. Leisure travel Guvana's and Tourism Council dominated reasons for tourism growth. The (WTTC) reported that visits (69%), followed by tourism business travel (17%).

Baksh expressed accommodation options supported over 18,000 optimism for the future: "I am confident that we

Data reveals that are on the right path to remarkable States from all key stakeholders, the Interestingly, Commerce. Guyana is

**THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024** 



## PRESIDENT ALI STRENGTHENS FAMILY TIES AT "DADDY AND ME" EVENT

President Ali celebrated Father's Day by joining a special "Daddy and Me" bonding session at the School of the Nations alongside his son, Zayd. The event, which honoured fathers and their crucial role in children's lives, was a heartwarming display of family connection. Photos captured President Ali and Zayd sharing a meal filled with laughter and conversation. This intimate setting mirrored the event's purpose: to allow fathers and children to create lasting memories and solidify their bonds. President Ali's participation highlighted the significance of family values and the nurturing influence fathers have on their children's development.



#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**



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#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**



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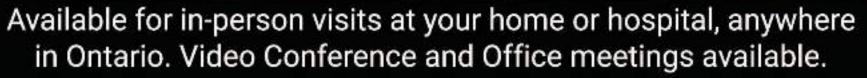


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#### **THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024**



South America Undiscovered

## #discoverguyana 2



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

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