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Thursday November 28 2024. Volume 42, Issue #48 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 416-281-3333



Indian PM gets top Guyana Award

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Guyana's highest national award, the Order of Excellence, during his visit to the country last week.

Modi was presented with a scul-

ture titled, "Pivotal Bond," created by renowned sculptor Winslow Craig and made from local Silverballi wood.

During the visit, he and Guyana President, Dr Irfaan Ali engaged in extensive bilateral discussions that touch on many areas of mutual interest, signed several Memoranda of Understanding, and delivered remarks at the Second CARICOM-India Summit.



B'dos, Exim sign US\$500M MOU

Barbados and the U.S. Export-Import Bank (USExim Bank) have signed a US\$500 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve critical sectors, including renewable energy, cybersecurity, water and sanitation, and maritime domain awareness.

The agreement, signed on Monday by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley and USExim Bank Chairwoman Reta Jo Lewis (in photograph above), will finance U.S.-made goods and services for government projects that align with the island's push for 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and enhanced digital security.

Speaking during the signing

event, Chairwoman Lewis said, "We see Barbados as a key country in the Caribbean where Exim can support impactful projects that improve lives and build economies.

"From small-scale business support to large transformational infrastructure projects, Exim has the tools to help a wide variety of clients across Barbados."

Prime Minister Mottley described the agreement, which remains in effect through 2026, as a win for both nations, noting that the focus areas of the agreement "are all central to maintaining a healthy investment climate for future foreign investment in Barbados."

"The agreements send a signal to the market that EXIM is eager to finance meaningful projects that support new business opportunities in key sectors across the United States and the Eastern Caribbean. This is what strategic partnerships between the U.S. and our key allies look like," Lewis said.

Exim also signed a US\$300M MoU with St Kitts & Nevis on the same day.

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FIRST IN 56 YEARS: PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S HISTORIC VISIT TO GUYANA

INDIA AND GUYANA FORGE NEW PATHS IN GLOBAL COOPERATION

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India is warmly embraced by President Dr. Irfaan Ali upon his arrival at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana (2)



INDIA AND GUYANA SIGN
GROUNDBREAKING MOUS ACROSS
KEY SECTORS



PM MODI HONOURED WITH GUYANA'S
ORDER OF EXCELLENCE



PM MODI BECOMES ONLY THE SECOND
FOREIGN LEADER TO ADDRESS GUYANA'S
PARLIAMENT

LIAT 2020 BEGINS ANTIGUA - GUYANA FLIGHTS, STRENGTHENING CARIBBEAN-SOUTH AMERICA TIES

LIAT 2020 has launched a new flight route connecting Antigua and Georgetown, Guyana, with its inaugural flight taking place on November 19, 2024. This new route strengthens regional connectivity between the Eastern Caribbean and South America, particularly between the Caribbean and Guyana's growing markets.

The new Georgetown route is a key element of LIAT 2020's expansion strategy. It offers a crucial air link between the Caribbean and Guyana's capital, a growing economic hub attracting both business and leisure travelers.

The inaugural

flight was celebrated by dignitaries and aviation leaders, including Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Guyana's Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill. They joined other officials at Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) in Georgetown for the event.

Prime Minister Browne spoke about the airline's strong financial position, noting that the government had invested nearly ECD \$200 million in LIAT 2020. He emphasised that this makes LIAT 2020 the best-capitalized airline in the Caribbean, providing assurance of the airline's stability and

long-term viability.

A key component of LIAT 2020's growth is

airline plans to introduce larger aircraft in the near future to accommodate



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, CEO of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Ramesh Geer, and Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Kamrul Baksh and Antigua and Barbuda delegation cutting the ribbon during the inaugural flight of Liat 2020

its strategic partnership with Air Peace Caribbean Limited, which is expected to open up new opportunities for transatlantic travel. The

increasing demand.

Minister Edghill highlighted the rapid growth of Guyana's aviation sector, noting that strategic

investments and the country's growing international significance have contributed to the expansion. He emphasised the importance of reliable air travel, stating that LIAT 2020 will add 796 seats per week through its eight weekly flights to Guyana—a significant improvement for the region.

A major theme at the event was the importance of predictability, reliability, and consistency in air travel. Minister Edghill reinforced this message, emphasising that the business and tourism sectors in Guyana rely on these qualities. **“Guyanese, the**

business community, and the tourism sector only ask for three things: predictability, reliability, and consistency. We want to know that when we show up, we can get our flight, just like anywhere else in the world,” he said.

As LIAT 2020 expands its operations in Guyana, the airline is poised to play a crucial role in connecting the nation with the wider Caribbean and beyond. The airline's focus on affordable and dependable air travel is expected to foster further growth in Guyana's tourism and business sectors.

KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES TO FLY DIRECT TO GUYANA IN 2025

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has announced exciting news for travellers to and from Guyana. Starting June 4, 2025, the airline will commence direct flights between Amsterdam and Georgetown, offering seamless connectivity between Europe and South America.

The new route, operated twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, will be served by an Airbus A330-200 aircraft. Passengers can choose from three cabin classes: World Business Class, Economy Comfort, and Economy Class.

The Georgetown-Amsterdam service, will be operated in conjunction with St. Maarten, with the following routing:



Inaugural flight of Liat 2020

The flight will depart Amsterdam Schiphol (AMS) at 10:00 AM (local time) and arrive in St. Maarten (SXM) at 1:00 PM. After a brief layover, the aircraft will continue its journey to Georgetown (GEO), departing at 2:20 PM and arriving at 4:35 PM. The return flight from Georgetown will leave at 5:55 PM, arriving in Amsterdam the following morning at 9:15 AM.

The new service will also provide seamless connections for passengers travelling onward to 21 destinations in the United Kingdom, as well as 142 additional destinations across Europe and the rest of the world. Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, known for its efficient transfer system, will serve as a hub for connecting flights to numerous global destinations.

Dirk Buitelaar, Regional Manager for Air France KLM in the Dutch Caribbean, Guyana, and Suriname, expressed enthusiasm about the new route, stating, **“We are thrilled to welcome Georgetown to our network. We are confident that this new service will contribute to the growth of Guyana's tourism industry and provide a seamless travel experience for our customers.”**

Sandhiya (Nalini) Kanhai, Country Sales Manager for Air France KLM in Guyana and Suriname, added, **“We look forward to working closely with local partners to ensure the success of this route. We**

invite all travellers to experience the comfort and convenience of KLM's services.”

With this new direct flight, KLM aims to

strengthen its presence in the Caribbean and South American markets, offering travellers a convenient and efficient way to reach Guyana.



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, CEO of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Ramesh Geer, and Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Kamrul Baksh and Antigua and Barbuda delegation cutting the ribbon during the inaugural flight of Liat 2020

GUYANA AND CARICOM PUSH FOR SECOND DECADE RECOGNISING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, renewed CARICOM's call for a second International Decade for People of African Descent. Speaking at a high-level event in New York, marking the end of the first Decade, Minister Walrond highlighted the significant impact of the initial initiative.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond

The 2014-2024 Decade raised global awareness of the contributions and challenges faced by people of African descent. It prompted efforts to preserve cultural heritage and address systemic racism rooted in the legacies of slavery and colonialism. Minister Walrond emphasised

the need to continue this momentum, stating, **“The International Decade has provided much-needed impetus to rewrite the narratives of the past, shedding light on the egregious unspoken truths and preserving the dignity of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave**

trade.”

While acknowledging progress, Minister Walrond stressed that the full recognition, justice, and development of people of African descent remain elusive. The legacies of slavery and colonialism continue to negatively impact their lives.

CARICOM is optimistic that the

international community will leverage the knowledge and evidence gained during the first Decade. By fostering open and inclusive dialogue, the world can work together to address these challenges effectively.

DR. JAGDEO PREDICTS STRENGTHENED US TIES WITH RUBIO AS SECRETARY OF STATE

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), has expressed optimism about the future of Guyana's relations with the United States (US) under President-elect Donald Trump's new administration, particularly with the nomination of Senator Marco Rubio as the new U.S. Secretary of State.

Speaking at a press conference at Freedom House in Georgetown, Dr. Jagdeo highlighted the strong working relationship the PPP/C government has enjoyed with the US over the past four years, under both the Trump and Biden administrations.

He expressed confidence that this cooperation would continue to strengthen under Rubio's leadership.

"We've had a good working relationship with the Biden administration, and we look forward to an even better relationship with the Trump administration," Dr. Jagdeo said.

Dr. Jagdeo's optimism stems from Rubio's prior support for Guyana, particularly during key moments of international diplomacy. He pointed out that Senator Rubio had intervened during the Biden administration's veto of a loan to Guyana



Florida Senator, Marco Rubio met with Guyana's President, Dr. Irfaan Ali

from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), urging that the veto be overturned. **"Senator Rubio wrote to the Biden administration saying that the loan**

should not have been vetoed, and that it was an unjust decision," Dr. Jagdeo recalled.

Additionally, Dr. Jagdeo emphasised Rubio's familiarity with

Guyana's longstanding territorial issue with Venezuela. **"We are pleased that Senator Rubio will be the Secretary of State because he is very much aware of the Venezuela border issue, which is crucial for us,"** Dr. Jagdeo stated.

The General Secretary expressed hope that Rubio's leadership would ensure continued US support for Guyana's territorial integrity, especially in light of the ongoing case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). **"We expect strong solidarity from Senator Rubio and President Trump**

on the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy, which is currently before the ICJ," Dr. Jagdeo said.

The border controversy is a key concern for Guyana, with the case before the ICJ continuing to unfold. Venezuela has until December 9, 2024, to file its response to Guyana's pleadings, which address the longstanding territorial disagreement.

With Rubio's nomination, Dr. Jagdeo expressed confidence that Guyana's interests will be well represented in Washington, continuing the close diplomatic ties between the two nations.

GUYANA AND UK TO CO-LEAD GLOBAL FOREST CONSERVATION EFFORTS

At the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, Guyana and the United Kingdom (UK) were announced as co-chairs of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), a global initiative aimed at halting and reversing deforestation by 2030. The FCLP brings together governments, businesses, Indigenous communities, and civil society to coordinate efforts and promote sustainable forest management as part of broader climate action goals.

UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and



Guyana's leadership recognised at COP29 in Baku

Net Zero, Ed Miliband, praised the partnership, emphasising the vital role of forests in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and human well-being. He outlined key priorities,

including combating illegal deforestation, strengthening forest governance, and mobilising investments for forest restoration.

Guyana's Minister of Natural

Resources, Vickram Bharrat, welcomed the co-chairmanship, highlighting the country's commitment to practical solutions for forest conservation and sustainable

development. He noted Guyana's success in securing over US\$450 million in forest carbon finance from agreements with Norway and Hess, showcasing the potential of results-based payments to drive both climate action and economic growth.

During COP29, Guyana was also recognised with the prestigious Transparency Award for its leadership in climate reporting, becoming one of the first nations to undergo an in-country review of its Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). The award underscores Guyana's commitment

to transparent climate data and reinforces its role as a global leader in climate policy.

As co-chairs of the FCLP, Guyana and the UK aim to inspire greater international collaboration, advocating for measurable, results-based action to protect forests and meet the ambitious climate targets of the Paris Agreement. The partnership is expected to play a critical role in shaping global forest conservation efforts, with a focus on practical, sustainable solutions for both environmental protection and economic development.

STARLINK SEEKS LICENSE TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICES IN GUYANA

Starlink, the satellite internet company owned by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, is seeking a license to operate in Guyana, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has confirmed.

The development represents a significant step in advancing Guyana's digital transformation, which is a cornerstone of President Dr. Irfaan Ali's vision for a modern digital society.

During his weekly

press conference, Vice President Jagdeo revealed details about ongoing discussions between President Ali and Elon Musk, emphasising the government's active consideration of Starlink's application.

"I know that Starlink is seeking a license in Guyana to provide internet services. So that's being actively considered by the Government of

Guyana," Dr. Jagdeo stated.

Dr. Jagdeo also addressed the need for fair regulation, highlighting that many individuals in Guyana have been importing and installing their own Starlink satellite dishes without paying taxes.

"Right now, a lot of people are just bringing in the dish themselves and installing these dishes, and then they don't have to pay



Starlink seeking licence to provide internet service in Guyana

any taxes... it's a bit unfair to the other companies that are providing the same

service," he explained. To ensure equity and accountability, the government

is prioritising the registration and taxation of companies offering internet services in the country.

Beyond the potential entry of Starlink, Jagdeo outlined the government's broader digital agenda, which aims to modernize infrastructure, improve connectivity, and empower citizens through access to reliable internet services.

GOVT DISMISSES OPPOSITION CLAIMS AS \$100K CASH GRANT ROLLS OUT

The government has strongly rejected allegations from the People's National Congress Reform (PNC/R) and the Working People's Alliance (WPA) regarding the \$100,000 cash grant initiative. Claims that registrants are being questioned about their voting history or that the programme is intended to collect data for election rigging have been dismissed as false and divisive, aimed at undermining the initiative.

Designed to bring financial relief to all Guyanese citizens aged 18 and older, the cash grant is part of the Government's commitment to equitable assistance, regardless of political affiliation. The Government criticized the opposition's actions as irresponsible, accusing them of spreading fear and misinformation to

derail a programme that benefits all citizens.

To ensure transparency, the registration process requires applicants to present a valid National Identification Card (ID) or passport, with photocopies not accepted. During registration, both the applicant and their ID or passport will be photographed to verify identity and prevent fraud. Each eligible



Parliamentary approval sought for \$100K Cash Grant

individual can register and receive the grant only once, and attempts to manipulate the process will lead to severe legal penalties. The Government also cautioned citizens

against following misleading advice from opposition groups, such as providing only an ID number during registration. Failure to meet the full requirements will result in disqualification.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali recently announced that the \$100,000 cash grant will be distributed to public servants and pensioners by the end of November. He emphasized that the grant is separate from the annual salary increases promised to public servants, which will also be implemented before year-end.

MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED IN DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT - FIRST GIRDER INSTALLED



First precast girder installed for new Demerara River Bridge

A significant milestone was achieved in the construction of the new Demerara River Bridge with the installation of the first precast girder. This marks a crucial step forward in the project, which is on track for completion by March 2025.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, who witnessed the historic event, highlighted the importance of this achievement. **"This is a major milestone, as we connect the girders to form the bridge deck,"** he stated.

The girders are crucial components of the bridge's structure. Their installation marks the beginning of the bridge's assembly,

ensuring its strength and durability.

The precast girder, weighing approximately 120 tonnes, was carefully transported and launched onto the substructure. This process will be repeated for a total of 472 girders, ensuring the bridge's structural integrity and load-bearing capacity.

Project Engineer Patrick Thompson explained, **"The**

girder launcher, a specialised machine, is designed to precisely position each girder. Once the first eight girders are installed, the launcher will be repositioned to continue the process."

The bridge's construction is about 60% complete, with the overall project, including ancillary works, at 75%

completion. By the end of December, the bridge is expected to reach a height of 112 metres. The new Demerara River Bridge, once



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, and the ministry's engineer for the project, Patrick Thompson



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill; staff from the ministry, and members from China Railway Construction Corporation Limited and Politecnica

completed, will significantly improve transportation and connectivity between the coastland and the West Demerara region. It will also contribute to Guyana's economic development and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

\$314M INVESTMENT, 4,500 JOBS CREATED FROM GUYANA'S LOCAL CONTENT INITIATIVE

Guyana's Local Content Secretariat has made significant strides in boosting local participation in the oil and gas industry. As of June 2024, the Secretariat had invested approximately \$314 million in procurement opportunities and facilitated the hiring of 4,500 Guyanese.

"We have all seen the important role of the local content law. The policy that we have introduced, this year alone, mid-January our procurement opportunities spent on local companies was somewhere around \$314 million," said Martin Pertab, Director of the Local Content Secretariat.

Pertab further highlighted that the number of new hires has also increased significantly, with around 424 new jobs created for Guyanese in 40 major tier-one companies. In total, the sector has employed approximately 4,500 Guyanese, and this number is expected to rise when considering tier-two companies.



New hires for the year as of June this year is around 424, for 40 major tier 1 companies

The Local Content Secretariat is actively working to expand opportunities for local businesses. Pertab

emphasised the government's focus on addressing challenges faced by local companies. **"We want to**

push the boundaries some more on local content. We want to shift the focus from the low-hanging

fruits and take it a step further to focus more on some of the suffocated line of services," he stated.

To facilitate increased collaboration between local and international companies, the Secretariat plans to launch a user-friendly local content app before the end of the year. This app will connect local businesses with major companies, streamlining the process and creating more opportunities for Guyanese entrepreneurs.

NO MORE EXCUSES, GET THE JOB DONE!

- PRESIDENT DELIVERS ULTIMATUM TO CONTRACTORS OVER PROJECT DELAYS



President Ali addressing the contractors

President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has issued a stern warning to contractors responsible for delays in government infrastructure projects, demanding immediate action and accountability.

During a high-level meeting at State House, President Ali expressed frustration over ongoing setbacks and made it clear that there would be no more excuses for failing to meet deadlines.

“There is absolutely no excuse for these delays,” President Ali declared, noting that while some delays were caused by

external factors, such as inaccessible project sites, many were due to contractors’ and engineers’ lack of focus and urgency. He called for a more proactive and disciplined approach to project management.

To address the issue, the President introduced stringent measures. Contractors with unfinished projects will be barred from bidding on future contracts, and those failing to complete projects by the

will be blacklisted,” he warned.

The President emphasised the financial impact of delays, highlighting how inefficiencies in project execution lead to budget overruns, ultimately affecting the government’s ability to fund other essential services.

The government has committed billions of dollars to infrastructure and community projects, and timely



Contractors and engineers at the engagement at State House, Georgetown

accountability measures, the government aims to improve efficiency and ensure that taxpayers’ money is used effectively.

In response to criticism from the opposition, General Secretary of the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, defended the government’s track record on project execution. Dr. Jagdeo dismissed opposition claims that the meeting reflected widespread corruption or incompetence, calling these accusations an attempt to distract

from the opposition’s own lack of governance experience.

“Who lacked planning? The last government had no plan whatsoever. They couldn’t even implement basic projects,” Dr. Jagdeo said, contrasting the current government’s clear and detailed vision for development with the previous administration’s inefficiency. He also pointed out that only a small percentage of contracts—about five percent—had experienced delays

of more than four months, while the vast majority of projects, around 95 percent, were progressing well.

“We are focused on addressing the issues with the five percent of contracts that are lagging behind, ensuring they are completed efficiently,” Dr. Jagdeo explained.

The government is investing in a wide range of sectors, including road construction, housing, water supply, health, and education infrastructure, as part of a broader development plan aimed at improving living standards across the country.

Dr. Jagdeo also noted that the government has overseen the completion of tens of thousands of contracts since taking office, underscoring the administration’s commitment to transparency and effective governance.



President Ali engaging with one of the contractors

end of the year will face termination. **“Finish your projects before bidding again, or you**

completion is critical to the administration’s broader development goals. By tightening

PRESIDENT ALI LEADS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN STORM-HIT KARASABAI

President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips have taken the lead in rebuilding efforts for 22 homes damaged by a severe windstorm in Karasabai. The devastating storm struck the region on November 3, leaving families displaced and homes in ruins.

Immediately following the disaster, the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) responded, providing essential relief supplies including food and tarpaulins to affected families.

To ensure a comprehensive and efficient recovery



President Ali spearheading efforts to rebuild homes damaged by the storm in Karasabai

process, a team comprising members of the Men on Mission, the CDC, and the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) was later deployed to the area. Seven families will receive completely rebuilt homes, while the remaining will benefit

from necessary repair work.

President Ali emphasised the government’s commitment to supporting Guyanese in times of need, stating, **“We are very pleased to be here. Our only mission is to make life better for every family and every Guyanese.”**

Prime Minister Phillips commended the collaborative efforts of all involved, and underscored the importance of building back better. He stated, **“The whole effort is to build back better. We are doing the foundations, and we will be doing the**

perimeter in keeping with construction standards. If a next storm passes through here, the buildings and the people will be better prepared, the buildings will be more resilient to withstand those storms.”

The affected families expressed deep gratitude to President Ali, Prime Minister Phillips, the Men on Mission, and regional leaders for their swift and substantial support. One resident



President Ali spearheading efforts to rebuild homes damaged by the storm in Karasabai

doing a great job, and this government keeps helping us in many ways, giving us

praised the president’s hands-on approach to development, stating, **“This is basically history... no president comes into the hinterland or comes into these communities and does basically manual labour. I believe that the president being here means a lot to Amerindian people and this would definitely go a very far way.”**

Karasabai Toshao David Albert expressed, **“Today is a big day for Karasabai and we are so very grateful for the help we have been receiving.”**



President Ali spearheading efforts to rebuild homes damaged by the storm in Karasabai

shared, **“I am so glad they are giving me this help. They are**

everything.” Regional Executive Officer (REO) Carl Singh



President Ali spearheading efforts to rebuild homes damaged by the storm in Karasabai

GUYANA'S OIL BOOM REACHES HALF-BILLION-BARREL MILESTONE

ExxonMobil Guyana, in partnership with Hess and CNOOC, has reached a significant milestone, producing its 500 millionth barrel of oil from the Stabroek Block. This achievement comes just five years after Guyana's inaugural oil production, highlighting the rapid pace of development in the country's burgeoning oil and gas industry.

Alistair Routledge, President of ExxonMobil Guyana, attributed this success to strong collaboration with the Government of Guyana, as well as co-venturers, suppliers, and contractors. He reaffirmed the company's long-term commitment to Guyana and its focus on delivering value and benefits to the nation.

To date, ExxonMobil, Hess, and CNOOC have invested nearly US\$55

billion in developing six sanctioned projects on the Stabroek Block. The current production capacity from the Liza Phase 1, Liza Phase 2, and Payara projects exceeds 650,000 barrels of oil per day.

The oil revenues generated from the Stabroek Block have already made a substantial impact on Guyana's economy, with over US\$5.4 billion paid into the Guyana Natural Resource Fund since 2019. The industry has also created significant employment opportunities, with over 6,000 Guyanese currently working in the sector, representing nearly 70% of the workforce.

As the oil and gas sector continues to expand, ExxonMobil and its partners remain optimistic about the



Guyana hits oil production milestone

future of Guyana's energy industry. With additional projects in the pipeline, the country is poised to further solidify its position as a key player in the global energy market.

NEW TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS COMPANY EMPHASISES LOCAL CONTENT



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, addressing the launch of GPEC Energy Products Inc

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, has emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships between local and international companies in driving Guyana's oil and gas sector.

Speaking at the launch of GPEC Energy Products Inc., a local content-certified company providing technology and engineering solutions, Minister Bharrat highlighted the potential for mutual growth through such collaborations.

GPEC's partnership with international firms like KLINGER Integrity Services, Oliver Valves, and Veolia exemplifies the model that the government supports. By combining local expertise with international technology and experience, these partnerships can contribute to Guyana's economic development.

"We have always said that partnership must be a win-win partnership," Minister Bharrat stated. **"It must be a partnership of mutual respect and mutual benefit at the same time."**

The government's Local Content Act, while aimed at maximising benefits for Guyanese, is not intended to deter foreign investment. Instead, it seeks to create a balanced environment that encourages both local and foreign participation. The upcoming review of the

Act will further refine its provisions to ensure that local businesses have ample opportunities to contribute to the sector.

GPEC Energy Products, with its focus on local hiring, sourcing, and partnerships, aligns with the government's vision for a thriving local content sector. The company's commitment to providing high-quality products and services can significantly contribute to Guyana's industrial growth.

GUYANESE COMPANIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO JAGUAR FPSO CONSTRUCTION



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat



President of ExxonMobil Guyana Ltd, Alistair Routledge

A trio of Guyanese companies, Industrial Fabrications Inc. (InFab), Guyana Oil and Gas Support Services Inc, and ZECO Group of Services, have been selected to play a pivotal role in the construction of the Jaguar FPSO vessel. This significant milestone underscores the growing capacity of local businesses to contribute to Guyana's burgeoning oil and gas sector.

The companies will fabricate critical steel structures, including

handrails, lighting fixtures, and cage ladders, utilising over 300 tonnes of steel.

These components will be integral to the vessel's infrastructure.

The contract was awarded by Dutch shipbuilder SBM Offshore, the company responsible for constructing and installing the Jaguar FPSO. This project is part of the Whiptail development, the sixth development project in the Stabroek Block, operated by ExxonMobil Guyana Limited and its partners.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, expressed satisfaction with this achievement, stating that it underscores the government's commitment to local content development. He emphasised the government's efforts to ensure compliance with the local content law through the Local Content Secretariat.

Martin Cheong, General Manager of SBM Offshore, highlighted the growing capacity of Guyanese businesses to meet international standards.

Alistair Routledge, President of ExxonMobil Guyana Ltd, emphasised the importance of local content development and the significant investment being made in Guyana. He explained, **"We could quite easily fabricate these components in China or Singapore,**



Three Guyanese companies supporting construction of Jaguar FPSO

and some of these would have lower costs and easier to do. But that would not be in the spirit of the partnership with the country, and the intent of building the capacity and ensuring that the people in the country can truly benefit from the development of their natural resource."

The steel striking ceremony held at the Guyana Shorebase Incorporated (GYSBI) marked the commencement of fabrication work on the Jaguar FPSO. This project represents another step forward in Guyana's burgeoning oil and gas industry and showcases the increasing role of local companies in the sector.



Attendees at the 'steel striking' ceremony for the Jaguar FPSO

SECOND POWER SHIP TO ADD 75 MEGAWATTS TO GUYANA'S GRID AMID GROWING DEMAND



The power ship that came earlier this year

Guyana is taking significant steps to address its rapidly growing energy demand by securing a second power ship capable of generating 75 megawatts of electricity. The agreement was signed between the government, through the Guyana Power and Light Company (GPL), and UCC Holdings. The power ship will be stationed in the Demerara River, initially supplying 60 megawatts, with an additional 15 megawatts to be added in the second phase.

At the signing ceremony, Senior Minister of Finance Dr. Ashni Singh emphasised the government's dual approach to addressing energy needs: meeting immediate demand while planning for future requirements. **"President Ali's instructions are very clear, that in the first instance, we must meet the immediate demand for electricity,"** Dr. Singh said, **"and secondly, we must invest in the infrastructure needed to meet**

medium- and long-term demand." This new power ship will complement an existing power ship already supplying 36 megawatts, boosting the national grid's capacity as Guyana's economy experiences rapid growth and energy demand surges. Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, pointed out that demand has more than doubled since the PPP/C Government took office, rising from a peak demand of 116 megawatts to approximately 205 megawatts. The additional 75 megawatts will help meet this rising demand, particularly during peak periods and the approaching holiday season. While the power

ships offer a short-term solution, the government is also investing in long-term power generation through projects like the Gas-to-Energy initiative. Dr. Singh highlighted that the government's approach is focused on ensuring a reliable and affordable energy supply for Guyana's growing population and economy. Amid criticisms over the cost of renting

a second power ship, particularly from Opposition MP David Patterson, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo defended the decision. He explained that the cost of generating power with existing GPL equipment is about 18 US cents per kilowatt-hour, while the cost of generating power from the first power ship, including fuel

and operational costs, is approximately 20.6 cents per kilowatt-hour. According to Dr. Jagdeo, renting a second power ship is a more practical, short-term solution, providing additional capacity until the Gas-to-Energy project comes online. Additionally, Dr. Jagdeo noted the government's ongoing subsidy to keep electricity prices affordable, despite rising fuel costs. **"We're selling electricity at 22 or 23 cents per kilowatt-hour, even though the actual cost of generation is closer to 30 cents,"** he said. This subsidy, amounting to around US\$70 million, has kept electricity prices stable for consumers since 2020.



The signing of the agreement between the Guyana Power and Light Company (GPL) and UCC Holdings for a second powership to be deployed to Guyana

DENNIS STREET VENDORS TO GET ORGANISED MARKET

Vendors operating along Dennis Street in Sophia will soon have a designated market

space to conduct their business. Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar,

and Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy, recently met with the vendors to discuss the upcoming development. The government aims to provide a more organised and conducive environment for these small businesses. **"We are here to identify the spot for the market and its adequacy. We will also come back and get the number of persons that are**

vending and to see the size of your stall and what you are selling so that we can know exactly what we are catering for," Minister Indar explained. The new market will be designed to accommodate the needs of the vendors and improve the overall shopping experience for customers. While priority will be given to existing vendors, additional spaces may be allocated to other



Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar and Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy engaging the vendors in Sophia



Some of the stalls and shops that have been erected along Dennis Street

interested individuals. 'B' Field Sophia. The project is expected to significantly enhance the business landscape in Sophia, Turkeyen, and neighbouring areas.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS COMING FOR NEWLY BUILT LEONORA MARKET

The newly constructed Leonora Market on the West Coast of Demerara has opened its doors to vendors who previously operated along the busy public road. The move aims to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion, and create a more organised and efficient shopping environment. President Dr. Irfaan Ali visited the market to discuss further improvements, including the construction of a 16-foot road with concrete drains to improve



The previous structures that were used by the vendors

access to the market, the installation of a perimeter fence and a police outpost for enhanced security, and

the expansion of the market to accommodate all vendors. Additionally, overnight facilities will be provided for vendors

working extended hours. President Ali emphasised the government's commitment to supporting the vendors and creating a conducive business environment. **"We want this to be a safe and enjoyable shopping experience,"** said President Ali. He urged vendors to cooperate with authorities to maintain the market's cleanliness and orderliness. By modernising the Leonora Market and other markets across the

country, the government aims to improve the shopping experience for

consumers and boost the local economy.



The current state of the market

SOPHIA POINT RAINFOREST RESEARCH CENTRE CAN HELP STUDENTS EXPLORE SUSTAINABLE VENTURES - PRESIDENT

President, Dr. Irfaan Ali has emphasised the need to integrate economic development with environmental biodiversity at the Sophia Point Rainforest Research Centre. During a recent visit to the centre, the President highlighted the potential for the site to serve as a hub for both scientific research and economic opportunities.

Located at the confluence of the Cuyuni, Mazaruni, and Essequibo Rivers, the centre aligns with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030. President Ali envisions the centre

as a place where students and researchers can not only conduct scientific studies, but also explore sustainable business ventures.

"We should not only train persons on Science and research, but as we get students to come in, we have to let them know that nature has its entrepreneurial opportunities," the President stated. He encouraged the management team to develop a business model that leverages the natural resources of the area, such as sustainable harvesting of materials for products

like hammocks.

President Ali also stressed the importance of creating a market for these products, both locally and internationally. **"This can be a high-value market...The**

beginning of an exciting story. A new area of nature-based solution is what they call forest farming," he said.

By combining scientific research with sustainable

economic activities, the Sophia Point Rainforest Research Centre can contribute to both environmental conservation and community development. The President urged

the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) to collaborate with the centre to advance this vision and attract international visitors, particularly students from countries like the United Kingdom.

President Ali emphasised that Guyana's rich natural resources offer significant opportunities for economic growth. He called on the local private sector to explore these opportunities and create sustainable businesses that benefit both the environment and the people of Guyana.



President Ali at Sophia Point Rainforest Research Centre

LINDEN, KWAKWANI & ITUNI SMALL CONTRACTORS TO BENEFIT FROM MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR PROJECTS

The government is investing heavily in the development of Linden, Kwakwani and Ituni, with hundreds of small contractors set to benefit from multi-million dollar road projects.

Over 165 roads in Linden will undergo upgrades, with contracts valued at over \$7 billion. Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill emphasised the government's commitment to inclusive development, ensuring that local contractors have the opportunity to participate in these projects.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, guiding small contractors along the process at the exercise in Linden

The contracts, valued at a maximum of \$15 million each, will be distributed equitably, with priority given to contractors who volunteered during

a recent storm to assist residents. **"We're recognising their efforts and ensuring they benefit from this development,"** he said.

In Kwakwani, 24 key roads, including Waterfront Road, Riverfront Road, and several othewill be upgraded. Additionally, the government plans to reconstruct all stellings along the Berbice River to enhance accessibility and improve the lives of residents. **"We're not just focusing on major cities,"** Minister Edghill emphasised. **"We're committed to developing every region in Guyana."**

Ituni residents can also look forward to significant road

improvements. Key roads, including Magellan Avenue Road and Sports Club Road, will be upgraded to concrete pavement. To ensure quality control, a 60-tonne concrete plant will be established in the

area. These infrastructure projects are part of the government's broader plan to develop Guyana's regions and improve the quality of life for all citizens.



Small contractors of Kwakwani undergoing pre-qualification process

CITY COUNCIL FACES BACKLASH OVER 25% TAX WAIVER TO ONECOMM



General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party Civic (PPPC) Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

The Georgetown Mayor and City Council (M&CC) is facing significant backlash following its decision to grant a 25% waiver on outstanding rates owed by One Communications (OneComm), formerly

known as GTT.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag, has condemned the move, calling it both unlawful and financially irresponsible.

In a statement, Minister Parag cited Section 215(3) of the Municipal and District Councils Act, which limits any discount on rates to a maximum of 10%. She expressed concern that the City Council, which regularly claims financial struggles and requests bailouts from the central government, chose to offer such a significant concession.

"This decision

comes at a time when the Council continuously laments its financial woes," Minister Parag said, emphasising that the funds waived could



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag

have been better used to improve critical city services such as garbage collection and sanitation.

Minister Parag also criticised the Council for what she described as a pattern of financial mismanagement and political opportunism, particularly highlighting a recent similar waiver granted to political parties owing billions in rates and taxes to the city.

"It is widely known that the opposition owes the city billions in rates and taxes for its Sophia headquarters — funds that could improve the quality of life for Georgetown

residents," she added.

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) Dr Bharrat Jagdeo also voiced strong objections to the tax break. Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Jagdeo argued that foreign companies like OneComm, which have substantial assets, should not receive such waivers.

"These companies are making millions in profits, and yet they are getting waivers. It's ridiculous," he said. He criticised the Alfred Mentore-led City Council for granting tax breaks to foreign companies while claiming to be financially

struggling. **"These are big companies with huge assets in Guyana. They should pay their fair share,"** Dr. Jagdeo asserted.

Dr. Jagdeo also called for a transparent, standardised policy on tax waivers, arguing that such decisions should not be made behind closed doors. The Ministry of Local Government has vowed to monitor the situation and ensure that the City Council complies with the law moving forward.



AG RESPONDS TO OPPOSITION LEADER'S THREATS ON LANGUAGE AND VOTING RIGHTS - WARNS OF SERIOUS LEGAL CONSEQUENCES



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, has condemned recent threats made by Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton, who suggested that individuals speaking foreign languages should be prevented from voting. AG Nandlall described these remarks as a "serious offence" and warned that anyone found engaging in such

illegal interference with the electoral process would face severe legal consequences.

During a statement, the Attorney General emphasised that the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) alone has the constitutional authority to determine voter eligibility, based on criteria set out in the Constitution.

He stressed that Norton's threats are particularly concerning given the events surrounding the 2020 elections when the previous APNU+AFC administration attempted to rig the vote using various forms of electoral manipulation.

The AG pointed out

that Norton appeared to encourage polling agents to prevent non-English speakers, regardless of their eligibility, from casting their ballots. **"This is reckless and irresponsible behaviour, and anyone who engages in such actions will face the full force of the law,"** AG Nandlall declared.

The Attorney General also made it clear that presiding officers at polling stations could be held accountable for allowing such conduct, as they are responsible for maintaining order at the polls. If they fail to prevent criminal actions, they too could be prosecuted.

Under Sections 78a

and 78b of Guyana's amended Representation of the People Act (ROPA), anyone who interferes with a person's right to vote or

to three years. Offenders may also be barred from voting or holding public office for five years after their conviction.

Minister Nandlall



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall

deliberately misleads a voter can face penalties, including a fine of up to five million dollars and a prison sentence of up

further highlighted that ROPA specifically allows non-English speakers to use the assistance of an interpreter to vote, addressing concerns

about language barriers. The law was amended proactively to prevent threats like the one made by Norton.

Additionally, the Constitution grants Commonwealth citizens who have resided in Guyana for at least one year the right to vote, regardless of their proficiency in English.

Given these legal protections, AG Nandlall reaffirmed that Norton's threats to exclude voters based on language are illegal and undemocratic. As the election season approaches, the Attorney General called on Norton to retract his statement and apologise for undermining the integrity of the electoral process.

BETERVERWAGTING COMMUNITY GROUND TO GET MAJOR UPGRADE

The Beterverwagting Community Centre ground on the East Coast of Demerara is set to receive a significant upgrade to benefit the local youth.

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo announced the upcoming project during a community meeting with residents. The plans include a complete overhaul of the ground to accommodate a variety of sports, including cricket, football, and basketball.

Residents raised concerns about the ground's condition, particularly its susceptibility to flooding during rainy periods. In response, Dr. Jagdeo assured them that the area would be drained and leveled to ensure optimal playing conditions.

The Vice President emphasised the importance of investing in community sports facilities to nurture young talent and promote

healthy lifestyles. He highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to upgrade sports grounds nationwide, citing numerous projects in regions across the country.

Work on the Beterverwagting Community Centre ground is expected to begin shortly.



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and other government officials engaging residents at the meeting at the Beterverwagting Community Centre, East Coast Demerara

CJIA PASSENGER TRAFFIC UP 18%

Guyana's aviation sector is experiencing remarkable growth, with the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) reporting a significant 18% increase in international passenger traffic this year.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, announced that the airport has already processed over 750,000 passengers, surpassing 2023 figures by more than 20,000. This surge in passenger numbers is attributed to the addition of nine new airlines since 2020, including JetBlue, InterCaribbean, Fly Always, British Airways, United Airlines, Sky-



Passengers at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport

High Services, and the recent addition of Liat 2020.

With upcoming additions of Avianca and KLM Airlines, offering

routes to Bogotá and Amsterdam respectively, Guyana's international connectivity is set to expand even further. KLM Airlines is expected

to commence operations by June 2025.

Minister Edghill emphasised the strategic investments in infrastructure and

the increasing demand for air travel as key drivers of this growth.

The country now offers expanded travel options to destinations such as St. Lucia, London, Cuba, Colombia, Grenada, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic, with Amsterdam and St. Maarten soon to be added to the list.

The influx of new airlines has also led to a significant increase in seating capacity at CJIA. Minister Edghill highlighted that an additional 206,000 airline seats and 105,000 more passenger movements have been added in 2024 alone. Liat 2020, Avianca,

and KLM Airlines are expected to further boost this capacity.

In addition to the passenger growth, cargo operations at CJIA have also seen a remarkable 19% increase in 2024, with the airport handling 13,500 tonnes of cargo.

Minister Edghill attributed these achievements to the government's deliberate investments and planning, solidifying Guyana's position as a premier destination in the region.

GUYANA CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PRESIDENT ALI'S CALL FOR GLOBAL ACTION

Guyana has made significant progress in promoting children's rights, reaffirming their vital role in the nation's future.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali celebrated these achievements during the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the Kingston Seawalls.

The event featured the Rights of the Child Commission's Deputy Chairperson Rosemary Benjamin-Noble, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname Representative Nicolas Pron, and children.

President Ali highlighted improvements in education, healthcare,



Scene from the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

and housing access, noting how these changes have empowered families. He remarked that investments have transformed family dynamics, enabling younger parents to provide better opportunities for their children.

"In the past, eldest children often had to sacrifice education to support their families

due to economic constraints. Today, we have invested in infrastructure and created an environment that supports children's holistic development," he said.

Recreational spaces tailored to children's needs are being established nationwide, fostering their social

and emotional well-being. The President emphasised that communities must use these spaces responsibly to honour their purpose.

President Ali reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to the CRC by signing UNICEF's Call to Action document. He also highlighted protective legislation such as the Domestic Violence Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Sexual Offences Act.

While celebrating progress, the President stressed the importance of families and communities in safeguarding children's rights and responsibilities. **"This anniversary reminds us of our duty to**

ensure every child's rights are respected, protected, and realised," he stated.

President Ali called for global system reform to address challenges that disproportionately

said, urging global mechanisms to prioritise children's mental health and well-being.

With the CRC principles enshrined in Guyana's Constitution and the establishment of



Scene from the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

harm children, particularly in war-torn regions like Haiti, Ukraine, and Gaza.

"The system is broken if we cannot shield children from suffering," he

the Rights of the Child Commission, President Ali reaffirmed Guyana's dedication to securing a brighter future for its youngest citizens.

GOVT MAKES STRIDES IN COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Guyana has made substantial strides in addressing violence against women, particularly those who are migrants, sex workers, and transgender individuals.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, highlighted the country's efforts during a virtual hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

"Recognising the

unique challenges faced by these groups, the state party has worked tirelessly to ensure they receive equal protection, support, and access to justice," Minister Teixeira stated.

A key development has been the passage of the Family Violence Act of 2024. **"This crucial legislation offers a more inclusive and progressive approach to protecting victims of domestic**

and gender-based violence," the Minister explained. It expands the definition of family violence, strengthens legal protection, and enhances support services.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security has been instrumental in providing essential support to survivors. **"Our Survivor Advocate Programme and Hope and Justice Centres offer critical**



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira addressing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

assistance, including legal support, crisis counselling, and safe shelter," Minister Teixeira noted.

The government is also actively working to revise the Sexual Offences Act to ensure greater inclusivity and equality. Additionally, inter-agency collaboration with the Guyana Police Force and civil society organisations has been intensified to combat gender-based violence effectively.

INCLUSIVE SPORTS DAY BRINGS JOY TO YOUNG LIVES

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, in collaboration with the

Georgetown Rotary Club, hosted a sports day for children living with disabilities. The event,

held at the Georgetown Cricket Club Ground, provided a platform for these children to engage in fun activities and socialise with their peers.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, attended the event and interacted with the children, parents, and volunteers. She expressed her delight at the initiative, emphasising its potential to create lasting memories.

Approximately 192 children from various institutions, including David Rose Special School, Ptolemy Reid



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud flanked by Rotary Club members, caretakers, volunteers and students

Rehabilitation Centre, and Joshua Children's Centre, participated in a variety of games and activities, such as musical chairs, face

painting, and assisted walking.

The sports day was a resounding success, providing a much-needed opportunity for

children with disabilities to enjoy a day of fun, laughter, and inclusion.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, interacting with one of the children



First in 56 Years:

PRIME MINISTER **NAVENDRA MODI'S** HISTORIC VISIT TO GUYANA

INDIA AND GUYANA FORGE NEW PATHS IN GLOBAL COOPERATION

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's three-day State Visit to Guyana from November 19 to 21, 2024, marked a pivotal moment in the bilateral relationship between the two nations. This historic trip, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 56 years, strengthened cooperation, celebrated shared values, and highlighted the deep cultural and historical connections that unite India and Guyana.

Guyana Gov't seeks \$84.5 billion to advance crucial initiatives

AS government continues to advance its transformational agenda, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, on Monday presented Financial Papers Numbers three and four for 2024 to the National Assembly, seeking parliamentary consideration and approval for development support totalling \$84.5 billion.

Under Financial Paper Number 3, approval for Supplementary Estimates (Current) is being sought in relation to advances made from the Contingency Fund, totalling \$456.9 million for the period 2024-11-07 to 2024-11-22. These advances are primarily related to security services for the Ministry of Education and Regions One and Six. Under Financial Paper Number 4, approval is being sought for Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$84.1 billion for the period ending 2024-12-31.

Foremost among the support required is the Assembly's approval of \$30.5 billion for the provision of resources for the commencement of the \$100,000 cash grant initiative announced by His Excellency President Irfaan Ali in October 2024.



Guyana Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh

It would be recalled that this initiative will see every Guyanese aged 18 and older receiving \$100,000 each, and when completed, will place \$60 billion in the hands of citizens countrywide. Another key area for which government is seeking approval is for an amount of \$25.3 billion under the Office of the Prime Minister to advance its transformational gas-to-energy project. Once this comes on stream, it is expected that electricity costs will be reduced by 50 percent countrywide, increasing the competitiveness of other industries, and reducing Guyana's reliance on heavy

fossil fuels. Under the Ministry of Housing and Water, approval is being sought for \$8.4 billion to continue the development of housing schemes and the coastal water supply programme. Notably, government is on track to achieve the commitment of delivering of 50,000 house lots between 2020 and 2025, with more than 40,000 expected to be distributed by the end of this year. The President Irfaan Ali-led Government has significantly ramped up investments to strengthen, expand, and rehabilitate the country's drainage and

irrigation (D&I) infrastructure, promoting growth in agriculture, and improvement in quality of life being enjoyed by the citizens. Under Financial Paper Number 4, Government is seeking approval for an amount of approximately \$5.5 billion for the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority to support the advancement of D&I works throughout the country.

Moreover, under the Ministry of Health, government is seeking Parliamentary approval for \$4.5 billion in pursuit of advancing construction of the six regional hospitals in Lima, De Kenderen, Diamond, Enmore, Bath and No. 75 Village, as well as to initiate works on regional hospitals at Lethem, Moruca and Kato. Further, \$3.6 billion is being sought to support the provision of drugs and medical supplies.

Under the Ministry of Education, approval is being sought for an amount of \$1.2 billion to support the operations of the University of Guyana.

It would be recalled that, also in October, His Excellency President Irfaan Ali announced that starting January 2025, tuition fees will be completely abolished at the University of Guyana. (MoF)



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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

World Guyanese Congress
5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 5P6



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

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:
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139¢ ea

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Reg: \$1.99
139¢ lb

Celery 西芹
Reg: \$2.59
179¢ ea

Chinese Eggplant 茄子
Reg: \$2.99
199¢ lb

Green Pepper 青椒
Reg: \$2.99
199¢ lb

Cauliflower 菜花
Reg: \$3.99
299¢ ea

Gala Apple 苹果
Reg: \$1.59
99¢ lb

Asian Pear 梨
Reg: \$1.59
99¢ lb

California Oranges 加州橙
Reg: \$1.79
129¢ lb

Persimmon 果糖柿
Reg: \$2.99
199¢ lb

Green Grape 青提
Reg: \$3.99
259¢ lb

Pineapple 大菠萝
Reg: \$3.99
299¢ ea

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35.00 case

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43.00 case

Avocado 48s 牛油果
85.00 case

Frozen Pangda Basu Fillet 冻草鱼片 8x3.5LB
60.00 case

Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 21/25 1004L B/case
190.00 case

Thailand Black Tiger Shrimp 泰国黑虎虾 1.75L
185.00 case

Extra Large Egg 特大鸡蛋 30/30
54.99 case

Huy Fong Chili Garlic Sauce 林富蜂辣酱 325g
65.00 case

Any-D Coconut Milk 阿尼D椰奶 24x400ml
43.99 case

Heinz Tomato Ketchup Heinz 番茄酱 4x2.8L
38.00 case

Container NG-093 容器
33.00 case

Container NG-081 容器
23.00 case

Kraft Singlefold Towels 洁巾
25.00 case

ADM All Purpose Flour 艾德姆 20kg 粉
19.99 bag

Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg
60.00 bag

Capri Vegetable Oil 嘉宝 18L
31.99 case

VALUE Dishwashing Liquid 4x4L 洗洁精
26.99 case

Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记蒜茸鲜味蚝油 6x2.2kg
39.00 case

Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 李锦记五香粉 1.75L
48.99 case

NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Red Bath Sugar Packaging 一次性纸袋
22.00 case

Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg
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Baguio Sweet / Hot / Longanisa 375g 2x3.75kg 2x3.75kg
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Reg: \$5.99
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Reg: \$6.99
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Shark Fish Brand Frozen Featherback Fish Paste 七星牌肉400g
Reg: \$5.99
4.99 ea

Gourmet King Vegetable Spring Rolls 1000g 素菜春卷
Reg: \$4.99
3.99 ea

Conestoga Free Run Omega-3 Brown Eggs 12pcs 走地红鸡蛋
Reg: \$6.99
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SH Raw Peeled Shrimp 牛虾仁 41.50 400g
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Petisco Cream Filled Crocker Series 180g 18-18 18-18 18-18
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Reg: \$2.99
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Reg: \$5.99
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UNITY IN DIVERSITY: A WARM WELCOME FOR PRIME MINISTER MODI

PM Modi arrived at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) on the evening of November 19, where he was greeted with a ceremonial gun salute and a warm reception led by President Dr. Irfaan Ali. Accompanying the President were Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Foreign Minister Hugh Todd, Indian High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang, and other senior officials.

Following the airport ceremony, PM Modi travelled to the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, where he was embraced by the vibrant Indian diaspora. Tassa drumming and a cultural showcase reflecting Guyana's "One Guyana" initiative created a festive atmosphere. Minister of Local Government Sonia Parag officially welcomed the Prime Minister, and Georgetown's Mayor Alfred Mentore presented him with the keys to the city, symbolising the deepening partnership between the two nations.



FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS: INDIA AND GUYANA SIGN LANDMARK MOUS

On November 20, 2024, PM Modi and President Ali held high-level discussions at State House, which resulted in the signing of several key agreements aimed at strengthening the bilateral relationship. These agreements spanned multiple sectors, including healthcare, energy, agriculture, and finance.



GROUNDBREAKING AGREEMENTS ACROSS KEY SECTORS:

- Healthcare: Collaboration on medical product regulation and pharmacopeia, with a focus on improving manufacturing standards and advancing telemedicine.
- Energy: Enhanced cooperation in hydrocarbons, clean energy, and technology transfer to facilitate a fair energy transition.
- Agriculture: Promoting joint research, capacity building, and expertise sharing to strengthen food security.
- Finance: Introduction of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to modernise Guyana's financial transactions.



The agreements were signed by India's External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Guyana's government ministers, marking a significant step forward in India-Guyana relations.



President Ali expressed optimism about these partnerships, stating,

"India will support our sugar industry, our corn and soy planting, and vaccine manufacturing ambitions."

Discussions also touched on global geopolitical tensions, with both leaders advocating for dialogue and diplomacy. They called for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations, emphasising the need

for greater representation of small island developing states.

A joint working group will be established to ensure the smooth implementation of the agreements, focusing on addressing challenges and bottlenecks.

PM Modi expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration:

"I consider it my good fortune to return to Guyana as Prime Minister. The hospitality and warmth of the Guyanese people reflect our strong, enduring ties."



PLANTING SEEDS OF FRIENDSHIP: THE ASHOKA TREE CEREMONY



In a symbolic gesture of unity and growth, PM Modi and President Ali planted a *Saraca indica*, commonly known as the Ashoka tree, at State House. The Ashoka tree, with its vibrant blooms and deep cultural significance, symbolises healing, resilience, and harmony, marking the strengthening of the partnership between the two nations.



A TASTE OF TRADITION: GUYANA'S FAMOUS SEVEN CURRY

While at State House, PM Modi was introduced to Guyana's famous seven curry, a traditional dish with roots in India, dating back to the era of Indian indentureship. First Lady Arya Ali shared on social media:

"We introduced Prime Minister Modi to Guyana's famous 7-curry, served in the traditional style of eating from the 'purine' (water lily) leaf, a practice that traces back to India."



This culinary exchange highlighted the enduring influence of Indian culture on Guyanese traditions.

BUILDING REGIONAL BRIDGES: INDIA AND CARICOM

In the afternoon of November 20, PM Modi participated in the Second India-CARICOM Summit at the Marriott Hotel, marking the first time the summit was held in a CARICOM Member State. PM Modi unveiled a seven-point agenda to further strengthen India's engagement with CARICOM, focusing on the region's development priorities.



- Key initiatives included:
- **Capacity Building:** Expanding the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to accommodate 1,000 additional CARICOM participants over five years.
 - **Technology-Driven Governance:** Offering an online training platform similar to India's Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) portal for civil servants in areas such as technology, law, and education.
 - **Agricultural Innovation:** Using soil testing and drones to advance food security in the region.
 - **Maritime Development:** Supplying ferries to boost regional transportation and trade.
 - **Cultural Diplomacy:** Supporting cricket by providing training to 11 female players from each CARICOM nation.

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 <p>Hereford Luncheon Meat 340 g</p> <p>99¢ each</p>	 <p>Garden Patch Peas & Carrots 398 ml</p> <p>69¢ each</p>	 <p>Creation Foods Veggie Chunks Assorted 200 g</p> <p>1⁹⁹ each</p>	 <p>Pearl Basmati Rice 8 lbs</p> <p>6⁹⁹ each</p>
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RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP: THE ORDER OF EXCELLENCE



That evening, PM Modi was awarded Guyana's Order of Excellence, the country's highest national honour, in recognition of his leadership and contributions to global development. The award ceremony was part of a grand State Dinner hosted by President Ali, which included a cultural celebration showcasing Guyana's rich diversity.

President Ali praised PM Modi's leadership during the pandemic:
"The greatest test of any member of the human family is to give of their very little when they are most in need. Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled this test with distinction during the COVID-19 pandemic, gifting 500,000 vaccines to CARICOM."

In his acceptance speech, PM Modi expressed heartfelt gratitude:
"Under President Ali's leadership, we are continuously moving forward in every direction. Even in today's discussions, I felt his affection and respect for the people of India."

A MOMENT IN HISTORY PM MODI ADDRESSES GUYANA'S PARLIAMENT

On November 21, 2024, PM Modi's visit reached a historic peak as he addressed Guyana's National Assembly, becoming only the second foreign leader in the nation's post-independence history to do so. In his speech, he celebrated the resilience of democracy and called for global unity in addressing the world's most pressing issues.

Speaking in Hindi, with the aid of an interpreter, he emphasised the importance of democratic values:
"Democracy is not just a law or a system—it is in our DNA."



At the core of his address was the framework of "Democracy First, Humanity First" which he described as a moral compass guiding governance and global cooperation. He called for unity in tackling global challenges such as terrorism, cybercrime, and climate change.

HONOURING GANDHI AND GUYANA'S HERITAGE

After his address, PM Modi paid tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi and the Arya Samaj** monument at Georgetown's Promenade Gardens. He also visited the Indian Monument Gardens in Georgetown, honouring the legacy of Indian indentured laborers who arrived in Guyana. These visits celebrated the enduring cultural and spiritual connections between India and Guyana.

PM Modi also visited the **Saraswati Vidya Niketan** school, which seeks to integrate traditional Indian culture into the educational curriculum, addressing the legacy of colonialism.



Since establishing diplomatic ties in 1996, Guyana and India have developed strong partnerships across sectors including agriculture, technology, and energy. PM Modi's visit reinforced these ties, laying the foundation for future collaboration in areas such as infrastructure, education, and renewable energy. This visit was a milestone in India-Guyana relations, setting the stage for a long-term partnership based on trust, shared values, and a commitment to global peace and prosperity.

Caricom countries urged to tap into duty-free benefits in EU markets

IN an era of increasing globalisation, businesses across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including Guyana, have been presented with an exceptional opportunity to tap into European Union (EU) markets.

Speaking to the benefits to be derived from the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and CARICOM, EU Ambassador to Guyana René van Nes said the pact offers duty-free and quota-free access, the objective of which is to enhance trade relations and foster economic development across the region.

Further highlighting the benefits of this arrangement, Ambassador van Nes, whose forte is Macro Economics and Public Finance, shared some invaluable insights during the latest episode of the Energy Perspectives podcast, which is being powered by the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo.

He explained that products made in the Caribbean can be exported to the European Union without paying any tariffs or being subject to import limits. “And with that comes a whole package of promotions; trade promotions and assistance to make sure that these difficult EU rules, which also apply to European producers, can be met here [Guyana] as well,” he said.

Despite the EPA’s immense potential, van Nes recognised that its benefits are not widely known. With its rapidly growing economy, buoyed by the burgeoning oil-and gas sector, Guyana is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the EPA, particularly as it strengthens ties with European markets. Ambassador van Nes revealed a striking statistic: “In 2023, about half of Guyana’s oil was actually bought by the European Union,” he said.

He highlighted that this growing partnership underscores the strategic significance of the EPA, and as the EU seeks to reduce its reliance on Russian oil, he said, emerging oil-producing nations like Guyana are poised to reap substantial benefits.

The ambassador also highlighted several key strengths of Guyana’s investment climate.

Firstly, he said that its abundance of natural resources, including oil, forests and biodiversity, offer significant potential for development. However, transforming these opportunities into tangible results requires adequate financing, he noted. Additionally, he emphasised the need for a willing and capable workforce. Most importantly, van Nes emphasised the role of a dynamic government with a clear vision, such as the Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, and the ability to implement that vision through concrete actions. “All of that creates a very conducive environment for countries to

operate, as you know what you are getting into,” the Dutch national said.

The ambassador pointed out that Guyana is making significant efforts to strengthen its institutions, recognising their crucial role in the country’s development. He referenced the recent Nobel Prize in Economics, awarded to researchers who concluded that successful nations are those that have established robust institutions capable of supporting and sustaining their growth.

In this regard, van Nes, who’s not only fluent in his native Dutch but is also conversant in English, German and French, pointed out: “That is why I am happy to see that the government [of Guyana] is investing in its people; in its institutions. Because that strength will be absolutely crucial in accompa-



EU Ambassador René van Nes

nying Guyana’s growth over the coming years...”

Guyana’s trade relations with the European Union have strengthened, marked by increased exports. Between January 2017 and September 2023, trade amounted to US\$11 billion.

Trade grew by 778 per cent between 2021 and 2022, a movement from US\$614 million to US\$5.4 billion, largely on account of developments in Guyana’s oil-and-gas sector.

Guyana and the European Union established diplomatic relations in 1975 with the signing of the historic Georgetown Agreement.

Since then, the EU has remained a vital development partner for Guyana, providing funding for numerous programmes over the years to support the country’s growth.

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GDF EXPANDS AIR POWER WITH HAL - 228

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips commissioned two new Dornier HAL-228-201 aircraft for the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Air Corps. The event, held at Air Station London, Timehri, marks a significant milestone in the government's ongoing efforts to modernise the GDF and strengthen national security.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the acquisition of these aircraft aligns with the government's broader vision of transforming the GDF into a modern and versatile force



The Dornier HAL-228 aircraft commissioning 2

capable of addressing various challenges. He highlighted the importance of these aircraft in enhancing Guyana's ability to respond to natural disasters, and conduct medical evacuations in remote areas. The commissioning ceremony also underscored the growing

strategic partnership between Guyana and India. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the Indian government for its continued support, noting that the aircraft acquisition is a tangible outcome of the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations. By investing in advanced military equipment, the government aims to ensure the safety and security of all Guyanese citizens. The Prime Minister reiterated the government's commitment to national development and



The Dornier HAL-228 aircraft commissioning

emphasised that the new aircraft will play a crucial role in achieving this goal.

GFS GETS STATE-OF-THE-ART FIRETRUCK

The Guyana Fire Service (GFS) has made significant strides in enhancing its firefighting capabilities through substantial government investments. The recent acquisition of the Bronto Skylift, a state-of-the-art firefighting apparatus, has significantly boosted the GFS' ability to respond to high-rise fires and other challenging situations.

This investment is part of a broader effort to modernise the GFS and other security agencies in Guyana. Over the first half of 2023, the government allocated \$32.6 billion to upgrade

infrastructure and procure new equipment for the GFS, Guyana Police Force (GPF), and Guyana Prison Service (GPS).

In addition to the Bronto Skylift, the GFS is set to acquire a rescue and firefighting vehicle, an all-terrain firefighting vehicle, and a crash tender. These new vehicles will further enhance the GFS' response capabilities and ensure the safety of citizens.

The government has also prioritised the training and development of GFS personnel.



The Bronto Skylift being used to extinguish a rooftop fire at Fireside Suites

Approximately \$4.1 million was invested in training over 105 GFS ranks in various areas, including firefighting,

medical first aid, and tactical firefighting. The Guyana Police Force has also benefited from significant

investments in equipment and training. The acquisition of new vehicles, motorcycles, boats, and engines has

improved the GPF's operational capacity. Additionally, the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the New York Police Department has strengthened international cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

These investments and initiatives have led to a 17.8 percent decrease in total serious crimes in 2023. The government's commitment to enhancing security services is evident in these efforts to modernise and strengthen Guyana's security forces.

TRUCK DRIVERS IN SPOTLIGHT AS GOVT TIGHTENS TRAFFIC LAWS



President Ali and other GPF officials addressing the misuse of the country's roadways

The government has announced decisive measures to combat reckless driving and enforce traffic laws, responding to a troubling rise in road

accidents attributed to indiscipline, particularly among truck drivers. In a live address, President Ali outlined the government's plans to enhance road safety

and hold errant drivers accountable. He was joined by Attorney General Anil Nandlall, SC, and senior officers of the Guyana Police Force (GPF).

“We must ensure that the Traffic Chief and his ranks are implementing the laws governing safe and proper use of our roadways to their fullest extent,” President Ali said.

Although existing laws allow for license suspensions for delinquent drivers, President Ali noted that only 18 suspensions have been issued this year, signaling the need for stronger enforcement. He directed the GPF to take immediate action to apply these laws more rigorously.

To curb driving under the influence, the president emphasised the enforcement of legislative amendments

requiring bar owners to confiscate car keys from intoxicated patrons and avoid serving visibly impaired individuals. Bars that fail to comply risk license suspension, with nationwide signage to reinforce these rules.

To strengthen oversight, traffic officers will be equipped with body-worn cameras, while CCTV systems will help identify reckless drivers. President Ali highlighted the success of the e-ticketing system along Heroes Highway, which has issued 893 tickets this year. The Guyana Police Force and Guyana Revenue Authority will review cases involving drivers with multiple speeding violations to suspend

their licenses.

Speed limits for lorries will soon align with their maximum load capacity, while truck drivers and others abusing sirens and emergency lights will face immediate sanctions.

President Ali concluded by urging all drivers to follow the laws for their safety and that of others, emphasising that these actions are necessary to protect lives.



GUYANA HONOURS WAR HEROES, COMMITS TO VETERAN SUPPORT



Part of the ceremony at the War Monument outside the Bank of Guyana to pay tribute to the fallen heroes of World War I and World War II

Guyana marked Remembrance Day with a solemn ceremony, honouring the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice during World Wars I and II. The commemoration included a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph Monument, where government officials, veterans, and members of the diplomatic corps gathered to pay tribute to the nation's fallen

heroes. President Dr. Irfaan Ali, in his address, urged citizens to reflect on the sacrifices made by these courageous individuals and to work towards a future of peace and prosperity. **"We, the citizens of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, rededicate ourselves to the search for peace everywhere and renew our commitment to the**

development and well-being of our beloved country," President Ali said.

The ceremony featured a military parade, a presidential salute, the Last Post, and a two-minute silence in honor of the fallen soldiers.

In addition to honouring the war heroes, the government reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Guyana's veterans, particularly the surviving members of the World War II generation. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips announced a \$2 million donation to the Guyana Veterans Legion (GVL) and pledged a \$100,000 contribution to each surviving World War II veteran.

"Our veterans embody the highest ideals of service,

and as a society, we must ensure they receive the care and opportunities they deserve," Prime

the veterans. Less than 24 hours after a request was made, he donated a new, accessible minivan to the Guyana Veterans Legion.



President Ali donating the accessible minivan to Guyana Veterans Legion

Minister Phillips stated during the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Guyana Veterans Legion headquarters.

As part of the government's ongoing support, President Ali also took immediate action to address the transportation needs of

The minivan, equipped with a threshold ramp to assist veterans with disabilities, was handed over during the annual Veterans' Day wreath-laying ceremony at Base Camp Ayangana.

In addition to the minivan, the President also announced

expanded healthcare services for veterans, including dental and eye care for veterans and their eligible family members. **"We must continue to improve the quality of life for our veterans, and this is a part of that effort,"** President Ali remarked.

Every year, the government allocates over \$50 million to support veteran-related activities. The expanded healthcare services and the minivan donation are just the latest steps in the government's broader commitment to enhancing the well-being of Guyana's veterans.



BARTICA RESIDENTS PRAISE GOVT LEGAL SERVICE OUTREACH

Bartica residents have expressed gratitude for a recent government initiative that brought legal services directly to their community. The Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Deeds and Commercial Registry Authority (DCRA) held a two-day outreach programme in Bartica, allowing residents to access services like business registration, deed polls, and legal advice. Previously, residents had to travel long distances to Georgetown or Region Two to obtain these services. This often-involved

significant time, effort, and expense. However, the outreach programme eliminated the need for such arduous journeys. Jermaine Joseph, a resident, praised the initiative, stating, **"I'm renewing my business registration, which otherwise would have been a very tedious task."** Natasha Peterson, another resident, highlighted the convenience of having these services available locally. She noted, **"We used to have to travel to Essequibo or Georgetown to do a Power of Attorney. So, the fact that I**



Jermaine Joseph, resident

could've gotten two of my things done within 20 minutes, that's awesome."

Attorney General Anil Nandlall announced that the government plans to establish a

permanent DCRA branch in Bartica to further improve access to legal



Natasha Peterson, resident

services for residents. This move is expected to stimulate business

growth and development in Region Seven.

Vian Saigo, a salon owner, expressed optimism about the impact of the



Natasha Peterson, resident

permanent branch.

She stated, **"It will allow us to feel more secure, especially when GRA comes around to check if our businesses are registered."**

The government's outreach programmes have been instrumental in providing essential legal services to underserved communities across the country. By bringing these services closer to the people, the government aims to empower citizens and facilitate economic growth.

HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRY SENSITISE POLICE OFFICERS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, in partnership with the Brickdam Police Station, recently conducted a sensitisation session to enhance law enforcement officers' response to domestic violence cases. The initiative aimed to bridge

the gap between law enforcement and victims of domestic abuse. The session covered various topics, including the different forms of gender-based violence, the importance of a client-centered approach, the provisions of the Family Violence Act, and the services offered by the



Ministry officials and the officers joined forces to conduct a community walk-about in Leopold Street

Ministry. By equipping police officers with this knowledge, the Ministry seeks to improve their understanding of domestic violence and their ability to respond effectively to cases.

The collaboration between the Ministry and the Brickdam Police Station extends beyond

the sensitisation session. A joint community walk-about in Leopold Street was organised to raise awareness about the Ministry's services and foster stronger relationships between the police and the community.

OVER 1,000 GUYANESE RECEIVE HOUSE LOTS IN MAJOR HOUSING DRIVE

Over 1,000 Guyanese have realised their dream of homeownership, as the Ministry of Housing and Water distributed house lots in two major housing schemes.

On the East Coast of Demerara (ECD), over 500 individuals received house lots in De Endragt Phase II and La Bonne Intention (LBI) Phase III. Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, highlighted the government's significant investment in the ECD corridor, with over \$62 billion invested in infrastructure development in just four years.

The government's commitment to affordable housing is evident in the allocation of over 38,000 house lots nationwide since 2020, with over 15,000 allocated on the ECD alone. Additionally, nearly 400 individuals received land titles, empowering them to access financing for home construction.

Minister Susan Rodrigues, Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, expressed pride in the government's achievements in providing affordable housing. **"You have made it to a point in your life where you are now going to, forever change the trajectory of your family by creating inter-generational wealth,"** she said to the recipients.

Meanwhile, in Region Ten, over 600 house lots were allocated to residents of Linden. Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to own a piece of land. Kres Franklin, a mother of two, shared her excitement, stating, **"When I received the call, I was nervous**



A recipient selects his lot number at the exercise in Linden

and excited. But I was studying the money because I have twins who are preparing for CXC. The land will benefit my children. They will have their own home and space."

The government's efforts to provide affordable housing and create sustainable communities are transforming the lives of countless Guyanese.

Two families from Mon Repos and Lusignan have received the keys to their new core homes, thanks to the government's Core Homes Support Programme. This initiative, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), aims to provide affordable housing solutions to low-income families.

For Shauna Badrinauth, a 63-year-old resident of Mon Repos, the new home represents a significant improvement in her living conditions. Previously, she faced the constant threat of

EAST COAST FAMILIES RECEIVE CORE HOMES

flooding, which often left her home inundated.

"I couldn't put down any mats or anything...The disgusting thing that used to happen every time you went out and came home when it rained, the place used to be under water," Badrinauth shared.

Her new home, however, offers a safe and comfortable living environment. **"It's very beautiful. I am thankful for it. It is a shelter that is not flooded. [I] feel so**



63-year-old Shauna Badrinauth at her new home

comfortable knowing that water cannot [come] in," she said.

In Lusignan, Baburam Sanichar and his wife, Rajdularie Hookumchand, received a modified core home

to accommodate H o o k u m c h a n d ' s mobility needs. The home features a ramp, allowing her to move around independently.

"We live better now than before... It is better for me because I used to [lift] her. One of my friends gave me this wheelchair," Baburam expressed gratitude.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, highlighted the government's commitment to providing affordable housing solutions. He

noted that 157 out of 188 core homes are currently under construction in targeted areas.

"It makes a difference for them [the beneficiaries] ... [It provides them

with a comfortable and long-lasting environment, one that their children can feel proud and happy about," Minister Croal stated.



Minister Collin Croal and a staff of the ministry with Baburam Sanichar and his wife, Rajdularie Hookumchand at their new home

NINE MORE SQUATTING AREAS TO BE REGULARIZED- NON-PARIEL RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT

The government is set to regularise nine more squatting areas along the East Coast of Demerara (ECD) by the end of the first quarter of 2025. , This move, announced by Housing and Water Minister Collin Croal, aims to provide legal land ownership to hundreds of residents in areas like Vigilance, Coldingen, De Endragt, Enmore, and

Enterprise.

Minister Croal emphasised that regularisation will offer residents a secure and sustainable living environment, empowering them to access loans for home improvements and business ventures.

Recently, Housing Minister Susan Rodrigues met with residents of Non-Pariel,

ECD, to discuss the regularisation process for approximately 80 families in Section E. The ministry has conducted an occupational survey to identify structures eligible for regularisation and those that will need to be relocated.

The regularisation process involves several steps, including converting the survey into a block plan,

obtaining permission from GuySuCo, and transferring land ownership to the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA). Once these steps are completed, CHPA can issue titles to residents.

The government has made significant strides in regularising squatting areas nationwide since 2020. To date, 17 areas, including four



Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues explaining the developmental plan to the residents

on the ECD, have been regularised, benefiting over 1,390 households.

By expediting the regularisation process and providing legal land ownership, the government aims to

enhance the lives of thousands of Guyanese and contribute to the overall development of the country.

Over 200 families in Bamia, along the Soesdyke / Linden

Highway, are now able to access potable water for the first time in over



Bamia well station

BAMIA RESIDENTS NOW ACCESS CLEAN WATER

three decades. This significant achievement was made possible through the completion of a \$40 million well station.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, visited the well station to assess the

project. She emphasised the government's commitment to providing universal access to clean water by the end of 2025.

"This is an ongoing activity to ensure that our presence is felt in all of these communities

and Bamia is no exception. They [Bamia] no longer have the daily struggle of having to fetch water in a bucket for long distances or worrying about whether they will get water for that day or week for their

families," Minister Rodrigues said.

The new well station has alleviated the long-standing water challenges faced by the community, ensuring a reliable supply of clean water for residents.

UG'S CLASS OF 2024 ENCOURAGED TO SHAPE GUYANA'S FUTURE



UG graduates ready to shape Guyana's future

The University of Guyana's (UG) Turkeyen Campus held its 58th convocation ceremony, where hundreds of graduates from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Education and Humanities, and the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education received their degrees.

In his virtual address, President Irfaan Ali congratulated the graduates and emphasised the crucial role they will play in Guyana's development. **"As you graduate, know that your country needs you like never before,"** he said. **"You are graduating into a country immersed in the most**

transformative period in its history."

The President highlighted the government's focus on diversifying the economy, investing in sectors like manufacturing, services, tourism, innovation, and digitisation. He urged graduates to embrace these opportunities and contribute to the nation's progress.

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand also addressed the graduates, emphasising the importance of their role in shaping Guyana's future. She called on them to be **"audacious"** and to bring fresh ideas to the table. **"We need you to be the builders of this new economy,"** she said.

Valedictorian Shaneeza Persaud,



A new generation of leaders emerges from UG

who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA in Marketing, encouraged her fellow

graduates to persevere through challenges. **"I once read this quote and it resonated with me... 'I will try again tomorrow', and that happened over and over,"** she shared.

UG, celebrating its 60th anniversary, has produced over 60,000 graduates who have made significant contributions to Guyana and the world.



Graduates, family, and friends gather at the University of Guyana's graduation ceremony

STUDENT LOAN WRITE-OFF BECOMES EASIER

The government has announced several measures to simplify the application process for its Student Loan Write-Off Programme, urging eligible individuals to apply as soon as possible.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, highlighted the new options:

- Applications can now be submitted electronically

- at <https://studentloanwriteoff.gov.gy/apply/new>.
- Application forms can be deposited in dedicated boxes at all 10 Regional Democratic Council (RDC) offices nationwide, the Ministry of Education, the University of Guyana (UG) Tain Campus, and any post office. Applications sent by mail should be addressed to

"Student Loan Agency, PO Box 101544, Georgetown" with your name and address noted on the back of the envelope.

- Forms are downloadable from the Ministry of Finance's website (<https://finance.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Student-Loan-Application-Form-2024-Final.pdf>) and available in hard copy at all RDC and

NDC offices and the UG Turkeyen campus.

The Student Loan Write-Off Programme is part of the government's commitment to delivering free education by 2025. This initiative, along with the upcoming abolition of tuition fees at UG and government technical and vocational institutes by January 2025, aims to benefit over 3,000 individuals and promote greater access to education.

Minister Singh encouraged beneficiaries to take advantage of this opportunity and utilise available training opportunities to enhance their skills for the booming job market in Guyana.

This streamlined

application process paves the way for easier access to student loan relief, solidifying the Government's commitment to education and human capital development.



The Student Loan Write-Off Programme is part of the government's commitment to delivering free education by 2025

ROSIGNOL SECONDARY CELEBRATES FIRST BATCH OF CAPE GRADUATES

Rosignol Secondary School, Region Five, made history on November 11 with the graduation of its inaugural cohort of sixth-form students who successfully completed the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) programme.

Five of the six pioneering graduates - Arianne Mangal, Sophia Persaud, Drashenie Bharat, Jeneen Harris, and Romina Jankinauth - earned an Associate of Science degree in Natural Science. Additionally, Donociah Peters achieved a Diploma in Natural Science.

Chief Education Officer Saddam Hussein commended Rosignol Secondary for becoming the newest, gazetted sixth-form school in the country. He emphasised

that the school now holds the same status as Guyana's National Schools, providing Region Five students with equal opportunities to pursue the CAPE

programme within their region.

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, who introduced the CAPE programme at Rosignol Secondary School in 2022, has been instrumental in expanding access to quality education across Guyana. By establishing the CAPE programme in Region Five, the Ministry of Education aims to ensure that all students, regardless of their geographic location, can achieve their academic aspirations.

Rosignol Secondary's transformation into an



First CAPE graduates from Rosignol Secondary



Chief Education Officer Saddam Hussein making brief remarks

A-List school, with a significant investment of \$45 million, has provided the necessary infrastructure to support advanced education. This investment underscores the government's

commitment to building a robust, inclusive, and accessible education system for all Guyanese children.

NISMES TO GET \$1.3B MODERN SECONDARY SCHOOL

A modern, \$1.3 billion secondary school is set to be constructed in Nismes, West Bank Demerara. The state-of-the-art facility will accommodate approximately 800 students and 50 staff.

At the sod-turning ceremony to mark the commencement of construction, Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, emphasised the government's commitment to providing quality education for all Guyanese children.

"The idea is to make sure all your children can sit comfortably in a secondary school, learn all their academic work, learn music, do sports, learn a foreign language, get involved in TVET and volunteerism and come out as whole, hearty, well-rounded students," Minister Manickchand stated.

The minister urged the contractors to adhere to the eight-month timeline for the project's completion. She noted the urgency of the project, as some students are currently being accommodated in a community centre.

"We didn't ask one contractor to do this... because we want everyone working on this at the same time, so that the school finishes quicker," she explained.

This new secondary school is one of three being built in Region Three, alongside schools in Tuschen and



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, turns sod for new Nismes Secondary School. The minister is flanked by contractors, students and other stakeholders

Vreed-en-Hoop. These of the government's the quality of education investments are part broader plan to enhance across the country.

The Ministry of Education has launched a Nationwide Mathematics Intervention Campaign aimed at improving student performance in the subject, particularly in Grades 10 and 11. The campaign, which kicked off in the Pomeroon-Supenaam region, involves a series of initiatives to support teachers and students.

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, emphasised the importance of parental involvement in ensuring



Coordinator for the Mathematics Intervention, Sir Leon Beaton

students utilise available resources and attend school regularly. She highlighted the government's commitment to

MATH INTERVENTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO BOOST STUDENT PERFORMANCE

providing the necessary tools and resources to improve math education. **"The whole aim was to let them know that they can pass Mathematics once they use the resources we have,"** Minister Manickchand said.

The campaign focuses on 50 schools with historically low pass rates in mathematics,

particularly in Grades 10 and 11. To provide support, the Ministry has launched a mathematics support hotline, 736-MATH, and the Quiz Me application, which offers practice questions and exam preparation materials. Additionally, a team of 50 math monitors is working directly with schools to provide guidance and support.

Minister Manickchand emphasised the importance of parental involvement and student discipline in achieving success. She has encouraged parents to monitor their children's study habits and to provide necessary support.

The Ministry has also launched interactive math programmes,

such as "Beatin' Da Maths," featuring Sir Leon Beaton, to make math more engaging and accessible.

By implementing these comprehensive measures, the Ministry aims to improve mathematics performance and equip students with the skills they need to succeed in the future.

LIBRARIES OPEN IN REGION THREE SCHOOLS

The Ministry of Education has taken another step towards enhancing education in Guyana with the recent commissioning of three new libraries at Tuschen Primary School, Greenwich Park Primary School, and Parika Salem Primary School in Region Three.

These new libraries are designed to promote



Libraries open to enhance learning in Region Three

literacy, critical thinking, and a love of learning

among students. By providing access to a diverse range of books and educational resources, these facilities will empower students to explore new ideas and expand their knowledge beyond the classroom.

The Ministry of Education's Libraries in Primary Schools Initiative aims to establish libraries in



Libraries open to enhance learning in Region Three

The Ministry of Health's Mental Health Unit, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Office of the President, recently conducted a two-day training programme for teachers to equip them with the skills to identify, address, and refer students experiencing mental health challenges.

The workshop focused on practical techniques for recognising common mental health issues in school-aged children,

providing basic interventions, and making appropriate referrals to specialised

TEACHERS EMPOWERED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH



62 teachers now have the skills to identify common mental health issues in school children

mental health services. This collaborative effort underscores the government's commitment to improving the mental health and well-being of Guyana's youth. By empowering teachers, the initiative aims to create a more supportive and understanding school environment.

The training session was attended by key

stakeholders, including Mr. Akash Persaud, Senior Schools Guidance Counsellor from the Ministry of Education, Ms. Jessica Anthony, Public Health Officer from the Office of the President, Dr. Timothy Morgan, Director of the Mental Health Unit, and Dr. Mark Constantine, Clinical Psychologist, both from the Ministry of Health.

GUYANA AIMS TO LEAD CARIBBEAN HEALTHCARE

Guyana is rapidly positioning itself as a regional healthcare hub, forging strategic partnerships with international organisations to revolutionise healthcare across the Caribbean. Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, highlighted the government's commitment to building a robust healthcare system and becoming a centre for healthcare teaching in the hemisphere. The country is actively collaborating with prestigious institutions such as Mount Sinai to develop comprehensive oncology services, including a state-of-the-art oncology center. Furthermore, Guyana is partnering with the James Anderson

Institute at MD Anderson Cancer Center to provide advanced training opportunities for Guyanese healthcare professionals. The recent Caribbean Urological Association (CURA) 26th annual international conference, held at the Pegasus Hotel and Corporate Suite, served as a platform for healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers from across the Caribbean to discuss pressing issues in urology. Minister Anthony emphasised the importance of regional collaboration in building a resilient healthcare sector. He stressed the need to share clinical expertise and develop sustainable programmes to enhance healthcare services across the



The gathering of health professional across the Caribbean at the CURA 26th annual international conference

Caribbean. and advanced services. This infrastructure investment will enable the country to provide high-quality care to its citizens and attract medical tourism. Guyana's ambitious healthcare development plan includes the construction of nearly 12 new hospitals equipped with modern facilities



Minister Anthony with the top performers

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony has encouraged a new cohort of medical professionals to embrace Guyana's rapidly evolving healthcare sector. Speaking at the University of Guyana's School of Medicine's White Coat Ceremony, the Minister emphasised the significant advancements being

NEW DOCTORS URGED TO EMBRACE GUYANA'S GROWING HEALTH SECTOR

made in the country's healthcare infrastructure and the opportunities that lie ahead for young doctors.

"Your graduation is a remarkable achievement, and you are entering healthcare at an extraordinary time when unprecedented advancements are opening new opportunities that

past generations could only dream of," Dr. Anthony said.

The Minister highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to modernise healthcare facilities, including the construction of new hospitals and the expansion of specialised services. He emphasised the importance of digital health initiatives, such

as the implementation of digital patient records and telemedicine, in improving access to care.

"We want you to be ready to work in a digital environment that allows you to provide better, more efficient care, even in remote areas," Dr. Anthony stated.

The Minister reminded the new

doctors of the importance of compassion, empathy, and humility in their practice, and urged them to serve the people of Guyana with dedication and commitment.

The White Coat Ceremony is a significant milestone for medical students, symbolising their transition from academic study to clinical practice.

NEW SECURITY MEASURES FOR PENSION BOOKS TO PREVENT FRAUD

The government is implementing stricter security measures to prevent pension fraud, a growing concern that has affected many elderly citizens.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security is taking steps to enhance the security of pension books, which have been targeted by fraudsters. These measures include

the introduction of advanced security features such as embossing, making it more difficult to replicate the books.

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, highlighted the severity of the issue, emphasising that it directly impacts pensioners by depriving them of their rightful

funds.

"My big fear was that if they draw down the money on someone's book, then the pensioner who goes there would not get their money," he said.

In addition to the security measures, the government is increasing the old-age pension to \$41,000 per month. These changes will be

reflected on the newly printed pension books.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security has also clarified that unauthorised pension books lack the security features and color scheme of official books. The ministry has warned that individuals involved in fraudulent activities will face legal consequences.



Enhanced security features for Pension books to deter fraud

Due to the ongoing investigation into the fraudulent activity, there has been a delay in the distribution of 2025 Old Age Pension books. The ministry is working

diligently to print these books with enhanced security features and plans to distribute them in December 2024.

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

WIIN EQUIPS REGION TWO RESIDENTS WITH NEW SKILLS



Participants during the training

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IWOKRAMA MODEL SHINES AT COP29



COP29 official side event ‘Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems in Climate Action Delivering Together a Resilient Future for All’

Guyana’s Iwokrama Forest, a pioneering model for sustainable forest management, took center stage at the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29). A short film titled “Take only what you need: The success of the Iwokrama Forest” highlighted the invaluable role of Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge in combating climate change. The film, produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (IIC), was showcased during a side event titled “Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems in Climate Action: Delivering Together a Resilient Future for All”. Toshao Michael Williams of Annai, Region Nine, a key figure in the film, emphasised the importance of Indigenous knowledge in fostering sustainable livelihoods and economies, especially when combined with Western science.

The Iwokrama Forest model aligns with the Commonwealth’s 2022 Living Lands Charter, which aims to promote integrated and sustainable land management.

Commonwealth Secretary-General (Ret’d) Patricia Scotland highlighted the need to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into climate and biodiversity solutions. “The incredible progress of the last 200 years has come at an unsustainable cost. For a viable future, we need to acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples have managed their societies more sustainably,” Scotland

stated.

Sonia Latchman, Vice-Chairperson of the NationalToshaosCouncil (NTC), emphasised the importance of Indigenous Peoples’ voices and their role in climate action. She

highlighted Guyana’s model as a successful example of sustainable forest management and urged for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes.



An aerial shot of Iwokrama Lodge

NEW \$800M PUMP STATION TO BOOST BLACK BUSH POLDER AGRICULTURE

An investment of \$800 million will realise a new irrigation pump station in the front lands of Black Bush Polder, Region Six. The project, which is expected to be operational by the second rice crop of 2025, aims to enhance water management and boost agricultural productivity in the region.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha recently shared this update during a community meeting with farmers in Number 48. The project, initially awarded to a different contractor in 2021, experienced delays due to poor performance. However, the Ministry



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha and staff from the ministry engaging with farmers at the meeting

of Agriculture, through the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), terminated the contract and reassigned it to a new contractor.

The new pump station will feature

four 150 Qsec pumps, capable of delivering a substantial 252,000 gallons of water per minute to the front lands of Black Bush Polder. This improved water supply will benefit rice

cultivation and reduce the risk of flooding in the area.

Minister Mustapha emphasised the potential of Black Bush Polder, highlighting that the region currently has 23,000 acres of land available for rice farming. With the new irrigation system, the government aims to fully utilise this land and increase rice production.

“We are already using 14,000 of that 23,000. So, we have another 9,000 and I am hoping that before the end of next week, we can use the other acres,” the minister said.

The government’s

focus on boosting rice production has yielded positive results. The country is on track to surpass 700,000 tonnes of rice production for the first time. Several initiatives, including the introduction of

new high-yielding rice varieties like GRDB 10, 16, 17, and 18, as well as the subsidisation of fertilisers and other commodities, have contributed to this achievement.



Some of the farmers at the meeting

\$3B BRIDGE AND ROAD UPGRADE PROJECT FOR WEST BANK DEMERARA

The government, through the Ministry of Public Works, has announced a significant \$3 billion investment to construct a permanent four-lane bridge at Stanleytown, West Bank Demerara. This project, along with the rehabilitation of several roads and drains from La Grange to Patentia, aims to improve transportation and infrastructure in the region.

Minister of Public

Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, revealed that the current bridge at Stanleytown is not structurally sound enough to accommodate heavy-duty vehicles. To address this issue, GUYCO Construction has been tasked with building a new, more durable bridge within six weeks.

In addition to the bridge, the project will involve the rehabilitation of five kilometers of road and the construction of



Stanleytown bridge

3.5 kilometers of new drainage systems.

To ensure smooth implementation, the Ministry of Public Works is collaborating with local authorities and utility providers. Residents and businesses may experience temporary disruptions due to road closures and utility relocations. However, the ministry is committed to minimising inconvenience and restoring affected infrastructure promptly.

Minister Edghill emphasised the long-term benefits of the project, stating that the upgraded infrastructure will significantly improve transportation, reduce travel time, and stimulate economic growth in the region. The Ministry of Public Works will closely monitor the project’s progress and provide necessary support to ensure its timely completion.

GOVT SEEKS SOLUTION FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY SHORTFALL

The Government of Guyana is currently investigating the significant shortfall in sugar production by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo). President Irfaan Ali has tasked Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha with preparing a comprehensive report on the industry's performance, particularly in light of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union's (GAWU) concerns about the missed 2024 production target.

While the government has been actively working to revitalise the sugar industry through initiatives like expanding cultivation, introducing new cane varieties, and mechanising production, challenges persist. These include aging infrastructure, management issues, and logistical hurdles in obtaining spare parts.

President Ali has outlined a multi-faceted approach to address these challenges and revive the industry. The government is investing in repairing and upgrading aging infrastructure and equipment to improve efficiency and productivity. Additionally, the government is seeking technical expertise from countries like India and Cuba to enhance field management, agro-management, and crop



Report on shortfalls in sugar production to be prepared

management practices. To further enhance efficiency, the government is prioritising mechanisation to reduce labour costs and increase productivity. Furthermore, the government is investing in new packaging plants to expand the production of value-added sugar products.

President Ali emphasised the importance of a cultural transformation within the industry: **"We have to have an infusion of those who have done this successfully with our local team so that we can have that knowledge transfer and we have to develop a new culture in the industry. We have to also develop a new culture and create a winning culture."**

The government's focus on revitalising the sugar industry is not only about economic benefits, but also about preserving the livelihoods of thousands of Guyanese who depend on the industry.

\$25M KOKER AND AGRI BOOST FOR BARACARA

The government is investing nearly \$25 million to construct a new koker in Baracara, Region Six to regulate water levels in the canal, ensuring optimal conditions for agriculture during both wet and dry seasons.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, announced the development during a recent visit to the community. He also revealed that six shade houses will be built under the Agriculture Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP) to create employment opportunities for young people in the area.

To further support agricultural development, the government will provide technical assistance, market access, and essential farming inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, and equipment.

"We will provide the technical support. Our officers will come in to help them to plant the crop. At the same time, we will find market for their produce...Right now,



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha with Baracara residents

Baracara have expressed their gratitude for the government's support, noting the significant improvements in their lives and livelihoods over the past four years.

"We want you to cultivate 400 acres of red beans...We will continue to make the community vibrant and productive again," Minister Mustapha assured the residents.

we have an investor who wants all the hot peppers," Minister Mustapha stated. In addition to expand agricultural these initiatives, the government is clearing 350 acres of land to Residents of

D&I IMPROVEMENTS FOR REGION THREE FARMERS - CANAL NUMBER ONE GETS DRAINAGE UPGRADE

An additional 200 farmers in Canal Number One, West Demerara, Region Three are set to benefit from significant improvements to their drainage and irrigation systems. Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha announced that the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) will deploy additional resources to accelerate the project.

The upgrades aim to enhance accessibility to farmlands, alleviate pressure on existing drainage systems, and boost overall crop yields. To date, 260 farmers in the area have already reaped the benefits of similar interventions.

The government is also investing in a new pump station at Canal No. One, scheduled for completion by mid-December. This state-of-the-art facility will significantly enhance the area's drainage capacity, mitigating the risk of flooding. Additionally, weak koker doors will be replaced with durable metal structures to further strengthen the drainage infrastructure.

Addressing drainage challenges in Pouteroyen



Farmers at the meeting

The government has also pledged to address the persistent drainage and irrigation issues affecting the community of Pouteroyen on the West Bank Demerara in Region Three. Minister of Public Works, Deodat Indar, acknowledged the community's concerns regarding recurrent flooding and infrastructure problems.

While desilting and cleaning works have been completed, the ministry is committed to implementing further measures to effectively manage water levels. A key priority is the repair of a broken dam at the rear of the community, which contributes to flooding in Swan Street.

Minister Indar also highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, such as concrete footpaths, to enhance the overall quality of life for Pouteroyen residents. He urged community members to work with local authorities to address issues like illegal parking, which can pose safety hazards.



An area identified for the construction of a concrete footpath



Minister Mustapha and a technical team during a site visit to Canal Number One Pump Station

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COMMUNITIES RALLY TO CLEAN UP GUYANA

Guyana's ongoing National Clean-Up Exercises, spearheaded by President Dr. Irfaan Ali, are making significant strides in reducing litter and improving the country's overall cleanliness.

The recent 10th clean-up campaign, saw widespread participation from government officials, private sector entities, and the general public. Popular "hotspot" areas, particularly in Georgetown, have shown marked improvement due to these consistent efforts.

The clean-up campaigns target key areas, such as the Kingston Seawall, Soesdyke Junction, and Houston, to ensure a positive first impression for visitors.

The clean-up efforts are not only improving the country's aesthetics, but also benefiting its tourism industry and infrastructure. As Guyana prepares to host significant events like the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Global Super League Cricket, a clean and well-maintained environment is crucial.

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) has been actively participating in the clean-up campaigns, recognising the importance of a clean and healthy environment. Major Andre McFarlene emphasised the GDF's commitment to civil duties, stating that a clean community contributes to a safer and healthier nation.





Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

 KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 81

GUYEXPO 2024 DRAWS RECORD CROWD OF 100,000+ - AS GUYANA'S ECONOMY SHINES BEYOND OIL



GuyExpo 2024, the Caribbean's longest-running trade show, wrapped up on November 17, after three days of showcasing the best of Guyana's growing entrepreneurial sector. Held at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia, the event attracted over 100,000 visitors and hosted 283 booths.

Themed "Guyana on Show: The Fastest Growing Economy", this year's expo spotlighted Guyana's rapid expansion, particularly outside the oil and gas sector. The event provided an invaluable platform for local and regional businesses to present their products, network with international companies, and explore new trade opportunities.

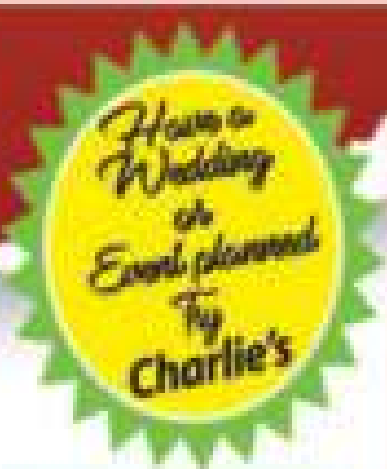


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- MARRIED MAN
- THYME
- FROZEN KATAHAR
- COCONUT CHOKA
- EDDOES
- SPICE MANGO
- GINEP
- GOLDEN APPLE
- AWARA



FRESH ONTARIO MEAT

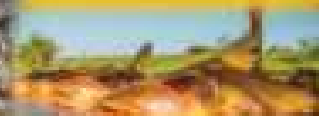
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"Guyana On Show, The Fastest Growing Economy"



"Our focus is to not only build Guyana's premier facilities but a premier academy for cricketers all across the region. We want to be known to have an academy that provides the conditions, for the development of the best fast bowlers, world class spinners and batsman who can bat spin and pace bowling."- H.E. Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana





GLOBAL
SUPER
LEAGUE



GUYANA



GSL
T20



FIXTURES

NOVEMBER 2024

Tue 26 19:00 AST

GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs LAHORE QALANDARS

Wed 27 19:00 AST

HAMPSHIRE HAWKS vs RANGPUR RIDERS

Fri 29 19:00 AST

GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs VICTORIA

Sat 30 10:00 AST

HAMPSHIRE HAWKS vs LAHORE QALANDARS

DECEMBER 2024

Sun 1 10:00 AST

RANGPUR RIDERS vs VICTORIA

Sun 1 19:00 AST

GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs HAMPSHIRE HAWKS

Tue 3 19:00 AST

VICTORIA vs LAHORE QALANDARS

Wed 4 19:00 AST

GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs RANGPUR RIDERS

Thu 5 19:00 AST

LAHORE QALANDARS vs RANGPUR RIDERS

Fri 6 19:00 AST

HAMPSHIRE HAWKS vs VICTORIA

Sat 7 19:00 AST

GSLT20 FINAL

TICKET PRICING		
Stands	Tix Price - USD	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	24	5000
North West Stand (Red)	29	6000
South West Stand (Green)	34	7000
Mound	14	3000
Total		
GAW GAMES		
Stands	Tix Price - USD	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	14	3000
North West Stand (Red)	24	5000
South West Stand (Green)	29	6000
Mound	12	2500
Total	102	
NON GAW GAMES		
Stands	Tix Price	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	14	3000
North West Stand (Red)	19	4000
South West Stand (Green)	22	4500
Mound	10	2000
10 AM GAMES		
Stands	Tix Price	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	7	1500
North West Stand (Red)	10	2000
South West Stand (Green)	12	2500
Mound	5	1000
Total		



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- Periodontics (Gum Surgeries, Deep Scaling, De-pigmentation, etc.)
- Oral Surgery (Extractions)

