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KOMAL SINGH



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# Guyana hosts job fair in Toronto

The Government of Guyana, through the Diaspora Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in collaboration with the private sector, is pleased to announce a Job Fair aimed at Guyanese in the diaspora, to be held on April 5, 2025, at the Toronto Don Valley Hotel & Suites from 11 am. This event presents a unique opportunity for skilled Guyanese in Canada to explore career prospects in Guyana and actively contribute to the nation's ongoing develop-

ment initiatives.

The Job Fair will feature participation from key private sector leaders and stakeholders, offering attendees insights into the diverse opportunities available across various sectors within Guyana. In addition to private sector companies, the Government has included key service agencies to provide guidance and assistance in several areas including NIS, passport and remigration.

Officials from Guyana attending

includes Foreign Secretary Mr. Robert Persaud, Head of the Diaspora Unit, Ms. Rosalinda Rasul, Chairman of the Private Sector Commission, Mr. Komal Singh and Chief Investment Officer of Go-Investment, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, and other heads of agencies.

Participants can expect to:

- Meet Industry Leaders and interact with prominent figures from key industries in Guyana.
- Explore Job Opportunities.
- Learn About Companies.
- Gain insights into small, medium, and large enterprises operating in Guyana.
- Understand the Remigration Process.

- Engage entities such as NIS and Passport Office
- Interact with officials from Go-Invest on investment opportunities.
- Learn how their skills can contribute to Guyana's rapidly expanding economy.

This Job Fair underscores Government's commitment to harnessing the talents and expertise of our diaspora community. All Guyanese in Toronto and other locations are invited to join the event and explore the abundant opportunities available in Guyana.

For more information, please contact the Guyana Consulate in Toronto on 416-494-6040/6059/2679

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# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 90

## "VERY BAD DAY" AWAITS VENEZUELA IF GUYANA ATTACKED, US SECRETARY OF STATE WARNS

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## "VERY BAD DAY" AWAITS VENEZUELA IF GUYANA ATTACKED, US SECRETARY OF STATE WARNS



The US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arriving in Georgetown

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a stark warning to Venezuela, stating that any aggressive actions against Guyana or its key oil partner, ExxonMobil, would be met with severe repercussions.

Rubio visits Guyana as part of his Caribbean tour to promote energy independence and curb migration.

During a joint press conference with

President Irfaan Ali in Georgetown, Rubio emphasised that such an attack would result in a **"very bad day"** for Venezuela, one that would ultimately end poorly for the regime. He did not elaborate on specific actions but underscored the U.S. commitment to responding appropriately.

His comments come amidst escalating tensions over Venezuela's territorial

attack ExxonMobil, or anything like that, it would be a very bad day—or a very bad week—for them. It would not end well," Rubio stated. the U.S. dedication to safeguarding Guyana's sovereignty, deeming an attack by Venezuela **"a big mistake."** He alluded to the U.S. military's capabilities, particularly the Navy, to respond swiftly if necessary.

**"We have a big**



Scene from the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio engagement at the State House

claims on Guyana's Essequibo region. Rubio affirmed



Scene from the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio engagement at the State House

that exist today with Guyana, and we want to build on those," he said. **"If that regime were to do something such as that, it would be a very bad move."**

While stressing that the U.S. does not engage in threats, Rubio highlighted the Navy's power and its ability to defend U.S. interests and those of its partners globally.

Rubio also spoke

optimistically about Guyana's potential for transformative growth, particularly in the energy, agriculture, and data technology sectors. He emphasised the unique opportunity for Guyana to enhance its economic prosperity and regional influence.

**"This country has an opportunity to transform. That is rare in the history of nations,"** he remarked.

## US, GUYANA STRENGTHEN SECURITY TIES WITH NEW MOU

The United States and Guyana have solidified their strategic partnership with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focused on enhanced security cooperation, while President Irfaan Ali simultaneously assured the U.S. of Guyana's commitment to labour law compliance and pledged "preferential treatment" due to their strong friendship.

The MOU, signed during U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit, aims to address regional security challenges, including narcotics trafficking and transnational organised crime. It also lays the groundwork for expanded collaboration in trade, energy, human

capital development, and infrastructure.

President Ali, during a joint press conference following the signing, emphasised the enduring partnership between Guyana and the U.S., built on shared values of democracy, peace, and respect for international law. He highlighted the U.S.'s consistent support for Guyana's development and security.

**"Guyana and the United States share a long bond of friendship and partnership. Indeed, the best of partnerships are those built on shared values, mutual trust and a commitment to the rule of law and international order,"** President Ali stated.

He detailed the MOU's focus on countering transnational crime, reiterating that both nations are working in tandem to combat drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and smuggling.



Guyana's President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

**"This visit has allowed us to consolidate our bilateral agenda. Defining policies and outlining clear intentions in areas of security, trade, energy, investments, infrastructure, democracy, regional peace and stability, human capital deployment, and development,"** he explained.

President Ali also addressed labour concerns, reassuring the U.S. that Guyana will strictly adhere to international and local labour laws as it expands its workforce, particularly in critical sectors like healthcare. He noted the country's commitment to exploring collaborative solutions



The signing of the agreement

to address human capital shortages.

Furthermore, President Ali expressed deep gratitude for the U.S.'s unwavering support, affirming that such a steadfast ally deserves **"preferential treatment."**

**"We have a responsibility to our friends. The U.S. is a great friend of ours,"** President Ali remarked. **"The U.S. would have made it very clear that they are ready to stand by us in our development, in our**

**economic expansion, in our security and in our defense, and I will say, very boldly that such friends must have some different and preferential treatment."**

Secretary Rubio echoed President Ali's sentiments, emphasising the continued importance of collaboration between the two nations, particularly in the areas outlined in the newly signed MOU.



US Navy cruiser US NORMANDY partnered with the Guyana Defence Force

## U.S. AND GUYANA CONDUCT JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES IN EEZ

The U.S. Navy cruiser USS Normandy and the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) patrol vessel in Shahoud conducted joint military exercises within international waters and Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

According to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown on Thursday, March 27, the drills are designed to enhance communication, interoperability, and the coordination of joint maneuvers between the

two nations' naval forces.

These exercises underscore the strong military-to-military cooperation and close relationship between the United States and Guyana. They provide a crucial opportunity

for both countries to improve their operational capabilities and strengthen mutual understanding in maritime operations.

## US SECRETARY OF STATE PREDICTS GUYANA'S "TRANSFORMATIVE" FUTURE UNDER PRESIDENT ALI'S LEADERSHIP

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio has forecasted a period of significant economic growth and improved quality of life for Guyanese citizens over the next five to ten years, attributing this potential transformation to the leadership of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

During his official state visit to Guyana, Secretary Rubio expressed optimism about the nation's trajectory, stating, "The lives of your children, the lives of your grandchildren,

your lives are going to look very different in five to 10 years under this leadership." He emphasised Guyana's unique opportunity for rapid development and positive regional influence.

"The basic element of progress and transformation and prosperity is security... today we're demonstrating it...[making] it abundantly clear that we are invested, both as a nation and from our people, in being your partner in transformation



Scene from the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio engagement at the State House

and in prosperity allow illegitimate territorial claims to and we will not

be an impediment to your dreams and to your right to develop this country into a symbol that I hope will inspire others to follow the example you have set," Secretary Rubio stated

He highlighted the US's dedication to partnering with Guyana to ensure its continued development, noting the growing involvement of US companies in key sectors. The Gas-to-Energy project, led by US joint venture Lindsayca-CH4, is set to significantly boost Guyana's power generation. Additionally,

collaborations with Hess Corporation and Mount Sinai Health System are enhancing the nation's healthcare infrastructure.

US companies have also played a crucial role in expanding Guyana's tourism sector, with the development of luxury hotels like Four Points by Sheraton and Hyatt Place. These partnerships align with the Guyanese government's sustainable development model, aiming for overall prosperity and growth.

## GUYANA, WILSON CENTER EXPLORE COLLABORATION



The engagement with the team from the Wilson Centre

President Dr. Irfaan Ali met with an executive team from the Wilson Center to explore potential partnerships between Guyana and the renowned policy forum, focusing on critical areas such as food and climate security, tourism, and financial technologies.

The meeting, held to discuss collaborative opportunities, was led

by Dr. Benjamin Gedan, Director of the Latin America Programme at the Wilson Center.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President for Finance and Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh; Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd; and Minister of Tourism, Industry,

and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, also participated in the discussions.

The Wilson Center, a nonpartisan policy and research institution based in Washington, D.C., is known for its work on global issues and its efforts to foster dialogue between scholars and policymakers.

This meeting follows

President Ali's receipt of the prestigious Wilson Award in December 2024, which recognised his dedication to climate change action and biodiversity conservation. The discussions centred on leveraging the Wilson Center's expertise to support Guyana's development goals in key sectors.



The engagement with the team from the Wilson Centre



The engagement with the team from the Wilson Centre

## LEGAL ACTION IMMINENT AGAINST THE MOHAMED

The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the Guyana Police Force are prepared to take legal action against Mohamed's Enterprise, Attorney General Ani Nandlall announced. This development follows sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury last year, which revealed significant tax evasion by the company.

The U.S. sanctions stemmed from an investigation that uncovered Mohamed's Enterprise's failure to

declare over 10,000 kilograms of gold in import and export transactions between 2019 and 2023, resulting in millions of dollars in evaded taxes.

Speaking to reporters after a joint press conference between U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and President Dr. Irfaan Ali, AG Nandlall confirmed that a continuous exchange of information between U.S. law enforcement agencies and their Guyanese counterparts

has provided the necessary evidence for local prosecution.

"Since the imposition of the sanctions, there has been a steady flow of information between U.S. law enforcement and us here in Guyana. Based on the data and documents received, both the GRA and the Police Force are now ready to act," AG Nandlall stated.

He outlined that the GRA will focus on the

tax evasion allegations, while the police will handle other aspects of the investigation. "The evidence presents a clear path forward, and I expect action to be taken shortly," he added.

Addressing questions regarding potential criminal charges, AG Nandlall explained that the investigation has been ongoing for several months, and the accumulation of substantial information now allows local

authorities to proceed with legal processes. He emphasised that due process will be followed.

AG Nandlall dismissed any suggestions of political motivation behind the government's actions. "This is not a political issue. The approach has been objective, driven by evidence, and led by the relevant authorities in Guyana," he affirmed.

He also confirmed that the information

exchange between the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Guyana remains ongoing, with a commitment to acting when sufficient evidence is available. "We have reached a point where the authorities in Guyana are prepared to move forward," he said, reiterating that all actions will be conducted in full compliance with the law.

## DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRIES FACILITY OPENS IN SUDDIE

A new \$447 million facility, designed to alleviate years of space constraints and significantly boost legal services in Region Two, was commissioned in Suddie to house the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority sub-registry office.

The modern three-storey building, equipped with amenities such as elevators, a secure document storage vault, and ample parking, will provide crucial services including business registration and land dispute resolution to residents. Previously, the office operated from the cramped ground floor of the Suddie High Court, struggling to handle the region's growing volume of transactions.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali, who commissioned



The \$447 million facility commissioned at Suddie to house the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority sub-registry office

the facility, underscored the importance of accessible justice for all Guyanese. "Access to justice is not a privilege, it is a right. And it is one that we must guarantee for every citizen of this country," he stated. He highlighted that the new facility will create a secure environment for investors, ensure contract continuity, and

protect property rights.

"Justice is about fairness. It is about ensuring that every man, every woman, every small business owner, and every family, no matter where they are in Guyana, can access the legal services they need to live with dignity and security," Dr. Ali added.

The President

also stressed the government's commitment to modernising the country's infrastructure and decentralising the legal system for efficient service delivery. Looking ahead, Dr. Ali announced plans to integrate the Deeds and Commercial Registries' services with the wider Caribbean region, further enhancing regional legal cooperation.

Attorney General Anil Nandall S.C highlighted the government's aim to make these essential services available in every region of Guyana. "No longer will important services only be accessible in Georgetown," he said. He explained the registry's vital role in various transactions,

from mortgage security to power of attorney and name changes.

"Every time you take a loan from the bank and it has to be secured by a mortgage it is this

any business that you can't do personally, it is this registry that has to execute that document...If you want to change your name, it is here that you have to come,"



The commissioning of the new building

registry that has to do that...every time you do a power of attorney to apply someone to conduct

AG Nandall elaborated, highlighting the facility's importance to the region's residents.

## US CONGRESSWOMAN CLARKE'S "LACK OF FACTS" CRITICISED AS GOVT TELLS OPPOSITION: PROTEST US ON ATWELL

The government has firmly rejected opposition protests regarding the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention of social media activist Melissa Atwell, asserting the matter is under U.S. jurisdiction. Attorney General Anil Nandall S.C. and Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo have criticised the opposition's focus, emphasising ICE's role in enforcing U.S. immigration laws.

AG Nandall stated the Guyanese government is

uninvolved, despite Atwell's criticism of the administration. "They have to be protesting the Government of the United States of America," he said, suggesting Atwell's detention may relate to alleged fraudulent conduct, not her social media.

Vice President Jagdeo echoed this, urging protests be directed to the U.S. government. "We do not control ICE in the United States of America," he said, refuting claims of local influence. He clarified

Atwell's status and return are U.S. matters, noting ICE detentions typically involve immigration issues.

Simultaneously, the government has strongly criticised U.S. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke's public statements on the issue, arguing they lacked factual understanding. Clarke, representing New York's 9th District, expressed concern for Atwell's safety and alleged political persecution.

AG Nandall challenged Clarke's claims, stating her

information came solely from Atwell and government critic Mark Benshop. "It will not do for her to condemn the Government of Guyana and criticise it, without equipping herself with material facts," AG Nandall asserted. He questioned how Clarke concluded political persecution based on information from known critics.

He also criticised Clarke for disregarding Atwell's online activities, described as "ridiculing, damaging, and falsehoods about



US Immigration and Customs Enforcement . AP File

innocent persons." AG Nandall highlighted alleged harm from Atwell's posts and claims of payments to cease publication.

The AG emphasised Atwell operated freely without government interference, despite

controversial activities. He argued Clarke's intervention, based on incomplete information, was inappropriate. "What is the travesty, Ms. Clarke? It is your approach to this whole matter," he said.



The new ten-year Guyana passport displaying the 'One Guyana' symbol

The newly launched 10-year Guyanese passport now includes the "One Guyana" slogan. The government states this reflects a

commitment to national unity.

Attorney General Anil Nandall has defended the slogan's inclusion, rejecting

## "ONE GUYANA" NOW FEATURED ON COUNTRY'S NEW PASSPORT

claims that it is a political statement.

The One Guyana slogan, appearing on the passport, is intended to represent the government's goal of a unified society. AG Nandall asserted the slogan is a national concept, aimed at uniting Guyana's diverse cultures and races.

"The One Guyana slogan is not a political slogan," AG

Nandall said. "It is a unifying concept. It is a principle that denotes our national objective - one people, one nation, one common destiny. It is a rallying cry to bring the diverse cultures and races of our country together."

The Attorney General noted that President Irfaan Ali has used the slogan in speeches and

initiatives to promote national unity. The slogan's inclusion on the passport is seen as a continuation of these efforts.

AG Nandall clarified the slogan is not a People's Progressive Party (PPP) initiative, but a reflection of the government's vision. He stated the government has the right to use slogans that represent its core values, with

national unity being a key value.

"This government has every right to formulate a logo or slogan that captures its ethos," AG Nandall said. "The ethos of this government is national unity, and we want to project that in every one of our policies and programmes. We make no apology for that."

## GUYANA MAINTAINS CUBA TIES, SEEKS US DIALOGUE ON VISA ISSUE

President Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to its longstanding relationship with Cuba, even as the nation joins its CARICOM counterparts in seeking clarity and dialogue with the United States (US) regarding recent visa restrictions.

The US imposed these restrictions on officials allegedly involved in the export of Cuban workers, triggering an emergency meeting among Caribbean leaders.

Speaking to the press, President Ali emphasised Guyana's

desire to understand the US position, stating, **"We have also asked as a country for any information that would help us to understand the position of the US."** He underscored that Guyana, like other Caribbean nations, employs foreign healthcare workers, including those from Cuba, under strict adherence to local and international labour laws.

**"All of that follows the local laws and international labour laws,"** President Ali clarified.

While health brigade system, acknowledging the US concerns about Cuba's clear that Guyana's



The last CARICOM-Cuba Summit, the 8th, was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on December 6, 2022, and celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two entities

commitment to Cuba remains steadfast. **"I don't see abandoning Cuba as part of this equation,"** he stated. He also highlighted the critical role Cuban healthcare workers play in the regional health system.

Guyana has requested information from the US to assess any potential discrepancies within its own systems and ensure compliance. **"If there is any breach in relation to our system, we will endeavour to have those breaches looked at in accordance with**

**our local law and international law,"** President Ali assured.

The President also pointed to the broader regional challenge of retaining healthcare professionals, who are often recruited by larger, English-speaking nations. Despite this, Guyana remains committed to maintaining strong diplomatic ties with Cuba while engaging in constructive dialogue with the US to resolve the current impasse.

## GOVT PLEDGES LEGAL, STRUCTURED LABOUR MARKET

The government of Guyana has reaffirmed its commitment to a structured and lawful approach to labour development, addressing concerns surrounding undocumented workers and labour shortages.

Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton, emphasised the government's focus on creating meaningful, sustainable, and legal employment opportunities for all citizens.

This statement follows discussions sparked by Minister Hamilton's remarks at a Haslington community meeting, where the complexities of Guyana's

evolving labour market were highlighted. He clarified the government's position, stressing the importance of adhering to established immigration and employment laws.

**"Our government's priority remains the structured and lawful development of our labour force,"** Minister Hamilton stated. **"Ensuring that every citizen has access to meaningful, sustainable, and legal employment is supported by the vision and an unrelenting commitment to the prosperity of all our**

**people."**

The government acknowledges the labour challenges arising from Guyana's rapid economic expansion, particularly in the oil and gas, construction, and manufacturing sectors. To address the skills gap, significant investments are being made in human capital development, including expanded access to technical and vocational training, the GOAL scholarship programme, and the elimination of tuition fees at government-run technical institutions and the University of Guyana.

Minister Hamilton also addressed the

contentious issue of undocumented workers, reiterating that such practices undermine the integrity of the labour market and create an unfair competitive environment. He asserted that the government will not compromise on the rule of law and will enforce all relevant regulations.

**"To operate outside of the regulatory framework is to erode the very structures designed to uphold fairness and security in the workplace,"** he explained.

The government's strategy involves a data-driven approach



Guyana's rapid economic expansion has seen some labour challenges

to identify labour imbalances and implement targeted interventions, ensuring policies are evidence-based and responsive to the evolving labour market.

Minister Hamilton apologised for any misinterpretations of his earlier statements,

emphasising the government's dedication to fostering a fair and prosperous labour environment for all Guyanese. The focus remains on building a skilled and legal workforce to support the nation's continued economic growth.

## GUYANA PURSUES EXPANDED MARKET ACCESS IN BRAZIL FOR KEY COMMODITIES



The delegation, engaged with Roraima's Governor Antonio Denarium and other officials

A Guyanese delegation concluded a trade mission in Boa Vista, Roraima, seeking increased market access in Brazil for key commodities, particularly in agriculture and construction.

The mission, held on March 17-18

aimed to strengthen economic ties, following commitments by President Irfaan Ali and Brazil's President, Lula da Silva.

The delegation, engaged with Roraima's Governor Antonio Denarium and other officials, and highlighted

Guyana's interest in exporting construction materials and accessing the Brazilian market for soya bean, corn, and grain, crucial for both Guyana and the Caribbean.

Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud emphasised the need to transition from political cooperation to stronger economic ties, noting Guyana's infrastructure projects, such as the Linden-Lethem Road, as strategic advantages for Brazilian businesses. **"Accessing the Brazilian market for our key commodities**

**is a priority for us,"** he stated.

Discussions also focused on reviewing the Partial Scope Agreement and operationalising the Guyana-Brazil International Road Transport Agreement

(IRTA) to streamline trade.

Go-Invest's Chief Investment Officer, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, underscored Guyana's investor-friendly environment and government support

for trade expansion, and emphasised private sector engagement.

The mission explored collaboration in technology transfer, university exchanges, and air connectivity. The Brazilian side expressed interest in exporting fertilizers and developing a fiber optic cable link.

The delegation concluded with meetings with Roraima's agriculture secretariat, tourism department, and business organisations, laying the foundation for future trade collaboration.



The delegation, engaged with Roraima's Governor Antonio Denarium and other officials

## NEW \$231M AIR CORPS HANGAR TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SECURITY, DISASTER RESPONSE



Part of the new facility

A newly commissioned \$231.1 million hangar for the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Air Corps is poised to bolster the nation's national security and disaster response capabilities.

The state-of-the-art facility, officially opened by Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Irfaan Ali, is designed to enhance rapid response times for critical operations.

The hangar's

strategic purpose is to expedite medical evacuations, enhance search and rescue operations, and improve overall military readiness. President Ali emphasised the investment's crucial role in safeguarding Guyana's development and ensuring regional stability.

**“Every dollar spent on strengthening our Defence Force is a dollar spent on safeguarding our economic potential,”** President Ali stated, highlighting the hangar's contribution to investor confidence and national

security. He noted the government's broader strategy to utilise the

The government's commitment to the Air Corps is demonstrated

allocations for personnel development and equipment upgrades.

Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier Omar Khan stressed the hangar's importance in fostering inter-agency collaboration with the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Fire Service, particularly in coordinating search and rescue operations.

Executed by Synergy General Contracting and Engineering Services, the project marks a significant advancement in Guyana's national security infrastructure and disaster response capabilities.



The \$231.1M Air Corps Hangar commissioned at the Eugene F. Correia International Airport

GDF in humanitarian relief and public safety operations.

by the \$10 billion invested over the past four years, with further

## PRESIDENT ALI REJECTS DIALOGUE WITH VENEZUELA AMID ARGYLE DECLARATION BREACHES

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has ruled out dialogue with Venezuela while it continues to violate the Argyle Declaration, stating Guyana will not be “bullied” into talks.

His stance follows Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's call for dialogue under the Argyle Agreement. President Ali emphasised Guyana's commitment to the Argyle Declaration and International Court of Justice (ICJ) orders, urging Venezuela to do the same.

**“We are not going to go into any discussion with**

**Venezuela when they are blatantly disregarding the Argyle Declaration,”** President Ali stated, citing Venezuela's planned elections for a governor in Guyanese territory as a clear breach.

He consulted with CARICOM Chair, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, and St. Vincent and Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, reinforcing Guyana's position. Prime Minister Gonsalves subsequently travelled to Venezuela to urge **“calm and restraint”** and a return to diplomacy.

Guyana, having pursued decades of dialogue, has turned to the ICJ for a final settlement. Recent Venezuelan actions, including a naval incursion into Guyana's EEZ and threats near the FPSO PROSPERITY, have drawn international condemnation.

Guyana has also filed a new ICJ case seeking emergency measures to halt Venezuela's planned March 25 elections in Essequibo, arguing it violates the ICJ's December 2023 ruling against actions altering the status quo.

The longstanding



The historic face-to-face meeting between President Ali and President Maduro in the presence of CARICOM, CELAC, Brazil and the UN, on December 14, 2023, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

border controversy over the Essequibo Region continues, with

Guyana maintaining the 1899 arbitration ruling settled the matter, while

Venezuela claims the region.

## EXPERT-DRIVEN STRATEGY GUIDES GOVT'S BORDER RESPONSE - AG NANDLALL



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall S.C.

Attorney General Anil Nandlall S.C. has defended the government's handling of the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy, asserting an **“expert-driven”**

strategy, informed by intelligence and professional advice, guides their response.

This rebuttal follows criticisms from the AFC, which accused the government of withholding information

and making Guyana vulnerable.

AG Nandlall emphasised the government's reliance on expert advice and continuous intelligence analysis. **“The government of Guyana's approach is informed by intelligence and the advice of experts,”** he stated. He highlighted international support from CARICOM, the Organisation of American States, the United Nations, and other nations.

He sharply criticised the AFC's assessment, deeming them

**“incapable of making any intelligent assessment”**, and questioned AFC leader Nigel Hughes' credibility, citing potential conflicts of interest. Despite this, he reiterated the government's openness to working with the official opposition, led by Aubrey Norton.

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo further assured the public that any Venezuelan act of physical aggression will be met with an appropriate response, emphasising the government's daily attention to the border issue. He stated the

government, including President Ali, is collaborating with international partners to safeguard Guyana's territorial integrity, referencing a G7 statement supporting Guyana.

Dr Jagdeo criticised the AFC's **“divisive”** statements, contrasting them with Opposition Leader Norton's **“mature”** approach. Regarding Venezuela's planned elections in Essequibo, Dr Jagdeo dismissed the appointment of a **“governor”** as an **“antic,”** stating, **“They can call him**

**governor, king, viceroy, monarch, whatever they want to call their people but not in our Essequibo.”** He warned that any Guyanese accepting such a position would be committing treason.

The government has filed a new ICJ case seeking emergency measures to halt Venezuela's planned elections, arguing it violates the ICJ's December 2023 ruling. The ICJ is currently addressing this request.



# GUYANA LAUNCHES \$125M FIVE-YEAR HEALTHCARE EXPANSION WITH MOUNT SINAI AND HESS CORPORATION

President Irfaan Ali has announced a five-year extension of Guyana's National Healthcare Initiative, backed by a US\$125 million Memorandum of Understanding, to transform the nation's public healthcare system into a world-class service by 2030. This ambitious project, in partnership with the Mount Sinai Health System and Hess Corporation, will build upon the significant progress achieved since its inception in 2022.

The renewed initiative will focus on six pillars: establishing a world-class cancer centre, ensuring the new Women's and Children's Hospital meets international standards, transforming regional health systems for



The signing of the agreement

community-centred care, implementing a national quality improvement programme, establishing a national electronic health records system, and continuing capacity building in health workforce development. President Ali emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships,

stating, **"The journey to world-class healthcare is not walked alone – it is built through strategic partnerships, bold investments, and a shared vision for excellence."**

The first phase of the initiative yielded tangible

results, including over 35,000 child health screenings, the training of nearly 900 nursing assistants by 2025, and the opening of a state-of-the-art pathology lab. Significant achievements from the first phase also include the launch of new primary care guidelines, the establishment of

digital protection laws and a digital health training institute, and quality improvements at GPHC. This continued collaboration aims to position Guyana as a regional and global leader in modern health system development.

By 2030, Guyana aims to offer specialised services in cancer, cardiac care, oncology, orthopedics, pediatrics, and prenatal care, rivaling the best global healthcare systems. **"Our hospitals would rival the best. Our facilities will offer the latest diagnostic treatment and surgical interventions, supported by state-of-the-art technology and global partnerships,"**

President Ali asserted. He also expressed the goal of earning the full trust of Mount Sinai and other partners, aiming to have their brand proudly associated with Guyana's healthcare system.

Hess Corporation CEO John Hess reaffirmed their commitment, stating, **"We are proud to support the vision of the Government and the work of Mount Sinai to provide world-class healthcare to every Guyanese citizen."**

Mount Sinai Health System CEO Dr. Brendan Carr highlighted the project's potential as a global model for public-private healthcare partnerships.

## REGION TWO PARENTS RECEIVE NEWBORN CASH GRANTS

New parents in Region Two are experiencing much-needed financial relief as the Ministry of Health has started distributing the \$100,000 newborn cash grant.

Launched nationally by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali on March 8, the initiative aims to ease the financial burden on families caring for newborns.

At the Suddie

Hospital, numerous parents received the grant, expressing their gratitude. Angelina Permansingh explained, **"It's a great initiative, especially for families struggling. This will help with essentials like formula and diapers."** Her husband, Richard Ramdeen, added that it would also help with travel expenses.

Madonna Smith, a mother of three,

emphasised the relief the grant provided. **"This makes things much easier,"** she said, planning to use the funds for baby supplies.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, who launched the distribution in the region, highlighted the government's commitment to sharing national prosperity. **"We want to ensure that everyone benefits from the country's**

growth," he stated.

Dr. Anthony also pointed to the government's investment in healthcare infrastructure, which complements the cash grant. He cited the construction of the Paediatric and Maternal Hospital in Ogle and the upcoming opening of the Lima Regional Hospital, which will feature specialised facilities for mothers and newborns.



Region Two mothers get \$100,000 newborn cash grants

**"We are improving healthcare services on the coast,"** Dr. Anthony said, encouraging parents to utilise the available resources. The \$100,000

newborn cash grant is projected to cost the government \$1.3 billion annually, demonstrating a substantial investment in the well-being of Guyana's newest citizens.

## FREE MEDICAL TESTS NOW AVAILABLE IN REGION TWO WITH \$10,000 HEALTHCARE VOUCHER



Government launches \$10,000 universal healthcare voucher programme in Region Two

Residents of Region Two can now access crucial medical examinations free of charge, thanks to the Ministry of Health's launch of the \$10,000

universal healthcare voucher programme.

This initiative, aimed at improving preventative healthcare, will benefit 500,000 citizens nationwide and represents a \$5 billion investment this year.

The voucher covers a range of essential tests, including Complete Blood Count (CBC), liver, kidney, and thyroid function tests, and Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) tests.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, said that this programme complements other healthcare initiatives launched by the

government. These include the \$17,000 eye testing and spectacle voucher, now available to adults aged 50 and above, and the \$8,000 cervical screening voucher.

**"We have numerous programmes designed to improve people's lives,"** Dr. Anthony stated. **"We encourage everyone to take advantage of these free services, which will contribute to a healthier life."**

He also stressed the importance of community involvement in ensuring



Government launches \$10,000 universal healthcare voucher programme in Region Two

the programme's success. **"We need a partnership between the ministry and the community,"** he said. **"Spreading the word**

and encouraging people to collect their vouchers will greatly help us."

Member of Parliament Nandranie

Coonjah expressed gratitude on behalf of the residents, noting the significant impact of the programme. **"A healthy nation is a wealthy nation,"** she said. **"Good health enables people to work, earn, and access the necessities of life."**

The government has partnered with 49 accredited public and private health institutions to distribute the vouchers, which will be available at health centres, hospitals, and medical outreaches.

## CAMPBELLVILLE, KITTY TO BENEFIT FROM NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART POLYCLINIC



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivering the feature address at the sod-turning event

Residents of Campbellville, Kitty, and surrounding areas will soon benefit from enhanced specialised medical care with the construction of a new \$831 million polyclinic. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali officiated the sod-turning ceremony for the project.

The initiative will merge the existing Campbellville and Kitty health facilities into

a modern, two-storey polyclinic, aligning with the government's vision to upgrade existing clinics into comprehensive healthcare centres.

President Ali explained that these polyclinics will offer advanced diagnostics, specialist consultations, and preventative care, reducing the strain on public hospitals, unlike traditional clinics that provide basic outpatient services.

The polyclinics will be integrated into a national telemedicine platform, supported by local and international health professionals from countries including India and the United States. This integration will facilitate early disease detection, timely intervention, improved patient outcomes, and data-driven decision-making. **"This polyclinic, and others to follow, will establish baseline**

**health data, enabling doctors to make faster and more accurate diagnoses,"** President Ali stated. **"This is not just an advancement; it's a significant leap forward."**

The project will be bolstered by the electronic medical record (EMR) system, already implemented at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). The EMR

system will streamline baseline health data development, enabling quicker and more accurate diagnoses. A corresponding health app will allow patients to book appointments, receive electronic prescriptions, and manage their health records via smartphones. The system is expected to initially reduce patient wait times at GPHC to approximately 10 minutes.

President Ali emphasised the project's commitment to providing healthcare as a fundamental right. He noted that early disease diagnosis, facilitated by the polyclinic, will reduce the need for critical care and generate cost savings for families and the economy.

The facility will be staffed with highly skilled professionals, including doctors, nurses, specialists, and

technicians, ensuring high-quality patient care.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, highlighted the focus on comprehensive children's services, including vaccinations, eye and hearing screenings, and dental checkups, all within the Campbellville Polyclinic. **"We are providing not just a modern facility, but a modern approach to healthcare,"** Dr. Anthony asserted.

Upon completion, the Campbellville Polyclinic will offer essential services such as X-rays, ECGs, ultrasounds, asthma, physiotherapy, and diabetic care, as well as a dental suite and comprehensive primary healthcare services.

BM Property Management Inc. is undertaking the construction of the polyclinic.



The sod has been turned for a multimillion Campbellville Polyclinic

## BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS NOW CLOSER TO HOME FOR WOMEN IN REGIONS TWO AND SIX

Women in Regions Two and Six now have significantly improved access to breast cancer screening, thanks to the commissioning of new mammogram machines at the Suddie and New Amsterdam Hospitals. This development eliminates the need for women aged 40 to 65 to travel to Georgetown for these vital services.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, highlighted the importance of this



Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony inspecting the new mammogram machine at Suddie Hospital

expansion, emphasizing that the new machines will lead to earlier detection of breast

cancer and ultimately reduce mortality rates. **"We are encouraging every woman from 40**

**to 65 years to make sure that you go to get your mammography test done,"** he urged.

Previously, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation was the only public health facility in Guyana offering mammography services. The recent installations at Suddie and New Amsterdam follow a similar commissioning at the Linden Hospital Complex in Region Ten last month, demonstrating

the government's commitment to decentralising critical healthcare services.

The Ministry of Health plans to further extend access by installing a mammogram machine at Lethem Hospital in the coming months. These initiatives are part of a broader strategy to enhance cancer care across Guyana through early diagnosis and timely treatment.

In addition to

breast cancer screening, women aged 21 to 65 are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the \$8,000 cervical cancer screening voucher and the HPV vaccine, which are also crucial tools in reducing cervical cancer rates in the country. The government's multi-pronged approach underscores its dedication to improving women's health and well-being through preventative care and accessible services.

## NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING INITIATIVE TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

The government, in collaboration with an international partner and Men on Mission (MoM), will soon launch a nationwide initiative to screen men aged 45 and older for prostate cancer. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement, emphasising the importance of early detection in improving treatment outcomes.

Building on the success of 2024, where over 13,600 PSA

tests were conducted, resulting in 126 new prostate cancer diagnoses, the initiative aims to expand early detection efforts. President Ali also highlighted the success of cervical cancer screenings, benefiting nearly 10,000 women.

**"Early detection is the key,"** President Ali stated, noting the potential to significantly reduce deaths from prostate, breast, and cervical cancers. The

government is working with Northwell Health to develop a strategic approach to national screening and treatment.

In addition to screening, the government is investing in advanced medical technology and equipment. President Ali also praised private sector investments in healthcare, enhancing service delivery.

**"Our healthcare system is meant to support within**

**the region [and] to deliver global health services here in Guyana,"** he said, outlining the vision for Guyana to become a regional healthcare hub. He credited strong international partnerships, driven by strategic foreign policy and proactive engagement, for the success of these initiatives.



# "INCLUSIVE GROWTH, NOT DISPARITY," PRESIDENT ALI SAYS, CITING IMF REPORT

A resounding affirmation of Guyana's economic policies recently arrived in the form of a glowing International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, prompting President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to champion the nation's commitment to **"inclusive growth."**

The IMF's 2025 Article IV evaluation delivered a powerful endorsement, praising the government's strategic social programmes and successful economic diversification, solidifying Guyana's position as a regional powerhouse.

The IMF's findings, which project impressive GDP growth and highlight the positive impact of social transfer initiatives, have been met with enthusiastic approval from President Ali. He emphasised that the report dispels narratives of economic disparity, instead showcasing Guyana's remarkable strides in



Highlights from the IMF Mission Concluding Statement

ensuring prosperity for all its citizens.

**"You hear them speak every day about disparity and inequality,"** President Ali stated, addressing concerns raised by some media outlets and commentators.

**"The IMF, in their independent review, commended Guyana for inclusive growth in every sector of the economy and inclusive among every population**

**set of the country,"** President Ali declared, expressing his satisfaction with the report's validation of his administration's vision.

The report highlighted the success of social transfer policies, which have demonstrably increased disposable income and contributed to poverty reduction. Furthermore, the IMF lauded the government's diversification efforts, noting the exceptional performance of the non-

oil economy.

Projected growth figures, including a 10¼ percent increase in real GDP and a 13 percent surge in non-oil GDP for 2025, underscore the strength of Guyana's economic trajectory. President Ali pointed to the IMF's recognition of Guyana's **"economic transformation,"** a holistic process encompassing social, financial, human, and societal advancement.

The president also emphasised the government's dedication to democratic principles, pointing to the freedom of speech enjoyed by all citizens. He contrasted the current climate with previous periods, highlighting the progress made in upholding fundamental liberties.

**"Five years ago, many of them [media outlets and commentators] went to the court... because their arrest was ordered just for posting one [negative] comment.**

**Today they are free. Say what you want to say. Post what you want to post because they know that they have that freedom to do it under this government,"** President Ali asserted.

the groundwork for long-term prosperity. President Ali reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that the benefits of Guyana's economic boom are shared



Highlights from the IMF Mission Concluding Statement

The IMF report further acknowledged the success of major development projects, such as the gas-to-energy initiative, which are driving economic expansion and laying

equitably, reinforcing the message of **"inclusive growth"** that resonates throughout the IMF's positive evaluation.

## PRESIDENT ALI ASSURES 2025 ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON TIME

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has affirmed that the 2025 general and regional elections will be held within the constitutionally mandated timeframe, dismissing concerns about potential delays.

Speaking to the press, President Ali stated,

**"Constitutionally, I still have a lot of time. Elections, constitutionally, [are due] still closer to the end of the year, so don't worry."** He emphasised his government's commitment to adhering to the constitution, contrasting it with the

electoral uncertainty that followed the 2018 no-confidence motion.

President Ali stressed that his administration would not exceed its constitutional mandate, reiterating his confidence in the PPP/C's victory in 2025 and pledging support for the Guyana Elections Commission

(GECOM) to ensure free and fair elections.

GECOM has received \$7.3 billion in this year's budget for the 2025 elections, including \$427.5 million for voter education and training for 19,000 election personnel.



GECOM has received \$7.3 billion in this year's budget for the 2025 elections

## GOVT REJECTS GPA'S PRESS FREEDOM CLAIMS AS "BASELESS"



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy has oversight over the Department of Information and Public Affairs

The government has refuted claims made by the Guyana Press Association (GPA) regarding threats to press freedom, accusing the organisation of **"selective advocacy"** and labelling its

allegations as **"baseless."** In a strongly worded statement, the Department of Information and Public Affairs asserted that Guyana enjoys an **"open and free**

**media environment"** supported by the PPP/C administrations, where journalists operate without state interference. They criticised the GPA's **"selective advocacy,"** citing its silence on intimidation and threats against state media journalists, suggesting a **"biased and politically motivated posture."**

**"The assertion that press freedoms are under threat in Guyana is not only baseless but stands in**

**stark contrast to the reality,"** the statement read.

The government also questioned the impartiality of GPA's President Nazima Raghubir, pointing to her presence at an Opposition protest. While acknowledging the importance of press freedom, they expressed concern about the **"increasing spread of falsehoods"** on social media, indicating potential policy adjustments.

The government

reiterated its commitment to press freedom and journalist safety, emphasising support for a **"fair and responsible media environment."**

Separately, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo addressed claims of PPP/C control over social media content. He denied the party directs or endorses independently shared online content.

**"People are free to support the People's Progressive Party,"** Dr Jagdeo stated,

clarifying that this support doesn't equate to party endorsement of all posted material.

Dr Jagdeo stressed the importance of media independence, asserting the PPP/C does not control independent publications, even when disagreements arise. He affirmed the party's commitment to respecting media independence, acknowledging that disagreements are a normal part of a democratic process.

## PRESIDENT ALI AND VP JAGDEO PROJECT UNIFIED PPP STRENGTH, PREDICT ELECTION WIN



President Ali addressing the gathering

At the annual Babu Jaan commemoration event, to mark the 28<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of former President Dr Cheddi Jagan, President Irfaan Ali and Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo delivered powerful speeches, projecting a united front and unwavering confidence in the People's Progressive Party's (PPP) electoral prospects.

of supporters, asserted that the PPP has never been stronger, declaring it **"cannot be bought, sold, or traded."**

He cautioned against internal and external forces attempting to mislead party members, emphasising the party's deep connection to the people. **"We must be conscious of our political environment,"** he stated, urging vigilance and integrity. President Ali also praised Jagdeo's leadership, acknowledging his role in elevating the party.

Dr. Jagdeo, in his address, confidently

predicted a **"glorious"** PPP victory in the upcoming elections, asserting that **"Anybody else except God we can beat."** He lauded President Ali as a **"giant,"** dismissing his opponents as ineffective and **"sour-faced."** Dr Jagdeo ridiculed the opposition's coalition efforts, labelling them **"monkeying around,"** and criticised their promises as hollow. He specifically dismissed their pledge to increase public servants' wages by 200%.

Dr Jagdeo praised President Ali's proficiency and



VP Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the gathering

connection with the people, emphasising the PPP's evolution under Dr. Jagan's vision. He framed the elections as a contest of trust, emphasising the PPP's **"people-centred development in practice."**

Both leaders underscored the PPP's dedication to Dr. Jagan's ideals and contrasted the party's current development-driven leadership with the past struggles of Dr. Jagan's parents.

## DR JAGDEO DISMISSES OPPOSITION'S PROMISES AS UNREALISTIC

Vice President and PPP General Secretary, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has criticised the opposition's campaign promises for the 2025 elections, labelling them as a collection of vague pledges lacking a clear plan for the country's future.

He dismissed promises made by the PNC/R and AFC, including **"liveable income"** guarantees and increased pensions, as unrealistic and reminiscent of past **"vague"** slogans. **"Don't allow yourselves to be duped again,"** he urged.

He questioned the opposition's ability to develop a practical economic plan, citing their past economic failures. **"You never craft a plan to say how you'll earn money as a country. If you have to spend money, you have to earn money,"** he stated, attributing past economic troubles to this lack of planning. **"They have never gotten it right on the economic side. They are incapable of crafting a plan...you plan first, but they want to promise and then turn that into the plan."**

He also dismissed AFC Leader Nigel Hughes' proposal for a women's bank in Georgetown as an attempt to **"fool the people,"** and noted that the PPP/C is already addressing the opposition's call for cemetery restoration.

In contrast, Dr Jagdeo emphasised the PPP/C's record of fulfilling its 2020 manifesto promises. He outlined the PPP/C's vision for the future, which includes homeownership for all, access to first-world healthcare and quality education, expanded



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

economic opportunities beyond oil and gas, support for vulnerable groups, and tax reforms.

Separately, Dr Jagdeo criticised the PNC/R's Young Professional Conference, held on March 16, stating

it lacked representation of Guyana's diverse population. **"You can't bring 200 people of a single race in Georgetown and call it a National Youth Forum. It cannot be,"** he asserted.

He contrasted this with the PPP's approach, citing their youth conference, which he said attracted 15,000 youths from diverse backgrounds. **"That is our approach to inclusion,"** he stated.

Dr. Jagdeo also accused the previous APNU/AFC administration of excluding youth from government and hindering employment opportunities. He highlighted the PPP/C's job creation efforts, including 60,000 jobs in the public and private sectors, part-time employment for 15,000 youths, and the re-employment of Amerindian Community Support Officers.

Over 300 elated residents of Berbice celebrated a long-awaited milestone, receiving their land titles for the Moleson Creek (Phases I & II) and Hogstye Housing Schemes. The distribution ceremony, held at the University of Guyana's Berbice Campus, marked the end of years of anticipation for many aspiring

homeowners.

The event was filled with expressions of relief and joy. Beneficiaries like Christopher Asregadoo, who applied three times, expressed immense relief. **"It's hard to pay rent,"** he

said, highlighting the financial burden eased by owning land. Mohan Samaro, planning to combine residential and agricultural use, shared, **"I feel really good knowing that I have my own land."** Samlall Rabindranauth, after a seven-year wait, emphasised the sense of accomplishment, especially with a growing family. Young mother Renata Johnson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to secure her children's future, and Shimwell Sinclair, a father of five, eagerly anticipated building his own home after eight

years of renting.

In addition to land titles, 241 certificates and 20 steel and cement vouchers were distributed. Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, announced a \$15.3 billion government investment in regional infrastructure, including upcoming projects at Moleson Creek and Hogstye, highlighting the strategic importance of the area due to the Guyana-Suriname bridge project. He also assured residents of the government's commitment to addressing the region's 6,000 pending housing

applications, noting the completion of 200 low-income units and the ongoing construction of 100 three-bedroom homes.

Further progress was made in Shieldstown, West Bank Berbice, where another 300 allottees signed agreements of sale, enabling them to secure certificates of title and access bank loans for home construction. The Shieldstown Housing Scheme, with nearly 700 lots, has undergone extensive infrastructure development, including roads, drainage, and utilities. Over 400

allottees have already identified their lots.

Since 2020, the government has invested \$5.2 billion in infrastructure across new housing schemes in the region, including Experiment, Balthyock, Burma, and Shieldstown, to enhance homeownership accessibility. Nationwide, over 43,200 house lots have been allocated, prioritising homeownership for Guyanese families and driving national development.



Shieldstown residents signing their agreement of sale

# NEW \$1.35 B WALES WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO BENEFIT 16,000 RESIDENTS



The massive \$1.35 billion water treatment plant

A \$1.35 billion water treatment plant, commissioned in Wales, is set to transform access to treated water for 16,000 residents along the West Bank of Demerara. This facility, a key component of the government's Coastal Water Treatment Infrastructure Programme (CWTIP), marks a significant step towards improved living standards in the region. The state-of-the-

art plant, constructed by Hipro Ecologicos in collaboration with local partners S Jagmohan Construction, boasts a capacity to treat eight million liters of water per day (MLD), supported by three wells. This capacity is designed to meet the current and future demands of communities including Goed Intent, Sisters, Patentia, Vriesland, Vive la Force, and Free and Easy.

Equipped with advanced technological systems, the plant ensures high water quality standards, utilising sensors for real-time monitoring of pressure, flow, and turbidity. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, speaking at the commissioning ceremony, hailed the project as a testament to the government's vision of "hope, dignity, and progress."

He contrasted this achievement with the "broken promises, lack of vision, and economic hardships" of the previous administration. "This is a story of vision versus lack thereof. This is a story of respect versus callousness," President Ali

emphasised, highlighting the government's substantial investment of \$400,000 per household.

He further underscored the government's comprehensive

government has invested nearly \$90 billion in housing alone within Region Three.

Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal reiterated the government's commitment to

a- half years, which is benefiting approximately 89,000 people.

Chief Executive Officer, Shaik Baksh, emphasised the plant's scalability and its achievement of surpassing World Health Organization (WHO) standards for water quality, with an iron content of only 0.1 mg per liter.

The CWTIP programme, which includes the construction of seven new large water treatment plants, 18 small plants, and the upgrade of 12 existing plants, along with the installation of 200km of transmission mains, aims to increase treated water coverage along the coast from 52% in 2020 to at least 90% by the end of 2025.



\$1.35B Wales Water Treatment Plant commissioned

development efforts in Region Three, including significant investments in housing, which are creating thousands of jobs and building over 1,000 homes. The

providing access to clean, treated water as a universal right. He highlighted the \$7.6 billion invested in the region's water sector over the past four -and

## ANNA REGINA GETS NEW PARK



First Lady Arya Ali commissioning the 'Independence Park' in Anna Regina, Region Two

The National Beautification Project, spearheaded by First Lady Arya Ali, has delivered a significant enhancement to Anna Regina with the

testament to its success.

The park, strategically located near the State House and accessible from the Anna Regina Public Road, provides a much-needed recreational area for residents. Equipped with gazebos, benches, garbage receptacles, and modern washroom facilities, it also features a dedicated children's play area with swings, slides, and seesaws.

The collaborative effort behind this project involved the Office of the First Lady, the Ministry of Public

Works, and corporate sponsor Sheriff Guyana, highlighting a unified approach to community development.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the First Lady emphasised the project's broader vision of creating public spaces that reflect the "beauty, dignity, and pride" of the Guyanese people. She highlighted that this park, like others under the National Beautification Project, serves both social and economic purposes, fostering community cohesion and creating opportunities.

"This park is more than just a place of leisure. It is a space where



Children playing at the newly commissioned 'Independence Park' in Anna Regina, Region Two

families can gather, where children can play safely, where seniors can relax, where persons can gain employment and where our community can come together. It is an investment in your well-being and in the future of your children. Because

when we invest in our people, we invest in the future of Guyana," Mrs. Ali stated.

Mayor of Anna Regina, Devin Mohan, expressed his appreciation for the park, recognising its significant contribution to the municipality.

A \$600 million National Tree-Planting Project has been launched by the government, through the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), to expand green spaces and boost environmental awareness nationwide.

The project, initiated along Conversation Tree Boulevard, aligns with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030. The initiative aims to combat climate change and enhance public spaces with trees like Palm, African Tulip, and Flamboyant.



Chairman of PAC Board of Directors Robert Persaud along with students and other stakeholders at the tree planting exercise

PAC Chairman Robert Persaud stressed the importance of community involvement, highlighting the

project's dual goal: beautifying spaces and fostering environmental responsibility.

"This project is

about expanding green spaces and uniting Guyanese in protecting our environment," Persaud stated. "We must cultivate a culture of respect for our surroundings."

The project's first phase will focus on beautifying highways, hospitals, schools, and government buildings, with support from agencies like the Guyana Forestry Commission

and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Guyana, recognised for its forest conservation, maintains over 90% forest cover, storing 19.5 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide. This tree-planting project further underscores the nation's commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection.



One of the trees that was planted



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Broccoli 西蘭花 <b>26.00</b> case	Garlic 蒜頭 20kg <b>28.00</b> case	Lemon 檸檬 <b>35.00</b> case	Chinese Eggplant 長形茄子 <b>48.00</b> case	Napa 椰菜 <b>48.00</b> case
Frozen Panga Basa Fillet 魚柳 80kg <b>65.00</b> case	Headless White Shrimp 去頭白蝦 2125/1000L <b>190.00</b> case	Head On Shrimp 有頭蝦 8040/64 lb <b>115.00</b> case	Extra Large Egg 特大蛋 20kg <b>58.99</b> case	Aroy-D Coconut Milk 椰奶 24x400ml <b>45.99</b> case
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# MINISTERS OF CONNECTING WITH COM



The PPP/C government remains committed to serving the people of Guyana. Through regular outreach programmes, ministers connect directly with communities across the country, listening to their concerns, addressing their needs, and working together to build a brighter future for all.





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**Store Hours**  
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Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

# CHRIST CHURCH REBUILD NEARS COMPLETION, EBD SCHOOLS ADVANCE



The new Christ Church Secondary School

Guyana's education sector is experiencing a significant boost, with the reconstruction of Christ Church Secondary School nearing completion and the expansion of secondary education opportunities along the East Bank of Demerara (EBD) corridor. Hundreds of Guyanese students are poised to benefit from these ambitious government projects, signaling a brighter future for education in the nation.

The \$688 million reconstruction of Christ Church Secondary School, destroyed by fire in 2023, is now 90% complete and on track for its May completion date. Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, and ministry officials recently inspected the site, confirming the project's progress. The rebuilt school will feature 20 modern classrooms and nine state-of-the-art laboratories, providing a significantly improved learning environment.

Minister Manickchand expressed satisfaction with the project's rapid progress, emphasising the government's swift and decisive action to minimise disruption to students' education following the fire. The new facility incorporates contemporary educational standards and cutting-edge infrastructure, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing schools nationwide.

Simultaneously, children residing along the EBD corridor are set to gain access to expanded secondary education opportunities. Construction is progressing on new schools, including Prospect Secondary and Kaneville Secondary, which will provide comprehensive secondary education

and enable hundreds of students to pursue their academic goals and sit the crucial Caribbean Secondary Examinations Certificate (CSEC) exams.

Ongoing

dedication to delivering high-quality secondary education across the nation.

The Minister cited the Yarrowkabra Secondary School as a testament to the positive impact

the National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA) but lack the resources for a complete secondary education.

The government has invested substantially in establishing modern secondary schools nationwide. Significant progress has also been made on the East Coast of Demerara (ECD), where all primary tops have been closed, with students transitioning to newly established secondary schools. In 2023, approximately 480 students from former primary tops in Paradise, Enterprise, and Enmore were successfully enrolled at Good Hope Secondary School.

Minister Manickchand attributed this achievement to effective governance and a "genuine" desire to empower the nation's children.



The new Christ Church Secondary School

development at Diamond Secondary School further reinforces the government's commitment to equitable access to quality education. Minister Manickchand highlighted these advancements, emphasising the

St. Stanislaus College is poised to undergo a major upgrade, with the commencement of a massive expansion project that will bring modern learning spaces to its students. Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, officially launched the project, marking a pivotal moment in the institution's history.

The \$665,298,205 expansion, funded by the World Bank under the 'Guyana Strengthening Human Capital Through Education' initiative, will see the construction of two new buildings designed to enhance the educational experience. These new facilities will

provide students with state-of-the-art learning environments, reflecting the government's commitment to modernising education infrastructure.

The project will deliver a range of specialised spaces, including a modern food and nutrition laboratory, an industrial technology classroom, an IT room, and an allied arts room. In addition, the expansion will add 12 new classrooms, a library, and improved washroom facilities,

ensuring students have access to the resources they need to excel.

Minister Manickchand emphasised the importance of these modern learning spaces during the groundbreaking ceremony. "All across the country, we're either building, rebuilding or extending schools," she stated, highlighting the government's dedication to providing quality educational facilities. She also

unveiled an interactive online map showcasing school construction projects nationwide, ensuring transparency and accessibility for the public.

The 14-month construction project, executed by contractor K. Nauth, with GR Engineering Co. as the design and supervision consultant and EMC as the environmental consultant, will significantly enhance the college's academic and technical offerings.

## MODERN LEARNING SPACES COMING TO ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE



The floor plan

## TVET ACCESS EXPANDS WITH NEW TRAINING HUBS IN BETERVERWAGTING AND HOPETOWN

Guyana is bolstering its vocational training infrastructure with the opening of new technical centres in Beterverwagting and Hopetown. Funded by the CDB and the Government of Guyana, the facilities address the growing demand for skilled labour in the country's rapidly expanding economy, particularly in the oil and gas and construction sector.

The \$225 million



The commissioning of the new PIC in BV

PIC in Beterverwagting, East Coast Demerara, Region Four, opened by Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, will offer Caribbean

Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) Level 1 training in Furniture Making, Commercial Food Preparation, Masonry/Plumbing,

Housekeeping, and Garment Production. Equipped with modern workshops and a Learning Resource Centre, the PIC will serve up to 400 students, including working adults. Deputy Chief Education Officer, Dr. Ritesh Tularam, outlined plans for evening programmes.

The US\$1.9 million PIC in Hopetown, Region Five, will train another 400 students in commercial food

preparation, graphic arts, and plumbing. The facility features modern labs and training spaces.

Minister Manickchand highlighted similar projects in Mabaruma and Fellowship, with more planned for Region Nine. She reiterated the government's dedication to empowering Guyanese youth, stating, "We believe skill is wealth. We have to train our young people to benefit from the

oil and gas sector, we have to train our young people to benefit from the construction sector. We have to train our young people."

Additionally, the Ministry of Education will launch a national TVET policy soon, reinforcing the government's commitment to expanding vocational training. These new centres mark significant progress in providing universal access to quality technical education.

# Ali assures Guyanese citizens: We will always stand by you

EVEN in the nation’s most challenging times, it was the People’s Progressive Party (PPP) that stood firm in serving and protecting the citizens, President Dr. Irfaan Ali reminded Guyanese.

During a public meeting at La Grange, West Bank Demerara on Saturday, the President reflected on just a few of Guyana’s darkest times, and how the PPP stood up and protected citizens.

He first pointed out that it should be noted that all of the government’s accomplishments were done with two years of the country battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Ali said: “I want you to recall, during ‘COVID’ in this region and every single region, who the ones were walking the streets and the markets, with masks, hampers in their hands going house-to- house, going people-to-people.

“We were not in government; we were fighting for free and fair elections, and yet, every member of this PPP/C that you see here sacrificed and risked their life going house-to-house, going in the markets, going on the roads, giving out masks, giving out hampers, helping the poor... We had nothing to gain, but to protect lives and to serve you and to show you that we care about you.

“No government member [coalition administration] was out there, none of them from APNU+AFC, none of the billionaires.”

Dr. Ali further emphasised that it was the ordinary leaders of the PPP that walked every single street to ensure that citizens were safeguarded.

He then reflected on those members that lost their lives during that devastating period and said: “I am telling you when it matters to remember who stand by you,” President Ali said.

He also made it clear that the PPP has withstood the test of time, and has a track record of continuously working for the people, even when they were in the opposition.

“We’ve withstood dictatorship; we’ve withstood rigged elections. We’ve withstood the confusion of different individuals and political parties seeking to manipulate the minds of people every single time they want to defeat the People’s Progressive Party,” President Ali stated.

He also pointed out how, even with threats, the PPP stood up and protested against the unfair treatment that was meted out to them by the former coalition administration.

Since its election to office in 2020, the PPP government has restored over 4,600 jobs within the sugar industry.



President Irfaan Ali

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# GOAL ENSURES STUDENT CONTINUITY AMID PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE - DR JAGDEO DEFENDS DIRECTOR



The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) has implemented a comprehensive transfer plan to mitigate the impact of the recent partnership dispute between the University of Staffordshire (UoS) and the International Skill Development Corporation (ISDC), ensuring the continued

education of its students. GOAL's swift response, designed to minimise disruption, provides affected students with the opportunity to seamlessly transfer to other reputable partner universities within its network. This initiative guarantees that students can continue their academic pursuits

without significant setbacks.

GOAL in a press release, emphasised its commitment to transparency and student support, clarifying that a legitimate agreement was in place with UoS and ISDC. However, a breakdown in their partnership, undisclosed to GOAL until late January 2025, disrupted the programme.

To safeguard students' future, GOAL has:

- **Facilitated Immediate Transfers:** Actively coordinating transfers to accredited partner universities.
- **Secured Credit Transfer Options:** ISDC collaborating with five UK

universities - Arden University, Queen Margaret University, University of the West of Scotland, Wrexham University, and Cardiff Metropolitan University - to ensure credit for completed coursework.

- **Provided Direct Student Support:** Conducting virtual meetings and offering individualised guidance.

GOAL apologised for the inconvenience and reiterated its commitment to high standards and student support.

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo confirmed that the Ministry of Education and GOAL have reached out to 900 students,

offering credit transfer opportunities. He reassured the impacted students, stating that the remaining 500 will be contacted soon. **"The affected students will retain their earned credits and will continue their education seamlessly through the new institutions,"** Dr. Jagdeo affirmed.

He expressed confidence in the Ministry of Education's efforts to contact the remaining students and provide suitable alternatives.

Dr. Jagdeo also defended GOAL Director Professor Jacob Opadeyi against criticism, commending his academic credentials and professional capabilities.

**"I firmly believe in Professor Opadeyi's abilities. He has a solid academic background,"** he stated.

He reassured students that the government is committed to ensuring they suffer no negative consequences from the transition.

Between 2021 and 2024, GOAL awarded 29,758 scholarships, with annual increases. The number of scholarships grew by 32.4% from 2021 to 2024, with the most significant increase between 2021 and 2022.



# FROM TENDERS TO COMPLETION - SCHOOL PROJECT DETAILS NOW ONLINE

The Ministry of Education has launched "Projects Map", an online platform providing public access to comprehensive details of school construction and rehabilitation projects, from tender to completion.

This initiative aims to enhance transparency and public engagement in education infrastructure development.

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, highlighted the platform's importance, stating, **"We are very happy to be able to do this because it also helps us."** The Projects Map offers

complete project lifecycle information, enabling citizens to track progress and ensure accountability.

The platform includes details on tender advertisements and closing dates, awarded contracts and contractor information, project costs and funding, and start and expected completion dates. Users can easily locate projects by region and school.

Head of Information Systems, Phil Mingo, demonstrated the website's user-friendly

interface, emphasising its regional and school-specific search capabilities.

By providing this information, the Ministry of Education seeks to offer a clear and comprehensive view of its investment in educational infrastructure, demonstrating its commitment to transparency and accountability.



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand and Head of Information Systems, Phil Mingo demonstrating the interactive online map showcasing school construction projects nationwide

# GOVT SUSPENDS ARANAPUTA MINING PROJECT OVER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The government has halted a mining project in Aranaputa, Region Nine, citing environmental protection and residents' well-being as primary concerns. Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, clarified that the permit was issued to the Aranaputa Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC), not a Brazilian company, as initially reported.



Government has halted Aranaputa mining project amid environmental concerns

Minister Bharrat explained that while the Mining Act prohibits direct mining by non-

nationals, it permits local entities like the NDC to partner with foreign investors. The permit

was initially granted following a request from the NDC, with the aim of supporting local

economic development. However, subsequent concerns raised by regional

officials, residents, and environmental groups regarding potential environmental damage and impact on livelihoods prompted the government to suspend the permit.

**"Almost everyone that spoke, they were against the mining in the North Rupununi, citing the freshwater, the source of the freshwater, citing the fishing that is engaged by the Amerindian communities, citing the vast wetland and the interest in preserving that**

**which we respect as a government too,"** Minister Bharrat stated.

He emphasised that the government prioritises sustainable development over short-term economic gains, underscoring its commitment to protecting the environment and the livelihoods of Guyanese citizens.



# NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATED WITH 200 ADDITIONAL WORKERS

Construction of the new Demerara River Bridge is set to accelerate as China Railway Construction International Limited (CRCCL) with the deployment of an additional 200 skilled workers, including engineers, to the project. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali received the update

during an early morning site visit, emphasising the project's importance and adherence to its August 31 completion deadline. President Ali was informed by CRCCL representatives that the expanded workforce will focus on completing the bridge's main spans, a critical phase of construction. **"That**

**is the big work now, completing the main span,"** the head of state emphasised. During his visit, President Ali also addressed delays in drainage works, instructing the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) to expedite approvals. He received assurances that crucial steel cables are

enroute and expected to arrive by May, keeping the project on track. **"This project is not being extended one day beyond the timeline and your attitude and work ethic is what will ensure the project is completed in time,"** President Ali stated while inspecting the access road leading to the bridge.

President Ali highlighted the bridge's integration with other infrastructure projects, such as the Haags Bosch Highway, which

span, cable-stayed structure, will land at Nandy Park, EBD, and La Grange, West Bank Demerara (WBD). It will feature a 50-metre fixed-



Some of the progress made on the bridge's construction



An overhead view of works on the US\$260 million new Demerara Harbour Bridge

The US\$260 million project, the first cable-stayed bridge in South America, will span 1.25 miles (2.01km) and accommodate vehicles of all sizes and weights.

With an expected lifespan of at least 100 years, the bridge will serve as a vital link between Regions Three and Four, facilitating the movement of people, vehicles, and cargo, and stimulating economic activity.

extends to Ogle and Buzz Bee Dam. He urged CRCCL and the Italian supervisory firm, Politecnica, to maintain close collaboration to ensure timely delivery.

The new bridge, a fixed, four-lane, high-

span, eliminating bridge closures for vehicular traffic, and include a bicycle lane. President Ali reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring the project's completion within the established timeframe.

## FROM AUGUST 1, DEMERARA, BERBICE, WISMAR BRIDGES WILL BE TOLL FREE

In a move set to significantly ease travel costs for thousands of Guyanese, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that the Demerara Harbour Bridge, the Berbice River Bridge, and the Wismar Bridge in Region Ten will be toll-free starting August 1.

The President stated that this initiative will eliminate financial burdens on commuters and promote smoother

travel across key regions. This announcement fulfils a commitment made by President Ali last year, when he pledged to remove tolls from these crucial transportation arteries.

The elimination of tolls will impact a wide range of vehicles. Currently, crossing fees vary significantly, from \$40 for motorcycles to \$700 for motor lorries on the Demerara Harbour Bridge, with cars and



All bridge crossings free from August 1

minibuses paying \$200. The Berbice River Bridge, which charges \$1,900 for cars and minibuses, will also be included in the toll-free policy.

Additionally, the upcoming Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge in Region Ten will offer free passage upon its completion, further enhancing connectivity and reducing travel expenses for residents in that area.

The US\$260 million

Demerara River Bridge, a major infrastructure project aimed at alleviating traffic congestion between Regions Three and Four, will be accessible to all without charge. This policy shift is expected to have a substantial positive impact on the daily lives of commuters and businesses that rely on these bridges for transportation.

## MAJOR HIGHWAY PROJECT TO LINK WALES, BARTICA AND TIMEHRI WILL DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

A transformative highway project, connecting Wales, Bartica, and Timehri, has been announced, promising to revolutionise connectivity and drive economic development across Guyana. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali unveiled the plan at the commissioning of the Wales Water Treatment Plant.

The highway will originate from the new Demerara River Bridge going up to Wales, extend along the Del Conte route to Bartica, and then



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing a packed crowd at the commissioning of the \$1.35 billion Wales Water Treatment Plant

proceed to Sandhills before reaching Timehri, significantly improving transportation between key regions.

President Ali emphasised

project's potential to unlock land for agriculture and housing, creating substantial opportunities. The government also plans to upgrade the Parika port

for direct agricultural exports to the Caribbean.

To further boost economic growth, a second power plant will be developed in Region Three, aiming to establish the region as a modern industrial hub and generate jobs.

These initiatives are anchored by the US\$260 million Demerara River Bridge, a vital link between Regions Three and Four, designed to accommodate heavy-duty vehicles.

**"We are plotting the next phase of the new highway that**

**will come from the new bridge to Wales, then to the Del Conte route...connecting Bartica, bringing the road back onto**

**Sandhills and taking it to Timehri,"** President Ali stated, highlighting the project's strategic vision.



Construction of the new Demerara River Bridge rapidly progressing (Things Guyana image)

# SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AT CJIA AS TERMINAL TWO DEAL ADVANCES

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) is witnessing significant progress in its ongoing expansion, with negotiations for the crucial terminal two contract reaching their final stages. This advancement marks a vital step in the airport's transformation to meet growing international travel demands.



The new face of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, revealed the near-finalisation of the terminal two contract during a meeting with contractors, airport engineers, and CJIA's

Chief Executive Officer, Ramesh Ghir. **"In the midst of all that is happening here [CJIA], we have been negotiating to bring to finality the contract**

**for terminal two,"** he stated, indicating the substantial progress made.

The terminal two project is a cornerstone of CJIA's modernisation,

encompassing a new commercial center, VIP lounge, expanded aircraft parking areas, administrative offices, and an enhanced baggage handling facility. The commercial centre is already 80 percent complete, demonstrating the tangible advancements being made.

This progress is essential to accommodate the rapidly increasing passenger traffic. Guyana surpassed one million arrivals in 2024, testament to the nation's growing appeal. CJIA's

CEO Ghir, emphasised the necessity of these expansions, noting that **"even that will be inadequate over time unless we have actual physical space to accommodate persons."**

Minister Edghill reaffirmed the government's commitment to the project, stating that President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision for the airport's expansion remains on track. He emphasised that all ongoing works are set for completion by April 2025, highlighting the urgency and dedication to achieving these goals.



The new face of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport

# CHARITY TO GET \$880M MODERN WHARF



Artist impression of the new \$880 million multi-purpose wharf to be constructed in Charity (3)

Construction has commenced on a new \$880 million multi-purpose wharf in Charity, Region Two, replacing the outdated and insufficient existing port facility. Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, inaugurated

the project, highlighting the government's dedication to community engagement and addressing the vital needs of local residents. The current Charity Wharf, a critical trade and transportation nexus in the Essequibo region, will undergo a

significant upgrade. The new concrete wharf, featuring a 140-foot frontage, will include a floating link-span bridge and dock, enabling the accommodation of larger vessels than the current structure allows.

**"This project is not solely about investment and contractors; it's about the beneficiaries, the end-users,"** Minister Edghill stated at the launch. **"We aim for satisfaction, ensuring residents are well-informed and their input is valued."**

Following extensive stakeholder

consultations, the project design incorporates deck space for goods storage and potential loading



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill addressing the inauguration of the project

mechanisms to improve cargo handling. The wharf will also serve as a docking point for boats and medical vessels

navigating the Pomeroon River.

To support local agriculture, Minister

the Pomeroon, a new government-operated goods vessel will facilitate farmers' access to the new wharf," he explained. The remaining boats will transport produce from the Demerara and Berbice Rivers to market destinations, including potential export locations.

S. Jagmohan Contracting Services has been awarded the contract for the project. Construction, beginning with pile driving and site office establishment, is expected to be completed within 24 months.

Edghill announced the construction of three wooden cargo boats to enhance produce transportation. **"In**

The government is significantly enhancing regional air transportation with a multi-pronged strategy involving new airstrip construction and existing aerodrome upgrades.

In Region Two, plans are being evaluated for a new public airstrip in Charity. Minister

of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, emphasised that any private development must ensure public access, aligning with government policy. This new airstrip is projected to stimulate regional development by facilitating medical evacuations, boosting

tourism, and reducing travel times. **"Upon completion, direct flights from Ogle to Charity and back will be possible, eliminating the need to travel via Hampton Court,"** stated Minister Edghill.

Simultaneously, the Anna Regina Aerodrome will undergo significant upgrades, including the construction of a waiting area and other improvements to support the region's growing tourism sector, particularly benefiting the nearby Lake Mainstay tourist resort. **"Naturally, airstrip development**

necessitates road improvements for the

In Region One, construction has commenced on a new \$800 million airstrip in Matthews Ridge, a manganese mining community.

This project, overseen by the Ministry of Public Works' Special Projects Unit (SPU), employs approximately 50 local workers. Minister Edghill highlighted the government's commitment to timely completion, addressing the poor condition of the existing airstrip. **"The priority is**

getting this done," he stated, emphasising the airstrip's role in improving access for people and goods, and driving economic prosperity.

The 4,000-foot by 80-foot airstrip, designed for a 50-year lifespan, will feature a durable concrete surface for all-weather landings. Materials like BRC and steel are being sourced from Georgetown, while ready-mixed concrete will be supplied locally, maximizing the economic impact within Matthews Ridge. Completion is expected within six weeks, contingent on material

delivery.

The new airstrip will address concerns that previously deterred airlines, significantly improving connectivity. Matthews Ridge is also benefiting from other development projects, including a \$31.8 million bridge and a \$244 million road rehabilitation project, both employing local residents and contractors.

Minister Edghill affirmed the current administration's track record of delivering on promises and exceeding expectations, particularly within the public works sector.



Work underway on the Matthew's Ridge airstrip

# NEW AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THREE KEY LOCATIONS



The highly anticipated distribution of the government's 'Because We Care' education cash grant will commence on May 12th, according to Education Minister Priya Manickchand. This year, each school-aged child will receive \$50,000 in cash, along with a \$5,000 school uniform voucher, totalling \$55,000, aimed at supporting their educational needs.

Minister Manickchand, addressing educators, students, and parents, highlighted the

## EDUCATION CASH GRANT DISTRIBUTION TO BEGIN MAY 12TH, \$55,000 PER CHILD

programme's success and the ongoing efforts to streamline the distribution process. "You all know that over the last four years, it's been the smoothest process," she stated, acknowledging past challenges with long lines and emphasising the improvements made.

The "Because We Care" cash grant, now in its fourth



A happy parent after uplifting the Because We Care Cash Grant

consecutive year, reflects the government's commitment to investing in education. Over 205,000 children nationwide are expected

to benefit from the programme, with \$11 billion allocated in the 2025 National Budget.

The grant has seen a steady increase since its reintroduction by the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Government. After being abolished by the previous APNU+AFC administration, the grant was reinstated and has grown from \$19,000 in 2021 to \$45,000 in

2024. To date, a total of \$27 billion has been disbursed to families across Guyana.

The additional funds provided this year are intended to alleviate the financial burden of education-related expenses, such as clothing and food, for families across the country.

## GUYANA TO INTRODUCE FULL-DAY CHILDCARE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS BY 2030



This initiative builds on the subsidised daycare programme implemented for frontline workers, during the COVID-19 pandemic

Building on the success of pandemic-era childcare subsidies, Guyana has announced a significant expansion of support for healthcare workers, committing to the implementation

of full-day childcare services by 2030. P resident Dr. Irfaan Ali's initiative aims to provide long-term stability and support for these essential professionals, enhancing

their work-life balance and ultimately improving the quality of national healthcare.

Speaking at an event at State House, President Ali acknowledged the demanding schedules faced by healthcare workers and the critical need to support their well-being. "To our health workers, we know the tireless hours that you put into your job, and we are also working to ensure that by 2030, our health care system would provide

friendly day care services for you," he stated.

Recognising the significant number of mothers within the healthcare workforce, the President emphasised the importance of integrating such support services into the healthcare system. "These are all services we are going to integrate into our health care service to ensure that you too, the healthcare professional, that you too are taken care of in this equation, so

that you can provide the best service every single day of your life," he said.

This initiative builds directly upon the subsidised daycare programme implemented for frontline workers, including healthcare professionals, during the COVID-19 pandemic, signalling a sustained commitment to supporting those who serve on the frontlines of the nation's health.

President Ali further outlined his vision for the healthcare sector,

asserting that health professionals in Guyana "must be the best paid, you must be the most trained, and you must be the most respected in this region."

"When we invest in our medical professionals, we invest in every Guyanese life," he stated, highlighting the direct link between the well-being of healthcare workers and the quality of care provided to the nation. This plan signifies a substantial investment in the healthcare workforce, aiming to improve both their personal lives and the national health system.

Utilising cutting-edge technology, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has transitioned to LPG gas-powered boilers for its sterilisation needs. This \$210 million investment, officially launched by Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony, not only addresses longstanding operational challenges, but also introduces a more sustainable and efficient energy solution.

The switch to liquid petroleum gas (LPG) powered boilers represents a significant move towards an eco-

## GPHC SWITCHES TO ECO-FRIENDLY BOILERS FOR STERILISATION

friendly and cost-effective solution for producing the high-pressure steam essential for sterilising medical equipment and instruments.

Dr. Anthony praised the GPHC's decision, emphasising the vital role of these new systems in enhancing infection control. "Having steam in the hospital for sterilisation is very important, and

if that is not working effectively, it can create problems for us in infection control," he stated. "We now have additional capacity. Going forward, the hospital shouldn't have any problems with steam."

GPHC's Chief Executive Officer, Robbie Rambarran, explained the significance of the new steam plant,



The new boiler

highlighting its crucial role in both sterilisation and laundry services. He contrasted the efficiency

of the new LPG boilers with the hospital's previously deteriorated systems, which

suffered from neglect and untreated water damage. "Imagine we had three boilers in the past, and they couldn't have given us the volume of steam that we desired. We have one boiler doing that," Rambarran noted, underscoring the improved performance and efficiency of the new LPG units.

## MOBILE HEALTH APP COMING

Imagine scheduling appointments, managing prescriptions, and receiving health checkup reminders all from your smartphone. Guyana is making this a reality with the upcoming launch of the "Health for You" app within seven months,

designed to streamline patient access to medical services across the nation.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali announced the initiative, emphasising the app's role in empowering patients to manage their healthcare

needs directly from their smartphones. "Health for You" will offer a range of functionalities, including reminders for essential health checkups.

Developed in collaboration with the Mount Sinai Health System in New York,

the app aims to simplify patient interactions with the healthcare system, reducing wait times and improving overall convenience. The initial rollout will take place at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), the country's largest public hospital, before expanding to regional hospitals.

Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony highlighted the app's

integration with Guyana's national electronic health record system, noting that it will provide patients with greater control over their personal health data. This integration is a critical component of the government's efforts to digitise healthcare services and enhance patient access.



The app will offer a range of functionalities

## GUYANA'S HEALTH RECORDS GO DIGITAL WITH UK PARTNERSHIP

Guyana is embracing a new era of digital healthcare, having launched a \$3.3 million Electronic Health Record (EHR) system in collaboration with UK-registered RioMed Limited.

Funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), this initiative will transform patient record management nationwide.

The 18-month contract, signed on March 18, signifies a strong partnership between Guyana and

the United Kingdom, aimed at advancing technological solutions in healthcare. The EHR system will initially be implemented at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), replacing the current paper-based records.

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony highlighted the inefficiencies of the existing system, stating, **“Despite our best efforts, we still have to search, and sometimes the**



MOU being signed by the Managing Director of RioMed Limited Mario Mohamed (left) and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Malcolm Watkins

**papers are not all in one place, leading to patient delays.”** The new digital system

will provide doctors and staff with instant access to patient records, improving efficiency and

accuracy. To ensure data security, new legislation has been enacted, with

substantial fines for breaches: starting at \$20 million Guyana dollars for individuals and exceeding \$100 million for corporate entities. **“We want to ensure that when they catch you there is a suitable punishment,”** emphasised Minister Anthony.

Future plans include a unique citizen identifier to further streamline healthcare access. The successful implementation of the EHR system at GPHC will pave the way for its expansion across Guyana, significantly upgrading the nation's healthcare infrastructure.

## HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRY'S DIGITAL UPGRADE WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES, REDUCE WAIT TIME



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud addressing the training sessions

Guyanese citizens are set to experience significantly faster social service delivery with the launch of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's new digital platform, the Beneficiary Registry and Document Management System (BRDMS).

Developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Synergy International Systems Inc., the BRDMS aims to eliminate long wait times and streamline application processes.

The ministry has completed intensive staff training, preparing

for the system's full implementation later this year. This digital shift will replace paper-based processes, promising quicker responses and improved access to services.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, highlighted the BRDMS's potential to eliminate bureaucratic frustrations. **“This system moves us from paper to digital, allowing us to deliver services efficiently and effectively,”** she stated. **“It serves as an anti-poverty mapping tool, ensuring services reach those who need them without**

**unnecessary delays.”**

The BRDMS will expedite applications for crucial services, including old-age pensions, public assistance, and domestic violence support. It will also prioritise data security and

transparency, adhering to the recently enacted Data Protection Act.

Lorena Salazar, IDB Country Representative, emphasised the system's role in building a more responsive social safety net. **“This is a fundamental step**

**towards creating a more effective and citizen-centred social service system,”** she said.

Hayk Vardanyan of Synergy International Systems explained the BRDMS's technical capabilities, noting its support for over 50 social services and its shift to a household-centric approach. This will enable the efficient delivery of support to entire families.

The BRDMS is poised to revolutionise social service delivery in Guyana, ensuring timely and efficient support for all citizens.



The staff during the training

## GUYANA SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES KEY UN ANTI-CORRUPTION REVIEW

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance has announced the successful conclusion of the second stage of Guyana's second review cycle under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

The in-situ visit, a crucial component of the UNCAC's Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM), took place in Georgetown from March 18 to 20, 2025.

Guyana, a signatory to the UNCAC since 2008, has reaffirmed its dedication to

combating corruption, fostering transparency, and bolstering accountability. The country's active participation in the IRM signifies its commitment to a peer-review process that aids nations in effectively implementing the Convention's provisions.

This review cycle centred on two pivotal areas: Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery). The evaluation scrutinised Guyana's strategies for preventing corruption and its mechanisms for recovering assets



Hon. Gail Teixeira

obtained through corrupt activities.

Experts from Saint Lucia and the Republic of Moldova, selected via a UN-led

process, conducted the review, supported by representatives from the UNODC Secretariat. The on-site visit followed a comprehensive

desk review, based on Guyana's self-assessment checklist submitted in 2023. The visit aimed to provide a more in-depth understanding of Guyana's anti-corruption framework, identify challenges, and highlight best practices.

Over 60 national stakeholders, including representatives from key state agencies, constitutional bodies, the private sector, and civil society, contributed to the review, playing a vital role in its thoroughness.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

and Governance, the lead agency for anti-corruption treaty reporting, coordinated the review. The Ministry emphasised its commitment to ensuring Guyana meets its treaty obligations and continuously strengthens its anti-corruption framework.

The successful completion of this second review cycle underscores Guyana's unwavering commitment to combating corruption and promoting good governance in alignment with international standards.

# GUYANA SECURES \$22M TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS AGAINST FUTURE PANDEMICS

The World Bank, in a press release, stated that it has approved a US\$22 million project to bolster Guyana's health resilience, focusing on preparedness for health emergencies. The "Guyana One Health Project" will integrate human, animal, and environmental health systems, addressing Guyana's complex public health challenges. These include a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases, persistent infectious diseases, and the critical threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), for which Guyana has the Caribbean's second-highest mortality rate.

The project, supported by the Pandemic Fund, aims to modernise Guyana's public health infrastructure. Key initiatives include upgrading the National Public Health Reference Laboratory and decentralizing the laboratory network to enhance diagnostic capabilities for zoonotic diseases and illnesses like dengue and malaria. Laboratories will be made weather-resilient and energy-efficient, ensuring continuous operation during extreme weather.

A shift from paper-based records to real-time, integrated digital platforms will improve data sharing across



Health professionals will receive training to detect, report, and respond to outbreaks

human and animal health sectors, crucial for addressing AMR. Regional surveillance units will be established for quicker outbreak detection and response, and border monitoring will be strengthened to

manage cross-border health threats. Health professionals will receive training to detect, report, and respond to outbreaks, including addressing gender-based violence during crises.

Diletta Doretti,

World Bank Group Representative for Guyana, emphasised the project's contribution to national productivity and long-term prosperity, stating, "A healthy and productive society is critical for

economic growth." Priya Basu, Executive Head of the Pandemic Fund, highlighted the collaborative effort, noting that the US\$15.6 million grant from the Pandemic Fund is leveraging significant additional financing.

Public awareness campaigns will promote responsible antibiotic use, good hygiene, and safe interactions with wildlife and livestock, ensuring public health is a shared responsibility. The project is financed by a US\$15 million grant from the Pandemic Fund and a US\$7 million credit from the World Bank's International Development Association.



Qualco Guyana launches, boosting oil and gas sector

Qualco Guyana, a business consortium specialising in advanced electrical and mechanical contracting for the oil and gas sector, officially launched. The company, a partnership between U.S.-based Quality Companies and Guyanese firms Latitude Guyana and

Nexus Machinery, was established in 2019.

Senior Minister Dr. Ashni Singh, speaking at the launch, credited the Local Content Act for facilitating such joint ventures, emphasising that these partnerships are the result of deliberate efforts to attract credible businesses to Guyana.

He highlighted that the local content framework has generated over \$1.5 billion in business opportunities for Guyanese companies and urged more American companies to pursue similar strategic partnerships with local entities.

He also noted that the partnership exemplifies the strengthening friendship between the United States and Guyana.

U.S. Ambassador Nicole Theriot praised the expanding partnerships between the two countries, particularly in the bioenergy sector.



Qualco Guyana launches, boosting oil and gas sector

She highlighted Qualco Guyana's significant strides, including the establishment of two state-of-the-art facilities and its commitment to local employment.

Notably, 95% of Qualco Guyana's employees are Guyanese, and the company invests in specialised training, including sending staff to the U.S. for further

development.

Qualco Guyana Director, Dr. Haimwant Persaud, revealed that the company has invested over \$8 million in facilities, equipment, training, and community development since its inception in 2019. Operational activities began in 2021, with further expansion in 2023. He emphasised the company's long-term commitment to Guyana, stating, "Though Qualco brings global experience through its U.S. and Guyanese leadership, our soul is firmly rooted in Guyana."

# ESSEQUIBO COAST ROAD TO BECOME FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY

President Dr. Irfaan Ali has unveiled ambitious plans to convert the Essequibo Coast main road into a four-lane highway, with design work slated to commence before the end of 2025. This major infrastructure project aims to address the region's burgeoning traffic congestion and support its rapid development.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony for the Deeds and Commercial Registries Office in Suddie, Region Two,

President Ali announced, "...We will commence before the end of this year, the design and rebuilding of this [road] into a four-lane highway here in Essequibo."

The current two-lane Essequibo Coast Road, stretching 36 miles from Supenaam to Charity, is facing increasing pressure due to the region's accelerated growth. President Ali emphasised the critical need for the upgrade to accommodate the escalating traffic volume. "Over the past years,"

he stated, "the focus has been on building community roads and infrastructure. However, the four-lane highway has become vital with the rapid growth of traffic in the region."

Alongside the road expansion, the government is actively promoting tourism in Essequibo. President Ali has charged Minister of Tourism, Oneidge Waldron, with developing a comprehensive marketing plan to capitalise on the

increasing number of resorts and hotels in the area, "Because as you know, there are several resorts that are being built, new hotels, more rooms already on weekend... we are out of rooms in this region," he noted, highlighting the region's growing appeal.

To further bolster tourism and enhance connectivity, the government is also working to procure an additional ferry for the Parika to Essequibo route.

President Ali

underscored the substantial investment made in Region Two since 2020, with over \$100 billion allocated to various development projects. The four-

lane highway initiative stands as a cornerstone of the government's ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure and stimulate economic growth in the region.



An ariel view of a section of the Essequibo coast (Photo credit - Tourism Guyana)

# GUYANA BIDS TO HOST WOMEN'S CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHES



Guyana is aiming to capitalise on its growing sporting reputation by bidding to host Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) matches in Essequibo and Berbice.

This strategic move is expected to not only introduce top-tier cricket to new regions, but also provide a significant boost to local economies and tourism.

President Dr. Irfaan

Ali announced the government's official bid during the opening of the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority Building in Suddie, Region Two. This move underscores Guyana's commitment to regional development and its ambition to showcase the nation's progress on a global stage.

**"...it is not only about the cricket and spectators, it is about the international positioning of the area on a global audience from the television viewership aspect,"** President Ali stated, emphasising the strategic importance of hosting WCPL matches

in these regions.

The government's bid is backed by significant investments in Essequibo and Berbice, totalling nearly \$100 billion over the past four years. Key venues identified for hosting matches include the soon-to-be-completed Anna Regina Stadium, the iconic Albion Sports Complex, and the newly constructed Palmyra Stadium.

As one of the three competing teams in the WCPL, alongside the Barbados Royals and the Trinbago Knight Riders, Guyana aims to capitalise on its growing status as a premier cricketing destination in the

Caribbean. The nation is currently preparing to host the finals of the men's Caribbean Premier League (CPL) for a fourth consecutive year, further cementing its role as a regional sporting hub.

While the 2024 WCPL tournament was played before the men's CPL, the 2025 edition could potentially be scheduled after the men's tournament, which begins on August 14th.



The stadium in Region Six taking shape

# ORIGINS GUYANA FASHION FESTIVAL UNVEILED, AIMS TO ELEVATE LOCAL TALENT GLOBALLY

The Origins Guyana Fashion Festival, a three-day celebration poised to revolutionise the nation's fashion industry, was officially launched at the Railway Courtyard in Georgetown. The event, attended by fashion enthusiasts, officials, and influencers, marked the beginning of a significant push to place Guyanese designers on the international stage.

Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, emphasised the festival's role as a springboard for local talent, stating, **"This festival is not just a**



Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond

**fashion event, it's a visionary initiative."** She highlighted the government's commitment to positioning Guyana as a global leader in creative industries, with the festival serving as a platform to showcase the country's rich cultural diversity.

Minister Walrond pointed to the success of designers like Keshia Edwards and Misha Cole, whose work has gained international recognition, as evidence of Guyana's untapped potential. **"Too often, our designers have worked in isolation without a platform to showcase their brilliance,"** she noted, emphasising that Origins Guyana will change this narrative.

Scheduled for May 2-4, the festival will feature runway shows, workshops, and seminars, attracting international buyers,

writers, and editors to foster global partnerships. Minister Walrond stressed the importance of these collaborations, not only



Local models in local designer pieces at the launch event

for designers but also for local models seeking international careers.

Event Director Alex Graham underscored the festival's broader economic impact, citing the global fashion market's \$1.84 trillion

value. He articulated a vision for a sustainable fashion industry in

Guyana, akin to the growth seen in the oil and gas sector. **"Fashion is big business,"** Graham stated, emphasising its potential to create jobs and generate revenue.

Graham also highlighted Guyana's unique cultural heritage as a driving force behind its fashion. **"Guyanese fashion is a tapestry of all these influences,"** he explained, noting the fusion of indigenous, colonial, and post-colonial styles. He stressed that the festival aims to tell the story of Guyana's history through fabric and design.

# GOVT HOSTS INFLUENCERS FOR "BRAND GUYANA" MEET AND GREET

The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, in collaboration with the Guyana Tourism Authority, hosted a cocktail 'meet and greet' event at Palm Court, bringing together content creators and influencers with key government officials, including Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips and Vice-President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo. The event aimed to leverage the reach and creativity of these digital storytellers to enhance 'Brand Guyana'.

Minister of Tourism,

Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, addressed the gathering, acknowledging the significant impact of the influencers present. **"As I am looking around the room, Prime Minister, we have in excess of four million views represented in this room tonight,"** she stated, emphasising their power to shape global perceptions of Guyana.

The event featured a diverse range of influencers, covering travel, landscape, sports, street food, culture, history, and

business, among other areas. Minister Walrond explained that the purpose was to facilitate



Content creator at the event

direct engagement between these creators and cabinet members,

providing an opportunity for clarity, collaboration, and feedback.

**"Travel and**

**tourism are about raw experiences that bring stories to**

**life,"** Minister Walrond noted, highlighting the shift from traditional brochures to influencer-generated content in promoting Guyana. She praised the creators for showcasing the country's diverse offerings, from street food and local cafes to new malls, restaurants, and remote locations, effectively providing a global window into Guyana.

The event was designed to foster collaboration and networking among the influencers, exploring new and exciting ways to highlight

Guyana's progress. **"The ministers are here tonight. This will provide an opportunity for you to get context,"** she said, emphasising that the event was about more than just tourism, with ministers present to discuss various aspects of the nation's development.

Minister Walrond reiterated the event's goal of elevating Guyana's profile, stating that the ministers were there to provide perspectives, collaborate, and listen to feedback, thereby strengthening the partnership between the government and the influential digital community.

# ITUNI AND KWAKWANI ROADS ON TRACK FOR APRIL COMPLETION



Ituni road upgrades

Relief is on the horizon for residents in Ituni and Kwakwani, as major road upgrade projects in both communities are

progressing rapidly, promising an end to long-standing challenges posed by muddy and dusty commutes. These projects

underscore the government's commitment to improving infrastructure in rural Guyana and ensuring equitable development.

In **Ituni**, a \$453.8 million initiative, encompassing 36 road projects, has reached 60 percent completion. This project, spearheaded by the Ministry of Public Works' miscellaneous roads programme, is delivering 2.48 kilometers of concrete roadworks. Local contractors are at the

forefront, boosting the local economy and creating employment opportunities.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, confirmed that the project is on track for completion by the end of April, bringing much-anticipated relief to residents. Roads like Magellan Avenue Road, Sports Club Road, and Primary School Road are among those being upgraded.

Meanwhile, in **Kwakwani**, a \$2.4 billion project

is transforming 37 roadways with both concrete and asphalt surfaces. This ambitious initiative, aimed at modernising the village's infrastructure, is also on schedule for completion by the end of April. Sixteen roads are being upgraded by local small contractors, focusing on concrete, while 21 roads are being handled by larger contractors, delivering a mix of concrete and asphalt.

The smaller, community-driven projects are 25 percent

complete, while the larger-scale projects have reached 70 percent completion. Key roads like Waterfront Road and Riverfront Road are being upgraded to durable concrete, with other thoroughfares, including Middle Road and Main Cross Street, receiving smooth asphalt surfaces. The entire Jonestown Road network will also see asphalt upgrades.

Both projects are part of the government's broader infrastructure development agenda, which has allocated substantial funding in the 2025 budget for roads and bridges across Guyana.

Recognising the critical need to protect its coastal communities, Guyana is launching a massive sea and river defence construction project. With rising sea levels and increasing erosion posing a significant threat, the Ministry of Public Works has signed contracts worth \$6 billion dollars to build essential protective structures.

The projects, funded under the 2025 National Budget's Capital Programme, will focus on building critical sections of sea and river

defences in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, including the islands of Wakenaam and Leguan.

Key project locations span the coastal regions, including: Cullen, Onderneeming, Good Hope, and Queenstown on the Essequibo Coast; Zeelandia, Maria's Pleasure, and Marionville on Wakenaam Island; Amsterdam, Canefield, and Waterloo on Leguan

## \$6B CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR COASTAL DEFENCE PROJECTS ACROSS GUYANA



Contractors at the signing

Island; Den Amstel, La Eden, Friendship, Jalousie, and La Retraite in West Demerara; Buxton, Garden of Demerara; Belladrum/

Washington and Abary on the West Coast of Berbice; and No. 58-62 Villages, Bengal, and Crabwood Creek in East Berbice.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, and Chief Sea and River Defence Officer, Kevin Samad, oversaw the contract signing ceremony. Minister Edghill emphasised the importance of high-quality work and timely

project completion, while also assuring contractors of ample material availability. These projects are crucial for safeguarding Guyana's coastal communities from flooding and erosion, reinforcing the government's commitment to climate resilience and infrastructure development.

## FISHERIES OFFICERS TRAINED, APPOINTED AS MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVERS

Thirteen Fisheries Officers have completed a United Kingdom-facilitated Marine Mammal Observer training programme, strengthening Guyana's marine conservation efforts.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, formally appointed them as Marine Mammal Observers, as mandated

by the Fisheries (Marine Mammal Protection) Regulation 2022.

These officers are now authorised to board vessels in Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone and hinterland waterways. Their duties include inspecting, documenting, and reporting marine mammal presence, interactions with fishing, and species abundance,

ensuring regulatory compliance.

Minister Mustapha emphasised the programme's significance in building Guyana's capacity to meet international trade standards and protect its marine biodiversity. **"This is aimed at ensuring Guyana has the essential personnel and regulatory**

**framework to demonstrate comparability with regional and international trade partners,"** he stated, highlighting the importance of responsible seafood harvesting.



Fisheries officers complete marine mammal training, appointed as observers

## SUPENAAM FERRY'S CAPACITY ADDRESSED DURING BUSY PADDY SEASON

With the paddy season in full swing, the Ministry of Public Works has taken steps to address concerns regarding the capacity of the Supenaam ferry. Minister Juan Edghill engaged directly with truck drivers at the Parika Stelling, assuring them that every effort will be made to accommodate

their needs during this peak period.

The Minister's visit and subsequent reassurances come as the influx of trucks transporting paddy to the Essequibo Coast has placed increased pressure on the ferry service. Drivers expressed concerns about potential delays

and difficulties in securing passage.

**"He (Minister Edghill) reassured them that every effort was being made to accommodate their needs during the busy paddy season,"** a statement from the Ministry of Public Works confirmed, highlighting the government's

commitment to facilitating smooth transport during this crucial agricultural period.

Prior to addressing the truck drivers, Minister Edghill also took the opportunity to engage with general passengers on the ferry, demonstrating a comprehensive

approach to addressing public concerns.

The Ministry of Public Works reiterated its commitment to providing **"fair, efficient and reliable transportation services for all passengers."**



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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# ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA SECURES MAJOR MULTI-YEAR DEAL WITH ADIDAS



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr., other key officials of the ministry, the National Sports Commission and the Athletics Association of Guyana following the announcement

The Athletics Association of Guyana (AAG) has announced a landmark multi-year partnership with global apparel giant Adidas, marking a significant boost for track and field in the country. The agreement, facilitated by Guyanese track and field agent Cubie Seegobin, includes an initial equipment payout of US\$300,000,

followed by US\$250,000 annually for the next three years, covering both equipment and financial support.

The announcement was made at the National Track and Field Centre in Leonora, during the CARIFTA Games trials.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr., Director of Sport Steve Ninvalle, Guyana Olympic Association President Godfrey Munroe, AAG President Sheryl Hermonstine, National Sports Commission Chairman Kashif

Muhammad, and Vice-Chair Cristy Campbell were present at the unveiling of this historic partnership.

Minister Ramson Jr. emphasised that Guyana's potential as a track and field nation and its consistent success, particularly at the junior level, were pivotal in securing the alliance with Adidas. **"This deal that Guyana has signed with Adidas, a world-class company, is one that any other country would envy,"** he stated.

Ninvalle highlighted

the magnitude of the partnership and its potential to drive significant success through substantial investment. He noted that the injection of cash and equipment will significantly elevate the sport's profile.

Hermonstine expressed her excitement at the groundbreaking agreement, emphasising the immense benefits for athletes and coaches. **"This partnership will provide invaluable resources and support,"** she said.

## GOVT INITIATIVES ENHANCING RESIDENTS' LIVES IN ST. CUTHBERT'S MISSION - COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 136TH ANNIVERSARY

The Amerindian community of St. Cuthbert's Mission (Pakuri Village) in Region Four marked its 136th anniversary on March 15, with celebrations highlighting its rich cultural heritage and a focus on the government's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for its

grow," Prime Minister Phillips stated. Bridging the digital divide was another key focus of the Prime Minister's address. He noted the deployment of VSAT equipment, providing internet connectivity to over 200 remote communities, including St. Cuthbert's Mission.

behind," the Prime Minister emphasised. St. Cuthbert's Mission, renowned as a leading Amerindian community, showcased its cultural heritage through various activities during the anniversary celebrations. Prime Minister Phillips acknowledged the community's significant contributions to Guyana's cultural landscape and reaffirmed the government's **"One Guyana"** vision.

"Today we celebrate not just the passage of time, but the rich history, cultural legacy, and resilience of this community. St. Cuthbert's Mission exemplifies the strength and identity of our Amerindian people, whose contributions to Guyana's

a vital role in this vision. Guyana's strength lies in the vibrant diversity that defines us. By recognising and celebrating Amerindian heritage, its customs, traditions and languages, we fortify the unity that binds us as one nation," the Prime Minister added.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai, also attended the celebrations



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips and Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai with residents of St Cuthbert's mission

and delivered of Amerindian remarks, underscoring the government's continued dedication to the development of communities.



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips (L) and Minister Pauline Sukhai (third L) in front of the St Cuthbert's Mission ICT hub.

residents. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, addressing the community during the anniversary celebrations, emphasised the government's commitment to enhancing Amerindian communities through key initiatives. He highlighted the impact of the Hinterland Electrification Project, which is providing "affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy" to households in St. Cuthbert's Mission and other hinterland areas.

The establishment of ICT hubs and ongoing digital training programmes were also highlighted



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips and Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai with residents of St Cuthbert's mission

as crucial steps in equipping residents with the skills necessary to thrive in the digital age.

"In today's world, technology is not a luxury, it is a necessity. We are committed to ensuring no community is left

development and cultural landscape are immeasurable," he said.

He further stressed the importance of preserving Amerindian heritage in strengthening national unity. **"Our Amerindian communities play**

## SIX NATIONS, ONE PASSION - 2025 CPL DATES AND LOCATIONS RELEASED

CPL 2025 MATCH SCHEDULE	
THU 14 AUG	SRW vs VJG 7:00 PM ST KITTS
FRI 15 AUG	SRW vs GAW 7:00 PM ST KITTS
SAT 16 AUG	ABF vs VJG 7:00 PM ANTIGUA
SUN 17 AUG	SRW vs TTR 11:00 AM ST KITTS
SUN 17 AUG	ABF vs SLK 7:00 PM ANTIGUA
TUE 19 AUG	SRW vs VJG 7:00 PM ST KITTS
WED 20 AUG	ABF vs TTR 7:00 PM ANTIGUA
THU 21 AUG	SRW vs BR 7:00 PM ST KITTS
FRI 22 AUG	ABF vs BAW 7:00 PM ANTIGUA
SAT 23 AUG	SLK vs TTR 7:00 PM ST LUCIA
SUN 24 AUG	ABF vs SRW 11:00 AM ANTIGUA
SUN 24 AUG	SLK vs BR 7:00 PM ST LUCIA
TUE 26 AUG	SLK vs GAW 7:00 PM ST LUCIA
WED 27 AUG	TTR vs ABF 7:00 PM TRINIDAD
THU 28 AUG	SLK vs SRW 7:00 PM ST LUCIA
FRI 29 AUG	TTR vs BR 7:00 PM TRINIDAD
SAT 30 AUG	TTR vs GAW 7:00 PM TRINIDAD
SUN 31 AUG	SLK vs ABF 11:00 AM ST LUCIA
MON 1 SEP	TTR vs SRW 11:00 AM TRINIDAD
WED 3 SEP	TTR vs SLK 7:00 PM TRINIDAD
THU 4 SEP	BR vs GAW 7:00 PM BARBADOS
FRI 5 SEP	BR vs VJG 7:00 PM BARBADOS
SAT 6 SEP	GAW vs TTR 7:00 PM GUYANA
SUN 7 SEP	BR vs SLK 11:00 AM BARBADOS
SUN 7 SEP	GAW vs SRW 7:00 PM GUYANA
WED 10 SEP	GAW vs ABF 7:00 PM GUYANA
THU 11 SEP	BR vs SRW 7:00 PM BARBADOS
FRI 12 SEP	BR vs TTR 7:00 PM BARBADOS
SAT 13 SEP	GAW vs SLK 11:00 AM GUYANA
SUN 14 SEP	GAW vs BR 7:00 PM GUYANA
TUE 16 SEP	ALBANDON 8:00 PM GUYANA
WED 17 SEP	ALBANDON 11:00 PM GUYANA
FRI 19 SEP	ALBANDON 11:00 PM GUYANA
SUN 21 SEP	FINAL 8:00 PM GUYANA

The 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) is set to ignite the region from August 14 to September 21, with the official schedule now released.

Six nations – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago will host the 34-match tournament. Each team will play 10 group-stage matches, bringing thrilling T20 cricket to fans across the Caribbean.

The Guyana National Stadium in Providence will host the crucial knockout rounds, promising a dramatic conclusion to the competition.





# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 90

## PRESIDENT ALI JOINS ECCLES AND FYRISH MUSLIMS FOR IFTAR AND PRAYERS



President Irfaan Ali recently shared in the sacred observances of Ramadan, joining members of the Eccles and Fyrish Sunnatul Jamaats for Iftar and evening prayers. These moments, captured in a series of compelling photographs, highlight the spirit of togetherness that defines Guyana's rich multicultural tapestry.



# From Despair to Hope...

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"It's because of these personalized treatment programs that we're seeing such incredible results!"

Four months after treatment, Norah is back at work and thriving.

"Being back at work isn't even the most exciting part," exclaims Norah. "Not only was I able to attend my son's wedding, but I could walk down the aisle! It was the most magical moment and I have Teresa to thank for it. To think I might've missed that." Norah held back tears.

If you've recently been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its cause, it's time to call Teresa and the staff at TLC Medicine.

Call (416) 461-0581 to schedule your very own comprehensive consultation or visit [TLC-Medicine.ca](http://TLC-Medicine.ca) to take advantage of their new patient offer, a \$40 consult (normally \$240).

*"It's as though I'm stepping from razor blade to razor blade."*

*"It feels like my feet are under attack by fire ants."*

*"Like I'm walking on wet paint with rolled up socks."*

And you're in this type of pain all the time.

"It's relentless, keeping you up at night and preventing you from doing even the most mundane tasks. Things I used to take for granted, like wearing shoes, going grocery shopping. Two of my three children were getting married last year, I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to attend their weddings," shares Norah W.

Norah was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy in 2015, a degenerative condition affecting almost 5% of people over the age of 55.

"My doctor sat me down and said, 'Norah I'm sorry to tell you this, but you have peripheral neuropathy. I'm going to prescribe you gabapentin to manage the discomfort but overall, neuropathy is untreatable.'

My first thought was, 'we can cure cancer but you can't stop my feet from hurting?' It felt like a cruel joke."

While neuropathy can be caused by a number of things including diabetes and chemotherapy, over 23% of neuropathy cases are classified as idiopathic. In layman's terms, the cause is unknown. This was the case with Norah.

"Basically every question I had was met with an 'I don't know.' It was depressing to say the least."

Eventually, Norah was forced to quit her job because the numbness had started to set in and prevented her from driving.

Fortunately for Norah, she would attend a health fair featuring TLC Medicine and the work they were doing to treat peripheral neuropathy.

"I thought it had to be a sham," Norah shares. "After so many specialists told me there was no hope, here was this acupuncturist saying she had a 90% success rate in treating neuropathy! I just had to call and I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am that I did."

Teresa Lau, founder of TLC Medicine, says that cases like Norah's are incredibly common. "Almost all of my neuropathy patients have been told at one point or another that there is no hope. I like to think I specialize in offering hope."

**Call (416) 461 - 0581 today to schedule!**



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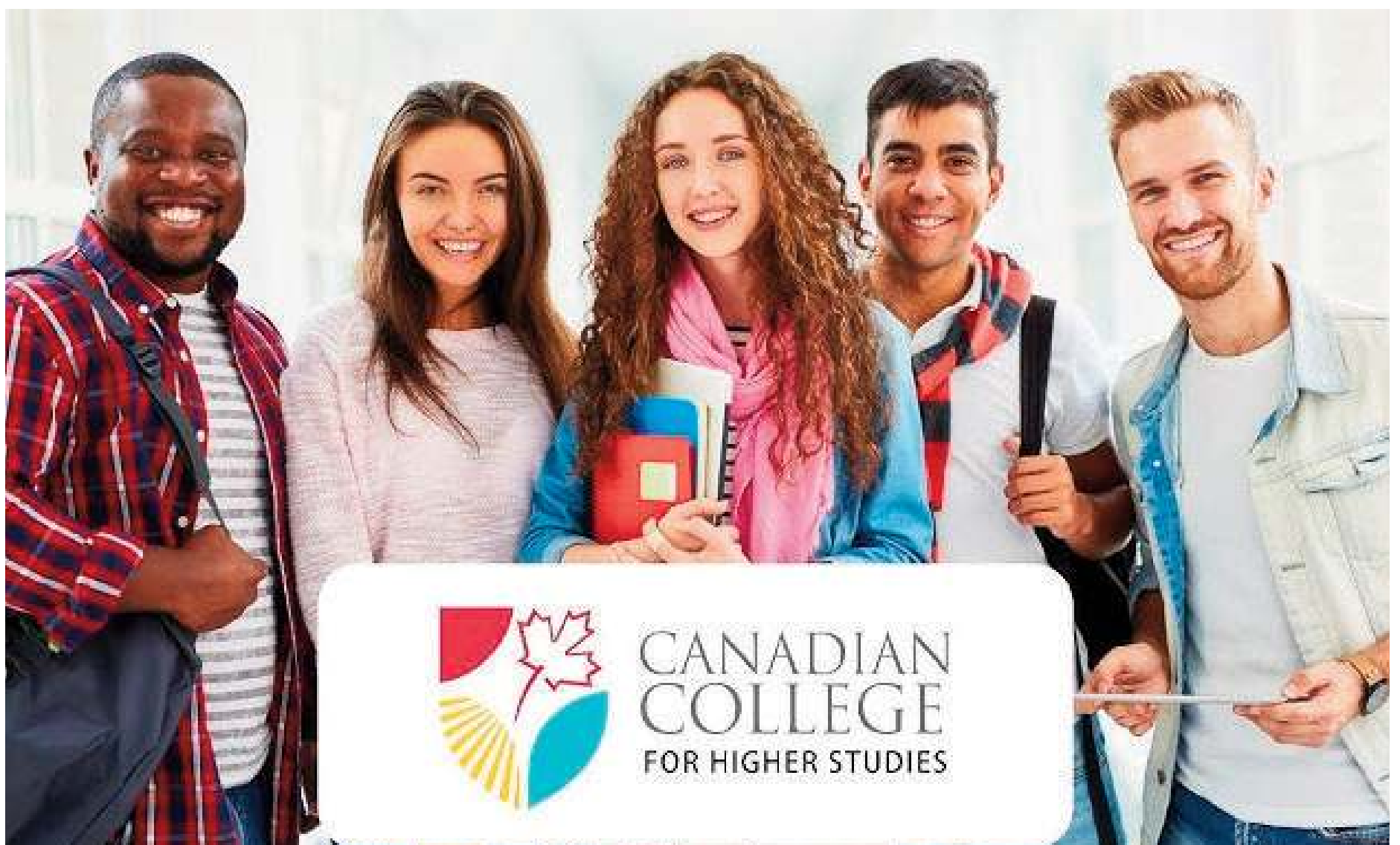
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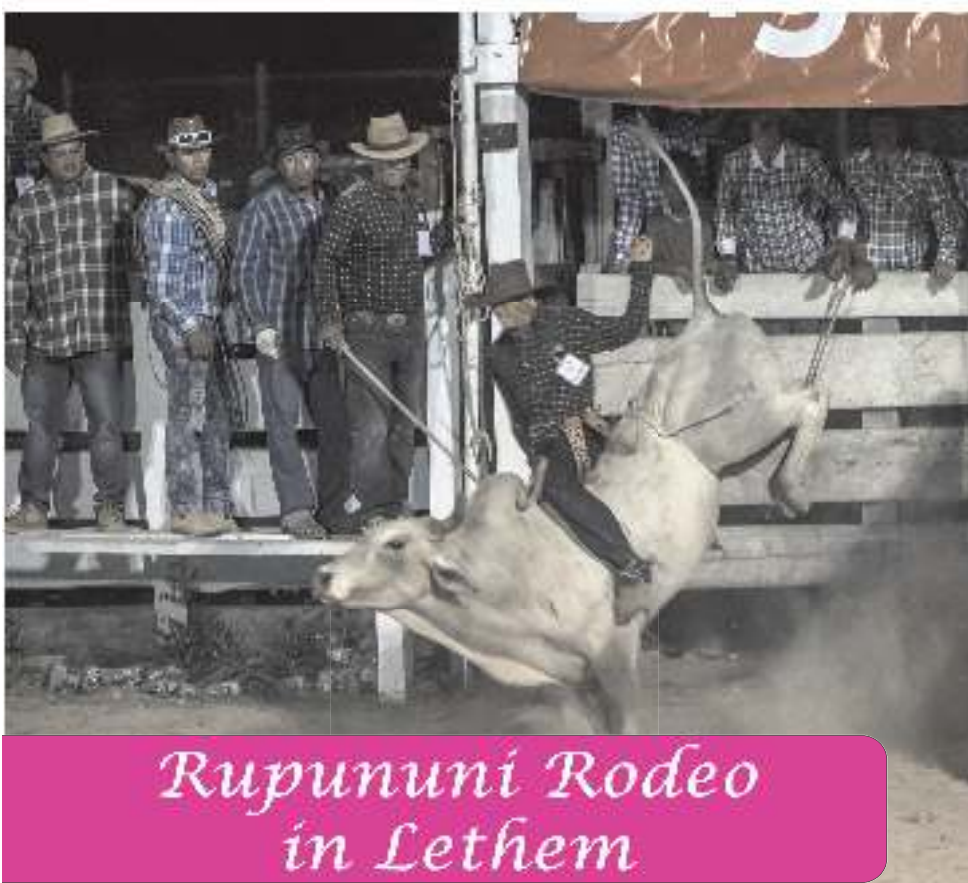


*"Our vision is clear: To ensure that every new hotel is filled with visitors drawn by the vibrant culture and sporting events we offer,"- H.E. Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana*

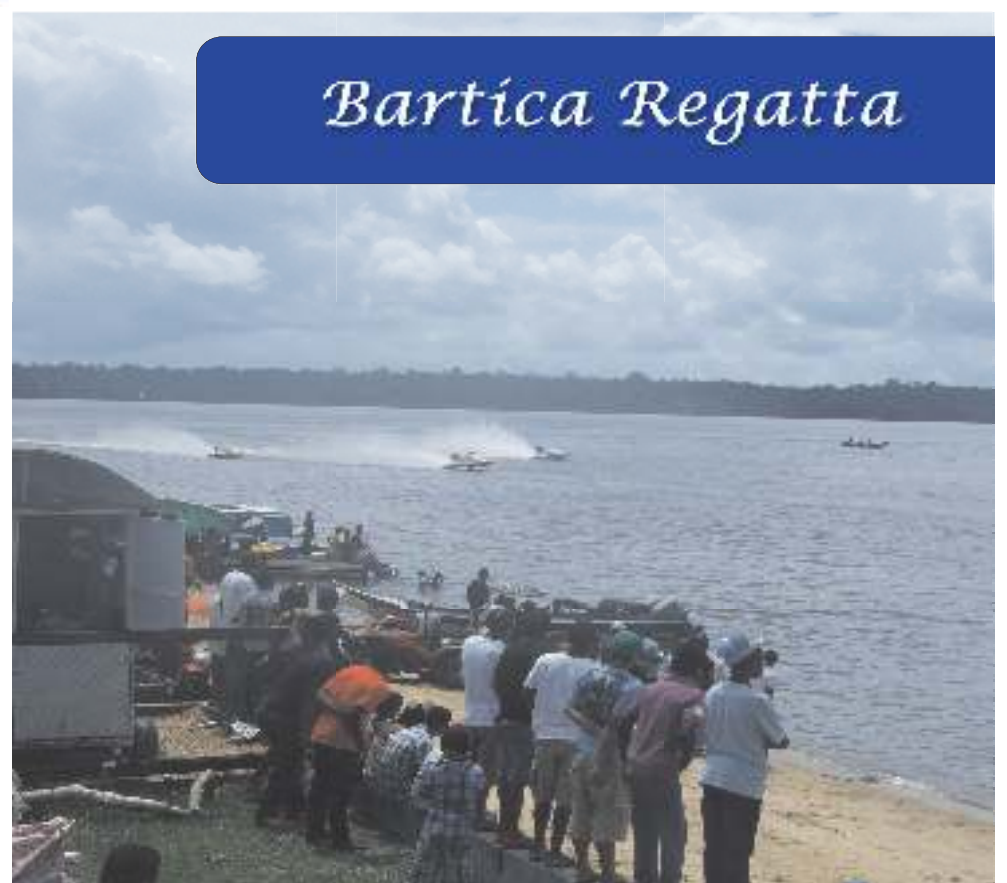


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***Planning a trip to Guyana? Don't miss out on the country's most exciting events happening this season!***



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