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One Guyana Christmas Market opens

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali, last Friday evening, described the One Guyana Supermarket as “a showcase of local excellence, a marketplace of dreams where every product tells a story of dedication and belief,” as he officially opened the One Guyana Christmas Village and Supermarket.

Now a hallmark event, the Christmas Village and Supermarket has come to signal the official start of the festive season in Guyana.

“Whether it is cassareep, pepper sauce, craft, snacks or clothing, these are more than items. They are expressions of our culture and evidence of our potential, because small businesses create big possibilities,” President Ali said.

Stating that he wants citizens to be part of the country’s transformation, the head of state emphasised that development must never be limited to headlines but must be felt in every household. He noted that the progress Guyanese see is not accidental. It is the result of deliberate planning, investment and the government’s confidence in its people.

Dr Ali said that in 2026, even greater opportunities will reach every Guyanese. He added that Guyana’s future is bright because its people are talented and capable. The president reminded the public that the road to One Guyana is shaped by simple acts of kindness. He said local creators and entrepreneurs continue to offer the extraordinary gift of Guyanese excellence and urged citizens to remember that buying local helps to build local industries.



JA hurricane relief supplies stolen in TO

A police investigation is underway and a group of volunteers is heartbroken after a large haul of donations (some pictured above) destined for hurricane-ravaged Jamaica was stolen from a storage facility in Mississauga.

Michael Bennett said that he and other volunteers arrived at a Public Storage location, just east of Derry Road and Goreway Drive, last Wednesday morning to load the goods into a 20-foot truck, but everything was gone.

They’d been gathering food, clothing, and generators for people in Jamaica who are recovering from the deadly Category 5 storm and had filled several barrels and crates.

“In three weeks, we collected over, I’d say maybe \$300,000 to \$400,000 worth of stuff. That is food, equipment, tools. Everything you could need to go back and build houses and feed the people,” said Isaac Laird, another volunteer.

Peel Regional Police have confirmed that they attended the storage facility, adding they believe the theft occurred overnight.

Bennett said he was shown security footage captured by the company, which shows a flat truck breaking through a locked gate and backing up to the storage unit. “It’s hard to take. It’s hard to deal with, man,” Bennett said while fighting back tears.

Organizers say the loss is devastating, as families in Jamaica were depending on the donations to get through the Christmas season.



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'Drive safely, your family wants you home alive'

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has issued a heart-felt appeal for Guyanese to prioritise safety and responsibility during the festive period, stating that the excitement of Christmas must never come at the expense of lives.

The Head of State issued this call at a recent event during which he urged citizens to approach the celebrations with care, emphasising the devastating consequences of reckless behaviour on the country's roadways.

"As we celebrate this beautiful season, I urge you to celebrate responsibly, care for each other, and keep safety first as your guiding principle. Celebrations mean nothing if they do not preserve life. Be safe on the road. Slow down, slow down," he said.

Dr Ali issued a firm plea to motorists to cease dangerous practices, particularly drinking and driving.

"Stop the drinking and driving. Your family wants you home alive. Stop—stop it. Stop putting other people's lives in danger. You—we collec-



President Ali is urging drivers to stop drinking and driving

tively—have a responsibility. Let us do this for our children, other people's children, our family, and other people's families," he stressed.

Against this backdrop, the President also encouraged citizens to embrace the true spirit of the season by showing compassion and togetherness.

With this, he urged Guyanese to give the greatest gift through their time

and presence throughout the season.

"Make this season one of connection and community. Give the greatest gift by your presence. Be present in your neighbourhood. Be present in your family. Be present for your children. Be present in your community. Be present as a good human being. That is the greatest gift that you can give."

Dr Ali pointed to a sense of opti-

mism and unity across the country, noting that several government initiatives remain strong heading into the new year. "Guyana's best days are the ones we choose to build together," he said.

He also urged citizens to continue fostering harmony and national pride, underscoring the vision of One Guyana.

In November, officials noted that speed continued to be the single most lethal factor on Guyana's roads, with approximately 85 per cent of all fatal crashes this year being linked directly to speeding.

At that time, Traffic Chief Mahendra Singh described the trend as deeply troubling and added that a majority of the fatal collisions are entirely preventable.

Some 18 of this year's fatal accidents involved single vehicles whose drivers lost control and slammed into bridges, medians or walls. He stated that many accidents were as a result of "poor judgement and excessive speed."

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ONE GUYANA CHRISTMAS VILLAGE LIGHTS UP MAIN STREET



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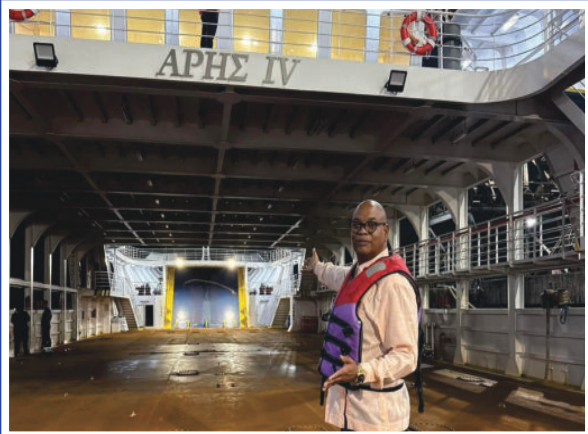
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NEW GUYANA DIGITAL SCHOOL UNITES CARICOM CHILDREN IN ONE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM



Scene from the launch of the digital school

Children from Guyana, Barbados, St Lucia, and other CARICOM countries can now learn together in a shared virtual classroom, thanks to the launch of the Guyana Digital School—a pioneering initiative that President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali says will transform regional learning, connectivity, and growth.

The historic launch at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre brought together excited students, teachers, and regional officials, while hundreds more joined online to witness what many hailed as a

groundbreaking step toward a unified Caribbean learning space.

President Ali described the Digital School as more than just a technological initiative.

“It is a national development project, a regional development project, an economic transformation project, a survival project, and a prosperity project,” he said, highlighting its role in preparing the next generation for a rapidly changing, digitally driven world.

For decades, Caribbean leaders have envisioned a day when students from different islands could learn side by side. **“Today is a very important day for our region,”** President Ali said. **“A day when children from Barbados, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, and Guyana can be**

in one classroom, sharing one story.”

He emphasised the power of cross-cultural learning, where students can conduct experiments in virtual labs, share experiences, and appreciate each other’s backgrounds. **“How beautiful**



Scene from the launch of the digital school

is that,” he asked, **“when children across our region can be in the same lab... telling our different stories and building the one Caribbean region we all want?”**

President Ali encouraged students to use the platform to forge friendships across borders,

embrace curiosity, and reject divisive attitudes, noting that this classroom represents the future, built on connection, knowledge, and unity.

The President also highlighted the urgency of digital readiness as the world enters the

accelerated the government’s push to modernise education. As a result, connectivity has been improved in schools and health centres, more than 253 hinterland communities are now connected, and major investments have been made in teacher training.

A key feature of the Digital School is its regional online library, providing every CARICOM student free access to all CSEC textbooks and learning materials. **“All our children in CARICOM will now have no excuse when it comes to accessing study materials,”** President Ali said. **“This is what we meant when we said Guyana’s prosperity will be the prosperity of CARICOM.”**

Although officially launched now, the platform has been live for several

months and is already setting a model for digital education across the Caribbean. The launch ceremony, co-hosted by an AI assistant, featured live demonstrations of a fully online secondary school, with plans to expand into lower grades. The platform is designed for learners of all ages, styles, and locations, offering access anytime, anywhere.

The initiative is supported by Jain University, whose Chancellor Dr. Chenraj Roychand reaffirmed the institution’s commitment as the school’s technology and academic partner. Minister of Education Sonia Parag noted that 20,368 Grade 10 and 11 students have already registered, emphasising that the Digital School complements, rather than replaces, traditional classrooms.

HISTORIC ROBOTIC SURGERY SET FOR GUYANA IN 2026



Guyana to perform first robotic-assisted surgery next year

Next year, Guyana will perform its first robotic-assisted surgery, connecting local patients with expert surgeons in the United

States, a milestone in the country’s journey toward a digitally advanced healthcare system. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

made the announcement during the launch of the Guyana Digital School at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

“Before the end of next year, we will have our first exercise, with surgery being done by professionals sitting in the US conducting surgeries right here in Guyana,” President Ali told students, teachers, and regional education leaders.

The President

highlighted that this initiative goes beyond medicine, reflecting a broader strategy to prepare Guyanese youth for careers in environments where robotics, artificial intelligence, and digital connectivity intersect.

“This school is already giving you the experience of working in such environments, of conducting labs and practical exercises. It is preparing you

for the reality of the new world,” he said, linking the launch of the Digital School to the country’s technological and healthcare future.

President Ali said the introduction of robotic surgery signals Guyana’s determination to modernise across all sectors, providing greater surgical precision, shorter recovery times, and improved patient outcomes.

The nation’s health system has already

undergone significant upgrades, including expanded telemedicine hubs, modernised hospitals, and new diagnostic services in remote communities. Robotic surgery, the President added, represents the next step in building a healthcare system equipped for 2050 and beyond, ensuring that today’s students are ready to thrive in a world driven by innovation and digital technology.



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat and ExxonMobil Guyana President Alistair Routledge during the launch of the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026.

Guyana’s energy and manufacturing sectors are gearing up for a major showcase with the Fifth Annual Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo, set for February 17 to 20 under the theme *“Building Tomorrow’s Future*

Today.” The launch, held at the Aiden Hotel, saw Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat highlighted key focus areas for the 2026 conference, and noting that manufacturing and ICT will take centre stage

FIFTH ANNUAL GUYANA ENERGY CONFERENCE SET FOR FEBRUARY 2026

as the Gas-to-Energy project advances.

“Transitioning to domestic manufacturing will save foreign currency, create thousands of jobs, and strengthen the private sector,” Minister Bharrat said, emphasising the growing role of local talent. Currently, nearly 7,000 Guyanese are directly

employed in the oil sector, with thousands more benefiting indirectly, while national oil production has surpassed 900,000 barrels per day.

ExxonMobil Guyana President Alistair Routledge called the sector’s growth **“overwhelming at times”** and said the February expo will focus on investments

in offshore and onshore infrastructure, financial capacity, and human talent needed to sustain Guyana’s momentum.

The conference will also highlight youth innovation, inviting students in Grades 7 to 11 to present technology- or AI-driven ideas that could impact their communities and the economy. Delegates will experience Guyana’s

culture through the “Taste of Guyana” event, while supply chain forums will spotlight local suppliers supporting the nation’s energy and manufacturing sectors.

With a combination of innovation, local talent, and business opportunity, the 2026 expo promises to be a showcase of Guyana’s growth, ingenuity, and economic potential.

PWDS TO RECEIVE \$50,000 ONE-OFF GRANT AND ACCESS TO NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Scene from the luncheon held in observation of the International Day of Persons Living with Disabilities

Over 27,000 persons living with disabilities in Guyana are set to benefit from a \$50,000 one-off grant and a new government-backed employment initiative, part of a broader effort to create an inclusive, empowering environment for all.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement during the national observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the Railway Courtyard in Georgetown. The event, organised by the Office of the President in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady, celebrated resilience, inclusion, and the shared responsibility of building a society where every citizen can thrive.

The President emphasised that disability, whether congenital, acquired, temporary, or lifelong, is a part of the human experience, affecting

families across all communities. **“Disabilities are not a deficit but another dimension of human knowledge,”** he said. **“Our society’s true progress is measured by how we support those most in need.”**

In addition to the grant, President Ali announced a major plan to create at least 5,000 jobs for persons living with disabilities over the next five years, highlighting that meaningful employment is essential to independence, dignity, and opportunity. Successful models in Regions Five and Six, developed through partnerships between government and private sector, will now be expanded nationwide.

The President also introduced a new accessibility standard: all new government projects, from parks and community centres to office buildings and sports facilities, must dedicate at least 10% of their space for PWDs, ensuring safe and dignified environments.

He outlined a comprehensive vision for PWD support covering caregiver assistance, education and digital learning, community empowerment, transportation, health services, housing, and skills training. Significant achievements already in place include the Persons with Disabilities Act, the Prevention of Discrimination Act, a permanent disability

benefit system, a national Learning Lab, and thousands of mobility aids distributed nationwide.

Future initiatives include early identification and treatment systems, special-needs school expansions, home-schooling support, digital devices for learning, national caregiver training, business centres, emergency monitoring technologies, housing support, tax incentives for families, and a National Development Bank window offering interest-free, collateral-free loans to PWDs.

Concluding his remarks, President Ali urged all Guyanese to embrace compassion, unity, and solidarity.



Scene from the luncheon held in observation of the International Day of Persons Living with Disabilities

“Our mission is to create an environment where persons with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of national life and contribute meaningfully to our nation’s growth,” he said. **“Let us embrace this community with love, understanding, and dignity, and continue building a Guyana where no one is left behind.”**

SEVEN COMPANIES JOIN NATIONAL PUSH TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND EMPLOYMENT FOR PWDS



Seven companies join First Lady to support Persons with Disabilities

Seven major utility and service companies have joined forces with First Lady Arya Ali to improve access to essential services and expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs), marking a major step forward in Guyana’s national inclusion agenda.

The announcement came during a ceremony at the Centre for Equity, Opportunity and Innovation in Palmyra, Region Six, a facility launched in June and now home to 90 employees, most of whom are persons with disabilities. What began as a vision for empowerment is quickly

becoming a model for inclusion.

The Guyana Power and Light (GPL), Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), ENet, One Communications, MMG, MoneyGram, and Western Union have all begun constructing service kiosks inside the Centre. Starting January 2026, Region Six residents will be able to pay bills, access utilities, and conduct financial transactions in one fully accessible location. Each company has also committed to hiring at least one person with a disability to operate its kiosk.

“For years, we have been urging corporate Guyana to make inclusion a lived reality,” First Lady Ali said, reflecting on five years of consistent advocacy. **“This partnership shows what is possible when we work together for the good of all our people.”**

Minister of Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, described the partnership as a practical example of President Ali’s One Guyana philosophy, demonstrating how government, civil society, and the private sector can drive meaningful change together.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, emphasised that utility



The companies have begun establishing service kiosks inside the Centre

companies must be seen as **“development partners,”** while Public Service Minister Zulfikar Ally praised the initiative as a people-centred solution that expands opportunities for PWDs within the public service landscape.

Chairman of the National Commission on Disability, Ganesh Singh, called the partnership a **“progressive step”** that brings essential services closer to the people who need them most.

As the Centre continues to grow, so too does the belief among its workers and beneficiaries that a more inclusive Guyana is not just a goal, it is already taking shape.

Top of Form
Bottom of Form

PARIKA MARKET VENDORS TO MOVE INDOORS FOR SAFER SHOPPING

Vendors at Parika Market will be relocating fully inside the market by midnight on December 29, 2025, following a collaborative discussion with the Ministry of Local Government and

Regional Development.

Minister Priya Manickchand engaged vendors in a constructive dialogue to ensure a smooth transition that benefits both traders and shoppers. The move is designed to clear the roadway currently used for vending, creating a safer environment for pedestrians and motorists while providing a more orderly and comfortable shopping experience.

Vendors welcomed the consultative

approach, expressing appreciation for the ministry’s guidance and support in making the move seamless. The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to assist traders throughout the transition.

The initiative reflects a broader effort to modernise public markets across the country, promoting safer, well-organised spaces that serve both the community and local businesses.



The engagement with the vendors



The engagement with the vendors

NEW FERRY ARRIVES TO SERVE PARIKA-SUPENAAM TRAVELERS JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS



New MV ARIS IV

A long-awaited boost to regional transportation has finally reached Guyana's shores. The country's first modern double-ended ferry, the MV ARIS IV, docked at the Demerara Sugar Terminal on Thursday, November 4, after its journey from Piraeus, Greece—bringing a wave of excitement and relief

for commuters who rely on the busy Parika-Supenaam route.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, who inspected the vessel on arrival, described it as the fulfilment of a commitment made by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to modernise transport and ease the daily burden on

travelers.

“This ship is a commitment that was made to the people of Guyana... to improve transit and the movement of goods and services between Regions Two and Three,” the Minister said. **“This is big for Guyana... big for tourism, big for families, big for businesses.”**

The MV ARIS IV is designed to significantly improve capacity and comfort. It can carry more than 300 passengers, 81 cars, or 19 European-size trucks, immediately enhancing the efficiency of one of the country's most heavily used crossings. The ferry travels at 10 knots and offers a range

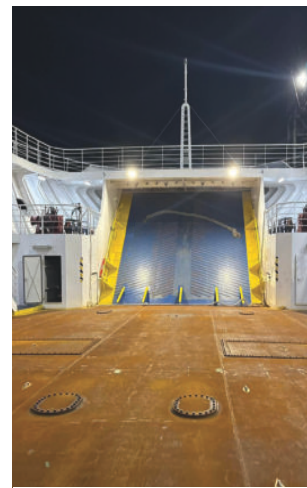
of upgraded amenities, including restrooms, a bar, new seating areas, and air-conditioned crew quarters.

For commuters, its arrival promises shorter wait times and smoother travel, especially meaningful during the Christmas season, when thousands journey home to spend time with family. Minister Edghill noted that although the vessel is five years old, it is **“practically brand new”** compared to many of the existing ferries, which are between 20 and 40 years old.

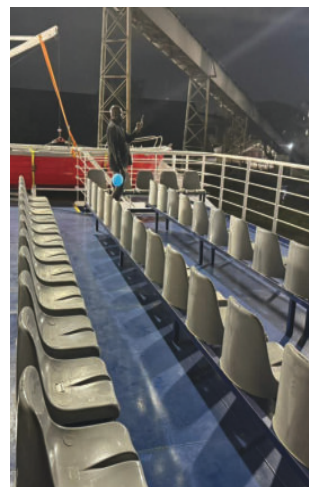
He commended the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and its Director General, Steven Thomas, for overseeing the ship's procurement and delivery, ensuring it

reached Guyana safely and on schedule.

The minister also announced that a second vessel from Greece is currently en route and will serve the Region One route. Together, these investments align with the government's ongoing efforts



New MV ARIS IV



New MV ARIS IV

GUYANA'S E-ID CARDS TO BEGIN ISSUANCE THIS YEAR



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

The Government of Guyana is moving forward with the national electronic identification (e-ID) card, with the first cards expected to be issued before the end of the year. Registration has already begun

voluntarily for state employees, marking the start of a nationwide digital transformation.

Speaking on his *Issues in the News* programme, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, reassured citizens that the rollout does not collect deeply personal information. **“No personal medical data, financial details such as bank accounts, or other sensitive information is being collected,”** he said, addressing concerns about privacy.

During the voluntary phase, the data collected includes name, address, national ID number, passport number, TIN, photograph, driver's licence, marriage certificate, birth certificate, and deed poll documentation.

The rollout is backed by two key laws,



The government is advancing the national e-ID card rollout with new data-protection laws

the Digital Identity Card Act and the Data Protection Act, both passed two years ago to ensure personal data is safeguarded. **“These legislations demonstrate our commitment to digitisation and using data responsibly in Guyana's developmental journey,”** the AG said, noting international recognition for the Data Protection Act.

Digital ID cards have already begun to be issued before full legislative enforcement, allowing authorities to test systems, enter

basic information, and establish infrastructure. Once fully implemented, the e-ID system will be rolled out nationwide, with centres equipped with specialised machinery and trained personnel in every administrative region.

Currently, participation in the early rollout is optional, but when the legislation comes fully into force, registration will become mandatory. The AG encouraged citizens to make use of the available incentives and support, as the system is designed to simplify access to government services.

Minister Nandlall also highlighted that Guyana is adopting advanced digital tools used in leading economies, ensuring that citizens' data is securely managed as the country modernises.

The e-ID initiative represents a major step forward in digital governance, providing a secure and convenient way for citizens to access services while safeguarding privacy. With the first cards expected later this year, Guyana is preparing to enter a new era of digital identification and service delivery.

NEW TRAINING PROGRAMME PAVES WAY FOR MODERN, TECH-DRIVEN CARE



Launch of the Digital Health Training Institute

For 250 citizens across all ten regions, a new career path is opening. Guyana's Digital Health Training Institute has launched a three-year programme to prepare technicians, data scientists, trainers, and digital support staff to manage the country's rapidly evolving digital health

systems. Graduates will also secure permanent employment within the Ministry of Health.

The initiative aims to build a skilled workforce capable of improving patient care, supporting scientific research, and ensuring the country's healthcare system keeps pace with technological advancements.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony stressed that investing in people is as important as investing in equipment. **“While it's easy to buy technology, the transformation would not happen without trained personnel to run these systems,”** he said, highlighting the government's commitment to modernising healthcare in every region of the country.

The institute is delivered through a partnership with Mount Sinai, Greater Guyana Initiative, and RioMed

Limited. Dr Rachel Vreeman, Executive Director of Mount Sinai, said the programme is **“not just about technical training, but about developing the next generation of leaders in Guyana's healthcare sector”** and serves as a model for the Caribbean.

Graduates will play a vital role in implementing digital health records at the Georgetown Public Hospital system, helping facilities troubleshoot technical challenges as new software is rolled out.

Other digital health initiatives are also



Launch of the Digital Health Training Institute

underway. An electronic appointment system will soon be piloted at Festival City, enabling patients to book appointments online with confirmed dates and times, reducing long waits. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence (AI) technology is being tested to assist radiologists in interpreting X-rays and CT scans, flagging urgent cases for quicker review.

Minister Anthony said these steps lay the foundation for long-term healthcare reform,

ensuring Guyana has both the technology and skilled personnel to deliver modern, efficient, and patient-centered care.

“With trained people and the right tools in every region, we can truly transform healthcare for all Guyanese,” he said, underlining the government's commitment to innovation, service, and better health outcomes for the nation.

THE ECHOES OF HISTORY TO COME ALIVE AT GEORGETOWN'S NEW RAILWAY COURTYARD



President Ali addressing the launch of the Railway Courtyard, Georgetown

The echoes of locomotives and old railway tracks will soon be part of a curated journey through Guyana's rich history at the upcoming Railway Courtyard in Kingston, Georgetown. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali officially unveiled the urban renewal project, which aims to blend history, culture, wellness, and tourism into a vibrant, family-friendly public space. Speaking at the restored railway grounds, President Ali said the courtyard will embody national unity and reflect Guyana's commitment to honouring its past while shaping a modern future. "The Railway Courtyard has significant historical connections with the people of Guyana, the growth of Guyana, and the challenges of the people of Guyana," he noted.

The site preserves one of the last remnants of the Georgetown Station of the former East Coast Railway, which closed in 1972. Over the years, it served as workshops for Guyana Transport Services Ltd and later as government maintenance facilities. In the coming weeks, the courtyard will feature a pre-independence walkway, allowing visitors to explore Guyana's history through curated visuals and narratives on one side, while post-independence milestones will be displayed on the other. The timeline was developed over three years of research, including 80,000 archival words examined by historian Dr David Dabydeen and his team in the British Archives. The courtyard is being designed as a safe, family-oriented space, with outdoor gym equipment, wellness areas, and dedicated zones for children and women. Busts of all former presidents will be installed, celebrating the nation's leadership legacy. Visitors will also be able to enjoy a signature walking route connecting Water Street, the National Library, Avenue of the Republic, South Road, and the Botanical Gardens, developed in partnership with the King's Foundation. Original rail infrastructure behind the courtyard is being restored, including a refurbished carriage that will house craft shops. Even as GRA operations relocate early next year, the courtyard will remain fully accessible, offering a continuous walkway from Main Street to Sheriff Street. President Ali said the project is part of a broader downtown revitalisation plan, which will improve drainage, promote cultural vibrancy, celebrate local commerce, and showcase Guyana's cuisine. The Railway Courtyard will stand as a symbol of Guyana's history, culture, and community spirit, offering residents and visitors alike a space to reflect, enjoy, and connect with the nation's rich heritage.



A fountain in the middle of The Railway Courtyard



Guyana and UK sign MOU to enhance forest governance, sustainable development

Guyana and the United Kingdom have taken an important step toward a greener global future with the signing of a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that strengthens forest governance, expands sustainable economic opportunities, and supports communities who depend on the nation's vast forests. The agreement, signed between the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), forms part of the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme (FGMC2). It reinforces both countries' shared commitment to low-carbon development and sends a powerful message about the value of long-term climate partnerships. At the signing ceremony, Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat, said the collaboration comes at a crucial moment, as the world increasingly recognises the role of forests in combating climate change. He noted that the strengthened partnership directly supports the priorities outlined by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali under the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (LCDS 2030). Under the MoU, the UK will provide technical, institutional, and implementation support to improve national forest governance systems. A key focus will be the development of the Guyana Timber Legality Assurance System (GTLAS), which will help local producers meet international standards, access new markets, and increase income for forest-based households and villages. British High Commissioner Her Excellency Jane Miller OBE commended Guyana's global leadership, noting that the country's commitment, from its low deforestation rate to its pioneering carbon markets, continues to inspire others worldwide. The initiative will help protect biodiversity, strengthen community forestry groups, and ensure that Guyana's forests continue to generate long-term economic and environmental benefits. It also complements Guyana's contributions to major global platforms, including the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

GUYANA AND UK ADVANCE LOW-CARBON VISION WITH MAJOR FORESTRY COLLABORATION



Guyana and UK sign MOU to enhance forest governance, sustainable development

TOURISM LEADERS HONOURED FOR SHAPING GUYANA'S NEXT CHAPTER OF GROWTH



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, along with the awardees

Tourism leaders the annual Tourism honoured for Awards and Gala at shaping Guyana's the Marriott Hotel in next chapter of Georgetown. Under the Tourism Awareness Month 2025 concluded with a night of celebration, pride, and heartfelt recognition as the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, in collaboration with the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), hosted

sector. It was an evening that celebrated more than award. It celebrated stories, sacrifice, and the passion behind the country's most memorable experiences. Among the standout honourees were Keiran Samuels and Shebana Daniels, the energetic duo behind the newly launched "WAIA Green Escapes." Despite being in operation for just two months, they captured the award for Best New Tourism Product/Experience of the Year. Their win brought visible joy and surprise. "It was really exciting... I don't think we were expecting it," Shebana said. "It brought a sense of satisfaction and gratitude for all the hard work we put in. It feels very rewarding to be recognised and to know the industry sees the value in what we're building." The pair plans to expand their eco-experience with additional activities and upgrades to the WAIA Lodge. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, praised the dedication of tourism workers and urged stakeholders to continue raising the bar. "Continue to lift standards, continue to innovate and

to employ young Guyanese," she encouraged. "We see you. The work of tourism requires persistence and continuous improvement." The gala highlighted achievements across several categories: **Best Emerging Tour Guide:** Christopher Persaud **Best Tours & Tourism Business:** Wanderlust Adventures GY **Best in Dining:** Nikkei Guyana **Best New Community-Led Tourism (Coastal):** Mainstay Whyaka Village **Best New Community-Led Tourism (Interior):** Toka Village **Tourism Business of the Year:** Wilderness Explorers Guyana Ltd. **Investment of the Year:** Aiden by Best Western President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali presented the night's top award, applauding the industry's growth and the communities powering it. This year's awardees reflect a tourism sector that continues to evolve, more innovative, more community-rooted, and more prepared than ever to shape Guyana's next chapter of growth.

FIFTH UK TRADE MISSION VISITS GUYANA

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, welcomed the fifth United Kingdom (UK) Trade Mission to Guyana. The delegation included newly appointed UK Member of Parliament and Trade Envoy to the Commonwealth Caribbean, The Honourable Paulette Hamilton, marking her first official visit to the country.

Hosted at the Marriott Hotel, the mission brought together British companies operating in construction, education, shipping, logistics, and



Guyana hosts Fifth UK Trade Mission as economic partnership expands

other key industries. Their visit was facilitated through a partnership among the British High Commission, the Caribbean Council, the British Chamber of Commerce (Britcham), and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), all working to strengthen economic ties and

identify investment opportunities.

In his keynote address, Dr. Singh highlighted the strong results of previous trade missions, noting that 40 percent of participating companies had successfully closed deals or formed partnerships in Guyana. He commended the work of the British High Commission, particularly High Commissioner Her Excellency Jane Miller, for promoting Guyana as a leading destination for investment.

Dr. Singh emphasised that while Guyana's oil production, now at 900,000 barrels

per day, has significantly boosted the economy, the government is committed to building a diversified and resilient economic base. Growth, he stressed, must be driven across multiple sectors, including bauxite, manganese, and other minerals, alongside emerging non-oil industries.

MP Hamilton praised Guyana's rapid expansion, referencing the country's 43.8 percent GDP growth in 2024 and projected 10.6 percent growth for 2025. **"This is an exciting time for Guyana and its people. The story of Guyana was not built on oil alone,"** she said, noting the country's broad potential.

This latest mission also coincides with the second anniversary of visa-free travel for Guyanese to the UK, as well as the introduction of British Airways direct flights to London—two developments that have

helped deepen trade and people-to-people ties. UK-Guyana trade reached £1.6 billion in 2024, a nearly 20 percent increase over the previous year, according to Charge d'Affaires Alain Archibald.

Representatives from the Caribbean Council noted that

delegates to engage with government officials and local businesses as they explored new partnerships.

President Ali encouraged UK firms to become long-term contributors to Guyana's development, **emphasising opportunities to**



Guyana hosts Fifth UK Trade Mission as economic partnership expands

Guyana's government and private sector continue to demonstrate a proactive approach to development, describing the country as **"rolling up its sleeves and getting things done."**

The mission took place from November 25 to 28, allowing

create jobs, expand manufacturing and agro-processing, and support transformative national projects. **"We invite you not only to trade with us, but to invest in our future. Guyana is ready. We are open for business,"** he said.



Guyana hosts Fifth UK Trade Mission as economic partnership expands

GUYANA SENDS ROOFS, FOOD, AND ESSENTIALS TO JAMAICA



Guyana sends more hurricane relief supplies to Jamaica

Caribbean solidarity is on display as Guyana's second tranche of emergency relief supplies reaches Jamaica, helping communities rebuild after Hurricane Melissa.

The cargo, coordinated by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), reached Jamaican shores aboard the MV Falk after a six-day journey from the AFS Shipping Wharf at

Friendship.

The relief package includes wood and zinc sheeting to rebuild 200 damaged roofs, mattresses, water tanks, and rice, critical support for families seeking to recover from the devastation. Highlighting Guyana's local manufacturing capacity, the mattresses and tanks were produced by A&F Foam Factory

and Lion Tank.

"This mission is about more than materials. It is about solidarity and ensuring that Jamaican families can rebuild their lives with dignity," said Colonel (Ret'd) Nazrul Hussain, Director General of the CDC.

A team of engineers from the Guyana Defence Force is already



Guyana sends more hurricane relief supplies to Jamaica

on the ground in Jamaica, assisting with roof reconstruction and helping families return to safe homes quickly.

The MV Falk, initially chartered to transport lumber, was used to expedite relief efforts, demonstrating the government's commitment to regional disaster response.

A third shipment of food and building materials is scheduled to leave Guyana in two weeks, continuing support for Jamaica's recovery.

PM PHILLIPS CELEBRATES REGIONAL MILESTONES IN BARBADOS AND SURINAME

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips recently took part in milestone celebrations in Barbados and Suriname, highlighting Guyana's strong diplomatic and cultural ties across the region.

In Barbados, he attended the 59th Independence Anniversary and Fourth Republic Day celebrations. He witnessed the swearing-in of the country's second President, His Excellency Lt Col Jeffrey Bostic, and



Guyana's PM joins Barbados historic celebrations

joined the Independence and Republic Day Ceremonial Parade. The Prime Minister also accompanied Prime Minister Mia Amor

Mottley at National Heroes' Square for an official troop salute and attended the National Awards Ceremony at Kensington Oval,

concluding the day with a formal reception.

In Suriname, Prime Minister Phillips participated in activities marking the country's 50th Independence anniversary, including a luncheon with regional officials, diplomats, and key partners. He attended the Extraordinary Sitting of the National Assembly, joined President Her Excellency Jennifer Geerlings-Simons at Onafhankelijkheidsplein for the ceremonial military



PM Phillips witnessing Suriname's 50th Independence observation activities

and took part in the official reception at the Presidential Palace in Paramaribo.

Through these visits, Prime Minister Phillips

emphasised Guyana's commitment to unity, regional collaboration, and enduring friendship across the Caribbean and South America.

PRESIDENT ALI MOVES TO MAKE TOURISM INVESTMENT EASIER, FAIRER, AND MORE ACCESSIBLE



President Ali delivering the feature address at the GTA Awards and Gala 2025

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled a series of initiatives aimed at breaking down barriers in Guyana’s tourism sector, ensuring it becomes a cornerstone of the country’s economic growth.

Speaking to a packed audience of tourism operators, industry leaders, diplomats, and government officials at the Guyana Tourism Authority’s 2025 Awards and Gala at the Marriott

Hotel, the President emphasised that while generous incentives already exist, many operators are not fully utilising them.

“Less than 10 per cent of the incentives available to the tourism sector are being utilised,” President Ali said. “If the problem is people not making use of what is in the system, then we must bridge that gap.”

To help operators

navigate the process, he announced plans to hire a dedicated team of young professionals who will assist with writing business proposals, forming consortia, preparing investment applications, and ensuring full compliance with regulations, including TIN registration and company incorporation.

“Go to them with your ideas, let them help you write your business plan, prepare your proposal, and take it to GoInvest,” the President urged. “There is no backdoor approach. If you want to be part of the sector, you must abide by the rules and governance requirements.”

He also called for an inter-agency mechanism involving the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG), GoInvest, the Ministry of Finance,

and the new support team to guide operators from concept to final investment agreement.

President Ali revealed that in the last two weeks alone, nine Expressions of Interest for tourism projects were received and encouraged operators to pool resources and collaborate to leverage larger investments.

“If all the operators in this room raised US\$10 million, and asked us to help leverage another US\$30 million, we can take projects to the next level,” he said.

The President highlighted government investments transforming the tourism ecosystem: over 15 hotels under development, two new regional airports, an expanded CJIA Terminal 2, upgrades to 32 hinterland airstrips, a new cultural market at Palmyra, waterfront developments, new

ferries, a national museum, and a revamped zoo and Botanical Gardens.

“These are not isolated investments, they are part of a national push to modernise every aspect of the tourism ecosystem,” he said, praising First Lady Arya Ali’s beautification initiatives, which have elevated the country’s aesthetics

from the seawalls to the hinterland.

With visitor arrivals up 18% for January–July 2025 and multiple international awards to Guyana’s credit, President Ali said the



Industry leaders, government officials, diplomats, and awardees at the Gala

world is discovering the country. “Demand is rising, and our strategy is working,” he concluded, signalling a bright and accessible future for tourism in Guyana.

MANUFACTURERS PRAISED FOR DRIVING NON-OIL ECONOMY AS GOVT COMMITS TO STABLE FUTURE



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, at GMSA’s 30th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Ceremony

G u y a n a ’ s manufacturers and service providers were celebrated as key drivers of the country’s non-oil economy, with Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, pledging continued government support to ensure stability, growth, and competitiveness.

Speaking at the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association’s (GMSA) 30th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Marriott Hotel, Dr. Singh commended local businesses for their resilience, innovation, and critical role in shaping the nation’s economic future.

“We operate in an unpredictable global

environment,” Dr. Singh told the gathering of industry leaders. “Oil, gold, and freight prices fluctuate constantly, but

prosper.”

The minister highlighted that maintaining macroeconomic stability, strong democratic institutions, and a transparent financial system is essential for long-term growth. He noted that Guyana’s sovereign wealth fund is now sufficient to clear the country’s external debt while retaining reserves, a rare achievement for any developing nation.

“Resilience comes not just from oil revenues, but from a service providers have a pivotal role in this mission. Whatever you produce must meet global standards and contribute to our country’s growth.”

He pointed to the government’s deliberate fiscal strategy, which has shifted budget priorities toward infrastructure and investment critical for competitiveness. Public investment now accounts for more than 50 percent of the national budget, up from less than 25 percent in 2019,



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, at GMSA’s 30th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Ceremony

GMSA President Rafeek Khan also addressed the audience, urging members to prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by smart, automated, and interconnected systems. Khan announced plans for a future GMSA campus to equip members with the tools and resources to thrive in this evolving landscape.

Former GMSA President Ramsay Ali unveiled the Association’s new online platform, uncappedmarketplace. gy, designed to increase visibility and sales for local producers and service providers.

Since 2020, credit to the manufacturing sector has grown by over 100 percent, while private sector lending overall has expanded by more than 73 percent. Dr. Singh noted that the government is working with financial institutions to further improve access to capital, particularly for SMEs, to enable growth and innovation.

The ceremony highlighted the partnership between government and industry, underscoring the shared goal of a resilient, diversified, and globally competitive economy. As the country celebrates milestones in manufacturing and services, the message from Dr. Singh was clear: Guyana’s growth depends on responsible policy, strategic investment, and the ingenuity of its people.



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, at GMSA’s 30th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Ceremony

our responsibility as a government is to ensure that Guyana navigates these uncertainties and continues to diversified, globally competitive non-oil economy,” Dr. Singh emphasised. “Manufacturers and reflecting a commitment to sustainable economic expansion rather than short-term consumption.

NEW RDC LEADERS SWORN IN

New RDC leaders sworn in
President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has administered the oath of office to the newly elected Regional Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons for nine of Guyana's 10 administrative regions. The appointment for Region 10 remains pending due to a tie.
Newly Appointed Leaders

- **Region 1 – Barima-Waini:**
Chairperson: Brentnol Ashley
Vice Chairperson: Paul Pierre
- **Region 2 – Pomeroon-Supenaam:**
Chairperson: Devin Mohan
Vice Chairperson: Humace Oodit

- **Region 3 – Essequibo Islands-West Demerara:**
Chairperson: Sheik Mohamed Ishan Ayube
Vice Chairperson: Anjanie Narine
- **Region 4 – Mahaica-Maharica:**
Chairperson: Clemsford Belgrave
Vice Chairperson: Deoraj Nauth
- **Region 5 – Mahaica-Berbice:**
Chairperson: Ricardo Dwain Phillips
Vice Chairperson: Kleon Lindey
- **Region 6 – East Berbice-Corentyne:**
Chairperson: Junior Basant
Vice Chairperson: Sahid/Waheed Khan
- **Region 7 – Cuyuni-**

- Mazaruni:**
Chairperson: June Shondelle J. Shurland-Gittens
Vice Chairperson: Alden Christopher Marslowe
- **Region 8 – Potaro-Siparuni:**
Chairperson: Tarcellia John
Vice Chairperson: Samantha Edwards-John
- **Region 9 – Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo:**
Chairperson: Vania Albert
Vice Chairperson: Daniel Aguilar
- **Region 10 – Upper Demerara – Upper Berbice:**
Chairperson and Vice Chairperson: To be appointed (tie outcome)



Region 1 Chairperson, Brentnol Ashley



Region 4 Chairperson, Clemsford Belgrave



Region 7 Chairperson, June Shondelle J. Shurland-Gittens



Region 2 Chairperson, Devin Mohan



Region 5 Chairperson, Ricardo Dwain Phillips



Region 8 Chairperson, Tarcellia John



Region 3 Chairperson, Sheik Mohamed Ishan Ayube



Region 6 Chairperson, Junior Basant



Region 9 Chairperson, Vania Albert



President Ali addressing the regional leaders

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to people-centred governance as he administered the oath of office to newly elected Regional Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons from Guyana's 10 administrative regions. The ceremony, held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, was a reminder that leadership carries a solemn responsibility to

RDC LEADERS TAKE OATH AMID CALL FOR UNITY, ACTION AND SERVICE TO CITIZENS

the communities they serve. Addressing the officials, President Ali noted that the simple act of taking the oath is more than a formality, it is a binding promise to their constituents, the state, and their own conscience. **"This ceremony is a reaffirmation of the democratic covenant between the elected and the electorate. Leadership is not an entitlement; it is a trust,"** he emphasised. The President highlighted the importance of decentralised governance in a nation marked by vast geography and

cultural diversity. **"RDCs [Regional Democratic Councils] bring government directly to the people,"** he said, underlining the councils' key responsibilities in areas such as health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, recreation, and community development. Reflecting on the recently concluded September RDC elections, President Ali reminded leaders that their mandate is to serve, not to compete. **"The competition has ended. Cooperation must now prevail. The people have given you a mandate**

to build, not to divide... to deliver, not to stall progress," he said. He stressed the urgency of responsiveness and delivery, urging leaders to address citizens' everyday needs. **"Our people want better roads, more streetlights, upgraded recreational facilities, improved water and sanitation, safer neighbourhoods, and stronger enforcement on our roadways,"** President Ali said. **"These are not abstract goals; they are daily necessities."** Leaders were also

encouraged to engage closely with their communities, listen to concerns, innovate solutions, and act decisively even when resources are limited. **"The RDC must not** be the last door to open," the President warned. Looking ahead, President Ali announced that the government will soon roll out new initiatives to support and empower RDC officials, Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) leaders, community workers, and Community Support Officers (CSOs,) including improvements to work conditions and pay. As the newly elected leaders took their oaths, the message was clear: unity, action, and service to citizens are the guiding principles that will define their tenure, shaping a future where local governance directly impacts the lives of every Guyanese.



Some of the newly elected Regional Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons

APPOINTMENT APP SET TO TRANSFORM PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE

A new digital appointment app is set to transform how Guyanese access government services, putting an end to long wait times and uncertainty. Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, announced in New Amsterdam, Region Six, that the app is in its testing phase and will soon allow citizens to book appointments at any government agency.

"Soon, you will no longer have to turn up at an agency wondering if you will be served," Minister Ally said. **"You can select a date and time, receive confirmation, and be assured of service when you arrive."** The initiative is part of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's broader vision to modernise public services and move Guyana toward a

fully digitised economy. Minister Ally stressed the importance of embracing technology, noting that citizens who do not take advantage of these tools risk being left behind. The digital drive also includes the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), which will be fully digitised over the next eight months. Users will be able to check contributions, apply for compliance, and access services instantly, all

through a simple app. **"Imagine waking up, downloading the app, and completing your NIS tasks in seconds without leaving your bed,"** the minister said. In addition, digital systems will improve accountability across government infrastructure projects. A real-time dashboard will allow the President to monitor the progress of every ongoing project, ensuring transparency



Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally

and efficiency. Minister Ally emphasised that these technological advances are designed to save time, reduce frustration, and make government services more accessible to all

Guyanese. **"Our goal is simple,"** he said. **"To bring convenience, efficiency, and dignity back to the people we serve."**

FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO TRANSFORM GUYANA'S ECONOMY ANNOUNCED



The Guyana Oil and Gas Energy Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner at the Marriott Hotel

President Ali has unveiled plans for a sweeping five-year national economic expansion and infrastructure integration initiative, promising to reshape Guyana's future. Speaking at the Guyana Oil and Gas Energy Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner at the Marriott Hotel, the President described the plan as **"unmatched in scale, ambition, and national impact."** **"This journey is now getting fired up,"** President Ali told a gathering of industry leaders, policymakers, and private-sector executives. **"In the**

coming days, I will share the details of our economic expansion, infrastructure integration, and development projections over the next five years."

At the core of the plan are the regions of Wales and Berbice, which are set to become hubs of Guyana's new national energy ecosystem. Over the next five years, more than US\$4 billion will be invested in Wales, supporting gas-to-energy projects, power plants, fabrication facilities, industrial zones, and marine logistics. In Berbice, a second gas project, a deep-water port, industrial expansion, and a US\$2 billion gas pipeline will anchor another wave of national development.



The Guyana Oil and Gas Energy Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner at the Marriott Hotel

Together, these investments total nearly US\$10 billion, signaling a transformative shift in the country's infrastructure and energy sectors.

"This is remarkable," the President said. **"If this does not excite us as a people, I don't know what will."**

Guyana's oil production is also reaching historic heights. The nation is projected to produce approximately 930,000 barrels per day by year-end, up from 650,000 earlier, with production expected to reach a conservative 1.3 million barrels daily by 2030. However, President Ali cautioned that global oversupply and fluctuating energy markets require careful planning, efficiency, and technological advancement.

The President emphasised that the nation's people are central to its success. **"The greatest challenge in the private sector today is a shortage of skilled workers,"** he said. **"Our citizens must embrace upskilling, higher productivity, and a culture of excellence to match the pace of national transformation."**

Reaffirming the government's commitment, President Ali said the plan focuses on converting oil wealth into lasting assets: roads, ports, energy infrastructure, human capital, and diversified industries. **"The economy is in safe hands, your hands, our hands, the nation's hands,"** he concluded, calling on all Guyanese to play their part in shaping a prosperous future.



UNDP Electoral Support Team

Guyana's 2025 General and Regional Elections have been widely hailed as a landmark in the country's democratic journey, earning praise from both the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM). Observers commended the elections for their transparency, professionalism, and peaceful conduct across coastal and hinterland communities.

In a recent UNDP article, *Strengthening Trust in Democracy: UNDP's Support to Guyana's 2025 General and Regional Elections*, the organisation described the elections as among the most well-managed in Guyana's modern history. The UNDP highlighted the professionalism, impartiality, and

UNDP AND EU PRAISE GUYANA'S 2025 ELECTIONS AS TRANSPARENT AND PEACEFUL

commitment to transparency demonstrated by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), noting the pivotal technical support it provided through funding from the United Kingdom. This support helped GECOM enhance operations, communications, and institutional capacity. Voters across the country experienced smooth polling and timely, clear communication about the voting process. UNDP officials emphasised that elections are more than casting ballots, they are a cornerstone of public trust, civic empowerment, and

national unity. Through its Electoral Support Project, UNDP deployed a multidisciplinary team to work alongside GECOM, addressing logistical challenges, introducing new communication protocols, training over 100 journalists in electoral ethics, and ensuring accessible information reached all citizens, including those with disabilities.

Reflecting on the process, the UNDP Electoral Technical Support Team Lead said it was particularly rewarding to see strategic advice implemented in real time, helping resolve bottlenecks and safeguard the integrity

of the elections. From preparing nearly 2,800 polling stations to training thousands of staff and securing sensitive materials, the elections marked a major step forward for Guyana's democratic institutions.

The EUEOM also commended the country for the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections, describing them as well administered and reflective of the people's will. According to the Mission, voter turnout demonstrated strong civic engagement, with ballots cast calmly and without major disruption. Observers noted improvements in

election administration, including better voter list management, enhanced security, expanded access for observers, and more efficient logistical planning. Public information campaigns, delivered digitally and in person, further supported voter understanding and participation. While the EUEOM acknowledged that some technical reforms remain necessary, it concluded that the 2025 elections were transparent, credible, and conducted in an atmosphere of public trust, underscoring Guyana's continued progress in strengthening its democratic system.

SECOND GAS PIPELINE TO BRINGS JOBS AND ENERGY TO BERBICE COMMUNITIES

Guyana is set to kickstart one of the world's fastest gas-to-shore projects, a move that promises new jobs, cleaner energy, and stronger industrial growth for local communities. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement, during a reception for visiting UK Parliamentarian Paulette Hamilton and the UK Trade Mission. **"Before the end of 2030, the second gas line must be brought**

to shore, linked to the deepwater port and the infrastructure being built in Berbice. For that to happen, we will have to break every single record in the world," President Ali said, highlighting the urgency and scale of the project. The pipeline is expected to fuel industrial expansion in Berbice, supporting petrochemicals, fertilisers, LNG, agro-processing, and light manufacturing. For

communities, this means new jobs, training opportunities, and a stronger local economy as factories and industrial parks emerge. Beyond jobs, the project will provide cleaner, more reliable, and affordable energy, improving daily life for families while helping Guyana become a regional manufacturing hub. The initiative, in partnership with ExxonMobil, complements the

300MW Gas-to-Energy project at Wales, the nationwide expansion of solar and hydro power, and the rebuilding of the country's transmission networks. President Ali noted that achieving this ambitious goal will require strong international cooperation, thanking the United Kingdom for its ongoing support. For residents of Berbice and beyond, the second gas pipeline represents a pathway to opportunity,

economic growth, and a brighter future for their communities.



President Ali delivering the feature address

GPHC PERFORMS CARIBBEAN'S FIRST KIDNEY CHAIN TRANSPLANT



Donors and recipients are seated at the front while Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony is flanked by the GPHC's CEO Robbie Rambarran and senior staff of the hospital

In a medical first for the Caribbean, Guyana's Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has successfully completed a kidney chain transplant, a complex sequence linking four donors to four recipients

through eight surgeries performed over four days. The achievement not only marks a milestone for Guyana but positions the country as a regional leader in advanced transplant medicine.



Dr Kishore Persaud and team in observation

A kidney chain transplant offers hope to patients who have a willing donor but are medically incompatible. Instead of being ruled out, the donor gives a kidney to someone else in the chain, allowing their loved one to receive a compatible kidney in return. The result is a life-saving loop that maximises matches and opens the door for more patients to leave dialysis behind.

All four Guyanese recipients are now recovering, describing the surgeries as nothing short of life-changing.

For Kiran Hardyal, who previously received a kidney transplant at GPHC in 2015, this second transplant represents renewed freedom.

"I know what life as a transplant patient is like, and it's way better. Dialysis drains you. Today, I feel like any ordinary person in this room,"

he shared.

The entire chain procedure was performed by Guyanese specialists, a source of immense pride for Lead Transplant Surgeon Dr. Kishore Persaud.

"These surgeries were performed entirely by GPHC doctors and staff. We have proven that our own can lead the way in the Caribbean," he said.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony said the breakthrough is part of a deliberate national strategy to strengthen local capacity and build a modern, self-sustaining health system.

"We have had many firsts, and every year the team exceeds expectations. We are pushing the boundaries to ensure that our patients get the best service," he said.

To further advance transplant capability, Dr Anthony announced that



During operation

Guyana has procured Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) testing equipment, critical for matching donors and recipients. A Guyanese doctor will soon undergo specialised training in India, after which all HLA testing will be done locally, reducing costs and speeding up transplant timelines.

Guyana now leads the Caribbean with 13 kidney transplants completed in 2025, surpassing countries with larger medical systems. A deceased-donor programme is also in development, expected to save hundreds of lives and ease pressure on dialysis services. Since 2023,

GPHC's nephrology unit has registered 2,200 kidney patients, with 316 currently on dialysis.

GPHC CEO Robbie Rambarran said each successful transplant represents "freedom from dialysis, restored health, and renewed hope for families," adding that expanded capacity has already begun reducing waiting times.

As the latest transplant recipients continue to heal, the message is clear: Guyana's health sector is advancing rapidly, and the lives and well-being of its people remain firmly at the centre of that progress.

GUYANA DELEGATION RETURNS FROM EU MISSION, GAINING INSIGHTS TO STRENGTHEN PORTS, AGRICULTURE, AND TRADE



EU Study Mission sparks new opportunities for Guyana's trade and agriculture

A Guyana delegation has returned home after a week-long study and investment mission to Europe, exploring innovations in port operations, agro-processing, and cold-chain logistics. The visit, part of the inaugural EU-Guyana Global Gateway Mission, included senior public officials, private-sector leaders, and regional partners, all seeking practical ways to boost Guyana's trade, agriculture, and maritime sectors.

Led by Peter Ramsaroop, MP, Chief Investment Officer, the delegation included representatives from the Maritime Administration, NAREI, GO-Invest, and leading private companies such as Banks DIH, DDL, UMAMI, and Guyana Port Inc. Diplomatic support was provided by H.E. Sasenarine Singh, Guyana's Ambassador to Belgium, with additional guidance from the EU Delegation to Guyana

and Europe-based experts from FIAP. Regional partners from Antigua, Barbados, and CARICOM also joined, highlighting the mission's Caribbean dimension.

During the mission, delegates visited major European ports, including Antwerp-Bruges, Rotterdam, Fos-Marseille, Málaga, and Algeciras, observing digitalisation systems, green transition strategies, and integrated cruise-cargo operations. Private-sector representatives focused on terminal automation, operational flow, and public-private governance models, lessons they plan to apply to Guyana's ongoing port modernisation initiatives, including the deep-water port project.

The agriculture-focused leg included technical exchanges at Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands and IFAPA Campanillas in Spain. Delegates explored climate-resilient farming, smart water management, agrivoltaics, and advanced shade-house systems, while agro-processors examined energy-efficient processing, shelf-life extension, and cold-chain techniques—critical for expanding Guyana's export capacity.

At Spain's Port of Algeciras, recognised as Europe's most efficient port, the delegation studied advanced cold-storage logistics for perishable goods, gaining insights directly

applicable to Guyana's agro-processing and export sectors.

Reflecting on the mission, Ramsaroop emphasised its practical, hands-on focus. "This was about learning and building relationships, not negotiations," he said. "Our goal was to see what works abroad and understand how we can adapt these systems to support Guyana's ports, agriculture, and export industries."

For participants, the experience offered both inspiration and direction. From farmers and agro-processors to port operators and public officials, delegates returned with real-world solutions and a renewed vision for modernizing



EU Study Mission sparks new opportunities for Guyana's trade and agriculture

infrastructure, boosting trade, and creating opportunities that directly benefit communities across Guyana.

The mission positions Guyana to strengthen its role in global trade and food systems, leveraging European best practices to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness at home.

NEW SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TO KEEP GUYANESE SAFE FROM OUTBREAKS

Guyana is strengthening its health security with plans to build a national disease surveillance system to track illnesses in both humans and animals.

Minister of Health

Dr Frank Anthony said the integrated platform will allow authorities to monitor infectious and non-communicable diseases in real time, enabling a faster response to emerging

health threats. "We want a combined system to track diseases across the country so we can see what's happening as it happens," he explained.

The system will also monitor animal diseases in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. Minister Anthony stressed the importance of early detection: "If a disease in animals

could potentially jump to humans, we must identify it quickly to protect our communities."

Data from both ministries will be shared on a single platform.

Funded by the Pandemic Fund and the World Bank, the project is expected to be developed over the next three to five years, giving Guyana a stronger safeguard against future outbreaks.

LETHEM AND SURROUNDING RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM GOVT HOUSING SUPPORT



The distribution of the vouchers to support the construction of the homes

Residents of Lethem and neighbouring hinterland communities are celebrating new beginnings as the Government’s housing programmes continue to transform lives.

For 32-year-old Jennifer Douglas of Sand Creek, a mother of five caring for a child with a disability, receiving the keys to her new home was life-changing. **“I was struggling in my house before,”** she said. **“Mostly it’s for my disabled little daughter... I’m happy the government established this programme to support families like ours.”**



During a recent outreach, Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, and Minister within the Ministry, Vanessa Benn, handed over keys to Jennifer and 29 other families. The 500-square-foot flat houses, built on communal land with

locally sourced materials and labour, represent a \$105 million investment, providing safe and modern living spaces. Among the beneficiaries was 89-year-old Manoel Jacobs, a wheelchair user, whose daughter said, **“Now he gets this big house... he’s glad to get this.”**

In Rupunau, father of ten Flavian Thomas shared similar relief. **“My children are more comfortable than before. The house is a big improvement for our family,”** he said.

The programme supports hundreds of



The distribution of the vouchers to support the construction of the homes

vulnerable families across Regions One, Seven, Eight, and Nine. Minister Croal noted that in Region Nine alone, 120 homes have already been constructed as part of a broader initiative to improve housing, health, education, and infrastructure under President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s administration.

In Lethem, 12 families became homeowners through the Lethem Housing Support Programme. Single mother Sharon Malcolm described the moment as **“one of the happiest of my life... my kids**

can finally call this their home.” Another beneficiary, Anureiya Leonce, praised her land allocation, noting it provides a permanent home and safe space for her adopted daughter.

The outreach also featured the distribution of building-material vouchers under the Steel

and Cement Housing Subsidy Programme, helping more residents access secure homes. Minister Croal confirmed that over 1,000 house lots have been allocated in Region Nine, with pending applications set to be cleared by the end of 2025.



The distribution of the vouchers to support the construction of the homes



The distribution of the vouchers to support the construction of the homes



The distribution of the vouchers to support the construction of the homes

MODERN UPGRADES COMING TO STABROEK AND BOURDA MARKETS



A digital preview of the Stabroek Market Square

Vendors and shoppers in the city can look forward to a transformed experience as the Government of Guyana undertakes major upgrades to Stabroek and Bourda Markets. The initiatives aim to modernise facilities, preserve heritage, and improve comfort for all who use these bustling public spaces.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, assured citizens that the upgrades will have minimal disruption to vendors. **“Vendors are not going to be**

moved... business has not gone down, and nobody has been stopped from selling,” she said during a radio segment on GoMoseley Radio.

At Stabroek Market, works will include raising the flooring, a request made by vendors, installing new waste bins and establishing a dedicated sanitation schedule, and creating a family-friendly space with seating, music, and cultural activities. A recently released digital preview of the square highlights the blend of modern amenities and the market’s historic charm.

Meanwhile, Bourda Market is undergoing assessments to address long-standing concerns raised by vendors, including poor drainage, inadequate sanitation, leaking roofs, and faulty facilities. Minister Manickchand conducted an on-site walkthrough, interacting with vendors



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand interacting with a Bourda Market vendor



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand inspecting drains at the Bourda Market

and inspecting key infrastructure, including drains and sanitary facilities.

She emphasised that improvements will prioritise the safety and comfort of both sellers and shoppers, while preserving the traditional feel of the market. **“We want to**

restore Georgetown, keeping the look, feel, and history, even as we build out modern public facilities,” she said.

The Stabroek and Bourda Market upgrades are part of a broader government plan to improve public spaces throughout Georgetown. These works align

with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s vision of ensuring development benefits every citizen, from high-rise infrastructure to everyday spaces like markets.

Minister Manickchand confirmed that citizens will soon see visible improvements, noting that careful

planning is underway to ensure vendors can continue their daily business. **“We have to build back Bourda Market in a way that does not disrupt people who rely on it for their livelihood while introducing modern facilities for the community,”** she explained.

With these renovations, Georgetown markets are set to become cleaner, safer, and more welcoming spaces where heritage and modern convenience coexist, offering an improved experience for both vendors and the public.



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, on the GoMoseley Radio

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ONE GUYANA CHRISTMAS VILL

Main Street sparkled with festive cheer as the 2025 One Guyana Christmas Village and Supermarket officially opened. Families and friends strolled under twinkling lights, exploring stalls filled with local crafts, handmade gifts, and farm-fresh produce. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali greeted the crowd with a message of unity, compassion, and national pride. “This village is a symbol of closeness, because closeness strengthens community and community strengthens country,” he said, reminding all that the spirit of Christmas is about kindness and togetherness. The supermarket, featuring Guyanese-made products, was described as a “marketplace of dreams,” where every item tells a story of talent, dedication, and culture. “When you choose local, you uplift a neighbour, strengthen a community, and invest in a shared future,” the President said. Amid the festive lights and holiday music, citizens were also reminded to extend care to the vulnerable, elderly, differently abled, and children.



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13 NEW WAYS TO EXPLORE GUYANA



At the national launch, seven new tourism experiences were introduced

Guyana's tourism sector is gaining new energy and deeper community involvement as the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) unveiled a series of innovative, community-led tourism products aimed at highlighting the country's landscapes, traditions, and people. The launches, held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre and in the Rupununi, brought together tour operators, village leaders, and tourism partners who are



At the national launch, seven new tourism experiences were introduced

the richness of Guyana's natural and cultural heritage while creating economic opportunities for local communities. One of the most anticipated products, the **Kumerau Expedition** by Dillon Ross of Blackwater Adventures, takes travelers deep into the Cuyuni-Mazaruni wilderness. Ross described the journey as

both a personal passion and a community-building mission. **"Guyana Tourism Authority, under the Ministry of Tourism, has been like the wind beneath my wings,"** he shared, crediting government support for helping operators bring bold ideas to life. Other offerings included the **Essequibo Got Taste** culinary tour, a celebration of regional flavors; the **Kids Botani Tour**, introducing young explorers to Guyana's vibrant plant life; **Cook Like a Guyanese**, where visitors learn traditional recipes; **Celebrating the Coconut**, highlighting sustainable agriculture; and the **Guyana Flying Dress Experience**, an eco-cultural fusion designed by Wanderlust Adventures GY. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, **Susan Rodrigues**, praised the creativity and commitment of the operators. She emphasised that tourism growth must uplift communities and preserve the country's identity. **"You are witnessing a government that is sending all of the right signals. We are ready to work with you to ensure the tourism and hospitality sector grows exponentially over the next five years,"** she affirmed. In the Rupununi, six additional community-driven experiences were launched, each rooted in the traditions and environment of Indigenous villages. These include the **Camp & Catch Fishing Adventure** by Tara's Choices and Tours, the **Wontai Birding Experience**, the **Quarrie Nature Escape**, and immersive camping experiences in Kumu, Moco Moco, and Karanambu-Kwaimatta-Quatatta. GTA Director **Kamrul Baksh** highlighted that these products represent more than tourism, they are pathways to empowerment. He noted that each initiative supports jobs, conservation, youth training, and long-term sustainability. **"Community tourism is steadily growing in Region Nine, and these new experiences reflect strong partnerships and the shared goal of showcasing our country the right way,"** he said.



Six new Rupununi tourism experiences launched



Six new Rupununi tourism experiences launched



Six new Rupununi tourism experiences launched

REGION NINE SHINES AT RUPUNUNI EXPO 2025



Rupununi Expo 2025 celebrates heritage, talent, and opportunity in Region Nine

Residents and entrepreneurs from across Region Nine gathered at the Tabatinga Sports Complex for the 23rd annual Rupununi Expo 2025, held under the theme "Roots to Riches: Cultivating Heritage and Enterprises." The two-day event showcased local products, innovation, and the rich cultural heritage of the hinterland, offering artisans, farmers, and small business owners a vital platform to reach new customers and grow their enterprises. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce **Susan Rodrigues**, Minister of Amerindian Affairs, **Sarah Browne-Shadeek**, Consular General to Brazil **Rodger**

King, and Deputy Mayor of Lethem **Indira Singh**, among other dignitaries. Addressing exhibitors and visitors, Minister **Rodrigues** highlighted the expo's role in building partnerships, promoting the region's economic potential, and encouraging sustainable growth. She emphasised that the government is committed to ensuring Region Nine grows alongside other regions, highlighting key infrastructure projects such as the **Linden-Lethem Road** and the **Kurupukari Bridge**, which will improve accessibility, enhance the movement of goods, and unlock the region's economic potential. For local businesses, the expo offered not only exposure but practical opportunities. The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce now holds a seat on the planning committee for the Rupununi Rodeo, signaling plans to expand that event and encourage tourism. Exhibitors were urged to prepare for increased demand during Rodeo season, with opportunities for accommodation and service expansion. With vibrant stalls, demonstrations of local crafts, and a celebration



Rupununi Expo 2025 celebrates heritage, talent, and opportunity in Region Nine

of indigenous culture, the Rupununi Expo 2025 captured the spirit of Region Nine: resilient, entrepreneurial, and ready for growth. For the residents and small business owners attending, the expo was a chance to connect, dream bigger, and showcase the full potential of their communities. Region Nine's future is bright, and events like the Rupununi Expo are helping turn that promise into reality.

Guyana government to go after licensing exam cheaters unless they retake test

In a call for accountability across the country’s driver-licensing framework, President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Tuesday announced that the Government will publish the names of individuals who obtained practical driving certificates without ever passing the mandatory theoretical examination, unless they voluntarily surrender and restart the process within six weeks.

Addressing ranks of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) during the Force’s Traditional Christmas Breakfast, the President said a comprehensive post-audit review, conducted jointly with the Commissioner of Police, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), the Ministry of Public Service, the Ministry of Government Efficiency and Implementation and the Ministry of Home Affairs, has uncovered wide-scale irregularities in the licensing system.

According to the Head of State, the deployment of technology has now made it possible to “triangulate” every step of the licensing chain, from theoretical testing to practical certification and finally to the issuance of licences by GRA.

That digitised trail, he said, has exposed discrepancies that can no longer be ignored.

“We can tell you all those who wrote the theoretical exam in class, and that is the only way to move forward with the practical exam. And we can tell you all those who got a practical certificate and then actually got a licence at GRA,” President Ali said.

“If you have 150 people passing a theory, but 400 people are getting their practical certification, something is wrong.”

The audit, now being concluded, identified individuals who were granted practical certificates despite never passing the theoretical exam, an outcome the President described as unacceptable and a direct threat to public safety.

“We have all the names of persons who got a practical paper but never passed the theoretical exam. We’re going to give those persons in the public domain six weeks to surrender themselves and go back through the process. After that, we’ll publish all the names in the newspaper, suspend the licence, and prosecute them. That is the only way we can remedy this prosecute

all the parties involved,” he warned.

The President reaffirmed that technology is no longer optional but central to service delivery, auditability, and enforcement. He said that the comprehensive data, now, before the government leaves, will leave no room for manipulation or undocumented shortcuts.

“Technology is your aid, your friend, and that post-service delivery mechanism that allows us to redesign the entire system and add a remarkable layer of accountability,” he told the gathering, adding that the same triangulation has revealed mismatches on the GRA side between licences issued and the number of legitimate passes.



Government going after licensing exam cheaters, says Pres. Ali

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MODERN AIRPORT TERMINAL BRINGS BARTICA CLOSER TO NATIONAL PROGRESS

Modern airport terminal brings Bartica closer to national progress

With the sod turning for the new BK airport terminal, Bartica is stepping into a future of enhanced connectivity, modern infrastructure, and stronger links to Guyana’s national growth story. The event, celebrated by residents and officials alike, marked a transformative milestone for Region Seven, promising to expand tourism, improve travel efficiency, and open new economic opportunities.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Mohamed Irfaan Ali hailed the project as a reflection of “the continuous reinvestment of local wealth back into national development,” praising the BK Group for its sustained commitment to creating opportunities across the country.

“As we turn this sod, we turn a new page for Bartica,” President Ali said. “When we build together, we rise together.”

The new terminal is expected to become a central hub for regional

travel, reducing costs and travel time for businesses and communities. It will support innovations like drone logistics, medevac services, and the direct export of interior products to CARICOM markets.

Bartica, long a gateway to the hinterland and mining communities, is now evolving into a diversified, modern township. The President highlighted ongoing public investments that complement the airport project, including upgraded stelling, a planned world-class marina, new housing

developments, road and drainage improvements, expanded water access, fibre optic and 5G connectivity, and a forthcoming modern hospital.

“These foundations ensure Bartica is not just a passageway, but a destination,” President Ali noted.

While commending the local aviation sector for modernising its fleet, he urged operators to reduce domestic air travel costs, stressing that government support should translate into benefits for citizens. “There is no way



President Ali at the commissioning ceremony of the BK terminal

the aviation sector cannot, at this time, reduce air transport costs by at least 15%,” he said.

The sod-turning ceremony symbolises more than construction; it represents progress, opportunity, and the promise of equitable development across Guyana. “When Guyana moves, every region must move with it,” President Ali affirmed. “This investment is about progress, not politics. Bartica’s history has always been defined by movement, connection, and opportunity, and this is the next chapter.”



President Ali speaking during the sod-turning ceremony for the new airport terminal at Bartica

Guyana is set to take its fresh produce from the hinterland straight to Caribbean tables, bringing new opportunities for farmers and communities across the interior. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement

during the sod-turning ceremony for the new airport terminal at Bartica, highlighting how the initiative will transform regional trade and expand agriculture in previously hard-to-reach areas.

“Within the next

GUYANA TO FLY FRESH PRODUCE DIRECTLY FROM INTERIOR TO CARIBBEAN

12 months, we will fly food out from the interior directly into CARICOM countries,” President Ali said. “This is about creating real opportunities for our hinterland communities and ensuring they participate fully in the national and regional economy.”

The programme aims to shorten the journey from farm to market, allowing farmers

in Region Seven and neighbouring areas to export fresh fruits, vegetables, and other produce quickly and efficiently. By connecting local producers directly with Caribbean markets, the government hopes to increase incomes, promote agro-processing, and reduce CARICOM’s reliance on imported food.

President Ali stressed that the initiative is part of a wider national



The programme aims to shorten the journey from farm to market

strategy to strengthen food security, support hinterland communities, and build sustainable economic growth across Guyana. For many interior farmers, this marks a historic moment where their hard work on the land will reach more tables than ever before.



New airstrip paves the way for growth in Paramakatoi Village

PARAMAKATOI AIRSTRIP TRANSFORMED

The Amerindian Village of Paramakatoi in Region Eight now enjoys safer and more reliable air travel following the completion of major upgrades to its airstrip. The project has transformed the former laterite runway into a modern paved facility, featuring a 2,500-foot-long, 50-foot-wide concrete

runway reinforced with British Reinforcement Concrete (BRC) mesh for durability and long-term safety.

A 100-by-100-foot tarmac has also been added, providing a designated parking area for aircraft and improving operational efficiency. The upgraded airstrip is expected to enhance access for

residents, support emergency flights, and boost tourism, opening new economic opportunities for communities in the North Pakaraimas.

Constructed by International Import and Supplies at a cost of \$799.7 million, the airstrip is part of the government’s broader efforts to

improve hinterland transport networks and promote sustainable development. For Paramakatoi residents, the transformation is a lifeline connecting the community to healthcare, tourism, and regional opportunities, improving quality of life across the village.



Essential institutions in even the most remote villages are now connected

For the first time in Guyana’s history, every indigenous community now has access to high-speed internet, opening

a world of opportunities for hinterland residents. The milestone comes as the Office of the Prime Minister, through

EVERY INDIGENOUS VILLAGE NOW ONLINE

the National Data Management Authority (NDMA), completed the roll-out of the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) WiFiGY service to all 253 indigenous villages.

The initiative, launched in Kamwatta Village by Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, has transformed the lives of more than 135,000 residents across Regions 1–10. From schools and ICT hubs to health centres and community

spaces, essential institutions in even the most remote villages are now connected.

For communities like Annisbisi (Red Hill), this means 24/7 internet access for the first time. Students can join virtual classrooms and access the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), while entrepreneurs can explore new business opportunities online. Telemedicine now allows remote medical

consultations, bridging gaps in healthcare, and villagers can receive government services digitally without traveling long distances.

“This is more than a technical achievement; it is about people and opportunity,” Prime Minister Phillips said, praising the collaboration of government agencies, regional leaders, Village Councils, and technical teams. “Every child, every family, every

entrepreneur now has a pathway to skills, knowledge, and growth that were once out of reach.”

The WiFiGY rollout represents a historic step toward digital inclusion and equity, ensuring that even the most remote corners of Guyana are part of the country’s journey toward learning, innovation, and economic opportunity.



President Ali speaking with the media

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has underscored that the extradition case involving Azruddin Mohamed and his co-accused will proceed strictly according to due process, expressing concern over public statements that suggest otherwise.

Speaking at the RDC

EXTRADITION CASE WILL FOLLOW DUE PROCESS, NOT SPECULATION - PRESIDENT ALI

swearing-in ceremony, the President responded to Mohamed's remark that the extradition process could take "five years or more."

"I don't know why he believes he is in charge of the court," President Ali said. "Making a definitive statement like this is concerning to me, and I am sure it is concerning to the judiciary."

The President noted that comments implying knowledge or influence over the judicial process risk undermining public confidence. "He is speaking as if he can predict a system's outcome. That is concerning for all of us," he said.

Clarifying the role of the local courts, President Ali explained that the magistracy is not determining guilt

or innocence. "The court's job is to decide whether there is sufficient evidence that constitutes a crime in the United States to justify extradition," he said.

He also reminded the public that a U.S. grand jury has already reviewed the evidence and found sufficient grounds for the extradition request. "All documents relating to the crime have

been submitted to the court. The grand jury has determined there is enough evidence for extradition," President Ali stated.

Reaffirming his administration's commitment to the rule of law, the President concluded: "We believe in due process. They are getting that due process, and we now await the completion of the proceedings."

DPI DIRECTOR DEFENDS GOVT'S RECORD, URGES GUYANESE TO LOOK BEYOND POLITICAL MISINFORMATION



Director of the Department of Public Information (DPI), Edward Layne, has

pushed back strongly against statements from the We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party, saying the group is trying to mislead Guyanese about the government's commitment to supporting families and communities.

Layne said WIN and its leader, U.S.-indicted businessman Azruddin Mohamed, are attempting to claim credit for grants, incentives, and

subsidies that the PPP/C Government has long planned and publicly committed to. He described the narrative as an attempt to confuse citizens who rely on these programmes.

"You and your party don't need to pressure the PPP/C Government into anything," Layne said. "We have a long history of honouring our commitments and looking out for

the interests of all Guyanese."

He noted that President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has already reaffirmed that every grant and incentive announced will be delivered on schedule. These measures, he said, are part of a larger vision to uplift families, not political bargaining tools.

According to Layne, WIN's focus on cash grants alone overlooks

the government's broader approach to improving everyday life. He referenced the President's recent outline of investments meant to ease burdens on households: better access to quality healthcare, expanded education support such as free textbooks and school feeding programmes, affordable home ownership initiatives, reduced interest rates, and small

business loans and grants available without collateral.

Layne encouraged Guyanese to look beyond the noise of political back-and-forth and recognise the real benefits they see in their communities, from improved roads and schools to support programmes helping families meet daily needs.



The Ministry of Natural Resources is making it easier for local businesses to participate in Guyana's booming petroleum sector. Starting January

2026, the Local Content Secretariat will operate under a clear, structured timeline for reviewing and approving applications for local content certification,

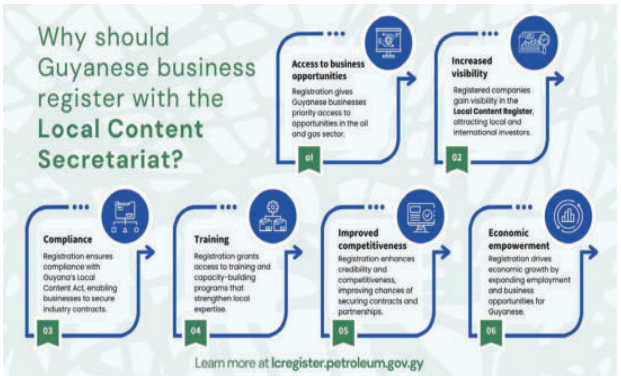
FASTER LOCAL CONTENT APPROVALS TO BOOST GUYANESE BUSINESSES IN PETROLEUM SECTOR

ensuring faster, more predictable processing.

Under the new system, sole proprietorships and landlords will have new applications processed in just five working days, while renewals will take three. Fully Guyanese-owned companies and partnerships can expect approvals within 15 days for new applications and 10 days for renewals. Other companies will have new applications processed within 21 days and renewals within 15.

To support businesses further, the Ministry has launched the Local Content App, connecting suppliers directly with contractors and subcontractors, and an online portal will soon allow applications to be submitted digitally, making the process faster and more convenient.

For entrepreneurs, farmers, and small business owners looking to expand into the petroleum supply chain, these updates represent a tangible



opportunity to grow their businesses, create jobs, and contribute to national development. By simplifying access to approvals, the government is ensuring

that local talent and resources can fully participate in one of Guyana's fastest-growing sectors.



President Ali's administration is putting systems and safeguards in place to protect citizens

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to investing in national security and adopting measures to reduce threats from terrorists and their sponsors, creating a safer environment for citizens.

"All over the world, you have wicked people

PRESIDENT ALI VOWS STRONGER MEASURES TO PROTECT GUYANESE FROM TERRORISM

and wicked architects of terrorism. So, your system has to be consistently vigilant," President Ali said at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre. "We are strengthening our system, building it out to be more responsive and proactive. With every investment we make, the threat lessens. That is what we have to do, make the investment

that minimises the threats."

When asked for an update on the terrorism case stemming from the Mobil Gas Station bombing on Regent Street, Georgetown, the President stressed that the matter remains before the courts. "I'm waiting to execute whatever the court orders and whatever is required of me," he said.

President Ali did

not shy away from condemning the attack, which resulted in death and injuries. "I believe very strongly that any person who commits a terrorist act in this country, causing the death of people, should face the most extreme hand of the law. In this case, the law provides for the death penalty," he stated.

The President noted that his administration

continues to monitor the court proceedings closely while.

"These measures are not just about responding to threats, they are about creating a society where people can live, work, and thrive safely," he said, highlighting the government's unwavering commitment to national security.

NATIONAL GENDER SEAL LAUNCHED TO MAKE WORKPLACES SAFE AND INCLUSIVE

Workplaces across Guyana are set to become safer and more equitable. The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security has launched the National Gender Equality and Empowerment Seal, a bold initiative to tackle gender-based inequality and violence at work.

The launch, held at Roraima Duke Lodge, brought together government officials, private-sector leaders, and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, explained that the seal is more than policy, it is a practical programme with measurable standards for organisations to follow.

“This gender seal ensures workplaces are not just compliant on

paper, but genuinely safe and inclusive for everyone,” Dr. Persaud said. She emphasised that true empowerment involves everyone, including men and boys, highlighting that workplace equality is a shared responsibility.

Guyana is the first country in the Caribbean to adopt a UNFPA-supported national certification programme addressing Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH). The seal sets clear expectations for employers to prevent harassment, protect employees, and promote a culture of dignity and respect.

Dr. Persaud called on organisations across the public and private sectors to commit fully to the programme, stressing that lasting change requires consistent effort and collaboration.

“The National Gender Equality and



Guyana sets Caribbean precedent with launch of workplace National Gender Equality and Empowerment Seal

Empowerment Seal is a major step forward for workplace safety, dignity, and opportunity. It positions Guyana as a regional leader in

gender equality and shows that every worker deserves a safe and fair environment,” she concluded.

OPERATION CLEAR-UP DELIVERS RELIEF TO LONGTIME MOCHA ARCADIA AND BELVEDERE SETTLERS

Families in Mocha Arcadia and Belvedere North are celebrating a long-awaited milestone as the Government advances its Operation Clear-Up initiative, bringing security, stability, and formal land ownership to longtime settlers.

In Mocha Arcadia, the Ministry of Housing, through the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), began issuing Allocation Letters and Agreements of Sale on November 27–28, 2025. Director of Community Development, Gladwin Charles, presented documents to beneficiaries, providing peace of mind to families who have lived without formal titles for years.

Jocelyn Ambrose, a resident, praised the transparent process and Ministry support. **“We worked together and it was good all the time,”** she said, noting

the relief it brings her family. Occupation of the area began roughly ten years ago, with squatting increasing between 2015 and 2020. Of 104 lots, 68 are occupied, and 36 have met eligibility requirements for allocation.

In Belvedere North, Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, announced progress in regularising the Old Housing Scheme, developed in 1997. Of 35 lots, 20 families will receive formal titles, while nine households under a high-voltage power line will be safely relocated.

Minister Croal assured residents that Agreements of Sale will be signed soon once final plans are recorded. For families who have lived on these lands for over a decade, these efforts bring dignity, security, and the reassurance that their homes are truly their own. Other communities, including Port Mourant Block 6,



Minister of Housing, Collin Croal meeting with the residents in Belvedere North

continue to benefit from the Ministry’s systematic land regularisation efforts, highlighting the Government’s commitment to transforming informal settlements into sustainable, formalised communities.



Four women and ten men received their certificates

Residents of St. Cuthbert’s Mission along the Soesdyke Highway are celebrating new opportunities after completing the Board of Industrial Training’s (BIT) electrical installation programme. Four women and ten men received their certificates, marking the start of a journey toward greater skills, confidence, and employability.

BIT GRADUATES FROM ST. CUTHBERT’S STEP INTO ELECTRICAL CAREERS

For Kevin Ferreira, the hands-on training was a game-changer. **“I gained practical knowledge. We always had the chance to apply what we learned, and I’m very thankful for that,”** he said, reflecting on the confidence the course has given him.

For Lovita Shuman, the programme opened doors in a male-dominated field. **“This course helped me build confidence, learn proper wiring skills, and get real hands-on practice. I’m grateful to my instructor for his support and guidance,”** she shared, proud to be stepping into a new profession.

Instructor Ricky Kisson praised the determination of the group. **“Many started with no knowledge at all, but now they can install switches, plugs, boxes... basic wiring. We had very**

good results,” he said.

BIT Chief Executive Officer Richard Maughn emphasised the wider impact of such training. **“When young people from our Indigenous villages gain confidence, skills, and employability, it strengthens the entire nation. BIT remains committed to bringing training to every community that leads to real opportunities and economic empowerment,”** he noted.

With these newly acquired skills, the graduates are poised to make a meaningful impact in St. Cuthbert’s Mission, inspiring their peers and unlocking the potential for transformative development in the village. For them, gaining a trade is more than a job, it is a powerful step toward shaping a brighter future for their community and for Guyana.

GUYANA'S BIRD GUIDES TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN NEW ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

Bird lovers and nature enthusiasts now have even more reason to explore Guyana’s rich avian treasures. The Ministry of Tourism, Industry & Commerce, in partnership with the Guyana Tourism Authority and the South Rupununi Conservation Society, has officially launched the country’s first Bird Guide Accreditation Programme – a milestone for both local guides and the growing avitourism sector.

The programme aims to raise the standard of bird guiding, enhance skills at all levels, and support job creation while promoting community-led tourism. The pilot phase began in August 2025 in the

Rupununi, with the next training session planned for January 2026.

The first group of accredited guides has now been recognised for their expertise and dedication. Among them, Ron Allicock, Wally Price, and Leon Moore achieved National Bird Guide status, while regional and local guides like Kenneth Butler and Kenneth Mandook are helping to bring Guyana’s birdwatching experiences to life.

By celebrating these passionate guides, the programme not only recognises excellence but also cements Guyana’s reputation as a world-class birding destination.



Meet the guides putting Guyana on the global birding map

GUYANA REAFFIRMS GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ON FOREST FINANCE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AT COP30



Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat, completed a series of high-level engagements at COP30

Guyana is once again taking center stage in global climate discussions, as Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, completed a series of high-level engagements at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. His presence underscored the country's commitment

to protecting forests, advancing jurisdictional REDD+, and supporting a fair, science-based energy transition. Building on President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's leadership at the World Leaders' Summit, Minister Bharrat delivered Guyana's national statement to the COP30 plenary. He highlighted the need for practical finance, technology, and international cooperation to achieve real results for developing countries, stressing that climate action must be fair, actionable, and aligned with the realities on the ground. A key focus of the Minister's programme was co-chairing the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) alongside UK

Minister for Climate, Katie White. Nearly 40 countries participated, working together to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030. Minister Bharrat welcomed new members to the partnership and underscored Guyana's success in leveraging global carbon markets to preserve its forests while investing directly into community development. "Stable, predictable finance allows countries and communities to plan for sustainability," he said. More than 20% of revenues from Guyana's jurisdictional REDD+ system support Indigenous Peoples and local communities, funding initiatives in health, education, livelihoods, and climate resilience. Minister Bharrat also highlighted

the Forest Finance Roadmap, developed in partnership with Brazil and UNEP. The roadmap provides practical pathways to scale forest finance, including the expansion of high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ credits and Brazil's proposed Tropical Forests Forever Facility. "The roadmap is clear, and the solutions are proven," he said, emphasising that global ambition must now translate into action. On energy, the Minister outlined Guyana's steps to support a just transition, including solar projects for Indigenous communities, a gas-to-energy initiative to reduce emissions, and preparatory work on future renewable energy opportunities.



Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat, completed a series of high-level engagements at COP30

He stressed that climate solutions must be grounded in science, economics, and fairness for developing countries. During his visit, Minister Bharrat held bilateral talks with officials from Brazil, Belize, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, strengthening collaboration and uniting forest nations on climate priorities.

Closing his engagement, he reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to lead by example: "Jurisdictional REDD+ works. A just energy transition is essential. Guyana will continue to demonstrate that sustainable development and climate action can go hand in hand."

GUYANA JEWELLERS TAKE BIG STEP TOWARDS GLOBAL RECOGNITION



The new association brings together jewellers, goldsmiths, gemstone suppliers, retailers, and other operators under a single platform

Guyana's jewellery sector is set to shine brighter on the global stage with the official launch of the Guyana Jewellers Association (GJA.) The initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Natural Resources in

collaboration with the Guyana Gold Board and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, forms part of the government's ongoing Guyana Gold and Jewellery Development Strategy Programme. The new association

brings together jewellers, goldsmiths, gemstone suppliers, retailers, and other operators under a single platform, aiming to raise industry standards, enhance competitiveness, and strengthen Guyana's reputation for high-quality, value-added gold products. By supporting export readiness and boosting consumer confidence, the GJA is poised to open doors for local artisans on international markets. Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat highlighted the significance of the launch. "This is more

than an association; it's a platform for collaboration, growth, and excellence. The government is committed to working with the GJA to develop a strong, globally competitive jewellery industry," he said. Technical Consultant Dominic Gaskin outlined the association's framework, governance, membership categories, and objectives, while inviting stakeholders to provide input on how best to support the sector's growth. During the meeting,

members elected the inaugural nine-member Board, including Chairman Gowkaran Persaud, Vice Chairman Vade Persaud, Secretary Deborah Phillipe, Treasurer Rampersaud Gopaul, and Directors Raj Persaud and Stephen Naraine, alongside three ex officio government representatives. This Board will steer the association through its initial establishment phase, focusing on industry development, standards, and export promotion. The launch drew strong participation from across the sector,

including jewellers, workshop operators, equipment suppliers, and representatives from national agencies such as the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, the Guyana Revenue Authority, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association. The formation of the GJA marks a pivotal moment in Guyana's jewellery journey, signalling the country's ambition to compete and shine on the international stage. For more information, contact lmartin@ggb.gov.gy



Great Falls residents gain clean water access

Residents of Great Falls in Region 10 and Silver Hill in Region 9 are now enjoying a long-awaited upgrade to their water supply systems, bringing clean, safe water directly to their homes and transforming daily life in these remote communities. In Great Falls, approximately 250 residents

improved water access following the commissioning of a modernised system by Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar. The \$15 million project included the development of the existing well, installation of a new photovoltaic pumping system, and rehabilitation of the trestle site. The upgrade now serves 95 percent of households, with the remainder accessing water via strategically placed standpipes. Village Toshao Sydney Allicock highlighted the significance of the project, noting that residents had previously

GREAT FALLS AND SILVER HILL RESIDENTS WELCOME NEW WATER SYSTEMS

relied on polluted river water affected by mining activities. "We are thankful to the government because they have provided this well. If we did not have this well, we would've had outbreaks of many sicknesses and diseases," he said. Similarly, in Silver Hill, a \$30 million upgrade has brought potable water to 90 percent of the community, eliminating the strenuous daily trek to the creek. The

project involved drilling a new well, installing a photovoltaic pumping system, and laying about three kilometres of distribution pipes. Lifelong resident Raffina Lund described the system as a "dream come true," while Raymond Baldwin, a resident who helped lay the network, expressed pride in the tangible impact on his community. Minister Indar emphasised that these projects form part of the government's broader

vision of closing the gap between coastland and hinterland, ensuring universal access to clean, safe water. "This is about making sure that people in hinterland communities have water they can use to cook and drink," he said, adding that GWI has drilled 131 similar wells nationwide over the past five years. The commissioning ceremonies were attended by regional officials, technical staff, and GWI representatives,

reflecting the government's hands-on approach to delivering essential services and improving the lives of citizens in previously underserved areas.



Great Falls residents gain clean water access

PM PHILLIPS URGES UG MEDICAL GRADUATES TO LEAD WITH COMPASSION AND INTEGRITY



Prime Minister calls on UG Medical Graduates to uphold ethics and empathy

As a new generation of doctors steps into clinical training, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips urged the University of Guyana's medical graduates to embrace professionalism, compassion, and ethical service, highlighting the vital role they will play in shaping the nation's healthcare.

Speaking at the White Coat Ceremony held at Pegasus Suites & Corporate Centre, Prime Minister Phillips told the graduates that the white coat symbolizes a commitment to something greater than oneself. **"This coat asks you to stand for integrity, professionalism, and compassion in every clinical space you enter. Be advocates for your patients. Be leaders in your**

communities," he said. **"Science heals bodies, but compassion heals people."**

Acknowledging the dedication and sacrifices required to reach this milestone, he reminded the graduates to appreciate the support of family, lecturers, mentors, and colleagues. He also celebrated the

University of Guyana's School of Medicine on its 40th anniversary, noting that over 450 doctors have been trained since 1985, making the institution a cornerstone of Guyana's healthcare development.

Prime Minister Phillips highlighted the historic moment in which the graduates are entering their

clinical training. Over the past five years, the Government has constructed 12 hospitals, 25 health centres, and five regional drug distribution hubs while upgrading over 400 facilities nationwide. Hundreds of doctors, more than 500 nurses, 1,900 nursing assistants, and nearly 400 community health workers have been employed to strengthen the workforce.

He also noted the introduction of telemedicine, with over 80 sites connecting hinterland communities to specialists, and outlined ambitious plans for the next five years, including state-of-the-art hospitals in every region, AI-

driven diagnostics, fully integrated digital health systems, and training for at least 6,000 nurses.

"You are entering a profession in a country that is ready to receive you, support you, and grow with you," Prime Minister Phillips said. **"Your journey is part of Guyana's collective movement toward a healthier, more equitable, and more compassionate future."**

With the healthcare system expanding at an unprecedented pace, the Class of 2025 is now poised to make its mark, not only as doctors but as leaders, advocates, and champions of care for all Guyanese.



New doctors enter workforce at transformative moment for healthcare



Consultant Cardiologist and Presidential Advisor on Science and Healthcare Modernisation, Dr Mahendra Carpen

Guyana is fast-tracking the transformation of its healthcare system, adopting a **"leapfrogging"** strategy designed to bypass outdated models and deliver faster, more effective care to citizens.

Consultant Cardiologist and Presidential Advisor on Science and Healthcare Modernisation, Dr Mahendra Carpen,

explained that the country's unique circumstances demand accelerated development across all sectors, with healthcare at the forefront.

"Healthcare is central to our lives. To catch up with global standards, we need to move quickly, using the tools and technology we already have," Dr Carpen said.

Leapfrogging, he explained, involves using modern technology and targeted investments to leap directly to advanced systems of care rather than gradually upgrading older ones. Guyana's strategy is built around four pillars: infrastructure, human resources, technology, and data-driven research.

Across the

country, new health centres, hospitals, and community clinics are rising, providing citizens with better access to care. Dr Carpen also highlighted recreational facilities, noting that healthy lifestyles are part of overall well-being.

Equally vital is the training of healthcare workers. Beyond doctors and nurses, technicians, community health workers, and medex personnel are being prepared to provide high-quality care. Partnerships with international organisations are helping to identify gaps and maximise resources, ensuring that training and investments have

TECH-DRIVEN HEALTHCARE BRINGS FASTER, SMARTER CARE TO GUYANA

the greatest impact.

Technology is central to the leapfrogging approach. Mobile apps, smart devices, and

essential health records, enabling patients to access care seamlessly across regions, or even abroad, with their

use, and optimising logistics, shortages can be avoided, and resources deployed efficiently.

Dr Carpen stressed that these pillars are interconnected, with each contributing to a healthcare system that is more responsive, resilient, and people-focused. **"Ultimately, this is about delivering better health outcomes for every Guyanese, wherever they live,"** he said.

With this approach, Guyana aims not only to modernise healthcare but to ensure that citizens experience tangible improvements in access, efficiency, and quality of care.



An internal view of one of the new modern health facility

artificial intelligence are helping patients track health, manage appointments, and understand their medical needs. The upcoming digital ID system will store

medical history available instantly to doctors.

The fourth pillar, data and research, strengthens the system's management. By monitoring inventory, predicting medication

TWO-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAMME YIELDS 113 NEW MIDWIVES



113 midwives graduate, ready to serve urban and hinterland communities

A new cohort of 113 midwives graduated from the Ministry of Health's Health Sciences Education (HSE) Midwifery Training Programme, marking a milestone in Guyana's efforts to strengthen maternal and newborn care.

The two-year programme blends classroom instruction with hands-on clinical experience, ensuring

graduates are equipped to provide high-quality care to women and newborns across the country. For many students, completing the programme represents both a personal achievement and the chance to serve their communities in a vital health role.

The Government of Guyana continues to offer full scholarships for the programme, which features two pathways: the 24-month Urban Midwives Programme for individuals with

no prior health sector experience, and the Post Basic Midwifery pathway for Nursing Assistants or Registered Nurses seeking advanced training.

By empowering this new generation of professionals, the programme aims to improve maternal and child health outcomes, ensuring that both urban and hinterland communities have access to skilled and compassionate midwives.



113 midwives graduate, ready to serve urban and hinterland communities

NEW FARMING FACILITY TO EMPOWER PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES IN AGRICULTURE



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, addressing the South Rupununi District Council meeting

A farming facility dedicated to Persons Living with Disabilities (PWD) is set to open in Guyana, offering new opportunities for meaningful work, skill development, and independence. Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha announced the initiative during his visit to Karaudarnau in the Deep South Rupununi.

“This will be a modern farm for people with disabilities so they can earn for themselves,” Minister Mustapha said, stressing that the project is not a welfare programme but a long-term empowerment strategy.

“It will be operated only by persons with disabilities, giving them meaningful economic participation and dignity.”

The state-of-the-art facility, being developed through the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), will feature fully accessible infrastructure, disability-friendly tools, and a safe environment where PWD can grow crops, acquire agricultural skills, and generate independent income. For many individuals who have the skills but lack opportunities, this farm

represents a chance to turn their talents into a livelihood.

Beyond the farming facility, the ministry is transforming GSA into a Centre of Excellence, equipped with advanced technology labs, climate and weather forecasting rooms, and training spaces for new and emerging farmers. International partners are supporting these developments, ensuring that modern agriculture in Guyana is inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.

The initiative aligns with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s

national mandate that every agriculture project must include at least 35%

Mustapha told attendees at the South Rupununi District Council meeting.



Residents at the meeting

women and youth while creating opportunities for vulnerable groups.

“We want everyone to have the chance to participate,” Minister

“This farm will give persons living with disabilities the opportunity to learn, to work, and to earn...just like anyone else.”

SOUTH RUPUNUNI FARMERS SEE GOVT SUPPORT TURN PROMISES INTO ACTION



Equipment, tools and farming supplies were handed over to the communities

Voices of everyday farmers took centre stage in Karaudarnau, where Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha and Minister of Amerindian Affairs Sarah Brown-Shadeek met with residents from over 20 South Rupununi communities. The South Rupununi District Council meeting highlighted the real challenges villagers face,

from limited market access to transportation and water infrastructure needs.

Patrick Gomes, who works with more than 21 villages, emphasised the importance of water to local livelihoods. **“Water is life. Without water, nothing can prosper,”** he said, stressing that large-scale plans will fail without proper irrigation, environmental safeguards, and protection against pesticides contaminating rivers. Gomes also highlighted the region’s potential for legumes, fruits, and long-life crops, calling for stronger collaboration with the Guyana Marketing Corporation to help farmers preserve

and sell what they grow.

Barnet Fernandez shared the progress women’s and youth groups have made through local agricultural initiatives, including the village’s hot-meal programme. Fernandez urged small grants to expand livestock and



Equipment, tools and farming supplies were handed over to the communities

packaging projects, noting that these groups are ready to scale up with reliable transport and

supply chains.

Responding to these concerns, Minister Mustapha reiterated the government’s commitment to transforming agriculture in Region Nine and linking local efforts to national food-security goals. **“We are here**



Equipment, tools and farming supplies were handed over to the communities

ready to deliver tangible results,” he said.

Key commitments included two new excavators for sub-districts, solar-powered cold storage facilities, expanded shade houses, drought-resistant crops, and investments in peanuts, cassava, fruits, and honey processing. Ministers also handed over tractors, water

pumps, beehive boxes, chickens, and farming supplies to empower local communities and support sustainable growth.

Minister Mustapha concluded, **“Guyana is the only country that can feed its entire population without importing food ... and Region Nine is essential to that vision.”**

LINDEN FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND AND INNOVATE AMID RISING DEMAND



The meeting with the farmers at the Christianburg Community Centre

Linden farmers are being urged to embrace new opportunities and scale up production as the region’s agriculture sector prepares for significant growth. Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha met with residents at the Christianburg Community Centre

to discuss upcoming initiatives designed to empower farmers and boost local food production in Region Ten.

Highlighting the growing importance of agriculture in Linden, Minister Mustapha pointed to key investments already

underway, including a state-of-the-art hydroponic facility that actively engages youth in modern farming techniques. He said the facility reflects the government’s commitment to involving women and young people in food production, aiming for at least 38 percent participation in the sector.

Farmers were encouraged to increase output to meet the rising demand from major companies interested in partnering with the ministry. Minister

Mustapha also confirmed that the Naibingi Association’s request for a new shade house has been approved, while the region’s agro-processing facility is set to operate daily, creating more value-added opportunities for local producers.

Livestock farmers received a boost as the minister revealed plans to actively develop a Black Belly sheep brand locally, while efforts to expand milk production in Moblissa promise to open new economic opportunities for Linden residents.



The meeting with the farmers at the Christianburg Community Centre

“Farmers in Linden now have the tools, support, and partnerships to innovate and grow,” Minister Mustapha said. **“We are committed to making agriculture a pathway to prosperity for everyone in Region Ten.”**

The engagement ended with a strong message of collaboration, as the minister urged residents to take full advantage of the support offered, embrace innovation, and help drive the region’s agriculture sector forward.



Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony addressing the conference

Guyana stands in a stronger position than many countries in the region to combat HIV, with its entire national response; testing, treatment, and viral load monitoring, fully funded by the Government of Guyana. Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony highlighted this progress, noting that the country's investments, including

nearly US\$500,000 in advanced viral load testing equipment, ensure that every person on treatment can be properly monitored and supported. **"Once someone becomes virally suppressed, they cannot transmit HIV,"** Dr. Anthony reminded, stressing that Guyana's improved diagnostic capacity is

GUYANA'S STRENGTHENED HIV SYSTEM FACES FRESH CHALLENGE OF RISING CASES

saving lives and helping the country stay on track to eliminate HIV as a public health threat by 2030.

He delivered these remarks at the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Conference, held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Liliendaal, and hosted by the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour. This year's theme, **"Embracing the Fight Against Discrimination in the Workplace,"** brought together employers, civil society partners, and health

officials to strengthen implementation of Guyana's updated HIV Workplace Policy.

D e s p i t e these significant advancements, Dr. Anthony cautioned that the human element; behavioural change, remains the hardest challenge. **"The tools are available; the medication is available, but knowledge alone does not always translate into safer behaviour,"** he said.

Recent UNAIDS data show that Guyana recorded **449 new HIV infections in 2024,** with young adults in their

twenties accounting for a significant portion. **"This rise is alarming, especially since so many of these infections could have been prevented,"** the Minister noted.

Stigma is another major barrier, with many people still avoiding clinics out of fear of being seen. To offer greater privacy, the government has introduced HIV self-testing kits nationwide. Dr. Anthony also raised concerns about mother-to-child transmission, which he described as entirely preventable if pregnant women accept treatment.

Looking ahead,

Guyana is exploring long-acting injectable PrEP, a single-dose prevention option that could offer long-term protection once made affordable through partnerships.

Dr. Anthony urged the public to take charge of their health. His message was firm yet compassionate: **"You must know your status."** Free testing and treatment are available across the country, and he appealed to Guyanese to use these services for their own wellbeing and for the people they love.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS RECEIVE LIFELINE THROUGH SPAR PROJECT

Vulnerable Guyanese are now benefiting from strengthened mental health support thanks to the SPAR Project: "Safeguarding the Human Dignity and Rights of Populations At Risk for Ill-Mental Health Across Guyana." The initiative, launched in 2022, concluded its activities with a closing ceremony at the Guyana Marriott Hotel.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, praised the collaboration between the Government of Guyana, the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF), and the Government of Canada. **"This project has brought meaningful support to communities across the country,"**

he said, noting that a network of trained gatekeepers now assists those at risk with guidance, early intervention, and referrals.

Funded with CAD\$2.9 million from Global Affairs Canada, the SPAR Project focused on reducing stigma, expanding community-based

services, and promoting mental health literacy. Its achievements complement recent reforms, including the replacement of outdated 1934 legislation with a modern, rights-based framework.

Dr. Anthony emphasised the importance of compassionate care, highlighting that mental health services must be



Scene from the closing ceremony for the SPAR project

progressive, inclusive, and accessible. **"For decades, we relied on laws that used terms like 'lunatics' and 'asylums,' language we would never accept today,"** he said. The Minister

expressed hope that the SPAR Project's impact will continue to improve awareness, support, and outcomes for vulnerable populations across Guyana for years to come.



Cutting-edge dental technology now available to Guyanese patients

Guyana is setting a new standard in dental care and training with the commissioning of two cutting-edge facilities at the Cheddi

Jagan Dental Centre: a Dental Simulation Lab and a Dental Digital Lab. The Dental Simulation Lab, equipped with 15

advanced dental simulators, allows Dental Therapists and Dental Surgery students to gain hands-on experience in Endodontics, Periodontics, and Restorative Dentistry. Replacing decades-old equipment, the lab ensures that students are better prepared to deliver high-quality care across the country.

Complementing this is the Dental Digital

Lab, featuring Digital Intraoral Scanners and 3D printers that produce crowns and bridges in-house. The technology reduces production times from weeks to just 2-3 days, with same-day service for urgent cases. Most importantly, all digital dental services are provided free of cost, saving patients thousands of dollars, previously, a single crown could cost around

\$150,000.

For students, the labs offer unparalleled training opportunities. For patients, they mean faster, more accurate, and affordable dental care. Together, these facilities reflect the Ministry of Health's commitment to modernizing dental services while empowering the next generation of dental professionals in Guyana.



Cutting-edge dental technology now available to Guyanese patients

BRIDGE SAFETY AFFIRMED AS MINISTRY REVIEWS PROPERTY CONCERN

The Ministry of Public Works has reassured residents that the new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge remains safe, following reports of property damage at a home in Peter's Hall.

The Ministry confirmed that an official report of the damage was made via its WhatsApp Hotline on November 21, 2025.

Engineers contacted the homeowner, Ms. Roshan, and a joint inspection with contractor representatives was conducted on November 25.

Ms. Roshan explained that the damage had developed over the past two years during her home's construction, prior to the bridge's opening on October 5. She had

not reported the issue earlier, intending initially to manage repairs herself, but rising costs prompted her to raise her concerns on social media.

The Ministry stressed that residents were engaged throughout the bridge project, including consultations and distribution of informational flyers. It reaffirmed that there is

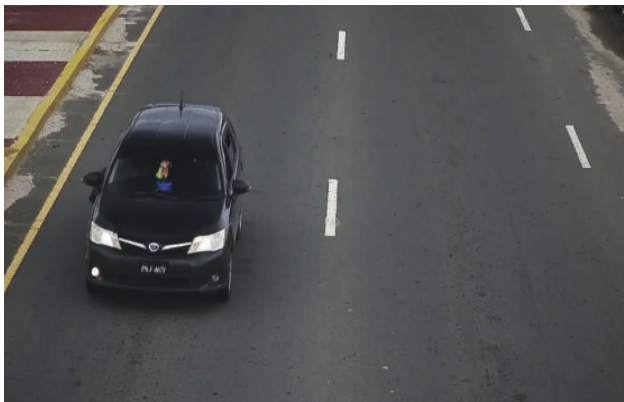
no evidence linking the bridge to the property damage.

The Ministry urges residents to report grievances promptly during designated periods to ensure timely evaluation and resolution, while continuing to affirm confidence in the bridge's construction.



The new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge

GPF MOVES TO COURT ACTION AS AUTOMATED TICKETING SYSTEM HITS 42,000 FINES



The automated speed ticketing system was officially implemented on April 7 to detect and issue tickets for speeding violations

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) is stepping up enforcement against motorists who ignore speeding tickets following the successful rollout of the Automated Speed Ticketing System.

Senior Superintendent Mahendra Singh, stressed that the GPF is now taking legal action against chronic offenders who fail to pay fines or appear in court. **“The system has proven its effectiveness in reducing dangerous driving. But enforcement must go hand in hand with compliance. We urge all motorists to pay their fines and obey the law,”** he said.

The automated system, part of the Safe Road Intelligent System (SRIS) Project in partnership with the National Data Management Authority

(NDMA), uses radar sensors, high-definition cameras, and licence plate recognition, generating tickets automatically and linking data directly to courts and revenue agencies. Authorities say the platform removes human error, bias, and excuses from enforcement, ensuring all drivers are treated equally.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali described the system as a **“cultural shift”** in road safety. **“We have the tools, we have the technology, and now we must build a culture of**

responsibility,” he said, noting that speeding remains the leading cause of fatal accidents in the country.

Between January and June 2025, Guyana recorded 54 fatal road accidents, resulting in 58 deaths, with speeding responsible for 48 of these crashes. With the roadway network expanding rapidly, authorities emphasise that technology-driven enforcement is vital to curb reckless driving and protect lives.

Motorists with outstanding fines are strongly urged to check their status at speed.gpf.gov.gy and pay

promptly via the MMG app or authorised agents to avoid court action. The GPF warns that failure to comply could lead to arrest warrants, licence suspension, and additional legal penalties.

President Ali reinforced the broader goal: **“Fewer accidents, fewer injuries, and more disciplined roads.”**

As the automated system continues to expand nationwide, the GPF’s message remains clear and firm: slow down, follow the law, and ensure Guyana’s roads are safer for all.

Traffic Chief,

The government has introduced a new vehicle tinting policy that prioritises citizens’ convenience, safety, and fairness. Under the updated rules, all vehicle owners are now allowed to apply 35 per cent tint on side windows and 70 per cent on front windscreens, removing the need for the long-standing and often confusing waiver system.

Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond explained that the move is aimed at easing public frustration and eliminating opportunities for exploitation. **“On**

my first day, I encountered a large stack of tint waiver requests and numerous inquiries. The previous system caused confusion and allowed unscrupulous individuals to take advantage of citizens,” she said during an interview with the National Communications Network (NCN).

The amendment follows consultations with the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and a review of existing rules, which found no link between tinted windows and criminal activity.

NEW TINT REGULATION PUTS CITIZENS FIRST, SIMPLIFIES APPROVAL PROCESS

Minister Walrond also cited public demand, UV protection, and climate considerations as key factors in standardising the process.

The legislation, soon to be presented in Parliament, will outline compliance measures, enforcement procedures, and exemptions. Higher

levels of tint will remain available for certain groups, including government officials, diplomats, senior security personnel, and

individuals with certified medical conditions.

To ensure adherence, police officers will be equipped with tint meters for on-the-spot testing, and non-compliance will attract a \$75,000 fine.

For motorists, the new policy offers clarity, fairness, and practical protection from sun and heat, making daily driving safer and more comfortable. With simplified rules in place, citizens can now enjoy the benefits of tinted windows without bureaucratic hurdles.



Police officers directing traffic

GUYANA'S INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH OPENS DOORS FOR NEW CONTRACTORS



Small contractors signing fixed-rate road contracts

Guyana’s rapid infrastructure development is creating opportunities for small and first-time contractors, allowing more citizens to directly benefit from national projects. Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill highlighted

this during the *Starting Point* podcast, describing a **“new cadre of contractors”** partnering with the State to deliver major community works.

“It was about creating jobs, more than 30 percent of these contractors

are women,” Minister Edghill said, noting the programme empowers women to provide for themselves and their families while bridging gender gaps in the workforce.

Approximately 98 percent of these contractors received

infrastructure work for the first time through government fixed-rate road contracts, giving them a platform to gain experience, work alongside senior engineers, and develop their skills.

Since August 2020, over 2,000 new contractors have joined the industry, many from local communities. The programme also prioritises transparency, allowing residents to recommend local contractors for projects in their areas. This approach strengthens accountability and ensures that economic benefits stay within the communities.

From roadworks in Port Kaituma to

small-scale community projects nationwide, these initiatives represent opportunity, empowerment, and inclusion, helping

ordinary Guyanese take an active role in shaping their communities while building sustainable livelihoods.



Ongoing works under the government’s fixed-rate road programme for small contractors

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PRESIDENT ALI LINKS SPORTS AND SOLIDARITY WITH \$25,000 JAMAICA PLEDGE



President Ali speaking at the CASA 2025 championships reception dinner

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has tied the power of sports to regional solidarity, announcing a \$25,000 pledge to assist Jamaica as it recovers from recent natural disasters. The announcement came during the 2025 Caribbean Area Squash Association (CASA) Senior Championships reception in Georgetown, highlighting the shared responsibility and unity of Caribbean nations.

Speaking at the Royal International Hotel, President Ali recalled his recent visit to Kingston, describing the destruction as staggering and underscoring the urgent need for support. **“Those who look at Kingston cannot begin to imagine the scale of the devastation,”** he said,

noting that Guyana has already committed to repairing 200 roofs, restoring a school and police station, and dispatching essential supplies.

The government stepped in to host the championships after Hurricane Melissa disrupted plans in Jamaica, leveraging Guyana’s modern facilities and close collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the National Sports Commission, and the Guyana Squash Association (GSA).

President Ali praised the GSA for its leadership and culture of excellence, highlighting investments that have expanded

access to squash nationwide, including in hinterland communities. **“We’re investing in courts all across the country, distributing equipment in schools, community centres and villages,”** he said, emphasising that sport can unite communities and create opportunities for youth.

The new national squash complex, completed shortly before the tournament, features air-conditioned courts, athlete housing, and modern amenities to support training and regional competitions. The President stressed that the facility is designed not just for tournaments, but to serve the broader

Caribbean community.

Reflecting on the

you. And above all, let it strengthen the Caribbean family



Guyana stepped in to host the championships after Hurricane Melissa disrupted plans in Jamaica

growth of squash across the region, he lauded CASA for fostering friendly competition, shared identity, and a tradition of excellence. **“Let this championship be the one that creates history for you,”** he said. **“Let it elevate**

gathered here.”

The tournament, held at the National Racquet Centre on Woolford Avenue, Georgetown, ran from November 23rd to 30th, marking a milestone in both regional sport and Caribbean unity.

PRESIDENT’S VISION BRINGS HINTERLAND GIRLS TO NATIONAL STAGE



Hinterland youths take centre stage in Women’s Cricket Tournament

A historic day unfolded at the Lusignan Cricket Ground as the Hinterland All Stars women’s cricket team made their national debut, giving young athletes from remote communities a chance to

shine.

The team is the first of its kind, created under President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s vision to ensure hinterland talent is scouted, trained, and given equal opportunities as coastland athletes.

For many players, simply walking onto the field in national colours was a dream come true.

“One of the most exciting parts is showing that we can improve...not only in the village, but outside,” said a player after days of intense training ahead of their match.

Lisa Turrell, from Region Seven, described her pride in representing **“the President’s team.”** Having mostly played softball, she sees the Inter-County Tournament as a turning point for her cricket

journey. **“It feels good to be recognised by the President,”** she said. **“We hope to do our best and win.”**

Another player, who is also a teacher, called the experience a **“great opportunity,”** adding that she always gives her best in any sport.

Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Steven Jacobs, described the day as **“very historic,”** emphasising that the government is committed to bringing opportunities to every hinterland community and expanding the

programme beyond cricket.

With the President’s vision now becoming reality, hinterland youths are stepping off the sidelines and confidently

into Guyana’s national sporting arena, proving that talent from all corners of the country deserves a place on the big stage.



Hinterland youths take centre stage in Women’s Cricket Tournament

CARICOM’S KILO WALK INSPIRES HEALTHY LIVING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION



PM joins CARICOM’s Energy Awareness Walk

Before sunrise, on Saturday November 29, hundreds of participants took to the Railway Embankment road for CARICOM’s annual Regional Kilo Walk, a lively show of unity that blended healthy living with a shared commitment to

renewable energy and climate resilience.

The event saw an enthusiastic mix of government officials, youth leaders, fitness groups, NGOs, private sector partners, and families walking side by side. Their early-morning journey created

a powerful symbol of regional togetherness, with participants embracing both the physical challenge and the message behind it.

This year’s theme, **“Invest, Innovate, Sustain: Leading the Charge in Renewable Energy Frontiers,”** called on citizens to become active partners in shaping a cleaner, more sustainable Caribbean.

Prime Minister Brig. (Rtd.) Mark Phillips joined the walk, stepping in rhythm with members of the Stride592 fitness group. He said the event carried a deeper meaning beyond exercise.

“Our walk today had a powerful two-fold purpose,” he noted. **“We walked to strengthen our physical and mental health, and we walked to inspire the behavioural changes needed for a prosperous, low-carbon Caribbean future.”**

PM Phillips underscored that progress in renewable energy requires collaboration across society. **“Addressing this challenge demands participation from everyone,**

government, the private sector, communities, and individuals,” he said.

Organised by the CARICOM Secretariat in partnership with the Caribbean Centre

for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), the walk concluded Energy Month activities across the region.



PM joins CARICOM’s Energy Awareness Walk



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 107

NEW WISMAR-MACKENZIE BRIDGE TAKES SHAPE

Construction of the new Wismar–Mackenzie Bridge is progressing steadily, bringing a long-awaited upgrade to Region Ten’s transportation network. This 220-metre concrete and steel bridge will replace the aging structure that has served the community since 1967. Designed as a four-lane paved highway, it mirrors the modern style of the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge and will be a key link between Georgetown and the interior highway to Lethem. More than an engineering feat, the bridge is a lifeline for residents, offering safer, smoother, and faster travel for commuters, traders, and schoolchildren alike.



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dumpling 三全素饺子
450g
Reg:\$3.99

Smoked turkey
烟熏火鸡
Reg:\$9.99

\$5.99

EA

\$3.99

EA

\$3.99

EA

2/\$5.00

\$1.99

EA

2/\$5.00

\$7.99

LB

HOTPOT 火锅季

CHOYSCO Quail Eggs
In Water 425g
Reg:\$3.59

Pagoda Brand Lungkow
Vermicelli 50g
Reg:\$0.79

De Zhuang Hot Pot Base
Small Square 360g
Reg:\$5.99

Konnyaku Konjac Noodle
280g
Reg:\$2.99

\$2.29

EA

39¢

EA

\$4.59

EA

\$1.99

EA

Frozen fish slice 250g
黑鱼片&罗非鱼片
Reg:\$3.99

GL clams 400g
正大花蛤
Reg:\$3.99

Best Choice Beef Ribeye
Roll 大众顶级牛肉卷
Reg:\$10.99

Best Choice Lamb Shoulder
Roll 大众顶级羊肉卷
Reg:\$11.99

\$2.99

EA

\$2.99

EA

\$9.59

LB

\$10.99

LB

Enoki Mushrooms
袋装金针菇
Reg:\$2.99

King Oyster Mushroom
皇子菇
Reg:\$4.99

Poached Lotus Root
Slice 水煮莲藕片
Reg:\$3.99

Fresh Watercress
西洋菜
Reg:\$2.59

2/\$2.88

\$2.98

EA

\$2.88

BAG

2/\$2.98

RESTAURANT

Cock Brand
Sweet Chili Sauce
(3x5400g)
Reg:\$79.99

Huy Fong Chili
Garlic Sauce 3.5L
Reg:\$31.99

Redpath Fine
Sugar 20kg
Reg:\$45.99

Lee Kum Kee
Hoisin Sauce
1.75L
Reg:\$12.99

Extra Large White
Eggs 180Pcs
Reg:\$70.00

Bean Sprout
Reg:\$23.99

Frozen straight
cut fries 30lb
Reg:\$48.00

\$59.99

EA

\$22.99

EA

\$36.99

EA

\$8.99

EA

\$58.00

Box

\$19.98

BUCKET

\$39.00

Box

PINOY TASTE FILIPINO KITCHEN

PINOY TASTE Catering Order: 647-608-3130

Vegetable Spring Roll 1pc
Reg:\$2.50

Hopia Mongo 1pc
Reg:\$1.50

\$2.00

EACH

60¢

EACH

\$1.25

EACH

Asian Cuisine 亚洲美食 (Every Day Lunch Special)

Catering Order: 416-286-0893

Boodle Fight
Reg:\$26.99

Tempura 12pcs
Reg:\$9.99

Chicken Fried Rice
Reg:\$9.99

Fried Tilapia - 1pc
Reg:\$8.99

Fried Tofu
Reg:\$9.99

Stir Fry Noodles
(Pancit Bihon)
small tray
Reg:\$40.00

\$21.99

ORDER

\$8.99

ORDER

\$8.99

ORDER

\$6.99

ORDER

\$8.99

ORDER

\$35.00

Tray

SUSHI

SUSHI Catering Order: 416-281-1222

Sushi Maki Tray
62pcs
Reg:\$37.99

California Roll
Reg:\$4.59

Sushi Full Menu

\$35.99

ORDER

\$3.99

ORDER



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Restaurant On Site

Free Parking

Meeting Facilities

Breakfast Bar



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Rates are subject to 14% VAT and includes Full Complimentary Breakfast.
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HOTEL AMENITIES

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Restaurant On Site

Free Parking

Meeting Facilities

Breakfast Bar



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