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## Ali to Guyanese: Don't risk it all on Sept. 1

Guyana President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered a forceful national address on Tuesday, drawing a clear distinction between the steady, long-term development pursued by his government and the “irresponsible, short-sighted” promises floated by the political opposition.

Using the classic fable of the ant and the grasshopper, President Ali warned that Guyana’s future cannot be jeopardised for fleeting gains and reckless promises.

“We have brought you economic growth. We have brought you widespread development. We are building a social safety net – and we are doing so responsibly and stably,” the president said in a live early morning broadcast on his Facebook page.

Despite losing nearly two years of its five-year term to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ruling PPP/C administration has made significant strides in bringing about transformative changes, from record-breaking infrastructure development and free tertiary education to the largest scholarship programme in the nation’s history.

Guyanese will head to the polls on September 1, and President Ali framed the choice before the nation, declaring: “We are committed to building a Guyana for all. So, on September 1st, we either risk it all or...keep moving forward with the People’s Progressive Party/Civic. A viable country is about strong policies, good leadership, consistent leadership, trusted leadership and understanding of what is required to make our country great.”



## T&T moves to reopen oil refinery

A committee with a combined experience of 500 years of experience in refinery services is set to be appointed for the reopening of the Petrotrin refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre, south Trinidad. This was announced by Energy and Energy Industries Minister Dr Rodal Moonilal (above) during the fourth sitting of the House of Representatives on June 23.

He said the refinery requires technical, scientific, commercial, economic and contractual evaluations before the re-opening can be finalised and the government has been working with multiple stakeholders inciting the Oilfields Workers Trade Union.

This comes after Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said the government has made a commitment to see what could be done to reopen the refinery during Labour Day celebrations on June 19, after its operations ceased in November 2018 as part of the previous government's restructuring of the company.

“A lot of things have to happen at the same time. It is not simply going down there with a cigarette lighter and lighting up the flare,” Moonilal said.

“...We are now going for a quick technical assessment of that refinery then we will engage a suitable partner through a proper, open, transparent process to help us to restart in terms of the technical capabilities.

“We will engage relevant, suitable partners. We have been speaking as well with the international community in terms of what is required. We are working with our partners in the labour sector and collaborating with others so that in the shortest possible time we will have our refinery.”

He said the government is also in discussions with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry and government officials in Guyana for sourcing needed inputs for the refinery’s function such as crude oil.

Noting the importance of the cross-border gas fields, he said the government is working with authorities in the US and Venezuela to reach a common approach so that TT can eventually benefit.

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QR Code: Sushi Menu



# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 96

## PRESIDENTS ALI AND LULA DISCUSS CONNECTIVITY, FOREST PROTECTION AHEAD OF COP30

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EAST BANK RESIDENTS ACCESSING WORLD-CLASS CARE WITH  
NEW DIAMOND HOSPITAL

GUYANA STEPS ONTO THE GLOBAL STAGE WITH WORLD TRADE  
CENTRE COMMISSIONING

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# EAST BANK RESIDENTS ACCESSING WORLD-CLASS CARE WITH NEW DIAMOND HOSPITAL



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing the opening

Residents of East Bank Demerara now have access to world-class healthcare with the opening of the state-of-the-art Diamond Regional Hospital. Officially commissioned by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and other senior officials, the facility is set to serve over 40,000 people along the vital East Bank corridor, marking a major advancement in regional healthcare delivery.

Built to meet high Chinese, British, and American medical standards, the hospital offers 24/7 emergency care, comprehensive maternity and neonatal services, advanced surgical capabilities, and a wide range of outpatient clinics. With 75 inpatient beds, three operating theatres, and round-the-clock lab and diagnostic services—including CT scanners, digital X-rays,

and modern ultrasound systems—the facility sets a new benchmark for healthcare in the region.

President Ali described the investment as a commitment not only to infrastructure, but to human dignity and equitable care. **“This is about ensuring quality, efficient, equitable services, not based on income or status,”** he stated.

The Diamond facility, constructed through a partnership with China’s Sinopharm International, is part of a \$37.2 billion national initiative to develop similar modern hospitals in Lima (Region Two), De Kinderen (Region Three), Enmore (Region Four), Bath (Region Five), and Skeldon (Region Six). These facilities are part of the government’s vision to establish Guyana as a regional hub for top-tier health services.

President Ali also underscored plans to standardise new facilities with matching equipment and services to ensure consistency in care and easier long-term maintenance. **“Every Guyanese can have a minimum standard of care, regardless of which region you’re from, that is what**



Diamond Hospital is open



President Ali participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the modern facility



Diamond Hospital is open



Diamond Hospital is open



Diamond Hospital is open



The Diamond Regional Hospital was built to meet Chinese, British, and American medical standards



Diamond Hospital is open

**this government is about,”** he said.

To support these infrastructure upgrades, the government is aggressively expanding healthcare training, with a target of training 6,000 nurses over the next five years. New nursing schools have already been established in Regions Two, Six, and Ten. Technological investments, including electronic health records, AI-assisted diagnostics, and robotic surgery, are also being made to modernise service delivery. Local hospitals are now connected to international imaging and lab services, available 24/7 through global partnerships.

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony noted that the previous Diamond hospital, which served the community for

18 years, could no longer meet rising demand. Despite temporary upgrades in 2020, a new facility was deemed necessary to support the growing population. **“We’re making sure that people living on the East Bank have access not just to healthcare, but to the best healthcare,”** he said.

This transformation fulfills a key promise



Diamond Hospital is open



Diamond Hospital is open



Diamond Hospital is open

in the PPP/C’s 2020–2025 manifesto. By 2028, the government expects to have 12 modern hospitals fully operational, positioning Guyana to serve not just its citizens, but the wider Caribbean region as a premier destination for medical care.

# PRESIDENTS ALI AND LULA DISCUSS CONNECTIVITY, FOREST PROTECTION AHEAD OF COP30

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva held bilateral talks in Brasília, focusing on advancing key infrastructure projects and reinforcing global efforts to protect forests and biodiversity, particularly ahead of the COP30 climate conference.



The two presidents in discussion

President Ali was in the Brazilian capital for the Brazil-Caribbean Summit 2025, where CARICOM Heads of Government were engaging with their Brazilian counterparts on matters of shared

interest. Hosted at the Itamaraty Palace, the summit aimed to strengthen political and economic cooperation between Brazil and Caribbean nations, with a strong

emphasis on sustainable development, regional integration, and climate resilience.

A central theme of the Presidents Ali-Lula discussions was the acceleration of

critical infrastructure projects, considered essential for boosting connectivity, trade, and development across the region. Equally important was their shared commitment to forest protection and biodiversity conservation, as both leaders seek to present a united regional stance at COP30.

In addition to the presidential engagement, President Ali held a separate meeting with Sergio Diaz-Granados Guida, President of the Development Bank of

Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF). Their discussions explored avenues for development financing and strategic partnerships to support transformative projects

across Guyana and the broader Caribbean, signalling a wider push for financial mechanisms to drive regional progress.



President Ali with his counterparts at the Brazil-Caribbean Summit in Brazil

# GUYANA EYES EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA IN KEY SECTORS



PM Phillips at the Russia Day 2025 celebration

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips signalled Guyana's readiness to significantly deepen its partnership with the Russian Federation, focusing on strategic economic sectors. His remarks came during a reception hosted by

Russian Ambassador H.E. Alexander Kurmaz to commemorate Russia Day 2025.

In his address, Prime Minister Phillips extended warm greetings to the Russian Government and people, recognising the day as a celebration of Russia's

resilience, unity, and rich cultural heritage. He highlighted the enduring diplomatic ties between Guyana and Russia, which span over five decades and rest on mutual respect.

PM Phillips acknowledged Russia's historic support in education and capacity building, noting that many Guyanese have benefited from studies in Russian institutions, returning with valuable knowledge that continues to advance national development.

Looking ahead, the Prime Minister identified significant potential for expanded cooperation in key areas

such as investment, technological innovation, and environmental

bilateral relationship. He also highlighted Guyana's role as



PM Phillips at the Russia Day 2025 celebration

management, agriculture, and critical food and energy security—signalling a push toward a more diversified and robust

President of the United Nations Security Council for June, describing it as a "valuable opportunity to and

guide the Council's agenda." Key priorities under Guyana's presidency include protecting children in armed conflict, conflict prevention, and promoting international peace and security.

Expressing optimism for the future, Prime Minister Phillips affirmed, "Guyana stands ready to deepen our partnership with the Russian Federation across multiple sectors in the spirit of mutual respect and shared progress."

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, alongside government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and private sector representatives, also attended the event.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, during the inaugural flight celebration of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Guyana's aviation sector continues to soar with the announcement that Canadian airline Air Transat will launch direct service to the country in December 2025. This marks a major milestone, as Air Transat becomes the tenth international carrier to operate out

of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) in the past five years.

The announcement was made by Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, during the inaugural flight celebration of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines at CJIA on June 4, 2025. KLM is the ninth international carrier to begin service since 2020.

"June 4 marks the progress made in the aviation sector from 2020 to 2025," Minister Edghill stated. "With the continued support of the

Guyanese people, on December 16 we will welcome the tenth—Air Transat from Canada."

Air Transat is scheduled to begin operations on December 16, 2025, with twice-weekly flights—Tuesdays and Fridays—through April 24, 2026. The airline will operate using the fuel-efficient Airbus A321LR, offering modern cabins, advanced in-flight entertainment, and premium Club Class seating.

The new route will further boost connectivity between

Guyana and Canada, complementing Air Canada's own plans to introduce direct service later this year. Air Transat was recently named the 2024 World's Best Leisure Airline by the Skytrax World Airline Awards, setting high expectations for customer experience on the route.

Minister Edghill highlighted Guyana's growing role as a regional hub, thanks to its strategic geographic location and world-class air navigation services. He noted that the growing number of international



Tenth international carrier, Air Transat, to touch down in Guyana

carriers is opening new commercial, tourism, and economic opportunities for Guyana and the Caribbean.

These gains are already visible—over one million passengers arrived in Guyana in 2025, representing a 15% increase over the previous year.

Crediting the PPP/C government's ambitious vision, Minister Edghill said, "We did not just do what we promised, we did more than we promised," describing the administration as "overachievers" in improving the lives of Guyanese and driving economic growth.

## GUYANESE-OWNED ORINDUIK MARINE SERVICES TO DRIVE LOCAL CONTENT IN SUBSEA OPERATIONS

Orinduik Marine Services (OMS), a new Guyanese-owned company, is poised to become a key driver of local content in Guyana's oil and gas sector, focusing on critical subsea and diving support services.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali officially launched the OMS facility in Lusignan, calling it **"local content coming to life, not as a slogan, but as a strategy."**

Founded by Guyanese entrepreneur Harrychand Tulsi, OMS will deliver cutting-edge training in offshore safety, navigation, and subsea technology, not only to Guyanese nationals, but also to



President Ali delivering the feature address at the launching of the Orinduik Marine Services

participants across the Caribbean. The company will concentrate on Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and Diving Services—both essential to offshore installations, maintenance, and production support.

President Ali described OMS as a cornerstone of the government's plan to

build a highly skilled, homegrown workforce capable of operating and innovating in advanced technological fields. **"Sovereignty means having people who can design, operate, and innovate across all sectors,"** he stated at the Orinduik Development Incorporated Training Centre. **"This is your moment to prepare, to train, to dream, and to ride."**

He stressed that national development must be measured not just by GDP growth, but by the transformation of people through knowledge and opportunity. **"We are coming for every opportunity,"**

he said, reaffirming his government's commitment to building local companies capable of competing on the



President, Ali flanked by Orinduik Marine Services' Founder, Harrychand Tulsi; Michael Arnold, the CEO, Kenneth Vorster, the GM, and other

world stage.

President Ali credited OMS's launch to sound policymaking, particularly the 2021 Local Content Act, which mandates oil and gas operators to prioritise Guyanese hiring and skills development.

**"This didn't happen by accident. It's the result of a policy matrix that people trust,"** he noted.

economic vision.

The facility will play a vital role in subsea operations, including assembling wellheads, installing pipelines and valves, and maintaining Floating Production Storage and Offloading units (FPSOs) and marine vessels.

The launch, described as **"minimal in fanfare but maximal in significance,"** also featured remarks from Tulsi and OMS Subsea (UK) CEO Michal Arnold.

President Ali concluded by welcoming OMS as **"a partner in progress, a builder of skills, and a bridge to the future."**

## SPECIALISED OIL & GAS TRAINING PUTS 3,000 GUYANESE IN JOBS

Guyana's strategic push to integrate its citizens into the rapidly expanding oil and gas sector is delivering impressive results. Approximately 3,000 Guyanese have now received specialised training in the industry, with 99 percent of them securing employment—thanks largely to the government's local content policy and strong private sector partnerships.

At the heart of this success is the 3t EnerMech Guyana Training Centre of Excellence in Lusignan, East Coast Demerara. This facility, a joint venture among



Muarisia James from the Guyana Shorebase Incorporated

Orinduik Development Incorporated, Windsor Technologies, and 3t EnerMech, is the first local institution accredited to provide internationally recognised OPITO-certified training for oil and gas workers.

Orinduik's Chairman Harrychand Tulsi emphasised the

transformative impact, estimating that if each trained individual earns US\$3,000 more per month, the collective monthly boost to Guyana's economy could



Saffrina Viveiros, a participant who recently completed an Emergency Response Team Member training at the premier oil and gas training centre

reach US\$9 million.

The training

centre features state-of-the-art hands-on facilities, including a fully equipped welding shop, lifting and rigging stations, a technology suite, and a 14-foot deep survival pool for realistic offshore simulations.

Young trainees like Saffrina Viveiros, an Emergency Response Team Member graduate, expressed gratitude for the opportunity. **"It is great to have this training here instead of having to go to another country,"** she said.

Muarisia James, QHSSE Advisor at Guyana Shore Base Incorporated (GYSBI), praised the programme



Guyanese and participants from across the Caribbean will receive cutting-edge training in offshore safety, navigation, and subsea technology, allowing them to operate in dynamic caree

as **"excellent,"** highlighting how it **"allows Guyanese to excel in careers that were not possible before."**

Adding to these efforts, Orinduik Marine Services (OMS) recently launched a second facility offering specialised training in offshore navigation, safety, and subsea technologies. OMS aims to prepare Guyanese and other Caribbean

nationals for in-demand roles in the industry.

These initiatives form a key part of Guyana's broader national strategy, anchored by the Local Content Act of 2021. This legislation mandates oil and gas operators to prioritise developing and employing local talent, ensuring the nation's oil wealth directly benefits its citizens through skilled employment and economic growth.



This is the fourth business mission to Guyana

Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh is urging Guyana's banking sector to adopt more progressive lending practices by expanding the range of acceptable collateral beyond traditional fixed assets. This shift aims to strengthen support for the country's rapidly growing private sector.

Speaking during a

Jamaican export and investment mission to Guyana, Dr. Singh addressed long-standing concerns from businesses about banks' historic preference for land and other fixed assets as loan collateral.

**"The banking sector has historically been conservative—errring on the side of risk aversion which**

**is not necessarily bad because we want strong banks and healthy portfolios,"** Dr. Singh acknowledged. However, he emphasised the need for change: **"There is room for the banking sector to be more aggressive in lending to the Guyanese private sector."**

The Finance Minister revealed ongoing government discussions with banks to identify internal improvements

and necessary governmental support to enable a more dynamic lending approach.

Significant groundwork has already been laid with recent legislation allowing movable collateral such as equipment, inventory, and vehicles to be used as loan security.

**"We are also working to enable banks to accept financial assets like receivables and invoices for**

**discounting, which are standard practices in more advanced banking systems, and some banks have started doing this,"** Dr. Singh explained. He encouraged wider adoption, noting, **"The legal and regulatory frameworks are in place; now banks need to respond and step out of their historic comfort zone of near risk-free lending."**

Highlighting Guyana's rapid economic transformation, Dr. Singh affirmed that the government is collaborating with banks to improve business access to financing. As Guyana strives to build a diversified and resilient non-oil economy, easier credit access is critical for the private sector to expand and drive sustainable growth.

(Adapted from Newsroom Guyana)

## FINANCE MINISTER PUSHES BANKING SECTOR TOWARDS PROGRESSIVE LENDING

# APNU+AFC "POWER-HUNGRY" AND LACKING VISION - PRESIDENT ALI

## - AS FORMER OPPOSITION MEMBERS ENDORSE PPP/C



Former, Vice President and Minister of Indigenous People's Affairs, Sydney Allicock

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has dismissed the APNU+AFC coalition as "power-hungry" and directionless, contrasting the opposition's disarray with the performance and stability of his administration.

His remarks come as several prominent former opposition figures have publicly endorsed the governing PPP/C, signalling what the President sees as growing confidence in his government's leadership and results.

Speaking to reporters, President Ali pointed to these defections as clear validation of the PPP/C's track record over the last

five years. "We have demonstrated results across the country," he said. "People are comparing performance, they are seeing the progress, and they are making informed decisions to support a more progressive path forward."

He emphasised that the endorsements were rooted not in political convenience, but in "conviction and shared commitment to national development." "These are people who want to be part of a better Guyana, and we welcome that," the President added.

Among those who have aligned with the PPP/C in recent months

are former APNU+AFC Vice President Sydney Allicock, Member of Parliament Geeta Chandan-Edmond, Region Four Chairman Daniel Seeram, Region Four Vice Chairman Samuel Sandy, former parliamentarian James Bond, Dr. Richard Van-West Charles, Region Seven Chairman David Daniels (AFC), and Region Five Councillor Ismail Muhammad-Al-Cush.

Reflecting on the 2020 General and Regional Elections, President Ali accused the APNU+AFC coalition of attempting to undermine the democratic process and disenfranchise voters. "Their actions left a stain on our democratic history," he said. "We cannot afford to return to that kind of politics."

He further criticised the opposition for its continued failure to articulate a clear or unified development plan for the country. "They remain obsessed with political power rather than governance," he asserted.

In contrast, President Ali said the PPP/C's leadership is rooted in inclusivity, sustainability, and delivering for the people. "I see the PPP not just as a political party, but as a national

movement with clear policies aimed at improving the lives of all Guyanese," he stated.

**Former Minister Allicock Cites Disillusionment with APNU+AFC**

Adding weight to

all-inclusive, we had a voice," he told News Room, lamenting a loss of direction and cohesion.

Allicock described recent efforts to regroup as "unconvincing and poorly coordinated," noting that many in the

and employment. While stressing that his endorsement is a personal decision, Allicock noted that others within the opposition are also rethinking their positions. "They've recognised the direction the country



President Ali engaging media operatives on the sidelines of the Orinduik Marine Services launch

the President's remarks, former Vice President Allicock explained his decision to support the PPP/C, citing growing disillusionment with the opposition. A member of the Guyana Action Party (GAP), Allicock said that the original unity within the coalition had eroded. "When we started with [former President David] Granger, we were

opposition appeared more focused on personal ambitions than national interest. "They're watching their own presidency, not seeing the bigger picture," he said.

He praised the PPP/C administration's investments in Indigenous development, including improvements in transportation, training,

is heading. I don't want to say they've crossed over, but they're certainly rethinking."

To undecided voters, Allicock had a simple message: "Listen to those vying for leadership. Take time to make the best choice. That's what I'm doing."

# AG NANDLALL CALLS HUGHES' CLAIMS AGAINST GECOM ADVICE "POLITICALLY DRIVEN"

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, has dismissed recent allegations by Alliance For Change (AFC) leader Nigel Hughes regarding his legal advice to the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) as "misguided" and "politically motivated".

Hughes had sent a letter to GECOM Chairperson, Retired Justice Claudette Singh, arguing that Minister Nandlall's political affiliation and public stance should disqualify him from providing legal advice to the

Commission ahead of the September 1 General and Regional Elections.

However, Minister Nandlall firmly rejected these claims. "The Attorney General is not the legal advisor of GECOM," he stated unequivocally. "Nor has the Attorney General ever held himself out to be the legal advisor of GECOM."

He clarified that while the Attorney General's Chambers provides legal opinions to GECOM and other state agencies upon formal request, this does not establish an ongoing advisory relationship.

"The difference, subtle as it is, one would expect a lawyer such as Mr. Hughes to appreciate, but apparently the nuance is lost on him," Minister Nandlall asserted.

The Attorney General noted that previous Attorneys General have also provided legal input to GECOM when requested, including during politically sensitive periods. He recalled that during the 2015-2020 electoral cycle, GECOM Commissioners Vincent Alexander, Charles Corbin, and Desmond



President Ali engaging media operatives on the sidelines of the Orinduik Marine Services launch

Trotman sought legal opinions from the AG's Chambers, particularly amid the controversial 2020 elections involving

Order 60. "We never accused the Attorney General then of being GECOM's

legal advisor," he emphasised.

Minister Nandlall confirmed his office recently responded to a formal request from GECOM concerning proposed amendments to the National Registration Act. He reiterated that "offering an opinion when asked does not make the AG the legal advisor of those agencies," adding that such claims are part of a broader campaign aimed at undermining public confidence in constitutional bodies like GECOM.

# NO VOTING FOR PRISONERS, NO TOLERANCE FOR ELECTION INTERFERENCE - AG NANDLALL



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., has firmly rejected recent calls for prisoners to vote in the upcoming September 1, 2025 General and Regional Elections, while condemning what he described as “reckless” attempts to obstruct

voters at polling stations. Speaking during his weekly *Issues in the News* commentary, Minister Nandlall underscored the sanctity of the electoral process and issued a clear warning, interfering with voters on election day is a serious criminal offence. He cited Section 178 of the Representation of the People Act, which criminalises voter obstruction or disruption of election officials, punishable by up to \$5 million in fines, three years in prison, and disqualification from voting or holding office for five years.

His remarks followed the circulation of a video reportedly showing Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton encouraging polling agents to block voters

based on language use. Minister Nandlall called these statements “irresponsible,” stating, “There is no electoral system in the world that disqualifies a person from voting because of language.” He labelled such actions “discriminatory and unconstitutional” and described them as a “manifestation of xenophobia, an international offence.” He further explained that Guyana’s electoral laws provide for interpreters at polling stations, ensuring all registered electors can cast their ballots regardless of language barriers.

Turning to the prisoner voting issue, Minister Nandlall dismissed the proposal,

raised by opposition-nominated GECOM commissioners, as a

direction, or logistics to facilitate such voting. He questioned the



Guyanese waiting in line to cast their vote during the March 2, 2020 general and regional elections

“last-ditch attempt to disrupt the electoral process.” While noting there is no law explicitly barring prisoner participation, he clarified that Guyana lacks the legal framework, policy

opposition’s sudden interest, pointing out that the People’s National Congress Reform (PNC/R) never pursued prisoner voting during its time in office. “They never championed

the cause of prisoners voting during all those years... How is it, all of a sudden, three months before elections, this is an issue of some contention?” he asked.

Minister Nandlall explained that Guyana’s electoral system, inherited from British colonial rule, has historically excluded prisoners. Enabling their participation would require new legislation and significant preparation.

People’s Progressive Party-nominated Commissioner Sase Gunraj supported Minister Nandlall’s position, confirming that GECOM has already voted on the matter and prisoners will not be included in the 2025 elections.

## GECOM ENGAGES PARTIES AS ELECTION PREPARATIONS ADVANCE

With Guyana’s General and Regional Elections set for September 1, 2025, the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) is actively working to address concerns raised by political parties to ensure free, transparent, and credible polls.

Deputy Chief Elections Officer Aneal Giddings met with representatives from 16 political parties—including the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), A Partnership for National Unity (APNU),

and smaller parties like the Alliance For Change (AFC) to discuss key electoral issues.

One of the most pressing matters raised was the handling of “joinder lists” which allow multiple parties to combine votes to gain parliamentary representation. Mark DeFrance, leader of A New and United Guyana (ANUG), highlighted his party’s experience in 2020, when ANUG, the Liberty and Justice Party (LJP), and The New Movement

(TNM) shared a single parliamentary seat. However, after LJP’s Lenox Shuman and TNM’s Asha Kissoon each held the seat, Kissoon refused to relinquish it to ANUG, leaving the party without representation.

Giddings acknowledged the importance of this issue and committed to raising it at GECOM’s next statutory meeting.

“It’s a matter that needs to be addressed. At this point in time, I

prefer to be guided by the Commission’s decision,” he stated.

Another concern discussed was the presence of deceased individuals on the voters’ list. Giddings confirmed this issue is being addressed through GECOM’s ongoing claims and objections process. He urged the public to participate by reporting such cases. The claims period has concluded, and objections are set to close on Friday, June 20, 2025.

In preparation for the



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall and Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha attended as representatives of the governing PPP

reviewing party symbols, which must be approved by Chairperson Justice Claudette Singh by July 1. A revised voters’ list will be published for public scrutiny for 21

Meanwhile, the Commission is finalising polling stations and procuring essential materials. Nominations Day is scheduled for July 14.

## GECOM REVISES NOMINATION FORM TO SAFEGUARD ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Vishnu Persaud, is a statutory requirement for political parties submitting Lists of Candidates for the National Top-up, Geographic Constituency, and Regional Democratic Council lists. The revision seeks to enhance accuracy and prevent the misuse of nominators’ information.

This move follows controversy during the 2023 Local Government Elections, when several individuals alleged,

they had not knowingly signed as nominators, sparking public debate and delays in processing candidate lists. In response, the modified form now includes a prominent declaration at the top of each page to ensure nominators’ full awareness and consent.

The new declaration reads: “We the undersigned knowingly and willingly provide our particulars and append our signatures as

Nominators for the National Top-up/Geographic Constituency/Regional Democratic List of Candidates for the ..... Party.”

GECOM is urging all prospective contestants to use this revised form to avoid any ambiguity and to support efficient processing of submissions within the limited statutory period allowed for review and correction.

The updated forms

are now available online via GECOM’s General and Regional Elections 2025 resource hub at [www.gecom.org.gy/public/home/resource\\_hub](http://www.gecom.org.gy/public/home/resource_hub). Printed copies can also be obtained from the Office of the Chief Election Officer or the Office of the Public Relations Officer.

GECOM’s proactive revision reflects its ongoing commitment to ensuring a credible and transparent electoral process in Guyana.



GECOM

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has approved a revised Nomination Form aimed at bolstering the integrity and transparency of the

electoral process ahead of the September 1, 2025 General and Regional Elections.

The updated form, proposed by Chief Election Officer (CEO)



# NEW US\$18M AGRI-PROGRAMME TO REACH OVER 4,300 FARMERS ACROSS GUYANA

Guyana's agriculture sector is set to receive a major boost through a US\$18 million financing agreement signed between the Government of Guyana and the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF).

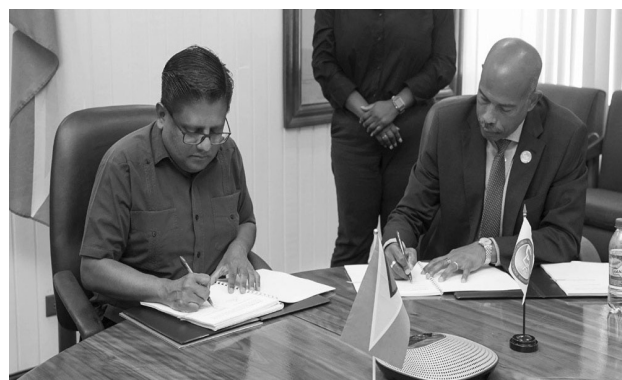
The funding will support the launch of the Agricultural and Infrastructural Development Programme (AIDP), aimed at strengthening food production and safety standards across all 10 regions. The initiative will benefit more than 4,300 farmers, with 40% of the beneficiaries being women and youth.

The agreement

was formalised at the Ministry of Finance, with participation from senior officials of the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance. Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, signed on behalf of the government and expressed gratitude to the CDF for its continued support.

Dr. Singh emphasised that agriculture remains a cornerstone of Guyana's non-oil economy. **"As a government, led by His Excellency President Irfaan Ali, we recognise the importance**

**of a strong and competitive non-oil economy, and we consider agriculture**



Guyana and CARICOM Development Fund ink US\$18 million agreement

**and agricultural products to be a principal pillar,"** he said. He reiterated the administration's commitment to making

Guyana a leader in food security across the Caribbean.

CDF CEO Rodinald

Soomer described the AIDP as a **"bold and strategic investment"** toward a resilient, productive, and inclusive regional agriculture

sector. He noted the programme's dual role, feeding Guyana and nourishing the wider region, while reinforcing Guyana's leadership in advancing CARICOM's food and nutrition security goals.

The AIDP will target key commodities such as coconuts, cocoa, coffee, peanuts, pork, honey, and vegetables. Investments will include a modern swine abattoir, the development or upgrading of 13 agro-processing facilities, and the enhancement of eight surveillance outposts to help combat threats like the carambola fruit fly.

Aligned with President Ali's leadership

role in CARICOM's agriculture agenda, the programme will support regional efforts to reduce the food import bill, enhance sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and implement climate-smart agricultural practices.

The initiative is a critical part of Guyana's broader economic diversification strategy, with agriculture playing a vital role in generating rural employment, increasing production, and adding value to select commodities in line with the country's National Strategy for Agriculture 2020-2030.

## GUYANA OUTPERFORMS REGION IN FOOD SECURITY PUSH

Guyana has emerged as a regional leader in CARICOM's "25 by 2025" initiative, outperforming other member states in efforts to reduce the Caribbean's dependence on imported food.

The Ministry of Agriculture reaffirmed Guyana's strong

the initiative's recent extension to 2030.

In response to public commentary, the Ministry emphasised that the extension is not a retreat, but a recalibration that takes into account global agricultural disruptions. The revised focus now

production, rather than relying solely on nominal reductions in import bills.

The Ministry noted that Guyana and its regional counterparts are **"price takers"** on the global food market, making the nominal food import bill an unreliable measure of progress. The Ministry advocated for tracking the **"real food import bill"**, adjusted for inflation, as a more accurate indicator. Regionally, while the nominal import bill rose by 31% between 2020 and 2024, the real increase was just 5%, with an 8% drop recorded from 2023 to 2024.

Guyana's own nominal food import bill

grew by 19.4% annually over the 2020-2024 period. However, in real terms, adjusted to 2018 dollars, the growth rate stood at 13.05%. This shows that nearly one-third of the increase was due to rising global food prices, not a rise in import volumes. Some increase was also driven by rising domestic demand, higher incomes, and the need to import non-domestically produced staples such as wheat.

Despite these external pressures, Guyana has made significant strides in agricultural output. Across the region, the achievement rate for the 2025 target has grown from 57% in 2022 to 82%



Guyana surpassed regional expectations for agricultural production



Guyana surpassed regional expectations for agricultural production

commitment to the regional goal while providing clarity on

aims to strengthen long-term food security through real increases in

market roads, processing facilities, flood protection, and advanced laboratories have laid the groundwork for long-term sustainability.

Production gains span rice, shrimp, corn, soya, coconuts, livestock, and high-value crops. The government's investments in farm-to-

in 2024, but Guyana has consistently exceeded expectations. With the highest national targets, Guyana has still managed to lead in production increases, bolstered by strong public and private investment, upgraded infrastructure, and forward-looking policies.

The Ministry reaffirmed its transparency, noting that all policy measures and food import data are publicly available. Guyana's agriculture sector is not only growing—it is setting the pace for the region's food security future.

market roads, processing facilities, flood protection, and advanced laboratories have laid the groundwork for long-term sustainability.

The Ministry reaffirmed its transparency, noting that all policy measures and food import data are publicly available. Guyana's agriculture sector is not only growing—it is setting the pace for the region's food security future.

The Ministry of Education has announced that the 2025-2026 academic year will officially begin on **Monday, September 8, 2025**, instead of the previously scheduled **September 1**. The one-week delay is to accommodate the **General and Regional Elections**, which will be held on **September 1, 2025**.

Minister of Education, **Priya Manickchand**, confirmed that all schools across the country will remain closed on election day,

## NEW SCHOOL TERM TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8 TO ACCOMMODATE GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS

as many of them will be used as polling stations. **"Schools are usually used for polling places. Election day is an important occasion to reinforce and refresh our democracy,"** the Minister stated, underscoring the importance of supporting a smooth and credible electoral process.

Minister Manickchand also assured the public that

the revised reopening date, now set for September 8, was chosen to minimise disruption to the education calendar while prioritising civic responsibility. **"We are happy to give up the schools for that important purpose of allowing people to exercise their will,"** she said, reaffirming the government's support for the electoral arrangements.

President **Dr.**

**Mohamed Irfaan Ali** had officially announced the September 1 election date during his **Independence Day address on May 26**. In addition to schools, **Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC)** offices will also be used as polling stations.

Reflecting on previous experiences, Minister Manickchand noted that schools have successfully hosted

national examinations just a day after elections in the past, and expressed confidence that this year's preparations will similarly ensure minimal disruption to students

and teachers.

The Ministry will continue to provide updates as needed in the lead-up to the start of the new school year.



The reopening of schools will be announced in due course

## STATE-OF-THE-ART CHILDREN'S COURT OPENS IN CHARITY



Scene from the commissioning of the court

A state-of-the-art children's court, a landmark initiative set to transform juvenile justice, has officially opened at the Charity Magistrate's Court in Region Two. This project, a collaboration among the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Judiciary of Guyana, and UNICEF, was completed in multiple phases to serve communities. The new court is part of a comprehensive \$72 million renovation of the existing Charity Magistrate's Court, which included building a new annex, installing fencing, upgrading electrical systems, modernising both the children's and magistrate's courtrooms, and adding new washroom facilities.



Scene from the commissioning of the court

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony and plaque unveiling. He hailed the court as the first of its kind in Essequibo County and emphasised the government's **"unwavering commitment to children,"** describing them as the nation's most valuable resource.

**"Our greatest investment is in our children,"** Nandlall stated. **"It is our duty to ensure they grow, are educated, and mature into citizens capable of reaching their fullest potential."** He highlighted the government's implementation of modern legislation on child custody and adoption, all designed to protect child welfare. He also noted Guyana's commitment as a signatory to major United Nations protocols on children's rights, alongside social support programmes like the "Because We Care" cash grant.

The children's court implements the Juvenile Justice Act of 2018, which provides clear guidelines for handling juveniles involved with the law from arrest through court proceedings and sentencing.



Scene from the commissioning of the court

**"The justice process for children must include rehabilitation and restorative justice,"** Minister Nandlall said, emphasising collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services for custodial care and child protection.

UNICEF's Representative Gabriel Vockel called the opening a **"historic milestone"** for child protection and justice in Guyana. He linked the court's

work to Sustainable Development Goal 16, which promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions. **"This court expands justice for children, ensuring their rights are upheld and their voices heard,"** Vockel said, urging continued partnership to empower and safeguard children.

Justice of Appeal

George confirmed this is Guyana's third specialised children's court, made possible through the partnership between the Government and UNICEF. Citing Article 40 of the Juvenile Justice Act, she underscored that every child must be treated with dignity and respect throughout the judicial process.

**"This court in Region Two, Cinderella County, marks a significant step in upholding the rights of the child,"** she said. **"Its digital services and child-friendly facilities align with our national vision for inclusive legal development."**

Justice George added that specialised courts will continue to be established across Guyana to ensure juvenile and adult legal services evolve alongside the country's social and economic progress.

Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Roxane George, and Region Two Chairperson, Vilma Da Silva, attended the ceremony.

*(Adapted from the Guyana Chronicle)*

Navindra Singh called the court **"truly transformational,"** highlighting its role in giving young people a second chance and a space to learn accountability. **"Children often make poor choices, but deserve the chance to rewrite their stories,"** he said. **"This court embodies our commitment to child rights, justice, and rehabilitation."**

Chief Justice Roxane

## \$200,000 GRANTS TO ELEVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD STANDARDS NATIONWIDE

Early childhood and improve childcare centres in five regions standards, thanks to government awarding enhance their facilities initiative

\$200,000 grants to 10 selected institutions. The effort reflects a national commitment

to strengthening the foundational years of Guyana's children.

Among the standout beneficiaries is Atikali Learning Lab in Ogle, East Coast Demerara. Opened less than a year ago, the centre has already gained recognition for its STEM-focused, play-based programme for children aged 15 months to five years, which includes strong outdoor learning components. Founder Quenita Walrond told DPI that the grant will go toward expanding their outdoor classrooms, creating "even better spaces for learning and growth."

In Region Two, Helen DaSilva Thompson, founder of Young Scholars Academy, expressed deep gratitude. Overcome with emotion, she said the grant

would help complete an essential outdoor space that had been stalled due to funding constraints. **"This is a big step for us as the owners of a private school,"** she shared.

Taneka Sanchara, owner of Unique's Daycare, Pre-School, and Nursery in Region Three, plans to use the funds to purchase recreational equipment to enhance her upgraded playground and further enrich students' experiences.

The grants were presented by Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, during the observance of International Day of Play. The 10 centres, located in Regions Two, Three, Four, Six, and Ten were selected based on their excellence in childcare delivery.

Minister Persaud reaffirmed her ministry's commitment to expanding the initiative nationwide until **"a level of excellence in service and human resources is achieved."** She emphasised the supportive approach being taken:

**"Those centres will not only receive the grant, they will be nurtured and guided by our team from the Child Care and Protection Agency until they can achieve excellence."**

She further noted: **"This initiative is a necessary investment, one that is welcomed by all of us because we want our children at all times to be safe and secure."**

The initiative marks another step forward in the government's efforts to ensure high-quality early childhood care and education for every child across Guyana.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud (centre) surrounded by recipients of the Child Care and Development Services Grant



Minister Vindhya Persaud handing over the cash grant to Helen DaSilva Thompson, Founder of Young Scholars Academy



Minister Vindhya Persaud handing over the cash grant to Taneka Sanchara, owner of Unique's Daycare, Pre-school and Nursery

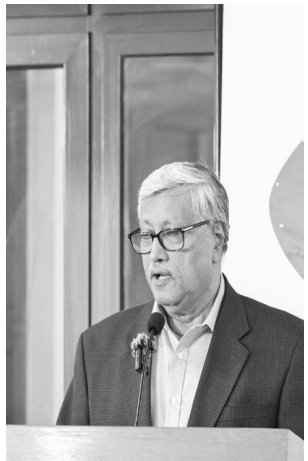


Quenisha Walrond, Managing director of Atikali Learning Lab, receiving the cash grant from Minister Vindhya Persaud

# GUYANA STEPS ONTO THE GLOBAL STAGE WITH WORLD TRADE CENTRE COMMISSIONING

A new gateway to global business has opened in Georgetown with the commissioning of the World Trade Centre Georgetown (WTCG), a modern commercial hub designed to attract investment, foster trade, and elevate Guyana's position in the international marketplace.

Located in Kingston, Georgetown, the seven-storey WTCG spans



**Demerara Distiller's Limited (DDL) Chairman, Komal Samaroo**

approximately 37,500 square feet and holds the distinction of being the first and only World Trade Centre in the CARICOM region.

Speaking at the commissioning

ceremony, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali described the WTCG as a powerful symbol of Guyana's rising global profile and its ambition to become a regional leader in trade and investment.

**"We must be humble in our development, but ready to show the world that we will embrace the highest standards and play in any league necessary for our continued growth,"** the President affirmed.

Strategically positioned, the WTCG is expected to serve as a hub for regional trade integration and economic transformation, not only for Guyana but for the wider CARICOM bloc. It forms the anchor of a broader ecosystem supporting Guyana's export readiness and industrial advancement.

A key part of this ecosystem is a modern agro-processing and food hub being developed at Yarrowkabra on the Linden-Soesdyke Highway, through a partnership with Bloomberg Greens. The facility, built to



**President Ali delivering the feature address at the commissioning of the modern World Trade Center Georgetown building**

international standards, will allow small farmers and processors to participate directly in global supply chains. It will connect local producers to regional and extra-regional markets, including Brazil and CARICOM.

President Ali stressed that the WTCG must serve businesses of all sizes, from major corporations to small enterprises, by offering the networks, tools, and global exposure needed to succeed.

**"Let this be a centre of creation and empowerment—not just for large businesses, but for small businesses taking their first step**

**into export markets,"** he urged.

To further support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the government is establishing a zero-percent special investment vehicle to co-invest with local businesses, reduce financing barriers, and attract capital. Complementing these measures are reforms to digitise Guyana's financial systems, enhance transparency,

upgrades, with President Ali projecting Guyana's aviation network will become one of the most advanced in the region within two years.

President Ali commended Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL) for spearheading the WTCG initiative. DDL acquired the World Trade Centre license in May 2022 and was praised for its foresight and alignment with national development goals.

updates to the country's copyright and intellectual property laws.

Set for official opening on October 21, 2025, just ahead of the WTCA Members Forum in New York City, the WTCG will connect Guyana to over 300 trade centres in more than 100 countries.

The commissioning was attended by senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps,



**Senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, private sector leaders also attended the event**

and improve public accountability.

The aviation sector is also being modernised through new legislation and infrastructure

DDL Chairman Komal Samaroo highlighted the centre's support for Guyana's creative economy and SMEs, noting a recent study recommending

private sector leaders, and WTCG Executive Director Wesley Kirton, who delivered the welcome remarks.

The longstanding friendship between Guyana and China has once again borne fruit with the official opening of Zia's Play Park, a new recreational space in Leonora, West Coast Demerara. This vibrant community hub is the result of a collaboration between the Office of the

## CHINA-GUYANA PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS NEW RECREATIONAL HAVEN IN LEONORA

of fruit trees, Zia's Play Park is designed to serve families from Leonora and neighbouring villages. It offers a safe and scenic environment

not just about physical infrastructure, but about creating spaces where families can enjoy a better quality of life.

**"Each time we open a park or public space, it reminds us that development is also about creating safe spaces where our children and people can relax and thrive,"** she said.

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Yang Yang echoed this sentiment, expressing pride in China's support for Guyana's progress and highlighting Zia's Play Park as a symbol of the two countries' enduring partnership.

The new park forms part of the First Lady's National Beautification Project, which has already transformed nine public spaces across Guyana, with eight more currently

under development. The initiative promotes environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and healthy lifestyles by reshaping public spaces into welcoming community environments.

In her closing remarks, First Lady Ali called on residents to care for the new facility and protect it from vandalism.

**"I hope this park brings joy to your**

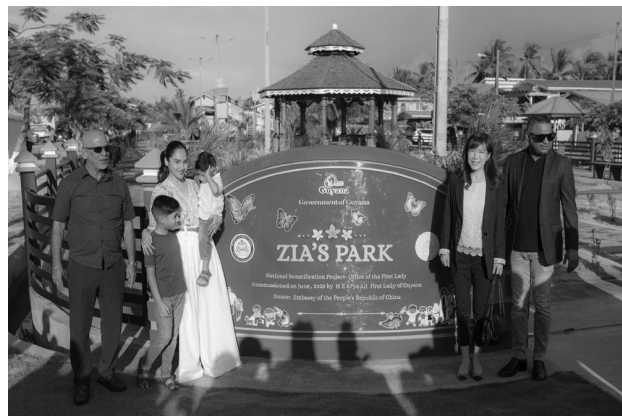


**Leonora welcomes Zia's Play Park, a new hub for families**

**children, peace to your families, and pride to the community,"** she

urged. **"You have a duty to protect and maintain it."**

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, and Region Three Chairman, Mr. Inshan Ayube, also addressed the gathering, both noting the significant and ongoing development across Region Three, with Zia's Play Park standing as a symbol of inclusive growth.



**First Lady commissions new Park in Leonora**

First Lady, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Guyana.

Outfitted with play equipment, modern washroom facilities, seating areas, a gazebo, lighting, and a variety

for relaxation, social interaction, and outdoor activity—contributing directly to community well-being.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, First Lady Arya Ali emphasised that development is



**Leonora welcomes Zia's Play Park, a new hub for families**

## NEW SCHOOLS FOR DIAMOND, HOUSTON, AND VREED-EN-HOOP

Guyana's education sector continues to advance with the launch of three new schools in Vreed-en-Hoop, Diamond, and Houston. Education Minister Priya Manickchand recently turned the sod for each project, reaffirming the government's commitment to modernising the country's education infrastructure. **"That is how you show love,"** she said, **"by preparing our children for the Guyana that is unfolding."**

### \$900M Vreed-en-Hoop School to Serve 500 Students

To be built at Crane, West Coast Demerara, the \$900 million Vreed-en-Hoop Secondary

School will accommodate 500 students. The project, awarded to five contractors, is being executed in four lots covering construction, science and technical labs, external works, and furnishing.

The modern facility will include 20 classrooms, a science centre, and a TVET centre. It will also feature full fire safety systems, including alarms, extinguishers, fire escape routes, and fire-retardant materials. Construction is expected to be completed in nine months, followed by a nine-month defects liability period.

### DIAMOND TO GAIN MODERN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sod turning for \$821M Diamond No.2 Primary School

The Diamond community will benefit from a state-of-the-art primary school, designed to accommodate at least 750 students. The two-storey structure will span two acres and feature 25 classrooms, administrative offices, a library, sick bay, and waiting area.

Constructed using lightweight steel panels, the school is built for durability—with a projected lifespan of over

75 years. The design also prioritises sustainability, with energy-efficient features such as natural lighting.

Additional facilities include an IT Research Centre, science rooms for primary-level learning, and a playfield with recreational amenities. The school will also be fitted with modern fire suppressant and retardant systems for safety.

This \$821.8 million

project follows a "Design, Build, and Furnish" model and has been awarded to RENOVESS Ltd., with completion targeted within 10 months and a one-year defects liability period.

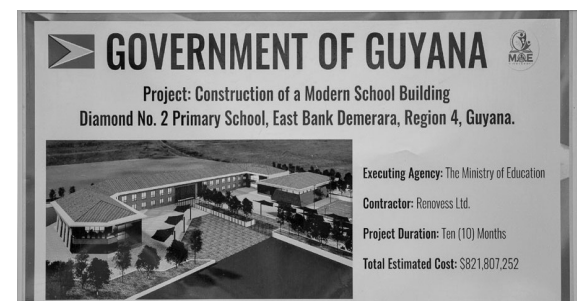
### HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL REBUILD

In Houston, the former secondary school is being demolished to make way for a modern two-storey replacement, valued at \$296.9 million. The new facility will accommodate over 400 students and include 16 classrooms, offices for the Head and

Deputy Headmasters, a waiting area, library, and counselling room.

The building will also house a Science Research Centre and an IT lab, with a design focused on energy efficiency through lightweight glass panels and ample natural lighting. Modern fire safety systems will be fully integrated.

The contract was awarded to K&S General Contracting Inc. through a competitive public procurement process. Construction is expected to be completed in 17 months, followed by a one-year defects liability period.



New \$821M secondary school for Diamond



Para Bara gets first dedicated nursery school

The remote village of Para Bara is celebrating a major milestone in education with the commissioning of its first purpose-built nursery school and a new duplex teachers' accommodation, marking a transformative step for early childhood learning in the area.

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand officially opened the facilities during a recent visit, highlighting the government's commitment to equitable access to quality education across all regions.

Previously, nursery-aged children in Para

Bara were taught in a section of the primary school. With the new facility, nursery and primary students now have their own dedicated, child-friendly spaces, a development warmly embraced by the community.

The new teachers' accommodation is already making an impact. A young teacher from the nearby village of Awarenau has moved into one of the homes, allowing for more stable and consistent education

delivery in Para Bara.

Minister Manickchand also noted her satisfaction that all local teachers are either enrolled in or preparing to begin formal training. Thanks to the new accommodation, they can now remain in their village while continuing their professional development.

She was particularly pleased that the "Libraries for Primaries" programme has reached even this deep-southern community, ensuring



Para Bara gets first dedicated nursery school

improved literacy support for young learners.

During her visit, the Minister also joined the

children for lunch, peas and rice with stewed chicken, watermelon, and swank as part of the hot meals programme.

## OVER 100 SKILLED PROFESSIONALS EMERGE FROM REGION SIX TVET PROGRAMME

A new group of 108 skilled young professionals has graduated from Region Six, poised to contribute to Guyana's rapidly expanding economy. These individuals

recently completed a rigorous four-month Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme, which began in February. The initiative was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Labour's Board of Industrial Training (BIT) and the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), aimed at equipping participants with practical, job-ready skills for high-demand sectors.

The graduating class included 88 men and 20 women, all of whom underwent 240 hours of hands-on training. Upon completion, they

received certifications in key technical areas such as: welding and fabrication, air conditioning and refrigeration, electrical installation, and motor vehicle servicing and repair.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony held at the University of Guyana Tain Campus, Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, underscored the importance of such programmes in preparing Guyanese for the realities of a booming economy.

**"You are living in an era where jobs are being created at a rate we have never seen before in this country and in this region,"** Dr. Singh told the graduates. He emphasised that while the government continues to facilitate training opportunities, it is up to individuals to apply their skills and seize emerging opportunities.

**"We will do the training... but you have to take the skills you're being equipped with, bring them to the labour market, and translate them into**



Minister Ashni Singh handing over a certificate to a graduate



Minister Ashni Singh handing over a certificate to a graduate

**an income,"** he said.

Of the total graduates, 70 trained at the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) Training Centre, while the remaining 38 attended the Upper Corentyne Industrial Training Centre. Reflecting the government's inclusive development agenda, the programme was open to participants of

all ages, backgrounds, and academic levels.

Following the ceremony, graduates had the opportunity to engage with prospective employers at an on-site job fair and exhibition, connecting directly with both private companies and government agencies—further easing their transition into the workforce.



Minister Ashni Singh handing over a certificate to a graduate

# GOAL GRADUATES ARE "LIVING PROOF" OF EDUCATION REVOLUTION - PRESIDENT ALI



President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has hailed the graduates of the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) as "living proof" of a sweeping education revolution in the country. Addressing the third GOAL graduation ceremony recently at the National Cultural Centre, the President said the achievement marked more than personal success—it signalled a national transformation rooted in opportunity, equity, and human development.

"This is a revolution in education, and every one of you is living

proof," he declared. President Ali emphasised that earning a certificate or degree is not the final step, but the beginning of a greater responsibility. "The future of Guyana does not rest on buildings—it rests in the minds, the hearts, and the hands of people like you. Guyana needs your skills, your voice, your passion," he told the graduates.

He called on them to turn their knowledge into action, by making responsible decisions, being of service, and becoming leaders in their families and

communities. "You having a higher level of education are supposed to be patrons of positivity—making better decisions for your family, your community, and your country."

The GOAL initiative, launched in 2021, was designed to eliminate barriers to higher education, especially for rural residents, single parents, and full-time workers. President Ali reminded the audience that GOAL was never just about certificates. "We were thinking about doors - access for thousands of talented Guyanese

who had never been able to walk through the doors of higher learning," he said.

Thus far, more than 39,000 scholarships have been awarded, nearly doubling the government's initial target of 20,000. Over 70% of recipients have been women, a figure the President highlighted as proof of the programmes inclusive and empowering impact.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, described the ceremony as a milestone in the PPP/C's efforts to build a knowledge-based

economy. He noted that more than 2,000 students are graduating this year alone with qualifications ranging from certificates to master's degrees.

"You are literally living in the era of opportunity in Guyana," Dr. Singh said, pointing to the rapid economic expansion across sectors such as energy, technology, health, education, and infrastructure. He noted that GOAL is part of the government's broader 2020-2025 manifesto commitment to expand access to education and support national development.

The GOAL

programme has already seen a G\$12.5 billion investment which equates to approximately G\$312,000 per student. In addition to GOAL, the government has made tuition at the University of Guyana completely free, benefiting more than 11,000 current and incoming students.

The graduation ceremony was held under the theme "Enhancing the Nation's Human Capacity" and also featured remarks from guest speaker Professor Paul Marshall, Vice President of the University of East London.



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Frozen Panga Basa Fillet 魚柳 8x3.5Lb <b>65.00 case</b>	Headless White Shrimp 無頭白蝦 21/25 10X3.6Lb <b>190.00 case</b>	Head On Shrimp 有頭蝦 30/40 6x4 Lb. <b>115.00 case</b>	Extra Large Egg 箱裝大雞蛋 <b>58.99 case</b>	Squid Brand Fish Sauce 箱裝魷魚標魚露 <b>29.99 case</b>
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# MINISTERS LISTEN, - CANDID MOMENTS FROM G

**A**s part of the PPP/C Government's boots-on-the-ground approach, Ministers visited Regions One, Eight, and Nine to meet with residents and discuss key development priorities.

These community engagements reflect the government's commitment to inclusive, people-focused governance. Residents shared concerns, asked questions, and received updates on projects across sectors.

Here are a few candid moments from these meaningful interactions.





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# PRESIDENT ALI LEADS BY EXAMPLE IN NATIONAL CLEAN-UP EFFORT

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali led another major national clean-up initiative, reinforcing his commitment to collective action and environmental responsibility.

The exercise brought together government ministers, the private sector, joint services, and citizens to enhance cleanliness across Georgetown and other parts of the country.

Government ministers fanned out to various locations, actively participating in the clean-up. This marked the 10th national clean-up exercise since the PPP/C government returned to office in 2020, reflecting a sustained push toward a cleaner and healthier Guyana.



# Region Three poised to be industrial capital of Guyana –President Ali says

FUELLED by investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and energy security, Region Three (Essequibo Islands–West Demerara) is on track to become the industrial capital of Guyana.

This was according to President Dr. Irfaan Ali during his feature address at a business networking event hosted by the Region Three Chamber of Commerce and Industry (R3CCI) on Monday evening.

He said that with supporting pillars already enforced, Region Three is being strategically positioned to be a key player in Guyana’s diverse economy.

Boasting vibrant commercial and industrial sectors, the region is well on its way to becoming a powerhouse.

“Region Three is strategically positioned with access to natural resources, agricultural strength, and proximity to major markets, including the Essequibo Coast, Bartica, and the populous Region Four, giving Region Three advantages which must be harnessed,” Dr. Ali said.

To take the region to newer heights, President Ali noted that the government has been making investments in “reliable infrastructure”, thereby ensuring that road networks, bridges, and ports are in place to support the movement of goods and services.

Concurrently, the government has also ensured that access to financing and capital services are readily available to fuel expansion and innovation to meet growing market demands.

“Your government has long recognised the need to invest in the pillars that will transform this region, and support vibrant commercial and industrial sectors, good roads, ports, airports and reliable power supply support efficient movement of goods and services,” President Ali said.

In Region Three, the government has expended tens of billions of dollars on infrastructure, excluding the new Demerara River Bridge, which is one of the country’s largest financial infrastructural undertakings.

Painting a picture of even greater prospects, Dr. Ali pointed out that upon completion of the new bridge and the gas-to-energy project, a new wave of manufacturing and agro-processing will be unlocked, placing the region at the heart of the country’s energy-led transformation.

He cited, too, the construction of a new stadium in the region that will add to the diversification of the local economy.

“Together, this development will not only spur economic growth, but will also foster a vibrant and dynamic social environment, drawing talent, tourism and opportunity from across the nation,” the Head of State said.

He pointed out that with supportive monetary policies, the government has encouraged an expansion of credit to the private sector by an increase of 62 per cent.

There were notable credit increases in mining to 25.8 per cent, agriculture at 95.6 per cent, manufacturing 57.9 per cent, and services at 60.9 per cent.

“When you look at the spread of lending, and the areas in which you’ve seen accelerated lending, it tells you about a diversified economic portfolio. It tells you about an economy in which the different sectors are stratified for more balanced growth; expansive growth, and it tells you about an economy that is rising on every single



Region Three is on track to becoming the industrial capital of Guyana

front,” President Ali said.

He noted, too, that while the government has seen greater lending in the different sectors, there has also been a decline in non-performing loans.

The non-performing loans ratio, which was 11.1 per cent in 2019 dropped to 2.7 per cent by December 2023, and 2.1 per cent last year, the

lowest in the Caribbean.

Dr. Ali said: “As we confront the next five years, we’re going to work with you on co-investment and co-financing opportunities.”

The government, he noted, will be investing in a facility that will provide interest-free loans to small and medium-sized enterprises to target the

market size, and ongoing development of the region, creating even more stimulus for commercial and business activity.

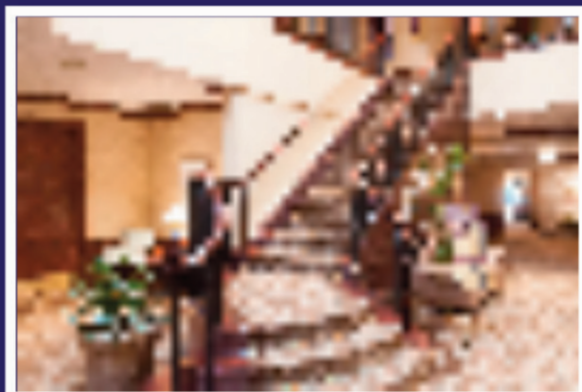
Dr. Ali, who is seeking re-election at the upcoming September 1 polls, further urged the gathering to reflect on the momentum that has been built.

He said: “From farm belt to economic powerhouse, from a gateway to destination, from promise to performance, this is Region Three’s moment, and we must seize it.”

In closing, he said: “We have seen in the previous [APNU+AFC] government what economic impact, social impact, the region would have undergone because of a government that did not understand the economic structure of this region... Because of a government that did not care about the economic structure of this region, once vibrant communities were set on the bread line of poverty because of poor governance, poor policies, and an inability to understand how the economy of the region works.”

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# LIFE-CHANGING WATER ACCESS SOON FOR RED HILL, HOBODEIA, AND OTHER COMMUNITIES



Brian Sucre Junction gets first access to clean water with commissioning of \$35M System

Thousands in Guyana's hinterland are set to benefit from first-time or improved access to clean water, as the government intensifies its nationwide push to bridge water access gaps. Recent ministerial visits to Regions One (Barima-Waini) and Eight (Potaro-Siparuni) have unveiled a wave of new wells and upgraded systems that promise to transform daily life in long-overlooked communities.

## Red Hill and Hobodeia Lead the Way in Region One

Red Hill, a riverine community along the Barima River, is on the verge of a major breakthrough—first-

time access to potable water. A newly drilled well is expected to serve 95% of households in the central cluster, including the school and health centre, replacing the community's reliance on rainwater and often-contaminated river sources.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, recently visited Red Hill and reported encouraging progress. GWI is now preparing to install the distribution network, with residents assisting in the process, creating employment in the process. Water is expected to begin flowing by the end of June.

Nearby, residents of Hobodeia are

already celebrating the commissioning of a new \$35 million water supply system. For residents like Mary Willis, who once relied on a single hand pump that failed during the dry season, the system is life-changing. Located near the school, it already connects 40%

water tanks as a short-term measure. Due to poor productivity from an existing well, a new one will be drilled following further assessment.

In El Paso, rehabilitation of the water system is set to begin immediately.



Hobodeia families gain reliable access to potable water

of households.

Minister Croal reaffirmed the government's commitment to hinterland development, noting that potable water coverage in Region One has jumped from 36% in 2020 to 89%. In 2025, nearly \$500 million will be spent to expand water services, with Hobodeia's system being one of 45 new wells planned for the region.

## Major Upgrades in Region Eight

Minister within the Ministry, Susan Rodrigues, brought similar news during a four-day outreach in Region Eight.

In Micobie, 12 families will receive

Despite three failed drilling attempts in the past, the Ministry remains committed to finding a viable location, with Brazilian contractors expected soon to conduct testing.

Murawau will see the construction of a \$34 million well, ending residents' daily hour-long walk to fetch river water. Emergency road and bridge works are being carried out to facilitate equipment transport.

At Brian Sucre Junction, over 100 residents now enjoy first-time access to potable water, thanks to a newly commissioned \$35 million solar-powered system.

In response



Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues addressing residents from Princeville

to concerns about inconsistent water supply, particularly in Seven Miles and Pepper Hill – areas currently served by the Mahdia Central system, Minister Rodrigues tasked the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) team with distributing

## productivity across Mahdia."

These projects are part of a broader effort to achieve universal access to safe water in the hinterland by 2025. Since 2020, over \$5 billion has been invested to drill 130+ wells, with \$2 billion more planned



Residents at a community meeting at Wailang

water schedules to every household.

Furthermore, she announced a significant development for Mahdia's water future: a contract was recently awarded to drill a new well next to the solar farm at Mahdia. This new well, she emphasised, is expected to "significantly increase water

for 2025.

Additional wells are planned for Princeville, Wailang and Seven Miles (Mahdia.)

"We've seen tremendous progress," Minister Rodrigues said. "And we will continue to ensure every Guyanese has access to this basic human right."



Minister Rodrigues and Senior Engineer at GWI, Khemraj Persaud, inspecting the water system at Micobie

# BARTICA TO RECEIVE 24/7 TREATED WATER ACCESS WITH NEW \$458M PLANT



Five Miles water treatment plant

Reliable access to clean, treated water is finally within reach for residents from Four Miles to Five Miles in Bartica, Region Seven. A long-anticipated \$458.1 million water treatment plant is now 50% complete and on track for commissioning by September 2025,

bringing an end to years of challenges related to water quality and supply. Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, visited the construction site recently and highlighted the project's significance. "We're tapping into a freshwater source, as opposed to drilling

a well," the Minister explained, adding that while the facility won't be among the largest, it is designed to meet the specific needs of the area.

Constructed

providing 24/7 access to clean, safe water for thousands of residents in Bartica, the West Indian Housing Scheme, and surrounding communities. One of the



Five Miles water treatment plant

by Toshiba Water Solutions America Inc., the facility will treat up to three million litres of water per day,

key benefits will be the elimination of high iron content in the water, a long-standing issue for many households.

The project is a major part of the government's broader agenda to achieve 100% treated water access across the country by the end of 2025. Since 2020, the PPP/C administration has significantly ramped up investments in water infrastructure in both coastal and hinterland areas.

In addition to the Bartica plant, nearly 1,500 residents from Amakokopai and Phillipai are set to benefit from a new \$50 million well currently under construction in Phillipai, with completion expected in July.

Region Seven has seen over \$1.2 billion in water sector investments under the current administration. This includes new water supply systems



Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, being provided with an update about Five Miles Water Treatment Plant

KURUTUKU, NAMARANG, Jawalla, Kako, Tasserene, Kaikan, Dagg Point, Isseneru, and upgrades to the existing Bartica system.

These sustained efforts underscore the government's commitment to delivering improved essential services and enhancing the quality of life for Guyanese across the hinterland.

# PLEGT ANKER FAMILIES TO RECEIVE LAND TITLES AFTER DECADES



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

About 50 families and farmers in Plegt Anker, Region Six, are finally set to receive legal land titles after decades of occupation. The announcement was made by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., during a land regularisation exercise at the Plegt Anker Primary School recently.

The initiative, carried out by the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), fulfills a promise made by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali during a presidential outreach in Mara two years ago.

Minister Nandlall described the regularisation as **“perhaps one of the most important processes the community would**

**have seen in generations.”** He noted that although residents have been farming and living on the land since the 1970s, the initial regularisation process was never completed, leaving them without legal ownership.

**“You’ve invested your collective sweat into these lands, but you don’t have a paper the law recognises as ownership,”** he told residents. **“This process will end with every family receiving a legal title for the lands they’ve occupied for decades.”**



Residents at the land Regularisation exercise at Plegt Anker Primary School in Region Six.

Minister Nandlall emphasised the value of a certificate of title, calling it a **“stable and secure form of legal ownership”** that can be used as collateral for loans and other ventures.

**“There is no greater way to empower people than to give them titles to the land they occupy,”** he said.

Occupational surveys will soon begin to define land boundaries, and the

Attorney General urged residents to cooperate fully to ensure a smooth and timely process. He also assured them that the government will cover all fees associated with regularisation.

In Mara, Minister Nandlall added that he would consult with the President to determine whether the area should continue with leases or be converted into a titled area.

Also present at the exercise were Regional Chairman David Armogan and GLSC’s Manager of Surveys, Rene Duesbury.

# BARTICA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON TRACK FOR 2025 COMPLETION

Bartica’s first major housing development is rapidly advancing, with the government investing over \$2.5 billion to complete critical infrastructure works across three key areas.

The initiative is set to provide more than 300 residents with access to their lands by the end of 2025, allowing them to begin construction on their homes within months.

Minister of Housing and Water, Hon. Collin Croal, provided the update during a recent virtual tour from the Bartica Airstrip, speaking directly with landowners eager to see progress.

The core focus is on



The housing drive at the Bartica Community Centre Ground

the Five Miles South and Tract Bar (Plantation Bartica) housing areas, where infrastructure works are expected to commence by month-end and conclude by December. Already, the first phase of works at Five Miles has received \$1.87 billion. An additional \$320 million is being injected into the Five Miles Extension

South, now at 15% completion, while \$1.1 billion is allocated for infrastructure in Tract Bar.

Minister Croal emphasised the government’s strategic push to fast-track home ownership through accelerated infrastructure development. **“The government is**

**investing the funds required in the housing sector to deliver homeownership as quickly as possible,”** he said.

Residents will also benefit from a new water treatment plant at Five Miles, providing access to clean, treated water. The virtual tour allowed landowners to engage with officials, receive updates, and raise any concerns, underscoring transparency in the process.

Meanwhile, about 150 residents received house lots at Tract Bar and Five Miles South. Among them was Reshma Ally, who described the experience as empowering: **“It feels**

**good to get this after waiting for so long. I feel happy that I can leave something for my children.”**

Mala Benny, who waited 17 years for land, shared her relief and excitement: **“This is the first time I’ll own something. Now I know they can get something since I’m**

**living on someone else’s land.”**

Minister Croal led the land allocation drive at the Bartica Community Centre, where 104 landowners also signed agreements of sale for lands at Block CHPA.

To date, over 430 house lots have been distributed in Bartica marking steady progress toward completing a historic housing milestone in Region Seven.



The housing drive at the Bartica Community Centre Ground

Land clearance has officially begun on 95 acres at Tracts A and B, Four Miles, marking the launch of Mahdia’s first dedicated housing development. This transformative initiative in Region Eight will provide over 300 residential house lots, ushering in a new era of homeownership and community development for the township.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, shared the update during a recent community engagement in Mahdia as part of her four-day outreach across the region. She

# MAHDIA’S FIRST-EVER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY, OVER 300 LOTS PLANNED

confirmed that six contractors are already mobilised on-site, with approximately \$493 million being invested in the initial phase to construct vital roads and drainage infrastructure, improving access and laying the groundwork for sustainable development.

Minister Rodrigues, who visited the development site, expressed satisfaction with the pace of work and assured that **“the area earmarked for the**

**housing scheme is completely free from encumbrances,”** allowing allottees to begin construction of their homes by October, when the first phase is expected to be completed.

**Hinterland Housing Programme Expands**

During her outreach, Minister Rodrigues also provided updates on the broader Hinterland Housing Programme. Responding to a request from residents of

Micobie for housing support, she confirmed that several Region Eight communities have already been selected for home construction.

Karispuru, Murawau, Kaibarupai, and Tuseneng are each set to benefit from the construction of 10 homes under this initiative. Murawau, in particular, will also receive 10 new houses, with materials—especially lumber—being sourced locally. Thus far, 16,565 of the required 50,000

pieces of wood have already been harvested by the community, directly supporting local livelihoods and injecting income into the area.

**“We’re going to help everyone, but it must be done in phases. We’ve started, and Micobie is definitely one of the villages we’ll be addressing soon,”** Minister Rodrigues assured residents. She also reminded families of the \$3 million housing grant announced by

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, which vulnerable households can use to repair or upgrade their homes.

The housing efforts in Mahdia and surrounding communities reflect the government’s broader commitment to uplifting living standards and fostering equitable development in Guyana’s hinterland regions.



# GUYANA MAKING SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN DISABILITY RIGHTS - FIRST LADY TELLS UN CONFERENCE

Guyana is making "significant strides" in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs), First Lady Arya Ali declared at the 18th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She emphasised that the Convention remains a vital global benchmark for promoting these fundamental rights.

The First Lady highlighted the National Commission on Disability (NCD) as the lead agency driving Guyana's commitment to safeguarding the dignity and rights of PWDs nationwide.

Pointing to the

country's strong legal framework, Mrs. Ali cited the Prevention of Discrimination Act and the Persons with Disabilities Act. These laws prohibit employment discrimination, mandate rehabilitation, guarantee free education and healthcare, and ensure PWDs' full participation in cultural and recreational life.

She also referenced Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, which integrates disability inclusion within sustainable development goals.

"Our government backs this with practical support including



Guyana officially launch 'One Health' Project

free healthcare and assistive devices, employment and housing opportunities, inclusion in schools, and lifelong public assistance for those with permanent disabilities," Mrs. Ali stated.

To further promote inclusion, Guyana has

established a Disability Support Unit and the 'One Guyana' initiative, equipping young persons with disabilities to access economic opportunities.

Mrs. Ali highlighted the new Centre for Equity, Opportunity and Innovation in Palmyra, Canje (Region Six), which employs many persons with disabilities.

This centre complements institutions like the Mahaica Learning Lab, Board of Industrial Training, and Open Doors Vocational Centre—all providing free skills training for PWDs.

She also noted the Regional Disability Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, a critical facility for early diagnosis and intervention for children with disabilities.

Economic empowerment is a key focus. The government has provided hundreds of housing lots to PWDs, supported by President Ali's "Men and Mission Programme," which helps build homes

and supply building materials to persons with disabilities and their families.

Concluding her remarks, First Lady Arya Ali reaffirmed Guyana's vision for an inclusive society founded on dignity, opportunity, and justice for all. "A society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. We believe true progress comes through education, empowerment, and engagement—pillars on which we will continue building a future where the rights of all persons with disabilities are realised," she affirmed.

# FAITH IN THE UNSEEN

## - PRESIDENT ALI'S EID-UL-ADHA REFLECTION

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali shared a heartfelt message of faith, trust, and divine purpose with the people of Guyana, especially the Islamic community.

He reflected on the importance of trusting in Allah amid life's uncertainties, urging believers to embrace the "quiet, guiding hand of Allah" and find peace in a destiny that transcends human understanding. "Rejoice, let us pray, and let us give

with gratitude and generosity. Trust the process. Trust the Planner. Trust Allah," the President encouraged.

Eid-ul-Adha, he noted, serves as a powerful reminder that while people are called to live with conviction, it is divine wisdom that ultimately shapes their outcomes. "We are agents of our choices, but Allah is the Master of all outcomes," he stated, citing the Holy Quran (65:3): "And whoever puts

their trust in Allah, then He 'alone' is sufficient for them. Certainly, Allah achieves His Will. Allah has already set a destiny for everything."

In a world often

dominated by the need for control and certainty, President Ali urged reflection on the deeper serenity that comes from trusting the One who holds all answers.

He drew inspiration from the story of

Prophet Ibrahim, whose unwavering faith teaches that "faith begins where certainty ends." The President described faith as the inner force that carries us forward when everything else urges us to doubt or stop. "It's in this spirit of absolute trust—of moving forward even when the path is unclear—that we find the true essence of Eid," he said.

President Ali concluded by calling on all Guyanese to move forward with intention, celebrate with gratitude, and find comfort in the knowledge that what is destined will come to pass, and what is missed was never meant to be.

He ended with a



President Ali attending Eid Salah at the Leonora Sunnatul Masjid

this Eid find you filled with peace, your heart overflowing with contentment, and your journey blessed with divine clarity. May you walk the path Allah has written for you—with grace in your steps and a radiant light in your heart."



President Ali attending Eid Salah at the Leonora Sunnatul Masjid

# REGION ONE COMMUNITIES GET NEW BOATS FOR HEALTH AND ADMIN SUPPORT

Regional Executive Officer Shem Cuffy.

Two of the boats have been assigned to the Regional Health Department and will serve the Mabaruma and Matarkai sub-regions. One vessel, equipped with a 150-horsepower engine, was procured through the Ministry of Health's 2024 budget at a cost of \$7.4 million. The second, outfitted with a 75-horsepower engine, was funded by the Region's 2024 Regional Democratic Council (RDC) budget and cost \$5.1 million.

These vessels are expected to significantly

improve emergency medical response, support mobile medical outreaches, and ensure timely delivery of healthcare supplies to remote communities.

Minister Croal noted that the initiative will allow health teams to conduct routine check-ups and services like dental care directly in communities. "We don't have to wait for persons to reach the hospital or health centre—we can take the services to them," he said, adding that the boats will also ensure vital medical supplies reach hinterland villages

more efficiently.

He also highlighted broader government efforts to improve healthcare delivery in the region, including investments in infrastructure, telemedicine, and human resources.

The third boat, valued at \$7.6 million and powered by a 200-horsepower engine, was also funded through the RDC's 2024 budget. This vessel will support administrative duties and enable regional officers to better monitor and assist communities across the region.

Regional Chairman

Brentnol Ashley welcomed the addition, stating, "We are now better equipped to increase the level of service offered by the RDC to the people of Region One."

This initiative reflects the government's continued commitment to bridging service delivery gaps in hinterland and riverine communities—ensuring equitable access to essential health and administrative services for all citizens, regardless of geography.



Healthcare delivery boost for Region One

Riverine communities in Region One are set to benefit from enhanced access to healthcare, and public services following the commissioning of three new boats and engines at Kumaka.

The commissioning

ceremony was led by Minister of Housing and Water and Parliamentary Representative for the region, Collin Croal, alongside Regional Chairman Brentnol Ashley, and other regional officials, including Deputy

# DR. JAGDEO OUTLINES GOVT'S VISION - INTEGRITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND A UNITED GUYANA



Contracts being signed in Linden, Region 10

Vice President and PPP General Secretary, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, addressed several key national issues during his weekly press briefing, underscoring the government's focus on electoral integrity, inclusive development, and accountable leadership as Guyana prepares for the September 1, 2025 General and Regional Elections.

## OPPOSITION DISUNITY AND LACK OF VISION

Dr. Jagdeo criticised the ongoing

Norton, whom they previously dismissed as lacking national appeal. Dr. Jagdeo also drew comparisons between the PPP's tested leadership team—led by President Irfaan Ali and Prime Minister Mark Phillips—and what he called the opposition's inexperienced and unqualified lineup.

## Call for Unity, Condemnation of Racial Division

The Vice President reaffirmed the PPP/C's commitment to national unity and condemned racially charged attacks against Afro-Guyanese

down on electoral malpractice, warning against fraudulent tactics such as misusing citizens' signatures under false pretenses. "These unscrupulous actions must not be condoned," he warned, adding that the PPP will be vigilant in the lead-up to the polls.

## NO SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR SANCTIONED BUSINESSMAN

Responding to claims that the government is shielding sanctioned businessman and presidential hopeful Azruddin Mohamed, Dr. Jagdeo stressed that "no one is above the law."

Mohamed is under investigation by SOCU and the GRA for allegedly smuggling 10,000 kg of gold and evading over US\$50 million in taxes. "There will be no double standards. These investigations are being conducted independently and professionally," Dr Jagdeo assured.

## HIGHLIGHTING DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Jagdeo defended the government's right to highlight its development record, citing major infrastructure, healthcare, and economic projects. He pointed to the \$6.6 billion Diamond Regional Hospital and five other upcoming regional hospitals, along with new Level 5 facilities in Ogle and New Amsterdam, and enhanced health services in hinterland regions.

He also noted the expansion of the

hospitality sector, with 12 hotels under construction set to generate over 6,000 jobs.

## EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL CONTRACTORS

Looking ahead, Dr. Jagdeo announced a new public works initiative for the PPP/C's next term, aimed at expanding opportunities for small and medium contractors. He rejected claims of "election-time bribery," explaining that these efforts build on five years of reforms that have enabled thousands of small contractors to access government projects. Contracts under \$15 million are now awarded at fixed rates, preventing monopolisation by large contractors and encouraging broader participation.

## INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

Dr. Jagdeo also underscored the PPP/C government's sustained investment in human capital development, noting that approximately 83,000 Guyanese have benefitted from free training programmes over the past five years.

This includes 39,000 online scholarships valued at \$12.5 billion through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL,) 13,000 students trained through the University of Guyana, 17,000 women trained via the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, and 13,000 individuals trained through the Board of Industrial Training (BIT.)

"This is a massive impact on our adult

population in just a few years," Dr. Jagdeo said. "It shows that our policies are working for all Guyanese."

## GUYSUCO'S ROLE IN AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION

Dr. Jagdeo backed President Ali's vision of repurposing GuySuCo as a pillar of rural development and food security.

He highlighted successful diversification into crops like roses,



VP Jagdeo says GuySuCo is key to food security and national growth

turmeric, cocoa, shrimp, and cassava—55 million pounds of which were produced last year.

Future plans include hemp cultivation, small-scale cigar production, and the distribution of 2,000 acres of land at Skeldon to 1,000 small farmers. Additional agro-industrial complexes are underway in Skeldon/Crabwood Creek and Region Five, alongside a \$6 billion industrial estate at Enmore expected to generate 4,000 jobs.

## OIL AND GAS DECISIONS DEFERRED UNTIL POST-ELECTION

Dr. Jagdeo confirmed that no new oil and gas agreements—including any with Fulcrum LNG—will be finalised before

the 2025 elections. He said deferring such decisions is the ethical course, and that ongoing negotiations will continue on "autopilot" until a new mandate is secured.

## GUYANA'S CARBON MARKET GAINS GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Jagdeo celebrated Apple Inc.'s recent purchase of 100,000 carbon credits from Guyana, describing

it as global validation of the country's leadership in climate policy. This follows the 2022 deal with Hess Corporation for 37.5 million credits valued at US\$740 million. So far, over \$14 billion from carbon sales has been distributed to Amerindian communities—almost 20% of total revenue, exceeding the LCDS 2030's 15% target.

Remaining funds are being invested in climate resilience, coastal infrastructure, and the opening of 85,000 acres of farmland for small-scale agriculture. "Apple's purchase brings global credibility to our product. Our climate policy is delivering real results," he stated.



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

rift between APNU and AFC, describing their public disagreements as evidence of desperation and a lack of clear policy direction. "Every day there's a different version of what took place in their talks. If you were partners, how can't you agree on what was discussed?" he asked.

He accused the opposition of recycling the same faces in pursuit of personal gain rather than national development, and questioned the AFC's move to support a coalition led by Aubrey

politicians who have joined the PPP. He pointed out the double standards in how these individuals are treated compared to Indo-Guyanese who make similar political shifts. "We're committed to uniting all Guyanese, regardless of race, religion, or background. Our message is one of inclusive progress," he stated.

## SAFEGUARDING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

With elections approaching, Dr. Jagdeo urged GECOM to clamp



Dr Jagdeo's recent outreach to Region Ten, where hundreds of residents engaged in meaningful discussions on national priorities

# DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE FINISHED - FINAL COMPLETION BY AUGUST 31

The New Demerara River Bridge is rapidly approaching completion, with the final bridge tower (Pier 35) receiving its concrete seal, bringing the monumental project to over 90 percent completion.

This significant milestone was announced by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill during a recent assessment of the ongoing works.

Minister Edghill, joined by Minister within the Ministry Deodat Indar, ministry staff, and representatives from China Railway Construction Corporation Limited and Politecnica Ingegneria, confirmed that all 62 piers encompassing the bridge's superstructure

are now complete.

Highlighting June 7 as another critical date in the bridge's construction, Minister Edghill noted that the installation of girders and the drilling of the first draft were among other key achievements. He further elaborated on upcoming phases, stating, "The next milestone event after the pouring [of concrete] and the completion of these towers is when we will complete the 17 cable-stayed sections which would be 570 metres across the channel."

The Minister provided an optimistic timeline for the bridge's assembly, adding, "By

June 15, we would have completed the installation of all the girders on the Eastern side. All of the girders on the western side are already [installed]." This means the bridge will be fully assembled, with only the pouring of concrete, asphaltic surfacing, rails, and lighting remaining.

Minister Edghill reaffirmed that the high-span, four-lane bridge is on schedule for its August 31, 2025, completion, emphasising that the project is being executed within its allocated contract sum. With over 1,300 personnel working around-the-clock and increased deployment of staff and resources, work is progressing at an



The final bridge tower (Pier 35) on the New Demerara River Bridge is completed

accelerated pace.

Minister Indar underscored the transformative impact of the bridge, highlighting its role in improving connectivity for thousands of commuters, reducing travel time, and fostering socio-economic

opportunities. "This bridge will not only connect two regions, but also show the rest of the world that we can build massive structures right here in our country," Minister Indar stated.

The long-awaited

project is being carried out by China Railway Construction Corporation Limited and supervised by Politecnica Ingegneria, adhering to international construction standard.

More than \$10 billion in infrastructure development is set to transform Region Ten, creating jobs and empowering small contractors through a targeted, inclusive government initiative.

The announcement was made by Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo and Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill during a community engagement at the Watooka Guest House.

Vice President Jagdeo emphasised the scale of the investment, noting that over 700 small contractors are expected to benefit this year, an increase from the 500 contractors who shared approximately



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the meeting

\$7 billion in works last year. He compared the impact to the landmark four-lane Wismar/Mackenzie bridge, which costs about US\$35 million (approximately \$7 billion GYD).

"Last year, small contractors implemented work worth more than we are spending on that bridge," he noted, underscoring

The Ministry of Housing and Water's Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) has firmly refuted social media claims alleging that non-Guyanese have received house lots or turnkey homes in the new Little and Great Diamond Housing Scheme. The Ministry clarified that all allocations are strictly reserved for Guyanese citizens.

In a statement, CHPA labeled the online rumours as "baseless," confirming that every allottee in the Diamond scheme is a Guyanese national, consistent with national housing policies.

The primary

beneficiaries of the development are former squatters who had been occupying river dam reserves along the East Bank Demerara in areas such as Herstelling, Covent Garden, Prospect, Farm, Diamond, Grove, and Friendship. These individuals were part of a government relocation initiative targeting zero-tolerance squatting zones. Of the 291 squatter households identified, 228 have already been assigned house lots or government-built homes.

While the Ministry acknowledged the presence of 37 Venezuelan nationals squatting in the area, it emphasised that they

the administration's commitment to equitable development and economic inclusion.

Minister Edghill echoed that sentiment, reaffirming the government's focus on "development with dignity" across all regions. He stressed that the PPP/C government is delivering essential infrastructure and opportunities regardless of political affiliation.

"Once you are Guyanese, we are working together," the Minister stated.

Minister Edghill also

highlighted a noticeable rise in vehicle ownership in Region Ten, crediting the government's economic policies for helping families improve their standard of living.

"Some critics say we're spending too much. Well, yes—we are spending responsibly. That's what good governance looks like."

The Minister showcased several ongoing and completed projects, including the first asphalt road to Coomacka Mines, road

## REGION 10 TO BENEFIT FROM \$10B INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH



Residents at the meeting

upgrades in Kwakwani and Ituni, and a new \$250 million concrete airstrip in Kwakwani with a 25-year lifespan.

Looking ahead, the next phase of development in Region Ten will focus on drainage works and community-led revetment repairs, further increasing

local employment and involvement.

This investment is part of a broader national strategy to modernize infrastructure, empower small businesses, and ensure all Guyanese benefit from the country's development gains.

## CHPA AFFIRMS NO FOREIGN ALLOTMENTS IN DIAMOND HOUSING SCHEME

are ineligible for the programme, which is exclusively for Guyanese.

Relocated families have been placed near the four-lane Heroes Highway, an area earmarked for future development,



Relocated families have been placed near the four-lane Heroes Highway

positioning them for improved socio-economic opportunities and increased property values.

Addressing additional concerns, CHPA confirmed that only government-

approved turnkey homes were constructed, each priced at \$5.2 million—not the \$7 million falsely circulated. Wooden structures seen in the scheme were built independently by allottees who received land only, with no involvement from the Ministry.

The Ministry also provided an update on infrastructure upgrades. Phase one is complete, providing accessibility, while the next phase, valued at \$780 million, has been awarded to small contractors following the May 12

tender opening. Works are scheduled to begin June 15 and conclude by July 31, 2025, covering 39 lots with reinforced concrete roads, shoulders, and drainage systems. All contracts, CHPA confirmed, were awarded in full compliance with procurement rules.

The Ministry urged the public to dismiss misleading claims and reaffirmed its commitment to transparent, citizen-focused housing development.

# GUYANA-LED SUMMIT TO ADVANCE 30X30 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY GOAL

Guyana will host a landmark international gathering next month, the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit, from July 23–25 in Georgetown. The summit will bring together Heads of State, global scientists, Indigenous leaders, and private sector representatives, united by a common mission: advancing the ambitious 30x30 target to conserve at least 30% of the world’s land and oceans by 2030.

Under the leadership of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the event will mark the official launch of the Global Biodiversity Alliance, a new coalition focused

on accelerating global conservation action through collaboration, innovation, and measurable impact.

A key feature of the summit will be the introduction of two pioneering tools: the Gross Biodiversity Power Index and the Global Biodiversity Product. These instruments are designed to help countries monitor the real-time impact of conservation efforts and guide strategic planning toward biodiversity protection.

The summit aims to spark bold, practical solutions to the biodiversity crisis. Discussions will explore innovative financing

models, such as debt-for-nature swaps, biodiversity bonds, and restoration incentives, with Guyana positioned to showcase how it is doubling its protected areas and enhancing Indigenous stewardship using modern tracking and evaluation tools.

Key goals of the summit include:

- Solidifying international commitment to the 30x30 target
- Formally launching the Global Biodiversity Alliance
- Mobilising financial resources linked to biodiversity outcomes
- Promoting Indigenous leadership and

traditional knowledge • Building global awareness and fostering collaboration

The three-day event at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre will feature plenary sessions

technical workshops on conservation tools, and business forums exploring green investment opportunities.

Expected outcomes include



with global leaders, panel discussions on sustainable financing and nature-based solutions,

a joint declaration of commitments, financial pledges tied to biodiversity indicators,

and a comprehensive five-year action plan (2023–2030) with measurable targets.

Media Accreditation: Media representatives interested in covering the summit are encouraged to apply early via <https://dpi.gov.gy/media-accreditation-form>. For assistance, email [accreditation@dpi.gov.gy](mailto:accreditation@dpi.gov.gy) with the subject line: “Media Accreditation Query – Global Biodiversity Alliance.” Additionally, all attendees should complete the registration form at <https://globalbiodiversityalliance.org>.

This summit signals a decisive step toward building a global movement rooted in transparency, innovation, and measurable conservation outcomes.



Project workshop at the EPA

Representatives from the Governments of Guyana and the United Kingdom have launched a new phase in their joint efforts to combat marine pollution and support the sustainable development of Guyana’s Blue Economy. The collaborative visit, which

took place from June 16–20, marks a significant milestone in protecting the country’s valuable marine resources.

The initiative falls under the “Enhancing Water Quality for Sustainable Blue Economy Development” project, supported by the

## NEW UK-BACKED PROJECT SUPPORTS GUYANA’S OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

UK Government through its Sustainable Blue Economies Technical Assistance Platform. It is being implemented by the UK’s Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), in collaboration with Guyana’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United Nations Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

A key event was a two-day National Workshop on the Blue Economy and Marine Pollution, hosted at the EPA Head Office from June 17–18. The workshop brought together officials from

key ministries and agencies to share insights on national Blue Economy goals, assess pollution risks, and identify priority actions for management and investment.

British High Commissioner Jane Miller reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to supporting Guyana’s Maritime Economy Plan (MEP), launched in 2021 under the broader Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030.

“Together, you will brainstorm ways to strengthen Guyana’s national capacity to assess

and manage marine pollution, thereby safeguarding the country’s marine and coastal resources,” she said.

EPA Executive Director Kemraj Parsram described the partnership as a model of meaningful collaboration.

“We are building the scientific capacity, institutional strength, and regional alignment necessary to protect our marine and coastal ecosystems,” he stated.

Stakeholder engagement sessions

and planning meetings followed on June 19–20, involving technical experts, communities, and project partners.

The project, which runs through 2025, is currently conducting a national situation analysis to map existing knowledge, identify priority pollution threats, and guide the development of technical solutions and investment strategies.

Cefas Director Dr. Will Le Quesne noted that the partnership is critical to ensuring oceans continue to support people and economies globally.

## CSO PROGRAMME - REKINDLING HOPE, LEADERSHIP AND PROGRESS IN AMERINDIAN COMMUNITIES

In Guyana’s hinterland, a quiet transformation is underway—driven by young Amerindian leaders empowered through the Community Service Officer (CSO) programme. Once dismantled, the initiative is now thriving, offering not just jobs, but renewed purpose, pride, and leadership in remote communities.

Launched in 2015 under the PPP/C administration as part of the Youth Apprenticeship and Entrepreneurial Programme (YEAP), the CSO programme

was designed to provide paid opportunities for young people to support and uplift their villages. For many, the \$30,000 monthly stipend represented more than income—it brought dignity, opportunity, and hope.

Nearly 2,000 youths were enlisted, reinvigorating community life. But in 2015, the APNU+AFC government abruptly terminated the programme, citing unsubstantiated claims of political misuse. This decision removed vital services and drained

over \$3.6 billion from local economies across five years.

Upon returning to office in 2020, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali fulfilled a key promise to restore and strengthen the programme. Today, the CSO initiative is not only back—it’s flourishing.

By 2022, over 2,500 CSOs were re-engaged. As of June 2025, 2,759 CSOs are active, with the stipend increased to \$40,000. The programme now includes targeted training in tourism, ICT, small engine repairs,

tractor operations, and garment construction—



CSOs that participated in skills training provided by the government

backed by a \$60 million investment.

These numbers reflect real lives uplifted. In Mahdia, for example,

both the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor are

former CSOs—clear proof that when youth are given responsibility, they rise to lead.

Still, some critics

have recycled disproven claims that CSOs are being used for political purposes. But the voices from the ground are louder now.

“I’m not doing any dirty work,” says Ruvita Pio of Kurukabaru, Region Eight. “I don’t think training is dirty work. We’re doing good things—like weeding around public buildings.”

The CSO programme is more than a policy, it’s a declaration that young Indigenous citizens matter, that their work has value, and that their future is worth investing in. And this time, their voices won’t be silenced.

# LINDEN CONTRACTORS THRIVE AS FIXED-RATE ROAD CONTRACTS OPEN NEW DOORS

Small contractors in Linden, Region Ten, are experiencing a surge in opportunities and economic empowerment thanks to the government's fixed-rate road contracts initiative. Launched in October last year, the programme has opened new doors for local entrepreneurs,

allowing them to expand their businesses, invest in their communities, and achieve personal goals.

The fixed-rate model, where a set price is agreed upon before work begins, has been especially effective for projects with clearly defined scopes. For small

contractors, it offers financial predictability and a simplified process, reducing the burdens of complex bidding and cost uncertainties.

For many in Linden, this approach has been life-changing. Shaquille Alexander, formerly a gym instructor, used his contract earnings to open a gym, now serving both his family and the wider community. "Coming from an extended family, having been awarded the contract for the first time, it was very good for me—it improved a lot of things in my life," Alexander said.

Latoya Bonus, a single mother, described the initiative as transformative.

"When I got my first contract, I was very happy... From my first contract to now, I have evolved greatly with my kids, my business, everything. I have grown," she explained. Bonus expressed deep gratitude, emphasising the impact on women like herself. "The President is putting smiles on a lot of women's faces, feeding a lot of mouths, and making a lot of children happy."

For Samuel Grey, a young resident of Linden, the initiative helped bring his personal and financial goals to life. "Besides learning a lot about



Latoya Bonus

doing contractual work, it came in handy financially. A lot of projects I wanted to do were completed thanks to these contracts," he shared, voicing hope that the programme will continue, especially for the younger generation.

The fixed-rate model has also levelled the playing field by simplifying the tendering process, giving more small contractors a fair shot at public projects and allowing them to focus on delivering quality work.



Samuel Grey

# WIIN PROGRAMME EXPANDS

## - NEW GARMENT CONSTRUCTION HUB OPENS IN CANE GROVE

A new garment construction hub was officially launched at the Cane Grove Craft Centre, East Coast Demerara, an initiative spearheaded by Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security. The hub aims to equip individuals, particularly women and young people, with valuable skills to foster entrepreneurship and financial independence.

During the launch, Minister Persaud underscored the critical importance of access to opportunities, emphasising that the training is open to men,



Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr. Vindhya Persaud and some of the participants during the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon to commission the facility

as well. "Sewing is a very well established and lucrative skill," she stated, highlighting the economic potential within the garment industry.

The Ministry has provided several sewing machines for

the centre, and training will be conducted under the successful Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) programme. To date, the WIIN initiative has empowered over 17,000 women through

diverse skills training.

Minister Persaud encouraged participants to think innovatively, urging them to look beyond conventional projects like school uniforms. She suggested exploring niche markets such as "baby clothing and trendy fashion pieces," as well as specialised areas like hospital linens and lab coats, noting, "health is always a place I would think of because you always need linens in hospital, you need lab coats and you need so many other things when it comes to help."

She further motivated attendees to consider establishing small sewing businesses to cater to local demand, fostering income generation and financial autonomy.

Amanda Hamilton, Head of the Cane Grove Craft Centre, shared insights into

the positive impact the facility is already making, especially for single parents. She noted that the centre's programmes, including sewing, "benefit for instance like single parents to do their little sewing at home and cake and pastry, cake decorating, food preparation. When they do like cake decorations, they open their own little business, they go into other industries."



Some of the sewing machines at the Garment Construction Hub in Cane Grove



Students and teachers of the New Amsterdam Secondary School displaying their products

The Arthur Chung Conference Centre recently came alive as hundreds of young Guyanese gathered to explore new skills and career opportunities at the National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Fair and Exposition.

Hosted by the Ministry of Education under the theme "Empowering Youths, Elevating Skills: TVET as a Catalyst for Inclusion", the event offered a vibrant platform for youth to engage with diverse industries and discover pathways to future success.

About 40 exhibitors showcased a wide range of products and services, including agro-processed goods made by students and live demonstrations, reflecting the practical skills being developed across the country. Among the exhibitors was Candace Wickham, Founder and CEO of PRO-Care Therapy and Wellness Centre, who highlighted the growing demand for professionals in massage therapy and

elder care. Her centre, which offers Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ)-certified courses, provides training for youth seeking to enter the wellness sector.

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand reflected on the progress made since 2020, when only nine secondary schools offered four CVQ subjects. "Today, 74 secondary schools offer 24 CVQ subjects, thanks to deliberate

investment and planning," she said, underscoring the government's commitment to expanding vocational training.

Further support comes from nine newly commissioned TVET centres across regions, including the Hope Town, Beterverwagting, and Fellowship Practical Instruction Centres (PICs), which provide hands-on learning for both youth and adults.

Looking ahead, the Ministries of Education and Agriculture plan to equip every secondary school with a shade house by the next term to encourage agricultural skills training, aligning education with national development priorities.

The National TVET Fair continues to inspire Guyanese youth to explore skills that will prepare them for productive careers and empower their communities.

# GUYANESE YOUTH EXPLORE NEW SKILLS AT NATIONAL TVET FAIR

# BIG PLANS FOR ENMORE

The historically significant community of Enmore, once a pillar of Guyana's sugar industry, is on the verge of a major economic transformation. President Ali announced that the government is currently reviewing over 20 proposals for industrial development in the area, signalling a bold new chapter for future of the East Coast Demerara village.

Speaking at the 77th Commemoration of the Enmore Martyrs on June 16, President Ali declared, **"We already have more than 20 business proposals that will see industries, manufacturing,**

**and expanded production right here in Enmore."** He emphasised that this wave of development is part of a broader national strategy to diversify the economy and create jobs across the sugar belt.

A key infrastructure project in this plan is the construction of a new four-lane road that will connect Enmore to its upcoming industrial hub. **"This road will create tens of thousands of new jobs,"** the President affirmed, underscoring the transformative potential for the community.

President Ali contrasted his administration's development drive with

the former APNU+AFC government's decision to shut down several sugar estates—a move he said devastated families and communities. He reminded attendees that more than 40,000 people were affected and nearly \$3 billion worth of standing cane was left to rot. **"They destroyed the fabric of our society,"** he lamented.

Demonstrating his government's commitment to revitalising the sugar industry, President Ali revealed that over \$40 billion has already been invested, with an additional 3,000 hectares of land currently being prepared for cultivation using

mechanical methods.

This economic renewal goes beyond sugar. One of the flagship projects is a landmark partnership with Guysons K+B Industries Inc. to establish an oilfield manufacturing facility at Enmore—a development first announced in 2022. The facility is expected to generate more than 500 jobs for locals, serving as a major milestone in the region's industrial diversification.

**"These are not just plans; they are commitments backed by action,"** the President said. **"Today, as a people, we have a future to embrace, a future that can**



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

**be prosperous, or one that can be regressive, and you have choices to make."**

With strategic investment, infrastructure, and industrial partnerships underway, Enmore is poised to rise again—this time as a hub of opportunity, resilience, and growth.

## PPP GOV'T RESTORED DIGNITY TO THE WORKING CLASS - GAWU'S HEAD - RECALLS VICIOUS ASSAULT BY APNU+AFC

President of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU), Seepaul Narine, has drawn a sharp contrast between President Dr. Irfaan Ali's efforts to revitalise the sugar industry and what he described as the **"vicious assault"** on the sector under the former APNU+AFC administration.

Speaking at the 77th Commemoration of the Enmore Martyrs, Narine commended the current government for restoring dignity and hope to thousands of sugar workers and

their families. **"Since 2020, the People's Progressive Party government, under the leadership of President Dr Irfaan Ali, has worked with resolve to revitalise the sugar industry, bring relief to affected communities, and restore dignity to the working class,"** he told the gathering.

Reflecting on the 2015–2020 period, Narine recalled the devastation caused by the closure of several estates, which led to widespread unemployment and

social dislocation. **"We must recall with sorrow and outrage the recent past when the sugar industry [came] under vicious assault from those who had no care for its value, its workers, or the communities that depended on it,"** he said.

Highlighting tangible progress under the current administration, the GAWU head applauded the historic three-year wage agreement concluded with the Guyana Sugar



President of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU), Seepaul Narine

Corporation (GuySuCo), ensuring consistent salary increases for workers. **"This is not cheap talk or empty promises. It is a tangible investment and a clear demonstration of a caring and compassionate government,"** Narine stated, calling President Ali's leadership **"nothing short of transformative."**

As part of broader modernisation efforts, the government has pumped billions of dollars into mechanising

aspects of production and improving facilities to increase efficiency and output. Packaging plants at Albion and Blairmont are being upgraded to support value-added production.

Further reinforcing its commitment, the 2025 National Budget allocated \$13.3 billion to GuySuCo. These funds are designated for expanding cultivation by an additional 3,000 hectares and constructing over 17 kilometers of all-weather access roads to support operations year-round.

## GUYANA INVITES REGIONAL FOOD GIANT GRACEKENNEDY TO ESTABLISH MANUFACTURING PRESENCE

Guyana has formally extended an open invitation to regional food powerhouse GraceKennedy to establish a manufacturing presence in the country, aiming to leverage Guyana's growing agricultural potential and GraceKennedy's strong global brand.

The invitation was made by Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh during the fourth Jamaican export and investment mission to Guyana.

Responding to a GraceKennedy representative's inquiry

about investment opportunities, Dr. Singh expressed the government's keen interest in hosting the company's operations locally.

**"GraceKennedy has a huge global footprint. You walk into supermarkets in the US and see GraceKennedy products on the shelves,"** he noted. **"We would be delighted for you to set up manufacturing here in Guyana."**

Dr. Singh highlighted Guyana's substantial agricultural resources, especially its

vast coconut industry, as an ideal source for GraceKennedy's product lines. **"We**

**have a huge coconut industry. Frankly, GraceKennedy coconut water**

**should say 'Product of Guyana.' Your coconuts shouldn't come from Thailand—they should come from Guyana."**

He also emphasised Guyana's broader agro-processing potential, pointing to the abundance of local fruits and vegetables ready for transformation into value-added products under the GraceKennedy brand.

**"Agro-processing is vital. Many of the crops we grow could easily be packaged and branded as Grace products,"** Dr. Singh

stated. Affirming the government's readiness to support, Dr. Singh offered flexible partnership options, whether GraceKennedy chooses to invest directly in manufacturing or collaborate with local producers through licensing. **"It can be a Guyanese manufacturer working with you on standards, branding, and labelling—that is also a possibility,"** he said.

*(Adapted from Newsroom Guyana)*



GraceKennedy is involved in the distribution of a wide range of food and non-food grocery items

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# PRESIDENT ALI PLEDGES SUGAR INDUSTRY WILL BE GREAT AGAIN, WORKERS TO GAIN OWNERSHIP STAKE

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed his administration's unwavering commitment to reviving Guyana's sugar industry, declaring that it "will be great again"—with workers positioned at the heart of its transformation.



President Ali addressing the gathering at the 77th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs

Addressing a packed gathering at the 77th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs, President Ali made it clear that the industry will not be allowed to collapse, but instead rebuilt through investment, innovation, and shared ownership.

"What we inherited was broken, but today, it is being rebuilt under the People's Progressive Party/Civic, and make no mistake, we will make sugar great again," he declared.

Since taking office in 2020, the PPP/C government has injected over \$40 billion into the sector, resulting in the re-employment of more than 4,500 people. The 2025 national budget allocates an additional \$13.5 billion to GuySuCo, and 3,000 hectares are expected to be mechanised by 2025 to modernise operations.

As part of a broader revitalisation plan, the President revealed the government is in

discussions with unions to offer sugar workers an ownership stake in the modernisation process.

"We want to sit down with you and discuss how the workers can be owners—how we can lighten their workload, improve working conditions, and allow them to be part of the revival of sugar in Guyana," he said.

President Ali also outlined efforts to reposition sugar estates as engines of rural development, incorporating high-value crops, agro-processing, and skills training alongside traditional sugar production.

"We don't want workers to rely only on income from sugar. We're converting land into high-value

production—owned by the workers," he said, pointing to Enmore as a future industrial hub.

He also criticised the former APNU+AFC government's closure of several estates, calling it a reckless "gamble" with people's livelihoods. He urged citizens not to take recent gains for granted, citing improvements in salaries, cash grants, and other community support.

The ceremony honoured the memory of Rambarran, Pooran, Lallabagee, Surajballi, and Harry—the five sugar workers fatally shot by colonial police during a peaceful protest on June 16, 1948. Their deaths galvanised the labour movement and remain a powerful symbol of workers' rights.

"Let no one dare

tell you that sugar is a relic," President Ali declared. "They would not only be wrong - they would be dangerously mistaken. Sugar is still vital, especially to our rural economy."

The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union's (GAWU) President, Seepaul Narine, praised the President's "deep commitment to the working class," while the Federation of Independent Trade Union's (FITUG)

General Secretary, Dawshan Nagasar, said the martyrs' legacy lives on through today's labour protections and Guyana's visible transformation.

Among those in attendance were Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr., and members of the diplomatic corps.



The packed gathering at the 77th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs

# GUYANA URGES UN TO RETHINK LINK BETWEEN POVERTY AND CONFLICT

Guyana is urging the international community to adopt a more integrated and development-focused approach to global peacebuilding efforts. Speaking at the United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on Poverty, Underdevelopment, and Conflict, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd emphasised that peace and development are deeply interconnected, and that long-term stability in developing nations cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of poverty and

exclusion. Speaking as Guyana presides over the Security Council for the month of June, Minister Todd asserted that sustainable development in developing countries is impossible without peace and security, calling for a greater global recognition of their "inseparable link".

"Peace and security cannot be divorced from development. Poverty and underdevelopment are common features across many of the situations before the Security Council," he said.



Members of the United Nations' Security Council participating in the roundtable discussion

Minister Todd cautioned against the overreliance on political resolutions in conflict-affected regions, arguing that such approaches often fail to address the underlying socio-economic conditions that fuel instability. Instead, he advocated for a more holistic strategy that

tackles the root causes of poverty, including unemployment, lack of access to education, economic exclusion, and limited opportunities.

"Focusing only on political solutions will not deliver comprehensive and sustainable peace," he emphasised.

Highlighting the urgent need for reform within the global financial system, Minister Todd called on international financial institutions to adopt a more inclusive and responsive approach. He pointed out that developing nations often face higher costs when accessing international financing, despite being the most in need of support.

"There is truth in the saying that being poor is expensive. The global financial architecture should be more responsive to the needs of developing countries, particularly those transitioning out of conflict," he stated.

Minister Todd also stressed the

importance of investing in women and youth, calling for targeted support to expand their economic opportunities and increase their participation in national development.

Guyana assumed the presidency of the UN Security Council in June 2025 as part of its two-year term on the Council (January 2024 – December 2026). This marks Guyana's first presidency since 1986. As part of its leadership, Guyana will also convene the annual Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict on June 25.

Minister Todd was supported at the debate by Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud and Guyana's Permanent Representative to the UN, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett.

# PROVIDENCE PREPARES FOR CPL FINALS WITH PHASED TICKET RELEASES

Cricket fever is rising in Guyana as the National Stadium in Providence prepares to host the 2025 Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Playoffs and Finals, set for September 16–21. To manage high demand and ensure fair access, organisers have rolled out a phased ticket release schedule.

The first phase, a Visa cardholder exclusive pre-sale, opened on June 12 and has since concluded.

The second phase began on June 14, with tickets available online via the official CPL website. This release, open to all major credit card holders, features a limited number of

tickets, reflecting the strong interest in this year's finale. Organisers have announced that additional online ticket batches will follow in the coming weeks, giving fans more chances to secure seats.

For those preferring to buy in person, the Guyana Amazon Warriors box office

will open on August 4. A separate allocation of tickets will be made available there, including all tickets for the grass mound area, which will be sold exclusively at the box office. The exact date and details for in-person ticket sales are expected to be confirmed soon.

The CPL Playoffs and Finals promise a



Guyana Amazon Warriors box office will open on August 4

thrilling climax to the tournament, drawing cricket fans from across the Caribbean and beyond to Providence. With excitement mounting, organizers

urge fans to monitor official CPL channels for updates on ticket availability and event details.





# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 96

## 90% COMPLETE - NEW SCHOOL AT TUSCHEN ON TRACK TO SERVE 800+ STUDENTS

A \$864 million investment in Region Three's future, this modern secondary school will soon open its doors to over 800 students. Equipped with science labs, a TVET training centre, and student-friendly amenities, the facility is designed to support 21st-century learning.

This is one of five new secondary schools under construction in Region Three, part of the government's broader push to expand access to quality education across Guyana. With final touches underway, Tuschen's students are just weeks away from stepping into a space built to inspire learning, innovation, and lifelong success.





H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali  
President, Co-operative  
Republic of Guyana



**WARAMURI (BARIMA - WAINI)**  
- Coffee Production  
- Breadfruit  
- Eco-Tourism

**ANNA REGINA**  
- Charity

**BARTICA**  
- Precious Minerals  
- Manufacturing  
- Tourism

**ESSEQUIBO**  
- Tourism Hub (S&S Islands)  
- Coal Centers  
- Agriculture/Agro-processing  
- Solar Farms - Commercial Coconut Farming

**PARIKA**  
- Expansion of the Schomburgk Road to the Demerara Mouth Span Bridge - Part for the New Regional Ferry Service, Transportation and Logistics, Agricultural Trade, Eco & Medical Tourism

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**  
- Transport, Food & Tourism Hub

**BARBADOS**  
- Transport, Food & Tourism Hub  
- Twinning Beach/Jungle

**Silica City**  
- Aims to be Guyana's first Smart Urban Center, powered by renewable energy. - Aligns with the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**BERBICE**  
- Oil Refinery  
- Downstream investment opportunities, Petrochemical industry, fertilizers & synthetic materials, Fuel Distribution, Industrial Manufacturing  
- Deepwater port - Aquaculture  
- Hotel Development  
- Agricultural belt

**WALES**  
- Gas to shore pipeline  
- Manufacturing & Industrial Hub  
- 300 MW Energy Plant and Integrated Natural Gas Liquid Plant  
- Vreed-en-Roop Shore Base Inc. (VESH)

**LINDEN**  
- Agricultural Port & Large Scale Farming  
- Food Hub - (Lemon Seasonal Business - Eco-Ledens & Recreos - Theme Parks - Manufacturing Ecosystem - Tourism and Logistics Hub - Sports Facilities & Sports Tourism)

**MAHIDIA**  
- Precious Minerals (Gold, Diamond), Agriculture

**LETHEM**  
- Hotel Development & Casinos - Airport Expansion - Large Scale Farming - Cattle Ranching - Cold Storage - Eco Tourism  
- Food Hub

**GUYANA BRAZIL CONNECTION**  
- Logistical Integration  
- Food Security  
- Energy Security  
- Construction of roads, ports and airways that connect the Caribbean to the Northern Region of Brazil

**GUYANA SURINAME CONNECTION**  
- Corentyne River Bridge  
- Food Production (Enhanced agricultural collaboration & trade)  
- Infrastructure Projects - Eco-tourism

**R - Region**

**NORTHERN BRAZIL**

**BRAZIL**

**SURINAME**

**Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, MBA**  
Chief Investment Officer, Office of the President, Agency Head, Guyana Office for Investment

**GUYANA'S INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

## EXPORT PROMOTION & READINESS

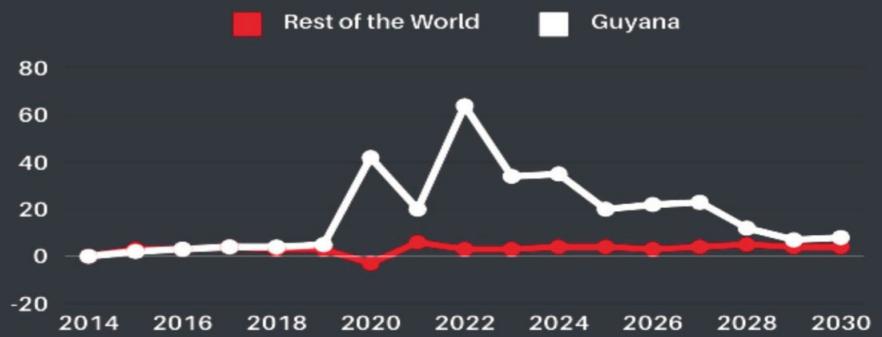


The Guyana Office for Investment is a semi-autonomous agency established in 1994 pursuant to the Public Corporations Act, with a mandate to promote and encourage investment in Guyana.

## WHY BUY GUYANA STOCK?

1 GY 43.60% -2024 REAL GDP GROWTH

Source - International Monetary Fund - Statista



**FOOD SECURITY**

- Tropical Climate
- Large Expanse of freshwater
- 420,000 Hectares of arable land
- 25% by 2025 reduction in food import bill

**CLIMATE SECURITY**

- 18.3M Hectares in standing forest
- Storing 19.5 Gigatons of Carbon worth US \$195B

**ENERGY SECURITY**

- 11+ Billion Oil-equivalent barrels discovered offshore
- 17 Trillion Cubic Feet Gas Reserves
- 300MW Power Plant

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

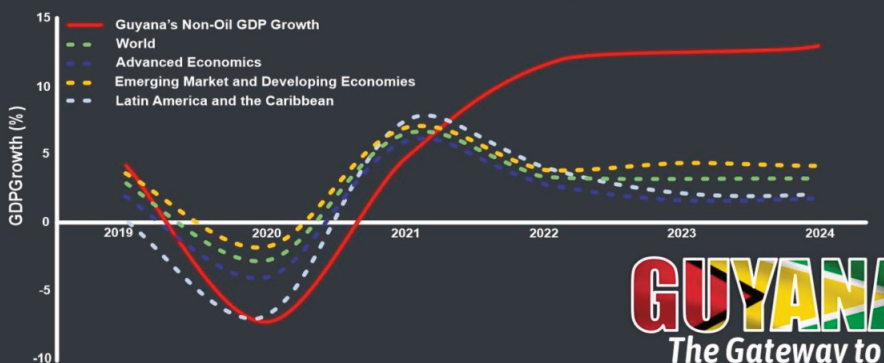
- Several New Regional Hospitals
- Access to free Education
- BIT Training
- Housing Development

**WORLD CLASS TOURISM INDUSTRY**

- 900 species of Birds
- 225 species of Mammals
- 800 species of Reptiles
- 6500 species of Plants & Trees
- 365 Islands along Guyana's Essequibo River
- Several US Branded hotels under construction

## GUYANA: GROWTH NON-OIL ECONOMY VS. GROWTH IN OTHER REGIONS

Sources: Bureau of Statistics and IMF WEO Database, October 2024





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