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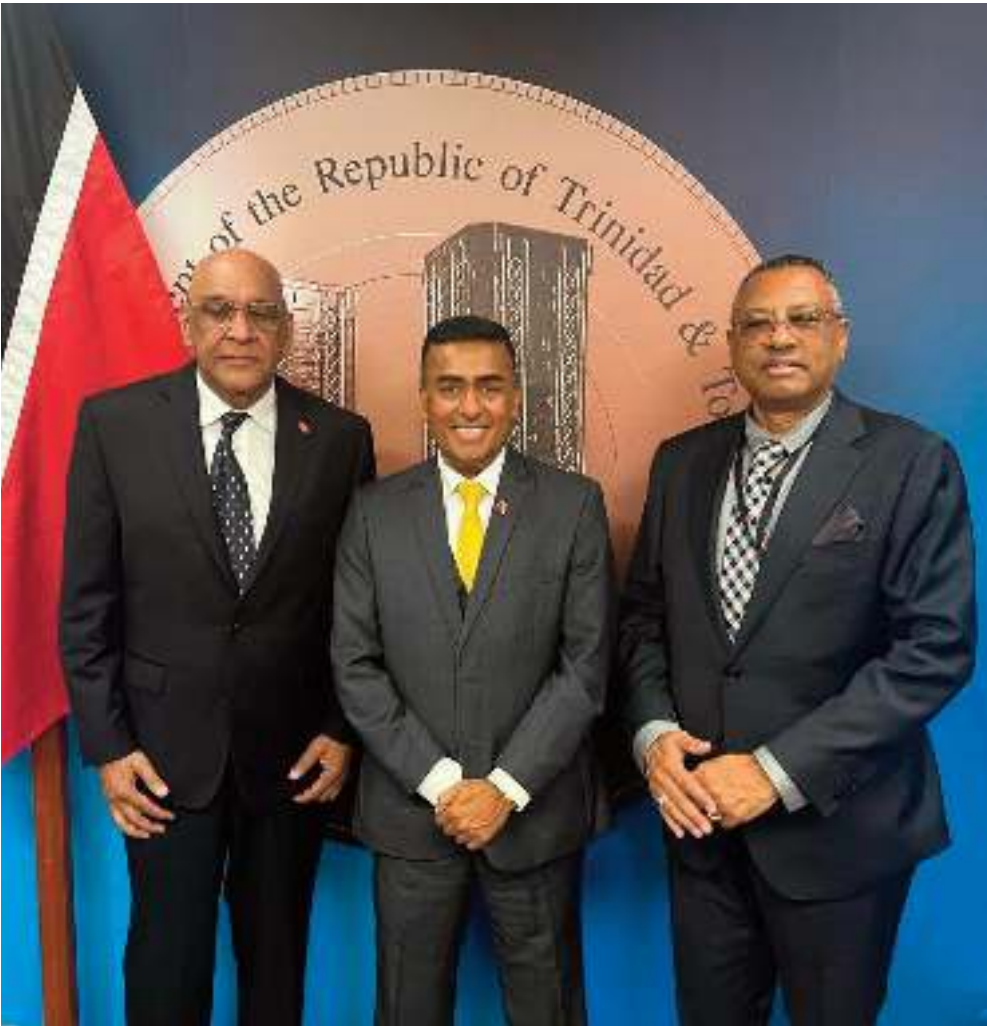
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Newly minted T&T Ministers get to work

Hitting the ground running, newly minted Trinidad and Tobago Cabinet Ministers met to discuss policy coordination between their respective Ministries. The country’s tourism was at the top of mind as T&T leans towards diversifying its economy away from oil and gas. And leading this charge is (l-r) Satyakama Maharaj, Minister of Trade, Investment, and Tourism, who met with Davendranath Tancoo, the new Minister of Finance, and Kennedy Swaratsingh, Minister of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, at the Ministry of Finance to discuss the way forward for the sector. Maharaj, better known as Kama, is no stranger to trade and industry, as he is the founder of Sacha Cosmetics, which he took from a local brand to one of the leading cosmetics brands globally for women with diverse skin. Interestingly, Kama got the idea for Sacha while living in Toronto and working with the co-founder of MAC Cosmetics, Frank Angelo.



RCMP Sergeant to lead Adriana probe

Guyana’s Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC, (above) has confirmed that Canadian homicide expert Leonard Mc Coshen has officially begun working alongside local investigators in the ongoing probe into the death of 11-year-old Adriana Younge. Mc Coshen, a retired Staff Sergeant of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), arrived in Guyana on Monday night and will support the Guyana Police Force in navigating the complex case, which has drawn national scrutiny and widespread public concern. The move follows through on a promise made by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who had earlier committed to bringing in an independent foreign expert to assist with the case.

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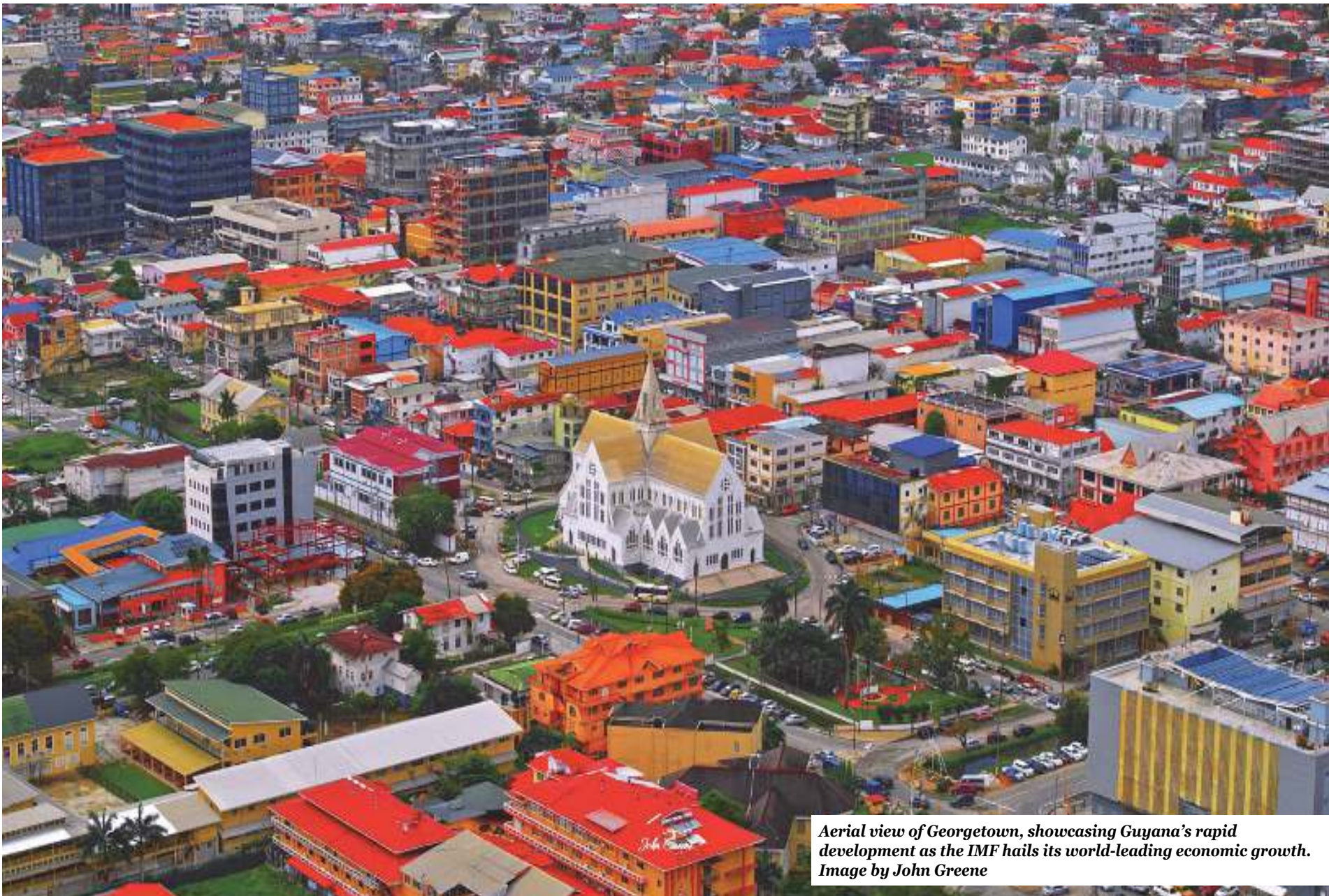
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**GUYANA LEADS
GLOBAL GDP GROWTH**
- IMF APPLAUDS ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND RESILIENCE

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Aerial view of Georgetown, showcasing Guyana's rapid development as the IMF hails its world-leading economic growth. Image by John Greene



WORLD COURT BLOCKS VENEZUELAN ELECTORAL PLANS IN GUYANA'S ESSEQUIBO REGION

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GUYANA'S GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT WINS US EXIM BANK'S PRESTIGIOUS DEAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

PAGE 5

PRESIDENT ALI EMPHASISES FACT-CHECKING, BALANCE AS KEY MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

With national elections on the horizon, President Irfaan Ali has urged the Guyanese media to prioritise rigorous fact-checking, balanced reporting, and ethical conduct, particularly in light of the increasing influence of artificial intelligence (AI).

Speaking at a World Press Freedom Day brunch at State House, the President emphasised the media's crucial role in ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process and navigating the challenges posed by evolving technologies.

President Ali stressed that the media's responsibility is **"immense"** during this pivotal period, calling for **"fair, honest, and open"** election coverage. He cautioned against the exploitation of press freedom for **"narrow, selfish, and often malicious ends,"** urging journalists to be vigilant against the distortion of news. **"As**

custodians of public discourse, we must recognise our duty to contribute positively to the social fabric of our nation," he stated.

The President also dedicated a significant portion of his address to the rapidly evolving media landscape,

professionalism to define the message anymore," he warned, acknowledging the challenges in regulating this dynamic.

To safeguard ethical conduct in this changing environment, President Ali advocated for a collaborative approach

do it, it is a ticking time bomb," he cautioned, highlighting the potential for AI to destabilise through rapid misinformation.

President Ali also underscored the importance of media professionals understanding the evolving information landscape, where traditional news dissemination is being challenged by new technologies and diverse communication styles. He identified the rise of **"facts-driven, preference-driven, and personal opinion-driven news,"** raising concerns about the potential sacrifice of factual accuracy.

In a significant announcement, President Ali stated that Guyana aims to establish a **"clearly defined framework for AI and digitisation in every sphere of national life [and] every sphere of public life"** within the next 12 months. He also

revealed his intention to present a paper on the **"evolving definition of the media"** to his CARICOM colleagues, aiming to

Award, and Zenella Tamaira Marks, Merrano Isaacs, and Tusika Martin received the Excellence in Media Awards.



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali flanked by Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy and the awardees

particularly the impact of AI. He voiced concerns about the potential prioritisation of speed and accuracy over ethical considerations, highlighting the rise of influencers and AI-driven content. **"It does not require intellectualism or**

to AI governance in the media. He proposed a CARICOM-wide strategy to address the **"intellectual and professional conduct of AI,"** emphasising the need for policies, regulations, and legislation to manage its impact. **"If we don't**



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivering remarks at the World Press Freedom Day brunch

mitigate the spread of misinformation and AI-generated content within the region.

During the brunch, several media professionals were recognised for their contributions to the country's media landscape. Ronald Ron Robinson received the Lifetime Achievement

In positive news, President Ali noted that Guyana has improved its ranking in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, moving to 73rd out of 180 countries, up from 77th in 2024. Guyana's score also saw a slight increase from 60.1 to 60.12.

MINISTER MCCOY URGES MEDIA TO REFLECT, REASSERT TRUTH ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Marking World Press Freedom Day, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Information and Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy called on the Guyanese media to engage in critical self-examination and actively reclaim its fundamental role as a purveyor of truth.

His message addressed the challenges posed by misinformation and the evolving

landscape of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Minister McCoy emphasised the **"indispensable role of a free and ethical press in upholding democracy,"** while cautioning against the threats posed by AI, including the spread of misinformation and algorithmic bias. He voiced concern over a **"disturbing rise of misinformation and disinformation"** in



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy

Guyana, attributing it in part to some media outlets allegedly

prioritising political bias over professional ethics. **"Today calls**

for collective reflection, critical introspection, and the strengthening of institutional guardrails," Minister McCoy stated. He urged the press to re-establish itself as a **"bastion of truth and accountability, grounded in objectivity, integrity, and adherence to universal journalistic ethics."**

Acknowledging

the government's commitment to press freedom, Minister McCoy stressed that the responsibility to protect media credibility lies not only with institutions, but also with those within the media fraternity itself. He called for a renewed dedication to ethical principles in the face of an increasingly complex information environment shaped by AI.

GUYANA POLICE FORCE GETS 5,000 BODY CAMERAS

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) is set to roll out 5,000 newly acquired body-worn cameras, following an official handover ceremony at State House.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali presented the devices to Commissioner of Police, Clifton Hicken, marking a significant step toward strengthening transparency and accountability within the



The handing over ceremony

force.

Describing the cameras as **"high-tech"**, President Ali assured the public that their use will enhance officer conduct and ensure greater accountability. He stressed the critical role these devices will play in providing **"traceability of conduct from the citizenry and the police,"** leaving **"absolutely no excuse whatsoever"** for officers not to wear them while on duty.

The cameras will serve as independent tools to capture visual



The handing over ceremony

and audio evidence—vital for verifying police-public interactions, arrests, and incidents. Their use will be governed by Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) 1 of May 2015, which outlines clear guidelines for camera usage, data management, and evidence preservation.

GUYANA LEADS GLOBAL GDP GROWTH - IMF APPLAUDS ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND RESILIENCE

Guyana has emerged as the world's fastest-growing economy, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognising its exceptional performance in the 2025 Article IV Consultation report.

The IMF reported that Guyana recorded an average real GDP growth of 47 percent annually since 2022, largely driven by surging oil production, robust non-oil expansion, and high-impact public investments.

In 2024 alone, real oil GDP rose by nearly 58 percent, while the non-oil sector registered impressive growth of over 13 percent—well above the global average of 3–5 percent. The IMF credited the government's sound economic policies, strategic investments, and balanced approach to development for sustaining this

momentum.

According to the IMF, Guyana's outlook remains **"highly favourable"**, with real GDP growth

fiscal resilience.

Despite potential risks such as overheating and oil price volatility, the IMF assessed these as **"broadly balanced"**

where resource booms harm other sectors of the economy—although it cautioned continued vigilance.

Vice President and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, echoed the IMF's findings, highlighting that public debt has fallen sharply since 2020. He emphasised that only a small portion of national revenue is now used to service debt—marking a significant turnaround from previous years.

"When we have built out the schools and the hospitals and the road network ... we don't need capital expenditure on these issues [and] it will cause a massive reduction," he said.

The IMF further praised Guyana for maintaining transparency, strengthening governance, and



Major infrastructural works are ongoing

projected to average 14 percent annually over the next five years. The country's external financial position has also strengthened, with a rising current account surplus and growing oil revenues being saved in the Natural Resource Fund (NRF), boosting

and noted that continued oil discoveries and investment in productivity could further enhance long-term prospects.

Importantly, the IMF concluded that Guyana shows no clear signs of **"Dutch disease"**—a condition



Guyana is charting a new path of economic transformation

responsibly managing its natural resource wealth. It encouraged the continued use of a medium-term fiscal framework to smooth spending, avoid economic overheating, and foster diversification in agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

Dr. Jagdeo affirmed that these goals are part of the government's long-term strategy. He noted that current fiscal

deficits are linked to transformative capital projects—including highways, hospitals, power plants, and schools—that will lay the foundation for future growth.

With sustained non-oil growth and prudent resource management, Guyana is on track to become a model for developing nations—balancing rapid transformation with long-term stability.

BIHAR MUSEUM GIFTS HISTORICAL ART AND CULTURAL ARTIFACTS TO GUYANA

President Dr. Irfaan Ali has received a collection of significant cultural artifacts from the Bihar Museum, a state-owned institution located in Patna, India, symbolising the strengthening cultural ties between the two nations.

The artworks were presented to Guyana during a courtesy visit by the High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Dr. Amit Telang, accompanied by the Deputy Director of the Bihar Museum, Dr. Sunil Kumar Jha, and the Museum's Curator, Dr. Ravi Gupta.

The donation includes a meticulously crafted replica of a terracotta figurine of a smiling girl dating back

to the 3rd century BC, offering a glimpse into ancient Indian artistry. Also presented was a framed photograph

showcasing a vibrant Mithila (Madhubani) painting. This traditional Indian art form, originating in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal, is known for its intricate patterns and depiction of mythological and everyday life.

Adding to the collection is a beautiful silk shawl adorned with a Madhubani design, highlighting the exquisite craftsmanship of the region. The gift exchange was completed with a delicate jute flower bouquet, skillfully handcrafted by artisans from Bihar.

This cultural



The gifts were presented to Guyana during a courtesy visit by the High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Dr. Amit Telang



The gifts were presented to Guyana during a courtesy visit by the High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Dr. Amit Telang

exchange underscores the growing collaboration and friendship between Guyana and India, further enriching Guyana's cultural heritage with significant pieces of Indian history and art.

President Ali

expressed his gratitude for the generous donation, emphasising the importance of such initiatives in fostering understanding and appreciation between the two countries.



Air Transat plans to release further details about its complete winter 2025-2026 programme soon.

Air Transat recently named the 2024 World's Best Leisure Airline by Skytrax, is enhancing its winter programme with

the addition of a new non-stop route between Toronto-Pearson (YYZ) and Guyana's capital, Georgetown (GEO).

WORLD'S BEST LEISURE AIRLINE, AIR TRANSAT, ADDS NEW ROUTE TO GUYANA

The airline will operate this new service twice weekly, with flights scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays, commencing on December 16, 2025, and continuing until April 24, 2026.

Sebastian Ponce, Transat's Chief Revenue Officer, stated, **"With this new route, we are expanding our**

presence in South America while optimising the use of our aircraft. This addition meets a strong demand from the Guyanese diaspora in Canada, while also tapping into a growing market and a leisure clientele curious to discover new destinations."

The flights, which are being launched in collaboration with Guyanese and Canadian authorities and are subject to regulatory approvals, will be available for booking in the coming days.

Air Transat will utilise the A321LR aircraft for this route. The A321LR is recognised for its efficiency and

provides passengers with a comfortable flight experience, featuring ergonomic cabins and an advanced inflight entertainment system. The aircraft also includes Club Class seats, offering a premium travel option.

Air Transat plans to release further details about its complete winter 2025-2026 programme soon.

WORLD COURT BLOCKS VENEZUELAN ELECTORAL PLANS IN GUYANA'S ESSEQUIBO REGION

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a legally binding order prohibiting Venezuela from holding or preparing to hold elections in Guyana's Essequibo region, pending the outcome of the ongoing border dispute between the two nations.

The decision came in response to Guyana's request for additional provisional measures, after Venezuela announced plans to install a governor and legislative council in the "Guayana Esequiba State"—a term it has applied to Guyana's Essequibo region.

In its latest ruling, the ICJ reaffirmed an earlier decision from December 1, 2023, which instructed both countries to avoid any action that could change the status quo, escalate tensions, or hinder resolution of the dispute.

The new order states: **"Pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic**

of Venezuela shall refrain from conducting elections, or preparing to conduct elections, in the territory in dispute, which the Co-operative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control."

The order was adopted by a vote of 12 to 3.

The government of Guyana has welcomed the ruling and reiterated its unwavering commitment to international law and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said:

"The Government of Guyana expects that the Government of Venezuela will act responsibly in complying with the Court's Orders of both 1 December 2023 and 1 May 2025, which are legally binding on both States, and in so complying,

fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana."

Guyana reaffirmed its support for the ICJ-led process to resolve the controversy surrounding the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which

calling the disputed territory "an inalienable part of the Venezuelan territory and a legacy of our liberators." The government framed the defense of the territory as a "historical, constitutional, and moral mandate."

corporate interests.

"Venezuela reaffirms that, faithful to its historical position, it does not and will never recognize the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, nor will it comply with any decision

proceedings. It continues to insist that the 1966 Geneva Agreement—not the ICJ—is the sole valid framework for resolving the dispute.

"The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela once again demands that the Government of Guyana stop delaying direct negotiations and strictly comply with the Geneva Agreement," the communique added.

The Essequibo region makes up nearly two-thirds of Guyana's national territory and lies at the heart of a decades-long border controversy with Venezuela. The controversy centres on the 1899 Arbitral Award, which established the boundary but has been consistently contested by Venezuela. In December 2020, the ICJ ruled that it had jurisdiction to hear the case—rejecting Venezuela's objections and allowing the proceedings to move forward.



ICJ issues binding ruling to prevent elections in Guyana's Essequibo

established the border between Guyana and Venezuela.

In a statement issued the following day (May 2), Venezuela rejected the ICJ's order,

Venezuela also denounced the ICJ's provisional measures as "abusive and interventionist," accusing the Court of serving anti-Venezuelan

issued by it to settle the territorial dispute over the Guayana Esequiba."

Despite its rejection of the Court's authority, Venezuela has participated in the

IMF OFFICIALS LAUD GUYANA'S HANDLING OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



Ana Corbacho, Deputy Director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department

Top officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have delivered a strong vote of confidence in Guyana's management of its ongoing economic transformation, particularly in light of significant oil discoveries and a volatile global economic landscape.

Speaking at a press briefing, Rodrigo Valdes, Director of the IMF's

Western Hemisphere Department, and his Deputy, Ana Corbacho, commended the nation's prudent policies and effective strategies in navigating this period of rapid growth.

Valdes emphasised the complexities of managing natural resource wealth, noting that it can be a double-edged sword. He explicitly

praised Guyana's approach, stating, **"We're seeing a very good management in Guyana. Now, Suriname has to establish the framework for this to work well for them,"** drawing a clear distinction in the region's handling of similar economic opportunities.

Deputy Director Corbacho highlighted Guyana's remarkable economic performance. She pointed to the impressive 47 percent economic growth recorded between 2022 and 2024, positioning Guyana as a global leader in economic expansion within a stable macroeconomic environment. Corbacho underscored the significance of maintaining this stability and building resilience against external shocks in the current uncertain global climate.

The IMF's latest commendation builds upon previous recognition of Guyana's economic policies. Their 2023 Article IV Consultation report, released in March, had already applauded the government's initiatives in transforming the economy. The IMF specifically noted the success of measures implemented in 2022 and 2023 in curbing inflation and praised the government's social transfer programmes as a positive step towards poverty alleviation.

Furthermore, key infrastructure projects like the gas-to-energy initiative have been recognised by the IMF for their potential to fuel both short-term growth and long-term development through enhanced energy reliability and infrastructure. The IMF projects continued strong economic momentum,

with real GDP and non-oil GDP expected to grow significantly in 2025, underscoring the effectiveness of the current economic direction under President Mohamed Irfaan Ali's administration.

cash grants and social support programmes. These measures, championed by the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration, are seen as integral to ensuring that the economic



Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Western Hemisphere Department, Rodrigo Valdes

The IMF officials also acknowledged the tangible benefits reaching Guyanese citizens through various government initiatives, including substantial

transformation translates into improved livelihoods for all Guyanese.

GUYANA'S GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT WINS US EXIM BANK'S PRESTIGIOUS DEAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

G u y a n a ' s transformative Gas-to-Energy (GtE) Project has been awarded the prestigious *Deal of the Year* for 2025 by the Export-Import Bank of the United States (US EXIM). The accolade was received by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, who represented President Irfaan Ali at the bank's annual conference.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Dr. Singh expressed the deep gratitude of the Government and people of Guyana, calling the recognition a testament to the scale and significance of the



Guyana receives US EXIM Bank's Deal of the Year Award for historic and transformational GtE Project

project. He described it as **"one of the most complex engineering undertakings in the country's history."** The GtE Project include a 250-kilometre high-pressure pipeline built by ExxonMobil, beginning a mile beneath the ocean floor, and a 300 MW combined-cycle power plant and a natural gas liquids (NGL) plant under construction

by Lindsayca/CH4 Systems. It also includes Guyana's first 230 kV and 69 kV transmission lines, complete with substations and a modern power dispatch control centre.

Dr. Singh praised the involvement of experienced US partners, noting their global reputation for delivering world-class engineering and

construction solutions. He emphasised that their technical expertise has been instrumental in the successful execution of the project.

Highlighting the broader national impact, Dr. Singh described the project as a **"game-changer"** for Guyana's energy sector. Upon completion, it is expected to double the country's electricity generation capacity and slash electricity tariffs by 50%, providing major relief to households and boosting competitiveness for energy-intensive industries like manufacturing.

Environmentally, the project marks a crucial transition away from heavy fuel oil, significantly reducing

the country's carbon footprint per kilowatt-hour by using natural gas as a cleaner alternative.

Dr. Singh also underscored the award's symbolic importance, viewing it as a reflection of the growing partnership between the United States and Guyana—grounded in shared values such as democracy, rule of law, and private-sector-led growth.

Looking ahead, the Senior Minister signalled Guyana's interest in collaborating further with US EXIM on other critical projects in areas such as port security, trade expansion, and food security across the Caribbean and the broader hemisphere.

In a statement,

US EXIM Bank Acting President and Chairman Jim Cruse said the project not only supports



Guyana receives US EXIM Bank's Deal of the Year Award for historic and transformational GtE Project

US geo-economic and strategic goals in the Western Hemisphere, but also aligns with the Bank's priorities.

GO-INVEST CONNECTS GUYANESE BUSINESSES WITH JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS

The Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest) successfully hosted a high-level business matchmaking session in Japan on April 28, 2025, linking Guyanese private sector representatives with prospective Japanese partners.

The event leveraged the J-GoodTech Expo Matching Portal, a premier platform for international business connections, to promote collaboration between innovative companies

from both countries.

This strategic initiative is part of ongoing efforts to position Guyanese businesses for international expansion, offering them direct exposure to investment-ready and technologically advanced Japanese enterprises. The session also supported Guyana's broader private sector engagement and participation at the World Expo 2025.

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, Chief Investment Officer



The international business matching session

of Guyana and Head of Go-Invest, played a key role in coordinating the initiative, reinforcing the government's

commitment to expanding global business opportunities for local firms.

The J-GoodTech

platform, operated by SME SUPPORT JAPAN, is a comprehensive business matching tool that connects over 38,000 companies worldwide. It focuses on encouraging innovation, scalability, and sustainable cooperation across a wide range of industries.

Thanks to Go-Invest's facilitation, Guyanese businesses now have full access to the J-GoodTech portal, enabling them to present their profiles,

seek collaboration, and pursue long-term partnerships. In addition to digital engagement, several delegates participated in in-person meetings with Japanese companies, laying the groundwork for future joint ventures and collaborative initiatives.

This successful engagement underscores Go-Invest's proactive role in strengthening international linkages and expanding the global footprint of Guyana's private sector. It also aligns with Vision 2030, the nation's development strategy focused on economic diversification and private sector competitiveness.

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) has pledged to revamp Guyana's stock market in its next term, addressing regulatory hurdles and exploring incentives to boost participation, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo announced at a recent youth forum.

The move aims to democratise investment opportunities and ensure Guyanese citizens can directly benefit from the nation's burgeoning economy.

Dr. Jagdeo acknowledged the need to enhance the Guyana Association of Securities Companies and Intermediaries Inc., (GASCI), the entity

overseeing the local stock market, by removing barriers that deter companies and potential investors. **"If there are hurdles to entrance... then we will adjust those hurdles,"** he stated, emphasising the government's commitment to facilitating a more accessible and lucrative stock exchange environment.

Furthermore, the government is considering implementing incentives to encourage public company listings. **"We**

want to create a system of incentives and disincentives. So, if you are a public company, you could probably get a break on taxes... [when compared to] a private company. Maybe that will encourage people to go in that direction. We have to explore all the policies," Dr. Jagdeo explained.

This initiative follows the government's recent push to engage international experts on leveraging capital markets in Guyana.

Notably, Dr. Jagdeo revealed plans to create investment vehicles within the oil and gas sector, with entry points as low as GYD\$50,000 to \$100,000, specifically designed for Guyanese citizens and small businesses. These opportunities aim to ensure that the benefits of Guyana's economic growth are widely distributed.

The government's commitment to financial empowerment was further demonstrated by hosting the first Regional Jamaica Stock Exchange

(JSE) conference outside of Jamaica in October 2023. The event facilitated discussions among financial industry stakeholders,

fostering partnerships and enhancing understanding to bolster the sector's development.



Hurdles to participating in local stock market to be reduced in next term

GUYANA DEFENDS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AT UN REVIEW, HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS IN INCLUSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the human rights of all its citizens during the country's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Addressing the session in Geneva, Permanent Representative to the UN, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, highlighted the government's achievements and ongoing efforts in areas such as healthcare, education, digital inclusion, prison reform, and combatting domestic violence.

Responding to questions and recommendations from various states, Rodrigues-Birkett underscored the

government's commitment to fostering inclusion across Guyana's diverse population.

"We see diversity as strength, but we also see that if you do not invest in diversity, it can be used to foment divisions," she stated. **"We continue every day to work as a government to bring our people together."**

Rodrigues-Birkett, a former Minister of Amerindian Affairs, also highlighted strides made in bridging the digital divide, especially between coastal and hinterland communities. Through the Prime Minister's hinterland connectivity programme, internet access has been extended to many remote communities, helping to

ensure more equitable access to development opportunities.

"If the digital divide continues,



Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett; Minister Oneidge Walrond and Guyana's Ambassador to Switzerland Dr Leslie Ramsammy

we cannot speak of development in a fulsome way," she said.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, who led the delegation, further emphasised

Guyana's ongoing commitment to human rights, inclusion, and transparency. She pointed to several

policies and programmes aimed at improving access to justice, education, healthcare, housing, and poverty alleviation.

Minister Walrond presented updates from Guyana's national

report, which outlined progress made since the last review in 2020. She highlighted the creation of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, as well as the role of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance in coordinating Guyana's interactions with international human rights bodies.

Despite limited resources, she noted Guyana's active participation in the global human rights system, including the submission of its second Voluntary National Review in 2023 and responses to over 50 requests from UN experts. She stressed that even as many countries experience backsliding, Guyana has accelerated its development through

legal, institutional, and infrastructure reforms.

Guyana estimates it is about 67% of the way toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While challenges remain, including climate change and the territorial claim by Venezuela, Minister Walrond reiterated Guyana's strong support for the UPR process as a vital tool for transparency, accountability, and sustainable development.

The Guyanese delegation also included Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNOG, along with other technical officials.

"BECAUSE WE CARE" CASH GRANT DISTRIBUTION BEGINS NEXT WEEK



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand speaking at the inaugural Arrival Day Village

The government's 2025 "Because We Care" cash grant distribution—totalling \$55,000 per student—will officially begin on May 12, in Regions Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni) and Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo).

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand made the announcement during the launch of the Ministry's Arrival Day Village at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

She outlined the

grant distribution schedule, stating, **"And the following week, we will begin in Regions Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam) and Five (Mahaica-Berbice). Every other region will follow thereafter."**

To ensure transparency and accuracy, the Minister confirmed that teachers from all schools submitted students' names from their registers, which were then verified by the respective regional education departments.

This year, the grant

comprises \$50,000 in direct cash support, plus a \$5,000 uniform allowance, bringing the total to \$55,000 per student.

A total of \$11 billion has been allocated in the 2025 National Budget for the initiative, targeting approximately 205,000 students enrolled in both public and private schools across the country.

The increased support reflects the government's continued commitment to easing the financial burden on families and improving access to education. The grant is intended



Distribution of the 'Because We Care' cash grant in 2024

to help parents and guardians afford school supplies and prepare their children for the upcoming school year in September.

Since its reintroduction in 2020, following its

discontinuation by the previous administration, the cash grant has seen consistent increases, reinforcing its role as a key pillar in the government's social support and education development agenda.

PRESIDENT ALI UNVEILS AMBITIOUS PLAN TO MAKE GUYANA A FASHION DESTINATION

Guyana is setting its sights on the global fashion stage with a bold new initiative spearheaded by President Dr. Irfaan Ali. During the Origins: Guyana Fashion Festival, President Ali unveiled a comprehensive plan to position the nation as a unique fashion destination.

At the heart of this strategy is the establishment of a

National Fashion Council, a key step in diversifying the country's tourism sector and harnessing the global potential of the fashion industry.

In a video address to the festival, President Ali emphasised the significant economic opportunities in the global fashion event market, which is expected to surpass US\$200 billion by 2032.



Scene from the Origins Guyana Fashion Festival

He outlined how the Fashion Council would play a pivotal role in helping local designers, models, and artisans tap into this lucrative industry.

The council will collaborate closely with the government to provide local talent with critical resources, including access to cutting-edge facilities and international marketing platforms

designed to elevate their profiles on the world stage.

Further demonstrating the government's commitment to the sector, President Ali also announced the reopening of the refurbished Railway Yard Courtyard in Georgetown. This revitalised space will serve as a dedicated creative hub, offering state-of-the-art tools and machinery for fashion professionals to design, create, and showcase their work.

PRESIDENT ORDERS REVIEW OF LAWS AND SOPS ON MISSING PERSONS FOLLOWING ADRIANNA YOUNGE'S DEATH

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has ordered a full-scale review of Guyana's laws and police procedures concerning missing persons, following the

standard operating procedures (SOPs).

"I intend to bring in international and regional help to look at our existing laws, regulations,

pools and other public facilities.

"Thesethingsneed immediate review with the objective of upgrading and i m p l e m e n t i n g modern standards as our country continues to grow," the President said.

President Ali emphasised that Adrianna's death has sparked national reflection on the systems meant to protect children and respond to emergencies. A full investigation into the circumstances surrounding her disappearance and death is currently underway.

The President also underscored the need for police reform, highlighting the importance of empathy from officers and improved communication from the Guyana Police Force (GPF). **"There must be a proper communication and**

media engagement strategy that ensures timely, reliable, and factual information is shared, especially in a world driven by social media," he noted.

Already, the GPF has introduced revised protocols for handling missing persons reports. The outdated 24-hour waiting period has been removed. Cases involving children now trigger a nationwide "Red Alert," ensuring immediate, coordinated responses.

Additionally, the President announced plans for nationwide consultations to involve the public in strengthening systems that protect families and children. **"I'm looking forward to hearing from the public—ideas on how we can strengthen our systems and create an ecosystem that is child- and family-friendly, one that**

inspires confidence and trust," he said.

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo echoed the government's commitment to a thorough investigation. Speaking at his weekly press briefing, he noted that an autopsy

find out if it was by foul play or while swimming. The family deserves the truth," he said.

Dr. Jagdeo also addressed false narratives surrounding Adrianna's death, and condemned efforts by



The press conference following the autopsy

tragic death of 11-year-old Adrianna Younge.

Speaking during a press conference at State House, President Ali announced that both international and regional experts will be brought in to assess and upgrade existing laws, regulations, and

and SOPs in relation to policing work governing missing persons," he stated.

He added that policy improvements are already being considered, including the possible requirement for surveillance cameras at public swimming



The press conference following the autopsy

conducted by three pathologists—including two appointed by the government and one selected by the family—confirmed Adrianna died by drowning.

"We need to

some to politicise the tragedy. He emphasised that the investigation will be guided solely by facts and a commitment to justice for the family.

GOVT ACTS SWIFTLY TO AID CHATEAU MARGOT ACID ATTACK VICTIMS



President Ali meeting with the injured children, teachers, and their families at State House

In a decisive move to support the victims of the recent acid attack at Château Margot Primary School, the government swiftly implemented a comprehensive plan for their care and recovery. This action followed strong condemnation of the horrific incident by Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, who labeled it a deliberate act to spread fear across communities.

Dr. Jagdeo, speaking to reporters, emphasised the random

and calculated nature of the attack, where two individuals on a motorcycle threw a corrosive substance, believed to be acid, at students and a teacher on the East Coast



President Ali meeting with the injured children, teachers, and their families at State House

of Demerara. **"This was no domestic dispute. It was random, calculated, and designed to terrorise,"** he asserted, highlighting the potential for any child to have been targeted in what he described as an escalating **"campaign of terror."** The Vice

President called for attempted murder charges against the perpetrators and the identification of the **"intellectual authors"** behind the crime.

Echoing this sentiment, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall denounced the attack as an irrational act, indicating that the perpetrators could face serious terrorism-related charges under the Criminal Law (Offences) Act. He outlined the stringent penalties associated with such offenses, including the death penalty in cases of fatality.

Within days of the attack, the government demonstrated its commitment to the victims' well-being. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali personally met with the injured students, teachers, and their families at State House, offering reassurance and support. This was followed by a collaborative effort at the Better Hope Community Centre, where Education

Minister Priya Manickchand, Human Services Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud, and AG Nandlall joined in extending assistance to those affected.

Crucially, the government has established a comprehensive framework to ensure the full physical recovery of the young victims. This plan will provide ongoing specialised medical care tailored to their needs, underscoring the administration's commitment to the



President Ali meeting with the injured children, teachers, and their families at State House

long-term well-being of the Chateau Margot community in the wake of this shocking event. The swift and coordinated response

from the highest levels of government signals a firm stance against such acts of violence and a dedication to supporting those impacted.



President Ali meeting with the injured children, teachers, and their families at State House

GOV'T FIRES BACK AT OPPOSITION OVER RIOTS

Gov't fires back at Opposition over riots

The government has firmly rejected claims from the Opposition that it was responsible for orchestrating the recent violent protests following the death of 11-year-old Adriana Younge. Senior officials, including President Dr. Irfaan Ali, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, and Attorney General Anil Nandlall, SC, have denounced the allegations as politically motivated.

AG Nandlall Calls Allegations "Recycled Political Nonsense"

On his weekly programme, Attorney General Nandlall dismissed the accusations, calling them

a "recycled narrative" from the 1990s. He reminded the public that after the PNC/R lost elections in 1992, 1997, and 2001, similar allegations were made, accusing the PPP/C of using criminal gangs to incite unrest. "Now, Mr. Norton is updating that narrative with part-time workers. It's utter nonsense," AG Nandlall stated.

President Ali Urges Calm and Rejects Violence

In a national address, President Ali urged the public to remain calm, stressing that "violence and destruction do not bring justice." He condemned the escalating lawlessness, which included looting and arson, particularly

targeting Chinese-owned businesses. "The destruction of property and blocking of roadways only worsens the situation and does not bring justice," he said.

VP Jagdeo: "This Was Terror, Not Justice"

Vice President Jagdeo also weighed in, asserting that intelligence had revealed political mobilisation behind the riots. "This was never about justice—it was terror," he said, pointing out the theft from businesses as evidence that the protests were not rooted in any genuine quest for justice.

Law Enforcement

Responds; Dozens Arrested

In response to the unrest, the Guyana Police Force (GPF), with support from the Defence Force, made over 100 arrests for offenses including robbery under arms. On April 29, 70 individuals appeared before the Georgetown Magistrates' Courts, with additional charges expected. Law enforcement also seized motorcycles used in the attacks and issued wanted bulletins.

Curfew Imposed and Lifted

To maintain order, the government invoked the Public Safety Order 2025, implementing a nightly curfew across all regions. By May 1, the situation had stabilized,



Vice President and General Secretary of the PPP/C, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo



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

and the curfew was lifted, though restrictions remain in place in some areas.

Diplomatic Calls for Peaceful Protest

In the wake of Adriana Younge's death and the subsequent unrest, several Western diplomats called for peaceful expression of grief. U.S. Ambassador Nicole Theriot expressed condolences, urging citizens to remain calm and voice concerns through non-violent

means. "I encourage all Guyanese to adhere to the rule of law," she said.

Similar statements were issued by British High Commissioner Jane Miller, Canadian High Commissioner Sébastien Sigouin, and EU Ambassador René Van Nes, all reaffirming their support for Guyana's democracy and urging unity among the people.

Following the tragic passing of Adrianna Younge, a student of Parika Salem Primary, the Ministry of Education has stepped forward to offer its full support to students, teachers, and staff as they navigate this profound loss.

Adrianna's untimely passing has resonated deeply, with schools across the country joining in expressing their grief and solidarity.

To help those affected begin the healing process, the Ministry's specialised School Support Services team, under the guidance of Ms. Ann Greene, former Head of the Child Care and Protection Agency, has initiated trauma and grief counselling sessions at Meten-Meer-Zorg and Parika Salem Primary Schools.

"These sessions are critical in

CANADIAN EXPERT JOINS PROBE INTO ADRIANA YOUNGE'S DEATH

providing immediate emotional support and helping students and teachers navigate the grieving process with care and compassion," the Ministry stated.

The Ministry underscored its

unwavering dedication to promoting mental health and emotional well-being, particularly in moments of profound sorrow. Counselling and psychosocial support will continue to ensure the affected school communities are not

alone in their grief.

"Schools across the country are grieving," the Ministry noted, "and that process is being addressed with the guidance of trained professionals and education

administrators."

The Ministry of Education has extended its deepest condolences to Adrianna's family, friends, classmates, and teachers during this painful time, assuring them of ongoing support and solidarity.

GRIEF COUNSELLING OFFERED TO SCHOOLS FOLLOWING ADRIANNA YOUNGE'S PASSING



Ministry's specialised School Support Services team with the teachers at Parika-Salem Primary School

Following the tragic passing of Adrianna Younge, a student of Parika Salem Primary, the Ministry of Education has stepped forward to offer its full support to students, teachers, and staff as they navigate this profound loss.

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Ann Greene, former Head of the Child Care and Protection Agency embracing a student

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Counseling and psychosocial support being provided

DR JAGDEO DECRIES OPPOSITION'S 'ETHNIC AGENDA' IN WAKE OF CHILD'S DEATH

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has strongly condemned the opposition for what he described as the “racist” and “disgusting” exploitation of the tragic death of 11-year-old Adriana Younge for political gain.

Speaking at his weekly press conference, Dr. Jagdeo also vowed that the government would take firm action against anyone who breaks the law—regardless of their political affiliations.

Dr. Jagdeo accused the opposition of cynically using the young girl's death to stir ethnic tensions and manipulate public emotions ahead of upcoming elections. **“Look at the callous and disgusting attempt to use this child's death to mobilise people for political purposes or to polarise our population along ethnic lines. This is a disgusting attempt by the opposition,”** he stated. He argued that with no real accomplishments or



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

policies to campaign and disturbances in some communities, Dr. Jagdeo stressed the government's unwavering commitment to the rule of law. **“If they break the law,**

I don't care if they claim they're PPP or not...I support strong enforcement action who broke the law. I support that,” he declared. He acknowledged that while some individuals appeared to be instigators, others might have been influenced or unjustly accused. While supporting firm legal action, he also indicated the government's intention to support affected youth through training and rehabilitation programme.

Dr. Jagdeo contrasted the government's approach with what he described as the opposition's history of neglect and exploitation of vulnerable populations for political ends. He reiterated the government's focus on uncovering the truth behind Younge's death, highlighting the unprecedented investigation efforts, and on ensuring that all lawbreakers face the consequences of their actions, irrespective of any political connections they might claim.



The meeting with the farmers and land owners

President Irfaan Ali met with farmers and landowners from the East Bank of Demerara at State House to discuss the planned construction of the Craig to Land of Canaan Highway—a key extension of the Heroes Highway.

LANDOWNERS CONSULTED AS CRAIG TO LAND OF CANAAN HIGHWAY ADVANCES

During the engagement, President Ali stressed the importance of a balanced and considerate approach to land acquisition along the highway's alignment. He assured attendees that the Government is committed to fairness, inclusivity, and transparency as it advances the transformative infrastructure project.

“We understand the importance of land to families, livelihoods, and

communities,” the President said. He noted that the Government's strategy is focused on minimising disruption while maximising long-term national benefits. In keeping with this people-centred approach, President Ali presented several options for individuals who may be affected by the construction. These proposals will be further explored in an upcoming meeting with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, led by Minister Anil Nandlall, SC. The

aim, the President explained, is to finalise agreements that deliver equitable outcomes for all stakeholders. The Craig to Land of Canaan Highway is being developed under the Ministry of Housing and Water as part of the Government's broader national infrastructure agenda. Once completed, the new corridor is expected to ease traffic congestion, enhance connectivity, and boost economic activity along the East Bank corridor. The President



The meeting with the farmers and land owners

reaffirmed that solutions are reached collaboratively. engagements with landowners will continue as the project progresses, ensuring that concerns are heard and

STRICTER CONSTRUCTION RULES ENFORCED ON EAST COAST AFTER RESIDENT COMPLAINTS

In response to mounting complaints from residents, the government has introduced stricter regulations for construction zones along the East Coast Demerara (ECD). Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo announced that new measures—including reduced speed limits and mandatory dust control—will be enforced to reduce environmental and traffic disruptions caused by ongoing infrastructure projects.

The construction boom, spurred by major investments like the \$5.5 billion Georgetown-Mahaica Road project and the US\$500 million power line upgrade, has brought a sharp rise



The high-level meeting with contractors

in heavy vehicle traffic through residential areas. Residents have raised concerns about safety hazards, dust, and debris. Acknowledging these complaints, Dr. Jagdeo confirmed that immediate action is

being taken. Lower speed limits will be enforced within ECD villages, with the Guyana Police Force (GPF) monitoring compliance. Only remote backland routes, with minimal public activity, will be exempt from these restrictions.

“I want the people on the East Coast to know that this is what will obtain,” Dr. Jagdeo stated, adding that similar rules will be applied in other areas experiencing development. Contractors are also now required to operate trucks with closed, covered tailgates to reduce dust pollution. Road dampening to control dust has been made a contractual obligation.

“We can't stop the development work, but at least we can alleviate some of the concerns of the residents during the construction phase,” Dr. Jagdeo noted. These changes follow



The high-level meeting with contractors

a high-level meeting with contractors, where Vice President Jagdeo, Housing Minister Collin Croal, and Traffic Chief Mahendra Singh emphasised the need for more responsible operations. Enforcement will be carried out by the GPF, with penalties for non-compliance falling on both drivers and



The high-level meeting with contractors

contractors. Additionally, Dr. Jagdeo called for the removal of derelict vehicles from public roads, warning that the Ministry of Public Works will step in if owners fail to act. The new rules are intended to strike a balance between national development and community well-being, with success now depending on strong enforcement.

OVER 1,400 FAMILIES IN EAST BERBICE-CORENTYNE TAKE MAJOR STEP TOWARD HOMEOWNERSHIP

More than 1,400 families in the East Berbice-Corentyne region are now closer to owning their own homes, following the latest round of residential lot allocations under the Ministry of Housing and Water's "Dream Realised" housing drive.

The two-day outreach, saw allottees receiving house lots in the Glasgow and Providence housing schemes along the East Bank of Berbice. Attendees were also able to access information on the status and accessibility of their lots.

These new allocations bring the total number of lots distributed nationwide



The Dream Realise Housing Drive in Region Six

to over 45,000 since August 2020, reflecting the government's continued commitment to expanding homeownership opportunities.

In addition to lot allocations, 20 residents of Region Six received vouchers through

the Ministry's Steel and Cement Housing Subsidy Programme. The initiative, launched in 2022, provides critical construction materials to eligible low-income households to help them begin building their homes.

Among the

recipients was Hanswattie Gladwyn, a mother of four. She said the materials will enable her to build a home for her family. Another recipient, Nirmala Mohabeer, stated that the voucher will assist her in laying her home's foundation.

The total value of the 20 vouchers distributed during the event is nearly \$5 million. Since the programme's inception, approximately \$46 million worth of vouchers have been issued in Region Six. Each voucher is valid for up to six months and can be redeemed at approved suppliers across the region.



The Dream Realise Housing Drive in Region Six

WALTON HALL RESIDENTS FINALLY LANDOWNERS

Relief and celebration swept through Walton Hall as 78 families were officially granted legal ownership of the land they have occupied for generations. The momentous land title distribution, led by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, marked the end of decades of uncertainty for residents of this Region Two community.

For nearly 80 years, the land was held under the name of a defunct cooperative society, leaving residents in legal limbo. Without formal ownership, they were

unable to access loans, secure their futures, or confidently pass on property to their children.

Fifty-year-old resident Sanita Singh, overcome with emotion as she received her transport document, said, **"I can now process a loan to build my own home. This has only been possible through the government, and I'm so happy."**

Her sentiment was echoed by **Anthony Roopchan, who expressed pride in securing an inheritance for**

his children. "I feel proud as a father to own the land. I can pass this on to my children now. It would be nice to give them something of value," he said.

Another recipient, Harry Persaud, shared his gratitude and a sense of responsibility. **"I am very delighted to receive my transport and promise to uphold my obligation as a resident by paying my rates and taxes,"** he stated.

Speaking to the jubilant crowd at the Walton Hall Mandir, Minister Nandlall

emphasised the historic nature of the event. **"After 80 years, you will get your land title. You are the first generation living on these lands to receive a formal legal title,"** he said. He explained that the community had essentially been treated as squatters due to the dormant status of the cooperative society that once held title to the land.

The government's intervention came at no cost to residents. It fully covered expenses related to surveying, valuation, and legal processing—valued at approximately



78 Walton Hall families now legal landowners

\$100,000 per plot. **"There is no greater way of empowering a people than to give them legal ownership of the land they occupy,"** Minister Nandlall affirmed, highlighting the social and economic transformation this security can bring.

He also encouraged other residents to begin the process of

formalising their land ownership, noting that about 180 more transports are currently being prepared. He pointed to the newly opened Deeds and Commercial Registry building in Suddie as a valuable resource for resolving land-related matters.



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the forum

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has issued a powerful call to action, urging Guyana's young generation to spearhead a crucial shift in mindset and culture towards national development.

Speaking to a

packed audience at the University of Guyana's Economic Society (UGES) forum, Dr. Jagdeo emphasised the pivotal role youth must play in shaping the nation's future.

"It is people like you who have

to change [this mindset]. Young people like you," Dr. Jagdeo stated. He stressed the importance of critical thinking and informed analysis, urging young people to look beyond superficial narratives and engage with complex issues. **"That's why I'm spending time here, talking about analysing things in a bigger framework than what you just hear some man saying on the road... or on TikTok,"** he explained.

The Vice President highlighted the government's commitment to listening to and incorporating youth perspectives into national policies, reinforcing the importance of direct engagement. **"The outreaches that we do is because the PPP remains connected to the ground. We do it as a matter of principle,"** he affirmed.

A key focus of Dr. Jagdeo's address was the need to combat the spread of misinformation. He warned that without

active engagement and open dialogue, young people risk being swayed by falsehoods. **"My big fear is that if we don't speak enough about it, as boring as it is, then many people in an unsuspecting way... particularly the young people, they will actually subscribe and repeat the falsehoods... then you get caught in the populist form of policy making,"** he cautioned.

To equip young Guyanese for the challenges ahead, Dr.

Jagdeo announced plans to enhance internship and attachment opportunities at the University of Guyana, now fully funded by the government. **"It could become part of the curriculum and part of the testing system... the university should do more of the attachments and the government can ensure that we facilitate that,"** he said, emphasising the importance of practical experience.

PARLIAMENT IN ACTION: GOVT TABLES KEY LAWS AND PROJECTS TO ADVANCE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips tabling the Oil Pollution, Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Responsibility Bill 2025

The Government of Guyana is pressing forward with urgency and purpose. At the April 29 sitting of the National Assembly, sweeping legislative proposals and major investment agreements underscored the government's commitment to protecting citizens, strengthening institutions, and accelerating national development.

OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION BILL INTRODUCED

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips tabled the Oil Pollution, Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Responsibility Bill 2025, a crucial piece of legislation aimed at reinforcing environmental protection within the growing petroleum sector.

The bill establishes a comprehensive framework for: preventing oil spills, enhancing emergency preparedness, holding operators accountable, and providing legal recourse for affected citizens and communities.

Designed to align with international best practices, the legislation seeks to support Guyana's position as a major offshore oil producer while mandating strict environmental and safety standards across

the petroleum industry. These measures are expected to boost public confidence in the sector's long-term sustainability and regulatory integrity.

SWIFT ACTION ON CHILD PROTECTION

In response to the tragic death of 11-year-old Adrianna Younge, the government has introduced rapid reforms to strengthen child protection systems.

A motion by Opposition Member of Parliament (MP), Jermaine Figueira, called for the establishment of a National Child Emergency Notification System, modelled after the AMBER Alert system. Prime Minister Phillips confirmed that the longstanding 24-hour waiting period for missing persons reports has been abolished. In its place, a new 'Red Alert' system has been implemented to trigger immediate responses in cases involving missing children, ensuring swift coordination among law enforcement and child protection agencies.

In addition, the Ministry of Education has dispatched a dedicated School Support Services Team to Younge's school to offer trauma and grief counselling—part of a broader, holistic approach to child safety and well-being.

"These are all initiatives geared towards protecting

our children," said Prime Minister Phillips. "Our government has been making policies and implementing programmes throughout the length and breadth of Guyana to safeguard our children."

Speaker Manzoor Nadir acknowledged the emotional gravity of the tragedy while commending the government's proactive steps in both child protection and environmental safety.

GUYANA HORSE RACING AUTHORITY BILL PASSED

The National Assembly also passed the Guyana Horse Racing

Authority Bill 2024 (Amended)—a landmark piece of legislation aimed at regulating and modernising the country's horse racing industry.

First tabled by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr. in December 2024, the bill establishes a legal framework for the sport, introducing licencing requirements, term limits, enforcement mechanisms, and clear standards for fair competition and animal welfare.



Senior Finance Minister presenting the three loan agreements to the National Assembly

"This Bill seeks to regulate the horse racing industry and to establish a horse

was tailored to Guyana's specific needs—not a "cut-and-paste" solution.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha hailed the bill as a historic step that addresses long-standing issues and enhances the country's tourism appeal. He noted that over 1,000 people are currently employed in the sector, which is culturally embedded in communities nationwide.

MP Faizal Jaffarally also expressed support, highlighting that over 100 racing enthusiasts are ready to invest US\$20 million once the framework is in place.

Region Five, home to three race tracks—Bush Lot, Rising Sun, and Number Six—will soon see a new facility at Andrews, Mahaicony. The region also boasts more than 400 active racehorses, with Region Six hosting additional tracks and a vibrant racing scene.

NATURAL RESOURCE FUND REACHES \$3.3B

On the fiscal front, Senior Minister Dr. Ashni Singh reported that Guyana's Natural Resource Fund (NRF) reached US\$3.3 billion as of March 31, 2025. The report, required under the NRF Act 2021, highlights the government's transparency in managing oil revenues.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded Guyana's progress in resource governance, debt management, and fiscal policy. These gains have enabled increased investments in infrastructure, healthcare, and other vital social services—driving inclusive national growth.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS SECURED

The government also revealed the signing of three significant loan

agreements to bolster infrastructure and health systems:

Palmyra to Moleson Creek Highway Project

A US\$162.7 million deferred payment agreement with the China Road and Bridge Corporation will modernise a key highway corridor, improving transportation safety and regional economic connectivity.

Guyana Health Project

A US\$7 million financing agreement with the World Bank will enhance healthcare system resilience and pandemic preparedness across the country.

Water Supply Improvement Project

A US\$76.2 million loan from the Caribbean Development Bank will fund upgrades to water supply systems, positively impacting approximately 15,000 households nationwide.

These agreements reflect the government's continued focus on sustainable development, resilient infrastructure, and improved public services—furthering its commitment to a better quality of life for all Guyanese.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr. presenting the Horse Racing Authority Bill 2024 (Amended)

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99¢ ea

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Reg \$2.99

1.59 ea

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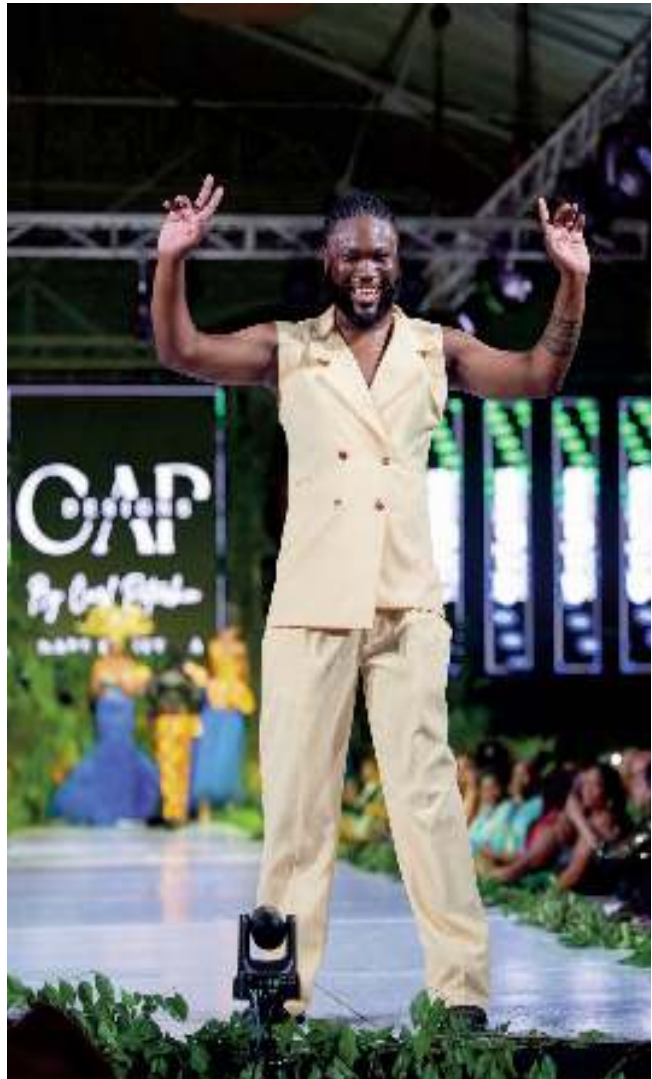
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ORIGINS: HERITAGE M GUYANA'S FAS

The "Origins Guyana Fashion Festival", a vibrant three-day event supported by the government, recently showcased Guyana's rich heritage and innovative fashion talent. More than a show, "Origins" launched a movement to elevate local creatives onto the global stage, celebrating tradition and positioning Guyana as a rising force in the industry.



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2 ⁹⁹ each	2 ⁹⁹ each	3/9 ⁹⁹	79¢ each
 <p>Grace Vienna Sausage assorted 130 g</p>	 <p>Chico Sardine In Tomato Sauce 425 g</p>	 <p>Nupak White Corn Flower 10 kg</p>	 <p>Pearl Basmati Rice 8 lbs</p>
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Sunday 9 am to 7 pm



REGION NINE CELEBRATES MAJOR HEALTH UPGRADES

Healthcare just got a whole lot better in Region Nine! With new facilities, modern equipment, and enhanced emergency services, residents now enjoy greater access to essential medical care right in their own communities.

\$14 MILLION DRUG BOND COMMISSIONED IN LETHEM

Region Nine has taken a big step forward in healthcare delivery with the opening of a \$14 million drug and medical supply bond in Lethem. Built by the Regional Democratic Council (RDC), the modern facility will serve as the main distribution hub for medical supplies across the region. It features climate-controlled storage for temperature-sensitive medications and advanced logistics systems for faster and more reliable delivery to health centres.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, said the project is part of a broader \$450 million investment in Region Nine's healthcare system. "We are not only listening to the requests; we are delivering on the promises that we make," he stated.



An interior view of the drugs bond

ANNAI GETS NEW DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Residents of Annai and surrounding North Rupununi villages are now benefitting from the newly commissioned Annai District Hospital—a fully equipped facility offering a broad range of services, including surgical care for the first time in the area.

A visiting team of 11 doctors from the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation performed surgeries over two days during the launch, marking a historic milestone for the region.

The facility received nearly \$236 million in investments, including \$76 million for surgical theatre and medical equipment, \$14 million for laboratory upgrades, and \$28 million for staff quarters.

"With a facility like this, residents have a place to get treated when they are sick," said Dr. Anthony.

Regional Health Officer, Dr. Cerdel McWatt, added that 377 Region Nine residents have been trained in various health programmes to support the expanded services.

Residents are already feeling the difference. Trenton Robertson of Annai shared, "It was really hard for us...We used to pay \$6,000 for the round trip to Lethem. But now that we have this, it has become easier."

Nurse-in-Charge Camilla Johnnie reflected on the transformation: "When I came here in 2021, it was a health centre. We didn't have transportation or an ambulance. Residents from riverine areas had a very hard time accessing care. Now, they no longer have to travel far or worry about where to stay when discharged."



The new modern Annai District Hospital

HEALTH WORKERS RECEIVE NEW ATVS TO BOOST REMOTE HEALTH CARE

Minister Anthony also provided three new All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), valued at \$4 million each, to healthcare workers in Annai, Katoka, and Maruranau.

The ATVs aim to improve transportation of medical personnel and supplies to remote communities, enhancing emergency response and outreach in the challenging terrain. Minister Anthony noted that this initiative is part of broader efforts to bridge the healthcare gap between coastland and hinterland communities.



Thre ATVs handed over to healthcare workers in Region Nine

\$43 MILLION MAMMOGRAM MACHINE INSTALLED AT LETHEM HOSPITAL

The Lethem Regional Hospital is now equipped with a \$43 million state-of-the-art mammogram machine, making it the first hinterland facility in Guyana to offer breast cancer screening services.

The Siemens mammogram machine—one of the most advanced globally—delivers high-resolution imaging for early and accurate detection of breast cancer. Speaking at the commissioning, Minister Anthony noted, "Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Guyana, and we want people to take the opportunity to get themselves screened."

Two trained Region Nine medical professionals will operate the equipment, eliminating the need for women to travel to Georgetown for screening.

This is part of a nationwide expansion of mammography services. Just a year ago, breast cancer screening was only available at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). Since then, services have expanded to Suddie Hospital (Region Two), New Amsterdam Hospital (Region Six), and Linden Hospital Complex (Region Ten).



Lethem Hospital gets \$43M mammogram machine to expand screening

ARANAPUTA HEALTH POST UPGRADED



The new health post at Aranaputa

The Aranaputa Health Post has undergone a \$12.5 million renovation, significantly improving healthcare services for more than 600 residents. The upgraded facility now offers, antenatal and postnatal care, chronic disease management, infant and preschool health services, family planning, and general outpatient

services. The renovation included \$10 million for structural improvements and \$2.5 million for furnishings. Dr. Anthony reaffirmed the government's commitment that no facility will be left behind, and added that local nurses will soon benefit from specialised training in critical and cardiac care.

ANNAI, KARASABAI, SAND CREEK & YUPUKARI GET AMBULANCES

Four fully equipped ambulances valued at \$18 million each have been delivered to the communities of Annai, Karasabai, Sand Creek, and Yupukari, marking a major boost for emergency medical services in these remote areas.

The ambulances, are outfitted with emergency medical equipment and will reduce delays in responding to critical cases, especially for pregnant mothers and accident victims.

Community leaders welcomed the development. Toshao of Karasabai, David Albert, praised the government for fulfilling its promise, while Alan St Hill, a community health worker from Sand Creek, noted the significant relief the new ambulance will bring to the community. Similarly, Toshao of Yupukari, Russian Dorrick, highlighted that nine communities would benefit from the ambulance, ensuring no delays in medical responses.



Three of the four ambulances that were handed over to the region

As Venezuela prepares for election, Ali tells Guyanese: you have nothing to fear

AS Venezuela continues with its aggressive posturing and plans to host an unlawful May 25, 2025, elections to supposedly elect a governor for Guyana’s Essequibo, President, Dr Irfaan Ali has assured citizens—particularly those residing near the border—that the Government of Guyana remains vigilant and committed to defending the nation’s sovereignty.

“You have nothing to fear,” the President declared on Monday, addressing growing public concern over the neighbouring country’s actions.

He added: “You’re living in what is our sovereign space, and we’re going to protect and ensure that our sovereign space is respected by all.”

Speaking confidently on the matter, President Ali reminded the nation that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has already issued orders regarding the upcoming election.

“We are confident and rule-based, and we have always said that we ask Venezuela to respect international law,” Dr Ali stated, noting: “But we are not sitting back.”

The Guyanese leader emphasised that the government, the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), and all relevant national and international stakeholders are actively engaged in protecting the country’s territorial integrity.

“I want to assure you [in the border area] and all Guyanese that the Guyana Defence Force, the government and every stakeholder, we are putting everything in place to ensure that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana is always protected and safeguarded,” he said.

In response to whether the border is being actively monitored ahead of the elections, the President confirmed that robust surveillance operations are underway, although details remain classified.

The Head of State said: “Definitely, I cannot go into details, but I can assure you that we and our partners are keeping each other abreast. There is continuous analysis and continuous monitoring, especially in areas close to the borders.”

The President’s comments come amid escalating tensions with Venezuela, which has continued to lay claim to Guyana’s Essequibo region despite ICJ proceedings and widespread international calls to respect Guyana’s territorial sovereignty.

The elections, widely criticised by the international community, is viewed by Guyana as a violation of international law and an attempt to undermine the ICJ’s authority. Nevertheless, Dr Ali made it clear that Guyana will not be intimidated.

On May 1, 2025, the ICJ ordered the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to refrain from holding or preparing for any elections in Guyana’s Essequibo region, pending a final ruling on the ongoing border controversy.

The decision comes in response to a request by Guyana following Venezuela’s January 2025 announcement of plans to elect a governor and legislative council for what it claims to be the “Guayana Esequiba State.”

Venezuela is set to hold elections for the so-called Guayana Esequiba state

during its upcoming regional polls on May 25, 2025—just one day before Guyana marks its 59th independence anniversary.

In its ruling, the World Court reaffirmed the provisional measures granted on December 1, 2023, and introduced a new, binding directive.

The court in its December 1, 2023 order, stated: “Pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shall refrain from taking any action which would modify the situation that currently prevails in the territory in dispute for which the Cooperative Republic of Guyana administers and exercises control over that area; and both parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the court or make it more difficult to resolve.”

The new measure explicitly states that, pending a final decision, Venezuela



Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Dr Irfaan Ali

“shall refrain from conducting elections, or preparing to conduct elections, in the territory in dispute, which the Co-oper-

ative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control.”

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DIAMOND HOSPITAL SOON TO BEGIN SERVING THOUSANDS



Construction of new Diamond Regional Hospital almost complete

Residents of Diamond and surrounding communities can soon expect significantly improved healthcare access as the state-of-the-art Diamond Regional Hospital nears completion. The facility

is expected to become operational soon.

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony provided an encouraging update during a site visit, where he was accompanied by engineers, contractors from Sinopharm (the

construction firm), and officials from the Ministry of Health.

“We are getting close to completing the hospital. Most of the equipment installation is done, and we are currently testing them,” Dr. Anthony stated. He also noted that staff training is underway, which is the final step before opening.

“Once the training is completed, we will be in a position to open the hospital. I had a walkaround and I’m pleased with what I’ve seen so far,” the Minister added.

Once operational, the Diamond Regional

Hospital will serve approximately 40,000 residents in Diamond and nearby areas, offering advanced, timely

includes 75 inpatient beds, 24-hour Accident and Emergency Department, two operating theatres and

are designed to enhance diagnostic and treatment capabilities, ensuring a higher standard of healthcare delivery within the region.

The Diamond Regional Hospital is one of seven modern hospitals being built across Guyana as part of a national healthcare expansion initiative. Similar facilities are under construction in Enmore, Lima Sands, Lethem, Bath, Number 75 Village, and Kato, with the goal of delivering world-class medical services to communities nationwide.



Construction of new Diamond Regional Hospital almost complete

care and eliminating the need to travel to Georgetown for similar services.

The modern facility

a minor surgery theatre, advanced laboratories, and imaging suite with digital X-rays and CT scanning. These features

GUYANA AND BRAZIL IN JOINT VACCINATION PUSH TARGETING YELLOW FEVER, MMR, AND HPV

Guyana and Brazil have successfully completed a joint cross-border vaccination campaign specifically targeting yellow fever, measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), and human papillomavirus (HPV), in a collaborative effort supported by the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO).

The week-long initiative, which ran from April 26 to May 3, 2025, as part of Vaccination Week in the Americas, saw coordinated efforts to increase immunisation coverage



Mayor of Bonfim Municipality in Brazil, Romualdo Feitosa Silva addressing the gathering

in border regions of both countries. The programme was officially launched in Bonfim, Brazil, and extended vaccination efforts into key communities within Guyana’s Region Nine,

including Sand Creek, Massara, Yurong Paru, Annai, Aishalton, Rewa, Fairview, Shulinab, Potarinau, Toka, Karaudarnau, Karasabai, Lethem, Maruranau, and Surama.

“We all know the importance [of vaccines] and we are all committed to making sure people get vaccines,” stated Guyana’s Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, at the launch. He highlighted the already strong national coverage for MMR and yellow fever and emphasised the importance of reaching

populations straddling the border. The campaign also focused on expanding HPV vaccination coverage, crucial for preventing cervical cancer.

P A H O / W H O Representative in Guyana, Dr. Kim Dickson, underscored the value of such coordinated regional responses to combat preventable diseases. The Mayor of Bonfim Municipality in Brazil, Romualdo Feitosa Silva, hailed the initiative as a symbol of the strong partnership between the two nations, and emphasised their

commitment to increasing vaccine coverage in border communities.

With the conclusion

further solidifying their commitment to the broader Disease Elimination Initiative aimed at eradicating over 30 infectious diseases by 2030. This successful joint effort represents the third such cross-border collaboration



The launch of the cross-border vaccination initiative

of this targeted vaccination push, health officials from both Guyana and Brazil will be assessing the impact on immunisation rates in the border regions,

between the two countries in the past five years, demonstrating a sustained commitment to regional public health.

Thirty-one individuals from Regions Eight and Nine are now crucial contributors in the fight against malaria after graduating as certified microscopists.

The graduates successfully completed an intensive six-week training programme that equipped them with both practical and theoretical knowledge essential for detecting malaria parasites in patient blood samples.

The training programme covered key areas including the theory of malaria, treatment protocols, transmission pathways, the life cycle of the malaria parasite, and the different species that cause the



31 individuals graduate as microscopists

disease. This initiative directly supports the government’s ambitious agenda to eradicate malaria in Region Nine, which remains endemic.

Among the graduates, Akeima Sandy from Fairview in the North Rupununi stood out as the top student. Sandy, who had previously faced

financial challenges in pursuing a career in health, found new opportunities through this programme. **“I always wanted to do something in health, but never imagined this path. When the opportunity arose, I decided to take it. I’ve always dreamed of contributing to**

31 GRADUATES JOIN FRONTLINE IN MALARIA ERADICATION EFFORTS

health, and now I can,” Sandy shared.

Sandy’s perseverance was key in overcoming the challenges she faced during the program. **“There were times I wanted to give up, but my colleagues and my parents, especially my mum, kept pushing me. I’m looking forward to putting my training into practice and plan to pursue nursing,”** she added.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Minister of Health Dr. FrankAnthonyreiterated the government’s commitment to

decentralising health training programmes in hinterland regions to improve healthcare quality. **“You are now part of a team that will help us identify malaria cases and ensure that the right treatment is given,”** Dr. Anthony emphasised.

Minister Anthony also shared encouraging news on the progress of malaria control, noting a 16% national reduction in malaria cases between 2023 and 2024, and a remarkable 53% decrease in Region Nine. **“Region Nine holds the potential to be**

the first region where we can fully eliminate malaria,” he added.

Dr. Cerdel McWatt, Regional Health Officer, underscored the success of decentralised training programmes, which have certified over 300 individuals in various healthcare roles across Region Nine. These include pharmacy assistants, community health workers, medical laboratory technicians, and patient care assistants. An environmental health assistant training programme will also soon be introduced.

29 NEW BRIDGES TO LINK MONKEY MOUNTAIN AND KARASABAI

Commuters travelling between Regions Eight and Nine can look forward to significantly easier connectivity, as the government has announced a massive \$8 billion investment for the reconstruction of 29 concrete bridges linking Monkey Mountain in Region Eight to Karasabai in Region Nine.

The announcement was made by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill during the commissioning of 45 bridges, totalling over \$7.7 billion, connecting Lethem and Linden.

Minister Edghill stated that this strategic and substantial project will provide a seamless



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, along with Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill, inspecting the recently constructed Pirara Bridge in Region Nine

and smooth link between the two hinterland regions.

The Public Works Minister explained that upon the project's completion, residents will no longer face the current challenges of lengthy travel times and circuitous detours to reach their destinations. **"You don't have to go**

all the way around to Mahdia and then return here. In some instances, when you travel to Mahdia you are unable to cross the mountains. But, right from Karasabai you will be able to move all the way down into Paramakatoi. It will be a smooth, seamless

link between Regions Eight and Nine," Minister Edghill elaborated.

In addition to this major inter-regional project, the government is also undertaking extensive road construction within Region Nine itself. These

community and local residents.

Recent road works include the completion of one-kilometre concrete roads in communities such as Yurong Paru, Monkey Mountain, and Rukumuta. Furthermore, bids are currently being sought

Secondary School. Residents of Massara are also set to benefit from 1.5 kilometres of asphaltic concrete road construction, while Rupertee will see the development of one kilometre of asphaltic concrete road. Several communities in the Deep South Rupununi, including Shea, Maruranau, and Achiwib, will also benefit from the construction of new roads.

Minister Edghill assured that all these infrastructural works are slated to commence very soon, bringing much-needed relief and improved connectivity to the communities across Regions Eight and Nine. These projects are expected to spur significant economic growth and enhance the quality of life for residents in both regions.



Government to invest \$8B to build 29 bridges linking Monkey Mountain to Karasabai

projects aim to improve internal connectivity and unlock various socio-economic opportunities for both the business

for the construction of 1.5 kilometres of asphaltic concrete road in Kwatamang, linking it to the Annai

MONKEY MOUNTAIN PRAISED FOR QUALITY ROAD WORKS, REGION EIGHT-NINE LINK PROGRESSING

Public Works Minister Bishop Juan Edghill has lauded the high standard of road construction currently taking place in Monkey Mountain, Region Eight, commending the community's active involvement and craftsmanship.

During a recent visit to the village, Minister Edghill expressed his satisfaction with the one-kilometre concrete road project, which is about 75 per cent completed. The project is being expertly executed by the Ministry of Public Works' Special Projects Unit (SPU).

"To come off the plane and see firsthand the quality of work that was done in here in giving you your road, I think it is a reason for us to applaud ourselves," Minister Edghill remarked to appreciative residents during a community engagement session.

Beyond the internal road improvements, Minister Edghill provided updates on significant infrastructure initiatives aimed at directly connecting Monkey Mountain in Region Eight with

Karasabai in Region Nine. **just a gyaff (idle conversation), it is a reality,"** the

"Y o u r



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, alongside Monkey Mountain Toshao, Head of SPU, and employed residents

thoroughfare here, which we have been talking about linking Region Eight and Nine, is no longer

Minister affirmed. These ambitious undertakings are expected to stimulate economic growth, reduce the cost of living, and

enhance accessibility for thousands of residents living in the hinterland regions.

Addressing specific concerns raised by the local community, Minister Edghill acknowledged the challenges posed by Monkey Mountain's hilly terrain and the need for safety enhancements on its roads. **"We will have to start doing some work, maybe concrete up and down. So, you won't be sliding down, and you will be able to get the grip because ultimately**

our [government] intention is to create a seamless, improved thoroughfare and accessibility for you," he assured the residents.

Minister Edghill was accompanied on his visit by the Head of the SPU, Colin Gittens. In a demonstration of the government's commitment to community employment in public works projects, Mr. Gittens distributed payments to local residents who are employed on the internal road construction.



Paramakatoi airstrip

Access and connectivity in Guyana's hinterland regions are being significantly improved through two major airstrip development projects now underway in the villages of Paramakatoi, Region Eight and Aishalton, Region Nine.

In Paramakatoi, a \$799 million reconstruction project commenced on May

1, marking a major milestone for the North Pakaraimas. The project features a 2,500-foot-long by 50-foot-wide runway, built with six inches of reinforced concrete using BRC mesh and steel joints to ensure durability and strength. A 100-by-100-foot aircraft parking tarmac is also being constructed to improve safety and operations.

PARAMAKATOI AND AISHALTON AIRSTRIPS BEING REBUILT FOR SAFER ACCESS

During a recent visit, Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, emphasised that all building materials—cement, steel, and more—were transported on-site before construction began, to avoid interruptions. Preliminary works, including a materials bond, were completed ahead of schedule. The airstrip's casting is expected to take six weeks, with overall completion within two months. Local residents have been employed to support the project,

providing jobs and community involvement.

Meanwhile, in Aishalton, 50 residents have been selected to construct a new rigid concrete airstrip, replacing the existing grass strip. This project will deliver a 250-foot-long, 50-metre-wide runway designed for safer, more reliable aircraft operations in Region Nine. Aishalton serves as a vital hub for Deep South Rupununi communities, providing access to essential services.

Minister Edghill

highlighted that the government deliberately chose not to outsource the project, instead empowering the local community. All materials that can be sourced locally will be purchased directly from the village to stimulate the economy. Labourers will receive \$10,000 per day for skilled work and \$8,500 per day for manual labour, with equal pay for men and women. A concrete supplier will deliver high-quality ready-mix concrete to meet national standards.

"You requested, we committed, and today we are fulfilling it," Minister Edghill said, reaffirming the government's commitment to equitable development.

Both airstrip projects are part of a broader national effort to improve hinterland transportation infrastructure, ensuring better access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for remote communities across Guyana.

EAST COAST ROAD EXPANSION ON TRACK TO EASE TRAFFIC WOES BY OCTOBER

The US\$192 million East Coast Demerara road expansion project is steadily progressing, with officials reaffirming the revised completion date of October 31. Once finished, the expanded

roadway is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion and improve travel times along the heavily used Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau corridor.

Although the project

faced earlier delays due to necessary relocations along the Plaisance to Bee Hive stretch, momentum has picked up. China Railway First Group Co. Limited, the contractor, has implemented a segmented construction strategy, allowing work to proceed simultaneously in multiple areas to accelerate completion.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, recently conducted a site inspection to evaluate ongoing works and address remaining concerns. A key focus of his visit was to engage with the final group of residents between



Ongoing drainage works for the East Coast Demerara expansion project

Haslington and Victoria who are in the final stages of relocating to facilitate the expanded road alignment.

“We are at the last stage now... we

are kindly asking everybody to wrap up in the next couple of days and push back,” Minister Edghill stated, noting that most affected residents

have already been successfully relocated and compensated.

Currently, physical progress stands at 56.5 per cent, slightly behind the initial schedule. However, Minister Edghill expressed confidence that the pace of work will accelerate in the coming weeks.

Once completed, this transformative project will bring significant benefits, including reduced congestion, safer roads, and shorter commutes for the thousands of drivers who use the East Coast roadway daily.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill inspecting the East Coast Demerara expansion project

WIDESPREAD INFRASTRUCTURE OVERHAUL PLANNED FOR GEORGETOWN

In a direct response to persistent infrastructural challenges plaguing Georgetown residents, the government is set to roll out a comprehensive development plan targeting dilapidated roads, bridges, and clogged drains that frequently lead to flooding after rainfall.

The urgent need for intervention was underscored during extensive site inspections conducted by Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, accompanied by a team of engineers. The inspections covered numerous communities across the city, including Agricola, Container City, Rasville, Benn Kirton Drive, Rivers View, Sussex and Hill Street,

Middle Road, Barbie Dam, Bamboo Drive, Meadow Brook, Kitty, Bel-Air Park, North Sophia, and Merriman’s Mall.

During these engagements, residents from various wards voiced their frustrations, highlighting issues such as poor drainage and irrigation, which they

attributed to what they described as neglect by the Mayor and City Council.

Responding directly to these concerns, Minister Edghill reaffirmed the government’s unwavering commitment to alleviating these long-standing challenges and enhancing the livelihoods

of Georgetown residents.

“The Government of Guyana will not neglect Georgetown or any ward in Georgetown because of the incompetence and the infantile politics of City Hall,” Minister Edghill emphasised. “People are suffering and we will intervene. The government will do what it takes to ensure the lives and livelihoods of people are improved.”

While directly engaging with residents and meticulously inspecting roadways, drains, and bridges earmarked for urgent repairs or upgrades, the Public Works Minister assured swift action to rectify the deficiencies in



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill inspecting the depth of the drain in Agricola

all affected areas.

As a crucial next step, the names of residents from the various communities were collected to provide essential local insights to the engineering team. These engineers are expected to return to the respective areas shortly to conduct thorough inspections

and formulate detailed plans for the execution of the necessary infrastructural works. This proactive approach signals the government’s determination to address the infrastructural woes of Georgetown and bring tangible improvements to the lives of its residents.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill alongside residents during an inspection exercise

GOVT ORDERS TRUCKS OFF GEORGETOWN EMBANKMENTS

The government has issued a directive for the immediate removal of all trucks, heavy-duty equipment, caravans, and haulers obstructing embankments and public green spaces in Georgetown.

The order, delivered by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill during a site inspection, comes with a clear warning: non-compliance will lead to confiscation.

The directive follows inspections that revealed widespread misuse of public areas specifically developed for community benefit. At Station and Owen Streets in Kitty, the railway embankment—recently transformed into a children’s play area—has been overrun by trucks and heavy-duty vehicles, creating dangerous conditions. Similar violations were found along the Lamaha

embankment, which is being used as a mechanic shop and truck storage area, undermining its intended use as a safe recreational space for families.

Minister Edghill made his stance clear: “For the last time, all the owners of the heavy-duty equipment, caravans, trucks, haulers, and everything else on this carriageway [at Station and Owen

Streets], you have ... to remove them. If not, the ministry will confiscate and remove them.”

He issued an equally stern warning for those occupying the Lamaha embankment:

“The owner of these trucks must remove them with immediate effect and cease all mechanical work, construction, or repairs of vehicles on this



Trucks and Heavy duty equipment encumbering the roadways to be removed

embankment.”

Minister Edghill emphasised that enforcement will

be strict and apply equally to all offenders, regardless of the scale of their operations.

'YOU HAVE A FRIEND' IN GOV'T - PRESIDENT ALI ASSURES WORKERS

In his Labour Day message on May 1, President Dr. Irfaan Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to Guyana's workers, declaring: **"Workers have a friend, not a foe, in my government."**

His remarks came as Guyana joined the global observance of International Workers' Day, honouring the contributions of labour movements, and the ongoing pursuit of social justice. Locally, the day featured marches and gatherings, though on a smaller scale due to public safety concerns.

President Ali paid tribute to the working class, past and present, for their decades of sacrifice and resilience. **"These victories were not handed down," he said. "They were earned through struggle, courage, and unity."**

Looking ahead, the President pledged continued investments to uplift workers, supported by Guyana's expanding economy. **"Our workers can now look forward to rising**

incomes, greater wealth-building opportunities, and access to world-class healthcare and education," he stated. **"We are not just building infrastructure—we are building futures."**

He also outlined major initiatives already underway to improve

partnerships among unions, workers' groups, and the government. **"The strength of workers has always been their solidarity. Now more than ever, we must build bridges across industries, regions, and generations."**

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark

Vice President and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP/C), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, also weighed in ahead of the holiday, urging reflection on the progress made under the current administration. He reported that over 60,000 jobs have been created since 2020, and that public servants now collectively earn \$105 billion more than they did five years ago.

He also cited investments in education and training, and the signing of multi-year wage agreements with major unions, including the Guyana Public Service Union and the Guyana Teachers' Union.

"Labour has made real progress," Dr. Jagdeo added. "But there's more work ahead."

"I think labour and working people have made enormous progress in these years," he said, noting that Labour Day should be used not just for celebration, but as a time for reflection and continued commitment to improvement.



President Dr. Irfaan Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to Guyana's workers



President Dr. Irfaan Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to Guyana's workers

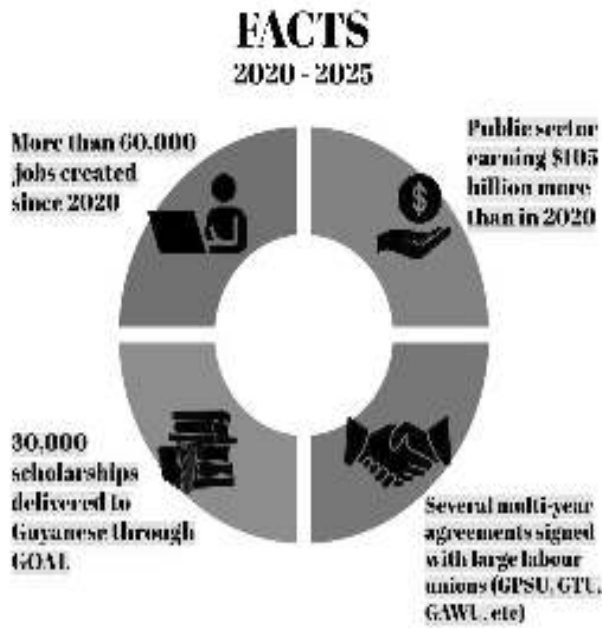
workers' lives, including lower electricity costs, increased access to affordable housing, and improved water and sanitation systems

"Our mission is to ensure no worker is left behind on the path to national prosperity," the President affirmed.

He urged greater unity within the labour movement and stronger

Phillips in his Labour Day message, saluted workers from all sectors—teachers, miners, farmers, and healthcare professionals—who **"carry us forward with steady resolve and unshakable pride."**

"Let Labour Day remind us of what we can achieve when we move forward together," he said.



Progress made under the current administration

LABOUR MINISTRY CHAMPIONS TECH-DRIVEN WORKPLACE SAFETY INITIATIVES

The Ministry of Labour, through its Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Department launched a bold initiative to modernise workplace safety by embracing digital innovation.

The Ministry hosted a national symposium under the theme "Revolutionising Health and Safety: The Role of AI and Digitalisation at Work", signalling its commitment to using technology to create



Representatives from public and private sector agencies at the symposium

safer, healthier work environments across Guyana.

Held at the Regency Suites Hotel in

Georgetown, the event attracted close to 100 representatives from public and private sector agencies. It formed a key part of Occupational Safety and Health Month activities, and aligned with the global observance of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

The symposium provided a vital platform to explore the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital tools in improving safety standards. Topics included

predictive analytics, risk management, real-time monitoring, and smarter workplace design, all aimed at reducing occupational hazards.

Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton, in his keynote address, stressed the importance of building **"real intelligence"** within organisations as the foundation for successfully leveraging AI. He warned against the assumption that digital access automatically translates into digital competence.

"If you don't have real intelligence, you're incapable of utilising AI," the Minister said, referencing the Board of Industrial Training's challenges with online learning platforms like Coursera. "With technology, we cannot assume—we have to know."

Minister Hamilton



Representatives from public and private sector agencies at the symposium

also urged business leaders to reassess how they evaluate workers, emphasising that

academic certificates alone do not equate to employability or responsibility. He called for ongoing training and upskilling to build a workforce capable of adapting to emerging technologies.

While acknowledging the value of digital tools, the Minister reminded attendees that positive workplace attitudes remain critical to preventing accidents and injuries.



Representatives from public and private sector agencies at the symposium



Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton, giving his keynote address

BERBICE GAINS 200 NEW JOBS AS CENTERVILLE OFFICE SUPPORT EXPANDS

Centerville Office Support Limited's expansion in Region Six is set to create 200 new jobs, offering exciting career opportunities for residents of Berbice.

The announcement was made at a launch ceremony attended by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, and Regional Vice Chairman of Region Six, Zamal Hussain.

Centerville Office Support, a well-established provider of outsourced customer service solutions specialising in the North American legal sector, has been operating successfully in Guyana for over two years. The company, which



Centerville Office Support Ltd launches operations in Berbice

already employs over 300 remote workers across the country, will significantly increase its Berbice presence with this expansion at Number 75 Village.

In his address, Dr. Singh underscored the government's dedication to creating widespread economic opportunities. **"President Ali has always stated that**

our government is dedicated to creating opportunities for every citizen. This means not only creating jobs but also providing education, training, and entrepreneurial pathways to uplift all Guyanese," he affirmed.

He further highlighted the

government's proactive measures to enhance access to education and skills development through initiatives like the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarship programme, aiming to empower individuals to enter the workforce with relevant qualifications.

Dr. Singh also emphasised the government's strategic role in improving the telecommunications infrastructure, citing the impactful Telecommunications Act which has driven down bandwidth costs, thereby attracting and facilitating the growth of companies like Centerville Office Support and their ability to generate local employment.

Nalini Locke,

Operations Manager of Centerville Office Support, conveyed the company's strong belief in the potential of the Berbice workforce. **"Berbice holds untapped potential, and we believe in the region's capable and committed workforce. This expansion is not just about filling vacancies; we are offering career development opportunities with on-the-job training, career advancement pathways, and performance-based incentives,"** Locke stated.

This significant job creation initiative in Berbice aligns with the government's broader strategy to



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh addressing the launching ceremony

promote growth within the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector across Guyana, as evidenced by the recent announcement of VChart's expansion on the East Coast of Demerara, which is set to generate 250 jobs.



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips

Guyana's public sector has significantly enhanced its cyber security capabilities following a highly successful National Cyber Security Fair.

The event, organised by the National Data Management Authority (NDMA), brought together government agencies, ICT professionals, and cyber security experts

to equip public servants with the latest tools and techniques to protect national systems.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, in his address at the fair, emphasised the critical importance of these skills. **"As Guyana continues its rapid digital transformation, it is vital that our public servants are at the forefront of cyber security best practices,"** he stated. **"This fair is a crucial step in ensuring that our government agencies can operate securely and efficiently in an increasingly connected world."**

The fair featured

PUBLIC SECTOR GAINS CYBER SECURITY SKILLS AT NATIONAL FAIR

interactive workshops, live demonstrations, and knowledge-sharing sessions specifically designed to address the unique cyber security challenges faced by the public sector. Participants gained hands-on experience with new technologies and learned strategies to defend against emerging threats. Key topics included protecting sensitive government data, securing e-Government platforms, and mitigating risks associated with digital service delivery.

The fair also showcased several of Guyana's recent advancements in digital infrastructure, including the Safe Road Intelligent System, the Border Control System at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, the Electronic Identification Card Project, and the National Health Records Management System. These initiatives, while improving service delivery, also underscore the need for a highly skilled public sector workforce capable of maintaining their



The Cyber security Fair hosted by the National Data Management Authority

security.

The event was part of a broader government strategy to strengthen Guyana's cyber defences, which includes the recent launch of 43

cyber security policies, standards, and guidelines.

The National Cyber Security Fair is expected to become an annual event.

FUTURE TECH WOMEN INSPIRED AT NDMA EVENT

Dozens of young women and girls were inspired to pursue careers in the technology sector at the National Data Management Authority's (NDMA) observance of International Girls in ICT Day, held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Liliendaal.

The event brought together secondary school students and tertiary-level participants for a day of hands-on learning, panel discussions,

and workshops—all aimed at sparking interest in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and showcasing the diverse career paths it offers.

Speaking at the event, NDMA's Director of Cybersecurity, Muriana McPherson, highlighted the growing role of women in Guyana's tech landscape. **"Women are involved in cybersecurity, women are involved in building digital services for the**



Participants at the International Girls in ICT Day

Government of Guyana," she noted, as the speeding ticket

and cash grant platforms as examples of products developed by both male and female teams within the agency.

Trainee teacher Celine Lewis, one of the participants, expressed her excitement about the interactive sessions, particularly those focused on artificial intelligence (AI). She noted how AI could enhance her future teaching experience in agriculture and encouraged other young women to explore similar paths in ICT.

Throughout the day, attendees engaged in robotics challenges, problem-solving tasks,

and trivia sessions designed to make technology accessible and exciting. The programme, themed **"Bridging All Divides for an Inclusive Digital Transformation"**, sought to encourage inclusivity and close the gender gap in the tech industry.

By showcasing real-world applications and providing role models from the field, NDMA's Girls in ICT event planted seeds of possibility for a new generation of women ready to thrive in a digital future.

SMES AND VENDORS TO BENEFIT FROM GOVT'S PUBLIC SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and vendors across Guyana are poised to benefit from a newly announced government plan to develop public spaces and facilities within commercial areas.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali unveiled the initiative, stating it aims to provide crucial infrastructure to support these key sectors of the economy.

The development of these designated public spaces will offer safe and high-quality environments for vendors to operate and for SMEs to potentially showcase their goods and services. President



President Ali interacting with vendors

Ali emphasised that this strategic investment is intended to stimulate business opportunities and enhance the overall commercial landscape nationwide.

This plan aligns with a broader national

drive to improve public infrastructure and foster economic growth, particularly for grassroots entrepreneurs. The initiative complements ongoing efforts, such as First Lady Arya Ali's

National Beautification Project, which focuses on creating more recreational spaces across the country.

In a related development, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo recently discussed the government's consideration of relocating commercial operations currently situated in residential areas. The development of these new public spaces could potentially provide viable alternative locations for such businesses, offering them a more commercially appropriate setting to thrive.

The government's commitment to developing these public spaces signals a significant step towards creating a more supportive and organised

ecosystem for SMEs and vendors, contributing to economic development and an improved urban environment throughout Guyana.



President Ali interacting with vendors

MABARUMA GETS MAJOR BOOST WITH NEW GUEST HOUSE AND BAKERY



The guest house

The community of Mabaruma in Region One has received a major uplift to its hospitality and local economy with the commissioning of the Banobo Guest House and a new bakery.

The commissioning ceremony was led by Minister of Housing

and Water and Regional Member of Parliament, Collin Croal, and attended by Regional Chairman Brentnol Ashley.

Funded through the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) Grant at a cost of approximately \$63.5

million, the Banobo Guest House features 10 rooms, a modern kitchen, storage areas, and a balcony. The facility is expected to boost tourism in the region while promoting sustainable development.

Chairperson of the Mabaruma Settlement Community Development Council (CDC), Lynn Hernandez, expressed pride in the project's completion, calling it a community vision realised.

"We wanted more than just a place to stay—we aimed to create a space

where travellers experience comfort, hospitality, and our local culture," she said, noting the positive impact on job creation and community growth.

Minister Croal praised the CDC's leadership, describing the guest house as a model for community-led development. He noted that it helps address a shortage of accommodation in the area—particularly during major events—and supports the government's wider regional development goals.

Also commissioned



The commissioning of the guest house

in the same compound was a \$6 million bakery, which is expected to boost local food production and create new business opportunities.

In addition, 105 solar systems were distributed to households in the

area, further supporting the government's commitment to renewable energy and improved living standards in hinterland communities.

80+ GAIN MEDIA SKILLS AS GUYANA MEDIA ACADEMY LAUNCHES 2025 TRAINING

Over 80 participants have begun honing vital media and communication skills through the Guyana Media and Communication Academy's (GMCA) 2025 training series. The programme officially launched on April 4 at the Windjammer Hotel in Kitty, Georgetown, and will run until June 27.

Among the trainees is Vlyssess Edwards, a determined young man from Bamia, Region 10. Edwards, who uses a wheelchair due to a past accident, described the programme as a "life-changing



Media And Communication Academy training session

opportunity." He told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that the training has already exceeded his expectations and is helping him develop new skills.

Motivated by a desire to inspire others in the disability community, Edwards plans to use

his public speaking abilities to encourage more persons with disabilities to consider careers in media and communications. **"More people within the disability community should make that choice. It's worth it. It is very insightful and beneficial in the**

long run," he urged.

Now in its fourth year, the GMCA is an initiative of the Department of Public Affairs under the Office of the Prime Minister. It has become a cornerstone for building media and communication capacity across the country. The 2025 training covers key areas such as journalism fundamentals, media ethics and law, sports reporting, and modern marketing and public relations.

National Training Coordinator Marcia Hope underscored the programme's importance. **"Guyana is a growing economy,**

and we saw the need to build media capacity to support that growth. There's also a clear demand for quality media and communication professionals, and that's why this academy was born,"

she explained.

With dozens of alumni now active in both private and state media, the GMCA continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Guyana's media landscape.



Participants at the GMCA

DREDGING BEGINS TO EASE RIVER TRAVEL BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND VREED-EN-HOOP

Relief is underway for commuters and speedboat operators navigating the Demerara River between Georgetown and Vreed-en-Hoop, as dredging of the vital waterway has officially commenced. The move comes in direct response to urgent appeals made to President Dr. Irfaan Ali, who swiftly ordered the intervention to address worsening



Dredging has started on the channel between Georgetown and Vreed-en-Hoop

navigation issues caused by sediment build-up—especially during low tide.

The heavy siltation has repeatedly damaged propellers and engines, disrupting the critical water taxi service that connects Regions Three and Four.

The dredging operation will clear the channel to restore safe and efficient navigation, while also removing obstructive piles and logs that further hinder boat traffic.

This immediate intervention forms

part of a broader plan unveiled by President

surveillance cameras and lighting to improve safety



President Ali speaking with the speedboat operators

Ali to upgrade the river transport infrastructure. Planned enhancements include installation of

and security, extension of the Georgetown landing to ease congestion, construction of new

walkways to improve commuter flow, and deployment of marine officers during peak hours to enforce safety and order.

The initiative underscores the government's commitment to modernising transport systems and addressing long-standing concerns of both operators and passengers.

“It is justifiable, when you look at 8.5 million people moving up and down on these two sides — Vreed-en-Hoop and Stabroek — that we need these improvements,” President Ali said.

USDA AND IICA PARTNER WITH GUYANA ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER PROJECT

Guyana has successfully concluded a pivotal three-day regional pilot project aimed at strengthening its defences against African Swine Fever (ASF), a significant step towards safeguarding the nation's vital pig farming sector.

The collaborative initiative, spearheaded by the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), wrapped up on April 30, 2025.

The intensive workshop, hosted at the Cara Lodge

Hotel in Georgetown, concentrated on formulating a comprehensive national ASF surveillance strategy and enhancing the country's diagnostic capabilities.

“This surveillance pilot will serve as a model for proactive disease management in Guyana and the wider Caribbean,”

stated GLDA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dwight Walrond. Over the three days, participants actively engaged in sessions focused on bolstering biosecurity measures on pig farms, refining checkpoint monitoring for the movement of pigs, reinforcing surveillance protocols at ports of

entry, and advancing laboratory diagnostic techniques.

The project culminated in practical, hands-on activities, including site visits to local pig farms, interactive group discussions, a visit to the Veterinary Laboratory, and detailed instruction on proper sample packing procedures. These exercises equipped participants with essential skills for the effective surveillance and response to potential ASF outbreaks.

The collaborative spirit of the project underscored the shared commitment of all participating organisations to protecting Guyana's

crucial agricultural sector. Representatives from IICA, the USDA, and the U.S. Embassy in Guyana played an active role throughout the initiative, emphasising the importance of international cooperation in tackling animal health challenges.

This proactive measure comes at a time when Guyana's pig industry is experiencing significant growth. Currently comprising approximately 88,000 sow units with \$1.9 billion invested across nine regions in the last 16 months, the sector has ambitious expansion plans. **“With the support of the GLDA and the National Swine**



Guyana launches pilot to bolster defences against African Swine Fever

Farmers Association, it is envisaged to increase our national population to 500,000 sow units in the next three years,” Dr. Walrond revealed. To support this growth, a modular pig slaughtering and processing facility is under construction at Garden of Eden on the East Bank Demerara, poised to enhance food

safety and processing capacity upon its completion. With the knowledge and strategies gained from this completed pilot project, Guyana is now better positioned to protect its expanding pig industry from the devastating threat of African Swine Fever.



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha engaging aresidents from Topoo Village

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha, during a recent meeting with farmers and residents of Topoo Village along the Corentyne coast, announced a series of targeted interventions to improve farming,

infrastructure, and livelihoods in the community.

Villagers raised concerns with the minister about blocked canals that have led to persistent flooding and the deteriorating condition of the main

access road—both critical to the area's agricultural and daily activities.

In direct response, Minister Mustapha committed to deploying a mini excavator to desilt all internal drainage channels. **“The desilting of these drains is essential to improving your livelihoods, crop productivity, and land usability. We are acting swiftly to ensure these works begin within two weeks, ahead of the upcoming planting season,”** he assured

residents.

In addition to drainage upgrades, the Minister also announced the introduction of the Black Giant Chicken Programme, specifically aimed at empowering single mothers in the community. Each recipient will receive 25 Black Giant chicks and a bag of feed to support small-scale poultry farming, increasing household income and food security.

Swine farmers in the village will also benefit, with each set to receive two piglets under the

Ministry's livestock enhancement initiative.

Further support will be provided to kitchen gardeners and cash crop farmers through the distribution of seedlings and agricultural inputs to help boost yields and expand cultivation.

On the issue of connectivity, Minister Mustapha confirmed that the main access road leading into Topoo is slated for full rehabilitation. The upgrade is expected to significantly improve transportation for farmers and residents,

enhancing access to markets, schools, and essential services.

“These interventions represent a holistic approach to agriculture and rural development. Whether you're raising chickens, growing vegetables, or just trying to get your children to school, the government is committed to supporting you,” Minister Mustapha said.

TOURISM BOOST EXPECTED AS LEGUAN GETS 17KM OF ASPHALT ROADS



Completed roadwork

Leguan Island has received a major infrastructure upgrade with the transformation of 17 kilometres of main mud roads into durable asphalt surfaces—a development that is expected to significantly boost tourism and

improve residents' quality of life. The project, executed by the Ministry of Public Works' Special Projects Unit (SPU), has been welcomed by residents who praised the quality and scope of the upgrades. The newly

paved roads promise smoother travel for both locals and visitors, enhancing accessibility to the island's scenic and cultural attractions. Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, inspected the completed works and engaged with residents. He noted that the road upgrades, alongside improved ferry services, are part of the government's broader effort to stimulate tourism and economic development in riverine and hinterland communities. **"Better roads mean better access—and that's good for**

tourism, business, and everyday life," Minister Edghill told residents, emphasising the link between infrastructure and sustainable growth. Community members, including Pandit Sunil Sharma, expressed deep satisfaction with the works, particularly the addition of a new footpath leading to a prominent local landmark. Residents highlighted that such improvements will make the island more inviting and easier to navigate for visitors. Minister Edghill reaffirmed the government's commitment to investing in infrastructure as a means of transforming lives, creating opportunities, and reducing travel costs. With its improved road network, Leguan Island is now better positioned to welcome more domestic and international tourists eager to explore its natural beauty and cultural heritage.

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Residents of Leguan Island praising the completed infrastructural works

GOVT MOVES TO REGULARISE NORTH SOPHIA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

The government is advancing plans to regularise the informal settlement at Block SS in North Sophia, Greater Georgetown, aiming to enhance living conditions for over 100 residents—some of whom have occupied the area since the early 1980s. Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, made the announcement following an on-site assessment. She explained that Block SS is an extension of Block 'R', parts of which



Minister Rodrigues and a technical team from the ministry examining the map of the area

had previously been regularised. However, due to infrastructure challenges—such as inadequate footpaths, drainage, and road access—Block SS has remained unregularised.

"We are here to make another attempt. We have engaged everyone," Minister Rodrigues said, affirming the government's renewed commitment to resolving

the long-standing issue. She highlighted the residents' cooperation and openness to working with the Ministry, stating: **"The people are willing for us to come back and complete a new inventory so that we can do another occupation survey to see the design of this area."** Surveyors from the Ministry are expected to return to Block SS to conduct the updated occupancy survey and gather data on household locations and property

boundaries. Once the survey is complete, a community meeting will be held to share the findings and outline the next steps for the regularisation process. Minister Rodrigues noted that some residents may need to make minor adjustments to their property boundaries to allow for essential infrastructure, such as roads, drainage, and footpaths, to be installed. **"Once they are willing to make the necessary adjustments for us**

to clean the drains, establish the road network and the footpaths so that everybody has access to their homes, we will proceed to officially regularise the area," she affirmed. Minister Rodrigues also urged residents to cooperate fully with the Ministry and to remain vigilant against new squatters entering the area during this transition. The government's intervention promises to bring long-awaited improvements in infrastructure and security of tenure, creating a more stable and sustainable future for the residents of Block SS.

The government is investing \$2.2 billion in the construction of a new water treatment plant at Adventure, Region Six—a transformative project that will bring improved access to treated water for over 5,000 residents from Tain to Number 50 Villages. Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, made the announcement during a recent housing outreach in the region, where he assured residents of the government's continued commitment to strengthening water infrastructure. The plant, one of five facilities funded through a partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is scheduled for completion in 2026. **"This is to ensure**

OVER 5,000 RESIDENTS FROM TAIN TO NUMBER 50 VILLAGES TO BENEFIT FROM \$2.2B WATER TREATMENT PLANT

that everyone eventually gets 24-hour water and treated water coming through your taps," Minister Croal emphasised, underscoring the government's long-term vision for improved water delivery along the coastland. In total, approximately \$3 billion is being invested to enhance water infrastructure in Region Six. Notable progress has already been made with ongoing rehabilitation and expansion works at the Port Mourant and New Amsterdam water treatment plants.



Ongoing works on a water treatment plant

The New Amsterdam facility, slated for completion next month, will deliver treated water to an additional 5,000 customers in areas such as Vryheid, Stanleytown, Smythfield, and Tucher Park. To complement these major projects,

the government is also upgrading the water transmission network to ensure reliable and widespread service delivery across the region. Minister Croal also announced a \$50 million investment to upgrade in-line filters at Chesney,

Edinburg, Number 69 Village, Johanna, Crabwood Creek, and Mibicuri. These upgrades are expected to be completed by the end of June and will enhance water quality for hundreds of residents. In addressing persistent concerns in the Black Bush Polder area, Minister Croal disclosed that the government has received a no-objection for a contract to drill a new well at Yakusari/Johanna. **"Another \$300 million will be invested there. We want to ensure that the level of service is at a certain level for**

everyone," he said. Additionally, a new well is under construction in Mara, and six smaller treatment plants are being developed throughout the region. These facilities are expected to be completed by the middle of this year. Together, these initiatives form part of the government's wider goal of ensuring 90% of Region Six residents have access to treated water—improving public health, reducing waterborne diseases, and raising the standard of living for thousands of Guyanese.

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GUYANA HONOURS ITS DIVERSE ROOTS ON MAY 5

On May 5, 2025, Guyanese commemorated Arrival Day, a significant national holiday recognising the diverse communities whose arrival and contributions

journey. **“We pause to reflect on a defining aspect of our history—the invaluable contributions of those immigrants who came before us,”**

from around the world. Their arrival, President Ali noted, was not just a moment in time but the beginning of a transformative era that helped shape modern Guyana.

“These foreparents toiled on plantations, cultivated the land, built villages, and founded institutions,” he stated. **“They introduced traditions, foods, languages, and values that continue to enrich our national character.”**

Despite facing great hardship and injustice, these early settlers showed remarkable resilience, building bonds across communities and nurturing a vibrant, multiethnic society.

While recognising all groups who made Guyana their home, President Ali paid special tribute to the

East Indian community and its descendants. **“Their spirit and sacrifices continue to propel national development,”** he affirmed.

The President also emphasised that Arrival Day must be more than a day of remembrance—it should inspire renewed commitment to unity, inclusion, and progress. **“No heritage must feel hidden. No voice must feel unheard,”** he urged, encouraging



Guyana has a rich diverse culture and roots



Guyana has a rich diverse culture and roots

have forged the country’s rich multicultural identity.

In his message to the nation, President Irfaan Ali underscored the enduring significance of the day and its place in Guyana’s national

he said. **“They came with little but gave us so much.”**

Arrival Day honours generations of people who settled in Guyana after Emancipation, many of whom arrived as indentured labourers



Guyana has a rich diverse culture and roots

weakness—it is our greatest strength,” President Ali declared.

Reaffirming his vision for One Guyana, he expressed his administration’s commitment to building a nation where prosperity is shared, every community is valued, and all citizens feel they belong.

“Let us build a Guyana where no one is made to feel like a stranger in their own land,” the President concluded. **“Happy Arrival Day, Guyana. Let us move forward together—united, determined, and committed to a future in which everyone belongs.”**

STUDENTS IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN GUYANA'S HISTORY AT FIRST-EVER ARRIVAL DAY VILLAGE



Scene from the arrival day village



Scene from the arrival day village

Hundreds of students were given a unique, hands-on opportunity to explore Guyana’s rich and diverse heritage during the Ministry of Education’s inaugural Arrival Day Village, held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

The interactive event brought history to life by celebrating the cultures

and contributions of Guyana’s six ancestral groups: Amerindians, Europeans, Africans, East Indians, Portuguese, and Chinese. Through vibrant displays, students engaged with the traditions, histories, and legacies of each group—gaining a deeper appreciation for the nation’s multicultural foundation.

The Arrival Day Village featured a wide array of educational exhibits and immersive activities that aligned with the national curriculum. Teachers praised the initiative for its value in enhancing classroom learning and promoting national unity.

Mohanie Samdass, a teacher from F.E. Pollard Primary School, described the experience as both memorable and educational.

“This is the first time I am experiencing an exhibition like this. I think it is very educational for the children. The different pieces will bring unity among them and something they will take back to remember. It will help us in school with the curriculum,” she

assessments.

“This is where they get a chance to see a close-to-real-life experience of our ancestors. They can now put pictures to the words they were reading for the past four years,” she explained.

Targeted particularly at students in Grades Four through Seven, the event sought to support the Ministry’s curriculum by transforming historical content into a dynamic, real-world learning experience.



Scene from the arrival day village

said.

Allison Wade, of New Diamond/Grove Primary School, noted its relevance for students preparing for national

By interacting with artifacts, exhibits, and cultural displays, students were able to connect emotionally and intellectually with



Scene from the arrival day village

Guyana’s ancestral past.

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, who officially opened the event, emphasised the importance of understanding and honouring the struggles and resilience of the nation’s forebears.

“Our ancestors who came before us withstood very harsh conditions to get here. And all of them struggled in very

harsh conditions to stay here to build a better life for you,” she told students.

Minister Manickchand also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to nation-building through education and encouraged students to play an active role in shaping a united and prosperous Guyana.



Scene from the arrival day village




Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST

 KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 93


WORK PROGRESSES ON FIRST 100 SMART HOMES AT GUYANA'S SILICA CITY

Construction is well underway on the first 100 Young Professional Homes at Silica City — Guyana's visionary smart urban centre on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway. Designed with sustainability, technology, and modern living in mind, these homes mark a major milestone in creating inclusive, future-ready communities.







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




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- Tourism

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BARROTTOWN
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PARICA
- Tourism, Trade & Services

WALES
- Tourism, Trade & Services

GUYANA SURINAME CONNECTION
- Tourism, Trade & Services

LETHEM
- Tourism, Trade & Services


MAHOMA
- Tourism, Trade & Services

LINDEN
- Tourism, Trade & Services

WALES
- Tourism, Trade & Services

GUYANA SURINAME CONNECTION
- Tourism, Trade & Services

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Dr. Peter Ramnarine, MBA
Chief Investment Officer, Office of
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WHY BUY GUYANA STOCK?

1 GY 43.60% -2024 REAL GDP GROWTH

Source - International Monetary Fund - Statista

■ Rest of the World
 ■ Guyana

Year	Rest of the World	Guyana
2014	0.5	0.5
2016	0.5	0.5
2018	0.5	0.5
2020	-1.0	40.0
2022	0.5	60.0
2024	0.5	43.60
2026	0.5	20.0
2028	0.5	10.0
2030	0.5	10.0

FOOD SECURITY

- Tropical Climate
- Large Expanse of Arable Land
- 400,000 Hectares of Available Land
- 20% by 2025 reduction in total export bill

CLIMATE SECURITY

- 16.3M Hectares in standing forest
- Storing 19.5 GigaTons of Carbon worth US \$186B

ENERGY SECURITY

- The 88km Oil pipeline
- Barrels discovered offshore
- 17 Trillion Cubic Feet Gas Reserves
- 200MW Power Plant

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

WORLD CLASS TOURISM INDUSTRY

- 600 species of Birds
- 225 species of Mammals
- 600 species of Reptiles
- 8000 species of Plants & Trees

- 365 Islands along Guyana's 1,000km Shore
- Several US \$Billion water and construction

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

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

Year	World	Advanced Economies	Emerging Markets and Developing Economies	Latin America and the Caribbean	Guyana's Non-Oil GDP Growth
2019	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
2020	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
2021	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
2022	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
2023	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
2024	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

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



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