

Proudly the largest Caribbean weekly newspaper in Canada for 45 years

Equality

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397

\$1.00



VettyvellLaw

Professional Corporation

1-- 203-Markham Rd.
Scarborough Ontario M1B 0E6

- Real Estate Law (Residential & Commercial)
- Wills & Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LLB, LLM
Barrister & Solicitor
Direct 416 261 1544 Fax. 416 291 1544
rishani@vettvellaw.com



Bucket Beer

Domestic / Imported



Caribbean Moon

RESTAURANT BAR & GRILL

Get, Drink and Enjoy!

Get 15% Off when you order online
Only at www.caribbeanmoon.ca

Breakfast Deal

Get Free Coffee Starts from \$8.75



Lunch Buffet

All you can eat or Takeout in a box \$19.99



Visit us for specials

Cocktail or shots



Get Free 1lb. Wings

Spent \$20.00 or more on food or drink



Drinking responsibly. Alcohol is harmful to health. Drink Responsibly. Don't drink and drive. We have a variety of delicious food and beverages. Please contact us for more information. **Beer, Wine & More!** 11-11-23 The Caribbean Moon Restaurant & Grill, 203 Markham Rd. Unit 10, Scarborough, ON M1B 0E6 Canada (416) 759-6397

Thursday May 29 2025. Volume 43, Issue #22 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 416-281-3333



Guyana goes to the polls on September 1

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has officially announced that Guyana's next General and Regional Elections will be held on September 1, 2025.

The announcement was made during his address at the 59th Independence Anniversary celebrations on Sunday evening at the Albion Sports Complex in Region Six.

President Ali informed citizens that he will soon issue the proclamation for the dissolution of Parliament, marking the formal start of the electoral process. The dissolution of Parliament is a constitutional requirement and the first major step in the lead-up to national elections.

The governing People's Progressive Party (PPP), led by Ali (pictured above with Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo) has made clear its readiness to campaign on what it describes as a record of strong performance and inclusive development.



Special Deal for Social Media Lovers - Show this Flyer

CRAVING SOMETHING DELICIOUS?



JERK CHICKEN
WITH ANYONE SAUCE WITH FRIES
\$9.99



CHICKEN CURRY
WITH ROTI WITH SALAD
\$9.99



FRIED RICE
WITH CHICKEN ON TOP
\$9.99



1LBS WING
WITH ANYONE SAUCE WITH FRIES
\$9.99



CHICKEN BRIYANI
\$9.99

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED MONDAY TO FRIDAY WITH UNBEATABLE DEALS!
Limited Time only 11am - 5pm
2300 Midway Blvd Unit 13 & 15 Etobicoke **416-798-4040** www.caribbeanmoon.ca



'Woman is Boss' in the Caribbean

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley (left) was a special guest at the formal sitting of the 37th parliament in Trinidad and Tobago last Friday, which saw an historic first in the twin-island republic, with both the government and the opposition being led by women. Kamla Persad-Bissessar (centre) was elected Prime Minister on April 28, while the next day, Penelope Beckles (right) was named opposition leader by the 12 opposition members of the House of Representatives. In T&T, all three government posts are being held by women, as the country's Head of State is President Christine Kamgaloo.



TIGHT ELECTION IN SURINAME: Suriname's ruling party and its top opposition rival won almost the same number of parliamentary seats in an election on Sunday, setting the stage for complex coalition negotiations that will determine who becomes the country's next president. With 43 polling stations yet to be counted, results showed the opposition National Democratic Party (NDP) - founded by former President Desi Bouterse, and now led by Jennifer Geerlings-Simons (above) - had won 18 seats, with 79,544 votes. The ruling Progressive Reform Party (VHP) of current President Chan Santokhi won 17 seats, with 75,983. Smaller parties, now potential kingmakers, won the remaining 16 seats.

BILINGUAL IMMIGRATION LAWYER

(English & French)

Refugee Claims | Francophone Immigration Support Program | Francophone Minority Communities Student Pilot.

Contact me today!

 pouchelonlaw@gmail.com
416-759-8389

POUCHELON LAW
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION





SHARMA LAW

Catastrophic injury? Car accident?
Slip & fall? Income disability
benefits denied?

 sharma@vsharmalaw.ca
vsharmalaw.ca

HURT?
CALL VISHAL'S
DIRECT LINE
647-972-4440



SEAFOOD & MEAT

Parrot Fish
青衣
Reg:\$6.99Tilapia
金山则
Reg:\$4.59Frozen Fresh B.C Crabs
冰鲜温哥华蟹
Reg:\$5.99Boned Salted Alaskan
Pollock Fillets 咸鱼柳 284g
Reg:\$3.59/ea\$5.99
LB\$3.29
LB\$4.99
LB

2/\$5.00

Beef Outside Round Steak
外牛切片
Reg:\$8.99Chicken Feet
鸡脚
Reg:\$3.29Frozen Beef Skin
急冻牛皮
Reg:\$8.99Beef Tripe
牛肚
Reg:\$4.59\$7.59
LB\$1.79
LB\$6.99
LB\$3.59
LB

PRODUCE

Green Seedless Grape
青提
Reg:\$3.99Red Seedless Grape
红提
Reg:\$3.99Mini Watermelon
迷你西瓜
Reg:\$5.99USA Fuji Apple
美国富士苹果
Reg:\$1.99\$1.98
LB\$1.98
LB

2/\$4.88

98¢
LBLemon
黄柠檬
Reg:3for\$2.00Zucchini
意大利青瓜
Reg:\$1.59Mini Peppers
袋装小甜椒
Reg:\$3.99Cooking Onion 10LB Bag
10磅装黄洋葱
Reg:\$6.99

5/\$1.98

68¢
LB

2/\$4.88

\$3.98
BAG

BAKERY

LFD mini bun
布里欧修早餐包
Reg:\$5.99DonutTime glazed
donut 250g 甜甜圈
Reg:\$2.59Ralph bulla cake 283g
牙买加布拉克蛋糕
Reg:\$2.99Crispy cookie series
黄油曲奇
Reg:\$3.99Cedar Pita
阿拉伯皮塔饼
Reg:\$1.79\$4.59
EA

2/\$3.00

\$1.99
EA\$2.99
EA99¢
EAVisit Our Website At: www.fusionsupermarket.ca

Check prices on display tags in store in case of discrepancy due to printing errors on this advertisement.

Offers valid while quantities last. Fusion Supermarket reserve the right to limit quantities.

广告如有错漏或更改时, 请以店内有关标示为准。本广告售卖之商品均有充足存货, 如因顾客购买热烈而售罄, 敬请谅解。嘉禾超市保留调整数量之权力。

649

Garden Center
Now Open园艺中心
现已开放FUSION
SUPERMARKET
嘉禾超市1150 Morningside Ave., Suite 113
Scarborough, Toronto M1B 3A4
(Sheppard Ave/Morningside Ave)416 281 1222
Business Hours:
Monday-Sunday 8:30am-9:00pm

Special Effective: From Fri. May.30,2025 - Thur. Jun.05,2025

Top Soil

Manure compost

10"-12" hanging
basket seriesVegetable Bedding
Plants

2 Gallon Rose Series

4" Annuals Flowering
Series5/\$10
SPECIAL4/\$10
SPECIAL2/\$28.88
SPECIAL10/\$15.99
SPECIAL\$17.99
SPECIAL4/\$9.99
SPECIALJamaican Pride Coconut Milk
400ml
Reg:\$1.59Nu Chef Vinegar 4L
Reg:\$2.99Demerara Gold Demerara
Cane Sugar 6LB
Reg:\$11.99Lalah's Madras Curry Powder
3LB
Reg:\$17.99\$7.77
EA
SPECIAL\$1.77
EA
SPECIAL\$6.77
EA
SPECIAL\$10.77
EA
SPECIALDelmonte juice blend
混合果汁 1.6L
Reg:\$4.99Philadelphia cream cheese
low fat 低脂芝士奶酪 227g
Reg:\$4.99Parkay&Lactantia margarine
植物黄油 427g
Reg:\$2.99OceanStar white shrimp 40/50
盒装白头白虾 400g
Reg:\$6.99\$2.99
EA
SPECIAL2/\$7.00
SPECIAL\$1.99
EA
SPECIAL\$4.99
EA
SPECIALAtaulfo Mango in Box
箱装吕宋芒
Reg:\$15.99Jackfruit
菠萝蜜
Reg:\$1.59Roma Tomato
罗马番茄
Reg:\$1.59Fresh Corn (5pcs)
新鲜玉米 (5条装)
Reg:\$4.99\$9.98
BOX
SPECIAL\$98
LB
SPECIAL\$98
LB
SPECIAL2/\$4.98
SPECIALFresh Salmon Fillet
新鲜三文鱼柳
Reg:\$10.99White Shrimp Head-on
有头白虾 20-30
Reg:\$6.99Frozen Cow Feet
急冻牛脚
Reg:\$2.59Pork Belly
猪腩
Reg:\$4.99\$9.99
LB
SPECIAL\$5.99
LB
SPECIAL\$1.99
LB
SPECIAL\$3.99
LB
SPECIAL

GROCERY

Handi Roasted Chana
400g
Reg:\$3.99Dare Breaktime
Ginger Cookies 250g
Reg:\$2.99Nutrament Energy
Nutrition Drink 325ml
Reg:\$4.59Fruit Of Life Tropical
Drink 3L
Reg:\$5.99Montego Ackee In
Brine 540ml
Reg:\$12.99Tweedside Jamaican
Style Callaloo In Salt
Water 540ml
Reg:\$2.99\$1.99
EA\$1.79
EA\$2.59
EA\$3.79
EA\$7.29
EA

2/\$3.00

DelMonte Whole
Kernel Corn 341ml
Reg:\$3.99Maggi Coconut Milk
Powder Mix 300g
Reg:\$5.99Kababayan Special
Bihon 454g
Reg:\$3.99Zaika / Kushbu Extra
Long Grain Basmati
Rice 10LB
Reg:\$19.99Huy Fong Foods
Ground Fresh Chili
Paste 3.85kg
Reg:\$28.99Lysol Disinfecting
Wipes 30Wipes
Reg:\$2.99\$2.29
EA\$4.29
EA\$2.29
EA\$1.19
EA\$19.99
EA

2/\$3.00

FROZEN & DAIRY

BarrioFiesta marinated
deboned milkfish
腌制开边牛奶鱼 400g
Reg:\$7.99Grated cassava
木薯蓉 454g
Reg:\$2.99Kababayan tuna
小吞拿鱼 680g
Reg:\$4.99LiYang chow mien &
miki noodle 利汤炒面&油面
454g
Reg:\$2.99Cavendish hash brown
土豆饼 600g
Reg:\$3.99Vegetable spring roll
素菜春卷 1kg
Reg:\$4.99\$4.99
EA

2/\$3.50

\$3.99
EA\$1.99
EA\$2.59
EA\$3.59
EAMahiSeafood fish
series 鱼肉炖菜 454g
Reg:\$9.99Chocolate milk 6 pack
巧克力奶
Reg:\$6.99HZW Shrimp headless
26/30 去头开背白虾 400g
Reg:\$6.99Edamame in pods
毛豆荚 400g
Reg:\$2.59Corn on the cob
玉米棒 500g
Reg:\$2.59OceanFood crab stick
&shredded 蟹足棒 454g
Reg:\$4.59\$7.99
EA\$5.59
EA\$5.99
EA

2/\$3.00

2/\$3.00

\$3.59
EA

RESTAURANT

Capri Vegetable Oil 16L
Reg:\$40.99Knorr Chicken
Broth Mix (12x1kg)
Reg:\$149.99Value Drain-Off
强力清洁剂 1L
Reg:\$7.99Lee Kum Kee
Hoisin Sauce
(6x1.75L)
Reg:\$67.99Extra Large White
Eggs 180Pcs
Reg:\$70.00Onion (50LB)
Reg:\$29.99Fried Fish Ball
6.6LB 黄金鱼丸
Reg:\$45.00\$32.99
EA\$112.99
EA\$5.99
EA\$54.99
EA\$57.00
BOX\$25.88
BAG\$35.00
BAG

PINOY TASTE FILIPINO KITCHEN

PINOY TASTE Catering Order: 647-608-3130

Pork Embotido
1pc
Reg:\$10.99Grilled Mackerel
1pc
Reg:\$10.99Pork Spring Roll
1pc
Reg:\$0.70\$9.99
EACH\$9.99
EACH60¢
EACH

Asian Cuisine 亚洲美食 (Every Day Lunch Special)

Catering Order: 647-410-7668

Fried Chicken 5pcs
Reg:\$9.99Pancit Bihon
Reg:\$15.99Chicken Inasal
Reg:\$4.99Pork BBQ 1pc
Reg:\$4.00Vegetable Spring Roll
10pcs Reg:\$4.00\$8.99
ORDER\$14.00
ORDER\$4.00
EA\$3.50
EA\$3.49
ORDER

SUSHI

SUSHI Catering Order: 416-281-1222

Sushi Maki Tray
58pcs
Reg:\$36.99Spicy Crabmeat Roll
Reg:\$4.59

Sushi Full Menu

\$34.99
ORDER\$3.99
ORDER

Sushi Menu



Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 94

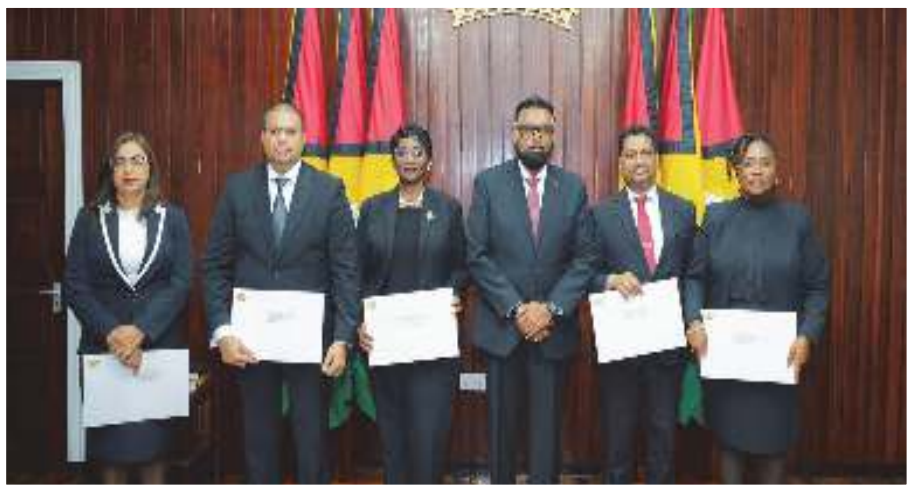
**PRESIDENT ALI TO VENEZUELA:
“WE ARE PEACEFUL – NOT WEAK”**
- HEAD OF STATE AFFIRMS GUYANA’S SOVEREIGNTY OVER 83,000 SQUARE MILES

PAGE 2



PRESIDENT ALI SALUTES JOINT SERVICES FOR UNWAVERING PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

PAGE 2



GUYANA’S COURT OF APPEAL WELCOMES FIVE NEW JUSTICES IN HISTORIC EXPANSION

PAGE 4

PRESIDENT ALI TO VENEZUELA: “WE ARE PEACEFUL – NOT WEAK”

- HEAD OF STATE AFFIRMS GUYANA’S SOVEREIGNTY OVER 83,000 SQUARE MILES



President Ali addressing Essequibians

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reiterated the call for the Venezuelan Government to respect Guyana’s internationally recognised borders. Guyana’s borders were established by the

1899 Arbitral Award which indefinitely settled the land boundary between Guyana (British Guiana then) and Venezuela.

Guyana’s head of state was at the time delivering his feature address at the commissioning of the \$1.2 billion water treatment plant in Red Village, Onderneeming, Region Two.

While asserting Guyana’s longstanding peaceful posture, President Ali warned that any attempts to violate its territorial sovereignty would not be tolerated.

“We love you, the people of Venezuela, as our neighbours,” the president said.

He said, “But do not make the mistake



Guyanese showcasing their patriotism

to cross the fence. Don’t cross the fence.”

Guyanese showcasing their patriotism at the commissioning of the massive Onderneeming

Water Treatment Plant. The president stressed that Guyana’s

peacefulness should not be mistaken for weakness.

“We are peaceful people, but we are not weak people. We are strongly united, and our bodies are sealed

together in unity. Our blood flows together in one constant beat, on the one heart,” he declared.

He emphasised the national motto, ‘One People, One Nation, One Destiny,’ as the nation’s commitment to unity and dignity.

The president also reminded that thousands of Venezuelans have been welcomed across Guyana’s borders in recent years, but made clear that this hospitality does not compromise the country’s territorial rights.

“To our Venezuelan brothers and sisters who are welcome within the borders of our world-class country,

you have a right and a duty to honour [and] to respect the laws of Guyana. You have a duty not to do anything that would dishonour the 83,000 square miles of our power,” the Guyanese president

His comments come amid Venezuela’s claim to Guyana’s Essequibo region, despite a pending court case that is currently before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The head of state’s remarks were met with strong applause from residents gathered at the commissioning ceremony in Region Two, an area he said is a special place in his life and leadership.

PRESIDENT ALI SALUTES JOINT SERVICES FOR UNWAVERING PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has praised the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) for their unwavering patriotism and dedication to safeguarding the nation.

The President made these remarks during a breakfast engagement with GDF ranks on Saturday, May 24, at Base Camp in Anna Regina, Region Two. Addressing the soldiers as the “champions and heartbeats of Guyana,” he emphasised that wearing

the uniform is not only a duty but a symbol of pride, resilience, and honour.

“Today, as your Commander-in-Chief, on behalf of a grateful nation, I once again salute all of you for your bravery, your sacrifice, and your unshakable commitment to nationhood,” he stated.

President Ali was accompanied by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh.

He reaffirmed that while the Joint Services stand on the frontline, every Guyanese citizen is behind them, united in defending the country’s sovereignty.

He stressed the importance of national unity in the face of threats, including those who may seek to destabilise the region. “Behind you, on every line, in the blood of every Guyanese, is the readiness to support every effort necessary to defend every square inch of our country,” the President asserted.

He also expressed deep appreciation for the challenges faced by service members, particularly those stationed along the country’s borders.

“Your service is not only personal—it is national, patriotic, and marked with pride. It defines who we are as Guyanese,” he added.

Speaking from Essequibo, President Ali reaffirmed the government’s resolve to maintain peace across the entire territory. “We will ensure that peace continues to be



Guyanese showcasing their patriotism

the order of the day in every square inch of Guyana.”

In closing, he extended blessings to the ranks and their families, acknowledging

their collective sacrifices in the name of national security and peace.



GDF ON HIGH ALERT FOLLOWING ARMED ATTACKS FROM VENEZUELAN TERRITORY

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) has heightened its operational readiness and intensified patrols along the western border following three armed attacks launched from Venezuelan territory between Tuesday, May 13, and Thursday, May 15.

The attacks, which targeted routine GDF riverine patrols near the Cuyuni River between Eteringbang and Makapa, have prompted a strong condemnation and formal diplomatic protest from the Government of Guyana.

Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan, confirmed the “unprecedented” nature of the incidents and announced the deployment of additional Infantry and Coast Guard personnel to secure the affected border areas. He said

the GDF has adopted enhanced security protocols and response drills to mitigate future threats.

According to official reports, gunmen in civilian clothing—believed to have crossed from the Venezuelan side—opened fire on GDF patrols using automatic weapons in three separate incidents. GDF ranks returned fire on each occasion, successfully repelling the attackers without injury or damage.

Brigadier Khan, who was on the ground during the first incident, reaffirmed the military’s commitment to securing Guyana’s borders.

“Since the first incident, the Guyana Defence Force has enhanced its operational posture and adopted drills to respond to such threats. We

will continue to patrol the area and eliminate any threat to our people and any incursion into our territory,” he stated

Venezuela, demanding a full investigation and the swift apprehension of those responsible. It called on Venezuela to take concrete steps

renewed concerns about the security of Guyana’s western frontier. The Government of Guyana has signalled its intent to once

Khan said the GDF has some knowledge of the weapons used, he declined to provide further details and could not confirm whether the attackers are linked to the Venezuelan military. He noted that the attacks occurred in isolated areas with no civilian activity on the Guyanese side.

Despite concerns within bordering communities, the Brigadier assured the public that residents remain calm and that GDF patrols will continue to maintain a strong presence in the region.

“We remain resolute in our mission to protect Guyana’s territorial integrity and ensure the safety of our citizens and personnel,” he said.



The map showing location of the incidents

during a press briefing at Camp Ayanganna.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has issued a formal protest to the Government of

to prevent further attacks and to hold the perpetrators accountable.

These latest incidents follow a similar cross-border attack in February 2025, raising

again raise the matter at the international level, emphasising its seriousness and commitment to defending national sovereignty.

While Brigadier

VOTE IN VENEZUELAN ELECTION, FACE DEPORTATION – GDF CHIEF WARNS RESIDENTS

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) has issued a stern warning to Venezuelan nationals residing in Guyana:



Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan

any participation in Venezuela’s planned May 25, 2025 election—which controversially

includes the Essequibo region—will result in arrest and immediate deportation.

Delivering the message, Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan, reaffirmed Guyana’s firm stance on defending its territorial sovereignty.

“You cannot vote in a country of yours and come to our country and believe that it will be okay,” Brigadier Khan told reporters, making it clear that any action seen as

supporting Venezuela’s claim to Essequibo will not be tolerated.

Venezuela’s intent to include Essequibo in its 2025 election has been widely condemned by Guyana as a violation of international law and the provisional measures imposed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Essequibo region is internationally recognised as part of Guyana, and the matter is currently before the ICJ, where Guyana is

seeking a final, binding ruling based on the 1899 Arbitral Award.

The ICJ has already instructed Venezuela to refrain from conducting or preparing to conduct any electoral activities in the disputed territory. Despite this, Caracas continues to escalate its claims—prompting firm responses from Guyanese authorities.

Brigadier Khan acknowledged that many Venezuelans residing in Guyana are seeking economic refuge.

However, he stressed that their presence in Guyana does not grant them the right to engage in political activities that threaten Guyana’s sovereignty.

“This is a matter of national security and territorial integrity,” he said. “We will act decisively.”

The warning also extends to Guyanese nationals. Brigadier Khan cautioned that any citizen found participating in Venezuela’s election

process would face serious consequences.

This strong stance reflects Guyana’s ongoing efforts to resolve the border controversy through legal and diplomatic means. The government has reiterated its commitment to upholding international law and defending its borders, particularly as Venezuela continues to defy the ICJ’s rulings.

GOV’T SLAMS ‘UNPATRIOTIC’ SPREAD OF VENEZUELAN PROPAGANDA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has issued a stern warning to individuals disseminating Venezuelan propaganda, describing such actions as “unpatriotic” and potentially harmful to national unity and security.

In a public statement, the Ministry expressed concern over a wave of social media content that it says is deliberately misleading

the public. According to the Ministry, some of the posts being circulated are outdated, unrelated to Guyana, or entirely fabricated.

“The Government of Guyana has noted the unpatriotic and sustained efforts of some in spreading Venezuelan propaganda; some of which is dated, some not related to Guyana, and some totally fabricated,” the statement read.

The Ministry warned

that these posts appear designed to create fear, tension, and uncertainty within the population, and may be politically motivated.

“These posts are generated to create unease, tension, and unnecessary worry among the population, no doubt with an ulterior political motive,” the release continued.

Guyanese are being urged to rely solely on official government

communications regarding the ongoing border controversy and avoid falling prey to misinformation.

“We urge Guyanese to rely only on official communications on this matter and avoid falling prey to those with an alternative unpatriotic agenda.”

The statement comes as Venezuela moves forward with plans to conduct elections aimed at asserting control over



Pupils of Aishalton Primary, Region Nine marching and chanting “Essequibo is ours!” as part of Youth Week activities

the Essequibo region—despite a clear order from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) prohibiting such actions. The Ministry’s warning underscores

the government’s concern over the use of disinformation as a tool to destabilise the national narrative and erode public confidence.

GUYANA'S COURT OF APPEAL WELCOMES FIVE NEW JUSTICES IN HISTORIC EXPANSION

Guyana's Court of Appeal marked a historic milestone with the swearing-in of five new justices—the largest single expansion of the court's bench to date. The ceremony, held at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, was presided over by President Dr. Irfaan Ali, who described the appointments as “a vital step” toward building a stronger, more efficient justice system.

“This is about justice delivered better, faster, and fairer,” President Ali declared. “It's a big day for Guyana.”

The five newly appointed justices are: Justice Navindra

Singh, Justice Priya Sewnarine-Beharry, Justice Damone Younge, Dr. Rafiq Khan, SC, and Dr. Joycelin Kyte-Thomas.

President Ali drew special attention to the gender balance of the new appointments, noting that **three of the five justices are women. “Sixty per cent of those sworn in today are women,”** he said. **“That's not just progress—it's powerfully symbolic of the role women play in shaping our future.”**

The expansion follows the **April 2023 amendment to the**

Court of Appeal Act, which increased the number of authorised judges from five to nine—a legislative move



Nareshwar Harnanan took the oath of office

aimed at enhancing the court's capacity to deliver timely appellate decisions.

“This court plays a critical role,” the President emphasised. **“It upholds**

rights, preserves constitutional order, and ensures that the law is applied fairly and consistently.”

While celebrating the occasion, President Ali also reminded the appointees of the weighty responsibility they now carry. **“You are now the final word in many matters.**

With that honour comes an immense responsibility,” he cautioned, urging them to uphold **“scrupulousness, impartiality, and integrity.”**

He framed the appointments as more than administrative decisions. **“These aren't just appointments—**

they're investments in our democracy,” he said. **“Let your work echo with justice.”**

The ceremony was attended by senior members of the judiciary, the Attorney General, Cabinet ministers, and representatives from the Judicial Service Commission.



Justice Jo-Ann Barlow took the oath of office

DR. ASHNI SINGH CHAMPIONS AFREXIMBANK'S US\$1 BILLION FUND TO BOOST LOCAL CONTENT

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, has welcomed the African Export-Import Bank's (Afreximbank) new US\$1 billion oil services financing facility, calling it a transformative initiative that will help deliver real benefits from Guyana's oil sector to its people and businesses.

Speaking at Afreximbank's inaugural Caribbean roadshow at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, Dr. Singh said the fund represents a critical tool for



Scene from the launch of the financing facility to support local businesses in the oil and gas sector at the Marriott Hotel

advancing local content goals and ensuring that the country's oil wealth translates into long-term national prosperity.

“We've become an oil producer with the

benefit of hindsight,” Dr. Singh noted, pointing to Guyana's opportunity to learn from decades of global experience in resource management. **“This facility directly**

supports our local content ambitions and helps us translate oil revenues into real, lasting prosperity.”

The two-day event followed through on a commitment made earlier this year by Afreximbank's President Professor Benedict Oramah, who had pledged to create a financing mechanism to strengthen oil-related service capabilities in the Caribbean.

Dr. Singh, who has worked closely with the Bank since signing a framework agreement in 2022, described

the collaboration as a growing and mutually beneficial partnership. **“I consider myself privileged to have engaged with Afreximbank from the beginning,”** he said, highlighting the value Guyana has already derived from the Bank's trade platforms, project financing tools, and payment systems.

Echoing the Minister's remarks, Okechukwu Iherjirika, Afreximbank's Regional Chief Operating Officer for the Caribbean, emphasised that the fund is designed to level

the playing field for local businesses.

“When the contracts go abroad because local firms lack financing, the development potential is lost. This facility aims to fix that,” he explained, reaffirming the Bank's commitment to supporting regional capacity.

With 12 Caribbean countries now members of Afreximbank and a regional office operating out of Bridgetown, Barbados, the roadshow signals the Bank's intent to deepen its presence and impact in the region.



Prime Minister Mark Phillip speaking at the signing

The Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) has signed a US\$22.58 million contract with a Chinese joint venture to construct a 15-megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Linden—set to be the country's largest solar farm once completed.

The project is a collaboration between SUMEC

Complete Equipment and Engineering Company and XJ Group Corporation. The engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract was signed at the Watooka Guesthouse in Linden, marking a significant milestone in Guyana's transition to renewable energy.

“This is the largest single investment in renewable and solar PV energy in Guyana,” stated Kesh Nandlall, Team Leader of GPL's Executive Management, underscoring the project's transformative impact.

The solar farm will consist of three interconnected systems, strategically designed to meet Linden's current

electricity demand of approximately 11 MW while providing capacity for future growth. The facility will also be equipped with battery storage to enhance reliability and stability in power supply.

Beyond addressing energy security, the project is expected to generate substantial financial benefits. By reducing reliance on costly electricity subsidies, the government anticipates long-term savings. Importantly, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips assured

that these savings will not lead to increased electricity costs.

“The needs of electricity in Linden will be supplied

by this solar farm, which will be ready sometime in 2026,” the Prime Minister said. **“We will be able to use less fossil fuels and contribute to saving the planet.”**

This initiative falls under the broader Guyana Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic (GUYSOL) programme and is funded through the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)—a fund supported by Norway in recognition of Guyana's forest conservation efforts.



The signing of the contract

CONTRACT INKED FOR MAJOR LINDEN SOLAR POWER PLANT

GUYANA AND SURINAME'S PRESIDENTS DISCUSS BRIDGE, ENERGY AND TRADE COOPERATION



The meeting with the two presidents

President Dr. Irfaan Ali and President Chandrikapersad Santokhi of Suriname met at State House in Georgetown to advance

discussions on key areas of bilateral cooperation, with a strong focus on infrastructure, energy, and trade. The meeting

between the two Heads of State underscored the commitment of both Guyana and Suriname to deepen regional integration and fast-track joint development projects. Chief among the topics was the Corentyne River Bridge, a transformative cross-border initiative that both countries have prioritised to enhance connectivity and economic activity.

In addition to infrastructure, the leaders explored opportunities for

collaboration in the energy sector and the promotion of trade between the two neighbouring nations. The discussions align with ongoing efforts to create a more integrated and prosperous regional economy.

Accompanying President Ali were Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh; Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh

Todd; and Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill. Suriname's delegation included its Minister of Foreign

Affairs, Albert Ramdin.



The meeting with the two presidents

MECODEX 2025 PUTS GUYANA'S REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE TO THE TEST

Guyana recently hosted MECODEX 2025, a four-day regional disaster response simulation aimed at improving preparedness for flood-related emergencies across the Americas.

Held at the Pegasus Hotel & Corporate Centre in Georgetown, the event brought together disaster response professionals, military officials, and humanitarian agencies from multiple countries.

The Mechanism for Disaster Cooperation Exercise (MECODEX) was a joint initiative between the Inter-American Defence Board (IADB) and Guyana's Civil Defence Commission (CDC).

This year's simulation featured a realistic flood scenario, testing the effectiveness of coordinated response strategies, operational readiness, and cross-border collaboration.

At the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips described MECODEX as a timely and essential initiative, particularly given Guyana's rapid development due to its expanding oil and gas sector. **"While these developments bring new opportunities, they also introduce responsibilities and risks,"** he noted.

The Prime Minister emphasised that disaster threats are

evolving, especially with the growing impacts of climate change and industrial activity. He stressed the importance of integrated preparedness, stating, **"Our changing**

institutions."

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to making disaster preparedness a core part of national development and public safety frameworks.

its capacity to manage complex, multinational exercises.

The event served as a platform for collaboration among Organisation of American States (OAS)

praised this inclusive approach, highlighting that it strengthens the region's collective ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies.

MECODEX 2025 also underscored Guyana's long-term dedication to building disaster response capacity through training, advanced platforms like SICODE, and knowledge sharing on issues such as oil spill preparedness and climate resilience.

Now in its fourth edition, MECODEX has grown from a virtual tabletop exercise in 2022 to in-person drills in Ecuador (2023), Peru (2024), and now Guyana.



Prime Minister Mark Phillips at the opening of MECODEX

economic landscape brings a shifting risk profile, requiring coordination across borders, sectors, and

Hosting MECODEX 2025, he said, reflects Guyana's role as a reliable partner in regional security and

member states, defence forces, disaster agencies, and humanitarian organisations. Prime Minister Phillips

GOV'T PROMISES LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR TRUCKERS

The government has pledged to ensure fair competition in the trucking industry, following protests by local operators over job losses and alleged unfair treatment linked to Chinese quarry companies.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, met with truckers in Linden to directly address their concerns. He firmly denied claims that Chinese quarry investors were granted duty-free trucks under investment agreements.

"The Chinese have received no duty-



Affected truckers gathered in Linden

free trucks," Minister Edghill clarified. "Any concessions provided are limited to equipment used within quarry sites—not for transportation."

Local truckers had complained about being displaced by cheaper Chinese services and discriminatory loading

practices at the Arisaru quarry. In response, Minister Edghill said the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) intervened and secured an agreement with the quarry operators. Moving forward, two separate loading lines—one for Guyanese truckers

and one for Chinese operators—will be implemented to promote fairness.

Minister Edghill urged truckers to resume operations at the quarry, promising swift government action if the agreed measures are not enforced. **"If you go to Arisaru and meet the same conditions, and are not loaded, that would be a total violation, and the government will act,"** he said.

The Minister also addressed the issue of unregistered trucks using trade plates—calling the practice

illegal. He warned that such vehicles risk seizure and emphasised that temporary permits issued by the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) are solely intended to ease wharf congestion and not a substitute for full registration.

On the issue of declining haulage rates, truckers argued they are being undercut in a way that threatens their livelihood. While Minister Edghill acknowledged their frustration, he explained that pricing in a competitive market is not directly controlled by the government. However, he assured that any evidence of price manipulation or cartel-like behaviour would be investigated

by the Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission (CCAC).

"If there is price gouging, we'll look at that," he said. **"We can't have a mafia controlling everything while others are pushed out."**

Minister Edghill also expressed empathy for the struggles of local operators. **"These truckers deserve the dignity of earning a living to support their families, and the government will ensure that happens,"** he said.

He urged the truckers to avoid blocking roads during demonstrations, cautioning that escalated disruptions could lead to legal consequences.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMS GUYANA'S SOVEREIGNTY AMID VENEZUELAN AGGRESSIVE ACTION



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips

The National Assembly on May 23 reaffirmed Guyana's sovereignty over its 83,000 square miles of territory, unanimously passing a government-tabled motion that also condemned Venezuela's continued aggression. The move comes just days before Venezuela is set to hold a sham electoral process for Guyana's territory—an act deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, stressed that national unity is essential in confronting this threat. **"A house divided cannot stand,"** he declared, urging all political leaders to set aside partisanship and support the people of Guyana. He also highlighted

the government's public awareness campaign, which has engaged communities across the country—including schoolchildren—to



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

foster patriotism and a deeper understanding of the border controversy. Minister of Foreign

Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, who formally introduced the motion, emphasized Guyana's unwavering commitment to international law and peaceful resolution. He reminded the Assembly that Venezuela's actions have been condemned by the Organization of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth, and CARICOM.

Minister Todd addressed recent ICJ rulings, clarifying that while three judges voted against a procedural request, they agreed Venezuela must not conduct or prepare to

Benn, reaffirmed the government's steadfast position under President Irfaan Ali's leadership. He described sovereignty as a shared responsibility that should unite, not divide, the nation.

Government MP Alister Charlie highlighted the long-standing presence of Indigenous Peoples in the Essequibo region, stating, **"There is no legal or legitimate Venezuelan governance in these areas."** He cited continued government investment in Indigenous communities—from housing and water to healthcare and education—as proof of active, lawful administration.

Opposition Walks Out During Debate

Despite being invited to co-sign and propose amendments, the parliamentary opposition walked out during the debate—breaking a decades-long tradition of bipartisan unity on border matters.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, condemned the move as political grandstanding. **"The history of this country will now record, unfortunately,**

that the Leader of the Opposition has broken that immaculate record—three days before our Independence, and two days before Venezuela is scheduled to hold elections in Guyana's territory," he said.

Minter Nandlall revealed that the motion was sent to the opposition nearly a week in advance with an open invitation



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd

to contribute. **"But I guess he [Opposition Leader] was at Bam Bam Alley attending to matters of greater importance,"** Minister Nandlall added.

Despite the walkout, the government reiterated



Government MP Alister Charlie

its commitment to defending Guyana's territorial integrity. "The world is on our side. Our neighbours are on our side. International law, peace, and diplomacy are on our side," Minister Nandlall affirmed.



Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn



Government ministers successfully defended the allocations to their respective sectors

The National Assembly has approved a \$57.5 billion Supplementary Appropriation Bill, paving the way for continued implementation of major government initiatives in housing, electricity, infrastructure, and agriculture.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill No. 1 of 2025, successfully piloted by Senior Minister in the Office

of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, was approved on May 23 following robust debate. First tabled on May 16, the Bill provides additional funding to accelerate key development programmes as Guyana continues to grow economically.

A significant portion of the allocation—\$29.5 billion—will go towards advancing the government's aggressive electricity improvement programme under the Office of the Prime Minister. Of this amount, \$28.8 billion is earmarked for the upgrade and expansion of electricity distribution networks. These works will directly support the 300-megawatt Natural Gas Power Plant currently under construction, which is expected to cut energy

conduct elections in Guyanese territory.

Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson



Government ministers successfully defended the allocations to their respective sectors

costs by 50% and provide reliable power for industry, manufacturing, and residential use.

An additional \$738 million has been allocated to extend electricity access to 17 previously unserved communities, while the government continues to distribute solar panels

to remote hinterland villages not connected to the national grid.

To further strengthen electricity services, \$7.8 billion under the Prime Minister's current programme will support the maintenance and upgrade of 157 km of existing distribution infrastructure,

significantly enhancing the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL)'s ability to deliver consistent power to consumers.

The Bill also provides \$3 billion to support the ongoing \$100,000 cash grant programme. As of May 21, over 617,000 citizens had registered, and more than 602,000 cheques were prepared and 96% distributed. Additional registration is underway at NDCs, RDCs, and the National Gymnasium.

Another \$12 billion has been allocated to continue infrastructure works under the Ministry of Housing and Water, bolstering the government's housing drive. This will help

create more serviced house lots and expand access to affordable housing across the country.

Additionally, \$1.5 billion will support hinterland road construction, enhancing connectivity between coastal and interior regions. A further \$1.4 billion is dedicated to developing farm-to-market roads, improving rural access and stimulating growth in the agriculture sector.

Together, these allocations reflect the government's commitment to inclusive development, economic expansion, and improving the quality of life for all Guyanese.

HOUSE APPROVES \$57.5B SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO BOOST NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ESSEQUIBO COAST NOW ENJOYS 87% ACCESS TO TREATED WATER WITH NEW ONDERNEEMING PLANT

The commissioning of the \$1.2 billion Onderneeming Water Treatment Plant in Red Village, Region Two, has dramatically increased treated water coverage on the Essequibo Coast—from 40% to 87%.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali joined hundreds of jubilant residents to commission the state-of-the-art facility, which can treat 10 million litres of water per day. Constructed by Toshiba Water Solutions, this is the third major facility commissioned under the Coastal Water Treatment Infrastructure Programme (CWTIP).

The plant serves more than 18,000 residents in communities including Supenaam, Good Hope, Spring Garden, Good Intent, Aurora, Dryshore/



Scene from the commissioning

Warousie, Hibernia, and Fairfield.

In his address, President Ali emphasised that clean water is essential to building a modern Guyana, alongside improved education, health, roads, and housing. **“This is what people-centered governance looks like: investing in infrastructure that directly improves**

people’s lives,” he said.

He noted that the government is not only expanding access but prioritising quality. The aim is to deliver safe, clear, and drinkable water that meets World Health Organisation (WHO) standards. This includes eliminating the reddish, metallic water caused by high iron content in the groundwater.

“We want to give you water that is safe, clear, drinkable, and healthy—water that transforms the quality of life,” the President affirmed.

Between 2020 and 2025, the government has invested over \$2.5 billion in water infrastructure in Region Two alone. This includes two new wells and expanded access along the Pomeroon River, which has brought first-time potable water to more than 2,500 residents.

A second major water treatment plant, valued at \$1 billion, is under construction at Mariah’s Delight. It will address longstanding water quality issues from Walton Hall to Charity and is expected to be completed by June 26.

President Ali assured

residents, **“We are not stopping here. From Mariah’s Delight to the Pomeroon, the transformation continues—because the people of Essequibo deserve the very best.”**

Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) CEO Shaik Baksh described the project as a symbol of progress and credited President Ali’s leadership. He noted that the plant will also support new housing

developments in the area.

Nationally, the government has invested \$40 billion to construct seven large water treatment plants, with the goal of reaching 90% treated water coverage by the end of 2025. Additionally, 12 existing plants are being upgraded, 200 km of transmission mains installed, and 18 small treatment plants built across Regions Two, Four, Five, and Six.



Scene from the commissioning

NEW LAWS SECURE GUYANA'S OIL SECTOR AND REGIONAL BORDERS



Prime Minister Mark Phillips passionately advocating for the oil soil legislation

Guyana has taken decisive steps to safeguard its natural resources and enhance national and regional security with the passage of two landmark bills by the National Assembly.

The **Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Responsibility Bill 2025** establishes a robust legal framework to protect Guyana’s marine environment and economy from the risks of oil spills. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, who led the debate, said the legislation is vital at this critical juncture in Guyana’s economic development.

“The presentation of this bill during this critical period in our economic history is vital in safeguarding our ecosystem from the effects of oil spill,” the Prime Minister stated.

The bill aligns

with international best practices and places full responsibility on oil operators to prevent, prepare for, and respond to oil spill incidents. It also empowers local institutions, including designating the **Civil Defence Commission (CDC)** as the lead agency for oil spill response and establishing a **National Oil Spill Committee** to oversee training, simulations, and emergency readiness.

Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat highlighted the proactive stance of the government in managing the oil sector, noting the acquisition of a capping stack to enhance emergency response capacity. He stressed

that the legislation ensures environmental protection is central to oil operations.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall underscored that the bill also supports local content development



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall

and responsible industry growth, placing Guyana on par with international oil-producing nations.

Meanwhile, to fortify national and regional security, the **Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (APIPNR) Bill** was also passed. This legislation introduces modern systems for collecting and sharing passenger and cargo data among **CARICOM**

member states—an essential tool in the fight against transnational organised crime.

Attorney General Nandlall, who also introduced this bill, said it operationalises the **CARICOM Advance Passenger Crew**

the Assembly.

The new law mandates data collection for all individuals entering, exiting, or transiting Guyana, while incorporating strong safeguards for data privacy and confidentiality in keeping with Guyana’s **Data Protection Act**.

Minister in the Ministry of Public Works Deodat Indar welcomed the law as a critical advancement for national security and travel efficiency, while Minister of Home Affairs Robeson Benn affirmed that all information gathered will be securely managed. Notably, Opposition MP Khemraj Ramjattan also supported the bill, endorsing its privacy protections and importance for regional cooperation.

Together, these two laws represent a bold step forward in securing Guyana’s prosperity—both by protecting its offshore oil resources and by reinforcing its place as a strong, secure partner in regional and global security networks.



Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat

'HITLIST' STRATEGY UNVEILED TO TACKLE CRIME AND BOOST REGIONAL SECURITY

A bold new strategy aimed at combating crime and strengthening security across the Caribbean was unveiled by President Irfaan Ali, during his feature address at the 39th



Minister of Home Affairs Robeson Benn

Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) Conference and Annual General Meeting in Georgetown.

The initiative, titled 'HITLIST', is a comprehensive security framework built around seven strategic pillars: **Human Capital, Infrastructure, Technology, Legislation, Intelligence, System, and Training.** The acronym reflects a targeted and structured approach to regional crime prevention

and law enforcement enhancement.

President Ali underscored the urgency of adopting a coordinated regional security model, urging



Commissioner of Police Clifton Hickens

Caribbean nations to embed the HITLIST framework into their national strategies to foster safer, more resilient societies.

Investing in People and Technology

At the heart of the initiative is a robust investment in human capital, with President Ali highlighting the critical need for advanced training at all levels of law enforcement. Guyana is leading by example, with

the construction of a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory to serve both national and regional needs.

Simultaneously, Guyana is investing heavily in modern technology, integrating advanced systems into its crime-fighting architecture to improve surveillance, communication, and evidence analysis.

Legal Reform and Intelligence Sharing



President Ali receiving a plaque for his robust leadership

President Ali also pointed to legislative reforms now underway. The Attorney General's Chambers is actively reviewing Guyana's crime-fighting laws, with the goal of reinforcing the legal foundation for broader regional security collaboration.

Another key pillar is intelligence

gathering and sharing. Emphasising trust and efficiency, the President called for greater use of technology to facilitate information exchange and joint operations. He also urged regional law enforcement bodies to take advantage of India's ITEC training programme to build capacity.

Acknowledging the persistent challenges of homicide, armed violence, cybercrime,

and youth involvement in criminal activity, President Ali called for a unified front that includes law enforcement, policymakers, the private sector, and community leaders. He emphasised the need for regional Police Commissioners to stay agile and responsive to rapidly evolving threats.

"If we are to safeguard our communities, our economies, and our democracies, we must build an integrated Caribbean security architecture—one rooted in shared intelligence and coordinated action," President Ali stated, expressing hope that the ACCP conference would act as a catalyst for dismantling criminal networks.

Local Commitment to Regional Goals

Guyana's Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, reported that the government has invested over \$9 billion to modernise its police force, including the development of new police stations, command centers, and upgraded IT infrastructure.

Commissioner of Police Clifton Hicken echoed the President's call for integration, stressing the need for a regional approach to cross-border and cybercrime, both of which have far-reaching consequences for public safety and economic stability.

Focus on Officers' Wellbeing

Outgoing ACCP President and Commissioner of Police for Antigua and Barbuda, Atlee Rodney, highlighted the importance of addressing the mental health of police officers, advocating for greater support and dialogue to ensure the well-being of those on the front lines of regional security.

The ACCP conference, themed **'United in Action, Transformed in Purpose, Building an Integrated Caribbean Security Architecture'**, saw discussions focused on strategy development, training, and preventative approaches to regional crime.

In recognition of his visionary leadership in regional security, President Ali was presented with a commemorative plaque during the opening session, which was attended by senior government officials, heads of joint services, and police commissioners from 24 Caribbean countries.

GUYANA, EU 'TRUE PARTNERS' IN DEMOCRACY, TRADE, AND CLIMATE ACTION-PRESIDENT ALI

President Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed the strength and maturity of the relationship between Guyana and the European Union (EU), describing the two as **"true partners"** committed to shared democratic values, expanding trade, and advancing climate action.

Speaking at the Europe Day Reception hosted by the EU Delegation, President Ali praised the longstanding cooperation between Guyana and the EU, noting that it has evolved over more than five decades into a multifaceted partnership.

"This partnership is built on mutual respect, shared values, and a deep

commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and sustainable development," the President said. He commended the leadership of EU Ambassador René Van Nes and the constructive approach taken by the PPP/C Government in building trust and creating new opportunities for collaboration.

President Ali highlighted the importance of adapting this partnership to meet current global challenges, including rising economic protectionism and geopolitical instability. **"In today's global landscape, it is essential that Guyana and the EU engage in deeper, strategic**



Scene from the Europe Day Reception

dialogue to ensure our cooperation remains responsive and mutually beneficial," he said.

Trade between Guyana and the EU continues to grow significantly. In 2024, EU imports from Guyana reached US\$9.7 billion, with crude oil exports accounting for 66% of that total. The EU remains one of Guyana's largest trading

partners, supported by agreements such as the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership.

On climate change, President Ali acknowledged the EU's leadership and praised the joint efforts under the Forest Partnership and Voluntary Partnership Agreement, both aimed at sustainable forest management and combating illegal logging. He emphasised

that Guyana, as a net carbon sink, is aligned with the EU's ambitious climate goals.

"Together, we are contributing to global climate solutions while also creating green economic opportunities," he said.

He also expressed appreciation for the EU's principled support for Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly its stance on the border controversy with Venezuela.

Looking ahead to national elections, President Ali welcomed the EU's planned Election Observation Mission and reiterated Guyana's commitment to democratic governance and transparency.

Recent developments underscore the growing scope of Guyana-EU cooperation. These include Guyana's signing of the Samoa Agreement, its participation in the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, the expected opening of a French Embassy in Georgetown, and the upcoming direct KLM flights between Amsterdam and Georgetown in 2025.

President Ali said, **"We are proud of this partnership and look forward to continuing our journey together—strengthening democracy, expanding trade, and securing a sustainable future for our people."**

PRESIDENT URGES POLICE TO FIGHT FALSE INFORMATION

President Irfaan Ali has called for a concerted effort from law enforcement agencies across the Caribbean to actively

Speaking at the opening of the 39th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police

the severe consequences of misinformation, including the potential to derail police investigations and endanger public safety.

Highlighting the increasingly clear danger posed by false narratives, President Ali stressed that misinformation erodes public trust, destabilises institutions, and inflames social tensions. He urged both the media and police forces to enhance their capabilities in identifying, countering, and correcting inaccurate information.

“We have to understand that information sharing, the speed

of that sharing, the factual basis of that sharing, is now a critical part of your work,” the President told the assembled police commissioners. He underscored the need for a robust communication strategy within the region’s security architecture to effectively address this growing threat.

President Ali specifically called on the ACCP to prioritise the development of a comprehensive communication strategy that tackles security and policing challenges throughout the Caribbean. He acknowledged a current



Scenes from the 39th Annual General Meeting and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) Conference



Scenes from the 39th Annual General Meeting and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) Conference

combat the spread of false information. (ACCP) in Georgetown, President Ali emphasised

deals with this threat?” President Ali questioned.

He also emphasised the importance of holding accountable those who deliberately disseminate misinformation for their own gain, stating that a foundation of trust and shared belief in the truth is essential for building safe and secure societies.

Acknowledging the often-unrecognised hard work of police officers in the region, President Ali stressed the need for a shift in public perception, urging greater support and resources for law enforcement alongside demands for accountability. He positioned the media and police as key partners in upholding truth and safeguarding the public from the harmful effects of false information.

NO OUTSOURCING OF CORE POLICE DUTIES, AG NANDLALL REAFFIRMS

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandall, SC, has reaffirmed that the Guyana Police Force (GPF) remains the sole, lawful authority for conducting criminal investigations in Guyana, stressing that its core responsibilities cannot be outsourced.

Speaking on his weekly programme *Issues in the News*, the Attorney General addressed public concern over the recent death of 11-year-old Adriana Younge, whose body was discovered at the Double Day Hotel, West Coast Demerara, last month. He acknowledged

the government’s move to engage a seasoned Canadian crime investigator to support the GPF in this high-profile case, but emphasised that the involvement of international expertise does not replace the GPF’s central role.

“The Guyana Police Force is the lawful, authorised agency to conduct investigations in Guyana,” AG Nandall stated. He warned that turning to external agencies in every major case could undermine the GPF’s authority and morale.

“If every time

a case receives public attention, we have to import law enforcement, what happens to the morale of the Guyana Police Force?” he questioned. “It would lead every family to expect that their case be handled by foreign agencies.”

AG Nandall cited the Police Act (Chapter 16:01), which designates the GPF as the body responsible for the apprehension of offenders and the enforcement of all laws and regulations in Guyana. He also referenced the principle of national sovereignty,

which restricts foreign law enforcement from operating within a country’s jurisdiction.

In defending the government’s actions, the Attorney General rejected criticisms surrounding the case and accused some individuals of using the tragedy for political purposes.

“There are people in this country who will never be satisfied with anything the government does. They are using this unfortunate event to score political points,” he said.

He further dismissed



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

suggestions that justice is lacking under the current administration, pointing to the Henry Boys and Courtney Crum-Ewing cases—both of which have led to charges and committals to stand trial in the High Court.

The government’s decision to enlist retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police

(RCMP) officer Leonard McCoshen to assist the GPF follows President Irfaan Ali’s commitment to the Younge family for a thorough investigation. However, AG Nandall emphasised that the GPF remains firmly in charge of the investigation and retains its position as the country’s lead investigative authority.



Director of the Restorative Justice Centre, Orin Boston, Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana, Sébastien Sigouin, Chief Magistrate (ag) Faith McGusty, practitioners and participants

Twenty participants from a range of agencies have begun a two-week intensive training in restorative justice at the Police Training Centre, Camp Road, Georgetown. The programme is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Legal Affairs,

the Attorney General’s Chambers, and the High Commission of Canada to Guyana, facilitated through the Canada-CARICOM Expert Deployment Mechanism. Restorative justice is a people-centered alternative to the

TWENTY PERSONS UNDERGO TRAINING IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES

traditional justice system. It engages victims, offenders, and the wider community in addressing harm, aiming for accountability and healing rather than punishment alone.

Director of the Restorative Justice Centre, Orin Boston, highlighted the growing impact of the initiative since the passage of the Restorative Justice Act in 2022. He noted that centres have already been established in Regions Three, Four, Five, and Ten, supported by

training, communication strategies, standard procedures, and case referral guides.

Boston also credited the Canadian government for its vital support, saying the collaboration has helped institutionalise restorative justice practices in Guyana. He emphasised the programme’s alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16, which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, and access to justice for all.

Acting Chief Magistrate Faith McGusty praised the transformative potential of restorative justice, urging participants to view themselves as agents of change.

“You are the next wave of practitioners who will carry forward and deepen this important work,” she said, stressing the importance of community involvement and accountability in the justice process.

Canadian High Commissioner

Guyana, Sébastien Sigouin, described the training as a testament to the strong partnership between Canada and Guyana and their shared commitment to improving access to justice.

To date, over 400 individuals—including magistrates, Amerindian village leaders, prison and probation officers, educators, and civil society representatives—have been trained in restorative justice across the country.

NTC 2025: GOVERNMENT AND INDIGENOUS LEADERS CHART UNITED PATH FOR DEVELOPMENT



President Ali addressing the opening of the 2025 NTC Conference

The 2025 National Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference concluded on a high note after four days of dynamic engagement between over 250 Indigenous leaders and senior government officials. Held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre under the theme “Robust Governance for Sustainable Village Development,” the event reaffirmed the People’s Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) Government’s steadfast commitment to empowering Amerindian communities and fully integrating them into Guyana’s broader national transformation. Throughout the conference, the PPP/C’s model of inclusive governance was clear—delivering concrete results through decisive action rather than mere promises.

support to Indigenous communities, highlighting initiatives spanning housing grants, enhanced educational access, improved healthcare services, and greater cultural inclusion. **“You can expect increases in your grants, presidential allowances, support to your children, the elderly, and women,”** President Ali assured the toshaos, emphasizing that these commitments would continue under successive PPP/C governments. Among the key announcements was the approval of 250 firearm licenses intended to enhance security and protect farming communities within Amerindian villages. The President also underscored the expansion of

that demonstrated the impact of targeted investment. Since 2020, over 330 medical professionals have been trained in Region One alone. More than 570 surgeries have been performed, 7,012 pairs of spectacles distributed, and 17 telemedicine centres established. Region Nine has seen a dramatic improvement, with emergency patient

transformation.”
MINISTER SUKHAİ:
“THIS IS YOUR SPACE, YOUR TIME”
Amerindian Affairs Minister Pauline Sukhai encouraged toshaos to take full advantage of the conference as a platform for strategic dialogue. **“This is your time to voice your progress and**

as the driving force behind real, visible transformation across Guyana’s hinterland. He lauded President Ali and his Cabinet for their continued engagement and support, especially the increased budgetary allocations and the institutionalisation of the annual NTC conference. John described this collaboration as **“unparalleled”** globally and a clear demonstration of respect for Indigenous autonomy and voice.

final day featured direct dialogue between toshaos and a powerhouse lineup of Cabinet ministers from various sectors including Public Works, Education, Finance, Human Services, Labour, Legal Affairs, Governance, and Youth, Sport & Culture. The conference embodied the PPP/C Government’s unified approach to governance and development, reinforcing that Indigenous progress is integral to national progress.

From multi-billion-dollar sector investments to direct community grants, the 2025 NTC Conference highlighted the PPP/C Government’s proven track record of inclusion, action, and Indigenous empowerment. As President Ali reminded the leaders, **“This is not**



Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai addressing the opening of the 2025 NTC Conference

Chairman John also issued a strong call for Indigenous self-determination and unity, cautioning against political opportunism and media distortion. **“We have a right to self-determination,”** he declared firmly. **“We know what is good for us.”** He highlighted



the uniqueness of the NTC Conference, where Indigenous leaders engage directly with the President and Cabinet in an open and respectful space. John criticised attempts by some to manipulate Indigenous voices during election seasons, emphasising that Indigenous peoples are informed and capable of choosing the political parties they support.

just about today. This is about building a future together.” With hundreds of projects underway and new initiatives just announced, Indigenous communities are not only being heard—they are being equipped to lead. The PPP/C Government’s vision for Guyana clearly includes every region, every village, and every voice.



The conference allowed for dialogue between the Toshaos and the government

PRESIDENT ALI: “BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER”
In his keynote address, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali unveiled a comprehensive roadmap aimed at uplifting Indigenous lives and livelihoods across the country. He pledged increased

entrepreneurship and tourism training through the Ministry of Tourism, highlighting Guyana’s hosting of the Global Biodiversity Alliance—a significant milestone that positions Indigenous leadership on sustainable development prominently on the world stage. On healthcare, President Ali presented impressive statistics

under construction. More than one million textbooks have been distributed, and 158 schools are now connected to high-speed internet. President Ali told the toshaos, **“This is your transformation to celebrate. We are happy as a government that we were able to facilitate such a massive**

even your setbacks,” she said. Minister Sukhai reminded participants that the NTC is the only legally recognised national body for Indigenous representation, established under the Amerindian Act of 2006. She praised the PPP/C Government for maintaining a consistent open-door policy and reaffirmed that Indigenous peoples remain central to the government’s “One Guyana” vision.

CHAIRMAN DERRICK JOHN:
“NO ONE TELLS US WHAT’S BEST FOR US”
NTC Chairman Derrick John echoed this sentiment, commending the partnership between the PPP/C Government and Indigenous leaders

The conference’s



Toshaos at the 2025 NTC Conference

NATIONAL PRIDE IN FULL DISPLAY AT ANNA REGINA

President Irfaan Ali joined scores of patriotic citizens at the Anna Regina Car Park for a spirited National Patriotic Concert. The vibrant evening united celebrated local artists and enthusiastic crowds in a dynamic showcase of music, culture, and national pride. As part

of a landmark initiative to let the Golden Arrowhead fly high—especially in border communities—the event emphasised unity and sovereignty, echoing the powerful message: Guyana stands proud, unshakable, indivisible, and free.



"THANK YOU, ESSEQUIBO, FOR THE POWERFUL MESSAGE YOU SENT LAST EVENING. YOUR ENERGY, UNITY, AND PRIDE WERE UNDENIABLE — AN EXPLICIT DECLARATION THAT EVERY SQUARE INCH OF GUYANA'S 83,000 SQUARE MILES BELONGS TO US, THE PEOPLE OF THIS SOVEREIGN NATION. YOUR VOICES ECHOED FAR AND WIDE, REMINDING THE WORLD THAT GUYANESE STAND FIRM IN OUR LOVE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR COMMITMENT TO DEFEND WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.

ESSEQUIBO, YOUR SPIRIT IGNITED A FLAME ACROSS THE ENTIRE NATION. FROM COAST TO HINTERLAND, WE ARE ONE PEOPLE, UNITED IN PURPOSE AND RESOLUTE IN OUR STANCE. LAST NIGHT WAS A STATEMENT OF STRENGTH, PATRIOTISM AND UNBREAKABLE RESOLVE. GUYANA IS ONE, AND WE WILL ALWAYS PROTECT OUR LAND, FUTURE, AND IDENTITY "

- PRESIDENT MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI

B HALAL MEAT (BAKSH)

EAST & WEST INDIAN GROCERIES

416-261-8564

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

FROM THE CARIBBEAN

- BORA
- EGGPLANT
- SAIHE
- SQUASH
- PUMPKIN
- WIRI WIRI PEPPER
- HOT PEPPERS
- OKRA
- MARRIED MAN
- THYME
- FROZEN KATAHAR
- COCONUT CHOKA
- EDDOES
- SPIKE MANGO
- GINEP
- GOLDEN APPLE
- AWARA

FRESH ONTARIO MEAT

LAMB * GOAT * CHICKEN * DUCK
RED HEN * ROOSTER

ALL MEATS ARE 100% HALAL

AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE

FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD

GILLBAKA
GREY SNAPPER
CATFISH
BANGAMARY
BUTTERFISH
HASSA
WHITE BELLY SHRIMP
BLACK SHRIMP
CRAB
SMOKE FISH

3160 EGLINTON AVENUE (1 BLOCK WEST OF MARKHAM ROAD)





LOTUS

Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

121 City View Drive
North of Belfield Road, East side of Highway 27
647-547-8188 www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com



Seating for more than 500+ guests!

Crematorium inside our building!





SUPERKING SUPERMARKET

鴻發超市



Special Offers Effective: Friday May 30, To Thursday June 05, 2025.



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

House Tomato 溫室番茄
Reg: \$1.59

99¢
lb

Big Taro 大芋頭
Reg: \$2.99

2.39
lb

Spanish Orange 西班牙橙
Reg: \$1.79

1.39
lb

Korean Cabbage 高麗菜
Reg: \$1.29

99¢
lb

Romaine Heart 綠葉生菜
Reg: \$3.99

2.59
bag

No.1 Pear 鴨梨
Reg: \$1.59

99¢
lb

Coriander 芫荽
Reg: 2 for \$3.00

2/\$2.50

Lemon In Bag 袋裝黃檸檬 2Lb US Fuji Apple 美國富士蘋果
Reg: 2 for \$7.99

2.99
bag

Honeydew 白蜜瓜
Reg: \$4.99

2.99
ea

Shanghai Bok Choy 上海白
Reg: \$1.99

1.29
lb

Celery 芹菜
Reg: 2 for \$5.00

2/\$3.00

Whole Jackfruit 整個菠萝蜜
Reg: \$1.29

99¢
lb

Asparagus 芦笋
Reg: \$3.99

2.99
pk

Grape Tomato 提子番茄
Reg: 2 for \$3.99

2/\$3.00

Apple Mango 苹果芒
Reg: \$15.99

12.99
case

Locust 杜松
Reg: \$4.99

3.99
lb

GROcery

Red Bull Energy Drink 紅牛功能飲料 240ml
Reg: \$2.99

1.59
ea

Chen Salt Ginger Cracking 陳氏鹽薑碎
Reg: \$1.99

1.29
ea

AA-1 Sardines In Tomato Sauce 罐頭沙丁魚 200g
Reg: \$0.99

59¢
ea

Robison Juice Drink Series 羅比遜果汁系列
Reg: \$2.99

1.99
ea

Holiday Luncheon Meat 假日午餐肉 340g
Reg: \$2.99

1.99
ea

JFC Sweet Potato Style 罐頭芋頭 120g
Reg: \$0.99

3.99
ea

Crackch Coconut Water With Pulp 椰汁 420g
Reg: \$1.99

88¢
ea

Anyo-D Quail Eggs 420g 鮮雞蛋
Reg: \$3.99

2.79
ea

JFC Sugar Cane Vinegar 罐頭甘蔗醋 250ml
Reg: \$1.99

2.29
ea

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Cucumber 長青瓜
Reg: \$1.40

14.00
case

Broccoli 西蘭花
Reg: \$3.10

31.00
case

Frozen Pangda Baka Fillet 冷凍巴卡魚排 5x3.5Lb
Reg: \$65.00

65.00
case

Spanish Onion 大洋葱
Reg: \$2.50

25.00
case

Celery 西芹
Reg: \$3.30

33.00
case

Convenience Rolls 10.5x15 包裝卷 13Lb
Reg: \$15.99

15.99
case

Coriander 芫荽
Reg: \$2.70

27.00
case

Lemon 美檸檬
Reg: \$3.90

39.00
case

Capri Vegetable Oil 亞細亞油 16L
Reg: \$31.99

31.99
case

Korean Cabbage 高麗菜
Reg: \$2.90

29.00
case

Head Lettuce 圓生菜
Reg: \$4.80

48.00
case

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 德門玉米粒 12x100ml
Reg: \$38.00

38.00
case

Patra Large Egg 印度大雞蛋
Reg: \$58.99

58.99
case

Squid Brand Fish Sauce 墨魚牌魚露
Reg: \$29.99

29.99
case

Knorr Chicken Broth Mix 康樂雞湯粉 400g
Reg: \$116.00

116.00
ea

Anyo-D Coconut Milk 椰奶 200g
Reg: \$45.99

45.99
case

ADM All Purpose Flour 麵粉 20kg
Reg: \$19.99

19.99
bag

Camaron Evaporated Milk 三花奶 48x354ml
Reg: \$90.00

90.00
case

Heinz Tomato Ketchup 番茄醬 6x150ml
Reg: \$59.99

59.99
case

ADM All Purpose Flour 麵粉 20kg
Reg: \$19.99

19.99
bag

Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg
Reg: \$30.99

30.99
bag

FROZEN

Coat Ocean Frozen White Shrimp 15x20 雙青白蝦 400g
Reg: \$6.99

6.99
ea

Ca Tie Yang Frozen Yellow Catfish 30x4 600g
Reg: \$5.99

5.99
ea

Ocean Food Imitation Crabmeat Series 蟹肉 454g
Reg: \$3.99

3.99
ea

Fu Yang Frozen Pre-Fried Tempura Shrimp 大炸蝦 500g
Reg: \$8.99

8.99
ea

Maximum Seafood Freshwater Smelt 鱈魚仔 500g
Reg: \$3.99

3.99
ea

Yakult Probiotic Drink 養樂多乳飲品 400ml
Reg: \$6.29

6.29
ea

AA-1 Bangus Milkfish Belly 牛奶魚 20x200g
Reg: \$5.99

5.99
ea

AA-1 Galunggang 20x 450g
Reg: \$2.99

2.99
ea

China Maid Bean Curd Sheet 錦標豆 400g
Reg: \$6.99

6.99
ea

Golden Sea Brand Sardine Fish 沙丁魚 500g
Reg: \$6.99

6.99
ea

Golden Saba Tuna Banana Roll With Jackfruit 罐頭金槍魚 454g
Reg: \$3.99

3.99
ea

Turon 20x 450g
Reg: \$3.99

3.99
ea

SEAFOOD

Fresh Trout 新鮮鳟魚
Reg: \$3.99

2.99
lb

Frozen Fresh Pompano 凍鮮黃魚
Reg: \$3.99

4.99
lb

Frozen Fresh Headless White Shrimp 凍鮮白蝦
Reg: \$3.99

6.99
lb

Live Double Claw Canada Lobster 生雙大龍蝦
Reg: \$12.99

12.99
lb

Fresh Fluke 新鮮白魚
Reg: \$3.99

3.99
lb

Fresh Salmon Fillet 新鮮三文魚
Reg: \$10.99

10.99
lb

1635 Lawrence Ave West, North York ON, M6L 3C9 Tel : 416-241-8988 MON - SUN 9AM - 9PM, OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK www.superking.ca

Although We Strive For Accuracy In Both Copy & Illustration, unintentional Error May Occur, We Reserve The Right To Correct Any Error. Specials Available While Quantities Last. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities Design and advertisement by Promoz Solutions Tel: 416-773-1668

PRESIDENT ALI ANNOUNCES TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES FOR AMERINDIAN COMMUNITIES

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali has announced a series of transformative initiatives spanning the agriculture, housing, education, infrastructure, and security sectors for indigenous communities across the country.

As part of ongoing collaboration and consultations with the National Tshaos Council (NTC), the Head of State led a team of Cabinet Ministers and Government officials in a multi-sectoral meeting with the Council on the lawns of State House.

During the engagement, the President spoke extensively about infrastructure development in indigenous communities. He announced that his Government will allocate an additional \$1bn this year to further support hinterland road development. The plan, he explained, is to identify roads and bridges that can be repaired through community-led work.



Scene from the engagement with the Tshaos at State House

To support community development, the Government will also expand its



Scene from the engagement with the Tshaos at State House

Hinterland Housing Programme and, over the next five years, will construct more than 2,500 houses across various Amerindian communities.

Original Certificates of Title for Manawarin and Sawariwau, along with extensions for five other communities—including Red Hill, Hobodia, Hotoquai, Akawini, and Moco Moco—were also presented by the Head of State. Combined, the communities received titles for more than 88,000 acres of land.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

During the discussions, the President highlighted the critical importance of agriculture and food security. He announced that the Government will allocate resources to establish designated farming plots in Amerindian communities currently without them.

This initiative includes drainage and irrigation systems, along with the provision of planting materials. It will be complemented by various agricultural programmes for interested communities, including cage farming, pig breeding, honey production, and the Black Giant Chickens project, among other initiatives.

“We intend to create an enabling environment to help all indigenous communities enhance their agricultural drive. Food security is an important



Scene from the engagement with the Tshaos at State House



Transportation asset handed over to the Tshaos

plan on which the Government is advancing development. For us, food security is critical, especially for the hinterland.”

The President noted that the Government wants to ensure Amerindian communities are not only self-sufficient but can also financially benefit from the country’s growing agricultural programmes.

He stated that his Government is willing to invest in any of the following: 10 bee hives for honey production, with an additional 10 in the next budget; two cages for cage farming; or three pairs of pigs for

pork production. He added that \$500m would also be set aside to procure 2,000 bred heifers for the communities.

Additionally, community leaders were asked to select 30 young people to benefit from fully funded scholarships to study veterinary science at the Guyana School of Agriculture.

“In this new era, we want not only to give you more resources. We want you more integrally involved in the building out of your community, in the improvement of your communities. We want to maximise your participation so that the benefits—the maximum benefits—from these projects remain in



Transportation asset handed over to the Tshaos the communities themselves.”

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Tshaos were reminded of the tens of thousands of Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarships already offered to Guyanese and the additional thousands that the Government continues to provide, along with free tertiary education at the University of Guyana. Several initiatives are also in place for primary and secondary school students.

To amplify education in the hinterland, the Government has established ICT hubs in many communities for residents to benefit from online classes.



Transportation asset handed over to the Tshaos

In addition, the President announced today that every hinterland village would receive tablets preloaded with GOAL programmes.

“Our love is not manifested through selfishness; rather, our love for



Original Certificates of Title for Manawarin and Sawariwau, along with extensions were handed over

indigenous people is shown through hard work, commitment, and a full understanding that your priority is our priority.” Moreover, the President announced that Amerindian community policing personnel serving at the borders will be sworn in as rural constables.

To ensure the development of talented individuals within Amerindian communities, the President declared that his Government will allocate \$1m to each community to develop or enhance its community grounds to help unearth young talents in sport and culture. This will complement the \$3m allocated to each village to assist with housing development.



Original Certificates of Title for Manawarin and Sawariwau, along with extensions were handed over

“I believe that some of our greatest talents are still waiting to be unearthed, especially within our indigenous communities.” The Government also handed over more than \$108m worth of key transportation assets to the NTC, including 4x4 pickups, ATVs, and minibuses.

To better address village priorities and enhance cooperation, the Head of State suggested that the NTC consider forming subcommittees focused on key areas such as infrastructure, housing, security, and agriculture. These committees can include representatives from relevant Government Ministries to ensure effective collaboration and support.

HINTERLAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPANSION

During the meeting, President Ali facilitated presentations from the three major telecommunications companies in Guyana—One Communications, Digicel, and ENet—on their plans for expanding services in hinterland and riverine areas.

As a result, a high-level task force comprising representatives from the NTC, CEOs of the telecommunications companies, the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, and the Office of the Prime Minister will meet to devise a joint strategy for hinterland telecommunications expansion.



Original Certificates of Title for Manawarin and Sawariwau, along with extensions were handed over

TOSHAOS' RESOLUTION

Meanwhile, in a show of solidarity, the NTC passed a resolution and presented it to President Ali, affirming their members' unwavering support for Guyana's sovereignty over the Essequibo region. The NTC condemned Venezuela's claims as baseless and a threat to the rights and safety of indigenous communities. The Council also reaffirmed indigenous peoples' historic ties to the region and their commitment to unity, peace, and a lawful resolution through the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The resolution further urged international bodies to support Guyana's territorial integrity and pledged continued advocacy and education in defence of Essequibo.

Several Cabinet Ministers, Government officials, and members of the Joint Services were also present at the meeting.



Original Certificates of Title for Manawarin and Sawariwau, along with extensions were handed over

PRESIDENT ALI HONOURS TOSHAO KENKE YAIMO KURUXI WITH MEDAL OF SERVICE FOR DECADES OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali awarded the Medal of Service to Toshao Kenke Yaimo Kuruxi of Cashew Island, Region Six, at State House.

Mr Kuruxi was conferred with Guyana's fifth-highest national award for his long and dedicated service as a community leader, his skill and reliability as a boat operator, his expertise as a guide, and his more than 30 years of service to the Guyana Defence Force.

“This presentation could not have come at a more important time, when all of us— all of Guyana— are standing in unity for all 83,000 square miles of our country,” the President stated.

Additionally, President Ali unveiled plans for his Government to formally honour indigenous leaders across the country, particularly those from border communities, at a national level.



Toshao Kuruxi awarded Medal of Service



Toshao Kuruxi awarded Medal of Service



Toshao Kuruxi awarded Medal of Service



Toshao Kuruxi awarded Medal of Service

DFM

Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

We're simply the best West Indian store in town.

 <p>Grace Festival Mix 270 g</p>	 <p>Horlicks Original Malt Beverage Drink 400 g</p>	 <p>Grace Organic Coconut Milk 400 ml</p>	 <p>Cedar Parboiled Rice 8 kg</p>
2/3 ⁵⁰	5 ⁹⁹ each	2/2 ²⁰	14 ⁹⁹ each
 <p>Rubicon Mango or Guava Nectar 1 L</p>	 <p>Serge Peanut Punch 250 ml</p>	 <p>V-Soy Soy Bean Beverage assorted 300 ml</p>	 <p>Soldanza Ripe Plantain Chips with Pepper 42 g</p>
1 ⁹⁹ each	79¢ each	2/\$5	2/\$1
 <p>Mekong Mushroom Flavoured Soy Sauce 500 ml</p>	 <p>Demerara Gold Cane Sugar 800 g</p>	 <p>Benjamins Browning 150 ml</p>	 <p>Anchor Cherry Syrup 750 ml</p>
99¢ each	1 ⁹⁹ each	2/\$3	7 ⁹⁹ each
 <p>Marshall Sardine In Tomato Sauce 425 g</p>	 <p>Grace Jack Mackerel In Tomato Sauce 425 g</p>	 <p>Somi's Farm Black Turtle Bean 900 g</p>	 <p>Jamaican Pride Yellow Corn Meal 4 lbs</p>
99¢ each	2 ⁴⁹ each	7 ⁹⁹ each	1 ⁹⁹ each
 <p>Villa Argentia 100% Natural Hardwood Charcoal 10 kg</p>	 <p>Colgate Kids Cavity Protection Tooth Paste 95 ml</p>	 <p>Fresh O Bowl Toilet Bowl Cleaner 85 g</p>	 <p>Dial Hand Soap assorted 385 ml</p>
24 ⁹⁹ each	99¢ each	1 ⁹⁹ each	99¢ each

Delicious Jamaican Dish

Grown From Australia
**Free Range
Goat Meat**



\$4.99
lb Frozen

**Frozen Square Cut
Boneless Mutton
Leg Meat**



\$5.99
lb

**Burned
Goat Head**



\$9.99
bag

**Frozen Thick &
Meaty Beef First
Tripe**



\$3.99
lb

**Frozen Square Cut
Turkey Neck**



\$2.49
lb

**Frozen Headless
Bangamary Fish**



\$4.99
lb

**Large Salted
Fish**



\$4.99
lb

**Jamaica's Choice
Smoked Ham**



\$3.99
lb

**Frozen Exceldor
Chicken Drumsticks**



\$14.99
5 kg Box

**Fresh Exceldor
Chicken Leg
Quarters**



72.99
18 kg box
With Purchase of 2 cases or
More Thursday To Sunday Only

Fresh Seafood Catches

**Fresh Lane or
Yellow Tail Snappers
Under 1/2 Lb**



\$5.99
lb as is

**Fresh
Doctor Fish**



\$7.99
lb as is

**Fresh
Strawberry Grouper
(Butter Fish)**



\$7.99
lb as is

**Fresh
Porgy Fish**



\$3.99
lb as is

**Fresh Atlantic
Whole Salmon**



\$6.99
lb as is

YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

**Fresh
Buttercup Squash**



99¢
lb

**Fresh
Cassava**



1.99
lb

**Fresh Jamaican
Yellow Yams**



4.99
lb

**Fresh Jamaican
Banana**



2.49
lb

Five Locations To Serve You Better

**Specials in Effect Fri. May 29th
until Wed. June 4th, 2025**

<p>Store Hours Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm Saturday 8 am to 9 pm Sunday 9 am to 7 pm</p>	<p>Store Hours Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm Saturday 9 am to 9 pm Sunday 9 am to 8 pm</p>	<p>Store Hours Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm Saturday 9 am to 9 pm Sunday 9 am to 7 pm</p>	<p>Store Hours Mond-Thurs 9:30 am to 9 pm Fri.-Sat. 9 am to 9 pm Sunday 9 am to 6 pm</p>	<p>Store Hours Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm Saturday 8 am to 9 pm Sunday 9 am to 7 pm</p>
--	--	--	---	--

BECAUSE WE CARE' CASH GRANT RETURNS FOR 2025, REACHES THOUSANDS IN EARLY DISTRIBUTION



Recipient with the grant

The Ministry of Education has rolled out the 2025 edition of its flagship ‘Because We Care’ Cash Grant, with successful distributions already completed in Regions Two, Five, Seven, and Nine.

In Regions Seven and Nine, the grant was distributed between May 12 and 16, while Regions Two and Five saw distribution from May 19 to 23. The programme, which aims to ease the financial burden of back-to-school expenses, allows parents to purchase essential school supplies and uniforms for their

children. The grant, first introduced in 2014 under the People’s Progressive

Party/Civic (PPP/C) government at \$10,000 per child, has seen steady increases since its reinstatement in 2021. The 2025 cycle delivers on the government’s promise of \$50,000 per child, with an added \$5,000 for uniforms and supplies—bringing the total to \$55,000 per student.

In Region Seven, a total of 8,145 students benefited, with nearly \$448 million disbursed. Region Nine recorded 10,831 beneficiaries, receiving close to \$596 million in total.

Distributions in Regions One, Eight, and Ten are scheduled for May 25 to 31. Meanwhile, students in Region Three, East Bank Demerara, Georgetown, East Coast Demerara, and Region Six will receive their grants from June 2 to 6.

Nationwide, approximately 205,000 students are expected to benefit from this year’s programme, which is backed by an \$11 billion allocation in the 2025 national budget.

As the initiative continues to unfold across Guyana, it not only provides tangible financial support to families but also reaffirms the government’s commitment to making education a national priority. By investing in students and empowering households, the ‘Because We Care’ grant plays a key role in shaping a more equitable and promising future for the next generation.



Recipient with the grant



Recipient with the grant



Recipient with the grant

NYC HOISTS GUYANESE FLAG IN CELEBRATION OF 59TH INDEPENDENCE



Scene from the event

The Golden Arrowhead was proudly raised at Bowling Green in New York City this week to honour the more than 40,000-strong Guyanese community and to commemorate Guyana’s 59th Independence Anniversary, observed on May 26.

Held on the eve of the anniversary, the flag-raising ceremony was led by Mayor Eric Adams, who applauded the

Guyanese community for its unwavering contributions to the city’s cultural, economic, and social life.

“The immigrant community is vital to this city and this country,” the mayor said. “When we raise your flag here, we state that we see you, we acknowledge you. And we thank you for what you do.”

He continued by highlighting the

everyday presence and impact of Guyanese New Yorkers:

“We see you in our hospitals, our small businesses, our schools. We see you all throughout the neighborhoods. We raise your flag today because you have raised our hopes and aspirations in this city we call New York.”

From Little Guyana in Richmond Hill, Queens, to Flatbush and Canarsie in Brooklyn, Guyanese immigrants have built strong, resilient communities that preserve their cultural heritage while helping drive the city forward.

In a Facebook post marking the occasion, Mayor Adams noted:



Scene from the event



Scene from the event

“From Little Guyana in Queens to Flatbush and Canarsie in Brooklyn, New York City wouldn’t be the same without the passion and hard work of our Guyanese community. Today, we proudly raised the Guyanese flag at Bowling Green to honor their invaluable contributions to our

city.” The flag-raising ceremony not only celebrated Guyana’s independence but also served as a powerful reminder of the shared values of diversity, resilience, and unity that define both Guyana and New York City.

“We are prepared to win it for the people”, Jagdeo says of September 1 election date

Statement by Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Secretary General of the PPP-C, on the announcement of the election date in Guyana

I welcome President Dr. Irfaan Ali’s announcement of September 1st, 2025 as the date for General and Regional Elections.

As the General Secretary of the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), I am proud to say that we are ready to deliver our message of continued progress to the people of Guyana in the upcoming election campaign.

Since returning to Office in August 2020, our government hit the ground running, and we have not looked back. In the face of a global pandemic, we acted decisively — expanding COVID-19 testing, securing life-saving vaccines, reopening the economy, and restoring essential public services. Within just 40 days, we passed an emergency budget to remove burdensome taxes, support vulnerable groups, and revive critical sectors of the economy. And we did far more than that. In just under five years, we have restored confidence in the economy and created thousands of jobs for the Guyanese people. From agriculture and infrastructure to energy, ICT, and tourism, we have driven broad-based, inclusive growth. We invested heavily in healthcare, education, affordable housing, social welfare, and built stronger, safer communities. Over this period, thousands of house lots have been distributed, putting land and homeownership within reach for ordinary Guyanese families. We tempered the impact of the global increase in the cost of living by increasing disposable income across both the private and public sectors. To ease the financial burden on families and businesses, we introduced several initiatives — including subsidies on electricity and water, the removal of all taxes on gasoline and diesel, and the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector, which led to cheaper access to data and other services. We also reduced mortgage interest rates and implemented a range of additional measures aimed at putting more money into people’s pockets. At the same time, we tackled rising living costs through targeted interventions for the elderly, unemployed, women, youth, and vulnerable communities, while safeguarding jobs and incomes nationwide.

Importantly, we did not just deliver on our 2020–2025 manifesto — we exceeded it by listening to the needs of our people and taking decisive action. We implemented initiatives that ensured all sections of society benefited — from miners and farmers to public servants, youths, entrepreneurs, and ordinary families in every community.

As we look ahead to 2025–2030, our re-election campaign will focus on our plans to build on this strong foundation. We will create thousands more jobs across new and traditional sectors, expand healthcare services with over 6,000 new jobs in that sector alone, and establish hubs for medical tourism, biotech, and information technology. We will modernise education by embedding STEM, AI, and digital skills in classrooms, increasing scholarships, and growing a Digital Guyana. Housing development will accelerate with the distribution of 5,000 house lots annually, alongside new climate-resilient

communities like Silica City. Major infrastructure projects — including new bridges, highways, deep-water harbours, modern airports, and waterfront developments — will reshape our national landscape, boost connectivity, and support economic diversification. Through pro-business reforms and SME financing, we will continue to open opportunities for every Guyanese citizen. We also recognise that important work remains in several key areas. These include improving garbage collection and community drainage systems to foster cleaner, healthier neighbourhoods, expanding street lighting and other initiatives to enhance community safety, and making more land available for small miners and farmers to boost productivity and support sustainable livelihoods.

Needless to say, throughout our term, we have faced relentless obstruction from the Parliamentary Opposition, whose political games have done



Bharrat Jagdeo

country a disservice. The PNCR/APNU/AFC/WPA, in whatever form they present themselves

the to the electorate, have no track record to stand on — no record of delivering for the Guyanese people — and nothing credible to offer the electorate. As such, Guyanese can expect their characteristic campaign of lies, racism and division to continue, along with the usual long list of unrealistic, lofty, populist promises, which they have no intention of fulfilling.

Our Party anticipates this and we will meet this challenge head-on, exposing their deception at every turn.

The PPP has always stood for democracy, social justice, economic growth, and national unity. That commitment remains unshaken. We will continue working to build a Guyana where every citizen — young and old, of every race, gender and religion — has the opportunity for a progressive and prosperous life.

We are ready for the 2025 Election. And we are prepared to win it for the people of Guyana.

Our Family Caring for Yours

From the flowers on the front lawn to the paintings on the walls, we at Ogden’s always consider the comfort and needs of the families that we serve first. We offer services and products that are meaningful and fit comfortably within your budget. Just some of the ways that we as a family care for yours.
Family owned and operated since 1948.



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3
www.ogdenfuneralhome.com

#1 For Quality


Comfort Sleep Inc.
Sleep on ... Dream on...

Scan Me





Comfort-Pedic
Memory Foam
Mattress



Comfort Foam
Mattress



Comfort Custom
Luxury



Tel: +592 233-2657 | + 592 233-3013 | +592 233-3024 | WhatsApp: +592 618-1078

Address: 49 Eccles Industrial Site, EBD, Guyana

Email: info@comfortsleep.gy | Website: comfortsleep.gy

Discover the power
of pre-planning

Complete your own final arrangements now and discover the confidence and comfort of knowing you've better protected your family and your estate.

**Get started today with
a FREE Planning Kit
416-267-4653**





Resthaven
Memorial Gardens

by Arbor Memorial

2700 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON
resthavenmemorial.com



Official
Family
Registry

Arbor Memorial Inc.

"LEADERSHIP YOU CAN TRUST"- PRESIDENT ALI ASSURES WORKERS OF CONTINUED GOV'T SUPPORT

President Irfaan Ali addressed Guyanese workers at a Labour Day brunch held at State House, reiterating his government's unwavering commitment to their rights, welfare, and economic advancement. Under the banner of providing **"leadership you can trust,"** the President underscored the pivotal role of the workforce in Guyana's ongoing development and affirmed his administration's dedication to tangible action.

"We honour your hard work and we



Scene from the brunch at State House

by actions, actions that we have proven in the last four years," President Ali stated, building on the theme

PPP/C administration's consistent efforts since August 2020 to safeguard workers' democratic rights, improve their social conditions, and foster economic empowerment.

Highlighting concrete achievements, President Ali pointed to the significant 46.2% increase in public sector wages between 2021 and 2025, the reinstatement of the one-month bonus for the disciplined services, and substantial reductions in income tax rates. He also noted the doubling of the income tax threshold, a measure

that has injected over \$18 billion annually into the pockets of more than 60,000 workers nationwide, demonstrating the government's commitment to increasing disposable income.

Further evidence of this support, according to the President, includes the doubling of the mortgage interest relief ceiling to facilitate homeownership, the introduction of tax relief for life and medical insurance, and measures allowing parents to claim a monthly non-taxable income per child. Additionally,

the first \$50,000 of healthcare, and the



Scene from the brunch at State House

monthly overtime and income from a second job are now non-taxable, alongside targeted salary adjustments for key sectors like education,

disciplined services.

Looking to the future, President Ali announced new initiatives designed to further enhance the lives of Guyanese workers.

He concluded by pledging ongoing investments in critical infrastructure, community safety, reliable electricity, and public services, all contributing to the government's overarching goal of improving the quality of life for every Guyanese worker.



Scene from the brunch at State House

will do so not only by words. We will do so of reliable governance. He emphasised the



Scene from the brunch at State House

GOV'T SECURES BETTER PAY, STABILITY FOR GPL AND GUYOIL WORKERS

The Government of Guyana has once again demonstrated its commitment to improved workers' welfare and industrial harmony with the signing of two new multi-year agreements that will boost salaries and allowances for employees of the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Incorporated and the Guyana Oil Company Limited (GUYOIL).

The agreements, signed at the Ministry of Finance, were witnessed by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, alongside representatives from the unions and companies involved.

The first agreement, signed between GPL and the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU), covers the years 2024 and 2025 and will see



Government facilitates pay increases for GPL and GUYOIL workers in new multi-year agreements (1)

increased pay and benefits for GPL staff. The second agreement, between GUYOIL and the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU), spans 2024 to 2026 and includes similar improvements in salaries and allowances for GUYOIL employees.

Minister Singh described the agreements as part of a broader effort by the government to maintain a positive and productive industrial relations climate. **"These are the latest in a series of multi-**

year agreements reached with unions across the public sector," he said, adding that the last two years have been **"historic"** in the number of such agreements concluded.

He praised the maturity of the government's relationship with the unions, noting that collective bargaining has become more collaborative and focused on improving the lives of workers. He also highlighted the

broader investments in infrastructure, education, health, and housing, all aimed at enhancing citizens' quality of life.

Chief Labour Officer Dhaneshwar Deonarine commended both unions and management teams for their cooperative approach. **"Collective bargaining is about finding the best solutions for the people we serve,"** he noted.

GPL's Kesh Nandlall acknowledged the critical role of the company in

supporting Guyana's development and thanked Minister Singh for his involvement in the negotiation process. GPSU's Vice President Dawn Gardner emphasised the importance of treating workers with respect and praised the spirit of good-faith bargaining.

GUYOIL Chairman Paul Cheong said the agreement brings stability that allows workers to remain focused on service delivery, while CCWU General Secretary

Sherwood Clarke recognised GUYOIL as the union's largest and most active membership base and applauded the effort to ensure employees benefit.

These agreements follow similar deals concluded with the Guyana Teachers Union, public servants, university staff, and GAWU, underscoring the government's continued commitment to fair compensation and worker well-being across sectors.



Government facilitates pay increases for GPL and GUYOIL workers in new multi-year agreements

DR. JAGDEO PRESS BRIEFING RECAP:



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

PROTECT INDEPENDENCE, DEFEND PROGRESS
As Guyana prepares to mark 59 years of independence on May 26, 2025, PPP General Secretary Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo is urging citizens to safeguard the nation's progress and recommit to unity and democracy. Addressing the media at Freedom House, Dr. Jagdeo called the anniversary a pivotal moment for reflection

improve lives. He contrasted this with Guyana's post-independence period (1964–1992), describing it as a time of economic ruin, dictatorship, and mass migration. He also condemned the APNU+AFC's 2015–2020 tenure for institutional decay and attempts to undermine democracy. Since 2020, the PPP/C has overseen a strong economic rebound,

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's provocations regarding the Essequibo region. **"Any irrational response would only give him the credibility he seeks,"** he warned. Reaffirming Guyana's sovereignty over all 83,000 square miles of its territory, Dr. Jagdeo stated: **"We control the entire 83,000 square miles of the sovereign state of Guyana."** He emphasised

Guyanese citizens who take part will face legal consequences. He urged the public to reject and avoid spreading Venezuelan propaganda.

TOUGH NEW OIL SPILL LAW CLOSES LOOPHOLES
Dr. Jagdeo also discussed the newly introduced **Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness,**

- Property damage and resulting economic losses
 - Loss of taxes, royalties, rents, fees, and profit shares
 - Costs associated with preventative measures and cleanup
 - Environmental damage and restoration
- Dr. Jagdeo clarified that the bill does not eliminate the use of parent guarantees, but ensures that responsible parties cannot offload

Conference, which brought together over 240 Indigenous leaders under the theme 'Robust Governance for Sustainable Village Development'. The event provided a direct platform for leaders to engage with ministers and shape policy. **"PPP governments have engaged these toshaos every single year and addressed their concerns. The opposition's sudden interest is purely**



Guyana is celebrating 59 years as an Independent nation

Response and Responsibility Bill 2025, which broadens the scope of accountability for oil spills within Guyana's jurisdiction. **"If you have a spill caused by an oil rig... or a spill caused by a vessel, then they too would be liable,"** he explained. The bill empowers the **Civil Defence Commission (CDC)** as the lead agency, granting it authority to develop and implement a national contingency plan, conduct drills, and manage oil spill responses through an Incident Command System. Under the new legislation, liable parties must cover:

liability through contractual agreements. **"You can't go and sign an agreement... and transfer that liability. You are responsible for it,"** he said.

PPP/C'S TRACK RECORD WITH AMERINDIAN COMMUNITIES IS UNMATCHED
Dr. Jagdeo reaffirmed the PPP/C's ongoing commitment to Indigenous communities, highlighting consistent engagement with Amerindian leaders through dialogue and investment. He cited the 2025 National Toshihos' Council (NTC)

political," he said. He criticised the opposition for showing **"fake love"** for Indigenous communities during elections while failing to deliver results when in office. In contrast, he said Amerindian leaders recognise the PPP's genuine commitment. Since 2020, the PPP/C government has invested billions in hinterland infrastructure and services—including housing, water, transport, education, and healthcare. The government also supports tourism initiatives like the Shorinamada Ancestral Expedition and Kanashen Experience, creating sustainable community livelihoods.



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
Peace Palace, Cammingplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands
Tel.: +31 (0)70 502 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928
Website X YouTube LinkedIn

Press Release
Encl: 1

No. 2025/21
2 May 2025

Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)

Order of the Court on Guyana's request for the modification of its Order of 1 December 2023 indicating provisional measures

Press release emanating from the International Court of Justice on the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy

and action. **"It allows us an opportunity to speak to the people of our country — not only about past challenges, but about where our country is headed,"** he said. Dr. Jagdeo outlined the PPP/C's people-centred development agenda, highlighting ongoing investments in housing, education, healthcare, job creation, and digital transformation. He stressed that the PPP/C is the only party with comprehensive plans to sustain Guyana's economic growth and

managing oil revenues responsibly and earning Guyana recognition as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. **"We have come a long way... look at how far we've come and the difficult path we walked in these short years,"** Dr. Jagdeo said.

DON'T FALL FOR MADURO'S GAMES
Turning to the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy, Dr. Jagdeo urged calm and cautioned against overreacting to

Guyana's full support from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the international community. The ICJ has warned Venezuela against any attempts to alter the status quo, under which Guyana administers the disputed region—a warning underscored by Venezuela's announcement of a **"sham election"** for Essequibo on May 25. Dr. Jagdeo issued a stern warning: Venezuelan nationals residing in Guyana who participate in the illegal vote will face deportation.



Opening day of the NTC Conference 2025

NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE ON TRACK FOR AUGUST COMPLETION

Commuters in Region Three can anticipate an end to their daily traffic struggles as the highly anticipated new Demerara River Bridge remains on schedule for completion in August.

The Ministry of Public Works' latest progress report indicates that the landmark infrastructure project has passed 75 per cent, signalling significant headway towards easing congestion and improving connectivity between Regions Three

and Four.

The ambitious US\$260 million project is being driven by a substantial workforce of 1,383, including 116 Guyanese nationals employed by the contractor, China Railway Construction (International) Limited. Their efforts have resulted in significant advancements across various aspects of the 2.8-kilometer bridge's construction.

Key milestones achieved include the near completion (98



Pouring of concrete for segment seven

per cent) of pile cap the bridge's massive superstructure on the 120-meter-deep piles

anchoring the two main towers. Additionally, 94 per cent of the pier columns, providing vital structural support, and 93 per cent of the connecting tie beams have been installed. The installation of bent caps, crucial for resisting various loads, is also well advanced at over 90 per cent completion.

Off-site fabrication of the precast girders is progressing steadily, with 85 per cent now fabricated and 73 per cent already in place on the bridge. Importantly, the Ministry's report highlighted a safe working environment, with no incidents or accidents recorded on either the East Bank or

West Bank construction sites during the latest reporting period.

Upon its completion in August, this new toll-free crossing will accommodate vehicles of all sizes and facilitate a speed limit of 80km/h, promising a smoother and faster commute.

Designed for a lifespan of at least 100 years, the bridge will also feature the iconic Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH) as part of its design. The steady progress confirms that the new Demerara River Bridge is firmly on track to deliver much-needed relief to commuters and bolster economic activity in the connected regions.

The government's low-income Homestead Programme is making steady progress, with the first 25 houses in Yarrowkabra now 70 percent complete. Construction of the next 25 homes is set to begin shortly, according to Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal.

The initial homes—20 by 30 feet units costing \$6.5 million each—feature two bedrooms, one bathroom, a patio, and a kitchenette. Minister Croal confirmed that the substructures are in place and finishing works are underway.

Located on a 100-acre site with the capacity to accommodate 250 homes, this phase is part of a larger plan to build 500 homes under the

FIRST BATCH OF HOMESTEAD HOUSES 70% COMPLETE, NEW CONSTRUCTION SET TO BEGIN



The Stabroek Block, located approximately 120 miles offshore Guyana

Homestead Programme. The initiative, launched by President Irfaan Ali, is designed to empower low-income families, particularly

single mothers, by making homeownership accessible.

DuraVilla Homes is leading the construction of the current batch.

Beneficiaries for these homes have already been selected through the existing Central Housing and Planning Authority's (CHPA)

application system. However, Minister Croal clarified that first-time applicants who meet the criteria can still apply. He also alluded to a "hybrid" component of the programme, details of which will be shared soon.

The Homestead Programme stands out for its integrated support approach. Through collaboration with other government agencies, it aims to make homeownership more affordable and sustainable. The Ministry of Agriculture will assist residents in setting up shade houses for small-scale farming, while

the Office of the Prime Minister is managing the installation of solar panels.

These features will allow homeowners to offset some of their mortgage costs by generating income, promoting both financial independence and environmental sustainability.

Minister Croal emphasised that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to inclusive development, combining housing with livelihood support and renewable energy solutions.

SPACIOUS NEW DORM TAKING SHAPE AT BARTICA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Students attending the Bartica Secondary School in Region Seven can look forward to a significantly enhanced living environment as a new, spacious dormitory facility is rapidly taking shape on the school grounds. The modern edifice promises to provide a comfortable and well-equipped space for students residing at the school.

During a recent site inspection, Minister of Education Priya Manickchand highlighted the importance of this new dormitory, noting that it is a key component of a larger over \$423 million project.

This comprehensive initiative also includes the rehabilitation of existing buildings at the Bartica Secondary School, ensuring a holistic upgrade of the educational facilities.

The construction

of the new dormitory is being handled by Dijiris Engineering and Construction, with meticulous supervision provided by Deen and Partners. Minister Manickchand emphasised the

government's commitment to providing high-quality living accommodation for students across the country, stating that the new dorm is designed to meet "the [required] international standards of all dorms across the country regarding safety, ventilation, lights and all the other things that children need at a dormitory."

The development at Bartica Secondary aligns with the government's broader strategy to achieve universal secondary education in Region Seven and other



The new dormitory under construction at Bartica Secondary School



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand updating the media about the dormitory at Bartica Secondary School

hinterland areas. This commitment is further demonstrated by the ongoing construction of a \$231 million secondary school in Jawalla, which will also feature a dormitory, teachers' quarters, and other essential amenities to accommodate 500 students in classrooms and 400 in dormitories upon completion.

Beyond Bartica and Jawalla, the government

is actively investing in similar infrastructure projects in other remote communities, with dormitories and teachers' quarters also under construction in Issano, Phillipai, and Karrau. This widespread effort reflects a concerted push to enhance educational infrastructure and improve access to quality education for all students, particularly those in remote regions.

\$715M POLYCLINIC TO PROVIDE SPECIALISED HEALTHCARE TO EAST COAST DEMERARA RESIDENTS

Residents of a wide range of advanced diagnostic services, speciality consultations, and preventative care, ultimately reducing the burden on public hospitals and providing more accessible healthcare options for residents.

The government has allocated an estimated \$715 million for this crucial project, which aims to provide specialised medical care to the growing communities in the area.

The new polyclinic will replace the existing health centre, which currently serves a substantial population. Once completed, the modern facility will offer

This initiative in the construction is part of a broader and upgrading of government strategy health facilities. Recent

million Campbellville Polyclinic. Additionally, significant sums are being invested in Georgetown to upgrade the No. 1 Dispensary and the Dorothy Bailey Health Centre (\$235 million), aimed at expanding the quality of care for city residents. Modernisation efforts are also underway at the Festival City Health Centre (\$294 million), and construction has commenced on a new health centre at Canal No. 2 Polder on the West Bank of Demerara, designed to deliver high-standard healthcare to that community.

Over the past few years, the government has made significant

strides in enhancing healthcare access by establishing 25 new health centres and health posts across the nation. Currently, nearly 380 health facilities are operational, ensuring that efficient and accessible medical care is available to all Guyanese citizens.

The construction of the new polyclinic on the East Coast of Demerara, along with the ongoing rehabilitation and construction of other health infrastructure, forms a critical part of the government's overarching agenda to decentralise and expand access to quality healthcare services throughout Guyana.



An interior view of Industry Health Centre

NEW MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES TARGET ACCESS, PREVENTION, AND SUPPORT

The government has launched a comprehensive National Mental Health Initiative aimed at improving access to care, reducing stigma, and promoting mental well-being across the country.

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Office of the President, the initiative introduces three key tools to strengthen mental health support.

These include: the **Mental Health Website** (www.mentalhealth.gov.gy), offering easy access to information and resources, the **915 Toll-Free Suicide Prevention Hotline**, providing confidential, 24/7 support, and the **Mental Health Matters Animated Series**, designed to raise awareness, particularly among youth.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who was instrumental in the development of the website, emphasised the importance of accessible mental health services as part of the nation's broader well-being agenda.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony said mental health continues to be a significant yet often overlooked issue in Guyana. Citing World Health Organization data, he noted that nearly 800,000 people die by suicide annually worldwide.

“Mental health and suicide prevention remain global challenges,” Dr. Anthony stated. **“Many people suffer in silence due to late diagnosis and limited access to support services.”**

He identified contributing factors such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, stigma, and loneliness, and called for greater public education and collective responsibility to address the issue. **“This is a societal problem that requires all of us to work together,”** he added.

Guyana has made significant strides in recent years, including the passage of the Mental Health Protection and Promotion Act (2022) and the Suicide Prevention Act, along with the implementation of a national Mental Health Action Plan.

Psychiatric services are available in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, and Ten, with outreach to the remaining regions.



Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony addressing the launch

A unified approach across the government is actively underway to integrate a stronger mental health focus into its legal system. The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security is partnering with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the judiciary to develop and implement a specialised mental health court, demonstrating a firm commitment to providing more appropriate support for individuals facing mental health challenges within the legal framework.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, recently convened a meeting to advance the initiative.

The session brought together Magistrate Shivanie Lalaram and other key members of the judiciary, along with representatives from the Childcare and Protection Agency (CPA) and the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Policy Unit (SO&DVPU). Discussions emphasised the Ministry's central role in driving this ground breaking effort and focused on reinforcing partnerships in areas such as drug rehabilitation and mental health treatment. The goal is to create a more holistic, coordinated response to these interconnected social challenges.

The creation of the mental health court

CROSS-MINISTRY EFFORT TO BRING MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS TO LEGAL SYSTEM

was first announced by Acting Chancellor of the Judiciary, Madam Justice Yonnette Cummings-Edwards, at the ceremonial opening of the 2025 legal year. Justice Cummings-Edwards highlighted the urgent need for such a court, noting that traditional legal processes often fail to adequately address the complex circumstances faced by individuals living with mental health conditions.

The initiative aligns closely with the government's broader prioritisation of mental health.

The Ministry of Human Services has already played a pivotal role in the mental health space through its Mental Health Unit. This unit works closely with the Guyana Police Force and the Ministry of Health to ensure timely interventions and referrals for those in crisis. The forthcoming mental health court builds on this foundation and marks a transformative step forward. It promises a legal system that responds with greater care, sensitivity, and justice for individuals affected by mental illness.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr. Vindhya with Magistrate Shivanie Lalaram, members of the judiciary and staff of CPA and SO&DVPU

WORK ON SOESDYKE TO TIMEHRI ROAD SECTION TO BEGIN AS GOV'T EYES FOUR-LANE EXPANSION

Preparations are progressing for Section C of the East Bank Demerara Road Improvement Project, which will see the upgrade of the roadway between Soesdyke and the Timehri Police Station. The US\$75.8 million project, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is being implemented in three phases to minimise disruption and ensure timely execution.

Sections A and B of the project cover the stretches from Good Success to Supply and from Supply to the Soesdyke Junction, respectively.

At a recent community consultation, Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill,

engaged residents and stakeholders, accompanied by officials from the Ministry, the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC)—



Ministry and Inter-Development Bank (IDB) conducting night audit

the contractor—and Sheladia Associates Inc., the supervisory firm. The session focused on outlining the project's scope and addressing concerns, especially those related to potential environmental and social impacts.

The current contract entails upgrading the corridor to two lanes, but the government is actively considering a future expansion to



Ministry and Inter-Development Bank (IDB) conducting night audit

four lanes between the Timehri Police Station and the Soesdyke Junction. This potential upgrade would require full utilisation of the 80-foot government reserve along the corridor. A recent survey identified 248

encumbrances within this reserve, including homes, fences, and vending stalls. Minister Edghill assured residents that any land acquisition related to the proposed expansion would adhere to legal and constitutional protocols, with fair compensation and proper relocation for affected individuals.

"We are not coming into your areas tomorrow to knock down fences or ask you to move. But we are signalling our intention," the Minister stated.

In tandem with the road upgrades, parallel infrastructure improvements are also underway along the East Bank Demerara corridor. Guyana Power and Light (GPL) is

installing a dedicated power line to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) to address persistent power disruptions. The Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) is advancing its transmission expansion programme to improve

the Minister stressed the need for accelerated construction to keep the project on track. Following the consultation, officials from the Ministry of Public Works and the IDB conducted a night audit to evaluate



Ministry and Inter-Development Bank (IDB) conducting night audit

residents' access to treated water. While work continues on Section B (Relief to Soesdyke),

safety features along the corridor during nighttime conditions.

DECADES LATER, VRYHEID'S LUST SOUTH FAMILIES TO FINALLY CALL LAND THEIR OWN

After more than 50 years of informal occupancy, over 100 families in Vryheid's Lust South, East Coast Demerara, are finally set to receive legal ownership of the land they call home.

The Government of Guyana, through a joint initiative between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Housing and Water, has launched a regularisation programme to provide residents with land titles—bringing long-awaited security and empowerment to the

community.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC, made the announcement via social media, emphasising the transformative impact of land ownership. **"These families have been living on these lands without titles for over five decades. The Government of Guyana is financing this initiative. In the end, each family will be issued with a transport for the land upon which their house stands,"**



The meeting with the residents

he stated. Underscoring the government's commitment to action over rhetoric, Minister Nandlall added,

"Issuing legal titles to land is one of the most empowering acts to the recipient of those titles. Again, I say, while others pontificate and ramble about empowerment, we deliver!"

This long-awaited initiative brings much-needed security and legal recognition to generations of residents who have built their lives in the Vryheid's Lust South community. Without formal land titles, families often face difficulties accessing

credit, expanding their homes, or securing their inheritance. The



The meeting with the residents

government's direct investment in this

programme signals its intent to resolve land tenure issues and promote equitable development.

The issuance of transports—the official legal documents certifying land ownership in Guyana—will allow residents to confidently invest in their properties and access new economic opportunities. The programme is expected to significantly boost community well-being and stability, laying the groundwork for future growth.

20 WEIGHT SCALES, 400 CLAMPS TO COMBAT OVERLOADED TRUCKS

In a decisive move to protect Guyana's roads, culverts, and bridges from damage caused by overloaded trucks, the government is procuring 20 motion weight scales and 400 wheel clamps.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, made the announcement during a consultation on the East Bank Demerara Road improvement project in Timehri. He said the equipment, currently out for tender, forms part of a stricter enforcement strategy to hold truck



Stakeholders at the consultation

operators accountable for weight violations.

"At various points, we will have scales weighing the trucks, and when you get caught with

your overweight, you will not pay a fine to continue down the road," Minister Edghill said. Using an airport analogy, the Minister

explained the new approach:

"Just like how you go to the airport and your suitcase is overweight and you get another suitcase, another truck will have to come and take off your load, because if you continue down the road with that weight, you are breaking culverts and causing serious damage."

He also noted that the necessary legislative and regulatory frameworks are already

being developed under a Cabinet Subcommittee chaired by the Prime Minister.

"Once those frameworks are in place, I will issue them under my mandate as Minister of Transportation," he added.

Minister Edghill pointed out the irony of truck operators complaining about bad roads while being contributors to the problem.

"The real issue is these trucks are owned by some of us, and they're fetching material for some of us. We can't be happy getting 65

tonnes from a truck designed for 35 or 40 tonnes, and then complain when roads and bridges break."

This initiative follows recent concerns raised at a high-level meeting between the Vice President and contractors about infrastructure damage, particularly along the East Coast corridor.

While existing measures like no-truck zones and speed restrictions remain in place, Minister Edghill emphasised that the new scales and clamps are critical enforcement tools that will promote accountability and responsible road use.

PRESIDENT ALI SAYS UNLOCKING CLIMATE FUNDS KEY FOR FOREST PROTECTION

Development and forest preservation are deeply intertwined and require accessible climate financing to succeed, declared President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali at the inaugural meeting of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) in Georgetown.

Addressing delegates at the high-level forum, President Ali called on climate specialists to design practical, readily available financial solutions that support forest-rich nations. As co-chair of the FCLP alongside the United Kingdom, he emphasised that environmental protection and



The high-level forum

economic development must be treated as complementary goals—not competing interests. **“The FCLP must elevate forest action to the highest political level, so that forests**



The high-level forum

are seen not merely as environmental priorities, but as essential components of national development,” the President asserted.

He also voiced concern over declining media coverage of climate issues and urged FCLP countries to push back against this trend.

“We must work at a pace that keeps global attention fixed on these critical challenges,” he said, praising delegates for their continued advocacy.

President Ali, internationally recognised as the **“Forest Man”**, cited Guyana’s own model—

where economic growth goes hand in hand with sustainable forest management—as proof that prosperity and preservation can coexist. He encouraged member countries to move beyond dialogue and take bold, actionable steps to unlock the climate financing urgently needed to protect forest ecosystems.

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat reinforced the President’s message, highlighting the vital role of standing forests in both national and global resilience. He called on FCLP members to collectively advocate for more equitable access to

climate funds.

British High Commissioner to Guyana, Her Excellency Jane Miller, commended Guyana’s leadership in forest conservation. She pointed to Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 and its successful issuance of ART-TREES carbon credits as key achievements, demonstrating how strategic policy and access to climate finance can deliver tangible results.

Guyana’s experience, she noted, offers a model for other nations seeking to align environmental stewardship with national development.



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the forum

The Bank of Guyana is fully capable of managing foreign currency demands, despite a significant rise in imports over the past five years, People’s Progressive Party (PPP) General Secretary and Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo said.

At his weekly press conference at Freedom House, Dr. Jagdeo noted

that Guyana’s imports are projected to reach US\$9 billion by the end of 2025, up from US\$2.2 billion in 2020. Despite this sharp increase, he assured the public that the central bank is prepared to intervene in the foreign exchange market if necessary.

“The central bank has the capacity to intervene in

CENTRAL BANK EQUIPPED TO MEET FOREIGN CURRENCY DEMAND - DR JAGDEO

the market when needed,” Dr. Jagdeo stated.

Citing financial analyst Joel Bhagwandin, Dr. Jagdeo pointed out that Guyana’s import cover stood at 8.1 months at the end of 2024, indicating strong foreign reserve levels. Import cover measures how many months a country can sustain its imports using existing foreign reserves.

He also highlighted regional developments impacting Guyana’s market. Foreign currency shortages in

Trinidad and Tobago have prompted some local companies to exploit the disparity. According to Dr. Jagdeo, some businesses are purchasing U.S. dollars from local banks and cambios at GYD 216 per US\$1, then reselling them to Trinidadian buyers at a profit.

“Some invoices are inflated... the payments go to suppliers of goods that end up in Trinidad and Tobago,” he added.

A report from the Trinidad and Tobago

Chamber of Industry and Commerce revealed that 62% of businesses there, face delays in paying suppliers, and nearly 60% have reported declining profitability due to limited access to foreign currency.

Dr. Jagdeo explained that increased foreign direct investment (FDI)—including the arrival of major international hotel brands—has contributed to rising demand for foreign currency. In response, the Bank of Guyana recently injected US\$100 million into

the market, helping to stabilise exchange rates and meet short-term demand.

The government remains committed to working closely with the private sector and commercial banks to ensure a stable and responsive foreign exchange environment.

“We are carefully monitoring the situation and will act as needed to protect the economy and support business activity,” Dr. Jagdeo stated.

NBS TO OFFER \$30M MORTGAGES AT 5% AS GOVT. EXPANDS HOUSING ACCESS

In a significant move to make homeownership more attainable, President Irfaan Ali has announced that the New Building Society (NBS) is now authorized to provide housing construction loans up to GY\$30 million with a capped interest rate of just five percent. This new directive represents a substantial increase in borrowing power for prospective homeowners and a reduction in interest costs, signaling the government’s commitment to expanding housing access across Guyana.

The President unveiled this policy shift during remarks at a post-Labour Day brunch held at State House, emphasising the importance of affordable housing for the nation’s development. **“I instructed the Minister of Finance to write to the New Building Society and to increase their loan limit to GY\$30 million with a guarantee that their interest rate on loans GY\$30 million and below for housing will be five percent maximum,”** President

Ali stated.

Previously, the maximum mortgage offered by NBS was GY\$20 million with an interest rate starting at 5.7 percent. This new policy not only raises the borrowing ceiling by 50% but also ensures a more favorable interest rate for loans within the increased limit. While NBS does offer other mortgage rates as low as 3.50 percent, the government’s intervention guarantees that a significant segment of the housing loan market will now benefit from the GY\$30 million



Higher mortgages, easier SME loans for Guyana

limit at a maximum of five percent interest.

This initiative is expected to empower more Guyanese families to realize their dream of building their own homes, providing greater

financial flexibility and reducing the burden of long-term mortgage payments. By making housing loans more accessible and affordable through a key financial institution like NBS,

the government aims to stimulate the housing sector and improve the overall quality of life for its citizens.

Furthermore, in a related announcement, President Ali also pledged that the government would be working to make loans for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) more easily accessible with concessional interest rates, indicating a broader strategy to support economic growth and individual empowerment through strategic financial policies. The promise to establish a dedicated financial institution for SMEs further underscores this commitment.

GOV'T REAFFIRMS, GUYANA GETTING ITS FAIR SHARE OF OIL WEALTH

The Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, has reaffirmed that the country is receiving its rightful share of revenues from the oil and gas sector, despite ongoing misinformation circulated by Kaieteur News publisher and TikTok personality Glenn Lall.

In a detailed statement issued, the Ministry responded to several misleading claims made by Lall, including the assertion that Guyana is the only oil-producing country that allows companies to recover exploration costs. According to the Ministry, this is categorically false.

“Cost recovery is a standard feature in production sharing contracts across the world, including in countries like Trinidad, Brazil, Suriname, Belize, and Venezuela,” the Ministry noted. **“This mechanism helps attract investment by allowing companies to recover significant upfront exploration expenses.”**

The Ministry also addressed Lall’s claim that ExxonMobil is taking more money from exploration than the country is earning. Citing publicly available financial statements, the Ministry confirmed that in 2023, Guyana earned US\$1.6 billion in profit oil and royalties—over four times the exploration costs reported by ExxonMobil, Hess, and CNOOC.

Additionally, the Ministry debunked the statement that emphasised, noting that all expenditures are subject to independent audits conducted by internationally recognised firms.

“Only legitimate, contractually permitted costs are recoverable,”



The One Guyana FPSO

GOV'T CHALLENGES US\$214M IN OIL COSTS, MOVES TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Government has formally challenged over US\$214 million in oil-related expenses claimed by the Stabroek Block co-venturers—ExxonMobil, Hess, and CNOOC—for the period 1999 to 2017. This move follows the completion of the first of three audits commissioned to verify cost recovery under the Petroleum Agreement.

The Ministry of Natural Resources in a press release noted that an audit, conducted by international consultancy IHS Markit, found a portion of the submitted costs to be ineligible. As a result, the Government has activated the dispute resolution mechanism provided for in the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA), specifically the appointment of a sole expert to adjudicate the matter. Multiple nominees for this role have already been submitted by the Government, and ExxonMobil, acting on behalf of the consortium, has until May 31, 2025, to respond.

In a second audit, which reviewed US\$7.2 billion in expenses for the period 2018 to 2020, the Government has also rejected US\$65.1 million in claims. The co-venturers have since provided updated submissions, which are currently under review.

Meanwhile, the third audit—covering the years 2021 to 2023—has been completed and is under review by the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA).

The Ministry of Natural Resources has made the final reports for the first two audits available to the public on the Petroleum Management Programme website and reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and the responsible management of Guyana’s oil resources.



The Stabroek Block, located approximately 120 miles offshore Guyana

GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT ADVANCES GOV'T ENGAGES AFFECTED LANDOWNERS

As Guyana’s transformative Gas-to-Energy project progresses, the government has begun consultations with landowners whose properties fall along the planned transmission route.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC, met with more than 70 affected residents from Goedverwagting to Columbia, Mahaicony.

The meeting is part of the Government’s approach to ensure transparency, fairness, and collaboration as it undertakes compulsory land acquisition to facilitate the installation of power transmission cables. These cables will carry electricity generated from the Gas-to-Energy project, that the process is consultative and fair; that the affected persons receive adequate



Legal Affairs Ministry leads talks on land acquisition for energy project



Legal Affairs Ministry leads talks on land acquisition for energy project



Legal Affairs Ministry leads talks on land acquisition for energy project

which is expected to significantly lower energy costs and improve reliability across the country.

“This is a national development priority, and the Government intends to compulsorily acquire the required lands and pay market value in accordance with the law,” Minister Nandlall stated in a Facebook post following the engagement. He added that the process will mirror similar land acquisition exercises undertaken for other national projects.

Reassuring residents, the Attorney General emphasised that affected individuals will be treated fairly and that their rights will be fully respected. **“The government assures that every effort will be made to ensure compensation; and that they are accorded all the protective safeguards guaranteed to them by the Constitution and law,”** he said.

The transmission corridor will eventually stretch from the East Coast of Demerara to No. 53 Village on the Corentyne Coast, forming a critical part of the infrastructure required to deliver cleaner, more affordable energy to homes and businesses.

The government’s proactive engagement with landowners signals its commitment to inclusive development and responsible project execution as the Gas-to-Energy initiative moves forward. Further consultations are expected as the project progresses through additional phases.

MAHDIA DORMITORY FIRE VICTIMS REMEMBERED TWO YEARS ON

Two years after the tragic dormitory fire in Mahdia, Region Eight that claimed the lives of 20 children, a solemn memorial ceremony was held in the village of Micobie to honour the young lives lost, and offer continued comfort to grieving families and communities.

Families, friends, students, and national leaders came together in a moving tribute filled with songs, poems, prayers, and candlelight reflections. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of both the deep pain caused by the tragedy and the strength and resilience of those left



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill laying a wreath

behind. Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, attended the observance and delivered a message of compassion and solidarity. **“We have lent support to all the families. Just like how we were there then, we were there in the months after,”** the Minister stated. **“My presence**

here today, is to say the government continues to stand with you.”

He encouraged attendees to draw strength from one another, urging, **“Let us find courage. Let us find strength and encouragement in the arms of each other.”**

Addressing the quiet

burden of grief, Minister Edghill implored parents not to carry guilt for their decision to pursue education for their children. **“You did nothing wrong,”** he said. **“You only wanted the best for your children.”**

The fire, which took the lives of 19 girls and

one boy, sent shockwaves across the nation and led to a Commission of Inquiry, as well as criminal charges against the individual accused of starting the blaze.

Minister Edghill reaffirmed the government’s unwavering commitment to ensuring student

safety and educational access.

“We will not relent,” he declared. **“We will make the education of our children more achievable. We will ensure that you go to school in safe spaces. We will ensure that your dreams, your aspirations, and those of your parents come alive and are fully realised.”**

The memorial was a poignant moment of reflection, unity, and recommitment to protecting the lives and futures of Guyana’s children—so that such a tragedy is never repeated.



Students holding candles during the candlelight vigil

CONTRACTOR DELAYS FORCE MICOBIE SECONDARY SCHOOL CONTRACT TERMINATION

Persistent delays and unsatisfactory progress have led the Ministry of Education to initiate the termination of the contract for the construction of the Micobie Secondary School in Region Eight. The announcement was made by Minister of Education Priya Manickchand during her address at this year’s National

Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference.

While acknowledging that some contractors face genuine obstacles, such as adverse weather conditions, the Minister was unequivocal about



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand alongside the contractor and regional officials turning the sod for the Micobie Secondary School in 2024

the Micobie project. **“Micobie has no legitimate reason, in my respectful view,”** Minister Manickchand stated, calling the delays at the site unacceptable.

She also used the opportunity to highlight broader issues with school construction projects across the

country. **“We have problems with [c o n t r a c t o r s] finishing on time. We have problems with them doing it the way we want it done and where it is necessary. And a lot of this, we’ve been holding hands and trying**

to get these things [schools] finished,” she explained.

Beyond construction woes, the Minister addressed internal challenges within the education system, admitting that some teachers fail to meet expectations and that monitoring and evaluation remain among the ministry’s weakest areas.

“So I’m saying to you, while I could stand here probably and say, you know that we have transformed education—and we’re seeing that in results—we have

challenges. Some we’re working with you to fix, and some, as I said, we have to terminate the contract and move on,” she affirmed.

The Micobie Secondary School project was awarded to NK Engineering Services for \$253.5 million, with a \$76 million mobilization payment made. Construction began on July 23, 2024, and was expected to be completed within six months. Once completed, the school was intended to serve approximately 150 students in the community.

The call for a



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand

secondary school in Micobie grew stronger after the tragic Mahdia dormitory fire in 2023, which claimed the lives of 20 children. The school was seen as a vital part of improving access to education and safety for students in the Region Eight hinterland.

PRESIDENT ALI THROWS SUPPORT BEHIND EXPANDED KARES ONE GUYANA T10

The Kares One Guyana T10 Tapeball Blast is set for its largest tournament yet, following a recent meeting at State House where President Dr. Irfaan Ali affirmed his strong backing for the event’s significant expansion. This year’s edition promises a remarkable increase in both scope and participation, with a target of 80 teams from across the nation.

The tournament is scheduled to commence on June 28 in Berbice,



President Ali was presented with a unique, handcrafted trophy

with matches planned for various counties before culminating in a grand finale at the National Stadium, Providence, on

August 3. President Ali reiterated his pleasure at the organizers’ response to his call for greater community involvement,

highlighting this as a key aspect of the event’s growth.

Beyond the exciting on-field action, this year’s tournament will also feature a dedicated initiative to raise funds for charity, with a drive planned to coincide with the final. In a symbolic gesture, Leon Johnson, captain of the reigning champion Titans All-Stars, presented President Ali with a unique, handcrafted trophy made from six different species of wood.

The Kares One Guyana T10 Tapeball Blast boasts a significant prize structure, rewarding both zonal success and national championship aspirations. Each winning team from a zone will receive GY\$300,000 and automatic qualification for the national finals, the ultimate national champion will be awarded a staggering GY\$1.7 million.

The national runners-up will receive GY\$700,000, the two losing semi-finalists will each receive GY\$300,000, and the losing finalists at the zonal level will each

receive GY\$100,000.

Individual player performances are also heavily incentivised with attractive cash prizes and awards including Most Valuable Player (MVP): GY\$150,000 and a motorcycle, Most Runs: GY\$100,000. Most Wickets: GY\$100,000, Player-of-the-Final (Nationals): GY\$75,000, Super Striker: GY\$35,000, and Best Economy Rate: GY\$35,000.

Some of these impressive individual prizes will also include custom-made trophies and televisions, adding to the prestige of these achievements.

SHARMA LAW

Your Personal Injury Lawyer

A lawyer who gets to know you, so he can represent you. When you're looking for the best possible result, you need an attorney who knows every detail about you and your case. Sharma Law takes the time to get to know each and every client, so we're in the best position to represent you and your family when it matters most. Backed by proven results and experience at Ontario's highest levels of court, Sharma Law specializes in Personal Injury Law.

NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM



Personal Injury

Injuries caused by the negligence of others can be physically, emotionally, and financially devastating for victims and their families. If you've been injured, you need a personal injury lawyer who knows how to fight for the compensation you deserve.



Injury Claims

- Motor Vehicle Accident Claims
- At-Fault Accident Claims
- Not At-Fault Accident Claims
- Catastrophic In-jury Claims
- Slip and Falls / Trip and Falls
- Dog Bites
- Long Term Disability / Short Term Disability
- Pedestrian Accidents

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to achieving successful results for every client and case. We accomplish this by providing exceptional legal advice and strategies based on a thorough understanding of your case and your desired outcomes.

FREE CONSULTATION AND CLAIM REVIEW.

Check out our Google reviews



Available for in-person visits at your home or hospital, anywhere in Ontario. Video Conference and Office meetings available.



Hurt? Call Vishal's direct line 6479724440
sharma@vsharmalaw.ca
www.vsharmalaw.ca



PRESIDENT ALI PAYS TRIBUTE TO AMNA ALLY'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

President Irfaan Ali attended the *Janazah* (Muslim funeral prayer) for Amna Ally, the former General Secretary of the People's National Congress Reform (PNC/R) and former Government Minister.

At the service held at the Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana (CIOG), President Ali praised Ally's decades-long contribution to national service, describing her as a principled leader and a compassionate human being.

"Her life was one of steady, committed service to her community, her students, her party, and her country," the President said. "She

wore many hats—teacher, politician, parliamentarian, Governance Minister—and she

never lost sight of humanity in others." President Ali also commended Ally's respectful approach

not confuse disagreement with disdain," he said. "She could challenge what she believed to be flawed ideas, yet moments later share a story or a smile—reminding us all that politics is not all that defines us."

Ally passed away on May 10, 2025, at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation after being admitted with heart complications.

Her political journey began in 1970 at just 15 years old. Over the years, she served under four PNCR leaders—Forbes Burnham, Desmond Hoyte, Robert Corbin, and David Granger—and held several senior positions, including

and principled contributions in the National Assembly.

A graduate of the Cyril Potter College



President Ali attends Janazah for former PNCR Minister Amna Ally

wore each with selfless dedication, but perhaps the role she embraced most naturally was that of a human being who

to political discourse, noting her ability to separate ideological differences from personal relationships.

"She did



President Ali attends Janazah for former PNCR Minister Amna Ally

General Secretary of the PNC.

Ally entered Parliament in 1985, representing Mahaica-Berbice. She was respected for her disciplined, articulate,

of Education and the University of Guyana, Amna Ally was remembered as a devoted public servant whose legacy will endure in the hearts of many.

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS ON RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO CHAMPION NATIONAL APPRECIATION

President Irfaan Ali has urged religious organisations in Guyana—churches, temples, and mosques—to extend their expressions of gratitude beyond spiritual blessings and internal acts of service, and to publicly acknowledge positive contributions to national development.

Speaking at the Hope is Rising 24-hour prayer event at the National Cultural Centre, President Ali emphasised the need for religious institutions to foster thankfulness as a national virtue.

"When I say church, I am speaking nationally about

temples, mosques, and all religious bodies," the President clarified. "Sometimes, the messages from these institutions lack thankfulness and gratitude, and we have to fix that."

He called on faith-based organisations to evolve in their messaging, recognising not just spiritual truths, but also societal progress and the contributions of those working to uplift the nation. "The word of God is for everyone, every season, and all things. It must extend beyond the internal walls," he stated.

President Ali highlighted



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali at the Hope is Rising event at the National Cultural Centre

important role of religious institutions in promoting unity and national cohesion, stressing that they should acknowledge efforts in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and support for the

vulnerable. "While the church must speak prophetically when injustice occurs, it must also be quick to appreciate improvements in people's lives—be it

access to healthcare, educational initiatives, or social safety nets," he said.

The President also expressed personal gratitude to the religious community for their prayers and support. "I am thankful for your visit and your prayers—for me, for our country, and for this troubled world, amid wars, conflicts, and food shortages."

He reminded attendees of the foundational role religious organisations play in offering hope. "It's not the design of any leader that made the church a beacon of hope—it is

doctrinal. The church must be a light, not an echo of the world's bitterness."

Calling for deeper reflection, President Ali encouraged religious bodies to help build a more unified Guyana by promoting gratitude and national pride. "The church has a responsibility to be thankful. That role helps create a unified nation."

The event was attended by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill and Christian leaders from Guyana and abroad.

HEALTH MINISTRY BOOSTS DENGUE TESTING IN REGION SIX FOLLOWING SURGE IN CASES, FATALITIES

Health ministry boosts dengue testing in Region Six following surge in cases, fatalities

In response to a recent surge in dengue fever cases in Region Six, the Ministry of Health has dispatched over 4,000 dengue test kits to the region. This update was provided by Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony, outlining the proactive measures being taken to contain the outbreak.

"Because of the cases we have seen, we have increased testing and we have added a number of sites where testing can be done. Over the last week we have sent more than 4000 test kits to Region Six alone so that they can increase the amount of testing they are doing," Minister Anthony revealed.

This increased testing capacity follows the recent tragic deaths

of 12-year-old Lokesh Ibrahim and a six-year-old boy due to dengue-related complications, highlighting the severity of the situation in the region.

"We have been seeing a set of cases in Region Six and the ministry has taken a very proactive approach. So, we have been working with all the NDCs in Region Six to be able to control the mosquito population," Dr.

Anthony stated. He further detailed that every Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) in the region has been equipped with the necessary equipment and chemicals to combat the spread of the disease.

According to Dr. Anthony, these NDCs are actively engaged in "fogging and larva sighting" initiatives to reduce the mosquito population. Additionally, health teams are conducting crucial

house-to-house visits to identify and eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites, such as areas with stagnant water.

To effectively manage the escalating situation, a special team comprising both regional and central health officials has been established to closely monitor the outbreak and coordinate response efforts.

Furthermore, the New Amsterdam,

Skeldon, and Port Mourant Hospitals in Region Six have received additional resources to effectively handle any potential increase in hospitalizations resulting from the dengue surge.



Over 4,000 dengue test kits distributed to Region Six

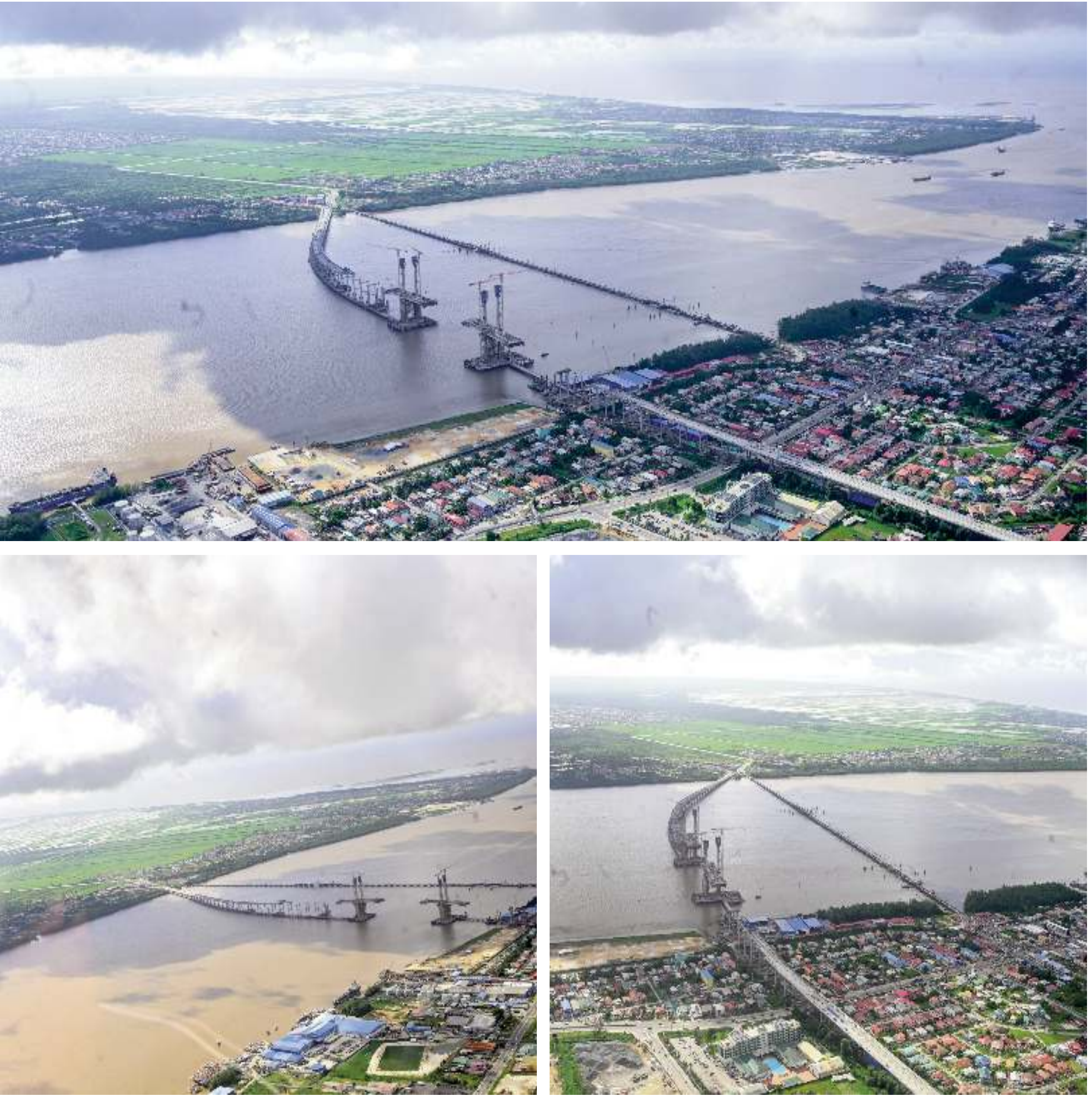


Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 94

NEW DEMERARA BRIDGE NEARS THE FINISH LINE

This overhead shots showcases the impressive progress of the new 2.8-kilometre Demerara River Bridge—now over 75% complete. Set for August delivery, the bridge promises to ease traffic, boost connectivity, and stand as a lasting symbol of Guyana’s infrastructure advancement.



From Despair to Hope...

Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

...with TLC Medicine

To quote the New York Times, "Chinese medicine proves itself where Western medicine fails."

"Acupuncture has been treating complicated, chronic conditions such as neuropathy for thousands of years," shares Teresa.

"I start with a foundation based on this time-tested science and my decade of clinical experience. I then tailor treatments based on a number of factors. This includes the severity of your neuropathy, how long you've had it, whether or not there are any underlying factors, things of that nature," explains Teresa.

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

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

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

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

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

Call (416) 461 - 0581 today to schedule!

Early Spring Special's at ! Caribbean Moon !

Pick any 2 items* &
*items- (choose any Appetizer/Main dish)
Get the 3rd item 50% off
in the menu.



Dine in / Order Now

*Taste our Moon chef's
signature in every bite*

ETOBICOKE LOCATION: 2 STEINWAY BLVD. UNIT #13.14.15

WWW.CARIBBEANMOON.CA

416-798-4040



LET'S
EXPLORE MORE!



“We are going to ensure that the calendar of activities will expand our tourism footprint and will bring more traffic into Guyana to ensure the hotel rooms are filled, to ensure that the bed-and-breakfast facilities are filled, to ensure that next year, collectively, we work on championing the prosperity for each other and of each other.”
- H.E. , Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-Opertalve Republic of Guyana.



EXXONMOBIL GUYANA
GLOBAL SUPER
LEAGUE

UNJT20.com

FIXTURES

GUYANA NATIONAL STADIUM - PROVIDENCE

JULY 2025		
Thu 10	10:00 AST	CENTRAL STAGS vs DUBAI CAPITALS
Thu 10	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Fri 11	10:00 AST	HOBART HURRICANES vs DUBAI CAPITALS
Fri 11	19:00 AST	CENTRAL STAGS vs GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS
Sun 13	10:00 AST	RANGPUR RIDERS vs HOBART HURRICANES
Sun 13	19:00 AST	DUBAI CAPITALS vs GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS
Tue 15	19:00 AST	HOBART HURRICANES vs CENTRAL STAGS
Wed 16	10:00 AST	DUBAI CAPITALS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Wed 16	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs HOBART HURRICANES
Thu 17	10:00 AST	RANGPUR RIDERS vs CENTRAL STAGS
Fri 18	19:00 AST	FINAL - FIRST PLACE vs SECOND PLACE