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Sod turned for new BK Airport in Bartica

PRESIDENT Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali on Sunday described the sod turning for the new BK airport terminal in Bartica as a transformative milestone for Region Seven and another major step in advancing national connectivity, tourism and economic diversification.

Speaking at the ceremony, the head of state said the project reflects “the continuous reinvestment of local wealth back into national development”, lauding the BK Group for consistently expanding its footprint and creating new opportunities across Guyana.

“As we turn this sod, we turn a new page for Region Seven,” President Ali declared, “Because when we build together, we rise together.”

The President underscored that Bartica is undergoing rapid change in line with the government’s wider development strategy, noting that the new terminal will become a critical link in opening up the region by air, expanding tourism offerings, lowering transport costs and improving services for communities and businesses.

President Ali reminded that Bartica has long been a gateway to the country’s hinterland and mining economy, but it is now evolving into a diversified, modern township.

“These are the foundations of a future in which Bartica becomes a destination, not just a passageway,” he stated.



US Military boss pays visit to Trinidad

Chairman of the United States (US) Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine met with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and several ministers at the Diplomatic Centre in Port of Spain on Tuesday, as the USA has signalled its intent to raise the stakes against Venezuela in a fight against narco-terrorists.

Following the meeting, statements were promptly issued by both sides. They were however short on details and couched in diplomatic language, leaving Trinidadians to speculate on what really was discussed and what commitments, if any, were made by Government in the midst of heightened tension between the US and Venezuela and with several warships in the region.

The first statement came from the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Public Affairs: “Gen Caine and Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar exchanged views on challenges affecting the Caribbean region, including the destabilising effects of illicit narcotics, arms, and human trafficking, and transnational criminal organisation activities.”

It continued, “Gen Caine reaffirmed that the United States remains committed to working closely with Trinidad and Tobago to address shared threats and deepen collaboration across the Caribbean.”

The Prime Minister stated that her Government remained committed to addressing the effects of narcotics trafficking, human trafficking and transnational crime for the benefit of citizens and the wider region.



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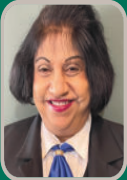
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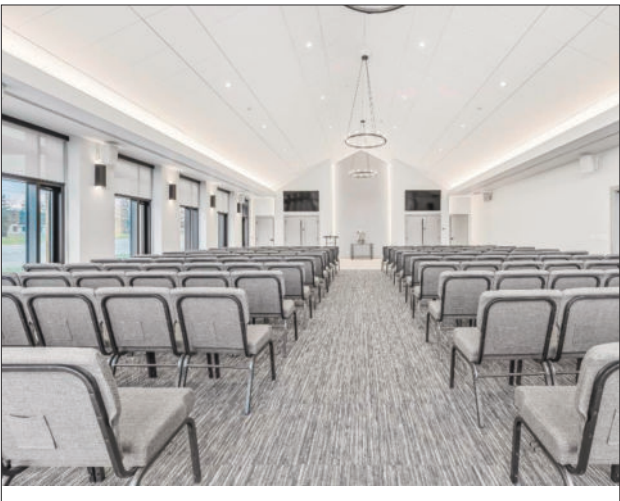
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REGIONAL LEADERS MOBILISE AS GUYANA COMMITS MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION SUPPORT TO JAMAICA

PAGE 2



President Dr. Irfaan Ali and CARICOM leaders visit Montego Bay and Westmoreland, surveying the destruction caused by Hurricane Melissa during a high-level Goodwill Mission.



US\$15M OFFSHORE DEAL TO BRING NEW
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GUYANESE

PAGE 3



REGION SIX SET FOR BIGGEST DEVELOPMENT
PUSH IN DECADES

PAGE 14



GEORGETOWN RESIDENTS ENGAGE IN
PLANS TO REVAMP CITY'S DRAINAGE

PAGE 18

REGIONAL LEADERS MOBILISE AS GUYANA COMMITS MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION SUPPORT TO JAMAICA

CARICOM leaders have rallied around Jamaica in the wake of Hurricane Melissa's devastating impact, with Guyana stepping forward to deliver one of the region's largest immediate reconstruction pledges, rebuilding 200 roofs in storm-battered communities.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the commitment when he joined fellow CARICOM Heads of Government on a high-level Goodwill Mission brought together Prime Ministers Mia Mottley of Barbados, Dickon Mitchell of Grenada, and Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, along with senior representatives from CARICOM, the World Bank, the Inter-

homes, the President described the destruction as **"indescribable."**

"You have to be here to see this devastation," President Ali said, noting that even the extensive media coverage could not capture the true scale of loss. He added that the resilience, strength, and character of the Jamaican people **"speak volumes about the Jamaican spirit."**

The Goodwill Mission brought together Prime Ministers Mia Mottley of Barbados, Dickon Mitchell of Grenada, and Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, along with senior representatives from CARICOM, the World Bank, the Inter-

American Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America, and other global partners. Together, the leaders assessed the widespread damage and began mobilising a



Regional leaders rally in Jamaica as Hurricane Melissa leaves trail of ruin

coordinated regional and international recovery plan.

President Ali said Guyana's reconstruction commitment was agreed upon with Prime Minister Andrew Holness and

will begin in the very communities visited. Guyana will provide both manpower and building materials to ensure rapid progress, with a focus on getting families back under safe shelter as



Regional leaders rally in Jamaica as Hurricane Melissa leaves trail of ruin

technical support, and logistical assistance Guyana provided even before the storm made landfall.

The President commended Prime Minister Holness and his team for their hands-on leadership and for setting the **"remarkable"** target of restoring homes before Christmas. He affirmed that Guyana will work closely to help Jamaica meet this goal.

A full Guyana

Defence Force team will also be deployed to support operations under the CARICOM mechanism.

"This is why we are a community," President Ali said. "In times like these, we draw strength from each other and support each other."

"To the people of Jamaica," he added, **"we want you to know you have our love and our full support."**

TIGER BAY TO BECOME GEORGETOWN'S FIRST MODEL NEIGHBOURHOOD

Tiger Bay, a community long known for its vibrancy, is set for a transformative makeover. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced plans to make the area Georgetown's first "model neighbourhood" promising cleaner streets, safer spaces, and new opportunities for residents to thrive.

On November 16, President Ali walked through the community, engaging directly with teachers, youth, business owners, and local groups. Listening to their concerns, he shared the government's vision for renewal. **"You have the Prime Minister's residence, the people's**

residence, all the big businesses, and then we have some of the greatest social issues within the same community, and that is what we have to fix as a community," he said.

At the heart of the plan is beautification. Streets will soon feature fruit trees; including mango, orange, tangerine, and jamoon; planted along Main Street, Carmichael Street, and other open spaces for residents to enjoy.

The Office of the First Lady will work closely with the Ministries of Local Government and Regional Development, and Housing, to implement the initiative

as part of the broader Rescue Georgetown Plan. Residents will also benefit from improved drainage, roads, and essential infrastructure, ensuring the project goes beyond aesthetics.

President Ali highlighted the community dimension: **"We are launching a neighbourhood love programme where the entire neighbourhood works together as one unit."** Plans include renovating historic buildings like the Guyana Stores Ltd, creating craft shops, small business centres, and restaurants to generate employment and income opportunities.

A new training centre,

in partnership with Nations Incorporated, will occupy the historic City Constabulary and Georgetown Municipal Abattoir buildings, equipping young people with practical skills. Nearby plots will host football and basketball facilities with nightlights.

Residents who have yet to build on government-allotted lots will receive guidance and financial support through the Ministry of Housing. Thirty local businesses have joined the community warden programme, offering jobs while enhancing safety and cleanliness. Infrastructure investments, including trucks and bikes for patrolling, along



Scene from the on-the-ground engagement with residents of the community

with strengthened community policing, will further improve security.

Social programmes for women, children, and youth will complement these efforts, creating a holistic approach to community development.

Residents were invited to **"break bread"** with the president, symbolising unity and shared purpose.

"We have to remove the big stigma from the area,"

President Ali said, before affirming, **"we are going to remove it as a neighbourhood, as a neighbourhood of love."** Ministers Priya Manickchand, Keoma Griffith, Steven Jacobs, and Collin Croal, along with technical officials, were present to ensure swift implementation of the plans.

4.0 GPA GRADUATE TOOK HOME UG'S TOP HONOUR FROM PRESIDENT ALI



President Ali presenting the President's Award to valedictorian Daniel Persaud

A flawless academic performance earned University of Guyana (UG) valedictorian Daniel Persaud the institution's highest student honour, the President's Medal, which was presented to him by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali at State House.

Persaud, 33, graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA after completing

his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the Turkeyen Campus. President Ali applauded his dedication, discipline, and outstanding achievement, noting that his success served as an inspiration to students across the country.

This year marked a historic milestone for UG, with nearly 3,600 students set to graduate,

the largest cohort in the university's 62-year history. Ceremonies were held at the Ameena and Sattaur Gafoor Multipurpose Auditorium from November 20-22, and are scheduled to continue at the Berbice Campus in Tain on December 6.

Persaud was accompanied to the medal presentation by

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Paloma Mohamed-Martin, Deputy Registrar Dr. Juneann Garnette, and Director of Communications Jainarine Deonauth. Additional graduations, including the IDCE Extra-Mural Programme, are scheduled for December 5.

US\$15M OFFSHORE DEAL TO BRING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GUYANESE



Guyana inks first offshore agreement under new fiscal regime

Guyanese stand to benefit from a new US\$15 million offshore agreement signed with three global oil giants, a deal that brings fresh investment, jobs, and resources to fuel the nation's long-term growth.

The landmark Production Sharing Agreement (PSA), inked at the Pegasus

Corporate Suite, involves TotalEnergies (40%, operator), QatarEnergy (35%), and PETRONAS (25%) for the shallow-water Block S4 offshore Guyana. It is the first agreement signed under Guyana's new fiscal regime, setting a new standard for transparency, accountability, and environmental protection in the energy sector.

The US\$15 million signing bonus, well above the US\$10 million minimum, will be deposited directly into the Natural Resource Fund (NRF), ensuring that the benefits of the deal are channelled toward national

development projects that improve lives across Guyana.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, described the signing as a milestone that reflects both investor confidence and the government's commitment to responsible resource management. **"Every agreement must yield benefits for Guyana and our people,"** he said. **"While we welcome international investment, our partnerships must support national development and uphold the highest environmental standards."**

The new PSA introduces a 10 percent corporate tax, stricter environmental safeguards, and stronger penalties for non-compliance, key measures to ensure sustainable growth in the oil and gas industry.

Minister Bharrat noted that Guyana's basin continues to attract the world's largest and most experienced energy companies, including ExxonMobil, Chevron, CNOOC, TotalEnergies, QatarEnergy, and PETRONAS. This reinforces Guyana's reputation as an emerging global energy hub, he said.

He commended the technical teams behind

the scenes for their expertise in managing one of the world's fastest-growing oil sectors. Despite producing nearly a million barrels of oil per day, Guyana remains carbon negative, a rare global achievement.

Few countries can produce at this level while maintaining carbon negativity, Minister Bharrat remarked. **"Guyana continues to show that sustainable development and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand."**

Covering approximately 1,788 square kilometres, Block S4 lies 50 to 100 kilometres offshore in shallow



TotalEnergies, QatarEnergy, and PETRONAS join forces in new Guyana offshore venture

activities will adhere to international best practices and Guyana's strict environmental regulations.

Minister Bharrat added that with the NRF established within just two years of oil production, Guyana has proven its commitment to sound, transparent management.

WALES TO HOST GUYANA'S FIRST STATE-OF-THE-ART AI SUPERCOMPUTING HUB



Guyana partnering with Cerebras to Launch 100MW AI Data Centre

In a move that blends energy wealth with technology, Guyana has partnered with Cerebras Systems to build a 100MW AI data centre in Wales, a project expected to drive jobs, skills development, and global investment while cementing the country's

place on the digital map. The partnership marks a pivotal moment in Guyana's journey to become a regional leader in digital innovation. The Wales AI Data Centre will deploy Cerebras' CS-3 supercomputers, among the fastest AI processors globally, to meet

international demand for high-performance computing. Beyond serving global clients, the facility will empower Guyanese students, researchers, and entrepreneurs through training programmes, internships, and research initiatives.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali hailed the agreement as a transformative step for the nation.

"This is more than an AI data centre; it is a declaration of Guyana's ambition," he said. **"We are building a future where Guyanese talent powers global innovation and our infrastructure support frontier technologies."**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines commitments to data sovereignty and protection, ensuring national interests are safeguarded in the digital age. The project also lays the foundation for a broader vision that includes education

hubs, startup incubators, and advanced research centres, anchoring a thriving technology ecosystem in the country.

Cerebras CEO Andrew Feldman emphasised the significance of the collaboration within the company's **"Cerebras for Nations"** initiative.

"Guyana is leading the way. Together, we are helping governments build and scale sovereign AI capabilities that advance economic and educational development," he said.

The initiative has already sparked interest from other global tech, cloud computing, and infrastructure players, positioning Guyana as a

strategic destination for innovation.

EY Global Partner Jay Persaud, a member of the Guyanese diaspora, described the project as a **"homecoming of innovation"**, noting it will inspire the next generation and demonstrate that Guyana is more than a resource-rich country, it is a nation where talent, technology, and opportunity converge.

This partnership with Cerebras represents a bold step toward building a knowledge-based economy, creating jobs, fostering skills, and establishing the country as a hub for frontier technology in the Caribbean and South America.

GUYANA NAMED REGIONAL LEADER IN DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING



Guyana wins Coursera Regional Talent Transformation Award for Latin America and the Caribbean

Guyana's push with digital skills has to equip its citizens earned international

recognition, as the country was named the winner of Coursera's Regional Talent Transformation Award for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The award, presented during the launch of the Public Service Upskilling Programme at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, celebrates Guyana's remarkable strides in using online learning to empower its workforce and drive national development.

Coursera's Vice President, Zac Rule,

commended Guyana's leadership in digital transformation, expressing pride in the company's continued partnership with the government. **"It's an honour to be part of digital Guyana,"** he said, noting the country's success in integrating education technology into public service and community training.

Guyana's collaboration with Coursera began during the COVID-19 pandemic through the Workforce Recovery Initiative, a

programme launched with the Commonwealth of Learning to help citizens overcome employment challenges. That effort saw 36,000 Guyanese acquire new skills, nearly 200,000 course enrollments, and over 50,000 certificates earned in fields such as business, technology, and data science.

The partnership has since expanded through initiatives like the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) which helps

women gain financial independence, and healthcare and digital literacy programmes with various ministries.

In 2024, this collaboration culminated in the Guyana Coursera National Training Initiative, granting all citizens access to free, world-class education online.

This latest honour places Guyana firmly among regional leaders in education innovation and workforce transformation.

GOVT TARGETS 2030 GAS MONETISATION TO POWER BERBICE'S INDUSTRIAL FUTURE



Scene from the Berbice Development Summit at the Guyana Marriott Hotel

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that Guyana aims to monetise its gas resources by 2030, placing the Stabroek Block, estimated at 17 trillion cubic feet (tcf), at the heart of a series of mega projects to transform Berbice into a hub for innovation, industry, and regional trade.

Speaking at the inaugural Berbice Development Summit 2025 at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, the president emphasised that rapid gas monetisation is critical for Guyana's economic growth and regional influence.

"I am not willing to push monetisation

beyond 2030... Any option that does not allow this country to monetise gas before 2030 will not have the type of support I would like to give," President Ali stated.

The summit, attended by local and international investors, technical experts, and industrial leaders, explored projects to position Berbice as a logistical and industrial backbone for Guyana and the wider region. Key infrastructure initiatives include a deep-water port, a new Berbice River Bridge, a four-lane highway from Moleson Creek to New Amsterdam, two Hope-like canals,

and a Corentyne River Bridge linking Guyana to Suriname.

"This infrastructure plan... we are pursuing to have it all completed within five years. And it will get done. There is no choice," the president affirmed.

Investment in human capital and social infrastructure is central to the plan. Senior Minister Dr Ashni Singh highlighted housing projects, new hospitals, a modern stadium, and the conversion of the Rose Hall aerodrome into a municipal airport. Workforce development will be supported by institutions like the Guyana Technical

Training College Inc. (GTTCI) and the Hospitality and Tourism Training Institute (HTTI) in Port Mourant, which provide world-class training locally.

Digitalisation of government services is another pillar. Minister Zulfikar Ally noted the recent launch of the Public Service Upskilling Platform, which will modernise public sector operations, reduce red tape, and improve service delivery.

The president stressed that Berbice's growth is part of a broader vision linking Guyana with Brazil and South America, creating opportunities for trade, energy distribution,



Scene from the Berbice Development Summit at the Guyana Marriott Hotel

and industrialisation. He thanked investors and partners for their confidence, reiterating that these projects are designed to create jobs, strengthen communities, and position Guyana as a regional leader.

UPGRADE OF ROSE HALL AIRSTRIP TO OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BERBICE RESIDENTS



The airstrip in Rosehall

For Berbicians, the humble Rose Hall Airstrip is set to become a gateway to opportunity, connecting

communities, businesses, and the wider world. The government is finalising plans to modernise the

facility, with expressions of interest (EOIs) for the project set to be issued soon.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced the development during the Berbice Development Summit 2025, held over three days at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

"We are now finalising the document, and soon

we'll be going out for an expression of interest," the president said, highlighting how the project will complement wider regional growth.

The upgraded airstrip is more than a runway; it is a cornerstone of Berbice's transformation into a hub for trade, agriculture, and industry. It will link seamlessly with new road networks, farm-

to-market routes, and the modern deep-water port, enabling easier movement of people and goods.

For local farmers, traders, and entrepreneurs, the airstrip promises faster access to markets, both nationally and internationally. Communities like Orealla and Siparuta will benefit from improved connectivity, while

housing developments, schools, and social infrastructure planned nearby will enhance quality of life.

President Ali emphasised that the airstrip is about opportunity for people, not just planes. He said by strengthening connectivity, the government was positioning Berbice as the next frontier for growth.

KATO'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NEW POWER PLANT



A new 0.15 MW hydropower plant has been commissioned in the village

The remote community of Kato, Region Eight, is now looking forward to brighter days, literally and figuratively, as the government has commissioned a new 0.15 MW hydropower plant in the village. The milestone promises not only reliable electricity for homes and public institutions, but also new opportunities for economic growth and community development.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips emphasised that no community will be left behind in the government's vision for a modern and equitable energy sector.

"This is part of

a broader national vision: transforming Guyana's energy sector so that every community, every Guyanese, benefits," Prime Minister Phillips said. **"No one will be left standing in darkness while others stride into the future."**

The project was realised through close engagement with Kato residents and reflects a commitment from President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to address the unique needs of hinterland communities. About 75% of the workforce that built the plant came from Kato and neighbouring villages, offering jobs and hands-on experience to locals.

The hydropower system will supply electricity to 34 community buildings,

including schools, health facilities, and administrative offices. In addition, 17 residents have been hired to operate the plant full-time, with eight operators, five women among them, already receiving specialist training in Lethem and Mahdia.

Prime Minister Phillips encouraged residents to harness the new energy to improve daily life and stimulate local businesses. **"Use this power to strengthen education, support health services, grow your craft heritage, and expand opportunities for youth. Let it be a source of both electricity and unity,"** he said.

The Kato plant is part of a wider push to expand renewable energy



The commissioning ceremony

in hinterland regions, alongside hydropower projects at Moco-Moco and Kumu, solar farms in Lethem, Bartica, Mahdia, Wakenaam, and Leguan, and more than 36,000 solar home systems distributed nationwide.

"This plant demonstrates what is possible when government listens, acts, and invests in communities,"

the Prime Minister added. **"As Guyana accelerates its low-carbon transition, communities like Kato will move forward with the nation powered, equipped, and empowered."**

For Kato residents, the plant is a tangible sign of progress, opportunity, and inclusion in the country's growing clean-energy future.

PM PHILLIPS CALLS FOR STRONGER SECURITY AND CLIMATE ACTION AT CELAC-EU SUMMIT



PM Phillips at the CELAC-EU Summit

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips has called for enhanced regional security, urgent climate financing, and strengthened multilateral cooperation during the EU-Caribbean Leaders Meeting in Santa Marta, Colombia, held as part of the IV CELAC-EU Summit.

A d d r e s s i n g

Caribbean CELAC leaders and European Union officials, Prime Minister Phillips highlighted the shared responsibility of tackling regional and global challenges. Here affirmed Guyana's commitment to maintaining the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace while stressing the collective need to confront threats to sovereignty, territorial integrity, transnational crime, cybersecurity, and challenges posed by inequality and irregular migration.

Citing a recent tragic incident in Guyana, he underscored the urgency of coordinated action. **"Our country buried a six-year-old girl, Soraya Bourne,**

innocent victim of what we believe to be a terrorist bombing at a gas station linked to migrants. It could have been much worse! But this is one too many," he said.

The Prime Minister called for enhanced multilateral collaboration through intelligence sharing, capacity building, joint research, and more agile governance mechanisms — especially in an era of misinformation and the misuse of artificial intelligence.

Climate change was another key focus. Prime Minister Phillips pointed to the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, urging greater

climate financing, access to concessional funds, and implementation of initiatives like the Bridgetown Initiative to support adaptation, resilience, and debt relief for climate-affected states. He highlighted Guyana's national response through the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS 2030), investments in renewable energy, natural gas as a transition fuel, and efforts to ensure sustainable and affordable energy access, calling for a just global energy transition.

On food security, he stressed modernising regional agri-food systems to ensure affordable, quality food, mitigate market



PM Phillips at the CELAC-EU Summit

volatility, and strengthen local production, noting Guyana's leadership in the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems agenda.

Regarding security, the Prime Minister emphasised the need for united regional and international action against transnational crime, supported by initiatives such as the EU Global Gateway and the Digital Alliance to

strengthen bi-regional cooperation.

He concluded by reaffirming Guyana's commitment to the CELAC-EU partnership, emphasising that dialogue, shared values, and cooperation are essential to fostering peace, sustainable development, and expanded opportunities across the Caribbean and Europe.



Guyana's Lead Negotiator for the UNFCCC Pradeepa Bholanath, and panelist speaking at the event

Guyana's innovative use of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technology in forest conservation took center stage at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, during the

high-level panel "Live Canopy: Harnessing AI and Digital Innovation for Forest Conservation and Reforestation."

The event, hosted by the Tony Blair Institute

GUYANA SHOWCASES AI-DRIVEN FOREST CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AT COP30

for Global Change (TBI), brought together experts from across the Global South to explore how digital tools are transforming forest management.

Representing Guyana, Pradeepa Bholanath of the Ministry of Natural Resources highlighted the country's progress under President Dr. Irfaan Ali's digital innovation programme, which integrates AI-enabled tools into forest monitoring and management.

B h o l a n a t h shared how Guyana's

M e a s u r e m e n t , Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system, traditionally used for tracking carbon and forest cover, now incorporates biodiversity indicators, providing 15 years of continuous satellite-based monitoring. **"Guyana's approach demonstrates how small states can lead globally by embedding technology within sustainable forest governance,"** she noted, emphasising the link between innovation and the Low Carbon

Development Strategy (LCDS 2030).

The session highlighted how AI and digital platforms are helping governments, communities, and Indigenous peoples benefit from data-driven forest management. Panelists also discussed the importance of governance, transparency, and sustainable financing to scale technology-driven conservation efforts.

S o u t h - S o u t h collaboration featured prominently, with experts from Brazil, Guyana, and other

emerging economies sharing lessons and solutions for resilient, inclusive, and equitable forest governance.

"Artificial intelligence has become a powerful ally in managing and conserving our forests and biodiversity," Bholanath said, underscoring how innovation, inclusivity, and strong governance are shaping a sustainable digital future.



Education Ministry launches a national anti-bullying campaign

Every child deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued at school. That's the vision driving the Ministry of Education's new initiative to introduce Moral and Civic Education into the national curriculum and launch a digital platform for reporting bullying, giving students, parents, and teachers a voice and a way to act.

The announcement was made by Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, during the Ministry's national anti-

bullying consultation at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre. The forum brought together educators, guidance counsellors, civil society representatives, and private sector partners, all united by a shared mission to make schools safer and more compassionate spaces for learning.

Minister Parag said the new curriculum will focus on nurturing empathy, kindness, and a sense of responsibility among students. **"Moral education should be**

the foundation upon which we become better human beings as we grow," she explained, adding that the aim is to make "acts of kindness and goodwill a habit that is very difficult to break."

As part of this broader campaign, the Ministry also launched the Anti-Bullying Reporting System (ABRS), a secure online tool developed by the Management Information System Unit (MISU). The platform, available at <https://education.gov.gy/abrs/>, allows students, parents, and teachers to safely and confidentially report incidents of bullying or harassment. It ensures

quick communication between schools and the Ministry while protecting the privacy of all involved.

"The goal is to promote accountability, encourage a culture of respect, and strengthen the overall well-being of students," Minister Parag stated.

Reaffirming the government's zero-tolerance approach, she said bullying, whether between students, teacher-to-student, or among staff, must be confronted with honesty and compassion. **"We must have frank conversations and practical solutions**



Education Ministry launches a national anti-bullying campaign

that take into account the social environments from which children come," she noted.

To sustain the initiative, a multi-ministerial task force will be established, involving the Ministries of Education, Home Affairs, Human Services, and Legal Affairs. This group will guide legislative updates and

standardised school policies.

Minister Parag underscored that the effort must extend beyond classrooms. **"It starts in our schools, but it also starts in our homes,"** she said. **"We all share the responsibility to be the guardians of every single child in this country."**

PUBLIC SERVANTS TO BE UPGRADED FOR DIGITAL ERA



President Ali delivering the feature address

Thousands of public servants across Guyana, including those in the hinterland, now have access to world-class online learning opportunities through a new government initiative designed to modernise and empower the public sector. The Public Service Upskilling Platform, a partnership between the Government of Guyana and US-based Coursera, was officially launched at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC), marking a major

step toward building a more efficient, tech-savvy workforce capable of leading the country's transformation. From data analysis to beginner Spanish, over 100 free online courses are now available to public servants from leading global universities. Learners can complete courses at their own pace, gaining practical skills to boost productivity, innovation, and problem-solving within their agencies. Speaking at the launch, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali described the initiative as **"an essential part of modernising the public service,"** noting that Guyana must build a workforce ready to thrive in a fast-evolving digital world. **"The world is**

moving faster than ever before, so we must ask ourselves: are we ready to keep up?" he asked. **"The new public service must be a problem-solving machine, driving results, productivity, and progress through**



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

innovation and efficiency." The President emphasised that success in the modern era depends on continuous learning and

adaptability. He said Guyana's public servants must embrace artificial intelligence, digital tools, and global standards to deliver world-class services. **"You're not just learning for a local job,"** Dr Ali underscored. **"You're preparing for global opportunities. You're ensuring that Guyana's public service is efficient and globally benchmarked, and that is important."** Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, who is spearheading the nation's digitalisation drive, told attendees that the programme represents a direct investment in people. **"We cannot implement complex**



Government launches landmark upskilling programme to build a modern public service

national projects without world-class project managers. We cannot be responsive to citizens without first-rate customer service," he said. **"This programme is your new toolkit. It is our investment in you."** Coursera's Vice President, Zac Rule, lauded the partnership, noting that Guyana's commitment to upskilling its public servants sets a strong example for other developing nations. Public servants can now access courses in areas such as digital transformation, project management, communication, leadership, and time management. This initiative complements the government's broader vision of building an inclusive digital society, one where every Guyanese, regardless of location, has access to the tools, knowledge, and opportunities to thrive in the global economy.

GOVT RECORDS THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF FULL RECOVERY OF CONTRACT OVERPAYMENTS



President Dr. Ali made the announcement during a social media address

Guyana has recorded a historic achievement for the third year in a row: every dollar of overpayments in government contracts has been fully recovered. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement during a social media address, calling it an unprecedented accomplishment in the country's financial governance. **"This has never happened before in our country's history,"** President Ali said. **"In 2022, 2023, and now 2024, all overpayments were recovered before the Auditor General's Report was finalised. This is about ensuring taxpayers' money is fully protected and properly used."** The confirmation comes on the heels of the 2024 Auditor General's Report, which examined 829 contracts worth nearly

\$50 billion. Less than 3% of these were flagged for overpayments. President Ali noted the sharp contrast with the former APNU+AFC administration, where recovery rates fell to 7.49% in 2015, 29.7% in 2017, and 12.1% in 2018. The report found that overpayments totaling \$1.011 billion were made under 86 contracts across ministries, departments, and regional administrations, all of which have already been recovered. This performance, the President said, reflects strengthened oversight systems, extensive training in procurement and contract management, and the rollout of real-time monitoring tools. Government is now moving toward full-scale project accounting using artificial intelligence and predictive indicators to spot potential issues during the project cycle rather than after completion. Beyond overpayment recovery, the Auditor General's Report pointed to broader improvements in public accountability. It recorded the full or partial implementation of 81% of recommendations from the previous

year, a reduction in procurement breaches, and faster resolution of audit queries. Audit coverage also expanded across public agencies, statutory bodies, and foreign-funded projects. The report highlighted major investments in human development. In 2024, employment costs totaled \$122.5 billion, with public servants, teachers, and the Joint Services benefiting from salary increases and enhanced allowances. A 10% across-the-board increase and improved education, qualification, travel, housing, and remote-area allowances contributed to strengthened household income.

Implementation of Recommendations					
Report Year	Period	Total number of recommendations	Implementation of recommendations		
			Fully implemented (%)	Partially implemented (%)	Not implemented (%)
2015	2014	397	15	29	56
2016	2015	452	40	38	22
2017	2016	602	42	30	28
2018	2017	454	24	26	50
2019	2018	593	17	34	49
2020	2019	645	38	25	37
2021	2020	548	72	17	11
2022	2021	220	34	44	22
2023	2022	218	41	47	12
2024	2023	179	27	54	19
Average (2015-2019)		500	27.6	31.4	41.0
Average (2020-2024)		362	42.4	37.4	20.2

The report recorded the full or partial implementation of 81% of recommendations from the previous year

National spending reached \$1.188 trillion, supported by a 97% execution rate for capital projects. Locally financed projects

under the Public Sector Investment Programme achieved an exceptional 110.3% implementation rate, driving progress in housing, water, energy, drainage and irrigation, hinterland transportation, sports facilities, and sea and river defence works. Several ministries, including Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Service, Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, and Legal Affairs, were commended for having no notable findings, reflecting strengthened internal controls. The Public Procurement Commission was praised for improving management and increasing training,

Overpayments: 2015-2024				
Period	Contracts Reviewed	No. overpayments	Overpayment Not recovered (\$ millions)	Overpayment recovered Percent (%)
2015	na	31	376.995	7.49
2016	na	98	na	na
2017	na	79	21.3	29.7
2018	na	90	146.035	12.1
2019*	na	4	na	na
2020*	na	6	na	na
2021	na	37	21.046	80.3
2022	na	33	0	100.0
2023	752	74	0	100.0
2024	829	86	0	100.0

Table showing the sharp contrast with the former APNU+AFC administration

Audit Recommendations: 2015-2024				
Period	Breaches of Procurement Act	Breaches of FMAA	Non-delivery of items	Internal Controls
2015	18	21	21	99
2016	71	82	18	106
2017	27	40	14	87
2018	28	71	14	87
2019	34	128	13	114
2020	62	82	14	32
2021	15	40	26	14
2022	22	39	6	13
2023	19	35	3	20
2024	9	32	10	30
2015-2019	36	68	16	99
2019-2022	25	46	12	22

Table showing the sharp contrast with the former APNU+AFC administration (2)

strengthened. The Consolidated Fund closed 2024 at \$35.9 billion, up from \$30.2 billion the year before. Total government bank balances rose to \$136.9 billion, while revenue collections surpassed projections by \$67.2 billion, supported by improved tax compliance, higher oil and gas payments, and increased gold declarations. President Ali emphasised that despite the progress, the government will continue pushing for higher standards. Accounting officers have begun implementing this year's recommendations, and new performance indicators for senior officials are being introduced. **"We are not satisfied,"** he said. **"We will continue to enhance accountability and good governance in every agency, ensuring that every Guyanese sees tangible results from the resources entrusted to us."** The 2024 Auditor General's Report ultimately reflects a government strengthening its institutions, improving transparency, and managing public funds with discipline, signalling steady progress toward a more accountable and prosperous Guyana.

BERTRAM COLLINS COLLEGE ERA ENDS, COURSERA BRINGS MODERN SKILLS



Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, has emphasised that Guyana’s public servants are stepping into a new era of professional development, moving away from outdated institutions like Bertram Collins College and embracing modern, internationally recognised training through Coursera.

Responding to criticisms from

Opposition MP Coretta McDonald, who questioned the government’s partnership with Coursera, Minister Anthony said the platform equips public servants with practical, globally relevant skills essential for a rapidly evolving economy.

“Bertram Collins College was not a bastion of excellence; it was a political institution, crafted during the APNU period to instill party loyalty rather than develop the intellectual capacity or professional competence of public servants,” Minister Anthony said.

“Coursera produces empowered, critical thinkers. These are not ideological foot soldiers; they are highly competent professionals



Bertram College, established in 2016, was closed four years ago due to accusations that it was a front for the previous coalition government.

ready to navigate a complex, evolving global economy.”

The Public Service Upskilling Programme, launched in partnership

with Coursera, offers public servants across Guyana access to internationally recognised certifications from top universities and institutions.

modernises its public service.

At the platform’s launch, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali highlighted that countries such as Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom, Finland, and China use the same platform to train their workforces. Minister Anthony stressed that Guyana is now joining these forward-looking nations in prioritising education and innovation over political ideology.

The initiative aims to train up to 27,000 public servants within a single year, ensuring the workforce is prepared for a more dynamic, inclusive economy.

“Education must evolve or it will fail. Coursera produces empowered, critical thinkers. These are not ideological foot soldiers; they are highly competent professionals equipped to navigate a complex, evolving global economy and apply fresh, disciplined thought to their duties,” Minister Anthony said.

Public servants interested in participating in the programme can register at <https://c4b-integration.com/mpsgov>

FIVE MONTHS TO A SMARTER PUBLIC SERVICE AS PRESIDENT ALI PUSHES FULL DIGITISATION



Public servants at the launch of the upskilling platform at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

Five months to a smarter public service as President Ali pushes full digitisation

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has set ambitious timelines to modernise Guyana’s public sector, pledging to make government services more efficient, transparent, and accessible to citizens.

Speaking at the

files. Every public servant’s record, every citizen’s interaction with government, must be smooth, efficient, and reliable.”

The digitisation process involves converting analogue records into digital form, enabling seamless integration across ministries. Once completed, the system will allow government agencies to share information, cross-reference skills, and enhance service delivery nationwide.

The president also highlighted the impact on the agricultural sector, announcing that within four months,

farmers will have access to new digital tools for real-time information, weather updates, field education, and extension support. “We are

In addition to digitising public records, President Ali revealed that a series of homegrown apps will be launched in the coming

Public servants at the launch of the upskilling platform at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

putting technology directly into the hands of those who feed the nation,” he said, emphasising that innovation must reach citizens where it matters most.

transformation.

“These initiatives are about building a smarter, more connected Guyana,” the president stated, “A Guyana where citizens, farmers, and public servants alike can interact with government efficiently and effectively. This is not just convenience, it is national progress.”

The five-month deadline for full public service digitisation forms part of the PPP/C government’s 2025 manifesto commitments, signalling a new era of efficiency, accountability, and citizen-centred governance.

REGIONALLY MERITED CSEC AND CAPE STUDENTS HONoured



Scene from the celebration dinner

An evening of pride and celebration unfolded at the Royal Banquet Hall as Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, honoured 92 outstanding Guyanese students who achieved regional merit in the Caribbean Examination

and hard work that led to these remarkable accomplishments.

Minister Parag praised the students for their perseverance and commitment to learning, noting that regional merit reflects not only academic excellence, but also the resilience and determination that set them apart. “These young people have set an example for their peers, showing that hard work, guided by supportive teachers and families, yields exceptional results,” she said.

This year, Guyanese students earned 60

merit placements across 16 CSEC subjects, with strong performances in science, technology, engineering, business, creative disciplines, and the humanities. Guyana also secured the CXC prize for Most Outstanding Overall CSEC Performer with Mahesa Boodhoo of Queen’s College, while additional regional awards went to Dhanesh Tularam (Business), Raquel London (Humanities), and Samara Munro (Sciences).

At the CAPE level, Guyana claimed 32 places on the Regional

Merit List across 14 among students, subject units, with Sara families, and educators



Scene from the celebration dinner

Khan of Queen’s College recognised as the Best Overall CAPE Performer in the Caribbean.

The dinner celebrated not only academic achievement, but also the partnerships that nurture talent across the country. It served as a reminder of the bright future ahead, inspiring Guyana’s next generation of leaders to dream big and continue striving for excellence.

PRESIDENT ALI WELCOMES UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF GAZA PEACE PLAN



The U.S. resolution calls for an International Stabilisation Force to enter, demilitarise and govern Gaza

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has welcomed the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) adoption of a resolution endorsing U.S. President Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza, describing it as a step toward sustainable peace for the Palestinian people.

Speaking on his official Facebook page, President Ali applauded the United States for its leadership in the initiative, noting that Guyana voted in favour

of the resolution. **"As a matter of principle, Guyana supports measures that build on the existing ceasefire and advance sustainable peace for the Palestinian people,"** he stated.

The UNSC resolution provides a legal U.N. mandate for implementing the Trump administration's vision for Gaza, moving beyond the ceasefire and facilitating the reconstruction of the territory after two years of what President Ali and the international community have described as systematic

atrocities against Palestinians. The resolution also calls for an International Stabilisation Force to enter, demilitarise, and govern Gaza and proposes the establishment of a **"Board of Peace"** to oversee the process.

The resolution passed with 13 votes in favour and none against, while Russia and China abstained. The abstentions followed widespread support from several Arab and Muslim nations, including Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates,

Indonesia, Turkey, and Pakistan.

President Ali has consistently called for principled action by the UN in response to global conflicts. At a UN meeting in September 2025, he emphasised that **"power must not triumph over principle"** and urged the UN to act decisively to restore peace in Ukraine and Gaza.

In his address to the 80th UN General Assembly, the Guyanese leader reiterated his support for a two-state solution as the only viable resolution to the long-standing Israeli-

Palestinian conflict. He condemned the recent destruction of Gaza, describing it as **"mass extermination, a systematic slaughter and displacement of Palestinian men, women, and children."**

President Ali called for urgent international action to halt the atrocities, ensure the safe return of hostages, and accelerate diplomatic efforts toward a two-state solution, urging key actors, including Qatar, Egypt, and the US, to intensify their engagement in achieving lasting peace.

JUSTICE GEORGE'S DECISION RESTORES CONFIDENCE IN TAX OVERSIGHT—PRESIDENT ALI ALI

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has welcomed the latest ruling by Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag) Justice Roxane George, describing it as a **"vital correction"** that restores confidence in Guyana's tax system and protects the country from widespread fraud.

In a national broadcast, the President explained that Justice George's ruling overturns a troubling interpretation delivered days earlier by Justice Gino Persaud, who held that the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) could not conduct post-clearance assessments

once goods left the port. Under that decision, even if evidence later proved an invoice was falsified, the GRA would have been powerless to recover the correct tax.

The president noted that ruling exposed the taxation system to criminality. **"If Justice Persaud's decision is permitted to stand, the implications would be profoundly damaging,"** the President said, **"No matter how falsified a declaration is, no matter what is discovered after the ruling would bar the State from its rightful revenue. That is**

wholly inconceivable in a lawful and orderly revenue system."

The ruling is significant given the recent controversy of the luxury Lamborghini imported by businessman Azruddin Mohamed, for which taxes were assessed based on a significantly undervalued declaration. After later receiving verified documentation showing the vehicle cost US\$695,000, far above the declared US\$75,300, the GRA initiated a post-clearance reassessment. Justice Persaud's ruling blocked that process, a decision Minister of Legal

Affairs and Attorney General Anil Nandall S C., said would have rendered **"customs administration toothless."**

Justice George's November 17 judgment, however, firmly upheld the GRA's authority. In ruling on a separate case brought by businessman Zhangzhen Yu, she found that the Post Clearance Audit Unit (PCAU) is lawful, constitutional, and empowered under the Customs Act to review declarations within three years and recover short-levied taxes.

"I do not consider the complaint that the assessment by the

PCAU was unlawful has merit," the Chancellor wrote, adding that post-clearance verification is essential when discrepancies, misclassification, or fraud are uncovered.

Attorney General Nandall noted that the ruling **"contradicts in every material respect"** Justice Persaud's earlier judgment, reinstating long-standing customs practices recognised internationally, including by the World Customs Organisation.

President Ali praised the decision as **"intellectually rigorous"** and a major



President Ali during the address

step in strengthening tax enforcement. **"It upholds the authority of the GRA and restores rationality to the law,"** President Ali stated.

EXTRADITION CASE AGAINST MOHAMEDS FOLLOWS INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS



The launch of the agri-tourism policy

The Government of Guyana is following international protocols to the letter in the extradition case involving businessmen Azruddin and Nazar Mohamed, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, due process, and the rule of law.

The case, which involves 11 counts including wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, and gold smuggling, is scheduled for committal proceedings at the Georgetown Magistrates' Court before Magistrate Judy Latchman on November 28, 2025. Leading up to this,

additional documents will be exchanged between the Defence and Prosecution on November 24.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, SC Mohabir Anil Nandall, emphasised that the government is diligently fulfilling all legal extradition obligations under international law. He urged the public to avoid politicising the matter, noting that attempts by the accused to foster a victim narrative are misleading.

"The Mohameds are international fugitives from

the US criminal justice system. This process is to ensure accountability and adherence to the law," Minister Nandall said.

Clarifying costs associated with the extradition, Minister Nandall explained that while the requesting country; the United States, bears expenses connected to the actual extradition, costs incurred during the local legal process, including the provision of legal representation, are traditionally covered by the host country. He cited examples from

regional jurisdictions, including Trinidad and Jamaica, to illustrate that Guyana is acting in line with international practice.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy, further stressed the government's position, warning against disinformation campaigns aimed at confusing the public. **"Extradition law is based on comity, mutuality, and reciprocity. Guyana's acceptance of authenticated US**

legal documents is standard practice," McCoy explained.

Government officials have repeatedly emphasised that all steps are taken to ensure due process, including providing the Mohameds with access to legal counsel and sufficient time to prepare their defence. The administration assures the public that the extradition proceedings are conducted with full respect for the law, reinforcing Guyana's commitment to justice, accountability, and international cooperation.

GUYANA SETS BENCHMARK IN ELECTORAL TRANSPARENCY - PRESIDENT ALI

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has hailed Guyana's 2025 General and Regional Elections as a milestone in electoral transparency, following the release of the European Union Election Observation Mission's (EU EOM) Final Report. The report concluded that the elections were free, peaceful, well-run, and professionally administered, marking a significant achievement in the country's democratic process.

While welcoming the overall findings, President Ali addressed references in the report to an "uneven playing field" and the "undue advantage of incumbency," dismissing them as unfounded and unsupported by facts. "These claims are entirely baseless and primarily reflect complaints by political participants and their affiliates," the President said. "In any democratic system, incumbency has inherent advantages and disadvantages. What matters is delivery, and the People's Progressive Party/Civic has fulfilled its commitments to the people of Guyana."

President Ali outlined key achievements since

2020, including the opening of schools, hospitals, health

mere incumbency. Highlighting results is our duty," he said.



Chief Observer Robert Biedron presenting the report to Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira

centres, road projects, and the distribution of cash transfers. "These actions reflect our government's manifesto promises, not

historic improvements, such as the real-time online publication of Statements of Poll (SoPs) upon receipt by Returning Officers, a first in Guyana's electoral history.

"Guyana delivered a transparent and well-run election. Every stage reflected the will of the people," President Ali said, emphasising that these measures set a benchmark for future elections and demonstrate the government's commitment to restoring public trust following the challenges of the 2020 elections.

Acknowledging lingering public mistrust from the 2020 constitutional crisis, the President noted that some systems had been previously derailed, eroding confidence in electoral processes. "We remain committed to continuous reform and welcome constructive recommendations to further strengthen our democracy," he said, reaffirming the government's dedication to transparency, accountability, and credible elections in Guyana.

TENS OF BILLIONS ALREADY IN HANDS OF CITIZENS, MORE SUPPORT COMING - PRESIDENT ALI



Guyanese shopping at the Bourda Market

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed the government's commitment to easing the cost of living and expanding opportunities for families, vulnerable households, and small businesses across Guyana. He emphasised that the administration's support will continue to grow as new programmes aimed at strengthening communities are rolled out.

Speaking during a live national broadcast, President Ali noted that tens of billions of dollars have already been placed

directly into the hands of citizens through wage increases, cash grants, subsidies, tax reversals, and enhanced access to income-generating opportunities.

"And we are not stopping there," he assured. "In the coming weeks and months, we will roll out additional programmes to further support households and communities across Guyana."

Among the upcoming measures, the President outlined plans to improve access to capital

for small businesses, reduce interest rates on loans, and introduce new initiatives designed to help businesses expand. He also highlighted the near-completion of the Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) facility, which will significantly lower the cost of cooking gas for households nationwide. Additional programmes to boost home ownership and increase local food production are also underway.

Targeted assistance will also be extended to parents of children living with disabilities. During a Region Six

Cabinet outreach in New Amsterdam, President Ali explained that the new measures are intended to ease the financial pressure many such families face.

"We are working out a mechanism to provide special tax incentives and support for parents who have children living with disabilities," he said. "We know that in many cases, one parent often has to remain at home to provide full-time care."

To further support

families, the government will invest in secure childcare and elderly care facilities, ensuring safe, reliable spaces for both seniors and young professionals. Additional measures will be announced to help operators upgrade these services, creating new opportunities for those trained through the WIIN Programme.

A subsidised childcare system will also be introduced, reducing costs for parents so they no longer bear the full financial burden of childcare services.

NATIONWIDE ELECTRICITY UPGRADE BEGINS WITH US\$235M GPL CONTRACTS



GPL signs over US\$235M in contracts for major electric power system expansion and modernisation

Guyana has taken a major step toward strengthening its national electricity system with the signing of two contracts totalling more than US\$235 million (over GYD 50.5 billion) by the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL). The investments mark the beginning of a sweeping upgrade of both transmission and distribution networks, aimed at improving reliability, reducing outages, and meeting the country's rapidly increasing energy needs.

The first and larger agreement, valued at US\$199 million

(GYD 43 billion), was signed with Kalpataru Projects International Limited (KPIL) on November 17, 2025. Through this contract, GPL will construct 42 kilometres of new 69 kV transmission lines and four new 69/13.8 kV substations at Kuru Kururu, Williamsburg, Hydrone, and Princes Street in Georgetown. The project also includes the installation of 18 new primary distribution feeders and major upgrades to the New Georgetown and Garden of Eden substations. These

improvements will introduce modern electrical systems, advanced automation technologies, and SCADA/EMS integration, allowing for real-time monitoring and remote operations through the soon-to-be-completed Guyana National Control Centre.

A second contract worth US\$35.93 million (GYD 7.5 billion) was signed on November 19, 2025 with China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation (CMC). This initiative focuses on expanding the distribution

network through the construction of more than 193 kilometres of new feeders equipped with smart technology. It also includes the supply of advanced distribution equipment and the electrification of previously unserved communities in Demerara and Berbice.

Together, the projects represent one of the largest electricity infrastructure investments in Guyana's history. They are expected to significantly improve service quality along the East Bank

Essequibo, West Coast and West Bank Demerara, East Coast and East Bank Demerara, and East Berbice.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, said the upgrades will support the country's rapid housing, commercial, and industrial expansion. GPL's Leader of Executive Management, Mr. Kesh Nandlal, added that the company remains committed to building a modern, resilient and customer-focused electricity system that matches the nation's development goals.

NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES FOCUS ON ACCESS, EFFICIENCY, AND ETHICS



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, addressing the conference

New anti-corruption initiatives focus on access, efficiency, and ethics

The Government of Guyana is stepping up its fight against corruption by modernising public services, improving transparency, and fostering stronger

collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Speaking at the launch of the Anti-Corruption Roundtable at Pegasus Suites, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, outlined the country's progress in governance since 1992, and highlighted the critical role of digitisation in promoting accountability.

"Access to services for the public, equitable, simple, and timely, is a critical part of preventing corruption in government circles,"

Minister Teixeira said. She pointed to new initiatives such as the digitisation of applications for the Public Service Commission and the Single Window Platform for housing and land, which are designed to reduce delays and make government services more efficient.

Minister Teixeira also acknowledged the essential role of the private sector in governance reform. **"Integrity and ethical practices within businesses are just as crucial to national progress,"** she stressed, applauding organisations like

the Private Sector Commission for their active involvement in promoting transparency.

The minister highlighted concrete achievements, including full recovery of overpayments for three consecutive years, 2022, 2023, and 2024, as recorded in the Auditor General's report, which she described as setting a new benchmark for accountability.

Recognising the ongoing challenges at the local government level, Minister Teixeira assured that training and support will continue to help public officers transition from paper-based systems to



Stakeholders at the conference

digital processes. She also announced that governance education will soon be incorporated into training for all new public servants, aiming to instill a culture of integrity from the start.

Minister Teixeira concluded by emphasising that

Guyana's battle against corruption relies on modern systems, strong institutions, and united action across society, ensuring that every citizen and organisation can contribute to a more transparent and accountable nation.

ENFORCEMENT TEAMS TAKE ACTION AGAINST UNLAWFUL MINERS IN IRENG

Illegal mining raids are intensifying in the Ireng area, where joint-agency teams are moving through dense hinterland terrain to confront those who are involved in unlawful mining operations that have been affecting both the environment and nearby communities.

For weeks, residents in the surrounding villages have raised concerns about the impact of illegal pits, ranging from polluted

waterways to constant noise and the growing presence of unfamiliar workers. Those concerns are now being met with firm action by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), working alongside other state agencies. The GGMC in a recent press release note that during the latest operation, officers identified several illegal camps, detaining equipment and minerals found on-site in accordance

with the law. A number of non-nationals working without proper documentation were also arrested, with recommendations for charges expected to follow.

The GGMC emphasised the raids are not only about enforcing regulations, but also about protecting the livelihoods of law-abiding miners and safeguarding the environment for families who depend on the land

and rivers.

At the same time, the GGMC has raised concerns over attempts by some political figures to exploit the situation. The Commission stressed that these operations are guided strictly by law and national interest, not political agendas.

The Government of Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to tackling illegal mining wherever it occurs, noting that the harm caused by such practices is both

immediate and long-term. Agencies remain fully engaged as the crackdown continues, with a clear mandate to

uphold the law, protect the sector, and ensure accountability across all mining operations.



Illegal mining raids are intensifying in the Ireng area

SAFE SPACES FOR MEN INCREASE NATIONWIDE WITH LAUNCH OF 'BRAVE' PROGRAMME"



Men attending the Men's Wellness Symposium

Safe spaces dedicated to supporting men's health and personal development are expanding across Guyana with the launch of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's new 'Brave' programme. The initiative is part of a wider national movement aimed at improving men's wellbeing, strengthening families,

and fostering more resilient communities.

The expansion comes as government agencies, private organisations, and community groups intensify efforts to address the physical, emotional, and social challenges faced by men. One such effort was showcased at the recent Men's Wellness Symposium, hosted by the Rotary Club of

Stabroek in partnership with Woodlands Ltd., Men on Mission, and Bro Code. Held at the Herdmanston Lodge, the symposium carried the theme **"Stronger Men, Stronger Families, Stronger Guyana"** and featured discussions on mental health, family life, masculinity, and the pressures affecting men today.

Addressing participants, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, delivered International Men's Day greetings and urged men to embrace vulnerability as a sign of wisdom rather than weakness. She highlighted troubling global trends showing that men account for three-quarters of suicide deaths worldwide, a

pattern reflected in Guyana.

Minister Persaud also pointed to shifting domestic violence statistics, noting a 33 percent decline last year followed by a slight increase this year, prompting a deeper examination of underlying triggers.

To confront these challenges, the ministry will introduce 'Bridging the Gap', a new policy engaging men and boys in preventing gender-based violence through healing, accountability, and open dialogue. Central to this framework is the 'Brave' programme; safe, men-only hubs offering support on fatherhood, masculinity, employment, confidence, mental health, and wellness.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, addressing the Men's Wellness Symposium

The first Brave centre, launched in partnership with the Region Three Chamber of Commerce, is already operational, with the ministry seeking additional partners to expand the model nationwide. Men's groups are now active in eight of the 10 administrative regions,

each with over 30 members.

The symposium also featured health booths providing screenings and wellness guidance, reinforcing the country's growing commitment to supporting men's wellbeing.

47 BERBICE COMMUNITIES ENGAGED AS PRESIDENT ALI INTENSIFIES REGIONAL OUTREACH



Scene from the outreach

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali led a sweeping two-day government outreach across 47 communities in the East Berbice-Corentyne region, deepening the administration's direct



Scene from the outreach



Scene from the outreach

interaction with citizens while accelerating major development plans and tightening accountability within public service delivery.

The outreach opened with a full Cabinet meeting held in the region, an approach the President said will now become a regular feature of his government's efforts

ongoing and upcoming transformation projects. The scale of the outreach made it one of the most extensive government mobilisations in Region Six since the PPP/C returned to office.

Addressing hundreds of residents at multiple engagements, President Ali outlined the vast infrastructure pipeline already underway



Scene from the outreach

in the region. This includes new hospitals, expanded housing schemes, commercial developments, hotels, and additional community facilities. He reaffirmed that these projects together form a people-centred development agenda that will transform Region Six and contribute significantly to the national economy.

"We believe strongly that you, the people, are the foundation of our government," President Ali told residents. **"You are the centre of our government, and you are the top of our government. Our job, at every level, is to reach you, hear you, and serve you with dignity and pride."**

The Head of State announced that every month the Cabinet will travel to different administrative regions for at least two days of direct outreach. This new approach, he said, ensures that public service delivery is not measured merely on paper but against real outcomes and real accountability across communities.

Turning to social services, President Ali said his government will soon roll out new measures, with an emphasis on creating economic opportunities for thousands of

access easier.

Among the major upcoming initiatives is the establishment of *One Guyana Service Delivery Centres*, which will provide immigration, pension, health, and other government services under one roof. President Ali added that immediate job opportunities exist for qualified engineers, nurses, pharmacists, and heavy-duty operators, as the region's development accelerates.

While addressing infrastructure, the President delivered a firm message on accountability, particularly regarding delays in bridge construction along the main New Amsterdam Road. He expressed disappointment that contractors responsible for the slow pace of work had not been penalised.

"I am astonished that liquidated damages have not yet been imposed," he said. **"From all indications, some contractors seem disinterested in completing the bridges. This is unacceptable."**

He instructed the Finance Secretary and the head of procurement to bar the delinquent contractors from receiving new projects until the overdue works are completed. The Finance Secretary was further directed to



Scene from the outreach

Guyanese. He urged residents to embrace financial inclusion by opening bank accounts, noting that Guyana is advancing toward digital payments. He assured families that commercial banks will soon bring services directly to markets and communities to make

assess whether project engineers had been lax in supervising the works and to take corrective action where necessary.

The outreach also highlighted the vast development cluster emerging at Palmyra, where several large-scale projects are planned: a municipal



Scene from the outreach



Scene from the outreach



Scene from the outreach

airport, modern housing developments, a cultural market, a gas pipeline, a deep-water harbour, and the Palmyra Multi-Purpose Stadium. Construction of the stadium is progressing steadily, and residents have welcomed the project as a major boost for youth development and economic growth.

During a cricket event at the Albion Sports Complex, the President emphasised the importance of community bonding, culture, and sport, noting that true development is grounded in unity and the strengthening of social ties.

The humanitarian arm of the outreach saw First Lady Arya Ali joining the Men on Mission (MOM) team to hand over five newly built homes to families in Ankerville,

Fort Ordinance, Williamsburg, East Canje, and No. 19 Village. The First Lady highlighted the importance of safe, affordable homes and praised the MOM initiative for delivering hundreds of homes nationwide since its launch in 2022.

The extensive two-day exercise brought together ministers, advisors, technical officers, and MPs as part of the PPP/C's broader commitment to improve service delivery and ensure every region equally benefits from national progress. It follows a similar Cabinet-style outreach conducted along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway last month, reinforcing the government's pledge to take governance directly to the people.

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GUYANA’S TALENT TAKES CE

Guyana’s premier trade and investment exposition, GuyExpo 2025, opened with colour, culture, and powerful optimism as thousands gathered at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia for what has been described as the largest staging in the event’s 30-year history.

A Celebration of Culture, Colour, and Community

Held from November 13 to 16 under the theme “Transformation through Entrepreneurship and Innovation”, this year’s exposition didn’t just showcase products, it showcased people. From vibrant cultural dances to electrifying soca performances, the opening night set the tone for a celebration rooted in Guyanese identity and the creativity of its people.

For many attendees, the night felt like a reunion of talent, industry, and ambition. Families strolled between vibrant displays, cultural groups mingled with business owners, and young entrepreneurs proudly shared the stories behind their brands.

Honouring the Pioneers of GuyExpo

But the most emotional moment of the evening came when 13 long-standing exhibitors, companies that have supported GuyExpo since its very first edition, were honoured for three decades of loyalty, innovation, and resilience. Representatives from brands such as Banks DIH, Ansa McAL, Sterling Products, Fibre Tech, New GPC, and others took the stage to receive awards presented by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues.

For many business owners, the recognition was deeply personal. It honoured not only years of partnership with the expo, but years of growth alongside a changing nation. “By honouring its longest-serving partners, GuyExpo 2025 opened on a note of pride and continuity,” President Ali said. “It’s a reminder of how far we’ve come, and how much further we will go together.”

A Marketplace of Ideas, Products, and People

With over 300 booths set up for the four-day event, visitors explored everything from agro-processed foods and craft jewellery to software solutions and industrial products, all proudly made or developed in Guyana.



President Ali used the platform to outline sweeping new policies that will power the next phase of Guyana’s economic transformation. Businesses, he said, can expect “the most generous, progressive, dynamic set of policies” in Budget 2026, with major incentives targeting agro-processing, manufacturing, tourism, and industrialisation.

New Opportunities Ahead for Businesses

He shared a clear vision of an economy where small businesses thrive alongside mega-investments. Young entrepreneurs will gain access to new financing windows, farmers will benefit from upgraded technology and support systems, and communities across Guyana will feel the impact of increased investment.

The Future of Food Production in Guyana

The president also detailed the government’s strategy to make Guyana the largest agro-processing hub in Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by mega food parks, progressive tax breaks, and new manufacturing hubs linked to the gas-to-energy project.

New Tourism Zones to Unlock Local Opportunities

For tourism, he announced major upgrades to several airstrips, the development of municipal airports in Lethem and Rose Hall, and new tourism investment zones across the country, opening opportunities for cooks, tour guides, craft makers, and communities eager to benefit from Guyana’s blossoming global interest.

GuyExpo Through the Eyes of Its People

As visitors explored the displays, sampling local sauces, viewing new tech devices, or chatting with manufacturers, the sense of pride was evident. GuyExpo 2025 isn’t just a commercial exhibition; it is a celebration of Guyanese dreams, determination, and the people behind every product.

“The next five years will require all of us,” President Ali told the crowd. “From the farmer in the field to the coder in the tech hub, each of us has a role in building the Guyana we know is possible.”

And for the thousands who walked through the gates for those four days, that future felt closer than ever.



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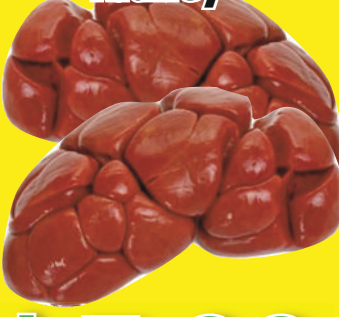
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REGION SIX SET FOR BIGGEST DEVELOPMENT PUSH IN DECADES



President Dr Irfaan Ali, during a hybrid-style press conference on the lawns of the Albion Estate in Berbice

Region Six is poised for its most extensive wave of development in decades, as President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Friday announced a sweeping package of new government interventions designed to overhaul public services, expand housing, modernise community infrastructure, strengthen public security, and reform the agricultural and sugar sectors.

The initiatives were unveiled during a two-day Cabinet outreach, where ministers engaged directly with residents across the region. President Ali said the measures represent a decisive shift toward a “citizen-first, solutions-driven model of governance,” ensuring faster access to services and stronger oversight.

A New Era of

Public Service Access

Central to the transformation is the construction of three integrated public service hubs, modern one-stop centres that will allow residents to access immigration and passport services, GRA transactions, birth and marriage certificates, change-of-name processing, electronic national ID applications and all other government services in one location.

Each hub will feature a multi-agency help desk designed to prevent complaints from being lost or delayed.

“No issue must fall through the cracks again,” President Ali said, noting that the system aims to eliminate the bureaucratic bottlenecks that residents have faced for decades.

Resolving Land Issues and Expanding

Housing

Land remains one of the most challenging issues in Region Six, and the government is moving aggressively to resolve longstanding backlogs. Although only 289 active applications exist, the acreage requested far exceeds what is presently available.

To fast-track processing, a specialised Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission team will be deployed to clear all pending applications.



The Government, led by President Dr. Irfaan Ali successfully wrapped up a two-day cabinet outreach in Berbice

In a landmark decision, 70 families of Number 46 Village, many of whom have lived on the land for more than a century, will receive titles by June 2026.

Importantly, the State will pay all surveying, legal and filing costs, ensuring no family is burdened by the process.

Government will also establish an occupational survey team to regularise lands attached to defunct co-op societies, where unresolved legal issues have stalled development for years. A Cabinet subcommittee will fast-track land conflict resolutions.

Housing demand is at historic levels, with 8,500 active applications and more than 3,000

new ones in 2025 alone. To meet needs between now and 2030, more than \$50B in investment is required. Major informal settlements, including Lake Belvedere

and Hampshire, will be regularised, creating nearly 2,000 house lots, while two new 230-acre developments at Palmyra and No. 76 Village will feature designated areas for heavy machinery parking.

Security, Markets and Sanitation Set for Major Upgrades

The region will benefit from significant public security enhancements, including expansion of the Smart Country CCTV programme, revival of 25 community policing groups and the creation of 10 more, 50 rapid-response police units, four new fire stations, and the installation of hydrants across all urban areas.

Seven major markets will be rehabilitated with proper roofing, drainage, utilities, sanitation, waste systems and improved management committees. New landfill sites, additional compactors and upgraded access roads are also planned to improve community sanitation.

Agriculture and Sugar Industry to Enter Performance-Driven Phase

President Ali also

declared an end to what he termed the “Panday mismanagement syndrome” in the sugar industry, signalling a new era of modernisation and accountability. Albion and Rose Hall are set to ramp up production, while a technical team is examining the potential reopening of the Skeldon Estate to produce 37,000 tonnes of sugar by 2030.

Parallel agricultural investments include bringing 15,000 acres of new rice into cultivation, opening 75,000 acres for diversified farming, expanding seed processing, and deploying 24/7 tech-enabled extension services supported by a new digital Farm App.

A Region on the Brink of Transformation

President Ali said the scale and depth of the interventions mark Region Six’s transition into a modern, resilient and opportunity-rich corridor.

“These measures are designed to deliver the quality of life our people deserve, efficiently, equitably and with urgency,” he said.

3MWP HAMPSHIRE SOLAR FARM COMMISSIONED



The commissioning of the Hampshire 3MWp solar farm

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips on Friday commissioned the 3MWp Solar Farm at Hampshire Village, Region Six, one of the flagship installations under the Guyana Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic (GUY SOL) Programme.

The project represents a major step in Guyana’s nationwide shift toward clean, reliable, and diversified energy. With 4,928

solar modules, eight PV inverters, advanced mounting structures, and a new 13.8kV spur linking the site to the Canefield F3 distribution feeder, the facility is engineered for strength and longevity. It is built to withstand winds of up to 244 km/h and is designed for seamless integration into the Demerara-Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS).

Once fully

operational, the solar farm will generate approximately 4,800 MWh of electricity annually, saving an estimated GY\$210 million in fossil fuel costs and cutting nearly 3,200 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year.

The GUY SOL Programme is funded through US\$83.8 million from Guyana’s Guyana-Norway partnership and executed by the Guyana Power and

Light (GPL) with support from the Inter-American Development Bank. Of the total investment, US\$19.3 million is dedicated to Regions Five and Six, providing 10MWp of solar capacity in Berbice alone. Nationwide, the programme will deliver eight solar farms totalling 33MWp of renewable generation and 34MWh of battery storage, strengthening grid reliability and



The commissioning of the Hampshire 3MWp solar farm



The commissioning of the Hampshire 3MWp solar farm

reducing dependence on imported fuel.

In addition to infrastructure, GUY SOL is building the country’s clean-energy workforce. Thirty-one women, including 14 from Berbice, have been trained and employed through the Women in Solar initiative, while a new apprenticeship programme is bringing more young people and persons living with

disabilities into the energy sector.

Friday’s commissioning ceremony brought together government officials, IDB representatives, project partners, and community members, underscoring the national importance of Guyana’s transition to a modern, sustainable, and resilient energy future.

AC by Marriott prepares for December opening, 150 to be employed

THE last of three Marriott hotels is preparing for its grand opening in December, at Ogle, East Coast Demerara. The hotel will feature 152 rooms, adding to the local room stock, and will employ approximately 150 Guyanese team members.

Similar to the Courtyard by Marriott near the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri, East Bank Demerara, the new AC by Marriott is conveniently located less than a minute from the Eugene F Correia International Airport. The International hotel aims to create a unique ambience and vibe, coming complete with a pool area, entertainment area, comfortable, modern rooms and many other amenities.

Speaking ahead of the opening, John Aboud the Chairman of TRINUYANA Investments Inc., revealed that the AC Marriott is one of the more modern Marriott brands in the world today.

Delving further, Aboud shared that the AC in AC by Marriott stands for Antonio Catalan, the developer of several hotels in Europe and founder of the hotel brand.

“So, the AC Marriott brand was originally a European brand. Several hotels in Europe are developed by this fellow, Antonio Catalan. And Marriott liked what they saw. It was a modern hotel. So, they bought out his chain of hotels in Europe and decided to have a new flag and call it the AC Marriott. So that’s where the name came from,” he explained.

Continuing, Aboud underscored that this is not a classical hotel, and emphasised that it is “more modern with a European touch.”

Aboud indicated that the AC is geared towards business and tourism, with heavy emphasis on business.

“Guyana, being the country it is over the last few years, and moving forward, we felt that that was the

best brand to utilise for our hotel; and that’s why we chose the AC Marriott,” Aboud stated.

He expressed that they are confident that the tourism element of the hotel will “kick-off” soon, noting that when persons who are here on business have concluded their business, they will want to experience all forms of relaxation.

Aboud said that the AC Marriott is an action place, where businesspeople meet for business and to socialise. The hotel isn’t all that will be showcased to the public. A strip plaza, within the same compound, will provide guests and visitors with more variety in terms of food and entertainment.



The new Marriott Hotel near the Ogle Airport in ECD

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SME DEVELOPMENT BANK TO OPEN NEW DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



Nearly 4,000 businesses received grants

For thousands of small business owners across Guyana, access to financing has long stood between a good idea and a thriving enterprise. That reality is set to change in a historic way, as President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that the government's transformative SME Development Bank, capitalised at a minimum of US\$200 million, will become operational before the end of the first quarter of 2026.

Speaking at the grand opening of GuyExpo 2025 at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia, President Ali said preparations are already well underway. **“We have started putting the mechanism in place,”** he told the large gathering, noting that the administrative, legal, and regulatory framework is being completed.

For the country's small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, the bank represents something many have been waiting

on for years: a real chance to grow without being crushed by interest rates or impossible collateral requirements. One of the bank's most groundbreaking features will be its zero-collateral, zero-interest loan system for loans up to a value that will be announced in Budget 2026.

According to President Ali, this single measure is aimed at removing **“the largest barrier faced by thousands of small businesses,”** especially those run by young people, women, and rural entrepreneurs who often lack the collateral demanded by commercial banks.

But the government is not stopping there. The president also revealed that a new incentive regime will be introduced to push commercial banks to

offer fairer financing to SMEs. Banks will receive benefits similar to those in the housing sector, but only if they reduce their interest rates to below 4 percent and ease collateral requirements, making financing more accessible than ever.

The SME Development Bank will prioritise agriculture and

economy and creating sustainable wealth beyond oil and gas. **“This will lead to thousands of new business opportunities,”** the president affirmed.

The announcement comes at a time when Guyana has already seen a surge in entrepreneurship. Minister of Tourism,

Bureau between 2020 and 2025, including over 2,700 in 2025 alone. Nearly 4,000 businesses received grants, amounting to \$1 billion in support, helping many transition from small operations to competitive, thriving enterprises.

Between 2020 and 2023, over 59,000 businesses and nearly 5,000 companies were incorporated, a clear sign that Guyanese are seizing new opportunities.

With the SME Development Bank on the horizon, those opportunities are about to grow even bigger, ushering in a new era where ambition, talent, and hard work, not collateral, determine success.



SME Development Bank on the horizon

agro-processing, tourism and hospitality, services, creative industries, and innovation-driven ventures, sectors critical to diversifying the

Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, noted that more than 13,000 small businesses received training from the Small Business

GEORGETOWN GETS A TASTE OF RUPUNUNI TRADITIONS

Georgetown residents got an early glimpse of the vibrant life and culture of Guyana's hinterland as the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce launched the Rupununi Rancher's Rodeo 2026 at the Botanical Gardens.

The annual event, held in Region Nine, celebrates Guyana's rich ranching heritage and the resilience of its indigenous communities. At the launch, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues highlighted that the rodeo offers city residents a

unique opportunity to experience traditions usually reserved for the Rupununi. **“This gives our city residents a little taste of what's to come in Lethem,”** she said. **“It is an opportunity to engage, to experience, and to hopefully inspire more Guyanese to make the journey to Region Nine.”**

As part of the launch, the rodeo participated in GuyExpo for the first time, allowing visitors to interact with committee members and gain insight into the event's cultural and sporting

highlights. Scheduled for April 3-4, 2026, under the theme “Wild & Bold, Rupununi

Stories Unfold” the rodeo promises thrilling horsemanship, cattle handling, and

storytelling that capture the essence of hinterland life. Minister Rodrigues

also noted the importance of improved infrastructure, including the Linden-Lethem road, which will make travel easier and more affordable, opening economic opportunities for local communities and encouraging greater attendance.

The Rupununi Rancher's Rodeo continues to be a celebration of Guyanese culture, bringing heritage, sport, and community together while giving all Guyanese a chance to connect with the heart of the hinterland.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, alongside the Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), Kamrul Baksh and models at the launching event

GUYANA MOVES FORWARD IN ORGAN TRANSPLANT AND SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS



Minister Anthony holding talks with the team from Brazil

Guyana is making strides in health and research through strategic international partnerships. Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, met with

experts from Brazil's Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) to advance the country's organ transplantation system.

The Brazilian team assessed local facilities, including the Nephrology and Transplantation Departments and the Central Medical Laboratory at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, identifying key areas for training, quality assurance, and operational improvements. A detailed Action Plan will guide immediate implementation to strengthen the transplant continuum.

Dr Anthony also held talks with the European Union under the Horizon Europe Programme, exploring research partnerships, knowledge exchange, and innovation-focused collaboration. Plans include a two-day workshop to promote capacity building and post-academic collaboration, integrating Guyanese researchers into global networks.

Key participants included Ambassador

Maria Cristina de Castro Martins, Dr Shanti Singh-Anthony, and EU officials Charlotte De

Grauwe, Joan Nadal Sastre, and Viktoria Bodnarova.



Minister Anthony with the EU team

GUYANA ON TRACK FOR RECORD-BREAKING 820,000 TONNES OF RICE IN 2025



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, engaging rice farmers in Region Six

For rice farmers across Guyana, this year’s harvest carries more than grain, it carries pride, progress, and the promise of a brighter future. For the first time in history, the country is on course to produce an astounding 820,000 metric tonnes of rice, marking a major milestone in the nation’s journey toward agricultural excellence.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, shared the encouraging news during an engagement with residents and farmers in Region Six, a region that has long been the heartbeat of Guyana’s rice industry.

“This is a very

important industry; we not only have to maintain it, but we have to expand it,” he told the gathering. “Our goal is to produce one million tonnes of rice in the coming years and make Guyana one of the main food-producing countries in the region.”

The figures speak for themselves. Last year’s production reached 725,282 metric tonnes, the highest in Guyana’s history. The first crop of 2025 has already delivered 413,239 tonnes, putting the country well on its way to the new record.

Behind these

achievements are deliberate government investments; improved seed varieties, better irrigation systems,



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, engaging rice farmers in Region Six

and direct support for farmers. The Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) now provides a full bag of fertiliser per acre; double the previous allocation,

and has introduced a faster, more transparent payment system offering \$300 per bag directly to farmers.

Efforts to combat paddy bugs have also intensified, with field spraying and technical support helping to protect crops. Looking ahead, plans are in

motion to create an interest-free bank for farmers and introduce digital tools that provide real-time weather, market, and technical information in the fields.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the aim is simple: to empower farmers with knowledge and tools that make their work easier and more rewarding.

Through these initiatives, Guyana is not only producing record yields, it is cultivating resilience, innovation, and confidence in every field across the nation.

WINDSOR FOREST AND ZEEBURG FISHERFOLK TO BE RELOCATED TO SAFER LANDING SITE



Minister Mustapha engaging fisherfolk in Region Three

Fisherfolk operating along the roadways at Windsor Forest and Zeeburg in Region Three will soon see safer and more organised working conditions as the government moves to relocate them to a centralised landing area.

For years, many of these men and women have sold their catch from improvised roadside setups, working long hours in unpredictable weather, often inches away from passing vehicles. Their situation has raised concerns, not only about safety, but also about the lack of proper facilities to support their livelihoods.

During a community engagement with

fisherfolk, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha announced that the government will establish a properly designated landing site designed to meet their needs while reducing traffic hazards. The move forms part of ongoing nationwide consultations aimed at improving the work environment for fishing communities.

Minister Mustapha assured the gathering that the relocation will not displace anyone. Instead, the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Fisheries Department, will work directly with fisherfolk to design and develop the new site so they can continue earning a stable income in a safer, more

comfortable space.

“We want your livelihoods to continue, but we also have to protect commuters and ensure the area remains safe,” he told them. “This new site will be organised, functional, and better for everyone.”

He emphasised that over 15,000 Guyanese depend directly on the fishing industry, which continues to be a vital part of rural economies and coastal communities. The government is simultaneously expanding aquaculture to provide new opportunities and reduce overreliance on traditional fishing.

Minister Mustapha



Minister Mustapha engaging fisherfolk in Region Three

highlighted the administration’s support since 2020, including the removal of duties on key fishing inputs and the extension of duty-free concessions for larger engines, measures aimed at lowering operating costs.

He also referenced the recently announced \$150,000 cash grant for fisherfolk and urged

community members to help verify beneficiaries to ensure transparency.

Minister Mustapha reinforced that the government remains committed to supporting every group within the agriculture sector, noting that national development must uplift all producers, from farmers to fisherfolk.

AGRI-TOURISM ROADMAP UNVEILED—RURAL COMMUNITIES POISED FOR FRESH OPPORTUNITIES



The launch of the agri-tourism policy

Farmers, families, security and cultural preservation. Unveiled at Gobin’s Farm and Kitchen, the agri-tourism roadmap aims to turn farms, agro-processors, and rural landscapes into immersive tourism experiences. The policy was developed following a 2021 agreement

between the Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture, with technical guidance from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, described the policy as a chance for rural communities to shine. She said agri-tourism opens the door for visitors to enjoy hands-on activities, planting cassava, harvesting fruits, cooking traditional foods, or experiencing farm-to-table dining.

“It allows our creatives,

farmers, and tourism operators to experiment, innovate, and showcase the authenticity of rural Guyana,” she said. “Visitors will now be able to step into our farms, learn our traditions, and connect with the people who produce our food.”

For farmers, the roadmap means new revenue streams and recognition, especially for those who have long relied on unpredictable markets. Many stand to benefit from hosting

guests, sharing traditional practices, and offering cultural experiences rooted in the land.

Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Vickash Ramkissoon, said the policy reflects the government’s commitment to ensuring the country’s rapid economic expansion uplifts every community. He noted that the framework is designed to empower youth and women, encourage climate-smart practices, and generate jobs across the hinterland and rural coast.

IICA Country Representative Wilmot Garnett said the roadmap is the product of nationwide consultations, ensuring that the voices of farmers, tourism operators, and regional leaders shaped its direction.

The policy will now undergo final review before being taken to Parliament. A National Agri-Tourism Council will guide implementation, ensuring that Guyana’s rural communities remain central to the country’s growing tourism future.

DERELICT VEHICLES, ENCROACHMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED - MINISTER EDGHILL



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, leading an inspection exercise

Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, has issued a strong warning that derelict vehicles, business encroachments, and damage to government property will be firmly addressed as the ministry moves to restore order and safety on roadways across Guyana.

Speaking during a recent live broadcast, Minister Edghill expressed frustration over the persistent

vehicles, debris, and commercial encumbrances on road shoulders, despite repeated national clean-up exercises. He said the public has grown increasingly weary of the cycle of clearing and re-encumbrance.

“Guyanese are becoming fatigued and fed up,” he said. “Once you finish cleaning, the very same thing recurs.”

He announced that

operation to remove derelict vehicles, particularly those left to rot on road shoulders, stripped of wheels and doors, or overrun by bush. These vehicles, he stressed, will be removed and crushed at the government’s derelict site on the Linden–Soesdyke Highway. Several contractors have already been engaged to support this exercise.

Minister Edghill underscored that abandoned vehicles and encumbrances pose serious safety risks. **“When the shoulders are encumbered, in the case of an emergency, you don’t have anywhere to pass,”** he said.

The minister also addressed a long-standing issue involving

hardware stores, that extend their operations onto road shoulders and pedestrian walkways. He revealed that these practices are not only obstructing traffic, but endangering pedestrians.

“When vehicles stop to access these businesses, traffic builds up behind them,” he explained. **“Pedestrians are forced to walk in the path of moving vehicles because their footpaths are blocked. It will not be allowed.”**

In a continuation of his tough stance, Minister Edghill also declared that individuals responsible for damaging government infrastructure, such as lamp posts, traffic

now be held financially accountable. He said the ministry, working alongside the Guyana Police Force’s Traffic and Maintenance Division, will ensure negligent drivers pay for repairs.

“You damage government property; you will be made to pay for it,” he warned. **“Our legal team will pursue you.”**

Minister Edghill further cautioned operators of heavy-duty machinery against

on newly paved roads without proper pads, an increasingly common practice that damages asphalt surfaces.

“The time has come where we have to enforce this,” he said.

According to the minister, these measures form part of the government’s wider commitment to road safety, infrastructure preservation, and maintaining order on Guyana’s roadways.



Derelict vehicles

BUXTON VENDORS TO GET NEW MARKET TARMAc AS ROAD UPGRADES ADVANCE



Buxton vendors to get new market tarmac as road upgrades advance

Vendors who line the Railway Embankment in Buxton, East Coast Demerara, are set to benefit from a major upgrade as the government moves to complete ongoing roadworks in the area.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, announced that the bustling vending strip will soon be transformed

into a modern market tarmac, offering vendors a safer, cleaner, and more comfortable space to continue their 24-hour operations.

During a recent visit to the community, Minister Edghill, accompanied by his technical team, inspected the area earmarked for the new market. He reassured vendors

that while the upgrade takes place, they will be allowed to continue selling.

“You’re going to continue to vend until the tarmac is completed, and then we’ll transition,” he told them. **“I’ll come back within three weeks, which will take us to the end of November, and you will have your facility for Christmas.”**

The new market tarmac, which falls under the authority of the Buxton–Foulis Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC), will feature upgraded stalls, modern

washroom facilities, and proper lighting, creating a more organised and attractive environment for both vendors and shoppers.

Forty-two vendors have already been identified for relocation, and the minister has urged the NDC to select representatives from among them to ensure their concerns and ideas are heard throughout the process.

Minister Edghill also engaged with nearby residents whose properties fall within the alignment of the ongoing road-widening project. He explained that several structures

must be removed in the coming week to allow the critical works to move forward.

The transformation of the Buxton market area forms part of

the government’s

small entrepreneurs can thrive in cleaner, safer, and better-organised environments. For the vendors of Buxton, this project promises not just continuity, but a brighter,

more dignified future for their businesses and community.



Buxton vendors to get new market tarmac as road upgrades advance

NEW PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY’S HOTLINES GIVE CITIZENS AND CONTRACTORS A DIRECT VOICE



Over 200 actionable reports logged since the launch of the new hotlines

Residents and contractors across Guyana now have a faster, easier way to report concerns and get

action on infrastructure projects, thanks to two new dedicated hotlines launched by the Ministry of Public Works.

One line is open for citizens to report issues affecting their communities, while the other allows contractors to address project-related questions and payment concerns. Since their launch on November 9, the citizen hotline has already received over 200 actionable complaints, and the contractor line

has logged 70 reports.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, emphasised the human side of the initiative during a recent live broadcast.

“This hotline is for citizens to report things that are offensive or unsafe in their communities, things that put the community at risk,” he said.

The reports span a wide range of issues, including road and

bridge project concerns, encroachment on government reserves, and abandoned or derelict vehicles littering public spaces.

Minister Edghill reassured the public that no message will go unanswered.

“If you don’t get action at a specific time, message back and the minister will take responsibility to ensure action is taken,” he pledged, highlighting the personal commitment to see

communities’ concerns addressed.

For contractors, the hotline provides a direct line to resolve delays, clarify project requirements, and address payment questions, fostering smoother project delivery and stronger collaboration.

The Ministry encourages all residents and contractors to continue submitting reports via WhatsApp: 624-2964 for citizens, 624-2965 for

contractors.

This initiative not only ensures timely responses and improved safety during ongoing infrastructure projects but also empowers citizens and contractors alike. By giving them a voice, the ministry is helping communities stay safe, roads and bridges stay functional, and Guyana’s development continue without unnecessary delays.

GEORGETOWN RESIDENTS ENGAGE IN PLANS TO REVAMP CITY'S DRAINAGE

The capital city's residents are getting a firsthand look at the government's ambitious plan to rescue the city from persistent flooding as public consultations for the Georgetown Drainage Improvement Project has kicked off.

The initiative, led by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, seeks to modernise the city's ageing drainage network, which has long struggled to cope with heavier rainfall, rising sea levels, and outdated infrastructure. Minister of Housing Collin Croal noted that the project uses a strategic, multi-agency approach to tackle the most flood-prone areas.

"The objective is to review all existing studies and develop a comprehensive drainage plan," Minister Croal said, highlighting the coordinated effort



Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, speaking at the consultation meeting with residents of constituency one

between the Ministries of Housing and Local Government and Regional Development, Central Housing and Planning Authority, Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), and the Georgetown Mayor & City Council.

Residents from Constituency One, which covers Kingston, Eve Leary, Alberrtown, Queenstown, and Cummingsburg,

attended the first interactive session. They offered suggestions and raised concerns to ensure the project is tailored to the needs of their communities. Demetri Ali, a local resident, called for a separate access route for heavy-duty trucks to prevent damage to roads and pipelines, while Emmanuel Barker urged stricter oversight to stop construction debris from clogging drains.

NDIA Chairman Lionel Wordsworth

presented a detailed digital overview of Georgetown's drainage systems, noting the city's 15-square-mile footprint and its network of primary, secondary, and tertiary drains. **"The system was built 10 decades ago,"** Wordsworth said, **"and while it once served the city well, today it struggles due to increased surface runoff, limited sluice operation windows, and heavier rainfall compared to 100 years ago."**

The consultations also explored potential new pumping infrastructure and elevated parking solutions designed to complement upgraded drainage system. Wordsworth emphasised that extensive planning and data analysis are essential to ensure the city's future drainage network can withstand



Chairman of the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority, Lionel Wordsworth, explaining the detailed plan for the Georgetown Drainage Improvement Project.

modern demands.

Minister Croal stressed that drainage improvements are central to Georgetown's broader transformation agenda, which includes beautification, improved roadways, enhanced parapet, and more structured parking. **"We can have the best infrastructure, but if we don't deal with drainage, a comfortable, flood-free life remains out of reach,"** he said.

Consultations have continued across all constituencies, providing residents with a platform to share their perspectives. The government is using these insights to finalise a comprehensive drainage rehabilitation report. The initiative reflects a firm commitment to building a resilient, vibrant, and flood-free Georgetown—one shaped by the voices and experiences of its people.

LE REPENTIR CEMETERY MAKEOVER UNDERWAY



A section of the cemetery that has been cleared

The pain of saying goodbye at Le Repentir Cemetery has often been made harder by overgrown vegetation and poor upkeep. A major \$350 million government rehabilitation project is now transforming

the cemetery into a dignified, welcoming space for families laying their loved ones to rest.

Ninety-eight small contractors have been engaged to clear overgrown areas, with the project expected to be completed within

four to six weeks. The work builds on earlier efforts, including the rehabilitation of main access roads, internal pathways, and ongoing drainage improvements, all aimed at ensuring the cemetery remains safe and orderly.

This initiative is part of the People's Progressive Party (PPP/C) Administration's national drive to beautify and modernise public spaces across the country, including cemeteries, parks,

and other areas of community importance.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, highlighted that the project responds directly to concerns raised in the 12th Parliament. He expressed confidence that the cemetery, once considered neglected, will soon meet international standards of care and dignity.

For families, the improvements mean more than aesthetic change. Every cleared path and repaired road

ensures a safer, more respectful environment to lay loved ones to rest,

offering comfort and peace during life's most difficult moments.



An aerial view of the ongoing works at the Le Repentir Cemetery

JOE VIEIRA PARK SET TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITY LIFE ON THE WEST BANK

The Protected Areas Commission (PAC) has unveiled exciting new details about the upcoming Joe Vieira Park, a landmark project that will honour

the long-standing friendship between Guyana and China while transforming recreation on the West Bank of Demerara.

Designed as a world-

class sporting and cultural hub, the park promises to reshape the way families, athletes, and young people come together. At its centre will be a full-size football field, complete with spectator stands ready to welcome local tournaments and community matches. A modern basketball court with removable seating will offer space for both competitive games and spontaneous after-school play, while new tennis and table-tennis courts will expand the

park's sporting options.

But the park's vision goes beyond athletics. Artists, musicians, and performers will find a home in a purpose-built outdoor theatre and amphitheatre, spaces designed to host cultural showcases, live concerts, and even open-air movie nights. Throughout the grounds, visitors will discover lush green spaces, shaded seating, and quiet corners ideal for family picnics or simple relaxation.

Standing proudly at the heart of the



Construction work ongoing on the park

development will be the Guyana/Friendship Monument, a striking tribute to more than 50 years of diplomatic cooperation.

With its blend of sport, culture, and community, the Guyana/China Friendship Joe Vieira Park is set to become one of the country's most inspiring recreational landmarks.



Construction work ongoing on the park



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy

The Government of Guyana has reassured Georgetown residents that decisive action is underway to address the city’s long-standing infrastructure and service challenges, signalling an end to decades of political posturing that left citizens waiting for results.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy, acknowledged the real issues affecting the city; chronic flooding, failing drainage, overburdened services, and urban

decay; but stressed that the government is taking a bold, results-driven approach to restore the capital.

“We are not interested in mere rhetoric; we are interested in results. And results demand a break from decades of under-performance by successive city councils and municipal authorities that lacked the vision, capacity, or willpower to meet growing demands,” Minister McCoy said.

NO MORE POLITICAL GAMES, GEORGETOWN TO SEE REAL CHANGE - MINISTER MCCOY

Under President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s leadership, a multi-agency task force has been established to execute the Georgetown Drainage Development Plan. The initiative also includes a partnership with the King’s Foundation (UK) to bring technical expertise and resources to the city’s transformation.

The government emphasised that this intervention is not intended to sideline the Georgetown City Council, but to accelerate results for citizens who have long endured delays and inaction. City Hall’s technical officers, including the City Engineer and Director of Solid Waste Management, are fully integrated into the task force to ensure

institutional knowledge informs every step of the process.

Minister McCoy highlighted that inclusive stakeholder engagement is central to the plan, with private sector partners, community groups, heritage bodies, and municipal staff invited to contribute meaningfully. **“You are done waiting. You are done with the political games of City Hall, where promises are made and broken, and inaction has been the norm. This rescue plan is a sober, urgent, and results-driven intervention mandated by you, the people,”** he said.

Residents can expect visible progress in the coming months, with technical

studies completed, contracts awarded, and major works commencing soon. The government reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and accountability, measuring success not in words but in tangible improvements across the city.

“The days of small-minded

municipal politics at the expense of residents are over. Georgetown will be transformed. We invite all credible stakeholders, including Mayor Mentore and the City Council, to join us rather than stand in the way,” Minister McCoy concluded.



City Rescue plan gains momentum

NEW BINS AT STABROEK MARKET SIGNAL FRESH START FOR A CLEANER CITY



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, engaging vendor

At the heart of Georgetown, the Stabroek Market Square, long known for its bustling energy and daily trade, is taking on a fresh look. Every 40 feet, new waste bins now line the square, part of a government-led effort to make the iconic

market cleaner and more welcoming for the thousands who work and shop there each day.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, was launched after vendors themselves

asked for a cleaner, healthier workspace during a recent meeting with the ministry.

Minister Priya Manickchand, addressing vendors and transport operators gathered at the market, said the bins were part of her promise to respond directly to their concerns. **“We want to work with you; we want to make sure you are comfortable,”** she said. **“This is your square, your work home, so you have to keep it clean.”**

The bins will be emptied twice daily: once in the early morning between 3 and

6 a.m., and again in the afternoon between 1 and 3 p.m. A garbage truck will make regular rounds to ensure the area stays tidy. **“So, you have**

applause from vendors who have long struggled with overflowing waste.

Though some had warned that the bins might be stolen, Minister

living there; vendors, bus drivers, and commuters alike, to protect what belongs to them.

She urged everyone to use the bins properly, noting that keeping the market clean is a shared responsibility. **“Your words, your energy, your space, all of it matters,”** she told the crowd. **“When Stabroek is clean, Georgetown shines brighter.”**

By the end of the event, the bins were already filled and cleared, an early sign that a new culture of cleanliness is taking root at one of the city’s most beloved landmarks.



The newly installed bin is being emptied after use

no reason to work in filth anymore,” the minister said, earning

Manickchand said she preferred to trust the people who make their

MEDIA ACADEMY GIVES MORE YOUNG TALENT A HEAD START



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy engaging the participants

From cameras to editing tables, the future of Guyana’s media scene is in the hands of young creators, and the

Boardroom, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy, joined the recent participants of the Guyana Media and Communications Academy, actively engaging with trainees in lighting, framing, and editing exercises.

The Academy, coordinated by National Training Coordinator Marcia Hope, brings together aspiring storytellers, young media workers, and content creators for intensive

instruction in camera handling, lighting techniques, editing, and story development.

Addressing the participants, Minister McCoy emphasised that the programme is part of the government’s broader national strategy to build a skilled, empowered workforce capable of shaping Guyana’s future.

“This programme is not separate from our broader investment in people,” he said.

“We are ensuring that every man and woman has the knowledge, the skill, and the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive.”

The minister stressed that as global communication and technology continue to evolve, the demand for modern skills will only grow, and Guyana must prepare its citizens to remain competitive and relevant.

The session allowed trainees to showcase

their growing technical abilities, while also giving Minister McCoy a close-up view of the discipline, precision, and creativity required in modern media work.

For the young participants, the interaction reinforced the national recognition their work is receiving and highlighted the government’s commitment to nurturing the country’s creative talent.

\$4B IN NARCOTICS DESTROYED AS GOVT REINFORCES ZERO-TOLERANCE STANCE ON DRUG TRAFFICKING



Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, alongside Permanent Secretary, Andre Ally and members of CANU

A total of 926 kilograms of seized narcotics was destroyed on Homestretch Avenue by the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU), reaffirming the government's strong stance against drug trafficking. The destroyed narcotics included 618.26 kilograms of cocaine, 308.3 kilograms of cannabis, and smaller quantities of methamphetamine and ecstasy. The drugs carried an international value of over \$4.06 billion (US\$19.3 million).

Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, said the exercise underscores the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that Guyana is not used as a trans-shipment point for illicit drugs.

"This is hundreds of millions of dollars going up in smoke, literally," Minister Walrond stated. **"It sends a clear message that Guyana is serious about our country being used as a trans-shipment point. We will seize and destroy."**

She added that

every kilogram seized represents a life protected, a community safeguarded, and a criminal network dismantled, noting that the government's \$1.04 billion investment in CANU's operations is yielding tangible results.

CANU's Director, James Singh, confirmed that all narcotics destroyed were properly accounted for, verified, and approved by the courts. He said most of the drugs were destined for Europe, West Africa, and parts of the Caribbean, but were intercepted before leaving Guyana's shores.

"This is a clear indication that with the government's

Singh also credited close collaboration with Surinamese

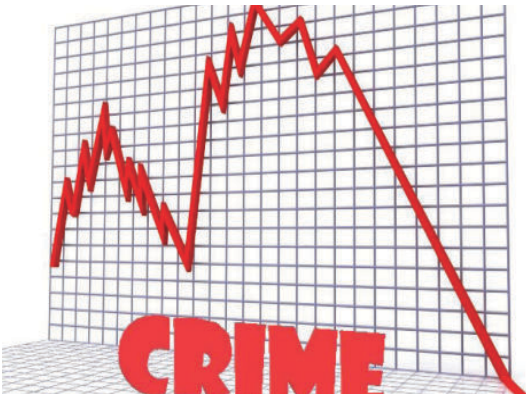


CANU during the narcotics destruction exercise

support, both the Police and CANU can continue to fulfil their mandate," Singh said. **"The fact that we have not seen seizures outside of Guyana is proof that our actions are effective."**

authorities, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and French law enforcement for the success of joint operations that continue to disrupt regional and international drug networks.

SERIOUS CRIMES IN GUYANA REACH LOWEST LEVEL IN A DECADE, POLICE REPORT



Guyana is experiencing the lowest level of serious crime in 10 years

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) has recorded a significant drop in serious crimes for 2025, with 801 incidents reported, 269 fewer than the 1,070 cases reported in 2024. These figures represent the lowest level of serious crime in 10 years, reflecting a steady decline across the

past decade. Crime Chief Wendell Blanhum, presenting the GPF's Christmas Policing 2025 launch, noted that Region Four-A accounted for the highest share of serious crimes at 24 per cent, a trend linked to its dense population and status as the country's

main commercial centre. Regions Three and Four-B followed, while Regions Five, Seven, and Eight reported the lowest numbers.

Murder statistics reveal that 81 per cent of victims were male, and 90 per cent were female. Disorderly murders, those arising from fights, arguments, or social gatherings, remain the most common category, while domestic murders doubled from 13 cases in 2024 to 26 in 2025. Region Four-A again recorded the highest proportion of homicides, at 21 per cent.

Robberies also continued a downward trend, with firearm-

related incidents being most frequent. Region Four-A recorded the highest number, with most crimes occurring between 6 pm and midnight, prompting police deployment during these hours. Break-and-enter larceny remains the most prevalent crime nationwide, though 2025 marked the lowest number of cases in a decade.

In other areas, Guyana maintained its Tier One ranking in human trafficking, with 13 cases reported, two of which have been instituted and 11 are under investigation. Cybercrime reports dropped from 339 in

2024 to 241 in 2025, while piracy incidents remain at zero since 2021.

The GPF also intensified operations against illegal firearms and narcotics. Officers seized 100 illegal weapons, including 57 pistols, and intercepted 2,033 kg of cocaine, up from just six kilograms the previous year, alongside 861 kg of cannabis and the eradication of 208 acres of cannabis cultivation.

Crime Chief Blanhum attributed the decline in serious crime to the government's strategic investments and the GPF's data-driven deployments,



Break-and-enter larceny marked the lowest number of cases in a decade

targeted patrols, and improved investigative training. He assured citizens that during the Christmas season, the police will maintain a strong presence and continue strategic operations to safeguard communities.

FROM BOOTS ON THE GROUND TO CANINE UNITS, POLICE READY FOR FESTIVE SEASON



Members of the Guyana Police Force

The Guyana Police Force's annual Christmas Policing initiative promises safety, vigilance, and peace of mind for all citizens as the holiday season approaches. The programme runs from November 15

to January 15, with officers deployed across all 12 police regions to ensure communities can celebrate safely.

Crime Chief Wendell Blanhum emphasised that increased visibility is key during this festive period. **"The**

Guyana Police Force will increase its deployment of boots on the ground, including uniformed and plainclothes officers, during the day and night from Mondays to Sundays," he said.

Shoppers can expect fully staffed police booths at major commercial areas, ready to respond immediately to incidents. Anti-crime patrols will focus on hotspots during peak hours, while marine, mountain, and canine units will cover remote areas, extending the force's reach nationwide.

Community and business engagement is also central to the initiative. Officers will meet with shop owners and staff to provide guidance on security measures that protect employees, customers, and assets. Checkpoints, congested areas, and border points will be monitored closely, while Cheddi Jagan and Eugene F. Correia international airports receive additional surveillance.

A dedicated team of trained investigators will remain on standby at the Criminal Investigation Department to respond

quickly to serious or complex cases. Newly trained recruits will be deployed across divisions, increasing operational capacity.

Blanhum noted that officers currently on vacation will be recalled from December 1 to ensure full coverage. **"Our priority is the safety and peace of mind of every citizen during this festive season,"** he said.

For families, shoppers, and communities, the visible presence of police, from boots on the ground to canine units, offers

reassurance that this holiday season can be enjoyed safely and securely.



A Police Officer on duty in Georgetown during Christmas shopping

GOVT RENEWS ROAD SAFETY PUSH AFTER 642 DEATHS IN FOUR YEARS



Road Safety Month opens with strong appeal for national discipline

The government has renewed its call for vigilance and shared responsibility on Guyana’s roadways following the alarming report of 642 deaths in 574 fatal accidents between 2020 and 2024, including 24 children.

Speaking at the official launch of Road Safety Month 2025 at the Bush Lot Community Centre in Region Five, Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, emphasised that “road safety is everybody’s business.” He appealed to all citizens to take personal and collective responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. “Behind every number is a mother, a father, a child, a community grieving a life lost too soon,” the Prime Minister said. “Reducing these tragedies requires national unity, discipline, and care

on our roads.” He highlighted the government’s comprehensive road safety programme, including the Smart Road Initiative, which features automated radar, speed-limit monitoring, and seatbelt detection systems. These measures complement ongoing improvements to road infrastructure, lighting, and signage, particularly in accident-prone areas. Education was central to his message. The Prime Minister urged parents, teachers, and students to make road safety a part of daily life. Lessons such as proper crossing of roads, obeying traffic signals, and using

pedestrian pathways, he explained, can save lives. “Education is the first step, enforcement ensures adherence, and empathy makes it lasting,” he said. PM Phillips also stressed integrity in public service, calling on leaders to respect law enforcement and allow officers to carry out their duties without interference. “When those in authority do not intervene improperly, they contribute to safety on our streets,” he said. Reiterating his call for behavioural change, the Prime Minister reminded drivers that



The ribbon for the commissioning of the two new vessels

vehicles are a privilege, not a weapon, urging all road users to practise the five Cs of safe driving: care, caution, courtesy, consideration, and common sense. Vigilance, patience, and discipline, he said, are key to preventing tragedy.

Road Safety Month 2025, under the theme “Careful Driving Saves Lives”, is organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana National Road Safety Council.

ONE DEATH IS TOO MANY - MINISTER WALROND URGES NATION TO PRIORITISE ROAD SAFETY

Behind every road accident in Guyana is a family shattered, a dream cut short, and a

this heartfelt appeal during the annual road safety walk, held in observance of the World



Road Safety Patrols programme in schools

community left to grieve. Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, made

Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2025 under the theme,

“Careful Driving Saves Lives.” “These accidents are tragedies we can prevent. The responsibility rests with every Guyanese citizen. One death is too many,” Minister Walrond said, her words underscoring the human cost behind the statistics. In 2025, 130 lives were lost on Guyana’s roads, up from 97 in 2024. While government interventions and the Guyana Police Force’s efforts have helped curb what could have been higher numbers, Minister Walrond

stressed that change begins with each driver. She outlined steps being taken to protect lives, from improving infrastructure with better lighting, safer crossings, and clearer road markings, to enforcing stricter traffic regulations. Smart technology will also be introduced to curb reckless driving, and updates to the Road Traffic Act will introduce tougher penalties for offenders. For some, road safety is painfully personal. Lucio Bacchus,

co-founder of ‘Mothers in Black,’ lost her two children to a drunk driver. She urged drivers to take care of others on the road: “Drivers, look out for our loved ones, they are our future. Don’t drink and drive. Save our precious assets, our children.” Traffic Chief, Assistant Commissioner Mahendra Singh, reinforced that education and enforcement must go hand in hand. “Our practices must align with what is lawful. Safety cannot be optional,” he said.



Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, during the annual road safety walk in observance of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2025

GUYANA PRISON SERVICE TESTS ELECTRONIC ANKLE BRACELETS TO SUPPORT REHABILITATION



Prison officers displaying the ankle monitors

The Guyana Prison Service (GPS) has begun testing electronic ankle bracelets as part of a new

effort to better monitor inmates participating in work and rehabilitation programmes.

Director of Prisons, Nicklon Elliot, said the technology could transform inmates’ supervision, particularly for those involved in reintegration and skills development. “These devices allow prison officers to know the exact location of an inmate and alert them quickly if they leave the authorised zone,” he explained. The tamper-resistant bracelets operate through radio frequency signals connected to a central monitoring station and must be worn at all times. Elliot noted that

discussions are ongoing with the Minister of Home Affairs to expand the programme to other priority areas, aiming to create meaningful impacts for both inmates and the wider community. The initiative complements other upgrades at correctional facilities, including walk-through body and bag scanners to prevent smuggling of weapons and drugs, AI-powered surveillance systems, and body cameras to enhance transparency and accountability. Elliot highlighted that smuggling can occur through construction



An ankle monitor being demonstrated on inmates

works, dishonest staff, or visitors, and emphasised that GPS will continue collaborating with the police, CANU, and intelligence agencies to strengthen prison security.

These measures aim not only to ensure safety within facilities, but also to support inmates’ rehabilitation, helping them reintegrate into society as productive, responsible citizens.

LOCAL DOCTORS RESTORE MOBILITY, EASE PAIN FOR 28 PATIENTS AT GPHC

For many Guyanese, chronic joint pain can mean years of limited mobility and a life constrained by discomfort. Recently, 28 patients at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) found relief thanks to the skill and dedication of local medical professionals.

From November 7 to 9, the hospital's All procedures

Orthopaedic Team, led by Dr. Kaaleshwar Ramcharran, successfully completed 18 knee replacements and 10 hip replacements, surpassing their target of 27 surgeries. The initiative brought renewed mobility and comfort to 22 women and 6 men who had been waiting for life-changing care.

All procedures

were performed locally by Guyanese specialists, highlighting the hospital's growing capacity to provide high-quality, specialised surgeries at no direct cost to patients, a service that can cost up to \$2.5 million in the private sector.

The effort adds to GPHC's total of 136 joint replacements completed this year, demonstrating

the hospital's ongoing commitment to improving surgical access and patient outcomes.

GPHC management praised the entire team, surgeons, anaesthetists, physiotherapists, nurses, and theatre staff, for their unwavering commitment to improving lives. For these patients, the hospital's work has restored not



Local surgeons transform lives through joint surgery

just mobility, but their quality of life. independence, and



One of the new PCA graduates that will be stepping into Guyana's healthcare frontlines

Eager to make a difference in people's lives, 89 newly trained Patient Care Assistants (PCAs) have graduated from the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), stepping into roles that combine skill, empathy, and dedication. The ceremony, held at the National Cultural

Centre, celebrated their achievement and commitment to serving patients with professionalism and compassion.

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony congratulated the graduates and emphasised the weight of their responsibilities. **"If you're not at your**

post when a patient needs help, it could cost that person their life. Healthcare is not like any other job, patients depend on your presence and compassion," he said.

Dr. Anthony encouraged the new PCAs to view this as the first step in a long career, with opportunities to advance to Nursing Assistant, Registered Nurse, or even doctor.

He also stressed the importance of attitude and empathy in healthcare delivery, noting that patient complaints often stem more from poor interpersonal care than medical errors. **"You**

89 NEW PATIENT CARE ASSISTANTS TAKE THEIR PLACE IN GUYANA'S HOSPITALS

can have the best education, but if you lack empathy and respect for patients, you will fail in this profession," he said.

GPHC's CEO Robbie Rambarran echoed this message, reminding graduates that the human connection is irreplaceable. **"Healthcare is not just a job, it's an obligation. You are often the first and last person a patient sees during their hospital stay. Show**

empathy and treat every patient as you would want your own family to be treated," he said.

For graduates, the journey was filled with challenges. Michelle Boyer from Region 10 balanced daily travel from Linden with caring for her family. **"It was challenging, but it all paid off. I plan to enroll in the Nursing Assistant Programme next,"** she said.

Shonel Sampson from Region

Four shared a similar experience: **"It was a great journey. I plan to continue by doing the Nursing Assistant Programme."**

The Ministry of Health and GPHC continue to train and upskill healthcare workers, ensuring that Guyana's health system remains people-centred, resilient, and rooted in compassion, with staff equipped to provide quality care at every level.

"COLOURFUL COOKING, HEALTHY LIVING" RECIPE BOOK PROMOTES HEALTHIER EATING FOR GUYANESE FAMILIES



The recipe book

For many families, than just food, it's an opportunity to nurture

health and well-being. The Ministry of Health is now helping Guyanese make those meals healthier with the launch of the "Colourful Cooking, Healthy Living" Recipe Book, a practical guide designed to transform everyday eating habits.

Produced by the ministry's Food Policy Division, the cookbook

combines beloved Guyanese flavours with nutrient-rich ingredients such as vegetables, seeds, and whole grains. Many recipes significantly reduce or eliminate sugar, supporting national efforts to curb lifestyle-related illnesses like diabetes and hypertension.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, praised the initiative,

highlighting its role in educating the public about the connection between diet and long-term health. **"There are simple changes we can make that can help us live longer. Diet plays a significant role, and we need to encourage people to think carefully about what they eat,"** he said.

Tailor-made for

Guyanese households, schools, and community programmes, the recipe book offers accessible, delicious, and nourishing options for daily meals. For families seeking to eat well while maintaining traditional flavours, this initiative is more than just a collection of recipes, it's a step toward healthier lives and stronger communities.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME UNDER REVIEW TO BETTER SUPPORT LEARNERS

The Ministry of Education has launched a full review of Guyana's National School Feeding Programme, aiming to ensure that every child receives nutritious meals that support their health, growth, and learning.

The programme, which reaches thousands of students nationwide, is a vital resource for families and a key part of the government's commitment to children's well-being.

Since taking office in September, Minister

of Education Sonia Parag has met with the School Feeding Unit to examine daily operations and identify areas for improvement.

As part of the review, the Ministry is working closely with the Carnegie School of Home Economics to enhance menus and boost the nutritional content of meals served in schools. Complaints and feedback from parents, teachers, and the public, including comments shared on social media, are being

carefully investigated and addressed promptly.

Minister Parag emphasised that the Ministry will only work with schools and suppliers who meet the standards necessary to protect children's health. There will be no compromise when it comes to the well-being of learners, she said.

Headteachers have also been reminded of their important role in supervising the programme and reporting any issues

immediately, ensuring meals remain safe and effective.

For children and families across Guyana, the school feeding programme is a lifeline that helps students stay healthy, focused, and ready to learn. With the Ministry's renewed focus, the initiative is expected to deliver even greater benefits to learners and communities nationwide.



The meeting with the parents

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GUYANA REMEMBERS ITS FALLEN HEROES



President Ali joined servicemen, diplomats, and citizens in paying tribute to the heroes

Amid steady rainfall, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, led the nation in solemn observance of Remembrance Day at the War Memorial Cenotaph in Georgetown.

Held annually on the second Sunday of November, the ceremony pays tribute to the men and women who gave their lives in service during the First and Second World Wars, heroes whose courage secured the peace Guyana enjoys today.

The observance began with a dignified military parade, followed by the sounding of the Last Post and two minutes

of silence in honour of the fallen. President Ali then led the ceremonial laying of wreaths, joined by government ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and heads of the Joint Services.

In his address, President Ali reflected on the enduring legacy of those who perished, urging citizens to uphold the ideals they defended, liberty, justice, and peace.

“We are indebted forever to them for their supreme sacrifice in the cause of peace and freedom,” he said. **“We must preserve**



President Ali joined servicemen, diplomats, and citizens in paying tribute to the heroes

the peace within our borders and for generations to come.”

The President also paid tribute to the men and women currently serving in the defence of Guyana’s sovereignty, noting that their vigilance and dedication carry the same spirit of devotion as those who came before.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira, joined the Head of State along with Ministers Oneidge Walrond and Charles Ramson Jr., Joint Services Head, diplomats, and citizens in honouring the nation’s fallen heroes.



President Ali joined servicemen, diplomats, and citizens in paying tribute to the heroes

“VETERANS’ WELFARE REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY” - PM PHILLIPS

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, reassured **“ Veterans ’**



Guyana Defence Force’s Veterans Day Wreath-laying Ceremony at Base Camp Ayanganna

veterans during the Guyana Defence Force’s Veterans Day Wreath-laying Ceremony at Base Camp Ayanganna that their welfare remains

welfare will always be a priority item as our government continues to manage the affairs of this nation,” he affirmed,

acknowledging the sacrifices made by men and women who served in the GDF and, before independence, in the British Army.

Highlighting tangible support, the Prime Minister noted that \$13 million was allocated in the 2025 Budget for the rehabilitation of Coghlan House, a historic landmark in Georgetown that honours the memory of those who served.

Connecting veterans’ welfare to the broader agenda of shared prosperity, Prime Minister Phillips outlined how economic growth and government’s investments, ranging from infrastructure to housing and healthcare, directly benefit those who served. He specifically highlighted the annual cash grant of \$600,000 for citizens requiring haemodialysis, a measure easing the financial burden of life-saving treatment.

Reading a message from President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the Prime Minister conveyed the nation’s gratitude: **“The courage, dedication, and selflessness of our servicemen and**



Guyana Defence Force’s Veterans Day Wreath-laying Ceremony at Base Camp Ayanganna

women form the foundation upon which our peace and liberty rest. Their sacrifices, often unseen, are why we enjoy the rights and opportunities we hold dear today.”

Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan; National Security Adviser, Gerry Gouveia; and veterans’ representatives, including Lieutenant Colonel George Gomes, joined the ceremony.



Rosanna Fung meets President after historic bodybuilding victory

PRESIDENT ALI MEETS GUYANA’S FIRST BODYBUILDING WORLD CHAMPION, ROSANNA FUNG

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali welcomed Guyanese world champion bodybuilder Rosanna Fung to State House, honouring her historic achievement on the international stage.

Fung recently

carved her name into Guyana’s sporting history by becoming the first Guyanese athlete to win a World Championship title at the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB). Her victory came at the prestigious Binous Classics in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where she outperformed top competitors from around the globe.

During the engagement, President Ali congratulated Fung for her discipline, determination, and the pride she has brought to Guyana.

Fung’s historic win continues to generate national pride, marking a defining moment not only in her career but in Guyana’s sporting legacy.



Guyana women’s basketball team wins silver

GUYANA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM WINS SILVER, QUALIFIES FOR 2026 CENTROBASKET

The national women’s basketball team has made the nation proud, securing the silver medal at the 2025 FIBA Caribbean Women’s Championship and earning qualification for the 2026 FIBA CentroBasket Women’s Championship.

Guyana clinched an 83-74 victory over Jamaica on the tournament’s final night at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, finishing the five-team competition with three wins and a single loss. Virgin Islands, with a perfect 4-0 record, took gold, while Bahamas earned bronze.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali congratulated the team

on facebook, stating, **“All of Guyana is immensely proud of you.”**

Highlighting individual performances, Joy Brown and Amisha Ramlall were named to the tournament’s All-Star Five, joining Anisha George of Virgin Islands, Valerie Nesbitt of Bahamas, and Tiffany Reynolds of Jamaica.

Guyana’s triumph not only brought home silver, but also secures a place among the Caribbean’s elite at next year’s CentroBasket Championship, showcasing the growing talent and potential of women’s basketball in the country.



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 106

NEW HIGHWAY BRINGS CHANGE TO ECD CORRIDOR

Work is progressing rapidly on the US\$192 million East Coast Demerara Road Expansion, transforming narrow roads into a modern four-lane highway from Sheriff Street, Georgetown, to Orange Nassau. Communities including LBI, Mon Repos, Annandale, Lusignan, Coldingen, and Nabacalis are benefiting from upgraded access roads, faster commutes, and improved connectivity to schools, clinics, and workplaces. Funded through a US\$192 million concessional loan from China, the project is part of the PPP/C government’s plan to modernise infrastructure, boost economic activity, and make daily travel smoother for East Coast residents. This road expansion is reshaping communities and creating opportunities for a brighter future.





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\$10.99 LB

Enoki Mushrooms
袋装金针菇
Reg:\$2.99

\$1.88 EA

King Oyster Mushroom
皇子菇
Reg:\$4.99

\$2.98 EA

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

\$2.88 BAG

Fresh Watercress
西洋菜
Reg:\$2.59

2/\$2.98

RESTAURANT

Cock Brand
Sweet Chilli Sauce
(3x540g)
Reg:\$79.99

\$59.99 EA

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

\$22.99 EA

Value Drain-Off
强力清洁剂 1L
Reg:\$7.99

\$5.99 EA

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

\$8.99 EA

Extra Large White
Eggs 180Pcs
Reg:\$70.00

\$58.00 BOX

Bean Sprout
Reg:\$23.99

\$19.98 BUCKET

Frozen straight
cut fries 30lb
Reg:\$48.00

\$39.00 BOX

PINOY TASTE FILIPINO KITCHEN

PINOY TASTE Catering Order: 647-608-3130

Vegetable Spring Roll 1pc
Reg:\$2.50

\$2.00 EACH

Pork Spring Roll 1pc
Reg:\$0.70

60¢ EACH

Hopia Mongo 1pc
Reg:\$1.50

\$1.25 EACH

Asian Cuisine 亚洲美食 (Every Day Lunch Special)

Catering Order: 647-410-7668

Boodle Fight
Reg:\$26.99

\$21.99 ORDER

Tempura 12pcs
Reg:\$9.99

\$8.99 ORDER

Chicken Fried Rice
Reg:\$9.99

\$8.99 ORDER

Fried Tilapia - 1pc
Reg:\$8.99

\$6.99 ORDER

Fried Tofu
Reg:\$9.99

\$8.99 ORDER

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

\$35.00 Tray

SUSHI

SUSHI Catering Order: 416-281-1222

Sushi Maki Tray
58pcs
Reg:\$36.99

\$34.99 ORDER

Spicy Crabmeat Roll
Reg:\$4.59

\$3.99 ORDER

Sushi Full Menu



BOOK NOW

And Enjoy An Unforgettable Guyanese Christmas!



**6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS
FESTIVE SEASON PACKAGE**

**GUYANESE
Christmas**







Accommodation
(2 persons)



Activities

**Starting at
USD
\$1945**

CHRISTMAS IN GUYANA TOUR PACKAGE
GEORGETOWN & KAIETEUR FALLS TOUR

Day 1 - Welcome to Destination Guyana and unwind
Day 2 - Georgetown City Tour & Manatee Feeding, (Optional-Evening): Demerara Historical River Tour
Day 3 - Kaieteur Falls Excursion, (Optional-Morning) Birding in Georgetown's Botanical Gardens, (Optional-Evening): Dinner at Backyard Café
Day 4 - (Free Day) Personal or visit to Guyana Christmas Village
Day 5 - Mahaica River Eco-Tour, (Optional-Evening): Dinner with Singing Chef
Day 6 - Essequibo River Islands Expedition
Day 7 - Departing Destination Guyana and reminisce

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