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ExxonMobil’s new state-of-the-art HQ now operational

EXXONMOBIL Guyana’s new headquarters at Ogle, East Coast Demerara, is officially fully operational, as the company continues to expand its local footprint and long-term commitment to Guyana.

One of the buildings, which is called the Kanuku Complex, draws its name from the Kanuku Mountain Range in Region Nine (Upper Takutu–Upper Essequibo), symbolising strength and endurance, while the second one, the Pakaraimas, is named after the mountains of southwestern Guyana.

Speaking during the company’s first media briefing at the new site on Monday, ExxonMobil Guyana President Alistair Routledge confirmed that

more than 560 employees have already moved into the facility, along with about 150 workers from prime contractor, SBM Offshore.

“The Ogle office is fully operational. We’ve moved in some 560 people, and you’ll see there are a lot of people here, not just ExxonMobil employees, but also our key contractors,” Routledge said.

He said that the headquarters is now “fully functional in all aspects”, serving as a central hub for the company’s growing operations.

“From an operational point of view, we’re in the process of moving the offshore panel operator positions from the FPSO,” he disclosed.

The Kanuku Complex is equipped with advanced technology designed to support ExxonMobil’s offshore oil production.

The first floor is dedicated to offshore operations, housing three control rooms that will be manned 24/7. This setup enables the company to reduce the number of personnel working directly offshore, while ensuring real-time oversight of production activities.

The control rooms are linked via fiber optic cable to ExxonMobil’s floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessels, including Unity, Prosperity, and One Guyana.

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Guyanese

DIASPORA DIGEST



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GUYANESE CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - AS BHARRAT JAGDEO DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE OPENS



Illuminated at night, the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge carries vehicles and vessels seamlessly, marking a milestone in national connectivity and development. – Photo by Delano William

GUYANA'S VOICE FOR PEACE, EQUITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY RINGS AT 80TH UNGA



CITY REVIVAL PLAN TO REDEFINE GEORGETOWN'S URBAN LANDSCAPE



GUYANA'S VOICE FOR PEACE, EQUITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY RINGS AT 80TH UNGA



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and First Lady Arya Ali with U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at a world leaders' dinner during the 80th UN General Assembly.

His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered a powerful address at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, highlighting global challenges and positioning Guyana as a model for sustainable development, peace, and equity.

President Ali underscored the importance of the United Nations in shaping international law, resolving conflicts, promoting human rights, and advancing humanitarian aid. **"From 51 Member States in 1945 to 193 today, the UN has established itself as the premier organisation for multilateralism,"** he said, calling for renewed global commitment to principle over power amid rising geopolitical tensions, food insecurity, mass displacement, and climate crises.

Addressing ongoing conflicts, the President condemned the genocide

in Palestine and the mass human rights violations in Gaza, urging the international community to act decisively. He also highlighted the Russia-Ukraine war, gang violence in Haiti, the humanitarian catastrophe in Sudan, and the need to lift the embargo on Cuba,

territorial integrity.

President Ali showcased Guyana's achievements in climate action and sustainable development, noting the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard certification, and



President Ali with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

emphasising the UN's responsibility to uphold justice and international law. On the Guyana-Venezuela border dispute, President Ali reaffirmed his country's confidence in the International Court of Justice, stressing the inviolability of sovereignty and

innovative financing models such as biodiversity credits, green bonds, and debt-for-nature swaps. He underscored Guyana's leadership in hosting the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit and the adoption of the Georgetown Declaration by over 140 countries.

He also highlighted Guyana's digital and energy transformation. Projects include hydropower, solar, wind, natural gas as a bridge energy resource, and the establishment of the country's first AI hyperscale data center, which will accelerate digitisation, fintech growth, and public service efficiency.

On social development, President Ali emphasised gender equality and women's empowerment, noting that strategic investments have increased women's leadership in government, business, and communities. Initiatives such as expanded childcare services further enhance economic participation for women.

The President reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to regional food security, leading the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda under "Vision 2030" to ensure resilient and equitable food systems across the Caribbean.

On the sidelines of UNGA, President Ali engaged world leaders in bilateral discussions to strengthen Guyana's international partnerships. He met with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on regional security, trade, and cooperation on transnational crime. He also held talks with officials from the United Arab Emirates and Saudi



President Ali with HE Adel al-Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia

Arabia and attended a Clinton Global Initiative luncheon, exploring collaboration on healthcare, digital transformation, and the establishment of an Oncology Centre in Guyana.

President Ali further



President Ali and United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio

met UN Secretary-General António Guterres, briefing him on the Guyana-Venezuela ICJ case, regional security concerns, AI governance, and environmental progress.

PRESIDENT ALI INVITES US DIASPORA TO JOIN GUYANA'S TRANSFORMATION

Addressing members of the Guyanese diaspora in New York recently, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced that leading medical schools and top Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies have expressed strong interest in establishing a presence in Guyana.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly, the President highlighted Guyana's rapid development and growing global recognition in

innovation, technology, and education. **"Only today, we met with some of the top 10 medical schools and one of the best AI companies and data centres. They are ready to make that journey in establishing their footprint in Guyana,"** he revealed.

To support such investment, the government is constructing a modern nursing school in New Amsterdam in collaboration with the

University of the West Indies. The completion of the landmark gas-to-energy project, which will integrate 300 megawatts



The meet-and-greet reception in New York City

of new electricity into the national grid, is expected to attract large data centres requiring substantial power

capacity.

President Ali encouraged the diaspora to return to Guyana, whether permanently or temporarily, to invest, mentor, share expertise, or explore opportunities. **"The Guyana we're building is ready and willing to welcome you with open arms,"** he said.

The government is compiling a list of targeted investment opportunities for review by the diaspora. **"We recognise the vast potential of our**

Guyanese diaspora to be partners in the transformation of our nation. We intend to keep you informed, support your investments, create avenues for participation, and tap into your expertise, capital, and networks,"

President Ali assured the gathering, highlighting the modernisation of the Diaspora unit to facilitate engagement.

CITY REVIVAL PLAN TO REDEFINE GEORGETOWN'S URBAN LANDSCAPE

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed his government's commitment to transforming Georgetown into a modern, sustainable, and inclusive capital while preserving its historic charm and cultural identity.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Office of the President, Dr. Ali said the **City Revival Plan** forms part of a broader national strategy for sustainable urban development, beginning with the capital and its surrounding areas.

“The mismanagement and inefficiency

through which the city is managed can no longer be tolerated. It is time for us, as citizens and as a country, to take charge of the situation. We are advancing the rescue of Georgetown,” President Ali declared.

Over the past five years, the government has invested billions of dollars in improving drainage, roads, housing, and public infrastructure, including the construction of the new high-span Demerara River Bridge. These efforts will now be strengthened through the City Revival Plan, launched in

collaboration with the King's Foundation.

The plan envisions Georgetown as a vibrant “Garden City” that highlights Guyana's biodiversity, cultural heritage, and economic potential. It includes the restoration of historic landmarks such as the old Transport and Harbours building and the train station, the modernisation of the Stabroek Waterfront, and the beautification of canals, parks, and green corridors. Sustainable economic growth will also be supported through green infrastructure, agro-linked commercial zones, and revitalised business spaces within

the city's civic core.

Aligned with the **Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030**, the initiative ensures that urban growth remains environmentally responsible and socially inclusive. President Ali emphasised that collaboration among government ministries, the private sector, and civil society will be key to realising the vision. “**This is about infrastructure, pride, efficiency, and redefining our identity. Georgetown must be repositioned as one of the finest cities in the world,**” he said.



Over the past five years billions has been invested in improving the city environs

The **Private Sector Commission (PSC)** has since commended the launch of the City Revival Plan, calling it a timely intervention to restore dignity to the capital. It noted that the focus on waste management, drainage rehabilitation, infrastructure upgrades, heritage restoration, and organised commercial spaces will boost investor

confidence, business growth, tourism, and job creation. The PSC pledged full support and urged citizens and businesses alike to take collective responsibility in reclaiming the city's beauty and building a Georgetown that reflects the aspirations of a modern Guyana.



The meeting with the delegation from UAEF and His Majesty's Deputy Trade Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean

UK INCREASES FINANCING CAPACITY FOR GUYANA TO £3 BILLION

The United Kingdom has boosted its financing capacity for Guyana from £2.1 billion to £3 billion through UK Export Finance (UKEF), the UK's official export credit agency.

The announcement was made during a meeting between President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, a visiting delegation from UAEF,

and His Majesty's Deputy Trade Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The expanded financing reflects the UK's confidence in Guyana's strong economic trajectory and fiscal stability, signalling a deepening of bilateral relations between the two countries.

During the meeting,

President Ali outlined his government's priorities for collaboration with UAEF over the next five years, emphasising the importance of partnership in advancing Guyana's development goals.

The increased financial support comes at a crucial time, as Guyana intensifies its infrastructure drive and

strengthens its position as a leading investment destination in the region.

The British High Commission said it looks forward to continued collaboration with the Government of Guyana in promoting sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL HONoured AT STATE HOUSE LUNCHEON

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali hosted a luncheon in honour of the newly elected Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Shirley Botchwey, at State House.

This marks Ms Botchwey's first official visit to Guyana since her

election victory on April 1, 2025.

During their engagement, Ms Botchwey expressed gratitude to President Ali for his support during her campaign and commended his leadership on critical global issues.

President Ali

reaffirmed Guyana's strong partnership with the Commonwealth, noting that both share a common vision in addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development. He highlighted Guyana's

continued focus on empowering women, children, and persons with disabilities as part of its national development agenda.

As a token of appreciation, Ms Botchwey was presented with a painting titled “The Koker”, created by renowned local artist



President Ali meeting with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Shirley Botchwey

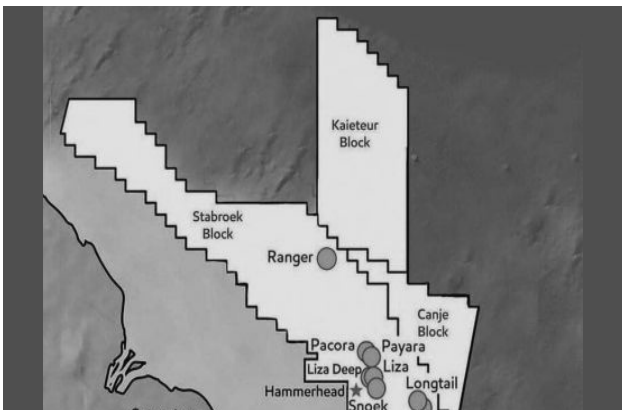
Merlene Ellis.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility

for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, and several other Cabinet Ministers were also in attendance.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has announced the approval of the Hammerhead Field Development Plan (FDP) and the issuance of the Hammerhead Petroleum Production Licence (PPL), marking another milestone in Guyana's growing oil and gas industry.

Hammerhead is the seventh offshore development within the Stabroek Block, operated by ExxonMobil Guyana Limited



Hammerhead project is expected to produce oil between 120,000 and 180,000 barrels of oil per day

alongside co-venturers Hess Corporation and CNOOC. Discovered in

2018, the field is located in the southwestern section of the block.

HAMMERHEAD PROJECT GETS APPROVAL

Valued at US\$6.8 billion, the Hammerhead Project will utilise a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) conversion-type Floating Production, Storage, and Offloading (FPSO) vessel to be built by Japanese company MODEC. It will feature 10 production wells and 8 injection wells, with an estimated daily output

of 150,000 barrels of oil and total recoverable resources of 445 million barrels.

The new licence includes several enhancements, such as stricter environmental safeguards, improved production management, and provisions for transferring associated gas to the Gas-to-

Energy pipeline. First oil is expected by 2029, bringing Guyana's total production capacity to approximately 1.5 million barrels per day. The project is set to strengthen energy security, spur industrial growth, and create employment opportunities across multiple sectors.

GUYANA REINFORCES BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH CHILE AND CHINA



Prime Minister Phillips commemorating the 76th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Chile during separate diplomatic receptions held in Georgetown.

At a reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy

as a global symbol of **"vision, resilience, and transformation."**

He highlighted the long-standing Guyana-China relationship, established in 1972, and its tangible outcomes, including the new Demerara River Bridge, six regional hospitals, and ongoing medical cooperation. The Prime Minister also commended China's support in education through scholarships, noting that Guyanese students trained in China are **"bridge-builders of the future"**.

Addressing shared environmental goals, he pointed to the alignment between Guyana's Low Carbon Development

Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and China's pledge for carbon neutrality by 2060. He further identified housing, urban planning, and healthcare as promising areas for future collaboration.

Prime Minister Phillips, accompanied by his wife Mrs. Mignon Bowen-Phillips, Cabinet members, diplomats, and the Chinese community, reaffirmed Guyana's support for cooperation grounded in mutual respect, non-interference, and equitable development.

Meanwhile, during the 215th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Chile, Prime Minister Phillips praised Chile's democratic

traditions and progress since independence. He underscored that Guyana and Chile, which established diplomatic

mechanisms.

He also reaffirmed Guyana's call for global climate action and equitable access to climate finance while highlighting Guyana's leadership on food security and



The 215th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Chile

ties in 1971, continue to deepen collaboration through frameworks such as CELAC, OAS, and CARICOM-Chile

its commitment to achieving the **"25 by 2025 plus 5"** regional target.



The 215th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Chile

Guyana and Oman have signed an Air Services Agreement (ASA) to facilitate and encourage airlines operating between

the two countries and beyond. The agreement was signed during the ICAO 42nd Assembly in Montreal, Canada, by Eng. Nayef Ali Al Abri,

NEW AGREEMENT OPENS DOOR FOR AIRLINES BETWEEN GUYANA AND OMAN

Chairman of the Oman Civil Aviation Authority, and Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Egbert Field, Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority.

The agreement includes standard provisions on airline designation, application of laws and regulations, cooperative arrangements, tariffs, certification, aviation safety and security, and user charges. Both parties emphasised the potential for this

agreement to expand air connectivity and create new opportunities for airlines from both nations.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Field highlighted that such agreements provide the legal framework needed to realise President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision of Guyana as an international hub for air transport. He also noted the importance of the planned modern Terminal B at Cheddi Jagan International

Airport in supporting this ambition.

Although there are currently no direct flights between Guyana and Oman, the ASA provides market access for airlines to establish routes, enhancing trade, economic growth, and competitive air services. Oman Air, the country's national carrier, serves over 37 destinations worldwide, spanning Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, and could now consider

adding Guyana to its network.

This agreement builds on Guyana's existing portfolio of over 50 ASAs with other ICAO States and reflects the longstanding diplomatic ties between the two countries, first established on January 17, 1996. The move underscores the friendship and cooperative relationship between Guyana and Oman.

PPP/C MAKES HISTORY WITH CONTROL OF REGION FOUR RDC FOR THE FIRST TIME

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) has made history by taking control of the Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica) Regional Democratic Council (RDC) for the first time. Clemsford Belgrave, representing the PPP/C, was elected Regional Chairman after receiving 18 votes, defeating A Partnership for National Unity's (APNU) Shaneika Haynes, who secured eight votes.

According to the Official Gazette, Region Four's RDC comprises 17 councillors from the PPP/C, nine from APNU, eight from We Invest in Nationhood (WIN), and one from Forward



Clemsford Belgrave is the new Chairman of Region Four

Guyana Movement (FGM).

This outcome represents a major political shift in Guyana's most populous and

economically significant region, traditionally an opposition stronghold, and underscores the PPP/C's expanding national support following its strong performance in the 2025 General and Regional Elections.

The PPP/C also secured regional chairmanships in several other regions. Those elected include Vania Albert in Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo); Tercellia John in Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni); Junior Basant in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne); Kleon Lindey in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice); Sheik Mohamed Ishan

Ayube, re-elected in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara); Devin Mohan in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam); and Brentnol Ashley, re-elected in Region One (Barima-Waini).

Meanwhile, in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Upper Berbice), the race for Regional Chairman ended in a tie between APNU's Dominique Blair and WIN's Mark Goring. The deciding vote will be cast by Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali congratulated all newly elected Regional

Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, and Councillors, urging them to serve with integrity and unity. He reminded leaders that **"public office is a trust to be honoured, not a prize**

to be enjoyed," and called for collaboration beyond party lines to advance regional and national development.



The PPP/C won the chairmanship at the Region Four RDC for the first time since the regional system was set up in 1980.

FRENCH EMBASSY OPENS IN GUYANA

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has described the establishment of a French Embassy in Guyana as a reflection of strengthened bilateral relations and a deepening partnership over the past five years. The remarks were made during the commissioning of the French Embassy at Lama Avenue, Bel Air, Georgetown.

“Guyana and France are united

by the fundamental principles of respect for democracy, human rights, and each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,” President Ali stated.

He highlighted the Guyana–France working group, established last year, as a strategic platform to coordinate collaboration and monitor progress in key areas including defence, security, infrastructure,

technology, agriculture, and tourism. The President noted that these areas of cooperation would allow for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and joint initiatives to advance meaningful progress for both nations.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by members of Cabinet, government officials, and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Earlier, President Ali welcomed French Senator Cédric Perrin, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces, and French Ambassador Olivier Plançon at State House. The meeting marked a milestone in Guyana–France relations and reinforced opportunities for collaboration in tourism, trade, energy, and agriculture.



The inauguration of the embassy

Senator Perrin was accompanied by Senators André Guiol and Olivier Cigolotti, Jeanne Mengotti of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Emmanuel Rigault, and other

officials. The French delegation expressed appreciation for Guyana’s commitment to environmental conservation and the warm hospitality received.



The inauguration of the embassy

Guyana has endorsed the transition of the Multinational Security Mission (MSS) in Haiti into a Gang Suppression Force (GSF), alongside the creation of a United

Nations Support Office to provide operational and logistical backing for the mission.

Speaking at the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2793, Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Guyana’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, highlighted the country’s commitment to the Haitian people amid a worsening security crisis. She noted that the A3+ group, comprising Algeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Guyana, approached

GUYANA ENDORSES INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO TACKLE GANG VIOLENCE IN HAITI

the negotiations with responsibility and a focus on the immediate needs of Haitians whose lives and livelihoods are directly impacted.

The 5,550-strong GSF will operate in close coordination with the Haitian National Police and armed forces. Its mandate includes conducting intelligence-led operations to neutralize gangs, securing

critical infrastructure, facilitating humanitarian access, protecting vulnerable groups, supporting reintegration of former fighters, and strengthening Haitian institutions.

Ambassador Rodrigues emphasised that the A3+ prioritised human rights protections, particularly for children, who constitute approximately 50 percent of gang

membership. The group also focused on enhancing the mission’s effectiveness and accountability to ensure a coordinated international response.

“The A3+ remains fully committed to the Haitian cause and to ensuring that Haiti, a founding member of the United Nations, receives the international support it deserves,” Rodrigues

said. She added that the objective throughout the process was to ensure that the United Nations and the Security Council respond effectively to the gravity of the situation.

The initiative represents a significant step in addressing Haiti’s security challenges while reinforcing international collaboration and humanitarian support.

GUYANA URGES UN TO ACT AGAINST OCCUPATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, has urged the international community to take decisive action to end Israel’s prolonged aggression against Palestine.

He delivered this call while addressing world leaders at the 10003rd meeting of the United Nations Security Council on “The situation in the Middle East, including

the Palestinian question” in New York.

Minister Todd highlighted that Israel’s attacks have extended to neighbouring countries, heightening instability and insecurity in the region. He condemned ongoing military actions targeting civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, describing the situation as a violation of human rights and international law.

Referring to the International Court of Justice’s ruling that Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land is illegal, and the UN General Assembly’s September 18, 2025 deadline for Israel to end the occupation, Minister Todd stressed that these mandates remain unfulfilled. **“Guyana calls on Israel to respect UN resolutions,**

cease contempt of international law, and commit to true peace in the Middle East,” he asserted.

The Minister also urged countries not to support actions that prolong the conflict and emphasised that recognition of Palestine by all UN members is essential for achieving peace. Drawing parallels with the dismantling of apartheid in South

Africa, Todd noted that a strong, coordinated international response is necessary to end the occupation.

He reaffirmed Guyana’s support for a two-state solution, the release of hostages taken by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza. Minister Todd thanked the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and UN



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, at the 10003rd meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York

leadership, including Secretary-General António Guterres, for their support of the Palestinian people.



Brand Guyana Gondola launched at Massy’s Turkeyen and Providence locations

The Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), in partnership with the Guyana Marketing Corporation

(GMC) and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), has officially launched the “Brand Guyana

Gondola” at Massy Mega, Turkeyen. The initiative promotes locally manufactured products that have earned the prestigious “Made in Guyana” Certification Mark, underscoring the government’s commitment to supporting local industries and strengthening consumer confidence in Guyanese goods.

The gondolas, which will be permanent fixtures at Massy’s Turkeyen and Providence locations, will feature a variety of certified products, from traditional delicacies and condiments to beverages and health foods, all meeting GNBS quality standards.

GO-Invest’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop,

described the initiative as **“a declaration that Guyanese products are competitive, high-quality, and ready for the world.”** GNBS Executive Director, Trevor Bassoo, said it highlights businesses that have advanced through certification and standards, while GMC General Manager, Teshawna Lall, called it **“a proud milestone**

for local producers.” Massy Stores’ Manager, Simone Savory, noted the company’s pride in supporting the local manufacturing sector. The Brand Guyana Gondola represents a new chapter in showcasing national products and promoting the “Made in Guyana” identity both locally and internationally.

‘BRAND GUYANA GONDOLA’ LAUNCHED TO SHOWCASE CERTIFIED LOCAL PRODUCTS

CHRISTMAS CASH GRANTS AND HOUSING AID COMING SOON



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Government has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering cash grants in time for the upcoming festive season, as well as providing financial support for home improvements for vulnerable families.

Vice President and General Secretary, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, provided these assurances during a news conference at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

(ACCC).

Dr Jagdeo confirmed that the government will fulfil campaign promises, including the distribution of a one-off cash grant by Christmas. He recalled that last year, the PPP/C administration issued \$100,000 to every adult Guyanese, adding to the \$50,000 "Because We Care" and \$100,000 Newborn grants. Over the past five years, additional cash support initiatives, including a \$25,000 grant for

public servants in 2023, have benefitted citizens directly.

The Vice President highlighted that the government's support extends beyond cash grants. A national survey will be launched in all regions to identify households whose homes are in dire need of repairs. This database will guide the equitable rollout of a home improvement grant, included in the 2026 budget, to assist low-income and hinterland

families with existing structures in disrepair. Dr Jagdeo emphasised that the programme will not cover full home construction, but will provide necessary financial support for essential repairs.

This initiative is part of the broader national housing drive, targeting the delivery of 40,000 homes by 2030, alongside efforts to regularise informal settlements, upgrade communities with concrete drains, streetlights, recreational spaces, and security cameras, and advance the Silica City project.

GOVT BACKS DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

Angad Duncan, a resident of Region One who lost his sight in 2015, has faced significant challenges accessing treatment and support in Georgetown. Yet, his disability has never defined him. Committed to supporting his family, Duncan started a small business to secure a stable income and ensure their future.

Duncan was among six individuals living with disabilities to benefit from the Small Business Bureau's (SBB) Revolving Fund, receiving a business loan from the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce. The initiative, launched in 2023, is a collaborative effort between the

Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, aimed at empowering vulnerable

for persons with disabilities," said recipient Neville Douglas. "It would elevate me financially and provide stability



Angad Duncan receives his small business loan from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Mr Roger Rogers

groups through entrepreneurship.

"This loan initiative is good

for my business." Similarly, Cherie Ann Savoury praised the government for involving

vulnerable communities in national development, noting the relief and opportunity it provides for those struggling to make ends meet.

Recipients can access loans of up to \$500,000 at zero per cent interest, with no collateral required and repayment periods of up to four years. Since its inception, the fund has disbursed over 41 loans and, valued at \$36 million, is designed to be self-sustaining, allowing beneficiaries to reinvest and support future entrepreneurs.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues emphasised the government's commitment to



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues, alongside the six loan recipients

inclusivity. "We are not only supporting businesses, but also recognising the immense potential, creativity, and resilience of our people," she said. "These recipients have shown that physical challenges do not limit ambition or productivity."

Through the SBB, over 10,000 entrepreneurs have received training in areas such as business plan writing, financial management, marketing, and practical skills, strengthening small business development and contributing to Guyana's broader economic growth.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has formally adopted the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Guyana, marking the conclusion of the country's Fourth Cycle Review.

The review process began with the 4th UPR cycle from May 6-9, 2025, during which Guyana presented its responses to 206 recommendations. Following extensive Cabinet consultations, input from constitutional agencies, and engagements with the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), Guyana fully accepted 146 recommendations, many of which were already in various stages of implementation.

Key commitments include strengthening democratic institutions, expanding access to justice, promoting gender equality, protecting children, safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, reducing poverty, and increasing access to healthcare, education, housing, and potable water across all regions. Guyana also reaffirmed its commitment to climate action and low-carbon development under the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.

An additional 58 recommendations were noted for

future consideration, particularly those requiring constitutional reforms, public consultations, or further legislative action. Two recommendations were partially accepted to ensure accurate reflection of the State's positions.

Speaking virtually at the adoption, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira thanked the 70 Member States that engaged constructively during the review, as well as the Troika members, Belgium, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Dominican Republic, and the Office of the High Commissioner for

GUYANA COMPLETES FOURTH UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW CYCLE



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues, alongside the six loan recipients

Human Rights (OHCHR) for their support.

Delegations and UN agencies praised Guyana's inclusive approach, highlighting achievements in judicial reforms, legislative modernisation,

healthcare, education, Indigenous rights, environmental protection, and social inclusion. Civil society representatives welcomed initiatives such as the decriminalisation of suicide and

improvements to prison conditions, while encouraging continued efforts to protect human rights.

Minister Teixeira reiterated that the UPR remains a vital platform for transparency and accountability. She affirmed the government's commitment to implementing its UPR obligations at the national level and through international partnerships, ensuring a rights-based approach to sustainable development amid global challenges such as climate vulnerability, geographic disparities, and resource constraints.

PRESIDENT ALI ROLLS OUT SOPS TO STABILISE BANKS AND CURRENCY MARKET

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced a set of measures aimed at bolstering Guyana's financial system, with a particular focus on banking services and the foreign currency market. The announcement followed a meeting with key stakeholders, including Bank of Guyana's Governor Dr. Gobin Ganga, GRA's Commissioner-General Godfrey Statia, and representatives of the country's commercial banks.

President Ali outlined nine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide commercial banks in maintaining stability, improving transparency, and curbing abuse of the system, particularly amid rising foreign exchange demand and capital outflows. He noted that the government has already taken several steps over the past three years to support the sector. In 2024, US\$332 million was injected into the economy to meet forex demand, rising to US\$1.2 billion in 2025, with an additional US\$160 million pending. President Ali also highlighted the surge in credit card usage, which grew from US\$91.3 million in 2023 to US\$347.5 million in 2024, and is projected at US\$252 million so far in 2025. He stressed the need to monitor credit cards to ensure they are used for personal, not business, transactions. The nine SOPs include measures



requiring submission of commercial invoices and Bills of Lading for all forex requests, verification by commercial banks and the Central Bank, monitoring of related-

party transactions, and the establishment of a single-window post-clearing system at the Central Bank. Amendments to local content legislation will

also ensure foreign currency earnings from the oil and gas sector are remitted into local bank accounts. Commercial bank representatives expressed their support for the measures, noting that they would help streamline operations while strengthening the overall foreign exchange system. These steps underscore the government's commitment to safeguarding Guyana's financial sector and ensuring a stable, transparent, and accountable foreign currency market.



President Ali delivering the feature address at the inaugural Energy Insights and Breakfast Brief hosted by GCCI

His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has urged Guyana's private sector to broaden its ambitions beyond servicing the booming oil and gas industry, calling on businesses to become the architects of entirely new industries. The head of state made the remarks during his feature address at the inaugural Energy

Insights and Breakfast Brief, hosted by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) at the Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre. Noting the rapid expansion of Guyana's economy due to oil, President Ali emphasised that the private sector must play a central role in ensuring

PRESIDENT ALI CHALLENGES PRIVATE SECTOR TO LOOK BEYOND OIL, BUILD NEW INDUSTRIES

wealth, opportunity, and commerce flow throughout the country. While the government will create a conducive environment through policy frameworks, infrastructure, and financial sector modernisation, he stressed that businesses must take bold steps to transform opportunities into tangible outcomes. "Someone asked me recently if Guyanese businesses are ready for the oil economy. I told them, we are ready in spirit... But readiness

is more than dreams. It is about skills, partnerships, and wealth creation. Otherwise, the opportunities will come and pass us by. We must prepare, not just dream," President Ali said. The president announced plans to collaborate with the private sector to increase capacity in local crude trading. He highlighted that the government will provide infrastructure, skills training, and workforce development while also engaging

experienced consultants to facilitate knowledge transfer during the early stages of the industry. President Ali underlined that development must be inclusive, ensuring that every village, hinterland community, and region benefits equitably. He stressed that oil and gas are tools to accelerate sustainable development, not ends in themselves. Revenues should be invested in schools, hospitals, infrastructure, and long-term growth, rather than short-term

consumption. Painting a vision for 2030, he said Guyana should have a diversified economy powered by modern infrastructure, technology, innovation, and knowledge, with reliable energy, connected highways, and world-class education and healthcare. "Oil is temporary. But sustainability is forever. You must use oil to build for the future, not deny the future to spend oil," he said.

GUYANA, SURINAME STRENGTHEN AGRI PARTNERSHIPS

Guyana's Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, met with Suriname's First Gentleman, H.E. Glenn Geerlings, to discuss enhancing collaboration in the agricultural sectors of both nations. During the meeting, Minister Mustapha highlighted the

significant progress Guyana has made over the past five years, citing investments in new and traditional crops, agro-processing, and aquaculture. He also emphasised the government's readiness to partner with Suriname on projects involving youth

and key stakeholders to further boost regional agricultural development. H.E. Geerlings acknowledged Suriname's achievements in agriculture, but noted opportunities for improvement. He expressed interest

in adopting some of Guyana's successful initiatives to enhance productivity and sustainability in Suriname's sector. Both officials agreed to continue dialogue through the appropriate channels, aiming to strengthen bilateral relations and



Guyana, Suriname talks on advancing agriculture sector

establish strategic expertise and partnerships. The collaboration to develop agriculture and drive economic growth in both countries. The discussions underscored a shared commitment to leveraging regional



Construction continues on the Tourism and Hospitality Institute

Slated for completion in June 2026, the Tourism and Hospitality Institute under construction in Port Mourant, Corentyne, Berbice, is set to play a pivotal role in supporting Guyana's growing tourism

TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE TO BOOST SKILLED WORKFORCE IN GUYANA

industry. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, visited the site and highlighted the importance of a skilled workforce to meet the sector's expanding needs. With numerous hotels under construction and government's

plans to attract further investment, the institute will provide essential training to ensure Guyanese can benefit from industry growth. "This world-class facility, with the capacity to train 200 persons per cohort, will offer Caribbean Vocational

Qualifications in areas ranging from mixology to cosmetology," Minister Rodrigues said. "A growing sector requires a skilled workforce, and we are proactively preparing Guyanese to meet these demands while

building national capacity." Construction began in January 2024, supported by a US\$7 million loan from the Caribbean Development Bank, reflecting the government's commitment to boosting tourism and driving economic development.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BRICKDAM POLICE STATION MOVING AT RAPID PACE

Construction of the 12-storey Brickdam Police Station is advancing steadily, marking a significant step in the government's commitment to modernising and transforming law enforcement in Guyana. The US\$28 million project is over 65 per cent complete and represents the largest infrastructural undertaking by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, conducted her first site inspection, accompanied by Permanent Secretary Andre Ally and Deputy Permanent Secretary Dwayne Adams. The new facility, built on the site of the old Brickdam Police Station, will replace Eve Leary as the central police headquarters while ensuring all current services remain

accessible. The modern concrete, glass, and steel building reflects the government's vision for a high-level, world-class police force. **"This facility is befitting of a police force where cutting-edge policing replaces bureaucracy and outdated methods,"** Minister Walrond said, noting that the welfare of officers remains a central priority.

The project, executed by R. Bassoo & Sons Construction Company in partnership with Qing Jian Group Company Guyana Incorporated, will feature earthquake-resistant design, fire safety systems, CCTV surveillance, and a robust telephone network. Key departments, including traffic, finance, and the impact base, will be housed in the building. Work on framing walls, AC ducts,



Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond inspecting new Brickdam Police Station

sprinklers, waste systems, and electrical and plumbing installations is progressing on schedule, with many systems already 90 per cent complete. The building is now fully enclosed, and overall completion is targeted for June 2026, providing a modern, safe, and efficient headquarters for the Guyana Police Force.



U.S. naval assets in the Caribbean

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed that Guyana's borders will not be exploited as a safe haven for criminal activity, emphasising that safeguarding territorial integrity is a top priority. Speaking with reporters at his office, the Head of State stressed

GUYANA WILL NOT BE A SAFE HAVEN FOR CRIMINALS - PRESIDENT ALI

that while Guyana is committed to regional peace and stability, it will not tolerate threats from drug trafficking and other transnational crimes. **"Our sovereignty is our sovereignty, and what we do in relation to our sovereignty is our business,"** President Ali stated in response

to recent comments from the Venezuelan government. The President highlighted that his government has been actively engaging with regional partners and the United States to strengthen collaboration in combating drug trafficking and other cross-border crimes. **"We don't want**

our land or sea to be used by any criminal network," he said. **"We have a duty and a responsibility to make the necessary investment to secure our borders, to secure our people, to secure this region, and to contribute to every effort that will see our region remain a zone of peace."**

President Ali's remarks underscore Guyana's commitment to maintaining national security while actively supporting regional stability, ensuring that the country remains a responsible and peaceful member of the Caribbean and Latin American community.

GUYANA RETAINS TIER 1 RANKING IN 2025 US TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

Guyana has again achieved a coveted "Tier 1" ranking in the 2025 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report released by the U.S. State Department, a recognition of the country's sustained efforts to combat human trafficking. Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Oneidge Walrond, described the ranking as a testament to the Government's commitment and effective measures in fighting TIP. She highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministerial Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons, civil society organisations, and international partners in addressing this critical issue. **"Our approach includes protecting vulnerable populations, intensifying**

inspections and anti-trafficking operations, supporting victims through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, and relentlessly prosecuting offenders," Minister Walrond said. The Tier 1 ranking marks the ninth consecutive year Guyana has demonstrated serious and sustained action against trafficking.

The report cites key advancements, including increased prosecutions, the successful conviction of a sex trafficker with restitution ordered, and stronger cross-border collaboration to investigate cases. The TIP Report also provides 12 recommendations for continued improvement, such as enhancing prosecutions and convictions involving child victims, eliminating



recruitment fees for workers, expanding inspections in high-risk sectors like mining and logging, and ensuring convicted traffickers and complicit officials face penalties. Minister

Walrond reaffirmed the Government's commitment to implementing these recommendations through robust policies, strengthened partnerships, and rigorous monitoring.



The President visit to the Radha Krishna Mandir in Georgetown for Navaratri observances

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that in the coming weeks, initiatives will be launched to leverage the talent of religious leaders and communities for the advancement of Guyana. The announcement was made during his visit to the Radha Krishna Mandir in Georgetown for Navaratri observances. President Ali emphasised that these efforts aim to utilise the leadership within religious institutions for the development of people, communities, and the nation as a

PRESIDENT ALI TO LEVERAGE RELIGIOUS LEADERS' TALENTS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

whole. Congratulating the Mandir's leaders for their dedication in promoting faith and values, the President highlighted the role of spirituality in building strong families and resilient communities. Reflecting on the significance of Navaratri, he described spirituality as a guiding force in today's challenging world, fostering humanity and service to society.



The President visit to the Radha Krishna Mandir in Georgetown for Navaratri observances

President Ali encouraged citizens to focus on positivity in their daily interactions, noting that life's purpose

is to serve and uplift one another. He also commended the active involvement of young people at the Mandir,

stressing that continuity and leadership are essential for sustaining the institution's vibrancy. Reaffirming the importance of faith to national resilience, the President noted that no country can thrive without a strong spiritual foundation. He extended blessings for Navaratri, wishing everyone health, strength, and prosperity in the season ahead.

MINISTERS MEET RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ALONG SOESDYKE-LINDEN CORRIDOR



Scene from the outreach

As part of a Cabinet Outreach held on Wednesday, October 9, several Government Ministers, along with Advisors and Members of Parliament, visited communities along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway to engage residents on their development priorities and concerns. The outreach teams met with residents of Waikabra, Ideal Road, Hararuni, Yarakabra

North and South, Kuru Kururu, St. Cuthbert's Mission, Laluni, Long Creek, Hill Foot, Swan, Circuit Ville, Kairuni, and Dora. This initiative continues the government's commitment to taking governance directly to the people, listening firsthand to their challenges and implementing timely, practical solutions. Now in the third week of its second term, the administration



Scene from the outreach

has already resumed nationwide engagements to ensure that all community concerns,

regardless of sector, are properly recorded and addressed by the relevant ministries and agencies. During her engagement at Waikabra, Minister within the Ministry of Housing, Vanessa Benn, reaffirmed the administration's people-centered approach. "Our government cares about each and every Guyanese, to help you improve

your lives, support your families, and participate in our nation's growth," she stated. At Hill Foot, Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, underscored the government's focus on inclusive and sustainable development. "Our work continues more aggressively as we implement programmes to improve the lives of every citizen, irrespective of their location," he said. Minister Croal also outlined ongoing initiatives to enhance public service delivery through digitisation and infrastructure improvements, including drainage mapping, job creation, and measures to ensure long-term community sustainability along the corridor.



Scene from the outreach

GPL SIGNS US\$15.6M AGREEMENT WITH INTERENERGY GROUP TO ADVANCE SMART GRID DEVELOPMENT

The Guyana Power and Light Incorporated (GPL) has signed a US\$15.6 million contract with InterEnergy Group for Supervisory, Engineering, and Project Management Consultancy Services, marking a significant step toward modernising Guyana's energy infrastructure and advancing the transition to a smart grid. The two-year agreement builds on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2024, which established the foundation for technical collaboration, project management,

and capacity building. Under the new contract, InterEnergy will provide project management and oversight for major infrastructure projects, ensure

company will also deliver technical advisory services for the operation and maintenance of generation assets, conduct audits, and recommend measures to

InterEnergy will lead efforts to integrate smart grid technology through gap analysis, cost-effective expansion planning, and the development of a roadmap for full-scale implementation. The agreement also includes comprehensive capacity-building initiatives, giving GPL access to specialised expertise and regular progress reports to strengthen operational and strategic decision-making. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, noted that the agreement followed



The signing ceremony

a rigorous negotiation process and represents the best interests of both parties. He expressed confidence that the partnership will deliver tangible improvements across the electricity sector. GPL Chairman, Maurice Gajadhar, hailed the agreement as a historic milestone in strengthening regional ties, particularly between Guyana and the Dominican Republic, and said it underscores the nation's

commitment to progress and development. InterEnergy Group Chairman, Rolando González Bunster, described the partnership as both symbolic and strategic, reaffirming the company's commitment to Guyana's growth. GPL's Head of Executive Management, Kesh Nandlall, said the initiative will play a pivotal role in transforming Guyana's electricity landscape and achieving the 2030 goal of a fully smart grid.



The signing ceremony

technical compliance, and integrate advanced smart technologies. The

enhance efficiency and reliability. Additionally,



Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond reviewing the platform

IMMIGRATION SERVICES GO DIGITAL WITH NEW E-SERVICE PLATFORM

The Ministry of Home Affairs has officially launched its new E-Service Platform for immigration support services, a major step forward in the government's ongoing digital transformation agenda. The upgraded platform offers citizens and non-

nationals convenient access to a wide range of immigration services, including visa applications, extensions, cancellations, and transfers, all available online. By digitising these services, the Ministry has eliminated the need for in-person visits and

extensive paperwork, making the process faster, more efficient, and transparent. Officials noted that the platform reflects the government's commitment to improving public service delivery through technology, ensuring greater accountability and accessibility for all

users. The Ministry emphasised that this initiative is part of a broader national strategy to advance digitalisation across the public sector, guided by the principles of efficiency, transparency, and innovation to benefit every Guyanese.

BATAVIA SOLAR GRID BRINGING 24-HOUR POWER TO HINTERLAND COMMUNITY

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips, commissioned the Batavia Village Solar Grid, a \$300 million project that is providing 24-hour renewable electricity to the Region Seven community for the first time.

Launched in 2021, the initiative was executed by CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited in partnership with the Government of Guyana, fulfilling a key commitment to expand clean energy access in hinterland communities.

“This milestone marks both the completion of an energy project and the dawn of a new chapter in the lives of this community. It is a milestone marked by light, opportunity, and sustainable progress,” Prime Minister Phillips stated.

The new solar system replaces diesel generators, ensuring reliable power for homes, schools, and the health clinic. Students and teachers can now utilise modern tools,

while families enjoy the dignity of stable electricity.

The solar grid includes an 81-kilowatt micro-grid at Greenfield, a 24.2-kilowatt system at Arian Island, and 51 solar home systems for remote households, each rated at 2.2 kilowatts. Collectively, these installations electrify over 125 households.

Prime Minister Phillips commended CNOOC for its corporate social responsibility and alignment with Guyana’s Low Carbon

Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030. He also recognised technical support from the Hinterland Electrification Company Inc., and the Guyana Energy Agency. **“This project exemplifies what can be achieved when the Government, private sector, and Indigenous communities work together,”** he noted.

The solar grid highlights the government’s commitment to placing



The commissioning of the solar grid

Indigenous communities at the centre of national development. The Batavia project complements the 1.5-megawatt solar farm in Bartica, and forms part of a wider plan to implement 41 solar installations across nine regions by 2026.

Prime Minister Phillips stressed that electrification will strengthen education, healthcare, enterprise, and cultural preservation, empowering residents to build their envisioned future.



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips during a tour of the facility

Guyana’s landmark Gas-to-Energy (GTE) project has reached over 68 per cent completion, with contractors

advancing the pouring of concrete foundations at the Wales site in Region Three. The project’s contractor,

GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT PROGRESSING SET TO DELIVER CHEAPER POWER BY 2026

Lindsayca, has also begun constructing new housing units for 400 additional workers operating on 12-hour shifts.

A key component of the initiative is the 300-megawatt (MW) power plant, now 74 per cent complete, which will use natural gas to generate affordable electricity for households

and businesses nationwide.

During a recent site visit, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips assured that Guyanese will begin benefiting from lower electricity costs by late 2026.

“Definitely during the latter part of 2026, the people of Guyana will be benefitting

from electricity at a reduced cost because of this project,” he said.

Minister of Public Works Deodat Indar reaffirmed that the project remains a top government priority, noting that cutting electricity prices in half was a key campaign commitment.

Beyond energy savings, the GTE project will anchor Guyana’s industrial transformation, with lands already earmarked for a fertilizer plant, glass factory, and data centre, all expected to drive growth and diversification in the national economy.

PM PHILLIPS HIGHLIGHTS GUYANA'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRESS AT OLADE MEETING

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips, outlined Guyana’s achievements under the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to a clean, just energy transition during the 55th Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE) Meeting of Energy Ministers in Santiago, Chile.

He emphasised that Guyana’s low-carbon path is built on innovation, inclusion, and equity, ensuring that every citizen benefits from the energy transition. The Prime Minister highlighted key initiatives under LCDS 2030, including the diversification of the energy mix, progress in renewable projects, and strong participation in global climate advocacy.

At the centre of

Guyana’s clean energy drive is the Gas-to-Energy Project, which will provide 600MW of power upon completion, reducing emissions and energy costs. He also noted progress in hydropower development, including the 165MW Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, smaller plants at Kumu, Moco Moco, and Kato, and new sites under review.

Solar expansion

remains a major achievement, with over 36MW of utility-scale solarfarms, 56 solar mini-grids, 6MW of rooftop solar installations on public buildings, and 37,000 solar home systems benefitting approximately 140,000 people.

Prime Minister Phillips also cited the rollout of electric mobility infrastructure, energy-efficient technologies, and grid modernisation



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips at the OLADE meeting

with battery storage. He commended OLADE’s role in promoting regional cooperation and called for greater climate finance, technology transfer, and fair treatment of forest nations.

“Guyana’s journey

shows that even a small tropical forest country can achieve outsized climate and energy results through sound policies, community engagement, and international cooperation,” he said.



The aircraft acquired for the aerial mapping

The Ministry of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), launched a cutting-edge data

acquisition project at the Eugene Correia International Airport, aimed at modernising mineral exploration and strengthening the country’s geological

NEW AERIAL SURVEY INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN GUYANA'S MINERAL EXPLORATION

database.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, highlighted that the initiative aligns with Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). **“This project ties in perfectly into our LCDS, which speaks to sustainable mining, logging, and balancing development with**

environmental protection,” he said.

The \$4 billion project will integrate historical and new geological data across the country using advanced technology, including remote sensing and aerial mapping. This approach will enable more accurate identification of mineral resources, close data gaps, and attract

investment to the sector.

Priority areas for exploration, as identified under Guyana’s Mineral Advancement and Prospecting Strategy (GMAPS), include the Takutu Mountains. The data will guide policy decisions, support responsible mining practices, and benefit communities across the country.

Minister Bharrat noted that the initiative is especially important for sparsely populated hinterland regions, where mining remains a key source of employment and economic opportunity, reinforcing the government’s commitment to sustainable development and growth in the sector.

PRESIDENT ALI PRAISES WENDY'S FRANCHISEE FOR INVESTING IN GUYANA'S ECONOMY



The flagship restaurant is located at the former KFC building on Vlissengen Road

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali At the opening ceremony, the President has applauded the confidence shown by the franchisee of Wendy's as the fast-food giant officially opened its first location in Guyana on Vlissengen Road, congratulated **Iman Khan-Cummings**, founder and franchisee of WenKai Inc., for expanding the country's quick-service restaurant

market while creating employment and business opportunities for citizens. "I want to thank this family for not only investing, but creating so many opportunities for Guyanese families. There are opportunities to invest elsewhere, but you continue to show confidence in your country and your people," President Ali said. He also highlighted the positive impact on local employment, noting the strong representation of women in the workforce. "You're not only creating

employment, but empowering employees. I'm pleased to see a full team of women in this women-powered environment," he added, wishing the business success and expansion across Guyana. Khan-Cummings expressed gratitude for the government's pro-business climate. **"This is the first of many locations. We're grateful for a government that paves the way and fosters an environment where we can expand,"** she said, adding



Some menu favourites

that the President's presence reflected his commitment to the people. WenKai Inc., part of the Corum Group that introduced P.F. Chang's to Guyana last year, plans to open three Wendy's locations by the end of 2025. The flagship restaurant, situated at the former KFC building on Vlissengen Road, will offer breakfast, lunch, and dinner, along with drive-through and delivery services. Customers can now enjoy global favourites, including the signature **#5 Spicy Chicken Sandwich**, in a modern, convenience-focused setting.

RIDEALONG GY LAUNCHES BICYCLE SCHOOL, ADDS UNIQUE TWIST TO DESTINATION GUYANA

Guyana's tourism sector continues to grow, offering visitors unique experiences from the breathtaking Kaieteur Falls to immersive city tours. Building on this momentum, RideAlong GY launched its Bicycle Rental and Riding School at the Georgetown Botanical Gardens, providing both residents and tourists with an innovative way to explore the city. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, commended the initiative and its founder, Cherry-Ann Greene, for contributing to the expansion of Guyana's



New bicycle rental, riding school pedals into Guyana's tourism

tourism product. **"Tourism is about more than hotels and accommodation,"** Minister Rodrigues said. **"It encompasses cultural experiences, entertainment, transportation, and the ways visitors engage with our communities. Initiatives like this add tremendous value to Destination Guyana, creating memorable experiences."** She stressed

the importance of collaboration among stakeholders. **"If we are to develop a truly robust tourism industry, hotels, tour operators, guides, and service providers must all see themselves as part of a larger framework under Destination Guyana,"** she noted. The minister praised RideAlong GY not only for its innovative approach to sustainable, non-motorised tourism, but also for promoting healthy outdoor activity. The company was a recipient of the Ministry's Small Business Green

Tech Fund Grant, which supported its environmentally friendly **into sustainable ventures that create jobs, stimulate** operations. **"This is exactly the kind of outcome we aim to achieve with our grants,"** Minister Rodrigues said. **"It transforms ideas growth, and expand continuously. What we are witnessing today is a true success story."**



The launch of RideAlong GY at the Botanical Gardens

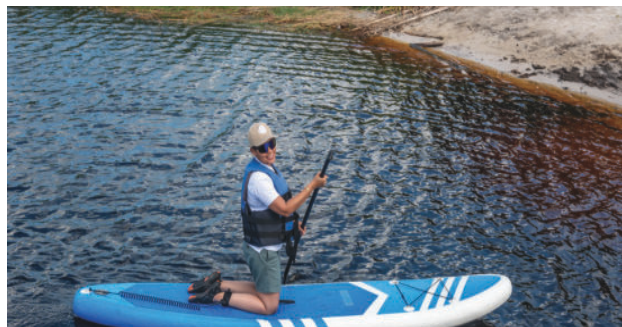
SANTA ARATAK COUPLE LAUNCHES IMMERSIVE ECO-TOURISM EXPERIENCE

Tour operator couple Keiran Samuels and Shebana Daniels of Santa Aratak Mission have launched a unique tourism experience, Waia Green Escapes, designed to combine

nature, culture, and adventure in a tranquil setting. The couple, owners of Waia Lodge, initially envisioned a sanctuary to raise their children, but soon decided to

share the experience with the wider public. Waia Green Escapes invites visitors to disconnect, rejuvenate, and engage in activities that foster bonding while immersing themselves in Guyana's natural beauty. The experience begins with a boat ride from the Timehri docks along Kamuni Creek, where guides introduce visitors to the local flora, fauna, and the history of Hope Town, Guyana's first Chinese settlement. Guests can also enjoy wildlife and bird watching, village

tours of Santa Aratak Mission, fishing, paddle-boarding, trail biking, and nature walks. A tour of the Demerara River concludes the experience with a scenic sunset. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues attended the launch at Waia Lodge alongside members of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG). She praised the couple for their innovative and sustainable approach, highlighting the



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues participating in the paddle-boarding activity at the Waia Lodge



The Waia Lodge

importance of packaging Guyana's rich culture, heritage, and landscapes to attract both international visitors and Guyanese returning home. The event also featured the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Embassy in Guyana, reinforcing the government's commitment to cultural preservation while supporting sustainable tourism development. Minister Rodrigues and other guests participated in the activities, experiencing firsthand the unique offerings of Waia Green Escapes.

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A Message from Canada’s news publishers

To the Government of Canada,

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Canada’s news publishers



SOURCES
¹ Annual Report on Government of Canada Advertising Activities 2023-2024, combined with proprietary industry data.
² Totum Research Canada, January 2025. Canadians 18+, n=2418.; Pollara for the Dais. 2025 Survey of Online Harms, Canadians 16+, n=2502.



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GUYANESE CELEBRATE IN NATIONAL - AS BHARRAT JAGDEO DE

Guyana’s longest and most advanced river crossing, the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge, was officially unveiled on October 5, marking a historic milestone in the nation’s infrastructure development.

Stretching 2,798 meters across the Demerara River, the US\$262 million cable-stayed bridge features four lanes for vehicles, separate pedestrian and cyclist pathways, and a 50-meter clearance for ships, ensuring uninterrupted 24/7 flow of both road and river traffic. Constructed by China Railway Construction Corporation Limited, the bridge is designed to last 100 years.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali hailed the project as a symbol of Guyana’s transformation, saying, “Oil revenues, wisely managed, are being converted into projects that deliver benefits to every single Guyanese.” The bridge also honours former President and Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, recognising his decades of leadership and vision for national and regional development.

Thousands of Guyanese gathered to witness the historic commissioning, which included a symbolic walk across the bridge led by President Ali, First Lady Arya Ali, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, and members of cabinet. The bridge is expected to benefit 50,000 daily commuters and unlock new corridors for industry, commerce, and housing along the East Bank.

Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill praised the sacrifices of families displaced during construction and highlighted the work of over 1,300 personnel, local engineers, and safety teams who ensured the project’s timely completion.

The ceremony featured interfaith prayers, cultural performances, and concluded with a spectacular fireworks display over the river, along with the coordinated sounding of horns from ships in the harbour.

Standing tall with its illuminated Cacique Crown of Honour towers, the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge is more than a crossing, it is a catalyst for growth, a beacon of national pride, and a signal that Guyana is ready to modernise, industrialise, and build a future of opportunity for generations to come.



S MAJOR MILESTONE VELOPMENT ARA RIVER BRIDGE OPENS



TRAFFIC RELIEF IN SIGHT AS MACKENZIE-WISMAR BRIDGE NEARS COMPLETION



Traffic congestion and lengthy delays will soon be eased for Lindeners as construction on the new US\$35 million Mackenzie-Wismar River Bridge progresses rapidly. The 220-metre-long precast concrete bridge is now past 72 per cent complete, well ahead of schedule, according to Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill.

Contractor China Railway Construction (Caribbean) Co. Ltd has completed the construction and installation of all eight precast anti-collision beams on Pier Three, following the removal of over-poured concrete at the pile heads. Piers One, Two, Four, Five, and Six are also finished, while work continues on the fabrication of precast girders for spans one, two, and three. Progress on these spans currently stands at 20 per cent, 23 per cent, and 10 per cent, respectively.

The new bridge will be a Prestressed Post-Tensioned Concrete Box Girder Bridge, featuring four lanes for vehicles, two barrier-separated pedestrian walkways, and uninterrupted passage for hopper barges.

Once completed, the Mackenzie-Wismar River Bridge will significantly enhance connectivity and efficiency in Region Ten, strengthening the movement of people and goods and supporting the area's role in international commerce and economic growth. The project marks a key milestone in the government's ongoing infrastructure development efforts to improve transportation and regional development.

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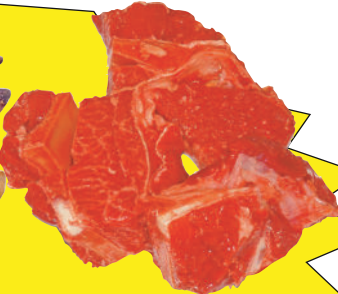
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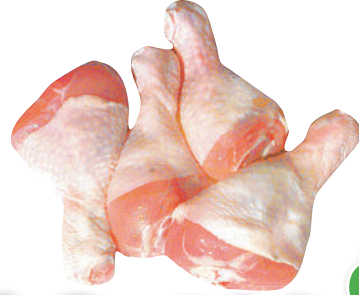
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16 LANES, OVERPASSES, AND RAILWAY AHEAD

PRESIDENT ALI UNVEILS MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES TO BOOST MOBILITY, EASE CONGESTION, AND UNLOCK ECONOMIC POTENTIAL



Scene from the inspection of the road projects

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled a sweeping infrastructure programme set to redefine connectivity across Guyana. From a 16-lane highway linking Buzz Bee Dam to Ogle, to a new West Bank–West Coast bypass and the nation’s first commercial railway, these transformative projects will unlock thousands of acres for housing, agriculture, and industry.

The multi-phase initiative aims to ease traffic congestion, strengthen drainage, and accelerate economic expansion, connecting communities, opening development zones, and modernising national transport in line with the government’s vision for a stronger, more connected Guyana.

During an inspection of works at Buzz Bee Dam, President Ali revealed that the design for the overpass across the Heroes Highway has been completed. The project will link the East Bank to the East Coast of Demerara and eventually to Vreed-en-Hoop, creating a 16-lane network from Buzz Bee Dam to Ogle.

“This is going to be a major game changer,” the President said. **“It will open thousands of acres of farmland, commercial, and industrial land, putting to use assets**

that were once idled.” The overpass forms part of Phase II of the government’s national traffic management plan, which also includes connections from Buzz Bee Dam to the Eccles dumpsite road, Aubrey Barker Street, Ogle, and Enmore. Advanced engineering and drainage systems are being integrated to strengthen flood style construction, similar to methods used in the Everglades, to ensure durability and cost efficiency.

A feasibility study is currently underway for a commercial railway linking the East Coast and East Bank. Running parallel to the Buzz Bee Dam highway, the railway will facilitate both cargo and commuter transport, with the study



Scene from the inspection of the road projects

resilience, with drainage and excavation works expected to conclude by March 2026.

President Ali also disclosed that the design and preparation for the Land of Canaan–Soesdyke Highway will be completed by the end of 2025. Given the swampy terrain, the project will employ innovative overpass-

set for completion within six weeks.

Meanwhile, construction on the Aubrey Barker–Ogle Highway is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed before year-end. The four-lane link will connect communities from South Ruimveldt and Cummings Lodge to the Mandela Roundabout,

easing congestion and providing an additional route between the city and the East Coast.

“Before the end of the year, this section from Ogle all the way to the Mandela Roundabout will be completed, giving us another four lanes of interconnection,” President Ali confirmed.

He also outlined the broader vision: **“From Ogle to Enmore, we’ll see another four-lane expansion through LBI, Lusignan, and Mon Repos, opening thousands of acres for housing, manufacturing, and industrial development.”**

On the West Bank, President Ali announced a new bypass road along an old GuySuCo dam, linking Canal, Leonora,

and Stewartville. The bypass will ease congestion between Hague and Stewartville, cutting travel time from Canal to Leonora to about 10 minutes.

“That investment will open all the farmlands there because we have to find land on the West Coast for at least 20,000 more households,” the President said.

Together, these landmark projects form the cornerstone of the government’s ambitious infrastructure modernisation agenda, creating new economic zones, reducing travel times, and laying the foundation for balanced, sustainable national development.



Scene from the inspection of the road projects

EAST COAST CORRIDOR

UPGRADE NEARS FINISH LINE

The transformation of the East Coast Corridor, spanning from Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau (Mahaica), is moving steadily toward completion, with physical works close to 80 percent complete.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali conducted an impromptu site visit to the US\$192 million project, which is being executed by China Railway First Group Co. Limited (CRFGC). He was accompanied by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill, Minister within the Ministry Mandanlall Ramraj, technical officers, and CRFGC representatives.

During the visit, President Ali received updates on the new



President Ali inspecting ongoing works on the East Coast road improvement project

Hope River Bridge, where outstanding works include expansion joints, street lighting, painting, and the final asphalt layer. Once finished, the bridge will connect seamlessly to the wider four-lane corridor from Mahaica to Sheriff Street. The new bridge itself will carry four lanes, complementing the existing two-lane structure to provide a combined six-lane crossing.

Looking ahead, the president noted that the next phase extends from Mahaica to Rosignol, with most designs already completed. The project’s completion is targeted for October 30, though relocation of GPL transmission lines has been a key challenge. President Ali confirmed that works on

these utilities will begin shortly, with some lines requiring entirely new alignments.

He further explained that the utility relocations are paired with upgrades to the power system, ensuring new developments along the corridor, including the Enmore Industrial Zone, LBI commercial hub, and surrounding housing schemes, are fully integrated into the national grid.

Almost all lanes from Mahaica to Good Hope have been surfaced, with only sections affected by utility relocations remaining. President Ali assured residents that access to their yards has been resolved, with new entrances already constructed.

The US\$192 million project is part of Phase II of the Annandale to Mahaica and Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau initiative, measuring



President Ali inspecting ongoing works on the East Coast road improvement project

approximately 30.8 kilometres, with an additional 5.3 kilometres allocated for the Belfield to Orange Nassau upgrade. Works include upgrading Sheriff Street

Agreement with China, is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion, improve road safety, and enhance travel times along the East Coast corridor.

Investment opportunities coming within the next three months, says President Ali

WITHIN the next three months, the Government of Guyana will unveil a suite of strategic investment projects designed to further promote collaboration between the government, the private sector, as well as Guyanese in the Diaspora, according to President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The President made these remarks on Saturday at the opening of the SOMA Hotel and Restaurant at Houston, East Bank Demerara.

The upcoming projects are poised to form part of a broader effort to strengthen economic resilience, and bolster long-term sustainable growth.

President Ali said: “In another three months or less, we’ll be defining a number of projects that we will come to the private sector with our diaspora and say, ‘Here is it. We are presenting the fertiliser plant, opportunity in the gas to shore,’ and then bringing all our truckers together to understand that the new form of trucking will be transporting liquids from the gas project, and accepting a realistic path to long-term sustainable revenue generation.”

Additionally, the President outlined a co-investment model in which the government partners with the private sector, with the possibility of deferring its equity contribution.

“A path in which the government co-invests with the private sector. Government equity could be deferred equity and the private sector accept maybe a 10 per cent return, whereas safe vehicle, safe investment, safe return, sovereign in that it is national in nature,” he said, adding: “That is what we want to create.”

A key component of this strategy is the interest-free development bank, which the government is currently working to establish.

The bank will aim to provide accessible financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), thereby reducing reliance on traditional commercial banks, and their often restrictive collateral and interest requirements.

Most recently, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo said that the government is moving to set up the zero-interest development bank.

About US\$200 million in seed funding will be used in this venture.

Dr. Jagdeo said the funds will be disbursed in tranches. Work on the concept has started, he said, and it could be operational by the end of 2026.

The bank will advance credit for small businesses at zero interest, and with fewer collateral requirements.

To hasten this commitment, an expert committee has been entrusted with formulating the model of the SME Development Bank.

They will need to study global experiences, delineate the legal and institutional framework, and identify the financial structures required to operationalise the bank.



President Ali speaking at SOMA on Sunday

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Official Family Registry

Arbor Memorial Inc.

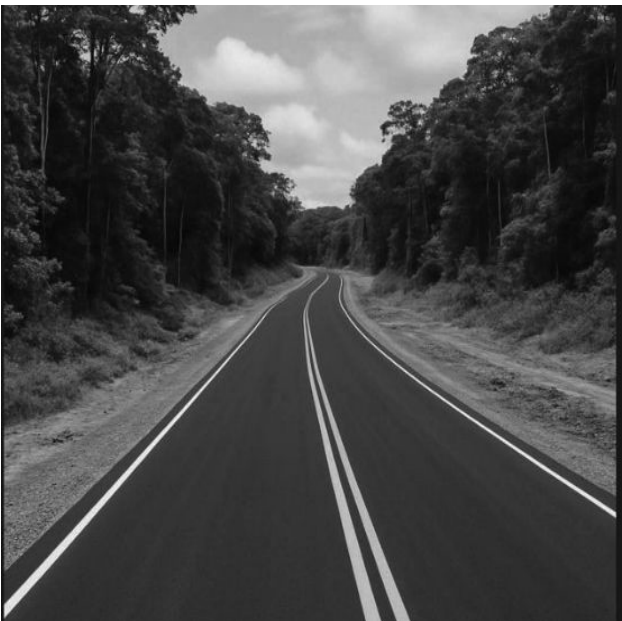
LINDEN-LETHEM ROAD PROJECT ACCELERATES

The Government is fast-tracking upgrades to the Linden to Lethem Road, a vital corridor connecting the coast to the Brazilian border. The project involves transforming 450 kilometres of dirt road into a modern, all-weather thoroughfare. To ensure efficient progress, the project has been divided into phases, with the first

phase from Linden to Mabura Hill already advancing rapidly. Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill noted that preparations are underway to tender lots two, three, and four, moving the initiative closer to full completion. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali is reviewing multiple proposals to determine the final design, which

will include a 600-metre bridge over the Kurupukari River and a causeway, ensuring the road remains open to traffic 24/7. Minister Edghill emphasised the project’s transformative impact: travel time from Linden to Lethem will be cut from over 12 hours to approximately four hours. The upgrade will reduce transportation

costs, improve access to services for remote communities, and boost trade and tourism with Brazil. Local residents stand to benefit greatly, gaining access to a market of around 20 million people in northern Brazil, opening new avenues for economic growth, financial empowerment, and regional development.



Completed sections of the road



Street lights being installed on Sheriff Street

100,000 STREETLIGHTS TO BRIGHTEN COMMUNITIES AND ENHANCE SAFETY NATIONWIDE

Soon, 100,000 streetlights will be installed across Guyana to improve road safety, reduce accidents, and deter crime. The initiative aims to boost community well-being by creating safer, more vibrant spaces for evening activities and supporting local economic growth.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, announced that contracts have already been signed for the acquisition of the lights. While awaiting shipment, the government has been sourcing and installing available lights in priority areas. **“In the interim, while waiting for the**

100,000 streetlights to come in, we have bought every streetlight that is available in the country,” Minister Edghill said. The government has also gone out to tender for new traffic lights following a joint survey with the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and other

agencies. This multi-billion-dollar effort seeks to modernise traffic control systems and replace non-functional lights. Additionally, 1,000 truck clamps and weighing scales are being procured to address overloaded trucks and protect roadways. A new axle load law will

soon be introduced, with consultations ensuring fair implementation. Minister Edghill reaffirmed that the government remains committed to road safety and the preservation of Guyana’s infrastructure.

NEW TOURISM HUBS TO GUIDE VISITORS ACROSS GUYANA

Reaffirming the government’s commitment to strengthening Guyana’s tourism sector, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, announced plans to establish information centres at key ports of entry. The centres will provide travellers with comprehensive access to events and experiences across the country as part of the ‘Destination Guyana’ initiative. The announcement came during an engagement at



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues addressing the tour operators at the engagement.

the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, where tour operators and hoteliers shared their ideas, challenges, and suggestions to enhance tourism. Minister Rodrigues

highlighted the critical role of young people in the sector and emphasised collaboration with stakeholders who form the backbone of the industry. She compared the information centres

to hotel reception desks, noting that they will guide visitors to locations and experiences throughout Guyana. Events will be promoted by the Guyana Tourism Authority using data collected from local businesses. **“Your service or the experience that you provide your customers at your hotel does not end with your bar, poolside, or restaurant; you have to also provide access to everything Guyana has to offer,”** Minister Rodrigues said.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues and tour operators at the engagement.

She also announced the development of a comprehensive calendar of local events, running from January to December 2026, which will be promoted both locally and internationally. The initiative aims to highlight Guyana’s unique attractions, including its biodiversity, culture,

and cuisine, while ensuring accessibility, affordability, and consistency for visitors. Minister Rodrigues expressed confidence that by working closely with stakeholders, Guyana’s tourism industry will grow sustainably and enhance the country’s reputation as a top travel destination.



Number 63 Beach set to become major tourism hub

Number 63 Beach is undergoing a transformative upgrade, positioning it as a premier tourism destination in Guyana. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, visited the site alongside

NUMBER 63 BEACH SET FOR MAJOR TOURISM UPGRADE

Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Kamrul Baksh, to assess the ongoing works and progress. The enhancements form part of the National Beautification Project, led by the Office of the First Lady in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and the Regional Democratic Council of Region Six. The upgrades aim

to improve facilities, aesthetics, and visitor experience, elevating the beach into a landmark attraction for locals and tourists alike. Minister Rodrigues highlighted her ministry’s commitment to expanding and enhancing tourism offerings. **“This beach is already a popular attraction, but with the transformative**

upgrades led by the First Lady, it will be elevated into a premier tourism landmark, one that significantly boosts our national appeal,” she said. She also pointed to wider regional developments, including the new Corentyne River Bridge and a world-class stadium in Palmyra,

which are expected to drive increased visitor traffic. Looking ahead, the ministry plans to implement comprehensive upgrades to Number 63 Beach and other facilities nationwide as part of broader efforts to strengthen Guyana’s tourism sector and showcase the country’s leisure and cultural offerings.

CH&PA'S NEW HEADQUARTERS TO BRING ALL SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF

Construction of the new Headquarters of the Ministry of Housing and Water's, Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA) at Plantation Houston, East Bank Demerara, is steadily advancing. Once completed, the modern facility will significantly enhance service delivery to the public while providing a more comfortable and efficient workspace for staff.

Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, and Minister within the Ministry, Vanessa Benn, recently inspected the project, accompanied by CH&PA's Deputy Director of Projects, Intakab Indarjeet, and engineers from the Projects Department. The new

headquarters, measuring approximately 150 feet in length and 105 feet in width, sits on a two-acre plot spanning 214 by 407 feet. It will feature a spacious parking area capable of accommodating over 100 vehicles and will house about 400 staff members, bringing all CH&PA departments under one roof.

Minister Croal explained that consolidating operations in a single facility will eliminate the need for annexes and make services more accessible to the public. **"With our new commitments under the manifesto, there's a lot more work to be done, and this facility will ensure we deliver**



Construction on the new Headquarters of the Ministry of Housing progressing

efficiently," he stated. Minister Benn, visiting the site for the first time, expressed satisfaction with the pace of work and the project's focus on public comfort. The building is expected to be completed by year-end, after which relocation to the new headquarters will begin.



Core Home beneficiaries, together with the Ministers and staff from the Ministry of Housing and Water

After years of renting and moving between relatives' homes, single mother of three, Colleen Benn, can finally call a house her own. Benn received the keys to her new home in Lusten-Rust, West Bank Demerara, under the Ministry of Housing and Water's Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) Core Home Support Programme, part of the Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility initiative.

"Having my own space brings me peace of mind. I feel more relaxed now, and this home represents stability

CORE HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO DELIVER ON GOVT PROMISE

and a secure future for my family," Benn said.

During the handover ceremony, Minister of Housing Collin Croal and Minister within the Ministry, Vanessa Benn, praised the programme for improving the lives of vulnerable families and fostering stronger communities. To date, 124 families on the West Bank of Demerara have been selected to benefit, with 51 homes completed and handed over, 50 occupied, and 43 under

construction.

The programme, a collaborative effort between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank, provides safe, durable, and affordable housing while supporting urban accessibility and community development.

Judith and Oral Adams, who received their home in a separate ceremony, shared how their dream of a larger, permanent residence remained unfulfilled for

two decades. **"I bought some blocks to start the foundation years ago, but circumstances prevented us from completing it. When I applied for the Core Home Programme and was selected, I was so grateful,"** Oral Adams said.

Alongside the Adams, 10 other families in communities including Liliendaal, Cummings Park, Sophia, La Parfaite Harmonie, and Westminster

received homes. The programme is expected to conclude in December 2025, with 147 homes distributed to date.

Minister Vanessa Benn encouraged beneficiaries to maintain their homes, while Minister Croal reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Guyanese, noting that the ministry will continue working with communities to support citizens' well-being.

CH&PA PUSHING FOR TIMELY DELIVERY OF SOESDYKE-LINDEN HOUSING PROJECTS

Newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), Dr. Martin Pertab, conducted site visits to several housing projects along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, including Hauraruni and the Yarrowkabra Homestead Project.

Accompanied by CH&PA engineers and a surveyor, Dr. Pertab

met with contractors to assess ongoing works and address potential challenges early. He emphasised the importance of maintaining performance standards, particularly among smaller or newer contractors, while signalling plans to engage directly with delinquent contractors whose delays could affect utility installation and

project completion.

"In a housing scheme, the end objective is to ensure occupancy. Beneficiaries wouldn't occupy if there's no road, water, or electricity," Dr. Pertab noted.

The Hauraruni Project will feature over 400 Young Professional homes, with land preparation almost complete and internal

roads and drainage underway. Meanwhile, the Yarrowkabra Homestead Project is constructing 200 prefabricated homes in its first phase, as part of a \$6 billion initiative expected to deliver 500 homes.

This ambitious project, initiated by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, integrates housing with agriculture and renewable energy,



Dr. Martin Pertab, visiting the housing projects along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway

including shade houses and solar systems, to empower communities—particularly women-led households.

Through these engagements,

Pertab reaffirmed CH&PA's commitment to keeping projects on schedule, helping more Guyanese families achieve the dream of homeownership.



Minister of Housing Collin Croal speaking with residents of Anna Catherina

The Government of Guyana is prioritising both community welfare and national resilience in Anna Catherina by advancing land

tenure security while safeguarding the sea defence reserve.

Minister of Housing Collin Croal and Minister within the Ministry of

Agriculture Vickash Ramkisoon, along with officials from the Central Housing & Planning Authority (CH&PA), held a community meeting to address residents' concerns about land regulation.

The engagement forms part of the National Operation Clear-Up, previously announced by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, aimed at

resolving long-standing land tenure issues. Through this initiative, residents will be able to secure homeownership documents and formalise their tenures. CH&PA distributed several house lot application forms, with 19 already completed.

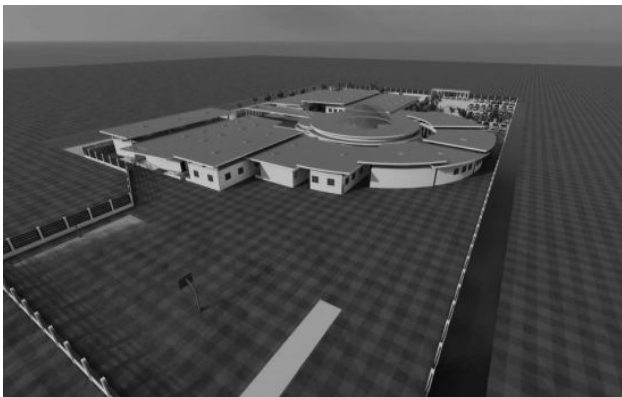
Minister Croal stressed that while the government is committed to supporting

affected families, the sea defence reserve must be preserved to protect the community from flooding and erosion. He added that any necessary relocations will be handled carefully, with affected families receiving assistance.

Minister Ramkisoon encouraged residents to cooperate fully with the regularisation process, noting that

timely submission of documents is critical. CH&PA officials will return to the community to address remaining concerns, ensuring the process is smooth and transparent.

This initiative reflects the government's dedication to balancing community development with environmental and infrastructural resilience.



Artist impression of the new Nismes Secondary

Construction of the new Nismes Secondary School, a \$1.3 billion state-of-the-art facility on the West Bank of Demerara, is being fast-tracked to be fully

ready for the January school term. Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, confirmed that while the majority of the project is complete, students could begin moving into their

STUDENTS TO SOON OCCUPY NEW NISMES SECONDARY SCHOOL

new classrooms soon.

Following a site visit, Minister Parag noted that three buildings, slated for completion soon, will provide 11 spacious classrooms to accommodate students, allowing them to transition from the old school facilities while construction continues on the remaining structures, including the administration office, library, TVET wing, and

science laboratories.

She stressed that the entire project must be completed by the end of December to ensure the complex is ready for additional intake in the new term. Minister Parag has mandated daily supervision by consultants and encouraged contractors to increase manpower and extend working hours where necessary to meet the deadline.

The school is designed to accommodate approximately 800 students and features over 20 classrooms, science labs, a TVET wing, and other modern amenities to support the government's goal of Universal Secondary Education.

Minister Parag emphasized that this project reflects the government's continued commitment to

improving education delivery across Guyana. While the sector has made significant strides under the leadership of President Irfaan Ali, she noted that some delayed commitments, such as Nismes Secondary, are being prioritised for completion to provide students with modern, inclusive, and fully equipped learning environments.

STRICT DEADLINES SET FOR BAMIA AND HINTERLAND SCHOOL PROJECTS

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, has issued a strong warning to contractors working on the Bamia Primary School in Linden, Region Ten, urging them to meet the October deadline or risk having their contract terminated.

During a site visit, Minister Manickchand met with the contractor, St8tement Investment Inc., and subcontractors, emphasising that the finishing phase must be accelerated. She

also announced that an official will be assigned to oversee the project's completion.

"The contractors have been told that it's either they finish or come off the project. We are very clear about what we want for the children who are going to attend here," Minister Manickchand stated.

She expressed concern about projects that stall at the final stage, noting that the current overcrowded conditions at the temporary school,

where pupils attend in shifts and share benches, make timely completion critical. Once completed, the new Bamia Primary School will accommodate hundreds of students, greatly improving access to quality education in the area.

The project, which began in November 2021, is part of the government's broader effort to expand education infrastructure nationwide.

Meanwhile, Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and

Regional Development, Pauline Sukhai, has also reinforced the government's zero-tolerance stance on construction delays during visits to secondary school projects in Region Seven.

Accompanied by Minister of Education Sonia Parag, Minister Sukhai inspected works at the Three Miles, Bartica, and Karrau Secondary Schools. She stressed that all contracts must be completed on schedule, highlighting



The inspection of the schools in Region Seven

the government's commitment to improving educational infrastructure, teacher accommodation, and resources for hinterland students.

Minister Parag added, **"We are going to hold contractors**

to their timelines," reaffirming that the ongoing projects reflect the government's dedication to expanding access to secondary education in the hinterland regions.



GOAL has awarded over 39,000 scholarships since 2021

The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) has launched its 2026 Call for Scholarship Applications, providing thousands of Guyanese with the opportunity

to pursue fully funded higher education and skills training programmes.

The first phase of applications opens on October 1, 2025, running

GOAL OPENS 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR GUYANESE

until October 31 for vocational and certificate programmes, as well as the Get Ready for Opportunities to Work (GROW) initiative.

GOAL's vocational offerings include over 100 short, skills-based programmes with no formal education requirements, while the GROW initiative provides three pathways: Scottish Credit

and Qualifications Framework (SCQF Level 6), Bachelor's Foundation Programme (BFP), and the US High School Diploma, all designed to prepare students for Bachelor's degree entry. Applications for Bachelor's degree programmes will be accepted from November 1 to December 31, 2025, and postgraduate

applications from December 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026.

This year, GOAL is implementing a phased rollout to streamline the application process, offering clear guidance to ensure equal opportunity for all eligible applicants. GOAL continues to expand access to education and skills development, aiming to build the nation's

human capacity and empower Guyanese from all backgrounds and communities.

Since its inception in 2021, GOAL has awarded over 39,000 scholarships across certificate, diploma, Bachelor's, postgraduate, Master's, and PhD programmes, underscoring its commitment to accessible, quality education.

YOUTH HEALTH AND INCLUSION TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT ADOLESCENT SYMPOSIUM

Teenagers from schools across Guyana gathered at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre for the Inaugural Adolescent Symposium and Impromptu Speaking Competition, hosted by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Government of Canada and UNICEF. The event, themed "Creating Safe, Healthy

and Inclusive Spaces for Adolescents," aimed to empower young people to speak openly about issues affecting their sexual and reproductive health.

Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, underscored the importance of education in guiding adolescents to make safe and responsible

choices. She highlighted the integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education into the Health and Family Life Education curriculum as part of the ministry's commitment to preparing students for adulthood.

The forum, supported by partners including National Aids Programme Secretariat,

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, and SRHR Adventures, provided a platform for youth to share experiences and explore topics such as relationship dynamics, self-identity, and emotional well-being.

Minister Parag encouraged participants



Scene from the symposium

to embrace the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue, noting that SRH encompasses mental and emotional health as much as physical

development. She urged adolescents to use their voices responsibly, especially in the digital age, to promote awareness and positive change.

NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME TO SOON BEGIN

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali is advancing Guyana's National Solid Waste Management and Beautification Initiative. He has met with Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, and technical officers to outline the plan.

During the meeting, President Ali detailed the development of new and expanded landfill sites across the country, highlighting the government's commitment to cleaner communities



The meeting with the ministers and technical officers to outline the plan

and sustainable waste management solutions. The initiative will take a collaborative

approach, with the Ministries of Housing and Tourism, Industry and Commerce working alongside the Local Government ministry to identify areas for green spaces and community beautification projects.

According to President Ali, work on the programme is expected to begin before the end of the year.

Joining the discussions were Minister of Housing Collin Croal, Minister within the Ministry of Housing Vanessa Benn, Minister of Tourism,

Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues, Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally, and Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs.

The programme reflects the government's focus on improving public spaces, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing the quality of life for communities across Guyana.



The meeting with the ministers and technical officers to outline the plan

MINISTRY OF LABOUR TAKES ITS SERVICES TO EAST RUIIMVELDT

The Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning has taken its services directly to the residents of East Ruimveldt, with a particular focus on youth empowerment, marking the start of a series of community outreach initiatives. The

engagement, was led by Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith. Speaking to the Department of Public Information (DPI), Minister Griffith highlighted the significance of launching his first outreach in the

community where he grew up. **"This is where it all started... I am happy to start here in this community. Traditionally, this community has gone in one direction, but I hope to bring transformation that the people can see and appreciate,"** he said.

Accompanied by staff from key departments including the Board of Industrial Training, the Legal Department, the Labour Department, the Occupational Health and Safety Department, and the Manpower and Recruitment Agency, the minister engaged residents on the

resources available to them. A major focus was on skills training and job opportunities, with the minister encouraging young people to explore innovative areas of interest.

"If there is something new or innovative, we will find a way to train, certify, empower, and connect them with employers or opportunities to further develop their skills," he explained. He also promoted the ministry's Job Bank via Jobs.gov.gy, which allows job seekers to upload CVs and connect directly with potential employers.



Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning staff engaging residents of East Ruimvelt

Beyond skills development, the outreach highlighted avenues for entrepreneurship and small business creation. Residents welcomed the initiative, praising Minister Griffith for his hands-on approach. Helen Fraser noted, **"We give God praise...all we want is for him to help the young people."** Colin Sealey added, **"I have never seen a minister come to the area and do such an outreach... this is a good initiative."**

Pamphlets detailing available services and access points were distributed to residents, reinforcing the ministry's commitment to empowering the community and building human capital.



Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith leading the community outreach in East Ruimveldt

CITYWIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF TO BEAUTIFY GEORGETOWN AND BEYOND

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has launched an ambitious citywide clean-up campaign, as part of the renewed commitment by the Government to enhance sanitation, restore Georgetown's beauty, and promote a cleaner, healthier environment for all citizens.

Leading the effort were Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand; Minister within the Ministry, Pauline Sukhai; Director General, Anand Persaud; Permanent Secretary, Miguel Choo-

Kang; and Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administration), Dr. Josh Kanhai, among other senior officials. Minister Manickchand visited the Stabroek Market after 6:00 p.m. to engage directly with vendors about waste management challenges. Vendors expressed their willingness to maintain cleanliness but highlighted the need for better garbage disposal facilities and resources. Minister Manickchand assured them that the Government remains committed to supporting their efforts to reduce littering and improve

sanitation. **"This work goes far beyond sanitation,"** the Minister stated during a follow-up meeting with the Mayor and City Council. **"It's how we welcome and treat people, it's about how they feel when they come into our city."**

The clean-up campaign is part of a wider national beautification initiative designed to promote pride, hospitality, and sustainability across all communities. As part of this effort, Minister Manickchand also convened a high-level meeting with Regional

Executive Officers, Regional Education Officers, Regional Health Officers, Engineers, and Auditors to strengthen the national solid waste management framework.

A structured disposal plan was outlined, requiring all health centres, schools, and regional administrative buildings to remove obsolete and unserviceable items in a phased schedule running from September 29 to November 7, 2025. Each sector is allotted a two-week period to complete the activity, ensuring accountability and effective monitoring.

During a site visit to



The meeting with the Mayor and Councillors of the Mayor and City Council

the Number 47 Health Centre in Region Six, Minister Manickchand observed the removal of old beds, refrigerators, furniture, and other waste items. Staff welcomed the initiative, noting that the newly cleared spaces will improve comfort and efficiency in service delivery.

The Ministry reaffirmed that the clean-up exercise represents more than just physical renewal, it reflects the Government's broader vision of ensuring that all public institutions operate in safe, well-organised environments that support effective service to citizens.

MARAD'S FLEET STRENGTHENED WITH TWO NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART PILOT BOATS



The new Haiakwa and Haiama ECO50 Pilot Boats cost US\$5 million

The Government of Guyana, through its Maritime Transport and Harbours Department (MARAD), commissioned two new pilot boats, Haiakwa and Haiama ECO50, highlighting its commitment to modernisation, safety, and efficiency in maritime operations.

The vessels, costing US\$5 million, were officially commissioned by Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, and Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill.

Built by renowned French shipbuilder OCEA, the Haiakwa and Haiama feature cutting-edge design and reliability, equipping river pilots to manage growing maritime traffic safely and efficiently.

Minister Indar emphasised the importance of proper maintenance to ensure longevity and called for the training of more river pilots to support the expanding maritime industry.

“These new vessels are essential for Guyana’s goal of becoming a regional hub for shipping and trade,” Minister Indar said. He also highlighted the government’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the maritime legislative framework, including the establishment of a Port Authority Act to regulate and develop ports.

Minister Edghill said that the commissioning represents more than a purchase; it is part of a broader strategy to modernise the sector and support the evolving oil and gas industry.

He added that other infrastructure projects, including dredging the Demerara River will expand port capacity and enable 24-hour two-way traffic, reducing delays and costs for shippers.

The two vessels bring MARAD’s fleet to five, showcasing an environmentally responsible and modern approach to maritime management.



The ribbon for the commissioning of the two new vessels

LOCAL BUSINESSES TO SHINE AT GUYEXPO 2025

GuyExpo 2025 has officially launched, inviting both large and small-scale businesses and entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services to local and international audiences. The highly anticipated event is set for November 13 to 16 at the Sophia Exhibition Centre under the theme, “Transformation Through Entrepreneurship and Innovation”.

Delivering the feature address at the launch held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre in Liliendaal, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues highlighted new features designed to elevate the expo’s impact.

“GuyExpo is unmatched in terms of exposure; it offers a rare platform for businesses to reach local consumers and international investors,” Minister Rodrigues stated. **“We are creating a dedicated space for serious discussions on collaboration and expansion, supported by the Guyana Office for Investment, which will link entrepreneurs with investors.”**

The expo’s physical layout will undergo a transformation to enhance the visitor experience, while traditional elements such as vibrant food courts, the children’s area, and the tourism village will remain and be further enhanced. Businesses that have grown alongside GuyExpo over the past three decades will also be honoured, with improved directional signage and illuminated displays ensuring better visibility.

Entertainment and performances will play a central role, reflecting Guyana’s cultural richness and creating a festive environment for attendees.

First launched in 1995, GuyExpo is the longest-standing trade exposition in Guyana, attracting hundreds of exhibitors annually. Over the years, it has become a platform that not only celebrates local entrepreneurship but also connects the country’s business community with international investors, promoting economic growth and innovation.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues addressing the launch

REGION SIX POISED FOR GROWTH - MINISTER SINGH OUTLINES VISION AT BERBICE EXPO LAUNCH

Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, has unveiled ambitious plans for Region Six, highlighting ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at unlocking the Region’s economic potential. He spoke at the launch of the 19th Berbice Expo and Trade Fair at the Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce.

“Region Six gave the PPP its second-largest majority in the recent elections. This enhanced mandate reflects the confidence of the people in our work and our plans for the next five years,” Minister Singh said, thanking residents and the business community for their support.

Recalling the Region’s challenges under previous administrations, he noted, **“Region Six has been a living laboratory demonstrating the link between politics and economics. Today, the Region benefits from restored fiscal sustainability and an environment that encourages investment and business growth.”**

Minister Singh highlighted key projects already underway, including the near-complete Palmyra Stadium, the Tourism and Hospitality Institute, and the oil and gas training facility at Port Mourant. Plans for new infrastructure include Hope-like canals, a Berbice River bridge, a Corentyne River bridge, an industrial park, and modern malls, hotels, and restaurants.

He praised the Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce for sustaining the Expo, noting its importance as a platform for local businesses to showcase products and services.

“I urge the business community to seize the opportunities this Expo provides,” he said.

The 19th Berbice Expo will run from October 31 to November 3, 2025, under the theme *“Harnessing New Wealth: Modernising Traditional Sectors for Sustainable Economic Development.”*



The launch of the 19th Berbice Expo and Trade Fair at the Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud, during the launch of the 'See it, Say it, Stop it' Campaign at the Berbice High School, Region Six

To mark Child Protection Week 2025 (September 20-26,) the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security launched the

MINISTER PERSAUD URGES COLLECTIVE ACTION TO KEEP GIYANA'S CHILDREN SAFE

'See it, Say it, Stop it' campaign, reaffirming its dedication to protecting the nation's children.

Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud led a series of outreach initiatives in Region Six, and in Wales, and Westminster in Region Three, engaging parents and communities on ways to safeguard children and prevent abuse. The campaign focused on educating caregivers about positive parenting and eliminating harmful practices that

can negatively impact children's development.

During her visits, Minister Persaud encouraged open dialogue on sensitive issues such as bullying, domestic violence, and the daily challenges of ensuring children's safety. She highlighted the critical role of the Childcare and Protection Agency, the Family Enhancement Services Section, and the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Policy Unit in addressing these

concerns and supporting families.

Minister Persaud emphasised that protecting Guyana's children is not limited to a single week of observance, but represents a sustained, long-term commitment. **"Our children are our most valuable resource, and their safety, wellbeing, and development must always be a priority,"** she said.

The campaign serves as a platform to empower



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud, at an outreach in Westminster Community Ground, Region Three

communities to take action, report abuse, and work collaboratively with relevant authorities, ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, nurturing environment.

Through continued engagement and education, the Ministry aims to build stronger, safer communities across Guyana.

ESSEQUIBO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO HOST UG STUDENTS

Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, visited the Essequibo Technical Institute in Region Two to assess the readiness of its Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) facilities to host University of Guyana (UG) students. The initiative aims to provide students from Regions

Two and Three the opportunity to attend classes without travelling to the Turkeyen campus.

The visit aligns with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's efforts to decentralise university courses, improving access to higher education across Guyana. It also complements plans to expand UG's

Faculty of Engineering to accommodate more applicants, particularly those unable to gain admission at Turkeyen due to limited space.

Minister Parag, accompanied by UG's Dean and Ministry Advisor Dr. Kofi Dalrymple and Deputy Chief Education Officer for Technical Education

Dr. Ritesh Tularam, toured classrooms and laboratories to ensure the institute can accommodate at least 40 students by mid-October. **"We are assessing the physical layout to determine spaces for students applying to engineering and medical sciences programmes,"**



The education minister evaluating the Essequibo TVET facilities for UG's regional expansion

Minister Parag said, noting plans to later extend this initiative to Regions Six and Nine.

Dr. Dalrymple highlighted the focus on equity, stating the plan ensures students in Essequibo have access

to the same quality education as those in Georgetown.

Both officials expressed satisfaction with the institute's capacity to meet the upcoming demand.

Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Steven Jacobs, is spearheading a drive to upgrade and maintain Guyana's sports facilities, ensuring they meet international standards and are fully accessible to athletes and the public.

Recently, Minister Jacobs conducted inspections at the National Racquet Centre and the National Aquatic Centre, assessing ongoing works and reviewing the state of the facilities. He emphasised that these upgrades are part of a comprehensive

strategy to provide safe, modern spaces for training, competition, and community engagement.

"We are implementing a robust maintenance programme to ensure these facilities are accessible and fully functional for athletes and the general public," Minister Jacobs said. **"Our goal is to create safe spaces for**

healthy recreation and support athletes as they hone their skills and compete on the international stage."

The minister highlighted several upcoming improvements, including a new tennis court at the National Park, a multi-purpose facility for badminton and table tennis within the Racquet Centre, upgraded air conditioning for the

squash courts, and improved lighting for tennis courts.

Beyond infrastructure, Minister Jacobs stressed the role of sports in driving economic growth, tourism, and community development. He revealed plans to develop talent incubators along the Soesdyke/Linden Highway, positioning sports and culture as key contributors to Guyana's GDP while showcasing



Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Steven Jacobs inspecting the sport facilities

the nation's rich heritage and emerging talent.

"These initiatives are designed to benefit all Guyanese, giving our athletes and creative talent the resources and

platforms they need to succeed," the minister added, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening the country's sporting and cultural sectors.

CULTURE MINISTRY MEETS THEATRE STAKEHOLDERS TO PLAN NEXT "WRITE TO STAGE" PRODUCTIONS



The meeting with the theatre stakeholder group

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport recently hosted a meeting with theatre stakeholders to review and plan upcoming productions

under its acclaimed "Write to Stage" Theatre Support Programme. The session included Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles S. Ramson, Minister within the Ministry, Steven Jacobs, and the Ministry's Culture leadership team.

Launched in 2023, the programme aims to bring winning works from the Guyana Prize to life on the local stage, enhancing

the quality of theatre productions while providing sustainable income opportunities for producers, actors, and stage crews. Since its inception, eight Guyana Prize-winning plays have been successfully staged, including *Sauda* by Mosa Telford, *Makantali* by Harold Bascom, *Last of the Redmen* by Michael Gilkes, *Father of the Man* by Paloma Mohamed, *Children of Baby* by Mosa Telford,

Requiem for the Living by Jamal La Rose, *A Pleasant Career* by Michael Gilkes, and *Don't Ask Me Why* by Rae Wiltshire.

Stakeholders at the meeting praised the programme for significantly improving production standards and pledged to collaborate to ensure the continued growth and success of Guyana's theatre industry, despite market challenges.

The Ministry confirmed that the third play of the year will be staged in November. Patrons can also look forward to an exciting 2026 lineup featuring performances of winning poetry and non-fiction works from the Guyana Prize, reflecting the Ministry's commitment to nurturing talent and expanding the reach of the arts in Guyana.

RICE SECTOR CONSULTATIONS UNDERWAY AS GOVT REINFORCES SUPPORT FOR FARMERS



Stakeholders at the meeting

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, alongside Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture Vikash Ramkissoon and Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh, met with rice millers and discussed matters

relating to the current rice crop.

Minister Mustapha highlighted the PPP/C government’s substantial investments in the rice industry over the past five years, noting that these interventions have boosted production and improved yields nationwide. He also reminded millers that current market prices remain largely unchanged from the previous crop.

Millers, however, raised concerns over the declining world market price for rice, stressing that it affects



Stakeholders at the meeting

their competitiveness against other major rice-producing countries. Minister Mustapha assured stakeholders that consultations with farmers and millers will

continue to ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their paddy.

Minister Singh, joining virtually, underscored the long-term importance of the

rice industry and urged stakeholders to focus on sustainable growth rather than short-term challenges. He announced upcoming meetings with farmers nationwide to address sectoral challenges and opportunities.

Earlier this year, the government invested approximately \$2 billion in fertiliser subsidies, with over \$1.9 billion allocated for the first crop of 2025 to guarantee a minimum of \$4,000 per bag of paddy, demonstrating its commitment to protecting farmers’ livelihoods and sustaining rice as a cornerstone of Guyana’s agricultural economy.

GOVT REJECTS CALL TO PUSH SMALL RICE FARMERS OUT OF INDUSTRY



President Ali addressing the meeting with Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh and Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha

The Government has firmly rejected recent statements by former APNU+AFC Finance Minister Winston Jordan, who suggested that smaller rice farmers should exit production, describing the recommendation as “reckless” and out of touch with the realities of the sector.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar

Mustapha, stressed that rice remains a cornerstone of Guyana’s rural economy, food security, and national identity, supporting thousands of families across the country. He contrasted the Coalition Government’s record on rice between 2015 and 2020 with the initiatives being pursued under the current administration.

During the Coalition

era, rice farmers faced neglect, with repeated assurances that “**rice is a private business**”. Farmers were left unsupported, particularly when Panama failed to pay for rice supplied under that administration. It was only after the PPP/C Government, led by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, assumed office that outstanding payments were addressed, Minister Mustapha noted.

Under the PPP/C Government, rice farmers receive consistent support through infrastructure investment, research, and diversification strategies. President

Ali recently met with farmers on the Corentyne Coast to outline plans including increased national storage capacity to stockpile up to five million tonnes of rice, investment in higher-yield varieties, and the introduction of agri-business diversification projects, such as cage farming for crabs, aimed at boosting income and reducing risk.

Minister Mustapha condemned Mr. Jordan’s suggestion as ignoring the realities of rice production and undermining the rural communities that depend on it. “**The PPP/C Government will not abandon rice farmers,**” he



Farmers at the meeting in Skeldon, Berbice

said. “**Instead, we are investing in infrastructure, research, and diversification to ensure the industry emerges stronger and more resilient in the face of global challenges.**”

He concluded that while the Coalition had its opportunity, it failed to support farmers, and its recent comments are a political attempt to undermine a sector the current government is actively strengthening.

NIS URGED TO STEP UP SERVICE DELIVERY AS MEMBERSHIP SURGES

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, has called on the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) to modernise and improve its services for citizens, even as the scheme records significant growth.

Speaking at the NIS’s 56th Anniversary celebration at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Minister Singh highlighted the importance of the institution in an independent Guyana, while stressing that service delivery must keep pace with national progress.

“**We are building a modern Guyana, and that must extend beyond new bridges and hospitals,**” he said. “**It must also be a modern Guyana in terms of the quality of service provided to our citizens.**”

Dr Singh urged the NIS Board, management, and staff to take decisive steps to make the institution more efficient, citizen-friendly, and digitally enabled. He stressed that complacency is not an option and that staff must prioritise quality service for contributors and beneficiaries.

Highlighting areas



NIS staff at the General Assembly

for immediate focus, the Minister called for greater adoption of digital payments, noting that while about 60,000 pensioners are served by the NIS,

only a third currently receive their payments directly through banks. Encouraging others to join, he emphasised that “**people have to see that it works**

efficiently, and I think it does work efficiently.”

The Minister also praised recent technological innovations, including the NIS WhatsApp service for submitting life certificates and the 24-person Call Centre, but underscored the need for reliable operation of published contact channels.

NIS leadership, including Chairman Ramesh Persaud and General Manager Holly Greaves, highlighted that the scheme’s active contributor base has expanded by



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, delivering remarks

over 75,000 between August 2020 and August 2025, reflecting the Government’s job creation agenda and underscoring the need for efficient, modern services to meet growing demand.

AGRICULTURE MONTH 2025 CELEBRATES GUYANA'S FOOD SECURITY AND FARMERS

The Ministry of Agriculture officially launched Agriculture Month 2025 under the theme *‘Transforming Lives Through Agri-Food Systems’*, marking a month-long celebration (October) of the country’s farmers, fishers, processors, and agri-entrepreneurs.

The initiative highlights the government’s investments in modernising and strengthening Guyana’s

agriculture sector, making it resilient, dynamic, and competitive.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said Agriculture Month is an opportunity for all Guyanese to recognise the vital role of the sector in national food security and livelihoods.

“This month is not just a tradition; it is a time to celebrate the people whose labour

sustains our nation,” Minister Mustapha said. **“Guyana’s growth over the years has ranked us as the only country in the world capable of feeding its population, a tremendous achievement.”**

The minister noted that government support has dramatically increased, with budget allocations rising from \$13 billion in 2020 to \$104 billion in 2025, reflecting a commitment



Students and stakeholders at the launch

to transforming lives through agriculture. Agriculture Month 2025 will feature a

variety of activities showcasing innovation, modernisation, and productivity in the sector. Exhibitions, training workshops, and cultural presentations are planned, emphasising both economic and social contributions of agriculture to the nation.

Key events include the Honey Fest on October 31 at Mon Repos and the Big Catch competition on October 25 at the Sea Walls. The month will also honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Guyana’s agriculture sector.



Agriculture Month 2025 launched

Agriculture Month 2025 underscores the transformative power of agriculture in improving livelihoods and securing Guyana’s position as a food self-sufficient nation.



Debra Gopaul addressing the launch of Agriculture Month 2025

Region Five livestock farmer Debra Gopaul is praising the government for supporting small farmers and producers, crediting its initiatives with improving her life and enhancing her knowledge of livestock farming and the wider agricultural sector.

“I have witnessed firsthand how agriculture transforms lives through government programmes such as hydroponics, climate-smart

agriculture, the bull rotation programme, and the Barbados Black Belly sheep project. Farmers like myself have been empowered,” Gopaul said.

She explained that these initiatives have strengthened farming and livestock rearing, creating new income streams and allowing families to be better supported. **“I am a living testimony to the impact of these projects. They**

GOVT'S AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

show the true value of government initiatives, giving farmers the opportunities to produce for ordinary citizens,” she added.

As Secretary for the West Berbice Sheep and Goat Farmers Association, Gopaul also highlighted the strides women in Guyana are making in agriculture, calling for greater

support and recognition of their contributions.

Gopaul stressed the government’s role as crucial in strengthening food security and promoting rural development. She expressed gratitude for the support provided to farmers and the bold investments made in the sector. **“Agriculture must be seen as a blessing and not a**

burden,” she said.

Gopaul’s remarks came during the launch of Agriculture Month 2025 by the Ministry of Agriculture, themed *‘Transforming Lives Through Agri-Food Systems’*, celebrating the positive impact of government-led initiatives on farmers and rural communities across Guyana.

FOULIS LEARNING CENTRE OPENS

Foulis, East Coast Demerara, is witnessing a transformative wave of development, reflecting Guyana’s commitment to people-centered progress. Recently, the village celebrated the official opening of the Foulis Learning Centre, a modern hub designed to provide learning opportunities and digital resources for the entire community.

At the ceremony, community leader Vinetta Singh expressed

gratitude to the government for its hands-on approach to local development, highlighting improvements in roads, public safety, and essential services that have enhanced daily life in Foulis. She noted that while the Foulis housing scheme was established just over three decades ago, recent years have brought remarkable growth at the grassroots level.

Newly commissioned



Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, handing over electronic tablets to the Community leader, Vinetta Singh

roads and the installation of security cameras have improved connectivity and safety, while water quality upgrades are ensuring healthier living conditions for residents.

Earlier this year, the community celebrated the commissioning of its first public building, the Foulis Nursery School, by former Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, marking a milestone in early childhood education. With the addition of the new Learning Centre, Foulis now has two public facilities offering essential educational programmes and digital access.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag, who attended the opening, handed over electronic tablets to the



The newly commissioned Learning Centre

community, supporting the centre’s role in fostering digital literacy and learning. Adjacent to the centre, a developing sports ground, now fully fenced and

equipped with lighting, promises to become a vibrant space for youth engagement and community activities.



The meeting with the parents

The Ministry of Education, Sonia Parag, presented the kits at a simple ceremony, accompanied by Assistant Chief Education Officer for Special Needs, Dr. Keon Cheong, and Regional Education Officer for Region Five, Selestine Bristol LaRose.

Minister Parag highlighted the significance of the initiative, noting that each child’s learning journey must be tailored to their unique needs. **“This package allows us to guide students from one milestone to the next while equipping parents to support their child at home,”** she said.

The kits form part of a broader rollout across SEND centres nationwide, which will include specialised learning resources and physiotherapists. A strong emphasis will be

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS GET LEARNING KITS

placed on speech therapy to further support child development. Currently, there are seven SEND centres in Guyana, three of which are in Region Five.

Dr. Cheong stated that the distribution aligns with the Ministry’s mission and President Dr. Irfaan Ali’s vision of inclusive education. The kits target learners aged 3-12 with conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome,



The meeting with the parents

fragile X syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, visual and hearing impairments, and learning disabilities.

Minister Parag

engaged parents during the event and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to the ongoing development and support of children with special needs.

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As part of President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's directive to promote holistic education, schools across Guyana have begun dedicating Friday afternoons to physical education (PE), transforming classrooms and schoolyards into vibrant spaces of movement, teamwork, and fun.

The nationwide initiative, a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), aims to shape well-rounded citizens by integrating structured physical activity into the education system.

Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, who visited several schools to witness the rollout, said she was thrilled to see the enthusiasm from both

PE FRIDAYS ROLLED-OUT ACROSS SCHOOLS



PE Friday at the West Demerara Secondary School

students and teachers.

"I am very happy to see that it's being implemented with such energy and excitement. We want well-rounded human beings, education is far more than just academics," she said.

Minister Parag emphasised that the programme aligns with the government's broader vision of promoting healthier lifestyles and personal development from an early age.

At Enterprise Primary and Austin Castello Tutorial High, students eagerly participated in activities such as football and other physical exercises. Education Officer Yogita Singh-Mangra noted

that regular movement will boost students' physical health and competitiveness, while Headteacher Emily Lunch-Duff said it will help develop children's motor skills and confidence.

Grade One teacher, Zanielle Marshall, added that the reintroduction of structured PE is vital to fostering healthier lifestyles among young learners.

President Ali had previously highlighted that physical activity builds both the minds and bodies of future leaders, noting that the government will continue investing in recreational facilities to support this vision.



PE Friday at the West Demerara Secondary School



PE Friday at the West Demerara Secondary School

INDIGENOUS ATHLETES TO JOIN NATIONAL TEAMS

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced a major push to give indigenous athletes a place on Guyana's national sports teams. Speaking at the 2025 Heritage Games, he said cricket, football, and volleyball players from Indigenous communities will now have equal opportunities to represent the Golden Arrowhead.

"For too long, indigenous youth have been underrepresented," President Ali said. **"I've asked Ministers Charles Ramson, Sarah Browne-**

Shadeek, and Steven Jacobs to ensure our communities



President Ali interacting with athletes from Region Nine

are fully included in national sports."

As part of the initiative, the Guyana Cricket Board will field a national indigenous team in upcoming competitions. Retired West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan

The Football Association and Volleyball Federation have also been instructed to integrate indigenous teams into their programmes. Meanwhile, new basketball courts in schools will help nurture the next generation of athletes.

President Ali stressed that by year-end, indigenous teams will compete in national tournaments. **"This is part of our 'One Guyana' vision, where every citizen has a fair chance to succeed,"** he said.

More than 800 indigenous athletes from across all ten regions are participated in the Heritage Games. Ministers Vickram



President Ali interacting with the spectators

Bharrat, Charles Ramson Jr., Steven Jacobs, Keoma Griffith, and Sarah Browne-Shadeek joined the President in encouraging the young athletes.

President Ali, who delivered the first ball in one of the cricket matches, also oversaw the distribution of sports equipment to support football, volleyball, and cricket teams.

The initiative marks a historic step toward inclusivity in Guyana's national sports, ensuring Indigenous talent is recognized and celebrated on the national stage.

UPGRADED METEN-MEER-ZORG COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUND BRINGS NEW ENERGY TO REGION THREE

The newly upgraded Meten-Meer-Zorg Community Centre Ground in Region Three came alive recently with an exciting evening of softball cricket, celebrating the facility's transformation into a modern sporting hub.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr., witnessed the event and engaged with residents. The upgraded facility now features a new cricket pitch, floodlights, and a modern building, enhancements that promise greater opportunities for local athletes and community recreation.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr. greeting residents at the Meten-Meer-Zorg Community Centre Ground

Minister Ramson highlighted that the government's investment in Meten-Meer-Zorg is part of a wider effort to revitalise sports infrastructure nationwide. **"Similar upgrades are taking place in several communities across Guyana, and more areas will benefit in the future,"** he said.

The lively matches, featuring both men and women, reflected the growing enthusiasm for sport at the grassroots level.

Since taking office in 2020, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) administration has rehabilitated more than 550 community grounds and constructed four multi-purpose facilities. Additionally, four new stadiums are currently being built, reinforcing the government's commitment to making sport and recreation integral parts of everyday life.

Meten-Meer-Zorg



Residents seated on the stands are enjoying the game

now stands as a proud national transformation. symbol of that ongoing



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TIME100 NEXT



Guyana’s President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has been named to TIME Magazine’s 2025 TIME100 Next, a prestigious list of 100 rising global leaders shaping the future in politics, business, science, and more. The recognition places him among international trailblazers whose influence is expected to define the coming decades.

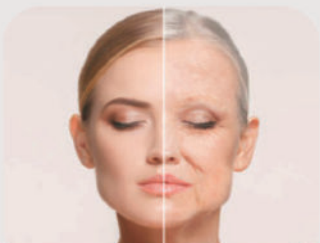
Assuming office in 2020 at age 40, President Ali has steered Guyana into the world’s fastest-growing economy, leveraging oil discoveries while advancing policies on food security, climate action, energy transition, and regional cooperation. Through platforms such as the UN General Assembly and climate summits, he has positioned Guyana as a serious voice in global development.

TIME’s acknowledgment highlights his growing international profile while reinforcing his domestic image as a transformative leader. Celebrated as a dynamic statesman from the Global South, Ali’s inclusion signals rising diplomatic, trade, and investment opportunities for Guyana, cementing his place as a global leader to watch.

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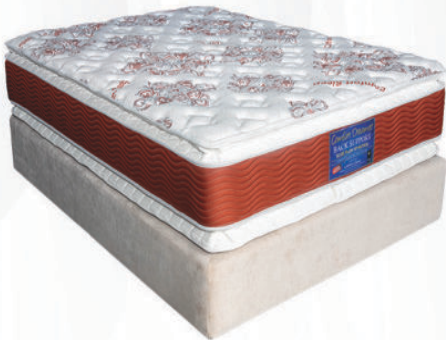
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