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Guyana sends best wishes to India

Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali has extended congratulations to the Government and people of India as the Asian nation marked its Independence Anniversary, describing the bond between Georgetown and New Delhi as “an enduring friendship anchored in deep historical and cultural ties.”

In a statement released on Saturday, President Ali said he was writing on behalf of the Government and people of Guyana to extend warmest congratulations to India as it celebrates its 79th Independence Anniversary and 80th Independence Day celebrations. (Dr Ali is pictured with Indian leader Narendra Modi, above.)

The President said India’s journey over “almost eight decades” has been shaped by “the resilience, determination and ingenuity of its people.”



Regional hospitals record major gains

Guyana’s six regional hospitals have demonstrated the impact of major investments in the country’s healthcare system, with thousands of surgeries, more than one million laboratory tests, and hundreds of thousands of other diagnostic and specialist services delivered. Speaking at a press conference, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali highlighted the scale of services provided at the facilities, including approximately 3,700 surgeries, more than one million laboratory tests, 82,200 X-rays, 37,700 ultrasounds and 13,680 CT scans. More than 101,000 specialist clinic attendances were also recorded, covering services including surgery, gynaecology, dentistry, ophthalmology and ENT, while approximately 2,400 babies were delivered and nearly 280,000 prescriptions were filled.

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Churchill Falls Generating Station

Historic \$31 billion clean energy deal to create 23,000 jobs

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

Prime Minister Mark Carney recently signed a historic deal with Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec that the federal government says is the biggest investment in clean energy in North American history according to the federal government.

The clean energy announcement which took place in St. John's was based on a plan by the federal government to invest \$10 billion in the expansion of the Churchill Falls Generating Station, Gull Island hydroelectric project and transmission lines and also the opportunity for an onshore wind project in Labrador. All in all, the value of the projects combined stands at just over \$70 billion.

As per calculations, the projects are set to provide more than 14,000 megawatts of clean energy, nearly triple that of the current generation capacity at Churchill Falls. Also, it is expected that the projects will create up to 23,000 jobs and \$31 billion worth of economic contribution to the country's gross domestic product until the mid-2040s.

This agreement involves the federal government, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Hydro-Québec, and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro in a major infrastructure collaboration.

Churchill Falls has played a very important role in providing electricity in Atlantic Canada for decades now. The new agreement will greatly enhance its capacity while building even more hydroelectric generation facilities at Gull Island.

There is also historical significance involved in this agreement because the agreement is replacing the 1969 Churchill Falls agreement and the 2024 memorandum of understanding.

Apart from power generation, this agreement also involves some major infrastructure enhancements for the Labrador Trough which is one of the most important mining areas in Canada due to the presence of large amounts of iron ore and other critical minerals. Some of these projects have received support for transmission infrastructure, mining and connection with Quebec's electricity grid.

The Labrador Trough Clean Power, Critical Minerals and Infrastructure Corridor has been referred by the federal government to the Major Projects Office that will help in coordinating federal funding and permits as well as indigenous partnerships related to this development.

The clean energy partnership comes amid efforts being made by Canada to grow its electricity network. Under the National Electricity Strategy of the Canadian government, the country aims to double its electricity generating capacity by 2050, with demand projected to increase due to the electrification of various sectors.

Canada currently produces about 80 percent of its electricity from non-emitting sources, according to the Canadian government. The officials claim that the new partnerships will leverage the above advantage while adding new electricity generating capacity for various communities and industries.

The deal is in line with the Canadian government's overall efforts to attract investments in clean energy and critical minerals. According to Ottawa, it is making use of tax credits, financing of infrastructure and other incentives to attract investors in such large projects.

For Newfoundland and Labrador, the clean energy partnership provides an opportunity to grow its own electricity generating capacity and play a role in the overall energy economy of Canada. Quebec, on the other hand, can benefit from increased hydropower capacity.

According to federal officials, the agreement would not only increase Canada's energy sovereignty but create employment opportunities and provide clean power to the country.

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Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 125

GUYANA, US TIGHTEN SECURITY TIES



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President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau.



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GUYANA, US TIGHTEN SECURITY TIES



Georgetown, Washington tighten security ties with new MoU

Guyana and the United States (US) have moved to deepen their security partnership with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening existing security cooperation between the two countries.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali witnessed the signing at the Office of the

President, marking another step in the long-standing bilateral relationship between Guyana and the US.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau.

The MoU builds on existing cooperation,

including joint efforts to counter narcotics and address broader security concerns, while providing a framework for closer collaboration between the two countries.

The strengthened partnership comes as Guyana continues to expand its international security and diplomatic relationships amid growing regional and global security challenges.

Officials present at the signing included Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance Dr Ashni Singh, Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat, Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud, Permanent

Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sharon Roopchand-Edwards and US Ambassador to Guyana Nicole Theriot.

The agreement signals a commitment by Georgetown and Washington to build on existing security ties and strengthen their capacity to respond to threats affecting both countries and the wider region.

With narcotics trafficking and transnational crime remaining major regional concerns, the enhanced cooperation is expected to support closer coordination between Guyanese and US authorities and reinforce the broader security architecture underpinning the bilateral relationship.



Georgetown, Washington tighten security ties with new MoU



Georgetown, Washington tighten security ties with new MoU

GUYANA'S INVESTMENT STORY DEEPENS AS \$1.06T FLOWS INTO PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

Guyana's investment story deepens as \$1.06T flows into productive sectors

Guyana has attracted approximately \$1.06 trillion in private economic investment over the past six years, with 189 new, expansionary and mixed investment projects and agreements facilitated through the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest).

Chief Investment Officer, Dr Peter Ramsaroop, said the scale of investment reflects a significant broadening of confidence in Guyana, with capital increasingly moving beyond traditional sectors into mining, energy, tourism, ICT,



Chief Investment Officer of the Guyana Office for Investment, Dr Peter Ramsaroop

agriculture, forestry and services.

Foreign investors accounted for about 73 per cent of recorded investment, but Guyanese investors are playing a disproportionately important role in job creation.

Local investors represented

approximately 20 per cent of recorded investment while generating about 49 per cent of associated employment, highlighting the growing contribution of domestic businesses to economic expansion.

"The most important story is not simply the amount of capital entering Guyana; it is the broadening and deepening of investor confidence in the Guyanese economy," Ramsaroop told the Department of Public Information.

Joint ventures accounted for approximately \$72 billion, while diaspora investment reached about \$2.9 billion.



189 investment projects bring \$1.06 Trillion into Guyana's economy

Investment from CARICOM partners, including Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, is also becoming increasingly significant.

The wider financial picture reinforces the trend. Bank of Guyana data recorded gross FDI inflows of approximately US\$10.4 billion in 2024 and US\$8.43 billion in 2025, largely linked to the oil and gas sector.

At the same time, private-sector credit more than doubled, rising from approximately \$259.8 billion in 2020 to \$531.8 billion by the end of 2025, indicating increased financing for business expansion and economic activity.

GO-Invest is now shifting its focus toward converting investment interest into deeper economic value through joint ventures,

technology transfer, value-added production, exports and stronger regional partnerships.

The agency has already helped approximately 137 Guyanese companies enter export markets and connected 112 businesses with overseas buyers over four years.

Guyana's participation at AgroFest in Barbados has further opened doors, with about 80 local businesses attending in 2025 and more than 50 in 2026.

The next challenge, GO-Invest said, is to turn growing investor confidence into more production, more exports, more jobs and greater value retained in Guyana.

MORE GUYANESE MOVE INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP-BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS SURGE

Guyana is seeing a sharp rise in business activity, with the number of businesses registered over the past two years more than doubling compared with previous years, signalling growing confidence in the country's expanding economy.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally said the surge reflects

an increasing number of Guyanese recognising opportunities to start, expand and modernise businesses.

"If you have a business idea, our economy is such that now businesses can flourish," Minister Ally said during an engagement at the Tuschen Radha Krishna Mandir.

He said the growth in registrations is

evidence that more people are responding to opportunities emerging across the economy, while the increasing participation of young people is adding further momentum to the entrepreneurial landscape.

Ally pointed to high school students who recently showcased products developed through government-supported initiatives, including cooking oil,

pepper sauce, soap and cornmeal.

"These are high school kids that have now invented their own products. They have packaged their own products with the help of the government. And now they are ready to go to market," he said.

The initiatives are exposing students to agriculture, innovation, product development, packaging



More Guyanese move to start and grow businesses

and commercial opportunities, while encouraging them to view entrepreneurship

as a viable career path.

Minister Ally said government also intends to help promising young entrepreneurs access financing through the newly established Guyana Development Bank, which provides support to small and medium-sized businesses.

He urged Guyanese with viable business ideas to act on them, saying the expanding economy is creating greater room for entrepreneurs to turn innovation and initiative into sustainable income and new businesses.

MV BARIMA INQUIRY NEARS PUBLIC HEARINGS AS SALVAGE OPERATION ADVANCES

The Commission of Inquiry into the July 18 sinking of the MV Barima is moving closer to public hearings, as legal preparations advance alongside a government push to recover the sunken vessel and preserve crucial evidence for the investigation.

Attorney Javid Shadick, Secretary to the Commission, told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that the secretariat is currently working through the legal and administrative requirements governing the hearings, including possible scenarios that could arise once proceedings begin.

“They’re working on checking the legal



Attorney Javid Shadick, Secretary to the Commission

aspects,” Shadick said.

A formal public notice will be issued once the arrangements are finalised, setting out the hearing process and providing details for the public and media.

The five-member Commission was appointed by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali to determine

the circumstances surrounding the capsizing and sinking of the MV Barima. It is chaired by Belizean Justice Godfrey Phillip Smith and includes maritime, legal and technical experts from Poland, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The inquiry follows one of Guyana’s deadliest recent maritime disasters. Authorities have confirmed 73 deaths, while 76 passengers and crew members were rescued and 30 people remain unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, the government is moving ahead with efforts to bring the vessel back to the surface.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark



Presidential Commission of Inquiry (COI)

Phillips disclosed at a press conference that Expressions of Interest for the salvage operation closed on Friday, August 14, paving the way for evaluation of submissions and negotiations with the preferred contractor.

“Bids come in. Then, they have to go through the bids. They have to do evaluation and

then determine who will get the contract. Then we negotiate the contract,” PM Phillips explained.

The salvage initiative was launched by the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation through the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), which sought qualified firms with extensive regional experience.

The MV Barima lies approximately 13 to 15 metres underwater off Guyana’s North West Coast. The recovery is expected to be technically demanding, requiring specialised equipment, expertise and strict safety and environmental measures.

Crucially, the selected contractor must ensure that evidence relevant to the Commission’s investigation is preserved. The vessel must also be recovered and maintained upright on a barge for several weeks, adding another layer of complexity to an operation that could prove pivotal to determining exactly what happened on July 18.



Government deepens support for MV Barima survivors and bereaved families

The Government’s HEART Initiative is moving to strengthen and sustain support for families, survivors and communities affected by the MV Barima tragedy, with a coordinated national response now extending beyond the immediate aftermath.

The initiative’s steering committee met with President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali to provide an update

on work undertaken since its establishment, including the creation of a coordinating secretariat led by Guyana Defence Force Lt. Colonel Dominic Shepherd, with oversight from Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud.

HEART has been structured to provide sustained support across several critical

areas, including psychotherapy, grief counselling, spiritual and religious care, children’s welfare and education, humanitarian assistance, and family support.

Regional units have also been established to ensure affected communities receive continued psychological, social and religious support rather than assistance limited to the immediate period following the tragedy.

The initiative is building on interventions already provided by government agencies, including the Ministries of Human Services

and Social Security, Health and Education, as well as partners such as the Pan American Health Organization, Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers and the University of Guyana.

The aim is to strengthen and expand these services while ensuring that support is tailored to the circumstances of each affected family and survivor.

Beneficiaries include families of those who died, surviving crew members and their relatives, survivors of the tragedy, and children affected by the incident.



Government deepens support for MV Barima survivors and bereaved families

The First Lady’s Office will also complement efforts focused on children under the initiative.

HEART’s work will continue in the coming weeks, with committee members expected to visit affected families and communities directly.

The Government is also seeking continued

collaboration with the wider Guyanese community, private sector, religious organisations, humanitarian groups and international agencies as the country works to support those facing the long-term consequences of the MV Barima tragedy.

NEW ONLINE PORTAL GIVES CITIZENS A VOICE

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency, and Implementation Zulfikar Ally has launched **“The Voice”**, a new online platform designed to give citizens and public servants a direct line to raise concerns, share ideas, and recommend improvements to government operations.

Accessible via any mobile phone, tablet, or computer, the platform features a simple online form aimed at enhancing public engagement

and routing service delivery issues directly to decision-makers.

Speaking during an interview, Minister Ally said the platform was created to capture valuable feedback that often goes unheard within government agencies and ministries.

“Often times, there are people who have so many good ideas within the various agencies and ministries that we have, and we don’t always get the

opportunity to hear them,” he said.

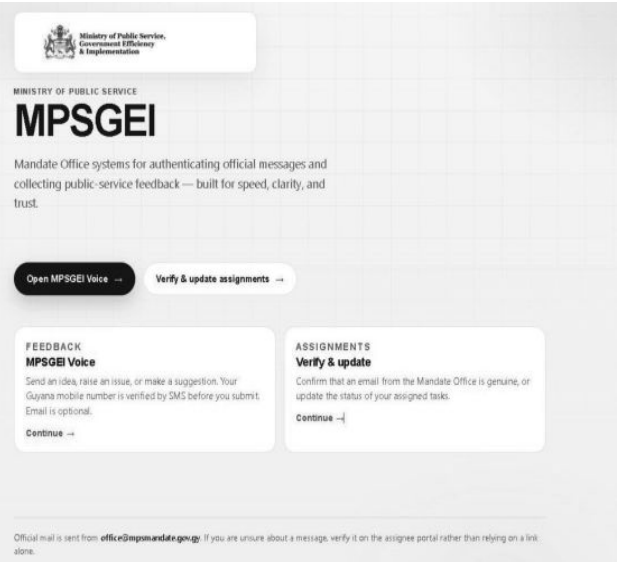
The minister confirmed that submissions are reviewed personally. When challenges prevent immediate solutions, officials will follow up to provide explanations or request further details.

The system is already delivering results. In one instance, a public servant in Berbice who had gone unpaid for several months submitted a report; following direct

intervention with the relevant HR department, the matter was resolved and the employee was added to the payroll.

Minister Ally said the website has also generated recommendations aimed at improving customer service and operational efficiency across the public sector, including suggestions relating to the education system and services at the Diamond Regional Hospital.

The platform



supports President Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s commitment to maintaining close public engagement

and ensuring citizen feedback actively informs government policy.

23 COMMUNITIES SET FOR TRANSFORMATION UNDER MODEL VILLAGE INITIATIVE



Government takes Model Village Plan to 23 communities across five regions

The Government is moving to overhaul 23 communities across Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, with a coordinated development programme targeting roads, drainage, public safety, utilities, recreation and community facilities.

The first phase of the Model Village Initiative is being shaped through consultations with residents, following months of assessments by engineers, planners and technical teams.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the programme is intended to move community development beyond isolated infrastructure projects and create a more comprehensive standard of living across Guyana.

“There is no doubt that our country is undergoing massive transformation, but transformation to be lived must be felt,” he said.

The initiative is structured around four areas, connectivity,

community, commerce and care—with proposed interventions tailored to the conditions of each community.

The scale of the proposed works is significant.

In Port Mourant, Region Six, plans cover approximately 609 acres, including upgrades to 102 roads and 21 kilometres of roadway, benefitting an estimated 6,384 households.

In Bath Settlement, Region Five, the proposed intervention covers the settlement’s entire 446 acres, including rehabilitation of 54 streets, reconstruction of 42.85 kilometres of drains, bridge upgrades and the installation of 55 fire hydrants. A police outpost, community-ground upgrades and streetscaping are also planned.

At La Parfaite Harmonie, approximately 245 acres are targeted



Government takes Model Village Plan to 23 communities across five regions

for improvements, including roads, drainage, lighting, CCTV coverage, green spaces, recreation facilities and organised public areas.

Plans for Skeldon include upgrades to a 9,277-metre road network, more than 2,000 metres of concrete walkways, over 9,000 cross drains, rehabilitation or replacement of more than 30 culverts, 192 street lamps, utility-pole replacements and new green spaces.

In Enmore, technical

assessments have identified flooding, inadequate lighting, insufficient fire hydrants and limited security-camera coverage among key concerns. Proposed works include drainage improvements, LED lighting, expanded CCTV and utility upgrades.

single template.

The consultations are now being used to refine the proposed interventions before implementation.

With the pilot covering 23 communities, the initiative represents a shift towards planned,



Government takes Model Village Plan to 23 communities across five regions

The programme also includes improvements to markets, recreational spaces, public facilities and environmental management, but the Government said each community will retain its distinct identity rather than being forced into a

community-wide development, bringing infrastructure, public services and the physical environment into a single development framework.

RESIDENTS PITCH PRIORITIES FOR MODEL VILLAGE INITIATIVE

For residents taking part in consultations on the Model Village Initiative, the most important question is not what a model village looks like on paper, but whether development addresses the problems they face every day.

Across communities in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, residents have been using consultations to identify priorities ranging from education and agricultural access to youth facilities, drainage, safety and social support.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said their input is intended to influence the final plans.

“We’re not here simply to tell you what the village should look like. We’re here to listen, because the people who live in the village know that village better than anyone else.”

In Tuschen, Region Three, longtime resident Godfrey Haywood pointed to the construction of a new



Godfrey Haywood

secondary school as one of the community’s most significant developments, particularly for families who previously had fewer educational options nearby.

“This is one of the greatest achievements. There are a lot of residents who have benefitted from this facility,” he said.

Wendy Calendar Savory also highlighted the availability of nursery, primary and secondary education, saying continued investment could create greater opportunities for future generations.

“That would be great for us, at least for our

future children and grandchildren,” she said.

For farmer Noel Marcus, agricultural access remains a priority. While welcoming improvements in access



Wendy Calendar Savory

to leased farmland, he said better roads into farming areas would make it easier for farmers to strengthen production.

In Kaneville, residents raised concerns about support for young people, single mothers and vulnerable persons. President Ali responded by proposing greater collaboration with religious organisations to establish spaces offering counselling, guidance and community

assistance.

Residents of Enmore have also welcomed the proposed development programme.

Jai Lall, who has served on the community’s Neighbourhood Democratic Council since 1994, said the presentation of detailed development models was unlike anything he had



Noel Marcus

previously encountered.

“I have never seen a board or these kinds of models being shown,” he said.

Resident Shobana Williams-Morman, who recently returned to Guyana from Trinidad, said she was encouraged by the pace of development.

“This is something great, knowing that I remigrated from Trinidad and coming to see that Guyana is developing so fast,” she said.

The feedback is not limited to requests for physical infrastructure. Residents are identifying the services, opportunities and social spaces they believe are needed to make their communities more functional and secure.

Government technical teams have already conducted assessments of infrastructure and development needs, but the consultations are providing another layer of information: what

residents themselves consider most urgent.

That distinction is central to the initiative.

Rather than applying identical solutions across 23 communities, the Government said plans will be refined around each village’s identity, needs and aspirations.

For residents, the consultations therefore offer more than an opportunity to hear what Government plans to build.

They provide a chance to influence what gets built, where it goes and how development responds to the realities of everyday community life.



Model Villages Programme moves ahead with residents shaping the future of their communities

ENMORE MACHINISTS AND REGIONAL MARKETS TARGETED IN BIG LOCAL ENTERPRISE PUSH

The Government is positioning communities targeted under the Model Village Initiative as centres of commerce, production and entrepreneurship, with new markets, vendors' hubs, agro-development areas and industrial facilities being planned to create jobs closer to home.

The approach is shifting the focus from simply improving the physical appearance of villages to creating spaces where residents can produce, trade, invest and build businesses.

In Pouderoyen, Region Three, the centrepiece is a proposed two-storey market with more than 140 commercial spaces.

The facility is expected to accommodate vendors selling fresh produce, meat, poultry, clothing, electronics, crafts, beauty services and other goods, while also providing a farmers' market, food court, parking, modern sanitation and waste-management facilities.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the market is being designed to generate economic activity throughout the week.

"This market had to be different because this market is an everyday market, and this market must present additional economic opportunities."

In New Amsterdam, Region Six, the ageing municipal market is slated to be replaced with a modern, zoned facility for produce, meat, fish, dry goods and garments. A food court will also be included.

A dedicated vendors' hub will also provide roadside vendors with a part of a wider local economic ecosystem.

The most pronounced industrial ambition is emerging in Enmore, East Coast Demerara.

The community is being positioned as an industrial and manufacturing hub, with private-sector investments being fine-tuned and an Agro-Development Area proposed to support new businesses and industry.

The Government also plans to help skilled machinists from the nearby GuySuCo estate form a consortium to establish a machineshop, potentially converting existing technical skills into a new commercial enterprise.

Young people in Enmore are also expected to be connected to financing opportunities through the planned Guyana Development Bank, while business clusters in other communities could provide pathways into agriculture and small-scale production.

The Government is also looking to reorganise businesses that create environmental or residential conflicts, including mechanic repair and spray-painting operations, by moving them into more appropriate commercial zones.

President Ali described the wider approach as **"devolution,"** bringing government services, economic opportunities and national development into village settings.

The objective is to create communities where improved infrastructure supports something larger: more businesses, more production and more opportunities to earn a livelihood without leaving home.



The proposed municipal market in New Amsterdam

KINGSTON TRANSFORMATION PROJECT SET FOR SEPTEMBER LAUNCH



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat at the stakeholder consultation for the Kingston Beautification Project

One of Georgetown's most prominent districts is set for a major transformation, with government unveiling plans for a comprehensive beautification and infrastructure

programme designed to modernise Kingston and position it as a model urban community.

The proposal was presented by Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat during a stakeholder consultation at the Roraima Duke Lodge, where representatives from the public and private sectors reviewed plans for the large-scale initiative.

The project targets a wide range of longstanding urban challenges, including drainage, roads, parking, garbage management, utility infrastructure, traffic flow, lighting

and public safety, while creating a greener and more attractive environment for residents, businesses and visitors.

"Kingston should be used as an example to show the new modern Guyana that we want to create," Minister Bharrat told stakeholders.

The community occupies a strategic position within the capital, hosting government ministries, diplomatic missions, hotels, businesses and key tourism facilities. As a result, officials say improvements to the area will have benefits

extending beyond Kingston itself.

Planned interventions include the construction and rehabilitation of secondary concrete drains, road and parking area upgrades, replacement of defective utility poles and streetlights, and the creation of more organised parking facilities integrated with landscaping and shade trees.

The initiative will also address traffic congestion, particularly around schools, through the development of designated drop-off areas and improved



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat at the stakeholder consultation for the Kingston Beautification Project

traffic management measures.

Public safety forms another key component of the project. Enhanced street lighting and closer collaboration with the Guyana Police Force are expected to strengthen security throughout the district.

Minister Bharrat emphasised that community involvement and private-sector participation will be essential to ensuring

the long-term success of the project, noting that maintenance, proper waste disposal and enforcement will be critical to preserving the upgrades.

The Kingston Beautification Project is expected to be launched in September, marking the start of what officials hope will become a new benchmark for urban development in Georgetown.

OLD STELLING COULD BECOME NEW AMSTERDAM'S NEXT TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT HUB

New Amsterdam could be on the verge of a major facelift, with President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali proposing a modern waterfront boardwalk at the town's old stelling, complete with restaurants, entertainment and spaces designed to bring new life to the township after dark.

The proposal formed part of a wider vision unveiled during a Model Village Initiative consultation at Berbice High School, where President Ali outlined plans to reposition New Amsterdam as a

more vibrant, walkable and tourism-oriented community.

"That is the type of opportunities we can create," President Ali said, pointing to the Palmyra Stadium and Athletic Track as major new assets capable of attracting visitors and economic activity to the town.

The waterfront concept would create a new commercial and entertainment hub while

strengthening New Amsterdam's potential as a tourism destination.

But the vision extends beyond tourism. New green spaces, parks, play areas and a dedicated "health box" would allow residents to check their blood pressure and blood sugar, with results connected directly to the local clinic.

Plans also envisage rerouting heavy traffic away from residential



communities, creating additional parking and expanding safe recreational spaces.

President Ali said safety must be

broader than policing, encompassing fire protection, flood resilience and secure public spaces where children and seniors can gather.

The objective is clear: a New Amsterdam that is healthier, safer, more walkable—and economically alive well into the night.

MATTHEWS RIDGE TO FORM ECONOMIC CONSORTIUMS WITH DEVELOPMENT BANK BACKING



President Ali in Matthews Ridge

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled an ambitious economic development strategy for Region One. Residents of Matthews Ridge will be organised into three major economic consortiums, while new measures will be introduced to reduce food prices and expand business opportunities in the Moruca sub-region.

The initiative, announced during a one-day outreach to the Matarkai sub-region, is designed to strengthen community ownership, improve access to financing and create sustainable economic opportunities through the Guyana Development Bank.

Under the plan, small farmers will be brought together in a livestock and poultry consortium, residents allocated mining blocks will be organised into a small miners' group, and community members will form a forestry association aimed at expanding economic activity and increasing local participation in key sectors.

President Ali said the consortium model will allow government to strategically invest in large-scale development projects, including the opening of approximately 200 acres of land for agriculture and the expansion of swine and poultry production.

Several government ministers are expected to return to the community in the coming weeks to begin advancing the initiative and engaging residents on implementation.

The development push will be supported by continued investment in infrastructure, including road upgrades, completion of the Matthews Ridge airstrip and the establishment of cold storage facilities to strengthen the livestock industry.

The president also outlined plans for a youth-led ecotourism

venture under which 20 young people would each construct a cabin financed through the Guyana Development Bank and jointly own a 20-cabin eco-resort.

Residents used the engagement to raise concerns ranging from the need for a poultry processing facility and marketsquare to requests for child protection and welfare officers in the community. Questions were also raised regarding National Insurance Scheme compliance requirements for accessing the

development bank's \$3 million loan facility.

In response, President Ali committed to developing a recreational park, providing a second school bus, establishing a government service centre and expanding youth training programmes in Matthews Ridge.

Meanwhile, in Moruca, the president announced a parallel effort to tackle the high cost of living by reducing transportation expenses and boosting local food production.

A proposed cargo

service between Charity and Moruca is expected to lower the cost of transporting food and essential goods into the sub-region. The initiative could be operated by a consortium of young entrepreneurs with financing support from the Guyana Development Bank.

The president said transportation, infrastructure and food production must be addressed simultaneously to reduce living costs and strengthen economic resilience.

Plans are also underway to expand agricultural production, including poultry farming, with increased access to financing expected to create new opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs and young people while improving food security across the sub-region.



President Ali in Matthews Ridge

PORT KAITUMA WHARF UNDER LEGAL LENS FOLLOWING MV BARIMA DISASTER

The government is reviewing contracts linked to the Port Kaituma wharf project as part of a wider effort to determine whether any negligence contributed to circumstances surrounding the MV Barima tragedy, with legal action possible if wrongdoing is established.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, disclosed during his *Issues in the News* programme



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

that his chambers are scrutinising the contractual arrangements for the wharf, which was designed to

accommodate the MV Ma Lisha ferry at Port Kaituma.

The contractual assessment runs alongside active police investigations and a formal Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into the July 18 maritime disaster.

AG Nandlall clarified that the CoI will not supplant law enforcement agencies, stating: **"If there is any evidence of negligence, then of course, legal action**

will follow." He emphasised that while the inquiry will issue findings, criminal and civil liabilities remain matters for the courts.

The review follows revelations by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill that the MV Ma Lisha could not dock at the newly constructed facility due to severe soil movement that compromised the structure, requiring sections to be rebuilt.

The state's measures also encompass medical



MV Barima, docked at Supply, East Bank Demerara some time before it capsized in July

and social support from the Ministries of Health and Human Services, alongside long-term aid delivered through the

HEART Initiative.

Investigations into all aspects of the disaster remain ongoing as the government works to

enforce accountability and bolster maritime safety.

HOSORORO SECONDARY SCHOOL BRINGS 500+ STUDENT CAPACITY TO REGION ONE



Hosororo Secondary School in Region One

Construction of the \$2.6 billion Hosororo Secondary School in Region One is advancing rapidly, strengthening the Government's drive to achieve universal secondary education and expand access for students in hinterland communities.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali highlighted the latest progress on the state-of-the-art facility,

which is designed to accommodate more than 500 students and provide secondary-level education closer to communities across the region.

The school has already begun a phased intake. On January 20, 2026, the institution welcomed its first cohort of students following completion of the main teaching block.

The completed facility will significantly expand the educational infrastructure available

to Region One students, with modern science laboratories, a dining hall and specialised facilities for Science, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Information Technology, Home Economics and Industrial Technology.

The project also addresses one of the major challenges facing students from remote communities, access and accommodation.

Approximately 350 students will

be accommodated in purpose-built dormitories, while living quarters for up to 30 teachers are being provided to strengthen the school's ability to attract and retain qualified educators in the hinterland.

Students currently attending Hosororo Primary Top and Wauna Primary Top are among those positioned to benefit from the expanded secondary capacity.

The investment

represents a major expansion of education infrastructure in Region One, combining academic, technical and vocational training in a single institution.

With construction progressing and students already entering the school in phases, Hosororo is becoming a key component of Guyana's effort to ensure that geography is no longer a barrier to accessing secondary education.

AMBASSADOR RODRIGUES-BIRKETT CHAMPIONS HAITI RECOVERY, REGIONAL COOPERATION IN UN LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Guyana’s candidate for Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, has called for sustained international support to rebuild Haiti, stressing that the country’s deep-rooted challenges require a long-term response that goes beyond security interventions.

Addressing the Regional Dialogue on the Future Leadership of the UN, hosted by Uruguay in its capacity as Pro Tempore President of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Rodrigues-Birkett outlined an approach centred on peacebuilding, economic recovery, environmental restoration and stronger implementation of UN-backed measures.



His Excellency Jose Raul Mulino, President of Panama, with Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

Drawing on her experience as Chair of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on Haiti and her involvement in negotiations surrounding Resolution 2793, she stressed the need for Haiti and its international partners

to fully implement the resolution’s commitments.

“The wider implementation would involve accompanying Haiti for a number of years, given the depth of the challenges that are facing Haiti,” she said.

Rodrigues-Birkett emphasised that Haiti’s recovery must address more than insecurity, pointing to the need to restore economic opportunities, rehabilitate degraded forests to strengthen climate resilience and support children affected by gang violence. She also underscored the important role of regional organisations, particularly CARICOM, and called for stronger collaboration between regional institutions and the UN.

As she advances her candidacy for UN Secretary-General, Rodrigues-Birkett has also been presenting her vision for a more agile, effective and responsive multilateral system.

During engagements with Panama’s President José Raúl Mulino and Foreign Minister Javier Eduardo Martínez-Acha Vásquez, she discussed the future of global cooperation, challenges facing the UN and reforms needed to make the organisation more responsive to member states.

Rodrigues-Birkett said the UN must be equipped to “meet the moment” by becoming more efficient, collaborative and responsive to the evolving needs of the international community.

She also engaged Liberia’s Foreign Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti, along with vice and assistant ministers, on strengthening

of peace and security, development, and human rights.

The next UN Secretary-General is expected to be appointed



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia, Sara Beysolow Nyanti with Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

multilateralism, addressing global challenges and the ongoing UN80 reform deliberations.

She stressed the need for greater efficiency and stronger impact across the UN’s three pillars

in 2026, following a recommendation from the Security Council and appointment by the General Assembly, with the successful candidate expected to assume office in January 2027.



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

Farmers in Tuschen and surrounding Region Three communities are moving to tap into a new source of capital as registration begins for financing through the newly established Guyana Development Bank.

The bank is offering registered small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including farmers, interest-free, collateral-free loans of up to



Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Vikash Ramkissoon

\$3 million, in a move aimed at breaking down two of the biggest barriers facing small entrepreneurs: the cost of borrowing and the lack of assets to secure loans.

At a registration engagement at the Tuschen Radha Krishna Mandir, Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally said the initiative was born out of concerns raised

FARMERS REGISTER FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK LOANS

by citizens struggling to access affordable financing.

“There’s absolutely no reason why any one of us cannot be in a business,” Ally said.

He stressed that the bank’s support will extend beyond simply putting money into applicants’ hands. Technical officers will help entrepreneurs develop business plans, identify risks and build viable enterprises before financing is approved.

The programme will cover a wide range of ventures, including agriculture, agro-

processing and tourism.

For farmers, the opportunity extends beyond primary production. Ally said the bank will help producers develop businesses capable of packaging, branding and marketing their products for supermarkets and export markets.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar described the initiative as an empowering tool that can give citizens greater financial independence.

“It gives power to everyone; it gives financial independence that



Farmers in Region Three registering for the government’s Development Bank project

you can do your own thing,” he said.

Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture Vikash Ramkissoon said the financing could accelerate agricultural modernisation, particularly among younger farmers. He urged producers to embrace technology and improved practices to

increase output while lowering production costs.

The nationwide registration drive is expected to bring financing and technical support within reach of more entrepreneurs, farmers and small businesses seeking to turn ideas into sustainable enterprises.

YOUNG GUYANESE URGED TO TURN OPPORTUNITIES INTO NATIONAL IMPACT

Young Guyanese are being challenged to move beyond the idea that they are merely the leaders of tomorrow, with government stressing that their decisions, skills and contributions are already shaping Guyana’s development.

Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs issued the call as Guyana observed International

Youth Day 2026, urging young people to seize opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, skills training, sport, culture and other areas of national development.

“Every day young Guyanese are contributing to the development of our country. You are our athletes, you are our entrepreneurs, you are our students, you

are our farmers, you are our innovators, you are our professionals and community leaders,” Minister Jacobs said.

Hesaiddgovernment’s role is to ensure young people have access to the opportunities and support needed to turn their abilities into meaningful contributions.

Jacobs pointed to continued investment

in youth development and assured young people across all 10 administrative regions that government would continue to support and invest in them.

“I want every young person across all 10 administrative regions to know that your government will continue to support you, invest in you and create opportunities for



Youths at the President’s Youth Advisory Council Healthy Living and Lifestyle Choices Campaign

your development,” he said.

He urged youths to respond by preparing themselves and pursuing available opportunities with confidence and determination.

International Youth Day 2026 was observed under the

theme “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations”, highlighting the different circumstances facing young people while recognising their shared aspirations for inclusion, dignity and sustainable development.

SMALL BUSINESSES EYE EXPANSION AS GUYANA DEVELOPMENT BANK BECOMES REALITY

For entrepreneur Antwaun Austin, the next stage of growing his business depends on one critical ingredient: access to financing.

The owner of 592 Wines has ambitious plans to expand his juice production, compete with larger companies and eventually reach export markets. However, acquiring the equipment needed to increase production and reduce costs requires investment, something he believes the newly established Guyana Development Bank can help make possible.

“I’m excited. It’s a good initiative for small businesses, especially like mine, so that we could get access to finance, because that’s the most important and the most scarce commodity,” Austin said.

Austin explained that with additional financing, his business could purchase machinery to produce its own bottles, improve packaging and lower production expenses, allowing the company to compete more effectively in the local and regional



Abigale John-Owner Proper Wines and Teas

markets. **“I want to compete with most of the giants, but to do that we need machines to blow our own bottles and labels and stuff like that,”** he said.

For Austin, the Guyana Development Bank represents more than just a loan facility, it represents an opportunity for small businesses to move from limited production to expansion and greater market reach.

“I’m very excited for it, I’m waiting patiently, and I

think it’s a very good thing,” he added.

Austin is among several small business



Owner of 592 Wines, Juices and Shakes, Antwaun Austin

owners who are welcoming the creation of the Guyana Development Bank, which they believe could remove one of the biggest barriers facing entrepreneurs: access to affordable financing.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali recently assented to the Guyana Development Bank Act 2026, officially establishing the institution and creating

the framework for it to provide financing, mentorship and technical support to small and medium-sized businesses.

Owner of Propa Wines and Teas, Abigale John, said the



Owner of Jofa Products, Fay Gilgious-Greaves

bank could help local businesses move beyond domestic markets and pursue regional export opportunities.

“Having the Development Bank now on stream will help me reach not only local markets, but regional exports

and allow me to invest more to expand,” she said.

John said many small businesses have struggled to access loans despite meeting compliance requirements. Her business, she noted, is fully compliant with GRA and NIS requirements and ready to take advantage of the opportunities available.

Meanwhile, owner of Jofa Products, Fay Gilgious Greaves, also welcomed the initiative, saying access to financing could help entrepreneurs invest in their operations and improve their businesses.

The Guyana Development Bank is expected to provide a new pathway for entrepreneurs seeking to expand, create jobs and contribute to the growth of Guyana’s productive sectors.



Small businesses ready to scale up as Development Bank unlocks financing

FREE SUPPORT DESKS OPEN TO HELP LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS ACCESS SME FINANCING

The Private Sector Commission (PSC) is mobilising business support organisations to prepare entrepreneurs and small businesses to access new financing through the Guyana Development Bank, with a particular focus on making enterprises **“bankable”**.

PSC Chairman Captain Gerald Gouveia Jr. said the initiative will provide entrepreneurs with practical support

to strengthen their businesses before approaching financial institutions.

“We have the mandate to get these entrepreneurs bankable,” Gouveia said during an appearance on the *Starting Point* podcast.

He said organisations including the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA), Women’s Chamber, Berbice



Owner of Jofa Products, Fay Gilgious-Greaves

Chamber and Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) are establishing business support desks

and entrepreneur programmes.

The initiatives will help businesses strengthen business and financial planning, supply-chain management, compliance and certification, ensuring entrepreneurs are better positioned to qualify for financing.

Gouveia said private-sector experts will work directly with entrepreneurs to

develop business plans and improve financial management before they approach banks.

The push comes as the Guyana Development Bank creates a new financing avenue for small and medium-sized enterprises, including loans of up to \$3 million without interest or collateral.

The bank will also collaborate with commercial banks to facilitate financing of up

to \$10 million for SMEs, while entrepreneurs seeking larger investments are being encouraged to form business consortiums.

The initiative is designed to bridge a critical gap between entrepreneurs with viable ideas and businesses capable of meeting formal financing requirements.

GOV’T TO CLEAR FIVE ACRES FOR NABACALIS FARMERS

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency, and Implementation Zulfikar Ally has launched **“The Voice”**, a new online platform designed to give citizens and public servants a direct line to raise concerns, share ideas, and recommend improvements to government operations.

Accessible via any mobile phone, tablet, or computer, the platform features a simple online

form aimed at enhancing public engagement and routing service delivery issues directly to decision-makers.

Speaking during an interview, Minister Ally said the platform was created to capture valuable feedback that often goes unheard within government agencies and ministries.

“Often times, there are people who have so many good ideas within

the various agencies and ministries that we have, and we don’t always get the opportunity to hear them,” he said.

The minister confirmed that submissions are reviewed personally. When challenges prevent immediate solutions, officials will follow up to provide explanations or request further details.

The system is already delivering results. In one

instance, a public servant in Berbice who had gone unpaid for several months submitted a report; following direct intervention with the relevant HR department, the matter was resolved and the employee was added to the payroll.

Minister Ally said the website has also generated recommendations aimed at improving customer service and operational efficiency across the



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha and team engaging farmers

public sector, including suggestions relating to the education system and services at the Diamond Regional Hospital.

The platform supports President Mohamed Irfaan

Ali’s commitment to maintaining close public engagement and ensuring citizen feedback actively informs government policy.

HUNDREDS OF NEW NURSES ENTER GUYANA'S EXPANDING HEALTHCARE FRONTLINE

Guyana has graduated its largest-ever class of registered nurses, with 669 newly qualified professionals entering a health system that is expanding rapidly through new hospitals, specialist services and advanced medical

and were awarded their qualifications at a ceremony at the National Cultural Centre, in what officials described as a historic milestone for the country's healthcare workforce. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali told

growing demand for care. He urged them to uphold professionalism, compassion and excellence in a system he said must combine technology with humanity.

"Treat the illness, but never forget the person," the President said, stressing that nursing must retain its human touch even as digital health, artificial intelligence and evidence-based practice become increasingly central to modern medicine.

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony said the graduating class is the largest group of registered nurses ever produced in Guyana and the first to complete the hybrid training model.

He said the programme was designed to widen access to professional nursing education by reaching students across

ministry, the programme was launched in 2023 as a government scholarship initiative that combines online

During training, students completed 1,535 hours of online instruction, 230 hours of hands-on practical work at 12 skills and simulation laboratories, and 1,995 hours of supervised clinical rotations.

Officials said the graduation marks both a workforce boost and a signal of the government's wider health agenda: to expand capacity, modernise services and reduce pressure on a system that has long faced staffing challenges.

The graduating class included 38 students who achieved distinctions, 439 who received credits and 198 who passed.



New nurses ready to serve Guyana

technology. The graduates completed the Ministry of Health's Professional Nursing Hybrid Training Programme the new nurses that they are joining the frontline at a critical moment, as Guyana moves to modernise its health sector and respond to



New nurses ready to serve Guyana

all regions of the country.

The cohort included graduates from all 10 administrative regions. Region Four produced the highest number, with 186 nurses, followed by Region Ten with 128 and Region Six with 108.

According to the

theoretical instruction with practical sessions and supervised clinical training. It drew 1,913 applications, of which 856 students enrolled. A total of 669 completed the programme, representing a 78.2 per cent completion rate.

WORKING MOTHERS UPGRADE TO REGISTERED NURSES VIA INNOVATIVE HYBRID PROGRAMME

After seven years working as a nursing assistant, Keisha Thomas has achieved the career milestone she once thought would be difficult to reach, becoming a registered nurse while balancing work, studies and family responsibilities.

Thomas was among the first 669 graduates of the Ministry of Health's Professional Nursing Hybrid Training Programme.

For Thomas, the programme provided the opportunity to pursue professional advancement without having to step away from her job or personal commitments.

"It was a beautiful experience. I would be lying if I said it



Ketona McGregor

wasn't challenging because I was working and studying at the same time. But I wanted it, and anything that you want, you're going to put your best foot forward and put in the work," she said.

She encouraged other aspiring healthcare professionals to take advantage of the programme, noting that the combination

of online learning and practical clinical training allowed students to



Rena Bowman

achieve their goals while remaining connected to their communities.

For graduates from Guyana's hinterland regions, the programme represented a major step towards expanding access to professional healthcare training.

Region Seven graduate Ketona

McGregor said the hybrid model removed a major barrier for persons who would have struggled to relocate for studies.



Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony presents Keisha Thomas with her award

"We were able to train in our respective regions, which was an advantage because a lot of persons have families and cannot leave their regions," she said.

McGregor added

that while adapting to online learning required adjustment, the guidance of lecturers and clinical instructors helped students successfully complete the programme.

Similarly, Region Five graduate Rena Bowman praised the initiative for allowing healthcare workers to improve their qualifications without leaving their homes and communities.

"It reaches persons where they are. It allows us to become registered nurses without leaving our families and communities. The initiative is really great," Bowman said.

Region Ten graduate Lisa Joseph

also highlighted the challenge of managing full-time work, family responsibilities and academic demands, but said the achievement was worth the effort.

The Professional Nursing Hybrid Training Programme forms part of the government's broader investment in expanding access to tertiary education and strengthening Guyana's healthcare system.

By bringing professional training closer to communities, the initiative is helping to produce more qualified nurses, create new career pathways and build a stronger healthcare workforce to serve the country.

LINDEN HOUSING BACKLOG TO BE CLEARED BY NEXT YEAR

Nearly 1,000 residents of Linden are set to move closer to securing legal ownership of the lands they occupy as the government accelerates efforts to regularise properties formerly owned by the bauxite industry.

Speaking at a public outreach in Linden, Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo announced that the lands, currently



Nearly 1,000 Linden residents to gain land titles

managed by the National Industrial and Commercial Investments

Limited (NICIL) are being transferred to issue formal land titles.

"We're going to try to accelerate the titling for those people who live on those NICIL lands, and they're going to work on a special project," Dr Jagdeo stated.

The initiative forms part of a broader housing strategy to clear backlogs and expand homeownership nationwide. Region Ten



Nearly 1,000 Linden residents to gain land titles

currently faces a housing backlog of just over 3,000 applicants; however, Dr Jagdeo assured that sufficient house lots are being prepared to clear the local waiting list by the end of next year.

While Region Four retains the largest backlog due to high demand, the administration aims to resolve allocations across all other regions by the end of 2027.

DR JAGDEO DIRECTS ACTION AT PACKED LINDEN TOWN HALL



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

Hundreds of residents from Region Ten converged at the Watooka Guest House in Linden as government ministers and senior officials brought decision-making directly to the community during a public day outreach led by Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo.

The full-day engagement gave

residents an opportunity to raise concerns, seek assistance and receive updates on government programmes directly from policymakers.

Issues ranging from housing, land regularisation, infrastructure, agriculture, contracts and social support were among the matters addressed as residents met one-on-one with government representatives.

For many residents, the outreach provided a direct avenue to have long-standing concerns heard and receive guidance on possible solutions.

Patricia Bristol described the

engagement as a success, saying many of the matters raised by residents were either resolved or placed on a path toward resolution.

“We spoke with the vice president, and he gave us satisfaction and he gave us hope,” Bristol said.

She also praised the



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

involvement of several ministers, including Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustafa, and Minister of Finance Dr Ashni Singh, noting that residents received clarity on issues affecting their livelihoods and communities.

Bristol also welcomed assurances that skills training programmes for women and young people,



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

including sewing and tailoring initiatives, would continue.

Retired teacher Vanbruran Browne described the outreach as a **“bold step”** that demonstrated the government’s willingness to engage directly with residents.

“I think it’s a bold step by the government. It’s a bold step to assist the people of Linden,” Browne said.

He added that such engagements are important because families need support and opportunities to improve their lives.

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo said the outreach reflected the government’s commitment to listening to citizens and responding to issues affecting communities

across Guyana.

The engagement began at 10 a.m. and continued for more than eight hours, concluding after 6 p.m., with Dr Jagdeo describing the day as productive.

“We had a long day and I think a very successful day. We had many issues and I think a lot of people will get help,” he said.

Dr Jagdeo said the government remains focused on addressing both immediate



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

higher pension payments, increased support through cash grants and major investments in housing, healthcare and national infrastructure.

The Vice President said infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges and energy investments, are essential foundations for



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

future economic growth and job creation.

“People may say, oh, you can’t eat a road or a power plant or bridges, but without those, you can’t have sustained progress because the future wave of investments and future wave of jobs and better paying jobs will come from those infrastructure that we’re investing in,” Dr Jagdeo said.

He said the government will continue engaging residents across the country to address their concerns while pursuing programmes aimed at creating long-term prosperity.



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

GOVT ANNOUNCES SOCIAL HOMES AS HOUSING SUPPORT ESCALATES

The Government of Guyana is moving to secure housing for some of the country’s most vulnerable citizens, announcing a new initiative to build small one-bedroom homes for people who are unable to help themselves due to extreme poverty, disability or having been abandoned by family.

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo made the announcement during an engagement with residents of Region

Ten at the Watooka Guest House, describing the programme as a key promise under the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) manifesto.

He said the state is stepping in for individuals who are **“really destitute”**.

“We are launching a programme now for people who are really destitute, like people who have been abandoned by



State-funded homes planned for society’s most vulnerable

their families... those who are extremely poor, those who are [differently abled] and can’t afford to build. The government will build some small one-bedroom houses for them,” Dr Jagdeo said.

The vice president said the initiative is meant to guarantee safe and secure shelter for citizens who lack family support and do not have the financial capacity to secure housing on their

own. The government, he added, is also advancing broader social protection efforts to ensure economic progress results in real benefits for those most in need.

The housing plan includes 400-square-foot single-bedroom homes under the *Men on Mission (MoM) Initiative, which will prioritise elderly residents, persons living with disabilities and single parents facing extreme vulnerability.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali outlined further details during a community consultation to drive the Model Village Initiative in Rose Hall, where he said the government has received repeated requests for housing assistance from residents living in harsh conditions.

“These small homes... [will] help persons living with extreme vulnerability,” he stated.

In the 2026 National Budget, government allocated \$900 million to fund home construction, repairs and building material support for vulnerable families across all 10 administrative regions through the MoM Initiative.

Launched in 2022, MoM is a brainchild of President Ali and has supported thousands of communities nationwide.



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government



State-funded homes planned for society’s most vulnerable

Global hospitality company Hyatt Hotels Corporation has announced its entry into the Guyanese market through a partnership with RJR Investments & Holdings Inc., marking the company's first affiliated hotel in Guyana.

According to a joint announcement issued by Hyatt and RJR Investments, the Atlantic Suites Hotel in Georgetown has joined the Hyatt portfolio and is expected to be transformed into Hyatt Regency Georgetown Guyana following the completion of an approximately US\$50 million expansion project in 2028.

The development will include the construction of a new

tower adjacent to the existing Atlantic Suites Hotel. Once completed, the two buildings will be connected by a pedestrian bridge, creating a larger full-service Hyatt Regency property with approximately 240 guestrooms and suites, expanded meeting and event facilities, new dining options and additional amenities for business and leisure travellers.

Located in Georgetown, the Atlantic Suites Hotel currently offers 80 guestrooms and suites and provides guests with access to facilities at the neighbouring Pegasus Hotel and Pegasus Corporate Business Center, including conference facilities,

HYATT ANNOUNCES FIRST AFFILIATED HOTEL IN GUYANA

dining venues and recreational amenities.

Hyatt officials said the investment reflects the company's confidence in Guyana's rapidly growing economy and increasing demand for internationally branded accommodation. The company noted that Guyana has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economies and continues to attract growing numbers of business and leisure visitors.

Cristiano Gonçalves, Hyatt's Vice President of Development for South America and the Caribbean, described the move as an important milestone in the company's regional expansion strategy, noting that the project will help meet the needs of business and extended-stay travellers while laying the foundation for a future Hyatt Regency experience in Guyana.

RJR Investments & Holdings Chief Executive Officer Robert Badal said the partnership represents an opportunity to build on the long-standing presence of the Pegasus and Atlantic Suites properties while showcasing Guyana's hospitality, culture and tourism offerings to



Atlantic Suites Hotel King Bed

international visitors. The announcement comes amid continued growth in Guyana's tourism and hospitality sector, which has attracted significant investment from international hotel brands seeking to establish a presence in the country's expanding market.

Source: Adapted from a joint announcement by Hyatt Hotels Corporation and RJR Investments & Holdings Inc.

DAILY GEORGETOWN-BOA VISTA BUS SERVICE AMONG THREE INTERNATIONAL ROUTES FORMALISED

Guyana is moving to strengthen regional connectivity with Brazil through the formalisation of three international passenger bus routes, including a new daily service linking Georgetown and Boa Vista.

The routes are being established under the Guyana/Brazil International Road Transport Agreement and will create a structured framework for cross-border passenger transportation between the two neighbouring countries.

According to a public advisory issued

by the Ministry of Home Affairs, operators will be permitted to provide services on three designated routes: Lethem-Boa Vista twice daily, Lethem-Manaus once daily, and Georgetown-Boa Vista once daily.

The ministry emphasised that the routes are fixed and cannot be altered by operators.

The introduction of the Georgetown-Boa Vista route is expected to significantly enhance overland travel options between Guyana's capital and northern Brazil, supporting business,

tourism and people-to-people connections.

To operate the services, companies will be required to meet a range of stringent standards. Buses must be no more than eight years old and equipped with air conditioning, a minimum of 32 passenger seats, seatbelts for all occupants, washroom facilities, accessibility features for persons with disabilities and tachographs to monitor speed and distance travelled.

In addition, all vehicles will be subject to annual technical inspections conducted



Three international bus routes to Brazil formalised under new agreement

by the Ministry of Public Works.

Prospective operators must register as transportation firms and submit extensive documentation, including vehicle registration, licences, certificates of fitness, road service licences, international third-party insurance and company registration records. They must also appoint a legal representative in Brazil and secure authorisation from Brazil's National Agency for Road Transportation.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said fares

will be determined collaboratively by the ministry, the Ministry of Public Works and the approved operators.

Interested companies have been invited to submit proposals to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, indicating the route they wish to operate.

The initiative marks another step in deepening Guyana-Brazil integration and improving transportation links across the region.



Minister Persaud highlights caregiving, entrepreneurship opportunities for Sophia residents

Residents of Sophia are being encouraged to take advantage of a growing range of employment, training and entrepreneurship opportunities as the Government continues to expand programmes aimed at improving livelihoods and creating economic opportunities at the community level.

During a community engagement at the Sophia Community Centre,

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud outlined several initiatives designed to help residents secure jobs, develop skills and establish sustainable sources of income.

A major focus of the engagement was the Government's Care Economy Initiative, which seeks to strengthen support services for children and

SOPHIA RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO SEIZE NEW EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS

the elderly while creating new employment opportunities within communities.

Under the initiative, residents can receive specialised training to become caregivers, equipping them with the skills needed to provide quality care services. Participants will also benefit from government support, including assistance with equipment, learning materials, facility improvements and financing in some cases.

Minister Persaud said the programme presents a practical

opportunity for residents to earn an income while addressing important social needs within their own communities.

The minister also highlighted opportunities available through the newly established Guyana Development Bank, which is expected to provide financing for individuals seeking to start businesses or expand existing enterprises.

Residents were encouraged to build on the skills and training already available through programmes offered by

the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and explore how those capabilities can be transformed into viable business ventures.

According to Dr Persaud, access to financing can help aspiring entrepreneurs move innovative ideas from concept to reality while creating additional economic opportunities within their communities.

The outreach formed part of the Government's broader effort to bring information and opportunities directly to citizens, ensuring

communities are aware of programmes designed to generate employment, support entrepreneurship and improve living standards.

Dr Persaud also announced plans to further strengthen community support systems in Sophia through the development of youth-focused spaces and an additional community centre, creating more opportunities for engagement, personal development and community empowerment.

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TAKING GOV'T

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali continued his Community Ride Initiative in Georgetown, engaging residents of Alexander Village, Riverview Ruimveldt and Yarrow Dam during a series of stops throughout the communities.

Cycling through First to Fifth Streets and surrounding areas, the President met directly with residents, listened to concerns, discussed development priorities and outlined plans for community improvements. The outreach also provided an opportunity for informal conversations with citizens of all ages about their aspirations, opportunities and Guyana’s continued development.

Accompanied by Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal and senior government officials, the initiative reflects the administration’s commitment to direct community engagement, ensuring that residents remain active participants in shaping development within their neighbourhoods.



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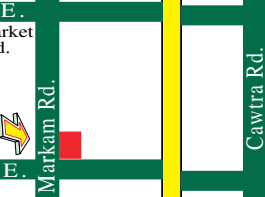
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GOV'T'S REGION ONE INVESTMENT TOPS \$7.5 BILLION

Residents of Region One are welcoming a new wave of investment and development as the government outlines billions of dollars in infrastructure, healthcare, education and economic initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods and expanding opportunities across the hinterland region.

During a Cabinet outreach to the Barima-Waini region, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced that approximately \$7.5 billion has been invested in Mabaruma and surrounding communities over the past five years, benefitting more than 10,000 residents through completed, ongoing and planned projects.

Residents said the direct engagement with the president and cabinet members provided an important opportunity to voice concerns while highlighting the visible changes taking place in their communities.

Mabaruma resident Thecla Rodrigues said improvements to community roads have made a significant difference in residents' daily lives and praised the government's continued



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government focus on infrastructure development.

"We have a very good road now from years ago," Rodrigues said, adding that she is proud of the progress taking place in the community.

Herbert LaRose described the outreach as a significant opportunity for residents to interact directly with national leaders, noting



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

that improved roads and proposed dredging works would benefit not only his community but neighbouring villages that depend on the same

transportation networks. Returning resident Denise Henry also praised the pace of development, saying the changes she observed after spending time away from the region were significant.

"I have seen the growth, the development, and



Region Ten residents take concerns directly to Government

I'm really impressed. I must compliment the government for all that they are doing for the community," Henry said.

President Ali said the government's investment has delivered major improvements in essential services, including access to potable water, which has increased from 38 per cent in 2020 to 90 per cent today, through the construction of 30 new water systems and additional wells planned for communities such as Mabaruma Settlement, Whitewater and Wauna.

The president acknowledged growing electricity demand in the region, noting that increased consumption has outpaced existing capacity despite the installation of a 900-kVA generator. He said government is now

exploring additional solutions, including off-grid solar systems, to strengthen energy reliability.

He also directed a comprehensive audit of approximately 1,700 solar home systems installed in hinterland communities to ensure damaged units are repaired and maintained.

In education, President Ali said nearly \$3 billion has been invested in expanding opportunities for young people through teacher training, nursing, pharmacy programmes and recruitment into the disciplined services.

Healthcare services have also expanded, with patient visits increasing from 57,000 in 2020 to nearly 87,000 in 2025, while improved regional facilities have reduced the need for medical evacuations.

Looking ahead, the president announced

passport services and banking facilities.

Additional commitments include dredging the Savannah Blackwater Creek, constructing the Smith Creek Health Centre, continuing Phase Two of the Wauna-Tobago Road, expanding agricultural lands at Hotoquai from 50 to 100 acres, building the

while supporting the expansion of crops such as coffee, cocoa, citrus and ginger.

President Ali said the Mabaruma airstrip is also being targeted for expansion to support increased economic activity, while longstanding land ownership issues in Brooms Estate are being addressed.



Government details next phase of Region One transformation during community meetings with residents

Aruka Mouth Nursery School and conducting a technical assessment of the Barabina Bridge.

The government will also intensify efforts to create new

He urged residents to remain engaged in the development process, stressing that communities are built not only through infrastructure but through the people who live in them.

"A community is not only made up of roads, health centres, education buildings, technical institutes, recreational facilities and parks. Communities are made up of people," President Ali said.

The president also assured families affected by the MV Barima tragedy that government support will continue beyond the immediate response, pledging sustained assistance in honour of affected families and communities.



Government details next phase of Region One transformation during community meetings with residents



Government details next phase of Region One transformation during community meetings with residents

several new projects, including the conversion of the Mabaruma Post Office into a Government Service Centre offering access to agencies such as the General Register Office, Guyana Revenue Authority, National Insurance Scheme,

economic opportunities through agriculture, ecotourism and small business development. Ministers are expected to return to the region to work with residents on opportunities in poultry, livestock, swine and egg production,

REGION EIGHT VILLAGE CLUSTERS TO MANAGE \$900M ROAD UPGRADE FUND

More than \$900 million will be injected directly into Region Eight as a new government initiative places Amerindian villages at the centre of maintaining and upgrading local infrastructure.

Announced following the National Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference, the scheme will see all 31 Amerindian villages and Community Development Councils (CDCs) in the region receive \$30 million



Regional Executive Officer (REO) Marti De Souza

each for road and bridge maintenance—a sixfold increase from the previous \$5 million allocation.

Regional Executive Officer (REO) Marti De Souza confirmed that placing \$30 million directly into 31 communities will ensure over \$900 million circulates locally, boosting economies and speeding up repairs following recent heavy rainfall.

"The communities are now given the capacity to do repairs to their own roads and bridges. That's \$30 million to 31

communities. That works out to more than \$900 million circulating right within our very own region," De Souza said in a video shared on the Regional Democratic Council Region Eight Facebook page.

In addition to the funding, the Ministry of Public Works will supply clusters of villages with dedicated heavy-duty equipment, including bulldozers, graders, dump trucks, rollers, and



Regional Executive Officer (REO) Marti D'Souza received the key for a motor grader

backhoes, for year-round maintenance.

Ten young people from each village cluster will receive technical training to operate and manage the machinery, creating local job opportunities and building a skilled workforce within the

communities.

The initiative aims to grant villages complete ownership over their infrastructure projects, driving long-term economic resilience and improving connectivity across Region Eight.

President’s brother demands withdrawal of ‘defamatory’ allegations by Opposition Leader

MOHAMED Aqtar Ali, brother of President Irfaan Ali, has put Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohamed on notice that he faces a defamation lawsuit unless he retracts corruption allegations made in a viral video posted to the Team Mohamed Facebook page early Monday morning.

In a letter sent the same day, attorney Kashir A. Khan, writing on Aqtar Ali’s instructions, demands the allegations be “withdrawn forthwith in the appropriate manner,” warning that his client will otherwise “take legal action as may be advised to protect his reputation, without further notice.”

According to the letter, the roughly video named Aqtar Ali directly, with Mohamed telling viewers he was “putting the facts, the dates, the contracts and the documents” before the Guyanese public regarding “the brother of the President of Guyana.”

The video went on to allege that Sigma Engineers Limited, incorporated on October 6, is effectively Aqtar Ali’s company, “fronted” through his friend Taamjeed Rahmaan, a Bangladeshi-Canadian the two are said to have known from the same mosque in Canada.

Mohamed further claimed Aqtar Ali’s name appears on Sigma’s financials, and separately alleged the president’s brother resides at State House with a level of ac-



cess that has “raised serious concerns among persons working there,” and that community land was made available to Aqtar Ali’s company to build a bond after government officials had cited a land shortage elsewhere.

By the time the lawyer’s letter was drafted, the clip had drawn more than 384,000 views and over 1,600 comments, many of them hostile, and had already been picked up by local press.

The letter calls the claims “untrue, reckless and cannot be supported by any cogent and proper evidence,” and specifi-

cally singles out the suggestion that Aqtar Ali intends to “rob taxpayers” as “especially egregious.”

Khan states flatly that his client “is not a director or shareholder in any of the companies referenced in the video clip, nor has he ever been,” and characterises Mohamed’s statements as “calumnious, unsubstantiated and defamatory in their entirety.”

The letter also warns that any further repetition of the claims, online or otherwise, will only “amplify” their defamatory effect, language attorneys typically use to preserve the right to sue over rebroadcast

or commentary on the original statements.

Sigma Engineers has also pushed back publicly on the underlying allegations, stating it has operated in Bangladesh since 2003, was registered in Guyana on the same October 2022 date cited in the video, and won its first Guyana contract in 2026 through a competitive National Procurement and Tender Administration Board process.

The company has described Aqtar Ali’s role as that of a senior technical consultant rather than an owner.

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The mission provides chances for girls in space exploration

Guyanese girl power in space

MISSION ShakthiSAT is an ambitious all-girl satellite and space technology initiative led by Chennai-based Space Kidz India, founded by Dr. Sri-mathy Kesan. Launched on January 16, 2025, the initiative brings together 12,000 girls between the ages of 14 and 18 from 108 countries, with the vision of empowering young women across the globe through the inspiring world of space exploration.

Considered the world’s first initiative of its kind, Mission ShakthiSAT places young women not on the margins of a science programme but firmly at its centre. The girls are not simply participants; they are being trained to conceptualise, design and contribute to the execution of a space mission, providing them with practical exposure to space science and satellite technology.

The initiative is driven by the vision of creating opportunities for young girls while challenging traditional barriers that have limited women’s and girls’ participation in STEM and the

space sector. The programme was offered free of cost to all participating girls, providing young women from diverse backgrounds and countries with access to specialised space technology education and training.

The programme is being implemented in two phases. Phase One, which concluded in mid-2026, entailed participants undergoing 120 hours of rigorous online theoretical training in areas of mathematics, physics, coding, ham radio technology, PCB designing, and payload development. Through 21 modules and over 365 lessons, participants were introduced to the fundamental concepts and technical knowledge required to understand how a satellite is developed.

Phase Two brings together one selected young girl from each participating country in India for an intensive, hands-on space technology programme. The girls will build on the knowledge gained during their online training and gain first-hand insight into the

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GUYANESE WOMEN PROVE RICE FARMING’S FUTURE IS CHANGING

By bringing innovation directly into their rice fields, two Guyanese women are demonstrating how new farming methods can lower costs, create additional income and make better use of the land.

For rice farmer Dian Leitch-Hinds of Sandvoort Village, West Canje, Berbice, the Ministry of Agriculture’s Duck-Rice Integration Initiative started as an opportunity to learn something new. It soon became a practical business decision.

Leitch-Hinds had farmed rice for nearly a decade when an agricultural extension officer encouraged her to attend training through the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB). What caught her attention was the possibility of spending less while earning more.

After receiving 100 ducklings, feed, fencing



Dian Leitch-Hinds

materials and technical support, she introduced the ducks into her rice fields.

The results were quickly visible. The ducks move through the fields, feeding on weeds, insects, snails and other pests, while their droppings return organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

“I noticed the rice was doing great. I didn’t have a

money.”

Leitch-Hinds reduced her use of herbicides and substantially cut back on synthetic fertilisers such as urea, potash and triple superphosphate. The savings also gave her greater flexibility to diversify, with coconut trees, soursop, peas and vegetables added to her



Kammenie Mangal and her daughter

farm.

The experience came with challenges, including some ducks displaying cannibalistic behaviour, but she used the training provided and conducted additional research to manage the problem.

“I would continue to invest in this programme because it works. You save a lot, and you get more out of it.”

In Region Six, Kammenie Mangal of Mibicuri North, Black Bush Polder, has also embraced the approach.

After her husband attended training in Georgetown, the knowledge became a family effort. The household received 100 ducklings and starter

feed, with each family member helping to care for the birds before they were released into the rice field each morning.

“Where the ducks are, we don’t have to spray or apply fertiliser because the ducks feed on the weeds and insects. Right next to it... you can clearly see the difference.”

Despite losing some ducks to predators, Mangal remains enthusiastic about the programme and encourages other farmers, particularly women, to participate.

“It’s a very beautiful project. They should come and learn about it because they will enjoy doing it. I certainly enjoy doing it.”

PROVING THE BUSINESS CASE

The experiences of the two farmers are supported by encouraging early results from the pilot.

GRDB Agronomist Dr Ghansham Payman said the system allows ducks to perform functions that would otherwise require chemical inputs, while their droppings provide nutrients to the soil.

The pilot uses approximately 100 ducks per acre, and participating farmers have been able to recover the full cost of establishing the system, including housing,

fencing, ducklings and feed, within a single crop cycle.

“We had 100 per cent recovery of the investment cost in one season. Moving forward, those infrastructure costs are already covered, meaning farmers stand to earn higher profits with every subsequent crop.”

The project has



Kammenie Mangal's farm

also demonstrated the potential to reduce synthetic fertiliser use by 50 per cent or more, while farmers can generate additional revenue through duck sales.

Food and Agriculture Organisation’s Livestock Specialist Dr Gayle Young noted that rice-duck integration has been successfully used in several Asian countries for decades and is now being adapted to Guyana.

The Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) is providing technical support, including guidance on duck management, breeding stock and local duckling

production. The agency is also exploring opportunities for a premium market for ducks raised through the system.

For Guyana, the promise of the rice-duck model extends beyond reducing input costs. By producing rice and livestock on the same acreage, farmers can maximise the use of existing land while

creating additional income streams.

Dr Payman believes the approach could have significant potential if adopted more widely.

“If we can transition 700 to 800 farmers from cultivating only rice to a rice-duck integrated system, they will maximise the use of the same piece of land while increasing profitability.”

For Leitch-Hinds and Mangal, that future is already taking shape in their fields, where innovation is helping turn every acre into an opportunity for greater productivity, resilience and income.



Leitch-Hinds rice farm with the ducks

“I wanted to see for myself exactly what they were teaching. Once it’s a business that can make money, it definitely gets my attention.”

problem with grass because the ducks ate it. I didn’t have a problem with weeds because they cleaned them out. The rice grew beautifully, and it cost me less

ONE-STOP SERVICE CENTRES DELIVER 65,000+ TRANSACTIONS ACROSS REGIONS 5 AND 6

More than 65,000 government transactions have been processed at service centres in Fort Wellington and Port Mourant, underscoring strong demand for decentralised public services and reducing the need for residents to travel to Georgetown.

The Fort Wellington Government Service Centre in Region Five has recorded more than 15,000 transactions in less than three months, while the Port Mourant centre in Region Six has completed more than 50,000 transactions

since opening in June.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali disclosed the figures during community consultations on the Government’s Model Village Initiative in Bush Lot and Rose Hall.

“Not even three months yet, we have more than 15,000 transactions,” the President said of the Fort Wellington facility.

The centres consolidate multiple public services under one roof, allowing residents to access electronic identification (e-ID)



The Port Mourant Government Service Centre was commissioned in June of this year

cards, passports, birth, death and marriage certificates, as well as services from the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), National

Insurance Scheme (NIS) and Immigration Support Services.

The Port Mourant centre is already generating measurable

savings for residents. Highlighting the economic benefit, President Ali noted that localising these transactions drastically lowers travel expenses for families.

“If you take a minimum of five thousand dollars per day only in transportation to go to do those transactions in Georgetown, you are talking about over 250 million dollars that you have saved in transportation costs alone,” he said.

The Government now plans to expand the Fort Wellington facility further by partnering with commercial banks, allowing residents to open bank accounts and access banking services alongside government transactions.

The expansion reflects the Government’s broader push to decentralise public services, reduce the cost of accessing the State and bring essential services closer to communities.

LITERATURE MUST DOCUMENT GUYANA'S CHANGING STORY, PM PHILLIPS TELLS WRITERS

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips has challenged Guyanese writers to take greater ownership of the country's historical and contemporary narrative, warning that stories left undocumented risk being incomplete, or disappearing altogether.

Addressing the 2026 Guyana Prize for Literature, Prime Minister Phillips said literature must do more than entertain. It must capture the experiences, struggles, contradictions and aspirations of Guyanese people, particularly those whose stories have historically been filtered through colonial perspectives.

"If we do not tell these stories with knowledge and confidence, others will tell them incompletely, or they may not be told at all," he said.

Prime Minister



Prime Minister Phillips at the 2026 Guyana Prize for Literature awards ceremony

Phillips urged writers to document life across the coastland and hinterland, villages and towns and the diaspora, while preserving language, confronting difficult chapters of history and imagining Guyana's future.

His call comes as the Guyana Prize itself confronts challenges within the literary sector. Professor Stewart Brown, chairman of the fiction judging panel, said 19 submissions were received in the Best Book of Fiction

category, but one entry was disqualified because of its use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Brown also described the overall quality of the fiction submissions as disappointing, underscoring concerns about the development of Guyana's literary craft.

Judges reported stronger performances in other categories, particularly youth poetry.

Tessa Mc Watt, based in England, won Best Book of Non-Fiction for *The Snag*, published by

Random House. Joyce Trotman placed second with *Dis gyrl: The enchanted life of Auntie Joyce Trotman*, while Vilma Nicholls received Special Recognition for *Tafawa: Guyana's Bachelor's Adventure and Paradise villages: A mosaic of the history and culture of a people liberated*.

In fiction, Raywat Deonandan won Best Book for *A Memory of Flowers and Coconut*, while Jasmaine Payne placed second with *Leech*, which also won Best First Book of Fiction.

Maggie Harris won Best Book of Poetry for *I Sing to the Greenhearts*, while Phebe Wallerson won Best First Book of Poetry for *Lahcim II: Sounds from Sorrow Hill*. Seeta Shah Roath captured Best Book of Drama for *Kisna*.

The youth categories also produced notable

results, with Juvell Atherley winning the short-story category for *Saltwater Does Not Forget*. Poetry produced a tie between Mortimer Duke and Ariel Mohanlal.

Prime Minister Phillips said strengthening literature requires more than awards. He called for workshops, reading groups, writing clubs, residencies, public readings, editorial services and literary journals, alongside stronger partnerships among writers, libraries, universities, publishers and the private sector.

The Government has restored and modernised the Guyana Prize, including moving submissions and judging online to reduce costs and make participation easier for writers at home and abroad. The Prize has also expanded into a four-day literary

festival featuring workshops, storytelling, poetry, drama and public discussions.

Prime Minister Phillips said the literary push forms part of a wider investment in the Orange Economy, with \$3.7 billion allocated in 2026 to creative-economy initiatives.

He urged writers to treat recognition, not as an endpoint, but as another stage in their development.

"Keep writing and keep reading. Invest in yourself as we continue to find ways to invest in you," Prime Minister Phillips said.

The message was clear: Guyana's literary future will depend not only on producing books, but on producing stronger writers capable of telling Guyana's story in their own voices.

GUYANA LITERARY FESTIVAL BECOMES MAJOR FIXTURE ON CULTURAL CALENDAR

Guyana's Literary Festival has evolved into a major fixture on the national cultural calendar, creating a dedicated platform for writers, performers and other creatives to develop their craft and expand opportunities within the country's creative sector.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr, made the disclosure at the National Cultural Centre (NCC), following the dramatic presentation *August Morning and 1823*, which featured

a poetic tribute to renowned Guyanese writer and cultural figure Ian McDonald.

Reflecting on the festival's development, Ramson said the event has grown substantially over the past four years, driven by consultations with members of the creative community.

"The literary festival has really turned into a fixture on our calendar. It is something that has grown and evolved," he said, describing it as an established period for creatives to explore

opportunities to advance their work.

The minister said the festival was deliberately shaped around the needs of Guyana's literary and wider creative community, while pointing to the government's Right to Stage programme as one initiative that



Cast of August Morning and 1823, A Poetic Tribute

emerged from those consultations.

Under the programme, government provides funding for plays and artistes, while performers retain revenue generated through ticket sales and other earnings.

Minister Ramson said the initiative is creating greater opportunities for performers and contributing to improved compensation across the sector.

He also said efforts are continuing to strengthen the literary

festival's prizes as government seeks to raise the standard and profile of Guyanese writing.

Minister Ramson paid tribute to McDonald, who recently passed away, describing him as more than a literary icon. He highlighted the Trinidad-born, Guyanese-adapted writer's wider contribution to Guyana's cultural life through his writing, public service and enduring influence on generations of Guyanese.



Gulab Singh

Seluchan Arjune

The Government's newly introduced \$20,000 transportation grant is providing meaningful financial relief to pensioners,

helping many cover travel expenses and access essential services without placing additional strain on their monthly income.

PENSIONERS SAY \$20,000 GRANT MAKES ACCESSING SERVICES EASIER

Several beneficiaries have described the assistance as a welcome intervention, noting that transportation costs can consume a significant portion of their pensions.

For pensioner Seluchan Arjune, the grant provides dedicated support for travel expenses that would otherwise have to be covered from his monthly allowance.

"At least it will help a lot. It's some

extra money to spend on transportation. Instead of using all your pension money, you get some extra," he said.

Another beneficiary, Munilall, said the grant has already made it easier for him to travel to important appointments and government agencies.

"It helped me to go to NIS and other places where I have to go," he explained, adding

that pensioners often incur transportation costs simply to uplift their benefits.

Gulab Singh also welcomed the initiative, noting that transportation expenses can quickly add up.

"You have to pay \$500 to go and \$500 to come. So that is \$1,000 you have to pay," Singh said. **"I feel pretty grateful about the grant."**

The transportation

assistance forms part of the government's wider efforts to strengthen support for senior citizens by reducing everyday expenses and improving access to essential services.

Formany pensioners, the grant is helping to ease a recurring cost, allowing them to travel with greater confidence while preserving more of their monthly income for other necessities.

GUYANA WINS IMF PRAISE FOR FOREST CONSERVATION AND CLEAN ENERGY DRIVE

Guyana’s efforts to protect its forests, expand renewable energy, and build a resilient economy have earned recognition from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Fund highlighted that the country remains at the forefront of market-based forest conservation while accelerating its transition to clean energy.

In its concluding statement following an Article IV mission, the IMF welcomed Guyana’s commitment to strengthening climate resilience, protecting biodiversity, and advancing the goals of the Low Carbon

Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030.

Key initiatives driving the transition include the Gas-to-Energy Project. Highlighted by the IMF as a major driver of the energy transition, this project is expected to significantly reduce reliance on fossil-fuel electricity by 2027, lowering power costs and boosting national competitiveness amid growing energy demand. Guyana’s clean energy expansion is also gaining momentum, with the country on track to install 50 megawatts of solar generation capacity by the end of the year.

In hinterland communities, renewable energy investments are already reshaping electricity generation. Lethem, for example, is now powered by two hydropower plants with a combined capacity of 2.2 megawatts, alongside a 1-megawatt solar system. More than 60 per cent of the town’s electricity now comes from renewable sources, while hydropower has displaced the use of more than 20,000 drums of diesel.

The IMF also highlighted efforts to strengthen food security through increased agricultural production

and reduced dependence on imports. Under the LCDS, climate-resilient agriculture remains a priority, with investments in drainage, irrigation, sea defences and water management aimed at protecting farmers from climate-related risks.

Meanwhile, Indigenous and forest-dependent communities are set to receive GY\$2.5 billion in LCDS funding this year through the programme that directs 15 per cent of Guyana’s forest earnings to villages. The disbursement will bring total LCDS funding provided to these



communities to nearly GY\$17 billion.

Pradeepa Bholanath, Senior Director for Climate and REDD+ at the Ministry of Natural Resources, noted that these developments illustrate how economic

growth, climate resilience, renewable energy, and community development operate as interconnected pillars of Guyana’s long-term strategy.

LETHEM GETS CHEAPER AIR TRAVEL AS JAGS AVIATION EXPANDS SERVICE

Travel between Georgetown and Lethem is set to become more affordable, with BK International and JAGS Aviation introducing a scheduled charter service offering fares more than 10 per cent below prevailing market rates.

The move directly responds to President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s call for airlines to reduce airfares and make air travel more accessible, particularly for hinterland residents who often face higher transportation costs and limited options.

JAGS Aviation Reservations Manager



JAGS Aviation Reservations Manager Natasha Smith

Natasha Smith told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that the reduced fares could make a significant

difference for residents travelling between Region Nine and the capital.

“It not only opens up cheaper travel options for persons that live in Lethem to travel to Georgetown and back,” Smith said.

She noted that more affordable flights would make it easier for residents to access essential services, including medical care, while also improving access to supplies and other goods available in Georgetown.

The company is also reviewing its pricing structure with the aim of reducing fares even



AGS Aviation’s HAL 228 Turboprop departing Ogle for Lethem

further.

The expansion is not limited to passenger travel. Smith said JAGS Aviation is offering cargo rates below market prices, allowing

businesses and residents to move goods more affordably between Georgetown and Lethem. Plans are also being explored to extend the service to other

communities in Regions Nine and Eight, while potential international connections to Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela are being considered.

The improved air links could also give Region Nine’s tourism industry and businesses a stronger platform for growth by making it easier to move visitors, workers and goods.

For hinterland communities, the initiative represents more than cheaper tickets. It is a step toward greater mobility, connectivity and economic opportunity.

GOVT AGENCIES TO ENFORCE TOUGHER RULES ON COOKING GAS EQUIPMEN

With international interest in Guyana on the rise, the government is taking bold steps to ensure the country has a skilled workforce ready to welcome visitors. A world-class hospitality institute is being established to train Guyanese in hospitality management, culinary arts, and tourism services, equipping them with internationally recognised skills to meet the growing demands of the sector.

The initiative, part of the People’s Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) Government’s strategy to diversify the economy

and create sustainable employment, is designed to strengthen the country’s tourism and service industries while providing pathways for young people to build rewarding careers.

Speaking on the President’s Facebook podcast *Tea on the Terrace*, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, highlighted the importance of building local capacity to meet international standards. “We want to ensure that Guyanese are properly trained and equipped to take advantage of the opportunities in

the hospitality and tourism sector as it continues to expand,” Minister Rodrigues said.

The hospitality institute will complement major developments in the tourism landscape, including new hotels, eco-tourism ventures, and increasing international attention on Guyana as a travel destination. Students will receive hands-on instruction designed to prepare them for local, regional, and international roles, while also gaining the skills to launch their own businesses within the sector.

“The goal is not

just to fill jobs,” Minister Rodrigues added, “but to create pathways for entrepreneurship and leadership in hospitality and tourism.”

Once operational, the institute is expected to serve as a regional hub for training, attracting students from across the Caribbean and strengthening Guyana’s position as a competitive player in the tourism market. Graduates will be equipped to deliver high-quality services that meet global expectations and support the country’s growing reputation as a destination for



regulator_700x700_05

international visitors.

For aspiring chefs, hotel managers, tour guides, and entrepreneurs, the hospitality institute offers represents a

gateway to career development, personal growth, and the chance to contribute directly to Guyana’s economic expansion.

FIRE HYDRANTS, CCTV CAMERAS PLANNED FOR ANNA REGINA



The meeting with residents in Region two

Anna Regina is poised for a major transformation, with government proposing the installation of 53 new fire hydrants and 90 CCTV cameras as part of an extensive package of infrastructure and community upgrades under the Model Village Initiative.

The plans were unveiled during a community engagement led by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

at the Anna Regina Secondary School, where residents were presented with a vision aimed at creating a safer, more resilient and environmentally sustainable town.

Among the most significant interventions is a dramatic expansion of fire safety infrastructure. Anna Regina currently has only eight fire hydrants. The addition of 53 strategically placed hydrants would

significantly strengthen emergency response capabilities, improve protection for homes and businesses and enhance the community's overall preparedness for disasters.

Public safety is also set to receive a major boost. While only three CCTV cameras currently operate in the community, government is proposing 90 additional cameras at key locations to improve surveillance, support law enforcement efforts and help deter criminal activity.

The proposed transformation extends far beyond security. Plans include upgrades to roads, bridges, utility poles and street lighting, alongside the construction of 5,565 metres of walkways

and road shoulders to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. The programme will also address environmental enhancements also feature prominently. Environmental enhancements also feature prominently. Environmental enhancements also feature prominently. Environmental enhancements also feature prominently.



The meeting with residents in Region two

Government has identified approximately 4.7 acres for parks and green spaces, supported by landscaping, tree planting and road demarcation initiatives designed to improve the appearance, functionality and

sustainability of the community. The programme will also address encumbrances on road reserves, drainage while creating new opportunities for economic growth.

“We want to invest in agro-processing; we want to invest in value creation. The region is already becoming a major supplier of tourism products, and we have to continue to build the tourism potential and tourism infrastructure for this region,” the President said.

The Anna Regina proposal forms part of the government's wider Model Village Initiative, which is advancing community-led development across Guyana through integrated investments in infrastructure, public services, safety and economic opportunity.

HOTTER WEATHER PUSHES POWER DEMAND TO RECORD 242MW

Guyana's electricity demand has surged to a record 242.64 megawatts as El Niño-driven heat pushes consumption sharply higher, prompting the Government to accelerate measures to protect the national power supply.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips said that the unusually hot and dry conditions have created an unexpected peak in electricity use, placing additional pressure on the national grid.

Public Utilities and Aviation Minister Deodat Indar disclosed that demand has climbed well above last year's comparable peak of 221 megawatts and is projected to reach approximately 266 megawatts between August and October.

The spike is being driven not only by hotter temperatures, but also by expanding housing, commercial activity and growing industrial demand.

In response, the Government is working

with Guyana Power and Light (GPL) to raise available generation capacity to approximately 280 megawatts by the end of August.

Indar said an additional five megawatts from the power ship is expected to come online before month-end. A 4.5-megawatt engine is also being returned to service, while another 5.5-megawatt engine is undergoing a major overhaul.

The Government is also targeting electricity

use during peak periods. Sawmill operators are being encouraged to shift operations outside the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. peak window, while government agencies will be asked to switch off lights and air-conditioning after working hours.

GPL is closely monitoring generation and demand as Guyana braces for sustained high temperatures.



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, along with officials from the Guyana Power Light Corporation

For hundreds of families in Region Ten, the dream of owning a home is moving closer to reality as the Ministry of Housing and Water begins lot identification exercises at the Wismar Phase One New Housing Development.

The exercise marks an important milestone for allottees, many of whom are now seeing the exact locations of the residential plots they will eventually call home.

More than 1,600 residential lots have been allocated within the development, which is part of a wider housing expansion programme aimed at increasing access to homeownership

WISMAR FAMILIES TAKE FIRST STEP TOWARD HOMEOWNERSHIP AS LOT IDENTIFICATION BEGINS



Allottees at their lots

opportunities. To support the growing community, approximately \$5.5 billion is being invested in critical infrastructure works. Phases One and Two span about 355 acres and will include

recreational spaces, a police outpost and other modern amenities designed to support long-term community development.

The lot identification exercise began this week, with the first group

of allottees guided by ministry surveyors to their assigned plots. Residents were given the opportunity to locate and mark their lands, providing a tangible connection to their future homes.

The exercise will continue through Friday, while a second group of allottees will be invited at a later date as additional plots become accessible.

The ministry is encouraging allottees to regularly monitor their plots after identification. Officials say this will help



Allottees at their lots

prevent encroachment and reduce instances of persons inadvertently constructing on the wrong lot.

For many families, standing on their allocated land represents more than a routine

administrative exercise, it is the first visible step toward building a home, establishing roots and creating a future within a rapidly developing new community.

PRESIDENT ALI PROPOSES NEW HOMES FOR RIVER VIEW FAMILIES WHILE PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has renewed his call for the phased relocation of families living along the River View riverbank, outlining a plan aimed at providing safer housing while preserving the livelihoods many residents depend on.

The proposal was discussed during the President's Community Ride Initiative, which took him through Alexander Village, River View and Yarrow Dam, where he met directly with residents to hear



President Ali engages residents at River View

concerns and discuss long-term challenges for both safety and future development. Standing among families whose homes sit along the river's edge, President Ali said the location presents

to move from this location. There is no way we can develop here because this is on the riverbank," the President told residents.

Rather than a sudden relocation, Ali proposed a gradual approach under the government's social housing programme, allowing families to transition to safer living conditions over time.

Recognising that many residents rely on the river for their income, particularly through fishing, the

President stressed that any relocation plan must protect existing livelihoods.

"Out here, we can build a small wharf and a shed so that all these fishermen can still come back, stay here and use the facility," he explained.

The proposal seeks to balance two priorities, improving housing conditions and ensuring families are not separated from the economic activities that support them.

Ali also sought residents' input on the plan, emphasising that community cooperation will be critical to shaping a solution that works for both families and the future development of the area.

The discussions form part of wider government efforts to expand access to safe housing while pursuing community-centred development.

TUSCHEN LAND CRISIS MOVES TOWARD RESOLUTION

Longstanding land ownership and squatting concerns in Tuschen, Region Three, are moving towards resolution, with the Government already resettling families and advancing the regularisation of residents who have lived for years without secure tenure.

Eight of approximately 20 persons identified for relocation from the

sea dam have already been resettled, Housing Minister Collin Croal disclosed during a follow-up visit to the community.

The move follows commitments made during a recent Model Village Initiative consultation, where residents raised concerns over their ability to secure legal ownership of the lands they occupy.

In Area G, the

Government has completed occupancy exercises and a block survey, clearing the way for the next stage of the regularisation process.

Croal said verification is now underway, after which eligible residents will proceed to signing documents to formalise their tenure.

The minister also addressed a separate group of residents occupying land behind a

church, where ownership remains unclear.

He said the Government must first establish the legal status of the property before determining how the situation will be resolved. Once ownership is confirmed, residents' occupancy will be assessed and officials will return to the community to determine who can remain and who may need to relocate.



Minister Collin Croal engages Tuschen residents

The developments signal a direct follow-through on commitments made to Tuschen residents, including President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's pledge to return to the community.

The Government has

maintained that securing land tenure remains a priority, particularly for families who have spent years living on land without formal ownership.



Lake View Park, a community-driven facility funded through the Low Carbon Development Strategy

What was once a small-scale economic quiet lakeside area in Mashabo is now helping to attract visitors, boost

LAKE VIEW PARK BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO MASHABO ECONOMY

The village's Lake View Park, developed through funding from Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), is quickly becoming one of Mashabo's standout attractions and a symbol of community-led development.

Nestled along the village's scenic lake, the recreational facility offers residents a place to gather and relax while

drawing visitors eager to experience the natural beauty of the Region Two community.

Community Service Officer Decasey Williams said the project has already begun delivering benefits for the village.

"Since we put down this area within Mashabo, it has been a major boost to our village economy, to our tourism," Williams said.

The development was funded through successive phases of LCDS investments, with plans already in place for further upgrades and expansion.

For residents, the project represents more than a park. It is a tangible example of how climate and forest revenues are being transformed into opportunities that support livelihoods, strengthen tourism and

improve community life.

As interest in eco-tourism and community-based tourism continues to grow, Mashabo is carving out a place on Region Two's tourism map, using its natural assets to create economic opportunities while preserving the environment that makes the village unique.

PORT MOURANT RESIDENTS GAIN EASIER ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

Residents of Port Mourant and surrounding communities now have easier access to safe and affordable drinking water with the opening of a new bottle refilling station at the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) Water Treatment Plant.

Director-General of the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, Alfonso De Armas, said the facility is designed to bring an essential service closer to residents, particularly those who would otherwise have to travel considerable distances to refill their bottles.

During a visit, De Armas highlighted the sight of an elderly resident arriving with an empty bottle to collect water as a clear example of the station's value.

"Now imagine how far she would have had to go, ride or walk, to get that water bottle refilled,"

he said.

De Armas said the initiative is intended to keep prices stable while providing an efficient, safe and accessible source of drinking water.

The government plans to establish similar bottle refilling stations in communities across Guyana as it continues



Bottle being filled at the water refilling station

efforts to expand access to potable water and



Director-General of the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, Alfonso De Armas

make essential services more convenient for residents.

NINE GUYANESE DOCTORS SET FOR ADVANCED MEDICAL TRAINING IN CHINA

Nine Guyanese doctors are set to undertake three months of advanced medical training in China, gaining specialised knowledge and clinical exposure that they are expected to bring back to strengthen healthcare delivery in Guyana.

The doctors will travel to Jiangsu, China, from September to December 2026 under an ongoing health cooperation programme between Guyana and China, focused on building the skills and capacity of local healthcare professionals.

For Dr Carla Reid, an ophthalmologist at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), the opportunity represents a chance to



Ophthalmologist, Dr Carla Reid

sharpen both her clinical and surgical capabilities after five years in the field.

More importantly, she intends to translate that experience into

better patient care when she returns.

“I’ll be able to share that knowledge with my colleagues, with other healthcare professionals, especially at a health centre setting, so that we can improve screening for patients with ophthalmological conditions,” Dr Reid told the Department of Public Information (DPI.)



The doctors will travel to Jiangsu, China, from September to December 2026

For Dr Rolan Persaud, a Medical Officer attached to GPHC’s Pathology Department, the training will provide exposure to diagnostic and teaching practices beyond Guyana while creating opportunities to strengthen knowledge-sharing at home.

He plans to use the experience through teaching, presentations and information-sharing with colleagues.

“Basically, what I would like to get out of this training in China is to broaden my perspectives and experience within pathology being done outside of the country, to learn from those experiences and then translate them back



Dr Rolan Persaud

to my colleagues,” Dr Persaud said.

He described the programme as an important opportunity to improve medical practice and the quality of services available to Guyanese.

The other participants are Dr Shazad Hussain, Dr Joseph Torres, Dr Tiffany Fiedtkou, Dr Obadelle Thorne, Dr Randell Collins and Dr Ranvir Gajraj.

At a ceremony, GPHC Chief Executive Officer Robbie Rambarran

thanked the Government of China, the Chinese medical team and Sinoc Petroleum Guyana Limited for supporting the initiative. He noted that the wider partnership has also provided medical supplies, equipment and technical expertise to Guyana’s health sector.

Chinese Ambassador to Guyana Yang Yang said the latest cohort builds on years of cooperation, noting that seven Guyanese doctors completed residency training in China last year.

The initiative is expected to deepen that partnership while expanding the pool of Guyanese specialists equipped to deliver higher-quality care at home.

BATH HOSPITAL EXPANDS SPECIALIST CARE IN REGION FIVE

Bath Regional Hospital has recorded more than 60,000 patient visits in its first year of operation, significantly expanding access to specialised healthcare for residents of Region Five.

The hospital, commissioned one year ago, has introduced services that previously required patients to travel to New Amsterdam or Georgetown, including CT scanning, urology, intensive care and neonatal intensive care.

Medical Superintendent Dr



An inside view of the Bath Regional Hospital

Daniel Robertson said the hospital’s first year has marked a major improvement in the region’s healthcare capacity, particularly for patients requiring specialised treatment.

The introduction of CT scanning has reduced

the need for residents to travel outside the region for diagnostic imaging, while the availability of an in-house urologist has brought specialist urological care closer to patients.

The hospital’s Intensive Care Unit has also strengthened the region’s ability to manage critically ill patients. More than 50 patients have already been admitted to the ICU, receiving a level of care previously available primarily at Georgetown Public Hospital and New Amsterdam Regional Hospital.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has similarly expanded care for newborns requiring specialised attention, reducing the need for transfers outside Region Five.

Bath has also increased the region’s surgical capacity. Whereas Mahaicony Hospital previously operated with one functional theatre, Bath Regional Hospital now has three.

Overall, more than 60,000 patients have accessed outpatient, inpatient and accident and emergency services



Bath Regional Hospital

since the hospital opened.

As Bath enters its second year, officials are shifting attention toward taking more healthcare services directly into communities.

Dr Robertson said outreach services will be strengthened across Region Five, including expansion of the recently introduced Men’s Health Clinic.

“With the guidance and

assistance of the Ministry of Health and the Regional Democratic Council, we’re looking to extend and improve our outreach services across the region,” he said.

The strategy is aimed at reducing barriers to care by bringing essential services closer to residents, rather than requiring patients to travel to the hospital for every healthcare need.

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) is significantly expanding Guyana’s public-sector diagnostic capacity, investing in advanced medical imaging, modern infrastructure and digital technology to improve how patients are diagnosed and treated.

The country’s national referral hospital, GPHC, is working to strengthen access to specialised diagnostic services for patients from all 10 administrative regions.

The expansion includes plans for a dedicated medical imaging centre,

alongside the upcoming introduction of an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system designed to improve the accessibility, coordination and efficiency of patient care.

The scale of the upgrade represents a major shift from the hospital’s earlier diagnostic capabilities, when medical imaging was largely limited to X-ray examinations. Patients with complex conditions often required additional diagnostic support before doctors could reach definitive conclusions.

Today, GPHC’s Medical Imaging

Department provides a substantially broader range of services, including X-ray, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), mammography, fluoroscopy and interventional radiology.

These technologies allow medical teams to identify and manage conditions ranging from traumatic injuries and internal bleeding to strokes, tumours and neurological, spinal and



The department is supported by a multidisciplinary team comprising radiologists, radiographers, ultrasound technologists, nurses and other support personnel

joint disorders.

The department is supported by a multidisciplinary team of radiologists, radiographers, ultrasound

technologists, nurses and other healthcare personnel.

The continuing investment is aimed at strengthening the public healthcare system’s

ability to provide specialised diagnoses and support critical medical decisions without patients having to depend as heavily on overseas or external diagnostic services.

For patients across Guyana, the expansion points to a healthcare system increasingly equipped to deliver advanced diagnostic care, faster clinical decision-making and more coordinated treatment, regardless of where they live.

MADEWINI RESIDENTS GIVE E-ID REGISTRATION A STRONG VOTE OF CONFIDENCE



Bibi Khan

Residents of Madewini are describing Guyana’s Electronic Identification Card (e-ID) registration process as fast, smooth and hassle-free, as the Government expands enrolment beyond major



Rookhamin Singh

population centres. The latest outreach at the Prime Minister’s Sub-Office in Madewini is bringing the digital identification system directly to residents, reducing the need for applicants to travel to



Denito Sandy

Georgetown to complete registration. Businessman Denito Sandy, who operates two businesses and is seeking to expand his poultry venture, said the e-ID could prove useful as he pursues financing

through the Guyana Development Bank.

He said his registration was completed promptly and without difficulty.

For Bibi Khan, the exercise was equally straightforward. She praised the registration staff for providing clear information and readily answering applicants’ questions, encouraging others to take advantage of the opportunity.

Rookhamin Singh described the process as calm, organised

and courteous, while welcoming the decision to take the service into communities.

“I think it was a very good initiative to come and reach out to everybody in the neighbourhood,” she said.

The e-ID is intended to provide citizens and eligible residents with a secure, single identification credential that can streamline access to government and private-sector services and reduce

processing times.

Since the Digital Identity Card Act came into force on March 31, 2026, permanent enrolment offices have been established in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, while mobile teams continue reaching communities.

Government is also preparing to establish enrolment offices in Regions One, Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten, advancing its push for nationwide access to digital identification.

GOV'T MOVES TO FIX RIVERVIEW'S FISHING INFRASTRUCTURE

Riverview fisherfolk are set to receive a major boost, with the Government moving to construct a proper landing wharf and establish arrangements to purchase their catches.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha announced the plans following a visit to the community to address concerns raised

directly with President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali during his recent walkabout.

Fisherfolk identified two pressing challenges: the lack of a safe, centralised landing facility and difficulty finding reliable markets for their catches.

Minister Mustapha said the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA)

has been tasked with developing the design for a new wharf.

The facility is expected to provide proper mooring for boats, safer boarding and disembarkation, and dedicated storage for essential fishing equipment, including seines, nets and hooks.

The minister said the new infrastructure will replace the current

arrangement, under which fisherfolk operate from scattered individual and small landing sites, making it difficult to secure and store equipment.

Beyond infrastructure, the Government is also moving to tackle the market challenge by purchasing catches from Riverview fisherfolk and helping establish reliable



Some of the fisherfolk during the engagement

outlets for their fish.

Minister Mustapha said the ministry will also work to register and organise persons involved in the local fishing sector, creating a more structured foundation for support

and development.

The measures are aimed at strengthening livelihoods while improving the infrastructure and market access needed to make fishing in Riverview more viable.



Schoonord’s flood defence restored after fishing boat collision

Residents of Schoonord, West Bank Demerara can breathe easier after emergency works restored drainage conditions following an incident that damaged the community’s koker and allowed water to



Schoonord’s flood defence restored after fishing boat collision

enter the area.

The problem developed after a fishing boat reportedly collided with the sluice door, damaging its base and disrupting the structure’s ability to control water movement.

SCHOONORD GETS RELIEF AS EMERGENCY WORKS RESTORE DRAINAGE

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) responded quickly, installing temporary stop locks to prevent additional water from entering the community.

“We assessed the situation. We had emergency work carried out. We were

able to fix stop locks to prevent any more water from coming into the community,” Minister Mustapha said.

The emergency intervention allowed the affected waterways to be drained, bringing conditions back to normal for residents.

But the temporary fix is not the final answer.

Mustapha said government will permanently replace the damaged sluice door,

with the NDIA expected to begin the necessary tendering process within a month.

“We’ll have to build a new sluice door now,” he said.

Until then, temporary stop logs will remain in place to regulate water levels and protect the community. The logs can be removed when the tide recedes, allowing water to drain, and reinstated before the tide returns.

For residents, the emergency response has restored a critical line of defence against rising water while work continues toward a permanent solution.

The intervention underscores the importance of maintaining drainage infrastructure in communities vulnerable to flooding.

NEW GRADER DEPLOYED TO FIX MAHDIA AND CAMPBELLTOWN ROADS

Residents of Mahdia and Campbelltown in Region Eight are beginning to see improvements to their community roads as rehabilitation works get underway with the deployment of a newly acquired motor grader.

The equipment has started operating, reshaping and grading

sections of roadways to address potholes, improve accessibility and make travel safer for residents, according to the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

The works follow concerns raised by residents over worsening road conditions, particularly during the

rainy season. Regional Executive Officer (REO) Marti DeSouza had committed two months ago to addressing those challenges and improving road access across the region.

DeSouza said the ongoing works form part of a wider programme to upgrade community roads throughout Region

Eight, with additional villages expected to benefit from government funding for road and bridge maintenance.

He encouraged motorists to drive carefully during the works, noting that while improved surfaces will enhance mobility, dry-season conditions may create dust for

nearby residents and businesses.



New motor grader brings relief to Region Eight communities battling poor roads



Guyana joins regional push to counter transnational crime

Guyana is deepening its regional security cooperation as Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips joined senior officials from across the region at the Americas Counter-Cartel Coalition (A3C) Campaign Forum in Panama. The high-level

PM PHILLIPS TAKES GUYANA'S SECURITY MESSAGE TO PANAM

engagement focused on strengthening the collective response to transnational organised crime, including narcotics trafficking and other illicit activities that threaten national and regional security.

Phillips attended the forum alongside Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond and senior military officials, reinforcing Guyana's commitment to working with regional and

international partners as security threats become increasingly complex and interconnected.

Discussions advanced cooperation among participating countries on coordinated approaches to tackling criminal networks, with particular emphasis on stronger information and intelligence sharing, capacity-building and improved border and maritime security.

For Guyana, the

engagement comes as the country continues to advocate for a more coordinated regional security architecture capable of responding to threats that do not stop at national borders.

The Government has consistently pushed for deeper collaboration among regional partners, arguing that intelligence sharing, stronger institutional capacity and coordinated operations are critical to disrupting

the movement of illicit drugs, criminal networks and other transnational threats.

Guyana's participation in the Panama forum signals its continued willingness to work alongside international partners to strengthen national defences while contributing to wider regional efforts against organised crime.

55 WATER TANKS BRING GREATER WATER SECURITY TO RIVERINE FAMILIES IN SIRIKI SANDS

For years, residents of Siriki Sands, a small riverine community along the Pomeroon River, faced an uncertain reality whenever cloudy weather affected the village's solar-powered water system.

Today, that challenge is being eased.

Fifty-five households in the Region Two community have received water tanks, giving families a reliable way to store water



Residents of Siriki Sands community welcome the delivery of water tanks

and reducing their dependence on a single community supply system.

The distribution

fulfils a commitment made by Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha during a recent cabinet outreach in the

region, where residents raised concerns about difficulties accessing and storing water.

According to Community Development Council (CDC) Chairperson Sophia Ramdeen, the community has traditionally relied on a well-powered system for its water supply. However, because the system depends on solar energy, prolonged periods of cloudy

weather often affected its operation and limited the amount of water available to residents.

The new tanks are providing an important safeguard, allowing families to store water when supplies are available and access it when demand is high.

For residents, the tanks represent more than infrastructure; they bring peace of mind.

Ramdeen said the response from the

community has been overwhelmingly positive, with residents already installing their tanks and expressing gratitude for the intervention.

"Thanks to the government, the residents in the community are now very happy about it and are currently installing the water tanks. I already set up mine," she said.

For the families of Siriki Sands, a simple water tank is helping to deliver something invaluable: greater security and confidence in their daily lives.



Block maker, Parmanand Sewcharran

A small block-making factory in Mashabo, Region Two, is putting economic opportunity directly into residents' hands while helping the community meet



Toshao Mashabo, Giddel Abrams

growing demand for construction materials. Established by the Mashabo Village Council, the facility has been operating for just two weeks but is

MASHABO FACTORY KEEPS DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS IN THE COMMUNITY

already supplying blocks for major development works while creating jobs for residents.

Toshao Giddel Abrams said the factory has supplied more than 1,500 blocks to contractors working on the community's bio-health post.

The benefits extend beyond production. By manufacturing blocks locally, residents and contractors can

avoid the added cost of transporting construction materials from outside the community, while money spent on building supplies circulates within Mashabo.

For block maker Parmanand Sewcharran, the factory has created a direct source of employment. He produces around 250 blocks daily, with his output sometimes

exceeding 300.

Contractors are also taking notice of the quality. One contractor described the locally produced materials as "healthy blocks", saying they compare favourably with blocks sourced from elsewhere.

The initiative demonstrates how village-level investment can turn local labour, skills and resources into practical economic

gains.

As construction activity increases, the Mashabo factory could play an even greater role in keeping more of the benefits of development within the community, creating jobs, supporting families and positioning residents not merely as recipients of development, but as active participants in building Mashabo's future.

SHANGHAI STREET TRANSFORMED IN LINDEN

For years, residents of Shanghai Street in Amelia's Ward, Linden, had to navigate a roadway that became increasingly difficult to use, especially during periods of heavy rainfall. Today, that reality has changed.

A newly rehabilitated and widened Shanghai

Street is now providing safer and more reliable access for residents, commuters and businesses in the community.

The transformation was carried out by the Ministry of Public Works' Linden team and included significant upgrades to both the

roadway and drainage network. At the heart of the project was the construction of concrete drains and slipper drains designed to improve the flow of surface water and reduce flooding along the corridor.

A new junction box was also installed at the lowest point of

the roadway, helping to channel runoff more efficiently and prevent water from accumulating on the road surface and nearby properties.

For residents, the improvements mean more than just a smoother drive. The upgraded infrastructure enhances access to homes, businesses and essential services while reducing the challenges often associated with poor drainage during



Shanghai Street gets new life with major road upgrade

heavy rains.

The completion of the project reflects the government's continued investment in community infrastructure, ensuring roads are more resilient,

safer and better equipped to support the daily movement of people, goods and services throughout Region Ten.

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14 REGION 10 SPORTING FACILITIES TO GET MAJOR UPGRADES



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

Fourteen community grounds and sporting facilities across Region 10 are being targeted for upgrades as government moves to improve the quality of recreational spaces available to athletes and communities. The facilities were

inspected by Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs and Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning Keoma Griffith, who assessed their infrastructure and sporting needs. The inspections followed a recent regional outreach led by Vice-President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, during which residents highlighted concerns about the condition and adequacy of sporting facilities. The assessment covered playfields and courts in Bamia, Central Amelia's Ward, South Amelia's Ward/ Lovers Lane, Kara Kara, Speightland, Retrieve, Industrial Area, Three Friends, Coomacka Mines, Old England (Siberien), Silver City, Victory Valley, Blueberry Hill and Block 22. Officials identified

a range of priority interventions, including improved lighting and fencing, rehabilitation of playing surfaces, upgraded courts, improved washroom facilities and the provision of sporting equipment. The upgrades are intended to give young people and established athletes safer and more functional spaces to train, compete and develop their abilities. The initiative also forms part of a broader push to strengthen grassroots sport. Government is pursuing the establishment of

dedicated tape-ball cricket facilities in every administrative region, expanding access to organised sporting opportunities across the country. For Region 10 communities, the planned works could turn underutilised or deteriorating recreational spaces into better-equipped facilities capable of supporting a new generation of athletes.



Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs and Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning Keoma Griffith inspect the facilities

GUYANA'S YOUNG VOICES PREPARE FOR CARIFESTA 2027

For the children gathered at Castellani House, it was an afternoon of stories, laughter and imagination. But for Guyana's cultural sector, the storytelling experience represented something much bigger, the nurturing of the voices that could one day take the country's creative talent to the Caribbean stage. As Guyana prepares to host the 16th Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) in 2027, Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs is pointing to



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

events such as the Old Wives and Tall Tales Storytelling Festival as important preparation for the cultural showcase. Minister Jacobs said Guyana's cultural diversity is one of its greatest strengths, with

storytelling serving as an important vehicle for preserving traditions and passing them from one generation to the next. He stressed the importance of children, not only participating in cultural experiences, but enjoying and listening to them. For the young audience at Castellani House, the stories offered a direct connection to traditions that might otherwise fade with time. That intergenerational connection is becoming increasingly important

as Guyana prepares for CARIFESTA 2027, which is expected to bring together storytellers, musicians, dancers, visual artistes, writers and other creatives from across the Caribbean. Guyana has already begun discussions with senior government officials and CARICOM representatives as preparations intensify for the festival.



Children enjoying the Old Wives and Tall Tales Storytelling Festival

The country hosted the first CARIFESTA in 1972, and the return of the festival in 2027 offers an opportunity to place Guyana's diverse cultural expressions before a regional audience while opening new opportunities within its growing Orange Economy. From a child listening to an old tale at Castellani House to an artiste performing before a Caribbean audience, the journey begins with preserving the stories, and ensuring there is a new generation ready to tell them.



A \$25 million donation from the Guyana Amazon Warriors (GAW) franchise and the ExxonMobil Guyana Global Super League (GSL) will bolster assistance for survivors and families affected by the MV Barima tragedy, one of the worst maritime disasters in Guyana's recent history.

Sir Clive Lloyd, Chairman of the ExxonMobil Guyana Global Super League, presented the cheque on behalf of the tournament and franchise shortly before the toss of the GSL final between the Guyana Amazon Warriors and the San Francisco Unicorns at the Guyana National Stadium, Providence.

\$25M GLOBAL SUPER LEAGUE TOURNAMENT PROCEEDS DONATED TO MV BARIMA FAMILIES

The donation fulfills a commitment announced ahead of the match to direct proceeds towards relief efforts for those impacted by the July 18 disaster. The funds will support the HEART Initiative (Hope, Empathy, Aid, Resilience, and Trust), established by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali to deliver sustained assistance to affected families. The initiative brings together financial assistance, psychosocial support, trauma counselling, social services, spiritual guidance and

community-based interventions aimed at helping affected families rebuild their lives. President Ali has emphasised that the initiative is not intended to serve as compensation for victims and their families. "This assistance does not constitute compensation for survivors and bereaved families. These measures embody a commitment that every survivor and their families will be supported," the President stated. The donation underscores the growing



role of private sector partners in supporting the national recovery effort. The Guyana Amazon Warriors franchise and its owner, Dr. Bobby Ramroop, were commended by the initiative for their timely

contribution. As the country continues to mourn the lives lost, the \$25 million contribution will expand critical services to support affected communities through long-term recovery.



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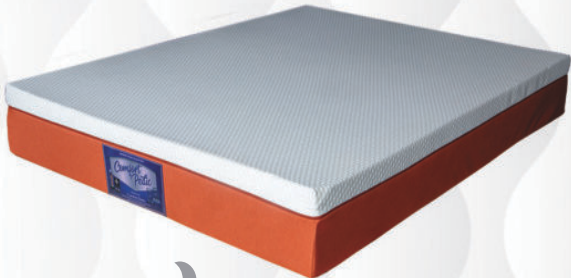
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Government acquires three engines to boost Linden’s electricity supply

THE government has stepped up efforts to address a growing power-supply gap in Region 10, where electricity demand has risen to 15.1 megawatts (MW), exceeding the 14 MW.

Providing an update on the national grid, Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar on Monday said the government has added emergency generation and is aggressively managing demand in Linden as hotter weather and rising economic activities push the system beyond its limits.

Linden receives power from the Bosai minerals group.

To ease the pressure during peak periods – 13:00hrs to 15:00hrs and 19:00hrs to 21:00hrs., the government has asked sawmillers in Linden to shift their operations to off-peak hours.

“There are two peaks in Linden, meaning that, the power demand spikes at its highest during those two [times] of the day,” he explained.

According to the minister, President Irfaan Ali, Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh and himself met with the sawmillers to address concerns over the shortage and outline the emergency plan. In parallel, the Hinterland Electrification Company Inc (HECI) and Bosai have agreed to install an additional 3 MWs of generation at the Bosai facility.

Beyond Bosai, the government is also tapping idle mining capacity to bolster Linden’s supply.

The minister disclosed that three 1 MW engines from a manganese company in Port Kaituma, are currently being transported to Linden.

“So, we have been talking to the mining community. We have spoken to a number of them, Rusal and a whole lot of us. We have also spoken to GMI, which is the manganese company in Port Kaituma, and they have five megawatts of engine that they are not using. Each one [sic] of them carry [sic] one megawatt. It’s five engines. So, we are in the process right now, as we speak, to transport those engines, three of them to Linden,” he added.

The minister added that other private players in the power sector have indicated that they may be able to provide about 3 MW more in engine capacity once the necessary transformers are sourced.

Meanwhile, the government is moving to reinforce Guyana’s electricity grid with new generation, river cables and transmission lines, as rising demand and ageing equipment put key corridors under strain.

The minister noted that although Region Two has sufficient generation on paper, frequent engine trips have been causing outages. To relieve the pressure, the administration plans to divert roughly 2 MW of additional generation from the North-West to Essequibo, so that small caterpillar sets can finally be taken offline for overdue overhauls.

“So, we are [sic] also put out a tender, and the tender is closed, and it is in

its final stage of evaluation for eight megawatts for Region Two, because of these very same small caterpillar sets that we have there that are running beyond their normal hours for overhaul,” he explained.

Meanwhile, in Region Three, peak demand has climbed from 26 MW to about 41 MW, sharply increasing the risk to the submarine cable that carries power from Region Four across the Demerara River.

“The cable across the river is taxed. It’s supposed to be carrying a safe limit of about seven, to eight megawatts of power. It was actually transmitting 15 megawatts a few days back, and that put the cable at risk because if that cable fries, we’ll have problems in Region Three.”

To ease the load, the government has launched a project to lay a second cable along the riverbed from the Princes Street substation on the Georgetown side to the substation at Vreed-en-Hoop.



Deodat Indar

The contractors he noted have already mobilised and they will start laying the cable on the Demerara River today.

In Region Four, a major upgrade

was carried out on Sunday at the new Georgetown substation, which receives 70 MW from the powership.

That additional 5 MW will increase the contribution from the powership beyond its current 70 MW.

On the East Bank corridor, the single transmission line that runs from Garden of Eden to Timehri and onto the Soesdyke–Linden Highway has reached its thermal limit, causing trips when demand peaks. A contract has been awarded to Ramatar and Sons to construct a new transmission line, with materials already being moved and pole planting expected to start by Wednesday.

Indar confirmed that overall available generation on the grid has increased following the successful commissioning of a new 9.3 MW set at Garden of Eden.

This has pushed the total available generation to 266.3 MW, providing a reserve of about 26 MW against peak demand, which now averages around 240 MW.



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