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US, Guyana reaffirm partnership

Guyana President, Dr Irfaan Ali and United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on Tuesday reaffirmed their nations' deepening security partnership as both leaders committed to enhancing co-operation to counter transnational crime, protect regional stability and safeguard Guyana's sovereignty.

According to a statement issued by the US Department of State and attributed to Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott, Secretary Rubio spoke with President Ali to discuss strengthening bilateral security co-operation, commending the Guyanese Head of State for his leadership as a regional security partner and for Guyana's expanding role in promoting stability across the Western Hemisphere.

"The Secretary reaffirmed the United States' commitment to deepening security co-operation with Guyana to address shared challenges, including illicit narcotics and firearms trafficking, which threaten regional stability and economic resilience."

Regarding the ousting of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, President Ali commended the leadership of US President Donald Trump and Secretary Rubio in reaffirming a shared commitment to freedom, democracy, and regional security, while reiterating Guyana's steadfast commitment to working closely with the United States as a strategic and important security ally.

Maduro pleads not guilty in NY Court

Toppled Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges of narco-terrorism after President Donald Trump's stunning capture of him rattled world leaders and left officials in Caracas scrambling to respond.

Maduro, 63, pleaded not guilty in New York federal court to four criminal counts that include narco-terrorism, cocaine importation conspiracy, and possession of machine guns and destructive devices.

"I am innocent; I am not guilty. I am a decent man. I am still president of my country," Maduro said through an interpreter, before being cut off by US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein. Maduro's wife Cilia Flores also pleaded not guilty. The next court date was set for March 17.

Maduro is accused of overseeing a cocaine-trafficking network that partnered with violent groups, including Mexico's Sinaloa and Zetas cartels, Colombian FARC rebels, and Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang.

Maduro has long denied the allegations, saying they were a mask for imperialist designs on Venezuela's rich oil reserves.

While world leaders and US politicians grappled with the extraordinary seizure of a head of state, an emergency order in Venezuela, published in full on Monday, ordered police to search and capture anyone who supported Saturday's US attack.

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30 years of Black History Month

By Milan Maharaj

LJI REPORTER

The federal government has revealed this year's theme for Black History Month in Canada. Marc Miller, the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, made the announcement. This year's theme is titled "30 years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations, from Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries." The theme is meant to mark the 30 year anniversary of Black History Month being officially recognized nationwide.

According to the Canadian government, the theme is aimed to acknowledge the historical and ongoing contributions of Black Canadians. The theme centers on creativity, leadership and resilience across decades, and is meant to emphasize contributions that have shaped Canada as it is known today, and how it will be shaped into the future. The theme is described by the government to be both a celebration and an educational opportunity.

The theme was unveiled at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, which is described as a hub that preserves and promotes Black Nova Scotians according to the government. This particular location

was selected to highlight the role of regional Black cultural institutions such as this one.

With the theme announcement, the government also announced over \$280,000 in federal funding meant to support nine projects in the Atlantic region that focuses on supporting Black History Month programming.

Canada observes Black History Month each February, in which people are encouraged to learn and acknowledge the diversity and accomplishments of Black communities. Black History Month stands as a time for education, reflection, and recognition.

The government also states that Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect and learn from Canada's long history of racial injustice, acknowledging ongoing barriers within the system such as anti-Black racism and discrimination. The observance is described as a period for focusing on how to combat these challenges.

As Canada and its communities prepare to mark the 30 years of Black History Month being officially recognized, the public is encouraged to take part in events and activities throughout the month, as well as take time to acknowledge contributions made by Black Canadians to Canada as it is known today.

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Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 109

GUYANA AT 60 - A MILESTONE YEAR POSITIONED AS A TURNING POINT FOR CULTURE, PRODUCTIVITY AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

PAGE 3



GUYANA ON ALERT AS PRESIDENT ALI MEETS SECURITY CHIEFS OVER VENEZUELA CRISIS



GREENWICH PARK FAMILIES ENTER 2026 AS LEGAL HOMEOWNERS



NEW TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION OPENS PATHWAYS FOR LONG-AWAITED PROMOTIONS

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGE 7

PRESIDENT ALI AND FIRST LADY HOST CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Christmas songs echoed through the Baridi Benab at State House as laughter, excitement and the spirit of the season filled the air, bringing a moment of pure joy to dozens of children gathered for a special Christmas luncheon hosted by His Excellency, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The annual celebration welcomed children from ten children's homes along the coast, transforming the historic venue into a festive space of colour, music and smiles. For many of the children, the afternoon was marked by simple but meaningful delights, a short concert, lively performances, hearty Christmas meals and the eagerly awaited arrival of Santa Claus, whose visit sparked cheers and excitement.

As he welcomed the children, President Ali extended warm Christmas greetings on behalf of himself, his Cabinet and the staff of State House, describing it as a privilege to host the gathering each year. He noted the joy of seeing familiar faces return, underscoring the importance of continuity and care in the lives of children.

The President also took time to publicly recognise the caregivers and staff of the children's homes, commending their daily sacrifices and unwavering dedication to nurturing, protecting and supporting the nation's most vulnerable children.

Beyond the festive occasion, President

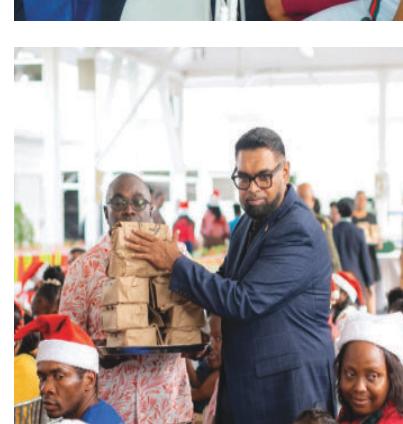
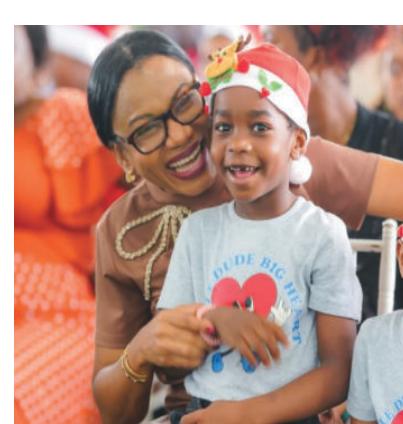
Ali reaffirmed that the government's engagement with children extends throughout the year. He highlighted ongoing visits and outreach programmes conducted through the Office of the First Lady and various ministries, aimed at ensuring children receive consistent support and opportunities.

"We have been reaching out to homes all across the country, and we're going to continue to do that," the President assured.

Looking ahead, he announced plans for the Minister of Education to visit children's homes to facilitate their connection to the Guyana Digital School, expanding access to digital learning and educational resources.

Encouraging the children to believe in themselves, President Ali reminded them that they are valued and deeply loved. **"You are the children of Guyana,"** he said, reaffirming the nation's collective responsibility to care for them.

The President also expressed gratitude to volunteers and supporters who help bring Christmas cheer to children each year, describing their efforts as a true labour of love. He closed by wishing the children a Merry Christmas, assuring them that State House will always remain a place of warmth, care and joy.



GUYANA AT 60

A MILESTONE YEAR POSITIONED AS A TURNING POINT FOR CULTURE, PRODUCTIVITY AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

As Guyana prepares to celebrate its 60th Independence Anniversary, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has signalled that the milestone will represent far more than a national celebration. Instead, the anniversary year is being positioned as a grand homecoming for the Guyanese diaspora and a bold launchpad for the country's Orange Economy, anchored in culture, creativity, tourism and long-term wealth creation.

Speaking during an in-depth engagement with female journalists and students, President Ali described the 60th anniversary as a defining national moment, one where "mindset meets transformation," setting the stage for a new phase of people-centred development.

Guyana will observe its 60th Independence anniversary on May 26, 2026.

"Our 60th anniversary gives us an enormous opportunity," the President said. "I want it to be remembered as the era when our culture, food, people, artists and ecosystem were deployed at a scale and magnitude never seen in this region."

G r a n d

Homecoming for Guyanese Everywhere

Central to the anniversary vision is the deliberate reconnection of Guyana with its global family. President Ali said the celebrations will be designed as a national homecoming, inviting Guyanese in the diaspora to return.

"Our 60th anniversary will be a grand homecoming, bringing our brothers and sisters from the diaspora back home to celebrate, reconnect and invest," he said.

Culture as Capital: The Rise of the Orange Economy

The President revealed that the anniversary year will formally launch Guyana's Orange Economy, with significant investment planned in the creative and cultural sectors. Film, entertainment, tourism and heritage development are being positioned as serious economic drivers capable of generating jobs, income and national pride.

President Ali said the government will invest in building a local film industry, developing entertainment hubs and creating structured income opportunities for locals, while expanding

Guyana's tourism product and courting major international cruise lines.

He also urged the private sector to align corporate social spending with the development of the Orange Economy, noting

As part of broader plans to enhance Georgetown's environmental and aesthetic appeal, President Ali announced major redevelopment initiatives across the capital. These include transforming the entire

corridor, allowing citizens and visitors to walk through Guyana's pre-independence history as part of a wider cultural and urban renewal effort.

Celebration with Purpose: A Shift in National Mindset

He emphasised that Guyana's progress depends not only on policy, but on how citizens use their time and opportunities.

"Wealth creation is not accidental," he said. **"It is planned at the national level through policies and programmes, but it is felt at the community level."**

He stressed that this phase of development demands discipline, innovation and a strong work ethic as Guyana continues to advance economically.

Laying the Foundation for the Next 100 Years

President Ali said the 60th Independence Anniversary will also symbolise the beginning of Guyana's next century of generational development. Major national projects are already underway to support this vision, including new airports at Ogle and Lethem, upgraded hinterland airstrips, gas-to-energy facilities in Berbice, fertiliser and glass factories, data centres and the emergence of an energy and logistics hub.



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali says the 60th Independence Anniversary will reunite the diaspora, unlock the Orange Economy and anchor long-term national wealth creation

that the anniversary year will be event-packed and nationally inclusive, with culture and heritage at the forefront.

Reimagining Georgetown's Public Spaces and History

While the anniversary year will be celebratory, President Ali cautioned against reduced productivity during a period of rapid economic expansion and rising incomes.

GUYANA ON ALERT AS PRESIDENT ALI MEETS SECURITY CHIEFS OVER VENEZUELA CRISIS



Security chiefs brief President Ali

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reassured Guyanese that national security forces remain vigilant and fully engaged in monitoring developments in neighbouring Venezuela, following a dramatic escalation that has

shaken the region. Speaking to News Room Guyana after an early-morning security briefing with the Defence Board, senior national security officials, and regional commanders, President Ali stressed

that the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and other security agencies are working around the clock to safeguard the country's borders and protect all citizens.

"The security architecture is fully

active," the President said. **"Guyanese should be reassured that the government is taking all necessary measures to protect our borders and maintain national security."**

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips also visited GDF and Guyana Police Force personnel deployed in border communities in Region One, offering support and affirming their readiness amid rising uncertainty.

The heightened alert comes as U.S. forces launched a large-scale military operation against Venezuela in the early hours of Saturday, January 3, 2026. The

offensive included airstrikes on multiple strategic targets in and around Caracas.

U.S. President Donald Trump later confirmed that his administration had conducted the "large-scale strike" and that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his



PM Phillips engages border ranks

wife, Cilia Flores, were captured and flown out of the country. Trump said the United States would temporarily oversee governance in Venezuela while working toward a "safe, proper and judicious transition of power."

GREENWICH PARK FAMILIES ENTER 2026 AS LEGAL HOMEOWNERS

For decades, families in Greenwich Park, East Bank Essequibo, lived with uncertainty beneath the roofs over their heads. Generations were born, raised, and laid to rest on land they could never legally call their own. That uncertainty ended as 2025 gave way to 2026, when President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali handed long-awaited land titles to families who had occupied the area for more than 40 years.

On Old Year's Day and New Year's Day, a total of 23 families received their Certificates of Title during ceremonies held at State House, transforming years of waiting into moments of long-overdue relief and quiet triumph. Greenwich Park comprises 52 previously unregularised house lots, of which 25 have now been formalised.

Beaming as he clutched his land title, longtime resident Prakash Indar described the moment as the fulfilment of a lifelong dream.

"We have waited such a long time for this," Indar said. "Now that I have my title,



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership

I know I was not waiting in vain. I'm so happy."

For many residents, the absence of legal ownership meant they could not fully invest in their homes, access financing, or pass on secured assets to their children. President Ali acknowledged this painful reality as he personally presented the titles.

"For generations, many people died without having ownership. You could not have gotten the true value of the land," the President said, recalling the legal, administrative, and boundary challenges that stalled the process for years.

He explained that while surveys began as early as 2009, the initiative was abandoned between 2015 and 2020. After returning to office

in 2020, the government revived the process, issuing allocation letters, agreements of sale, and advancing families to full legal ownership.

In a further gesture of relief, the President directed the Ministry of Housing to waive approximately \$35,000 in survey, conveyancing, and administrative fees for each beneficiary.

"This is why government matters. Who you choose to represent you matters," he said, noting that the ceremonies were deliberately held so families would not enter 2026 without security and certainty.

President Ali said land ownership opens doors to home expansion, business investment, and financial independence, adding that arrangements will



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership



Greenwich Park families gain legal land ownership

be made with financial institutions to help new title holders access mortgages.

"You enter the New Year with

new hope and new aspirations," he said. The President also announced that residents of Cotton Field, Region Two, will receive land titles on January 9, as the nationwide regularisation drive continues, reshaping lives, one family at a time.

PRESIDENT ALI SALUTES GDF TROOPS REBUILDING LIVES IN HURRICANE-HIT JAMAICA



Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, listens and interacts with Guyanese soldiers in Jamaica

Guyana's small farmers and local producers are seeing their hard work reach new markets, as two containers of locally made agro-processed goods head to the Caribbean. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the shipment reflects a broader strategy to transform agriculture into a driver of household wealth, community growth, and national economic diversification.

Speaking during an end-of-year conversation with female journalists and students at the Railway Courtyard, President Ali highlighted the development as a tangible outcome of government policies designed to empower families, farmers, young people, and small businesses. "You are seeing it at the Christmas markets and across the country: single mothers and

small processors improving their products," he said. "Today, we have just negotiated two

diversified economy that links village-level production with regional and global markets. The agro-processing

Because Guyana is fast becoming a key food supplier in the Caribbean, President Ali

revealed discussions are underway to establish a commercial arm of the Guyana Defence Force to integrate food production with CARICOM markets. He also cited recent talks with the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, where young Antiguans investing in transport capabilities are looking to Guyana as a



Prime Minister inspects relief shipment bound for Jamaica

containers of agro-processed goods going into the Caribbean."

He emphasised that this is not a symbolic gesture but a practical step toward building a competitive,

breakthrough, he said, reflects deliberate policies to incentivise agriculture, empower small producers, particularly women, and create opportunities for income generation across communities.



GDF rebuilds roofs as Guyana supports Jamaica's recovery

COURT OF APPEAL STRENGTHENED AS JUSTICE KHAN IS SWORN IN



Turhan Khan takes oath to uphold constitution and citizens' rights

Recognised for his legal expertise and unwavering integrity, Senior Counsel Rafiq Turhan Khan has been sworn in as a Justice of Appeal.

The official ceremony took place at State House, presided over by His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali. Justice Khan's appointment follows a recommendation by the Judicial Service Commission and is made in accordance

with Article 128(1) of the Constitution of Guyana. His swearing-in completes one of seven appointments to the Court of Appeal announced earlier in 2025, the first time such a significant number of judges have been appointed simultaneously.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Ali highlighted the critical role of the Court of Appeal in Guyana's judicial system. He described it

arbitrary decision-making and reinforces public confidence in the and well-reasoned judgments," he said. Justice Khan was

as a vital intermediary rule of law.

President Ali lauded Justice Khan's extensive legal experience, integrity, and sound judicial temperament. "With this appointment, we are not only securing the service of a jurist of exceptional calibre but also advancing judicial efficiency to ensure timely hearings



Turhan Khan takes oath to uphold constitution and citizens' rights



Turhan Khan takes oath to uphold constitution and citizens' rights

reminded of his duty to uphold the Constitution and administer justice without fear or favour. The President expressed confidence that he would bring diligence, intellectual rigour, and fairness to his new role, benefiting both the judiciary and the public.

The President also commended Chancellor of the Judiciary Justice Roxanne George-Wiltshire, Chief Justice (ag) Justice Navendra Singh, and Director of Public Prosecutions Mrs Shalimar Ali-Hack for their ongoing efforts to modernise and strengthen Guyana's

judicial institutions. "Strong and resilient systems are what ensure the survival and effectiveness of the justice we deliver," he noted, stressing that institutional reform complements individual excellence.

Justice Khan assumes office effective December 23, 2025, in the 56th year of the Republic of Guyana. For citizens, his appointment represents a step forward in ensuring fair, timely, and accessible justice, reinforcing trust in the judiciary as a cornerstone of democracy and social cohesion.

The University of Guyana is set to begin a new chapter in its leadership with the proposed appointment of distinguished Caribbean diplomat and scholar Sir Ronald Sanders as Chancellor, following the conclusion of Professor John Edward Greene's tenure.

The vacancy arose earlier this year at the end of Professor Greene's distinguished service, during which he played a key role in strengthening the University's academic standing and national profile. In a statement, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali expressed appreciation for Professor Greene's contribution, acknowledging his steady leadership and dedication to the institution's development.

NEW LEADERSHIP AHEAD FOR UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA WITH SIR RONALD SANDERS AS CHANCELLOR



Renowned Caribbean Diplomat Sir Ronald Sanders tapped as UG Chancellor

The University's Council has identified Sir Ronald Sanders as the prospective Chancellor,

citing his exceptional record in scholarship, public service, and international diplomacy. Sir Ronald is a former Visiting Fellow at the

University of Oxford and holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Sussex. He has also been awarded honorary doctorates by the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana.

His academic career includes senior fellowships at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College at the University of Toronto. He has also served on influential international bodies, including UNESCO's Executive Board, and has contributed to

major policy discussions affecting small states and developing nations.

In the diplomatic arena, Sir Ronald is widely regarded as one of the Caribbean's most accomplished envoys. He currently serves as Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organisation of American States, and has held three consecutive terms as President of the OAS Permanent Council, an unprecedented achievement.

President Ali noted that Sir Ronald's extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy and global policy

engagement aligns with the University of Guyana's vision for academic excellence and increased international visibility. He added that Sir Ronald's leadership would further strengthen the University's role as Guyana continues to invest heavily in education, research, and human capital development.

The Government of Guyana has welcomed the Council's decision, expressing confidence that Sir Ronald's appointment will enhance the University's academic stature and global reach.

WARAMADONG PENSIONERS RECEIVE WHEELCHAIRS

Several pensioners in Waramadong Village, Region Seven, recently received wheelchairs through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, enhancing their mobility and independence.

The recipients expressed heartfelt gratitude to Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud, describing the intervention as timely and life-changing. Many noted that the wheelchairs have greatly

improved their comfort, ability to move around, and overall quality of life.

Dr. Persaud reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting vulnerable

citizens, emphasising that initiatives such as the provision of the wheelchairs are to ensure all persons, regardless of age or ability, can live with dignity and ease.



Waramadong pensioners receive wheelchairs



Waramadong pensioners receive wheelchairs

QUICK APPROVALS AND DIGITAL SERVICES AHEAD

No more long waits or piles of paperwork: the Guyanese public can look forward to quicker access to government services as the Ministry of Public Service embarks on a five-year plan to digitise records and speed up processes across the sector.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, explained that the reforms are designed to modernise the public service, improve efficiency, and ensure citizens receive timely and reliable services.

"Within the next five years, we will aggressively implement public



Faster hiring and scholarship approvals on the horizon

service reforms," Minister Ally said during a live broadcast. **"We are updating the public service rules to align with internationally recognised best practices, giving public servants and citizens access to a modern, predictable system."**

A key element of the transformation is digitising employment histories, qualifications, work experience, and career progression records for all public servants. According to

Minister Ally, this will eliminate thousands of paper transactions and make records instantly accessible across government agencies. **"No more searching through filing cabinets or dusty files,"** he said. **"With the use of computers, you can pull up any information requested in seconds."**

The reforms also include a Public Service Management Portal, which will electronically link government agencies to ensure requests, correspondence, and inter-agency communications are tracked and actioned efficiently. This system is expected to significantly

reduce processing times for hiring, scholarship applications, and citizen requests, shifting timelines from weeks to days, or in some cases, hours.

To support the digital transformation, thousands of public servants are being trained through the Public Service Upskilling Platform, a collaboration with US-based Coursera.

The programme offers 100 online courses for free, equipping employees with the skills needed to thrive in a modern, digital workplace.

Minister Ally emphasised that as Guyana continues to grow, the public service must lead by example in

delivering professional, timely, and reliable services. The planned reforms, including the full digitisation of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), are designed to ensure government operations keep pace with national development while making everyday interactions simpler and more efficient for citizens.

"This is about building a public service that works for the people, not the other way around," he said, highlighting the tangible benefits these initiatives will bring to Guyanese across the country.

SILICA CITY RISES ALONG SOESDYKE-LINDEN HIGHWAY

As new roads, homes, and facilities rise at Silica City, future residents can look forward to a community designed for convenience, safety, and modern living.

Minister of Housing Collin Croal confirmed that design and planning efforts for Silica City along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are well underway, including the expansion of road networks to support the growing residential and commercial areas.

"We have a number of houses that are already complete and have been allocated. Many persons have signed

their agreements," Minister Croal shared during a Facebook broadcast, highlighting the rapid progress of the initiative.

Silica City is a large-scale housing and urban development project aimed at decongesting coastal areas while creating a modern, sustainable living environment. The development will combine residential communities with commercial zones, public services, and state-of-the-art infrastructure, including improved drainage, utilities, and transportation networks.

Phase One of the

project includes 290 house lots, many of which are already in development and allocated to prospective residents. Phase Two will expand to nearly 400 house lots and will feature a retirement home, a healthcare hub, and sports tourism facilities, offering residents access to both essential services and recreational amenities.

Minister Croal emphasised that infrastructure development under the programme is crucial for national growth. **"Infrastructure is the backbone of economic expansion."**

For future residents, Silica City represents an opportunity to live in a thoughtfully

When we open up new areas for housing, the benefits are felt across every sector," he said, highlighting the broader economic impact of the project.

Since its announcement in 2022, Silica City has been a key part of the government's long-term strategy to increase housing availability, modernise urban planning, and open new economic corridors beyond Georgetown and other densely populated coastal areas.

For future residents, Silica City represents an opportunity to live in a thoughtfully



Infrastructural works continue at Silica City

planned community with access to modern amenities, safer streets, and a higher quality of life. Businesses and commercial enterprises in the area are also expected to benefit from increased activity and new economic opportunities.

With ongoing development, Silica City is on track to become a vibrant, sustainable community that reflects the government's commitment to improving living standards and driving national progress.

75 HOMES TO SOON BE HANDED OVER - 250 MORE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN YARROWKABRA HOMESTEAD PROGRAMME

With 25 homes already completed and 50 more soon to be handed over, the Yarrowkabra Homestead Programme is giving women-led households a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency.

The programme, along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, is part of a targeted housing initiative designed to empower single mothers and women-headed families through both home ownership and income-generating opportunities. Minister

of Housing Collin Croal announced that 75 homes will be handed over in early 2026, with over 250 homes currently under construction in the project's initial phase.

"Right now...25 [houses] are already completed, and another 50 will be handed over within two weeks," Minister Croal said during a Facebook broadcast, highlighting the rapid progress of the initiative.

Unlike traditional housing schemes, the Yarrowkabra



75 homes to be handed over at Yarrowkabra early 2026

Homestead Programme provides not only fully constructed homes but also opportunities for households to generate income. Beneficiaries can access shade houses to grow produce, allowing

further developed as part of the administration's next five-year economic and social transformation agenda. Minister Croal emphasised that the initiative is designed to reduce barriers to home ownership while fostering self-sufficiency and long-term security of tenure.

For single mothers, the programme represents more than a roof over their heads; it is a chance to establish a permanent home, create livelihoods, and

provide stability for their children. Many beneficiaries will now have the space and resources to plan for the future with confidence.

Looking ahead, Minister Croal said the homestead model will be expanded to other areas as demand grows, reflecting the government's commitment to supporting women, strengthening communities, and empowering families to achieve independence.

NEW TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION OPENS PATHWAYS FOR LONG-AWAITED PROMOTIONS



Members of the TSC being sworn in

For many teachers across Guyana, dedication has long outpaced opportunity. Years were spent shaping young minds, often with little hope of advancement. That reality may now be changing, as the reappointment of the Teaching Service Commission signals a long-awaited reopening of pathways to promotion and professional growth.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

recently administered the oath of office to seven members of the newly appointed Commission at his office on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive in Georgetown. The members, Doodmattie Singh, Shafiran Bhajan, Lancelot Baptiste, Joan Davis-Monkhouse, Satti Jaisiersingh, Mayda Persaud, and Saddam Hussain, will serve three-year terms, effective December 31, 2025.

The Teaching Service Commission

(TSC) is an independent constitutional body responsible for teacher appointments, promotions, and disciplinary oversight, established under the Teaching Service Commission Act of 1975. Its reconstitution, the President said, is a critical step in restoring efficiency, fairness, and trust to the promotion process, while aligning with broader government reforms aimed at modernising education and improving teacher welfare.

Acting under Article 207 of the Constitution, President Ali highlighted that the Commission now has the important task of filling roughly 2,700 senior positions recently created across the school system, including 823 newly introduced roles.

"For a long time, teachers had to wait almost their entire careers to become head teachers," President Ali said. **"These new positions were created to change that reality."**

the Commission as an essential instrument of fairness, professionalism, and trust. **"The future of Guyana's education system does not begin in a classroom alone. It begins with trust in**

and natural justice. **"Your decisions will help shape a teaching workforce that is capable, motivated, disciplined, committed, and confident, ensuring that the modernisation of education in Guyana is matched by a corresponding growth in professionalism and dedication,"** he said.

President Ali stressed that delays in forming the TSC would have significantly hindered promotions, appointments, and retirements for thousands of teachers.

"The work of the Constitution must continue," he said, **"and so must the work of education."**



Members of the TSC being sworn in

Promotion means the institutions that govern those who teach," he added.

The President urged the newly sworn-in members to carry out their duties with integrity, impartiality,

From digital classrooms to world-class science labs, Guyana's education system is being reimagined to prepare students for a modern, competitive world. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said these investments are helping students, even in remote hinterland schools to be part of the country's digital revolution.

The Head of State shared his vision during an interactive session with five female journalists and a group of high school students at the Railway Courtyard Mall, highlighting the Government's ambitious agenda for education.

Responding to a

STUDENTS HAVE TO BE MOTIVATED TO PURSUE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING - PRESIDENT ALI



Modern labs, digital tools, and STEM skills drive Guyana's education revolution

student's question about plans for the sector over the next five years, President Ali pointed to the progress already made, particularly in bridging the education gap between the coast and hinterland. He noted that the Government is fully committed to achieving universal secondary education in hinterland communities.

"Five years ago, access to data in the hinterland was limited. Today, almost every school is connected to the

Learning Channel or digital platforms, so every student can be part of the Guyana Digital School," the President said.

He also highlighted

investments in modern science labs, practical instruction centres, and technical facilities, noting that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics) is central to Guyana's digital revolution.

"Beyond core studies, we need to align students' skills with the economy, motivating them to pursue science and engineering," President Ali added.

The President also encouraged students to embrace broader learning, including second languages and creative disciplines, to support the growth of Guyana's Orange Economy. **"If the film**

industry expands here, we need certified makeup artists and other skilled professionals. Education must manage both input and output to meet the nation's evolving needs," he said.

With these initiatives, the President said, Guyana is equipping its youth, not only with knowledge, but with the tools to shape the nation's future and thrive in an increasingly digital and globalised world.



Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond

Privacy and sun protection are coming to the forefront for users of Guyana's roads. From January 2026, drivers will be able to tint their vehicle windows legally, thanks to a new law designed to reflect how

TINTED WINDOWS LEGALLY ALLOWED ON GUYANA'S ROADS FROM JANUARY 2026

vehicles are being used today.

Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, announced the new Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Tint) Regulations 2025, which allow motorists to enjoy window tint within clearly defined limits, ending what had been a decades-long restriction.

"The new regulations reflect the reality on our roads, where more than 70 percent of vehicles were already operating

outside the previous legal limits," Minister Walrond said.

Previously, the legal position was clear: no vehicle was permitted to bear tinted windows unless an exemption had been granted, and even then, the law required a minimum of 65 percent Visible Light Transmission (VLT). This effectively prohibited most forms of window tinting for everyday drivers.

Under the new rules, the front windscreens

may only have a small visor strip at the top, no longer than six inches. Front side windows must allow at least 25 percent of light to pass through, while rear side windows and the rear windscreens must allow a minimum of 20 percent. Mirrored or reflective tints remain prohibited.

To help motorists adapt, a three-month amnesty period will begin on January 1, 2026. During this time, the Guyana Police Force will establish voluntary tint-

testing sites across the country, enabling drivers to check their vehicles and make adjustments without penalty. After the amnesty, full enforcement begins, with fines of \$30,000 for non-compliant tints.

Exemptions remain for emergency vehicles, diplomatic missions, licensed private security companies, and individuals with certified medical conditions. All approved exemptions will be recorded in a national digital registry

to ensure accountability. Minister Walrond stressed that enforcement will now be fairer and more accurate, with approved tint meters replacing subjective roadside checks.

"These regulations are designed to modernise our road safety framework while giving drivers the flexibility they need," she said.

GUYANA IS NO LONGER WAITING FOR OPPORTUNITY, WE ARE SHAPING IT - PRESIDENT ALI



His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Addressing the nation at the start of 2026, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali declared that Guyana is no longer defined by potential alone, but by progress made real, while Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips reinforced the call for discipline, unity, and shared responsibility as the country continues its development journey.

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

My fellow Guyanese, Happy New Year!

Wherever this New Year finds you, in your homes and communities, on our rivers and coastlands, in our hinterland villages, on duty guarding our borders, patrolling our streets, caring for the sick, and to those across the seas who carry Guyana in their hearts as part of our cherished diaspora, I greet you with gratitude, affection, and pride.

Tonight, I speak to you not only as your President, but as a fellow Guyanese, one who believes deeply in the strength of our people and the promise of our land.

To every citizen, in every village, town, city, and settlement, I extend my warmest wishes for peace, health, and prosperity in the year ahead.

As the first light of 2026 rises over our rivers and plains, I invite you to pause, just for a moment, and reflect on how far we

have come.

Guyana's story is no longer written in the language of potential alone. It is now written in the language of progress made real of opportunity seized, of a nation stepping confidently into its moment. We are not merely turning a page; we are writing a new chapter in our history. And its opening lines are bold.

In 2025, amid global uncertainty and the cloud hanging over the Essequibo region of our beloved land, we did not falter. We moved forward – steadily, purposefully, together.

Our economy expanded with remarkable momentum, but more importantly, growth was converted into tangible improvements in the daily lives and future security of our people.

It was seen in new schools and modern classrooms welcoming our children, in clean water flowing from new treatment plants and wells, in increased incomes that strengthened household security, in hospitals, expanding and modernising to care for our people, in safer streets, where serious crime receded, in wider opportunities for women and young people, in improved support for pensioners and persons with disabilities, in new investments, meeting our energy needs, and, in the Demerara Harbour Bridge, standing as a symbol of a more connected nation, open to all.

The Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge is a symbol of this new Guyana. It is a symbol of

the transformation that is taking place. These are not statistics or slogans. They are the lived experience of a country on the move. That shared journey found its clearest affirmation in the will of the people.

Now, as we look ahead, the horizon before us is wide and filled with possibility. In 2026, we anticipate continued strong economic growth, but our focus is deeper than numbers.

This year, we will change how growth serves you. Public services will be improved through a national digital backbone, making interactions with government simpler, faster, and more transparent. Services will continue to move closer to communities, so efficiency is not an aspiration, but a daily reality.

This year, national prosperity will translate more directly into personal and community advancement.

We will increase disposable income through direct support, higher wages, and reduced taxation. A modern national E-ID system will simplify access to services. We will accelerate housing development, building a nation of homeowners grounded in security and dignity.

Communities will benefit from better roads, lighting, playgrounds, and sporting facilities. We will strengthen manufacturing, expand tourism, and support enterprise. Our Orange Economy will grow as we invest in artists and cultural entrepreneurs – turning creativity into sustainable livelihoods.

We will bring gas to shore to generate cleaner, cheaper electricity. New

hospitals and water treatment plants will expand healthcare and water access. Road safety will be improved through firm enforcement and modern technology. And our Disciplined Services will receive greater resources, training, and technology to protect our people and our borders.

These are not promises for some distant future. These are plans already in motion.

But no nation can truly rise unless its young people rise with it.

To the young people of Guyana, I say this plainly: you matter, you are needed, and you belong at the centre of our national life. Your energy, creativity, discipline, and ambition are strengths to be developed.

We are committed to bringing our youth fully into the mainstream of national life through education and skills, through entrepreneurship and employment, through culture, sport, technology, and service. We call you to a life of productivity not as a burden, but as a pathway to dignity, independence, and prosperity. In building your future, you are building Guyana's future. And this nation will walk with you as you do so.

In this spirit, I make a personal pledge to you, the people of Guyana. As your President, I pledge to govern with integrity, discipline, and compassion, to listen before I decide, to act with fairness, and to place the national interest above all else.

I pledge to guard our resources carefully, to expand opportunity relentlessly, and to ensure that development reaches every region and every community. I pledge to defend our sovereignty, protect our people, and uphold the peaceful resolution of all matters in accordance with international law while working every day to unite, not divide, our nation. I will hold myself to that pledge, as my commitment to you, the beautiful people of Guyana.

As we move forward, optimism must be

matched with vigilance. The world remains unsettled, and tensions beyond our borders can test even strong nations.

We will therefore remain prudent, prepared, and alert, protecting our homeland, supporting our security services, and preserving peace through diplomacy, readiness, partnership with our allies and national unity.

It is because we are prepared that we move forward with confidence, not fear.

So let us enter this New Year not with timid hope, but with strong conviction. Let us recognise that we are no longer waiting for opportunity, we are shaping it.

Bring discipline to

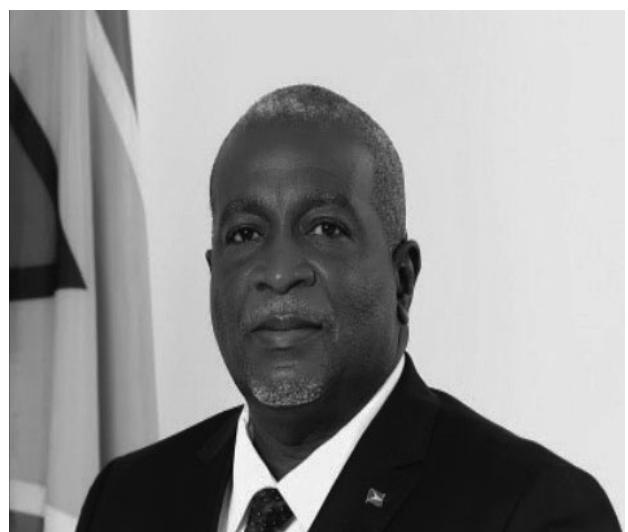
aspirations rise with it. May 2026 be the year your plans take root and flourish.

May you find clarity in your path, courage in your journey, and reward in your efforts. With faith in each other and confidence in our direction, there is no summit beyond our reach.

Onward, upward – together to a brighter, stronger, and more prosperous 2026.

Happy New Year, and may God bless each of you and our beloved Guyana.

MESSAGE BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER BRIGADIER (RET'D) MARK PHILLIPS ON



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), the Honourable Mark Phillips

your dreams, purpose to your labour, and faith to your efforts, knowing that your country is committing its resources, its energy, and its resolve to uplift you.

Together, we have already proven our strength. Now let us prove our endurance. Let us build not only wealth, but comfort; not only success, but legacy.

Let the future not be a distant promise. Let it be the firm ground beneath our feet on which we take, together, every step to prosperity and a better life for all.

As we move forward, let optimism be our compass and unity our shield. Division weakens; unity builds. Choose cooperation over cynicism, belief over doubt, and purpose over fear.

To every Guyanese, I say this: as our nation rises, may your

THE OCCASION OF NEW YEAR 2026

My fellow Guyanese, As one year closes and another begins, we are once again presented with the opportunity to reflect and take stock of the year that has passed. The arrival of the New Year symbolises renewal and invites resolve and responsibility.

As with all countries and in every individual's life, the year behind us tested us in different ways, demanding resilience and maturity as a nation. Yet, through challenges both seen and unseen, Guyana continued to move forward – our people continued to move forward.

Across our country, progress has taken many forms. Roads were built, schools strengthened, healthcare expanded, and communities supported. Economic growth created new possibilities, but it also

GUYANA IS NO LONGER WAITING FOR OPPORTUNITY, WE ARE SHAPING IT - PRESIDENT ALI

placed upon us a clear obligation: to continue managing our resources wisely and to ensure that development serves every Guyanese today and in generations to come.

Our achievements were driven by workers who showed up every day, families who believed in education and discipline, entrepreneurs who invested locally and

citizens who understood that nation-building is a shared responsibility.

At the same time, we acknowledge that growth does not erase hardship. Global uncertainty, and social pressures affected many households. But despite all this, we must remember that progress is measured by how well we protect and take care of our people during moments of strain.

This understanding will continue to guide our priorities.

Guyana's journey has also placed us firmly on the global stage as an emerging economy and a country committed to environmental stewardship, peace, and sovereignty. We remain resolute in defending our territorial integrity through diplomacy, unity, and respect

for international law, confident in our position and proud of who we are.

As we enter the New Year, we aim to deepen the gains we have made, to correct where we must, and to remain anchored in the values that define us: fairness, unity, and respect.

The future of Guyana rests in our people and our willingness to work together, to hold each

other accountable, and to believe that progress must include everyone.

So, may this New Year be one of purpose and a year marked by discipline, compassion, and national pride. Let us face the months ahead with confidence, grounded in what we have overcome and focused on what still lies before us.

On behalf of the

Cont'd

Government of Guyana, I extend best wishes for a New Year filled with health, stability, and opportunity. May 2026 strengthen our resolve and renew our commitment to building a Guyana that is just, secure, and united.

Happy New Year, and may God continue to bless our nation.

107 HEALTH WORKERS JOIN REGION TWO'S FRONTLINES



Region Two welcomes 107 new health workers

For 107 residents of Region Two, months of rigorous training have culminated in a proud moment: graduation as Patient Care Assistants (PCAs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs). Equipped with practical

skills and knowledge, these graduates are now prepared to serve their communities, providing care that can save lives and uplift families.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Anna Regina Multilateral

School, celebrated 59 PCAs and 48 CHWs who successfully completed their respective programmes. Throughout their training, participants learned essential skills in basic clinical care, infection prevention and control, patient support, health promotion, and community engagement.

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony congratulated the graduates, praising their dedication and resilience. He also commended the tutors who guided the participants, ensuring they acquired the professional competencies needed to strengthen healthcare delivery at the community level.

"Previously, it was challenging



Region Two welcomes 107 new health workers

for Patient Care Assistants or Community Health Workers to transition into other programmes such as nursing. We have changed that. No one should remain stagnant at one level; we want to make access to education easier and progression more attainable," Dr

Anthony said.

The Ministry of Health has also introduced hybrid training programmes, which combine virtual theoretical learning with in-person practical sessions. This approach currently supports the training of close to 800 participants, broadening access while maintaining high standards.

Graduates of the PCA

and CHW programmes are expected to make an immediate impact across Region Two, serving at health posts, clinics, and hospitals. Their work will help expand access to quality healthcare, improve patient outcomes, and strengthen the community-based health system.

PRESIDENT ALI URGES EFFICIENT AND TIMELY SERVICE DELIVERY ACROSS REGIONS

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with regional and government officials to emphasise the importance of timely service delivery, enhanced efficiency, and improved implementation across all regions.

During the meeting, the President outlined his expectations for government services, stressing that every region must benefit from effective and responsive governance.

He was joined by Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally; Minister of Local Government and



President Ali meets officials to strengthen regional service delivery



President Ali meets officials to strengthen regional service delivery



President Ali meets officials to strengthen regional service delivery



President Ali meets officials to strengthen regional service delivery



THE GREATEST GIFT LIES IN A HUMBLE HEART - PRESIDENT ALI IN CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali reminded Guyanese that the greatest gift lies in a humble heart, calling for love, unity, and compassion in every community as Christmas 2025 was celebrated. In his annual festive message, the President reflected on the meaning of the season and urged citizens to carry its spirit beyond their own homes.

Highlighting the story of Jesus Christ's birth, President Ali described Christmas as a celebration of hope and divine love. "It is the definitive expression of a transformative, divine love, a love so powerful, pure and perfect that it entered the world not in a palace, but in a humble crib, to uplift the lowly and heal the broken," he

said. He emphasised that the lessons of Christmas; renewal, compassion, and hope; apply to all humanity, not just those of faith.

The President praised Guyanese at home and abroad for keeping cherished traditions alive, from shared meals and Christmas songs to acts of kindness toward neighbours and the less fortunate. He said these gestures strengthen the bonds of the nation's diverse and harmonious society.

Turning to the nation's progress, President Ali noted that Guyana is experiencing some of its best days, with unprecedented opportunities for growth and development. Yet he stressed that prosperity has meaning only when it is shared.

"The true measure of our light is not in its intensity, but in how far it reaches," he said, urging citizens to ensure

every community, family, and child benefits from the country's progress. The President highlighted his recently

unveiled five-year vision for the nation, aimed at sustaining growth while ensuring inclusivity and opportunity for

all. He encouraged safe celebrations, urging vigilance on roads, mindfulness during festivities, and care for loved ones.

He extended a special message of compassion to those facing hardship, illness, or loss, reminding Guyanese that the season is also about lifting the spirits of the vulnerable. "May the gentle light of Christmas be a solace to the sick and a comfort to the grieving, a reminder that no heart need heal alone," he said.

Concluding his message, President Ali called on citizens to renew their hearts this festive season by choosing love over indifference, unity over division, and hope over despair. He extended warm wishes from his family to all Guyanese.

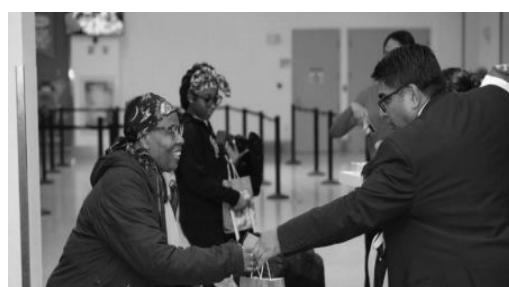


The First family

HOLIDAY CHEER GREETS TRAVELLERS AT CJIA



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



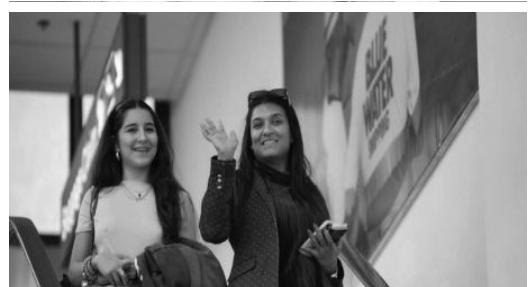
CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit



CJIA welcomes travelers with Christmas spirit

Returning Guyanese and visitors arriving for the Christmas season from Amsterdam, Barbados, and New York were greeted with holiday cheer at Cheddi Jagan International Airport. Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, welcomed passengers alongside CJIA Board Chairman Sanjeev Datadin and Director Ms. Ishwari Glasgow.

The arrivals were treated to lively steel pan music playing popular Christmas tunes and traditional festive treats, including black cake and sorrel drink, giving travellers a warm taste of Guyanese holiday spirit.

PRESIDENT ALI GREETS SHOPPERS ON MAIN STREET

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali took a Christmas Eve walkabout along Main Street, extending seasonal greetings and sharing brief exchanges with citizens as Georgetown buzzed with festive activity.

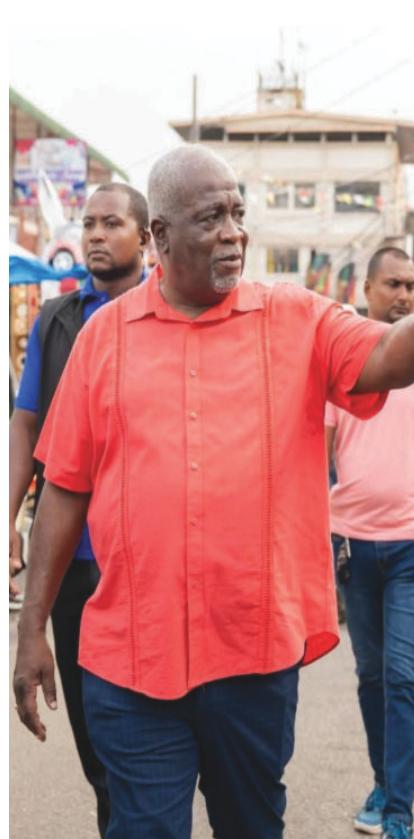


PRIME MINISTER PHILLIPS JOINS LAST-MINUTE SHOPPERS ON REGENT STREET



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips joined Guyanese engaged in last-minute Christmas shopping during a walkabout on Regent Street, observing the lively atmosphere as families, young and old alike, enjoyed the season's spirit.

Reflecting on the experience, the Prime Minister noted that Christmas remains a special time for Guyanese, bringing families, neighbours and communities together.



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79¢ lb	79¢ lb	88¢ bag	1 18 lb	1 29 lb	1 29 ea	1 29 lb	2/\$3.00
Chinese Broccoli 芥蘭 Reg:\$2.48	Shanghai Miu 上海苗 Reg:\$2.48	Cauliflower 椰菜花 Reg:\$2.99	Green Bean 青豆仔 Reg:\$2.99	Fresh Corn 玉米 Reg:\$4.99	Ambrosia Sweet Apple 神仙蘋果 Reg:\$1.59	Bosc Pear 波士啤梨 Reg:\$1.99	Australia Orange 澳洲橙 Reg:\$1.79
1 68 lb	1 88 lb	1 99 ea	2 29 lb	3 99 pk	99¢ lb	1 29 lb	1 29 lb
Sweet Mandarin 鬆皮甜桔 Reg:\$1.99	Pineapple 菠蘿 Reg:\$2.99	Mini Watermelon 迷你西瓜 Reg:\$3.99	Green Grape 青提 Reg:\$3.99	Yellow Meat Nectarine 黃油桃 Reg:\$4.99	Vietnam Red Meat Pomelo 越南青柚 Reg:\$6.99	Apple Mango 蘋果芒 Reg:\$13.99	Apple Mango 蘋果芒 Reg:\$11.99
1 59 lb	1 99 ea	1 99 ea	2 99 lb	2 99 lb	4 99 ea	4 99 ea	11 99 case

GROCERY

Oca Cola Soda Series 可樂系列 24x355ml Reg:\$17.99	Wahaha Yogurt Flavored Drink 400ml 娃哈哈乳酸菌飲料 Reg:\$2.59/ea	Jackn Jill Roller Coaster Potato Rings 225g 菲律賓薯圓 Reg:\$3.99
13 29 pk	3/\$4.00	2 59 ea
Bulacan Banana Chips 香蕉片 100g Reg:\$2.99	Oishi Pillows Choco Filled Crackers 150g 巧力夾心餅乾 Reg:\$2.99	Sunasia Chicharron 70g 豬皮 Reg:\$2.99
1 99 ea	1 59 ea	1 99 ea
Whiteking Bibingka Rice Cake Mix 500g 米糕粉 Reg:\$3.99	Golden Panda Evaporated Milk 370g 淡奶油 Reg:\$1.99	Cafe Pho Instant Flavoured Coffee 3x24g 咖啡 Reg:\$3.99
2 59 ea	99¢ ea	2 59 ea

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Cabbage 椰菜 Reg:\$2.20	Spanish Onion 大洋蔥 Reg:\$2.30	Chinese Carrot 紅蘿卜 Reg:\$2.40	Korean Cabbage 高麗菜 Reg:\$2.80	US Tomato 美國番茄 Reg:\$2.90	Broccoli 西蘭花 Reg:\$3.00
22.00 case	23.00 case	24.00 case	28.00 case	29.00 case	30.00 case
Ginger 中國生姜 Reg:\$3.20	Head Lettuce 圓生菜 Reg:\$3.50	Green Onion 葱 Reg:\$6.80	Avocados 36s 牛油果 Reg:\$4.90	Australia Orange 澳大利亞橙 Reg:\$5.00	
32.00 case	35.00 case	68.00 case	49.00 case	50.00 case	
Frozen Pangasius Fillet 魚柳 8x3.5Lb Reg:\$65.00	Headless White Shrimp 無頭白蝦 21/25-10x4Lb Reg:\$220.00	Frozen Banana Leaf 凍香蕉葉 20bags Reg:\$40.00	Extra Large Egg 箱裝大鵝蛋 Reg:\$56.99	Pork Intestine 豬大腸 10kg Reg:\$50.00	Chicken Breast 雞胸肉 25kg Reg:\$270.00
65.00 case	220.00 case	40.00 case	56.99 case	50.00 case	270.00 case
Mr. Goudas Long Grain Rice 20kg 黃米 Reg:\$29.99	Long Grain White Rice 優質絲米 20kg Reg:\$29.99	P.R.B Monosodium Glutamate 50Lb 珠江橋牌味精 Reg:\$58.00	ADM All Purpose Flour 麵粉 20kg Reg:\$19.99	Capri Vegetable/ Canola Oil 16L 菜油/芥菜籽油 Reg:\$32.99	Carnation Evaporated Milk 48x354ml 三花淡奶 Reg:\$90.00
29.99 bag	29.99 bag	58.00 bag	19.99 bag	32.99 case	90.00 case
Redpath Sugar 20kg 白糖 Reg:\$26.99	EP-6 Hinged 250pc 餐盒 Reg:\$22.99	BBR 28 / BBR 38 150pc 一次性餐盒 Reg:\$27.00	NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒 Reg:\$19.99	E-Pack Wrap 914 保鮮膜 450mmx600m Reg:\$20.00	Convenience Rolls 10.5x15 13Lb Reg:\$15.99
26.99 bag	22.99 case	27.00 case	19.99 case	20.00 case	45.00 case

FROZEN

Thai Gold Frozen Shrimp Peeled&Deveined 蝦仁 7/19 380g Reg:\$3.89	Cool Ocean Vannamei Shrimp Cooked P&D 500g 熟蝦仁 31/40 Reg:\$10.99	Tatak Pinoy Tender Sausage Series 300g 腸仔 Reg:\$4.59/ea	Lafe Cassava 454g 木薯 Reg:\$3.99	SH Chopped Spinach 750g 菠菜碎 Reg:\$2.99/ea	Siren's World Assorted Fish Ball 500g 魚丸 Reg:\$5.99
6.88 ea	7.99 ea	2/\$7.00	1.99 ea	2/\$4.00	3.99 ea
Kababayan Yellow Jackfruit 菠蘿蜜 250g Reg:\$2.99/ea	Searay Squid Ring 魷魚圈 300g Reg:\$4.99	Uncooked Chinese Style Pork Sausage 東亞臘腸 350g Reg:\$8.59	Maple Leaf Natural Bacon 培根 375g Reg:\$8.99	Gourmet King Vegetable Spring Roll 1000g 素菜春卷 Reg:\$4.99	Seaking Boneless Milkfish 牛奶魚 400g Reg:\$7.99
2/\$5.00	3.99 ea	6.99 ea	6.99 ea	3.99 ea	6.99 ea

MEAT

Boneless Pork Belly 無骨豬腩 Reg:\$4.99	Beef Eye Round 牛肉眼 Reg:\$9.99	Chicken Leg Meat 雞腿肉 Reg:\$5.59
3.99 lb	8.99 lb	4.59 lb
Best Choice Sliced Pork Roll 大眾豬肉卷 Reg:\$5.99	Frozen Ox Tail 冰鮮牛尾 Reg:\$9.99	
4.99 lb	8.99 lb	

SEAFOOD

Live Double Claw Vancouver Crab 生猛溫哥華蟹 Reg:\$14.99	Fresh Spanish Mackerel 新鮮花鯫魚 Reg:\$5.99	Fresh Frozen Squid 冰鮮章魚 Reg:\$7.99
12.99 lb	4.99 lb	6.99 lb
Frozen Fresh Head-On White Shrimp 冰鮮有頭南美蝦 Reg:\$5.99	Frozen Fresh Pompano 冰鮮黃立鯧 Reg:\$5.99	
4.99 lb	4.99 lb	4.99 lb

WRAPPING UP THE OLD YEAR

From quiet moments of reflection in churches to the sparkle of fireworks lighting up the night sky, Guyanese across the nation welcomed 2026 with joy, hope, and cherished tradition.

Families and friends gathered to seek peace, guidance, and prosperity for the year ahead, while many lined the Kitty Seawall to witness the spectacular Guyana Defence Force fireworks display. The celebrations continued at popular venues, including the Realm and Palm Court, as well as the Guyana Defence Force and Guyana Police Force Old Year's Night Balls, where revellers came together to usher in the New Year united in spirit.



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Grace Corn Meal 2kg	18 Pks	\$4.19	\$75.42
Grace Mackerel in Tomato Sauce 155g	100 Tins	\$1.39	\$139.00
Grace Vienna Sausage (Hot) 113g	48 Tins	\$1.69	\$81.12
Grace Corned Beef 198g	48 Tins	\$2.99	\$143.52
Grace Instant Oats 1kg	24 Pks	\$3.49	\$83.76
Cedar Parboiled Rice 8kg	4 Bags	\$17.99	\$71.96
American Eagle White Flour 5kg	6 Bags	\$7.99	\$47.94
Jamaican Pride Butter Beans 398mL	24 Tins	\$1.49	\$35.76
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Peanut Punch
250 ml89¢
eachWindsor
Table Salt
1 kg129
eachSpurtree
Pepper Jelly
210 g199
eachFruit of Life
Fruit Flavour Drink
Assorted 3 L349
eachHome Choice
Sorrel Extract
454 ml399
eachJamaican Pride
Butter Beans
398 ml99¢
eachAnchor
Cherry Syrup
750 ml299
eachAroma King
Basmati Rice
10 lbs999
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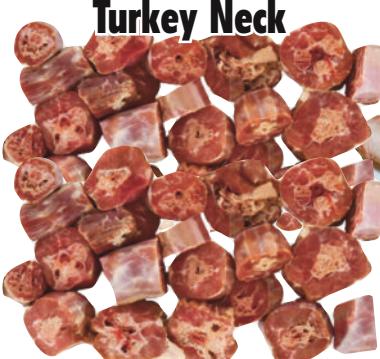
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Each

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lb

Fresh or Frozen
Square Cut
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\$1.99
lb

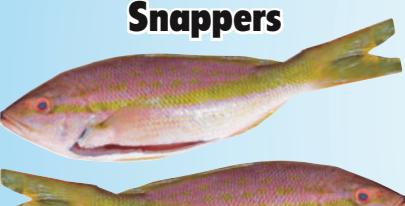
Frozen
Chicken Drumsticks



\$24.99
5 kg Box

Fresh Seafood Catches

Fresh Yellow Tail
Snappers



\$5.99
From lb as is

Fresh Whole
King Fish



\$7.99
lb as is

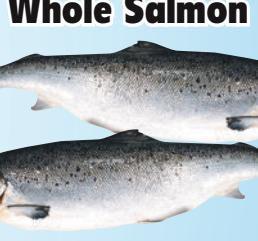
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Doctor Fish



Fresh
Parrot Fish



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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WELCOMED WITH JOYFUL NEW ARRIVALS AT GPHC

While much of the country paused to celebrate Christmas and ring in the New Year, the maternity wards at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) were alive with new life, welcoming newborns and reminding all that hope and joy continue, even on the holiest of days.

On Christmas Day, nine babies, five girls and four boys, were born, bringing smiles and excitement to families amid the steady rhythm of hospital care. Several other infants continued receiving treatment in the neonatal and postnatal wards, while young patients in the paediatric unit were also attended to, highlighting the dedication of healthcare workers on duty throughout the holiday season.

GPHC Chief Executive Officer Robbie Rambaran praised the commitment of staff working through the festive period. "While we would all prefer to be home with our families, it is a true honour and privilege to serve people when they need us most," he said.

The spirit of care carried into the New Year. On January 1, Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers on behalf of the Office of the First Lady. Nine babies, five girls and four boys, were born, many to first-time mothers. Hospital officials reported that

"Christmas is



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC

were healthy, reflecting a positive maternal healthcare outcome.

As one year ended and another began, GPHC's maternity wards offered a heartwarming



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



First lady visits Christmas babies at GPHC



Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers at GPHC on New Year day



Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers at GPHC on New Year day



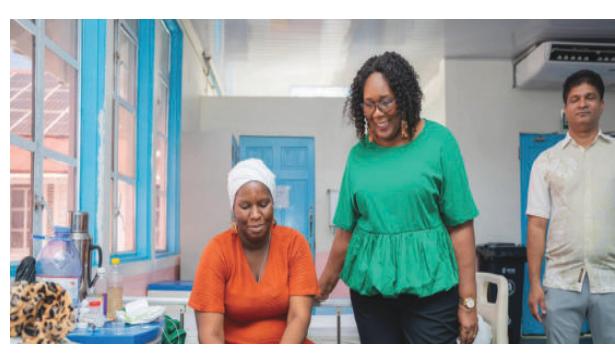
Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers at GPHC on New Year day



Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers at GPHC on New Year day



Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers at GPHC on New Year day



Second Lady Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips visited newborns and their mothers at GPHC on New Year day

Health Minister highlights significant investments in country's health sector

MINISTER of Health Dr. Frank Anthony has said that the vision set out to move Guyana towards a prosperous country is already in action, with steady investments being made across various sectors, including healthcare.

The minister made this known via a video message, where he spoke on the strategic vision for Guyana as outlined recently by President Dr. Irfaan Ali.

"In that vision, he touched on almost every sector of what it is that his government intends to do [in] health, education, for infrastructure, utilities and many more, and what this vision intends to do is move Guyana away from being a survival economy to one where we are going to be a prosperous country," Dr. Anthony said.

This blueprint, Dr. Anthony affirmed, is already in action, as over the last five years, all would have seen steady investments in various sectors to bring the dream to realisation.

To this end, he highlighted that in healthcare, spending and investments moved from just \$35.8 billion in 2019 to some \$142 billion, thus making a tremendous difference.

Against this backdrop, the Health Minister noted that under President Ali's leadership, from 2022 to 2024, they were able to complete 25 new health centres and health posts. In 2025, another 10 health centres and health posts were under construction.

The story, he went on to say, does not end there, as the government was able to do something unprecedented in the country's history, which was the opening and commissioning of six regional hospitals across the country.

Apart from these six new hospitals, Dr. Anthony said that they have been working on the construction of additional hospitals like the West Demerara Hospital and New Amsterdam Hospital.

However, he noted that the government has not and will not leave out the hinterland regions of the country, and highlighted that construction has begun on hospitals in various regions.

He said, "We have not left out the interior of our country, and we have already started the construction of a new hospital at Moruca, we have a new hospital at Kato and a new hospital at Lethem."

All of these, he noted, are expected to be completed in another two to three years, and while this is being done, the government is also examining other locations in the hinterland regions where healthcare facilities can be improved.



Guyana Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony

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A Home for the Holidays

FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES, CHRISTMAS COMES WITH A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Christmas brought more than celebration for several vulnerable families across Guyana this year, it delivered something life-changing: a place to finally call home. Through government programmes, community volunteers, and private-sector support, families received the gift of security, stability and renewed hope.



President Ali gifts Enterprise family new home for Christmas



President Ali gifts Enterprise family new home for Christmas

compassion and shared responsibility in national development, noting that while hundreds of families have directly benefited from MoM, thousands more have been impacted through community upliftment.

He also outlined plans to expand the initiative, including improved sanitary facilities, access to clean water, and social interventions to address issues such as gambling and alcohol abuse. New programmes for women, including backyard gardening, shade houses and prep kitchens, are also expected to launch next year to support sustainable livelihoods.

Since its inception, MoM has constructed approximately 300 homes nationwide.

A PERMANENT HOME AT LAST

For 46-year-old James Hercules and his family, Christmas morning marked the end of years of uncertainty. Living with a severe orthopaedic impairment and relying on temporary accommodations for most of his life, Hercules received a permanent home in Enterprise through the Men on Mission (MoM) programme, with the support of President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Moved by gratitude, Hercules thanked God and the government for the life-changing gift. "I'm thankful very much for this home... and I give God all the praise and thanks," he said.

President Ali, speaking at the handover, emphasised the importance of

NEW BEGINNINGS IN CORENTYNE

In Bloomfield Village, Corentyne, two families also stepped into a brighter future as their rebuilt homes were handed over through the MoM initiative.

For 52-year-old Savibree Moteellall, who lives with a disability, the new home ended years of living alone in a fragile wooden structure. Overcome with emotion, she expressed heartfelt thanks. "Me glad for the help. Me glad for the Government help as well," she said.

Nearby, 34-year-old Nalini Bissessar and her family, including four daughters, moved out of an unsafe, overcrowded house into a secure and stable home. "I am thankful because the old house was so shaky," she shared.



52-year-old Savibree Moteellall new home



34-year-old Nalini Bissessar new home

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, who participated in the handovers, said the programme is about restoring dignity and stability, especially for vulnerable families, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to continued support.



East Bank and West Bank of Demerara families celebrate new homes ahead of Christmas



East Bank and West Bank of Demerara families celebrate new homes ahead of Christmas

'THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT OF MY LIFE'

After 35 years of renting, single mother Rosanna Gobin finally received the keys to her own home, just days before Christmas.

"For me, receiving these keys is the best Christmas gift I have received in 35 years," she said, recalling the financial struggles and setbacks she endured. "I kept praying for a rent- and debt-free house, and today it is a reality."

Ms Gobin was among 18 families from the East Bank and West Bank of Demerara who received homes through the Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility

Programme, implemented by the Government of Guyana in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). To date, 243 of the 283 homes under the programme have been completed.

Officials noted that the initiative goes beyond housing, focusing on building sustainable communities with roads, drainage, street lights and shared spaces. Sixteen of the new homeowners are women, highlighting the resilience of mothers working toward a better future for their families.



Single mother receives home through First Lady's Office, corporate partners



Single mother receives home through First Lady's Office, corporate partners



East Bank and West Bank of Demerara families celebrate new homes ahead of Christmas



East Bank and West Bank of Demerara families celebrate new homes ahead of Christmas

FIRST LADY DELIVERS A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF STABILITY

In Meten-Meer-Zorg, single mother Teasha Spellen and her five children received a fully furnished three-bedroom home through the Office of the First Lady, with support from corporate partners.

The \$14 million home provides a safe and nurturing environment for the children, aged three to 14, who previously shared a single bedroom at a relative's home.

First Lady Mrs Arya Ali, who handed over the keys, said the moment was deeply personal. "Having grown up in a single-parent household myself, I understand some of the challenges she has faced, which made today's handover even more meaningful."

This marks the fourth home delivered in Region Three through the Office of the First Lady, with support from Courts Guyana, Comfort Sleep and Guyana Breweries Inc.

TOURISM MOMENTUM GROWS - GUYANA TARGETS THREE MILLION PASSENGERS BY 2030



Expanding airlift and eco-tourism Drive Guyana's visitor growth

Guyana's airports are busier than ever, and for Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues, the steady stream of arriving visitors tells a powerful story of opportunity, confidence, and national growth.

Speaking during a recent broadcast, Minister Rodrigues shared that between January and October 2025, Guyana surpassed

the total number of visitor arrivals recorded for all of 2024, a milestone that reflects



Expanding airlift and eco-tourism Drive Guyana's visitor growth

the country's rising appeal on the global tourism map.

"This is exciting news for the tourism sector," the minister said. She indicated during the broadcast, that visitor arrivals for 2025 were projected to grow by an unprecedented 20 per cent, the highest increase ever recorded in Guyana.

The momentum is being felt across the Caribbean. According to the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Guyana

recorded the highest percentage increase in visitor arrivals in the region between January and July 2025, positioning the country as one of the fastest-growing tourism destinations in the hemisphere.

Behind the statistics are real people and real possibilities, from tour operators and hoteliers to taxi drivers, artisans, and community guides. Minister Rodrigues said the government's long-term vision is to welcome three million passengers

for travel, trade, and tourism.

Minister Rodrigues said these efforts reaches communities are about more



Expanding airlift and eco-tourism Drive Guyana's visitor growth

nationwide, than numbers. They are about building livelihoods, showcasing Guyana's rich culture and natural beauty, and ensuring that as visitors continue to arrive, the benefits of tourism are felt by families and communities across the country.

SAFER, LARGER AIRSTrips FOR HINTERLAND REGIONS

Millions of dollars are being invested to upgrade airstrips in Guyana's hinterland, making travel safer and more accessible for both tourists and locals. Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill announced during a recent Facebook Live broadcast.

These upgrades are about more than just airstrips. They improve safety, allowing bigger planes to land, and reduce travel costs while giving tourism operators the space to grow. It all contributes to boosting the economy and improving the lives

of people across the country.

The improvements come in response to a growing influx of tourists seeking to explore Guyana's eco-tourism offerings. Among the key projects completed in 2025 is the runway at Paramakatoi, Region Eight, a 2,500-foot-long, 50-foot-wide airstrip valued at \$799.7 million. Additionally, a 1,000-foot extension at the Kaieteur National Park airstrip has already enhanced access to one of the nation's most iconic destinations.

Looking ahead, the



Millions invested to expand hinterland airstrips for tourists and locals

Port Kaituma airstrip is expected to be completed in 2026, with ongoing works at Matthews Ridge,

motor vessels, every project is linked to the wellbeing of the population," he said.

By expanding hinterland airstrips, the government is not only improving connectivity but also supporting local livelihoods. The upgrades open new opportunities for tourism businesses and communities, creating jobs and increasing access to essential services in remote areas.

Taken and modified from News Room Guyana

Region One. Minister Edghill emphasised that these investments are interconnected with the broader development of the country. "Whether it's a road, an airstrip, or the operation of

GRA INVESTIGATING EMPLOYEES IN SUSPECTED LUXURY VEHICLE TRANSFER SCHEME INVOLVING MOHAMED

The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has launched an internal investigation into several of its employees who are suspected of facilitating the unlawful transfer of luxury motor vehicles during late 2025.

The probe centres on transactions allegedly involving businessman Azruridin Mohamed between November 27 and December 5, 2025, which investigators believe may have been conducted in breach of established motor vehicle

transfer procedures and anti-money laundering (AML) regulations.

According to the GRA, a review of its records revealed that the same employees were responsible for multiple stages of the transfer process, including off-premises examinations of vehicles, the lodgement and approval of transfer documentation, and the processing of payments to complete the transactions. The Authority noted that several of the transferees

were linked to similar residential addresses in Republic Park, Atlantic Gardens, and Hill Top, Timehri, along the East Bank of Demerara.

Investigations to date have identified at least eleven such transfers, several of which involved high-value luxury vehicles.

The GRA has warned that any individuals found to have participated in these activities will be prosecuted in accordance with the law. Arrests

are expected as the investigation progresses. The Authority also confirmed that its international partners have been notified and that further inquiries remain ongoing.

In the meantime, the GRA has appealed to members of the public to report any suspected illicit or unlawful activities by contacting 227-6060, extensions 3201, 3204, 3205, 3206, 3211, 3212, or 3408. The Authority assured that all information will



Massive fraud uncovered by GRA in vehicle transfers involving Mohamed

be treated with strict confidentiality and noted that informants may be eligible for rewards under the provisions of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01.

GUYANA LEAVES MARK ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has hailed Guyana's historic two-year tenure on the United Nations (UN) Security Council as a defining moment for the country, underscoring that even small states can play a meaningful role in shaping global peace and security.

At the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2025, Guyana officially concluded its term as an elected member of the Security Council, which began on January 1, 2024, under the theme "Partnering for Peace and Prosperity." In a live national address, President Ali reflected on Guyana's contributions during one of the most turbulent periods in recent global history.

"Guyana rose to the occasion at a time when the world was

facing overlapping conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and rising geopolitical tensions," the President said.

Guyana's tenure unfolded amid Russia's war in Ukraine, Israel's bombardment of Gaza, escalating violence in Sudan and Haiti, prolonged conflicts in Yemen and Myanmar, and the Taliban's intensified repression of women and girls in Afghanistan. Renewed tensions between India and Pakistan, as well as Cambodia and Thailand, further strained international peace and security.

President Ali noted that the Council was also confronted with complex issues, including the financing of African Union-

led peace operations and worsening food insecurity in conflict-affected regions.

Throughout these

in February 2024 and June 2025, using both opportunities to convene high-level debates on climate change, food

and security initiatives. In December 2025, Guyana played a pivotal role in the unanimous adoption of a landmark resolution promoting the inclusion of youth in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict rebuilding.

Working closely with fellow elected members and regional partners, particularly through the A3+ grouping and the wider E10, Guyana helped shape resolutions and press statements addressing crises in Sudan, Libya, Haiti, and the longstanding Guyana-Venezuela controversy. It also co-authored Council decisions advocating ceasefires and expanded humanitarian access in Gaza.

Beyond its presidential Guyana months, assumed

leadership roles within several subsidiary bodies, chairing the Sanctions Committees on Haiti and Guinea-Bissau and serving as vice-chair on committees for Afghanistan and the Central African Republic.

Over the two-year period, the Security Council adopted 90 resolutions, 15 Presidential Statements, 77 Press Statements, and 21 Notes by the President, reflecting intensive negotiations in which Guyana played an active role.

President Ali said Guyana's service significantly enhanced its international standing, reaffirming the country's commitment to multilateralism, peace, and the rule of international law.



President Dr Irfaan Ali addressing the United Nations Security Council in February 2025

challenges, Guyana consistently advocated for the protection of civilians, expanded humanitarian access, and strict adherence to international law, earning recognition for its principled and cooperative diplomacy.

Guyana held the rotating presidency of the Security Council twice, advancing climate-related peace

insecurity, and the links between poverty, underdevelopment, and conflict.

The country also championed key UN agendas, including Women, Peace and Security; Youth, Peace and Security; and Children and Armed Conflict, while advancing

peace

AG FLAGS DELAY TACTICS IN LATEST EXTRADITION CHALLENGE

While every citizen has the right to legal recourse, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, said a recent High Court application is being used not to resolve legal questions, but to delay ongoing extradition proceedings.

The challenge, filed by the Mohameds, seeks to pause the extradition process while the applicants contest amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Act of 2009. Minister Nandlall described the move as



High Court of Guyana

a repeat of arguments already dismissed by a Magistrate, calling the High Court filing "frivolous and vexatious."

"They are asking

the High Court to stay the hands of the Magistrate," he said during his weekly Issues in the News programme, "yet the law clearly allows challenges

only after committal proceedings are concluded."

The Attorney General explained that the legislation has been applied consistently for over 15 years and has survived scrutiny in multiple cases. He emphasised that the legal threshold for halting extradition is high, requiring proof of serious legal issues, irreparable harm, and that the balance of justice supports a pause, criteria the current challenge does not meet.

Minister Nandlall

also highlighted that the Fugitive Offenders Act already provides multiple levels of appeal, including the Caribbean Court of Justice, ensuring that individuals can contest extraditions while the rule of law is maintained. Allowing parallel High Court challenges before the conclusion of proceedings, he warned, could undermine Guyana's credibility as a reliable international partner and slow the fight against cross-border crime.

The High Court is scheduled to rule on the stay application on January 5, 2026, while a separate related matter is yet to be scheduled.

"For the public, this is about more than procedure," the Attorney General said. "It is about ensuring that justice moves forward in a timely manner, protecting both citizens' rights and the country's obligations abroad."

GUYANA'S ECONOMIC BOOM REFLECTED IN JOBS, SKILLS, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As Guyana's skyline changes and new businesses emerge, the real story behind the country's economic boom is the people whose lives are being transformed. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, said growth is not just about numbers, it's about creating opportunities for every Guyanese.

"Everybody who is in economic policy aspires to a situation where your economy

is growing," Dr. Singh told the National Communications Network (NCN), "but it is also important that that growth translates into improved well-being for the citizens you serve. Growth is not an end; it is the means to a bigger end, the improvement of the circumstances and lives of people."

Highlighting government's successes over the past five years, Dr. Singh noted that Guyana's economy continues to expand

rapidly, with strong performance in both oil and non-oil sectors. "We have seen very strong economic growth both overall and in the non-oil economy, which has averaged around 11 percent since 2021," he said, noting that this expansion has created opportunities in every sector.

The Minister pointed to record levels of foreign investment, the establishment of new companies, and partnerships with local businesses. "You

also see it in the growth of credit to the private sector, which has increased at astronomical rates over the last five years."

This growth has translated into more jobs and higher incomes

for citizens. Over the past five years, approximately 60,000 people have gained employment across sectors, including oil and gas, tourism, healthcare, construction, and manufacturing. Dr. Singh highlighted the rapid expansion of hospitals, hotels, factories, and housing projects, noting that new construction alone creates thousands of jobs for carpenters, masons, electricians, and transport providers.

Beyond jobs, the Minister emphasised that the government

is investing in human capital and skills development. "We are committed to ensuring that economic growth empowers people, through education, training, and social services, so they can fully benefit from the opportunities created," he said.

Dr. Singh concluded that the PPP/C Administration's approach ensures that the country's impressive economic performance is not just reflected in statistics, but in the everyday lives of Guyanese, enabling them to build a better future for themselves and their families.



Minister Dr. Ashni Singh

40,000 HOMES ON THE WAY

For thousands of Guyanese families dreaming of a place to finally call home, the government's latest housing push is beginning to feel real.

More than 260 contractors have stepped forward to help build houses under a new national programme aimed at delivering 40,000 houses over the next five years, an ambitious response to growing demand, especially from young professionals and families eager for move-in-ready housing.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, revealed that the Ministry has received 268 expressions of interest

from contractors across the country, including firms specialising in modular construction. The strong response, he said, signals confidence in the programme and a shared commitment to closing Guyana's housing gap.

Over the past five years, the government distributed approximately 53,000 house lots, giving thousands of families access to land. But only about 4,000 homes were actually built during that period. For many beneficiaries, turning land into a house proved challenging, requiring time, financing, contractors, and materials that were not



40,000 homes in five years as government steps up to meet growing demand

always easy to manage.

That reality is shaping the government's new approach.

Under the latest programme, the focus is shifting toward completed, turnkey homes, with plans to build about 8,000 houses each year starting in 2026. The housing units will cater to a wide

range of needs, from low-income homes of about 650 square feet to higher-income and young professional houses, some exceeding 2,000 square feet. These homes will be constructed across all regions through public-private partnerships.

Minister Croal noted that demand for young

professional housing has grown sharply. Many professionals, he explained, simply do not have the time to oversee construction or source materials. For them, a finished home offers peace of mind and stability.

Construction sites have already been identified, and engagements with shortlisted contractors are expected to begin soon.

Behind the urgency is a sobering statistic: more than 78,000 Guyanese are currently waiting for house lots. Over two-thirds of those applications are concentrated in Region Four, where proximity to Georgetown and employment opportunities drive demand.

While clearing the Region Four backlog remains challenging, the government has pledged to eliminate pending applications in all other regions. To do so, it is working with agencies such as the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited, the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited, and the Mahaica Mahaicony Abari Agricultural Development Authority to release suitable lands.

For families who have waited years, sometimes decades, for a chance at homeownership, the programme represents more than numbers and construction targets. It is about the hope that soon, their wait will finally end.

From the inland farms to international markets, the Palmyra deep-water harbour aims to connect Guyana like never before, offering hope and opportunity to producers, exporters, and local communities.

Minister of Public Works, Juan Edghill, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to the development of the deep-water harbour at Palmyra, Region Six, describing it as a transformative step toward seamless transportation of goods and unprecedented economic growth.

"This is not just a concept; it is a plan in motion," Minister

GUYANA MOVES CLOSER TO DEEP-WATER HARBOUR AT PALMYRA

Edghill said. "It's only a matter of time before we determine who will be the builder, the operator, and the terms and conditions."

The harbour is expected to significantly improve logistics and trade capacity, linking inland production areas directly to international markets. For producers who often face challenges moving large volumes of goods, the deep-water port could be a game-changer, allowing hundreds of containers to be shipped efficiently

across the globe.

"With connectivity to the Palmyra harbour, exporters can finally overcome long-standing transportation hurdles," Minister Edghill explained.

The project is closely tied to broader infrastructure initiatives, including the Linden-Lethem corridor, where bridges have been built and additional phases of the road are under active consideration. Minister Edghill noted that the harbour would stimulate

economic activity along these key routes, creating opportunities for surrounding communities while enhancing Guyana's position as a regional logistics hub.

Beyond trade and transport, the deep-water harbour is expected to drive growth for local businesses, create jobs, and support the development of adjacent communities.

With careful planning and strategic investment, the Palmyra deep-water harbour is poised to become a



Palmyra port promises new opportunities for Guyana

cornerstone of Guyana's way.

Taken and modified from News Room Guyana

TURNING LOCAL PRODUCE INTO REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Guyana's small farmers and local producers are seeing their hard work reach new markets, as two containers of locally made agro-processed goods head to the Caribbean. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the shipment reflects a broader strategy to transform agriculture into a driver of household wealth, community growth, and national economic diversification.

Speaking during an end-of-year conversation with female journalists and students at the Railway Courtyard, President Ali highlighted the development as a tangible outcome of



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

government policies designed to empower families, farmers, young people, and small businesses.

"You are seeing it at the Christmas markets and across the country: single mothers and small processors improving their products," he said. "Today, we have just negotiated

two containers of agro-processed goods going into the Caribbean."

He emphasised that this is not a symbolic gesture but a practical step toward building a competitive, diversified economy that links village-level production with regional and global markets. The agro-processing breakthrough, he said,

reflects deliberate policies to incentivise agriculture, empower small producers, particularly women, and create opportunities for income generation across communities.

Because Guyana is fast becoming a key food supplier in the Caribbean, President Ali revealed discussions are underway to establish a commercial arm of the Guyana Defence Force to integrate food production with CARICOM markets. He also cited recent talks with the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, where young Antiguans investing in transport capabilities are looking to Guyana as a



Two containers of locally made agro-processed goods head to the Caribbean

reliable food supplier for domestic markets.

Building on these initiatives, the President announced that the Guyana Development Bank will introduce entrepreneurship education in schools.

Students will learn from an early age how to form consortia and develop bankable ideas, preparing the next generation to participate meaningfully in a diversified economy.

NON-COMPLIANT GOLD MINERS FACE DEREGISTRATION, PROSECUTION

A new enforcement push is underway in the gold mining sector, with authorities moving to penalise miners who fail to declare production in accordance with national mining and anti-money laundering regulations.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has ordered immediate action against miners who did not declare gold produced during 2025, warning that non-compliance would no longer be tolerated.

All registered dredges with missing production declarations will be deregistered immediately, effectively revoking their permission to operate under the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC). President

Ali also directed that foreign miners operating illegally in Guyana be identified, prosecuted, and expelled, with particular attention on Brazilian miners whose declarations were very low or absent. These miners have been given 24 hours to fully comply and declare their gold to the Guyana Gold Board.

The directives were issued during a meeting at State House on Friday, January 2, 2026, with senior officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the GGMC.

To ensure compliance, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) will collaborate to ensure

that miners across all categories, small, medium, and large, are properly registered and hold local bank accounts.

GGDMA President Ronaldo Alphonso urged miners to follow the law and transact gold through approved channels.

"It is our responsibility as miners to ensure the sustainability of the industry. We need to make it compliant, and we need to declare gold. Make 2026 the year of compliance and declaration," he said.

To strengthen oversight, the government have established a task force comprising the Attorney General, the Minister of Finance, the



The recent meeting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission

Commissioner-General of the Guyana Revenue Authority, the head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Governor of the Bank of Guyana, and representatives of the Guyana Gold Board. The task force is tasked with identifying loopholes in the gold export system and enforcing compliance.

Separately, the Failure to comply will result in suspension of licences or permits.

The GGMC has also issued public notices naming dozens of individuals, both Guyanese and foreign nationals, who are required to make urgent contact with the Commission regarding their mining operations.



New Digital X-ray system to deliver faster, improved diagnostics to Essequibo Coast

Residents of the Essequibo Coast are set to benefit from quicker and more accurate medical diagnoses with the commissioning of a new digital X-ray machine at the Oscar Joseph Public Hospital in Charity, Region Two.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony officially unveiled the state-of-the-art

"This upgrade is essential for our

FASTER, SMARTER DIAGNOSTICS FOR ESSEQUIBO COAST RESIDENTS

people," Dr Anthony said. **"No region should be left behind. Every community deserves access to modern healthcare facilities."**

The new technology is expected to reduce patient waiting time, enhance early detection of medical conditions, and improve overall patient care. It also complements other diagnostic advancements in the region, including the addition of ultrasound machines and, for the first time, CT scans at the new Lima Regional Hospital.

In a move to further

modernise healthcare, Dr Anthony announced the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into diagnostic services. The AI system can analyse X-ray images in seconds, identifying abnormalities and providing tentative diagnoses almost instantly. **"At one of our hospitals, the AI system can determine whether an X-ray is normal or abnormal in just 17 seconds,"** he explained, **"supporting clinicians to make quicker decisions and improving patient outcomes."**

The commissioning



New Digital X-ray system to deliver faster, improved diagnostics to Essequibo Coast

of the digital X-ray underscores the government's commitment to ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare across Guyana and reflects a broader push to embrace technology in medical services.

severed him from the institution to which he had devoted his life.

"Today, we mourn an exemplary public servant," the President added. **"His light is now extinguished, but the pathways he laid continue to lead us toward a more caring and competent healthcare system."**

President Ali extended heartfelt condolences to Khan's daughters, relatives, and friends, honouring his unwavering commitment to public service and his lasting legacy in Guyana's healthcare sector.

Reflecting on the challenges Khan faced later in his career, President Ali expressed deep regret over his **"cruel and unjust termination"** which

FORMER GPHC CEO, MICHAEL KHAN REMEMBERED AS A HUMANE LEADER

The passing of Michael Khan, who dedicated over a decade and a half to transforming the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) and improving healthcare for all Guyanese, has passed away, has prompted an outpouring of condolences from across the nation.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali described his death as a moment of **"profound and personal sorrow"** and said it leaves **"a deep and quiet void in the heart of our society."**



Guyana mourns the passing of former GPHC CEO Michael Khan

Khan served as GPHC's Chief Executive Officer for nearly 16 years, a period marked by significant milestones despite limited resources. Under his leadership, the hospital saw the expansion of wards, the introduction of kidney transplants and cardiac services, and the historic transition of the institution to autonomy. He also played a key role in establishing specialist training programmes, helping to nurture the next generation of Guyanese medical professionals.

President Ali praised Khan's dedication to compassionate care, noting that he treated each patient as an individual and went beyond his formal duties to support people in practical ways. **"His profound humanism was his greatest gift to our public healthcare system,"** the President said.

Reflecting on the challenges Khan faced later in his career, President Ali expressed deep regret over his **"cruel and unjust termination"** which

DISABILITY LOAN PROGRAMME EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES NATIONWIDE

Raquel Lam's life is about to change, thanks to a government initiative providing interest-free loans and business training to persons living with disabilities. Lansford Jeffrey, Lam is among a group of beneficiaries who recently received \$500,000 each, aimed at promoting economic independence and long-term sustainability.

The programme is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and the Small Business Bureau (SBB).

"I think this will benefit us, because financially we're not able to work as normal people, and with this aid we will be able to provide for ourselves," Lam told the Department of Public Information (DPI), expressing gratitude for the opportunity.

Lansford Jeffrey, a visually impaired entrepreneur, also welcomed the support. He explained that the loan will help him grow his small business and improve his standard of living.

Launched in 2023, the initiative provides interest-free loans with no collateral requirements, complemented by business and financial literacy training through the Ministry's Disability Services Unit. Minister Dr Vindhya Persaud emphasised that the

programme goes beyond financial support by equipping beneficiaries with the skills they need to succeed.

"This is not only about providing financing to persons living with disabilities, but it is also a comprehensive pathway that prepares them to

succeed," Dr Persaud said.

For this year, about 60 persons nationwide benefit from the initiative. Recipients are also eligible to reapply for financing, ensuring ongoing support for their ventures.

Dr Persaud highlighted that the programme reflects



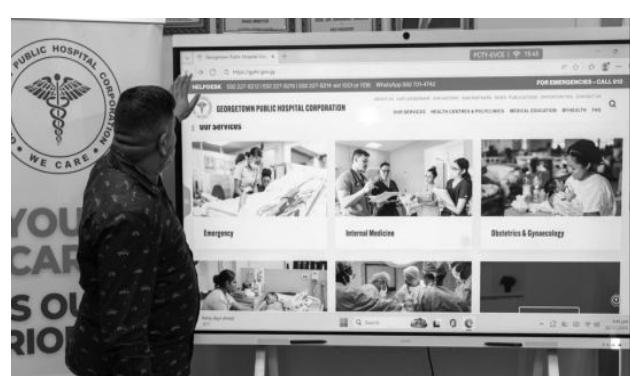
Interest-free loans help persons with disabilities build businesses, independence



Interest-free loans help persons with disabilities build businesses, independence

the government's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility across all regions. She congratulated the recipients and reaffirmed the government's dedication to providing continuous support to persons living with disabilities.

For Raquel Lam,



GPHC launches new website

GPHC OPENS A DIGITAL DOOR TO PATIENT-CENTRED CARE

For thousands of patients and families who rely on the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) each year, getting clear information is now easier than ever.

With the launch of its official website, GPHC has taken an important step toward modern, patient-centred care, opening a new digital doorway that puts essential hospital services and information at the public's fingertips. The platform was officially unveiled at the GPHC Resource Centre as part

of the hospital's wider push toward innovation, transparency, and improved patient experience.

The website allows patients to register online, book appointments, and access educational resources. These changes are designed to reduce long waits and make navigating the health system less stressful. Students, caregivers, and members of the public can also find detailed information on hospital departments, services, and news updates in one reliable,

centralised space.

Chief Executive Officer Robbie Rambarran said the platform reflects a growing recognition that healthcare does not begin at the hospital door, but with access to timely, clear, and accurate information. Strengthening communication with patients and families, he noted, is essential to delivering quality care in a digital age.

For Communications Manager Stacy Peters, the launch closes a long-standing information

gap. She explained that the website provides a trusted source where patients and visitors can find answers without confusion or delay. Developed in collaboration with Fiscal Frontier, a woman-owned local firm, the platform also highlights Guyanese expertise while showcasing the hospital's full range of services.

While the website marks a major milestone, it is only the beginning. GPHC plans to roll out additional interactive tools and expanded e-health services

across its branches, bringing care closer to communities and improving access for all.

As the hospital continues its digital journey, the new platform signals a future

where healthcare is more connected, more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

The GPHC website is now live at gphc.gov.gy.

THOUSANDS OF GUYANESE ENTREPRENEURS BENEFIT FROM SBB SUPPORT



Attendees at a training on public procurement earlier this year

With financial support, mentorship, and hands-on training, the Small Business Bureau (SBB) is helping thousands of Guyanese entrepreneurs, including people with disabilities, gain independence and succeed in business.

Over the past five years, the Bureau has

injected over \$1 billion to support more than 4,000 micro, small, and medium enterprises nationwide, providing critical resources for business growth and sustainability. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, shared the update during a

live broadcast, noting that an additional \$57 million has been invested in community development projects, including the construction of shade houses in Regions Six and Ten.

"The Small Business Bureau continues to expand access to concessional loans, mentorship, and incubator support," Minister Rodrigues said, emphasising how these programmes are equipping entrepreneurs with the skills and confidence to grow resilient businesses.

More than 11,000

business owners have benefitted from hands-on training over the last five years, gaining practical knowledge to strengthen operations. Beyond training, thousands of entrepreneurs have accessed loans and sponsorships to expand their reach and market opportunities.

Special focus has been given to people with disabilities, with over 50 receiving zero-interest loans, helping them join the formal economy and gain financial independence. **"They have been empowered with financial freedom, and we continue**

to monitor their businesses and livelihoods," the minister said.

Trade exposure has also been a priority. Over 50 businesses participated in GUYEXPO 2025, showcasing products to local and international buyers at no cost. Sixteen small and medium-sized enterprises were sponsored at the Christmas Village on Main Street, reaching new customers during the festive season.

Regional expansion remains a key goal, with Guyanese businesses sponsored to participate in events

in Barbados and other Caribbean countries. The government has also established business incubators in Lethem and Belvedere, providing equipment, staffing, packaging, and processing services at no cost. These facilities help agro-processors turn raw materials into value-added products, boosting both income and competitiveness.



CENTURY-OLD LAWS TO GET A 21ST-CENTURY UPGRADE TO PROTECT CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES

The government is bringing over a century-old law into the 21st century, ensuring legal and financial protections keep pace with technology and global standards.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, outlined an ambitious legislative agenda for 2026, which includes reforms to the Evidence Act, Companies Act, the introduction of Trust legislation, and updates to the Cybersecurity Act.

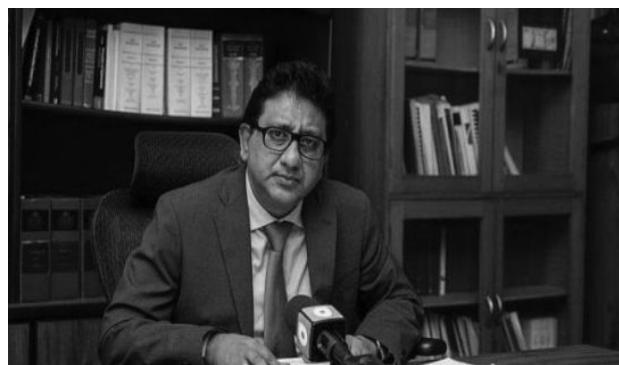
The Evidence Act, originally enacted in

1893 during British colonial rule, is considered outdated in today's digital age. **"Nothing that was relevant in 1893 can be relevant now. That act was born out of a different era. We are now living in an ICT world,"** Minister Nandlall said. A draft of a modern Evidence Act, modelled on internationally recognised legislation from Australia, has been completed and is set to go to Cabinet before public consultations begin.

The Companies Act, created in 1995,

will also be updated to reflect modern financial practices and more complex business transactions. Consultations with the legal profession, accountants, and private-sector stakeholders are already underway to ensure the legislation meets the evolving needs of Guyana's economy.

Another significant reform is the introduction of Trust legislation. Currently, Guyana has no law governing trusts, despite their importance in finance and commerce. Minister Nandlall explained that the new law will protect



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

the financial system and address a critical deficiency highlighted by the Financial Action Task Force.

Cybersecurity is also a priority. The existing Cybersecurity Act will be revised to align with international standards, including the new United Nations Convention on Cybercrime. The updates are intended to strengthen the country's ability to combat online offences while protecting freedom of expression.

"These legislative reforms are not just legal updates; they are about creating a framework that protects citizens, businesses, and the economy while keeping pace with the modern world," Minister Nandlall said.

For Guyanese, these reforms promise stronger legal safeguards, improved business protections, and more secure digital spaces, reflecting the government's commitment to modernisation, accountability, and inclusive growth.

NATIONWIDE CONSULTATIONS TARGET SOCIAL MEDIA, GAMBLING, AND VAPING



Guyanese families to help shape policies to protect children from social media, gambling, and vaping

Labour and Manpower Planning Minister Keoma Griffith announced that ongoing nationwide consultations are helping the government develop measures to address these pressing issues. The initiative follows a directive from President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who tasked a cross-ministerial team, including the Ministries of Education, Information, and Public Service, to lead the consultations.

"We will listen to you and shape policies that protect our families,"

Minister Griffith said in a video statement posted online. He added that consultations are already underway in communities across the country, with input from parents, teachers, and elders being actively considered.

The consultations aim to curb the social and economic damage caused by gambling and substance abuse, while also addressing emerging threats such as vaping and fentanyl use. Griffith emphasised that education and prevention efforts will be stepped up, alongside strengthened



Guyanese families to help shape policies to protect children from social media, gambling, and vaping

international partnerships to combat illegal substance smuggling.

President Ali, in a recent national address, noted the urgency of action after being approached by numerous voices from across Guyana highlighting the impact of social media on

homes and schools.

By engaging communities directly, the government seeks to ensure that policies are **"thoughtful, inclusive, and anchored in the recommendations of our people,"** President Ali said. The findings from these consultations are expected to guide new social protection initiatives and budgetary allocations for 2026, with a focus on safeguarding children and strengthening family well-being nationwide.

Taken and modified from News Room Guyana

ICT, TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND ZERO-INTEREST LOANS PART OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith

recently outlined plans that will prioritise training, sports, entrepreneurship, and access to zero-interest loans for youth, alongside other programmes aimed at strengthening communities and building a brighter future.

"These initiatives are designed to prepare citizens for high-paying jobs, promote self-sufficiency, and ensure every young Guyanese has access to opportunity, regardless of their location," the President said.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali



Youth from Region Nine undergoing CSOs training

plans, Minister of the country. **"We have specialised programmes rolling out, such as ICT training in remote communities and a flagship agriculture initiative targeting high-value crops to spark youth entrepreneurship,"**

Minister Griffith explained.

Indigenous youth are also set to benefit from expanded community enterprise programmes, village-led tourism projects, and mentorship opportunities, ensuring that no community is left behind. Through the new Guyana Development Bank, young entrepreneurs can access zero-interest loans with no collateral, coupled with mentorship to help them grow their businesses successfully.

In addition to financial and business support, the government has removed tuition fees at government technical

institutes, opening doors for free training in ICT, hospitality, oil and gas, construction, and other in-demand skills vital for today's workforce.

Beyond education and employment, the government is prioritising social well-being, with consultations underway to address challenges such as social media harm, gambling, and substance abuse. **"Building a healthier society is part of our vision for youth empowerment,"** Minister Griffith said, highlighting the government's holistic approach to equipping young people for success.

EMERGENCY DRAINAGE EFFORT BRINGS RELIEF TO BLACK BUSH POLDER FARMERS

Farmers and engineers closely monitored the operations to ensure the interventions were effective and timely. Following days of heavy and persistent rainfall that resulted in widespread flooding across the area.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), deployed eight excavators to key locations including Yakusari, Johanna and Mibicuri to manage excess water. Small inlets to prevent mechanical pumps were installed in affected residential areas, while a large mechanical pump was installed at Number 43 Village to accelerate water movement and water removal. NDIA protect farmlands from



Minister Mustapha visits Black Bush Polder as flood relief measures are implemented

As part of the response, excavators blocked watercourse inlets to prevent backland water from flowing into cultivated areas. Aqueducts were temporarily closed to further control water movement and remove. NDIA protect farmlands from additional flooding. Minister Mustapha assured farmers and residents of the government's continued commitment to safeguarding livelihoods during the rainy season. He noted that the Ministry of Agriculture worked actively to

reduce the impact of the rains and to ensure that affected farmers could begin recovery as quickly as possible.

He also directed agencies including the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), the Guyana Rice

Development Board (GRDB) and the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) to continue monitoring affected farms and provide technical and recovery support where necessary.

The completed interventions helped minimise crop and

property losses, supported food security, and protected farmers' livelihoods in Black Bush Polder. Residents and farmers expressed relief and gratitude for the swift response, noting that the drainage works helped restore normalcy and renewed hope following the flooding.



Minister Mustapha visits Black Bush Polder as flood relief measures are implemented

TWO NEW WELLS COMMISSIONED IN MATARKAI SUB-REGION



New water systems transform life in Baramita

For the residents of Baramita, a remote community in Region One, daily life has just become a little easier, and a lot healthier. Accessible only by plane or rugged trails from Matthews Ridge or Port Kaituma, the village has long faced challenges in accessing clean water. Many families relied on creeks or walked long distances to distant

standpipes for their daily needs.

That struggle came to an end with the commissioning of two new water systems, a milestone that promises to transform life in the Matarkai Sub-Region.

The first site, located at Baramita, now provides clean water to more than 400 residents. The \$23 million project features a newly drilled

well and a 2.3-kilometre distribution network, powered entirely by an eco-friendly photovoltaic pumping system. The initiative was made possible

partnership.

The second well, at Return within Baramita, now supplies water directly to more than 40 households. Costing \$21 million, this facility was



New water systems transform life in Baramita

through collaboration between the Guyana Water Inc. (GWI) and the Baramita Village Council, demonstrating the power of community

also developed through joint efforts by GWI and the Village Council.

The commissioning ceremony brought the community

together in celebration. Parliamentary Secretary Thandi McAllister, M.P., Director General of MPUA Alfonso DeArmas, and GWI Chief Executive Officer Shaik Baksh were on hand to mark the historic moment.

Residents expressed heartfelt gratitude for finally having potable water at home, many noting how life will be easier and healthier going forward.

"This is a powerful testament to President Ali's commitment to develop every corner of Guyana," McAllister said. She highlighted the remarkable progress: just five years ago, Baramita had no wells, and now over 90% of

households enjoy direct access to water.

DeArmas echoed the sentiment, noting that real development must reach the hinterland. "Elders, children, and families no longer have to walk far to access water. Water scarcity is a thing of the past," he said.

Baksh praised the government's investment and the President's vision for the sector. He revealed that GWI aims for 100% access to treated water along the coast by 2026, with plans to expand water treatment services further into the hinterland over the next five years.

SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT TAKES OVER PRINCES STREET EXPANSION

After months of disruption and frustration, Princes Street commuters and residents can finally look forward to smoother travel, as the Ministry of Public Works' Special Projects Unit (SPU) has taken over the stalled \$631 million road expansion project.

The project, originally awarded to Yhardram & Sons Construction Establishment, was terminated due to poor performance, leaving the thoroughfare in a

disrepair and causing inconvenience to those who rely on it daily.

During a recent inspection, Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill explained that the contractor failed to meet contractual obligations and left the road in a condition that compromised accessibility and safety.

"The contractor has failed to execute his contractual obligations and left the thoroughfare in a

mess," Minister Edghill said. **"Immediate relief is now here for the residents and all users of Princes Street."**

The SPU has already begun rehabilitation work, starting with clearing debris and preparing the area for full-scale construction. Once complete, Princes Street will be widened, upgraded with improved drainage, and better equipped to handle westward traffic from

Cemetery Road. The 1,070-metre road, measuring 10.37 metres wide, will seamlessly connect with the Cemetery Road expansion, improving access between Cemetery Road and High Street.

Minister Edghill stressed that the upgraded roadway will not only ease congestion, but also enhance safety for residents and motorists.

"This project is critical for daily



SPU has already begun rehabilitation work

commuters and local residents. We are committed to ensuring the road is completed properly, on time, and meets the needs of the community," he said. For those living

and working along Princes Street, the SPU takeover signals the start of a long-awaited transformation, turning a once frustrating corridor into a safer, more efficient route for everyone.

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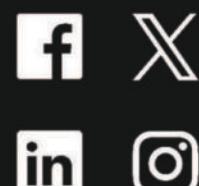


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PRESIDENT ALI VISITS DHARM SHALA FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE CHRISTMAS

On Christmas Day, the spirit of generosity and community came alive at the Dharm Shala in Albouystown, Georgetown, as elderly citizens and vulnerable residents were served lunch by His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

For the sixth consecutive year, the President marked the holiday by visiting Guyana's oldest humanitarian charity, continuing a tradition that has become a meaningful highlight for residents who call the Dharm Shala home. He was joined by Minister within the Ministry of Housing, Vanessa Benn.

Founded more than a century ago, the Dharm Shala, meaning "Home of Benevolence for all Races," has long provided shelter, care and dignity to those in need. During his visit, President Ali reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting the institution through the Men on Mission (MoM) initiative, which he described as a practical expression of compassion and shared responsibility.

Addressing the management and staff, the President acknowledged the financial challenges of maintaining the historic facilities in Georgetown and Berbice, pledging assistance with maintenance works through the MoM programme. He noted that access to materials and coordinated support would help ease the burden of upkeep.

Describing the Dharm Shala as a place of hope, compassion and togetherness, President Ali reflected on the deeper meaning of the Christmas season. He reminded residents that they are valued members of society, emphasising that Christmas represents community, love, faith and unity, principles embodied by the home itself.

The President also commended the management and caregivers for their dedication and consistency in caring for the most vulnerable, pledging continued government support in the year ahead.

Under President Ali's leadership, the annual Christmas lunch has become a cherished tradition aligned with



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala

his 'One Guyana' vision. To date, the government has provided more than \$3 million in financial support to the charity.

Residents enjoyed a festive meal, refreshing

drinks and musical entertainment that filled the home with seasonal joy and reminding them that they, too, are remembered and cared for during the season.



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala



The Christmas luncheon at the Dharm Shala



Toys were distributed to the children in Albouystown



Toys were distributed to the children in Albouystown



Toys were distributed to the children in Albouystown



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 109

A SEASON OF TOGETHERNESS

Wrapped in the glow of the season, the First Family shares a tender Christmas moment at home. Dressed in coordinated holiday sleepwear and surrounded by festive décor, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, First Lady Mrs Arya Ali and their children celebrate what matters most, **love, laughter and being present together.**



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NOTICE

USE ONLY OFFICIALLY LICENSED TOURISM BUSINESSES AND GUIDES

The Guyana Tourism Authority is issuing an urgent reminder to book tour experiences exclusively with licensed tourism operators when visiting Guyana.

A complete list of officially licensed businesses is available on the Guyana Tourism Authority's Facebook page.

For further inquiries, please contact the Authority via email at info@guyanatourism.com or WhatsApp at +592 638 5128.

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This year, experience the vibrant Mashramani celebrations, the Rupununi Rodeo, Bartica Regatta, and the fun-filled Easter traditions that make our homeland so unique.

Reconnect with the warmth, culture, and beauty of Guyana—there's no place like home.



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Dentists: Dr. Clive R. Jagan, Dr. Shane A. Jagan,
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CLINICAL SERVICES OFFERED:

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- Laser Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implantology (Implants)
- Endodontics (Rootcanals)
- Prosthodontics (Dentures, Crown & Bridge, Veneers, etc.)
- Pedodontics (Kiddy Dentistry)
- Periodontics (Gum Surgeries, Deep Scaling, De-pigmentation, etc.)
- Oral Surgery (Extractions)