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Ali, Holness meet, talk partnership

Guyana President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Prime Minister of Jamaica Dr. Andrew Holness have pledged to not only strengthen the friendship and co-operation that the two nations share, but to partner in critical areas for the benefit of all their citizens.

During Holness' recent visit to Guyana, the leaders signed several agreements that will help honour those commitments.

During the meeting, they emphasised their mutual commitment to further strengthen the enduring ties of friendship and cooperation between their two countries and peoples and to advance a strategic partnership for the future, aimed at enhancing integration, promoting sustainable development, and advancing the well-being of their peoples. The areas of strategic co-operation that were discussed included agriculture and food security, energy, science, technology and innovation, including robotics for healthcare, education through training and development, tourism, as well as opportunities for private sector collaboration and investment.



Corentyne Bridge must be a joint venture

THE Government of Guyana has reaffirmed that the proposed bridge across the Corentyne River must continue as a joint venture with Suriname, rejecting suggestions that only one country should assume sole responsibility for financing the project.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, the government said it has taken note of a recent statement from Suriname concerning the financing of the bridge and stressed that the project had, from its inception, been conceived as a shared undertaking between the two states.

"From the inception of this initiative, the bridge has been conceived as a joint project," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

Refuting Suriname's claim that discussions were held in May regarding its intention to pursue the project independently, the ministry emphasised that the meeting focused on Guyana's assistance in response to the severe flooding in Suriname.

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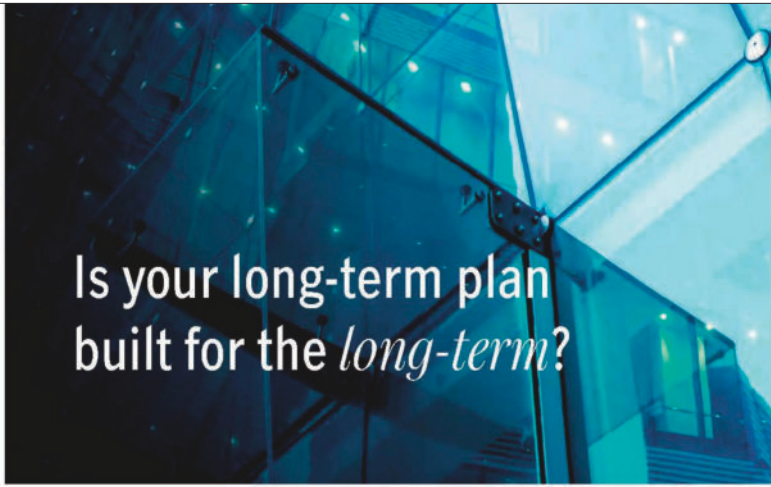
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Olivia Chow (l) and Brad Bradford

Race for Toronto Mayor tightens between Chow, Bradford

By Milan Maharaj
 LJI REPORTER

Mayor of Toronto Olivia Chow is still leading her competitor Brad Bradford in the race for the post of mayor in Toronto, according to the latest public opinion poll that also shows most people in Toronto feel that hosting games during the 2026 FIFA World Cup has been good for the city.

According to a survey conducted by Liaison Strategies, Olivia Chow is leading Brad Bradford by nine percentage points among the decided voters, with 49 per cent of the voters backing Mayor Chow and 40 per cent favouring Brad Bradford, the councillor for Beaches–East York. The rest were undecided about their choice or had backed another candidate.

Even as Olivia Chow leads the race, this poll seems to indicate that Brad Bradford has managed to cut down the margin in comparison to previous polls. Previous polling carried out in spring had shown that the mayor was leading with a bigger margin.

The survey also asked the public about their opinions regarding the hosting of the FIFA World Cup by the city of Toronto. The results show that 61 percent of the respondents found the hosting of World Cup games beneficial for the city of Toronto, and a smaller number of people had negative views about the event. The results indicate that the citizens have a positive attitude despite ongoing discussions concerning the cost of the tournament.

Among the various North American cities chosen to host the games of the expanded 2026 FIFA World Cup is the city of Toronto. Thousands of spectators have visited the city to witness the event, and the officials of the city have promoted the game as an opportunity for Toronto to present itself worldwide along with generating business activities.

The tournament has received criticism from certain citizens and advocacy groups, raising concerns regarding the cost of hosting the games and its justifications.

However, despite the foregoing criticism, the most recent poll revealed that a majority of Toronto residents still regard the World Cup as having a positive effect on the city. This poll revealed that there is support from different categories of residents for the event, and therefore it could be argued that the tournament was viewed favorably by many.

There are a number of issues that will form the basis of the mayoral election in the coming months, and some of these include the cost of housing, public transport, infrastructural development, public safety, and the financial status of the city. There are two candidates who have put forth their ideas regarding the above mentioned issues. Liaison Strategies has been conducting an IVR poll amongst Toronto residents. Like any other public opinion polls, the results of the poll reflect voter sentiments at the time of polling and are not set in stone.

With a few more months left until voters go to the polls, the study indicates that Chow will go into the next phase of the race with a clear advantage, although Bradford is still gathering momentum. On the other hand, the positive public perception of the World Cup's success in Toronto can be considered a good foundation for assessing its long-term effects on the city.

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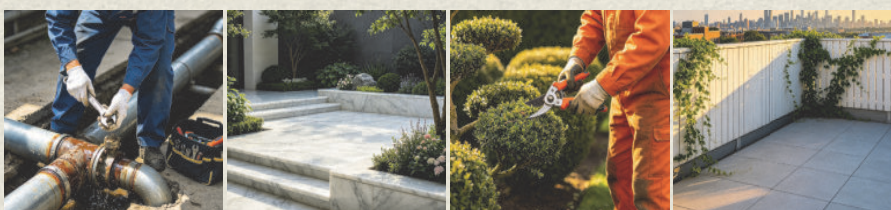


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KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 122

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GOVT DELIVERS \$17 BILLION IN STUDENT SUPPORT THROUGH EXPANDED BECAUSE WE CARE PROGRAMME

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SECURITY, FINANCE, AGRICULTURE LEAD NEW PHASE OF GUYANA-JAMAICA COOPERATION

Guyana and Jamaica have significantly expanded bilateral cooperation after signing a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) at State House in Georgetown, setting the stage for deeper collaboration across agriculture, security, finance, housing, technology, and climate resilience.

The agreements were signed by Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, and Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith, during the official two-day visit of Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

Among the key agreements is an MOU on agriculture cooperation aimed at strengthening food and nutrition security while

advancing regional agricultural integration goals, including support for CARICOM's "25 by 2025 plus five" initiative to reduce the region's food import bill. The partnership is expected



His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali and the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Dr the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, witnessed the signing of multiple Memoranda of Understanding.

to focus on institutional strengthening, human resource development, innovation, education, and trade facilitation between the two countries.

A second agreement

on defence and security cooperation will enhance collaboration in security capacity-building and regional stability. It provides for structured information-sharing mechanisms, regular

on financial services cooperation, committing to modernise financial systems, strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks, and build technical capacity

The two sides also signed an MOU

the visit as a "working engagement" focused on practical outcomes rather than ceremonial diplomacy, noting that both sides had identified multiple areas for immediate implementation. He said additional agreements are expected as cooperation deepens.

President Ali highlighted progress in discussions on energy, housing, tourism, cybersecurity, and defence education. He announced the establishment of a joint working group to explore energy sector collaboration and recommend initiatives benefiting both countries and the wider Caribbean region.

On housing, the president said local financial institutions have already expressed interest in partnerships with developers from

both countries to advance joint housing projects. He also pointed to Jamaica's established tourism and cultural industries as a model for Guyana's emerging "orange economy".

Prime Minister Holness said the signed MOUs represent only a portion of the broader scope of engagement between the two countries, noting that discussions extended to governance reform, public sector modernisation, energy cooperation, and regional diplomacy.

He said both nations share aligned priorities on economic competitiveness and global engagement, adding that the depth of cooperation discussed reflects long-term strategic intent beyond the formal agreements signed during the visit.

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali described

the facility is designed to process 50 million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day, with capacity for future expansion to 120 million standard cubic feet daily.

GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT NEARS CRITICAL STAGE AS ENGINEERS PREPARE FOR COMMISSIONING



Prime Minister Holness and members of the Jamaican delegation on a site visit of the Gas-to-Energy Project

Guyana's Gas-to-Energy project has entered a decisive commissioning phase, with engineers preparing to introduce natural gas into the system as the country edges closer to first electricity generation targeted for December 2026.

Project Manager Luis Pirela said during a site visit to the Wales Development Zone by visiting officials, including Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness, that the facility is now technically ready for gas introduction and is operating on a 24-

hour schedule to meet the deadline.

He explained that methane will be extracted to fuel power generation, while other gas components will be condensed into liquids for storage and industrial use. "The facility separates the molecules and extracts methane, which is then sent to the power generation system as fuel," Pirela said.

He added that by-products could support future industries such as cooking gas supply and plastics manufacturing.

The project, developed with input from about 20 countries, is expected to reduce electricity costs and strengthen energy security once operational.

Pirela said the plant is in its second phase, involving turbine preparation and supporting systems, and will initially operate in simple-cycle mode before shifting to a more efficient combined-cycle configuration. Construction of this phase is expected to be completed within three months, followed by turbine assembly.

"The target is to start power generation in December 2026," he confirmed, noting that teams are working "24 hours a day, seven days a week" to keep the project on schedule.



The Gas-to-Energy Project advancing

GUYANA'S ROBOTIC SURGERY UNIT DRAWS REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) showcased its expanding medical capabilities, including its robotic-assisted surgery programme, during a high-level visit by Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Jamaica's Minister of Health Christopher Tufton.

The delegation visited the hospital on June 26, 2026, where officials were introduced

to Guyana's growing use of advanced medical technology, including the Mantra Freedom60 robotic surgical system. The visiting team was accompanied by Guyana's Minister of Health Frank Anthony and senior GPHC officials.

The system enables minimally invasive procedures with greater precision, reduced recovery times, and lower risk of complications. It has also been linked to

what officials described as the world's longest-distance robotic heart surgery performed across continents.

Chief Executive Officer of GPHC Robbie Rambarran said the visit reflects growing regional confidence in Guyana's healthcare transformation.

He noted that the presence of a CARICOM head of government underscores the country's progress in modern medical

innovation and opens opportunities for deeper regional collaboration in training and specialist care.

The Jamaican delegation also observed a live demonstration of a robotic-assisted surgery as part of the tour, gaining insight into how the technology is improving patient outcomes at GPHC.

Rambarran added that interest in Guyana's healthcare advancements continues



Jamaican PM tours GPHC pioneering robotic surgery technology

to grow, following a similar visit earlier in May by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley.

Officials say the back-to-back visits from regional leaders signal Guyana's

emergence as a hub for advanced healthcare in the Caribbean and strengthen prospects for cooperation in medical training, technology sharing, and specialist services across CARICOM.

GOVT HELPING HOMEOWNERS WITH MORTGAGE COST



President Ali opening the International Building Expo 2026

First-time homeowners will now be able to significantly reduce their tax bills after Government expanded mortgage relief and doubled the income tax ceiling for home loans to \$30 million.

The announcement was made by President

Mohamed Irfaan Ali at the opening of the International Building Expo, where he outlined a series of measures aimed at easing the cost of homeownership and accelerating housing delivery.

Under the revised Section 28 of the Income Tax Act, first-time homeowners will now be able to deduct the full interest paid on their mortgages from their taxable income, significantly reducing annual tax obligations.

“What does this mean in practice? It means the government is sharing the cost of your mortgage with you,” President Ali

said. **“We’re not just giving you access to a loan. We are making**



President Ali opening the International Building Expo 2026

the government your partner in building your home.”

He said the policy would translate into

direct financial relief for families, with homeowners effectively

receiving money back each year when filing taxes, improving disposable income and easing repayment

pressures.

The President noted that demand for housing continues to surge, with 81,000 applications currently in the system. Of these, 67,000 are new applicants who entered since 2020, with an average applicant age of 23, reflecting strong youth demand for homeownership.

He also addressed the issue of land title processing, stating that 30,000 titles have been completed since 2020, while just over 20,000 remain outstanding. He pledged to accelerate delivery, saying the backlog would be cleared at a much faster pace under a new housing development strategy.

“What we took five years to process, we will not take a single year,” he said.

President Ali also pointed to declining mortgage interest rates across commercial banks and the New Building Society, with some institutions now offering rates as low as 3.5 per cent alongside full construction financing options.

He said the reforms form part of a broader push to make housing more affordable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, including single parents, persons with disabilities, and low-income families.

LAND TITLES NOW PROCESSED IN UNDER THREE MONTHS

The Government has reduced the processing time for land titles from more than six months to within three months, according to Minister of Housing Collin Croal.

He made the announcement at the opening of the International Building Expo 2026 at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, crediting improved inter-agency coordination with the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority for

clearing a longstanding backlog.

“Looking back at the last five years, we were able to process over 25,000 titles, and this year alone, for the first six months, we have already processed over 6,500 titles,” Croal said.

He explained that the backlog grew alongside the rapid expansion of the national housing programme, which significantly increased

the number of land titles issued by the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA).

The Ministry has since worked closely with the Land Registry to speed up approvals and improve efficiency.

According to Minister Croal, more than 53,000 house lots were allocated between 2020 and 2025, with over 45 per cent benefitting low-income earners.

The government has also committed to

constructing more than 40,000 new homes over the next five years as part of its housing strategy.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing Vanessa Benn also highlighted the CH&PA’s single-window system, which allows building applications to be processed on a shared digital platform to improve transparency and speed.



New landowners from Lusignan, Region Four, collecting their Certificates of Title at the expo.

OVER 1,000 HOUSE LOTS ALLOCATED, 2,100 TITLES DISTRIBUTED AT BUILDING EXPO ‘DREAM REALISED’ INITIATIVE



Residents of Leonora, Region Three, and Good Hope, Region Four, collecting their Certificates of Title

Thousands of Guyanese benefitted from housing services and homeownership opportunities during the Ministry of Housing and Water’s ‘Dream Realised’ initiative at the International Building Exposition 2026, with more than 1,000 house lots allocated and over 2,100 land titles made available for collection.

Housing and Water Minister Collin Croal said the initiative brought

critical housing services directly to citizens, reducing processing times while expanding access to government programmes designed to support homeownership.

Among the major achievements of the four-day event was the distribution of certificates of title to residents of Plantation Vriesland, Laurencia/Catherina, Plantation Leonora West, Good Hope and Plantation

Lusignan.

“We’ve made available over 2,100 certificates of title, with at least over 50 per cent already uplifted,” Minister Croal disclosed.

Persons who were unable to collect their documents during the exposition can still do so at the ministry’s central office or the Region Three Housing Office.

The minister also announced that more than 1,000 house lots were allocated along the East Coast of Demerara, while over 700 allottees signed sale agreements for residential developments at Vive La Force, West Bank Demerara and De Kinderen on the West Coast of Demerara.

In addition, more than 70 steel and cement

subsidy vouchers valued at over \$17 million were distributed to eligible beneficiaries in Region Three to assist with home construction.

The housing drive formed part of a broader effort by the government to expand homeownership and support the growing demand for housing among Guyanese, particularly young people.

During a visit to the exposition, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali encouraged youths to capitalise on opportunities being created through Guyana’s rapid economic growth, including access to education, technical training, entrepreneurship and housing programmes.

The president

interacted with several young attendees, many of whom had already applied for house lots and were pursuing studies through the Government of Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarship programme.

The growing interest among young Guyanese was also reflected in the banking sector’s response. Commercial banks used the exposition to promote mortgage

products tailored to first-time homeowners, with some offering on-site pre-approvals.

Demerara Bank reported that approximately 90 per cent of its home mortgage portfolio consists of customers aged 30 years and younger, highlighting increasing confidence among young Guyanese seeking to own their first homes.



Vive La Force Block A residents, West Bank Demerara, complete processing of Agreements of Sale for previously allocated house lots

JAMAICA'S PM PRAISES GUYANA'S TRANSFORMATION, CALLS HOUSING MODEL A CARIBBEAN BENCHMARK



Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness gets a firsthand look at Guyana's housing sector at the Guyana Building Expo 2026

Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness has praised Guyana's rapid transformation and expanding housing sector, describing the country's development trajectory as "fantastic" and a model for the Caribbean region.

He made the remarks at the opening of the International Building Expo 2026 at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, where he joined President Mohamed Irfaan Ali and thousands of attendees for the start of the four-day event.

Reflecting on his last visit to Guyana nearly eight years ago,

Holness said the changes he witnessed were "remarkable", noting significant progress across infrastructure, housing and national development.

"The development can only be described as fantastic," he said, adding that Guyana's 60th Independence anniversary marks an important moment to reflect on its progress and future direction.

Holness commended the Government's housing programme, stressing that access to secure housing plays a central role in economic stability, social mobility and national prosperity.

He said Guyana's approach goes beyond house construction, pointing to investments in serviced lots, roads, drainage, water, electricity and community infrastructure.

"Your housing programme has involved not just houses, but serviced land, roads, drainage, water, electricity and above all... you are investing in building communities," he said.

The Jamaican Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of integrating housing development with broader systems, including transport, healthcare, education and digital connectivity.

He further praised efforts to streamline approval processes in the housing sector, noting that reduced timelines reflect strong governance and administrative efficiency.

Drawing comparisons with

Jamaica, Holness said his country is working to address a housing deficit of about 150,000 units. While financing is available, he said the main challenge lies in supply-side constraints, including labour shortages, contractor capacity and approval bottlenecks.

He pointed to potential areas of cooperation between Jamaica and Guyana in housing construction, workforce development and the use of emerging construction technologies.

Holness also thanked Guyana for its support following the impact of a Category Five hurricane on Jamaica, noting Guyana's rapid response and deployment of relief supplies and engineering support through the Guyana Defence Force.

He said the assistance reflected strong Caribbean solidarity and regional partnership in times of crisis.

Turning to the



A selection of housing units exhibited by private developers during the International Building Expo 2026



The Ministry of Housing - Central Housing and Planning Authority's model homes

future, Holness urged Caribbean countries to embrace innovation and accelerate development using modern technologies.

"This is the era of getting things done at the speed of thought," he said, warning that the region must keep pace with global technological change.

He congratulated Guyana on its Independence anniversary and commended the organisers of the International Building Expo, expressing confidence that Guyana's growth will continue to serve as a regional example.

GUYANA TO BUILD 300 HOMES IN SECOND PHASE OF JAMAICA HURRICANE RECOVERY

Guyana will begin a second phase of support for Jamaica's recovery from Hurricane Melissa with the construction of more than 300 homes, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced.

The commitment was made at the opening of the International Building Expo at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, where Jamaican Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness was present.

President Ali said

the initiative forms part of Guyana's continued support following the devastation caused by the late-October 2025 hurricane, which left widespread damage to homes, hospitals, power infrastructure and government buildings.

"Our promised second phase of support in your recovery programme will be delivered. We are known for keeping our promises," the President said.

He added that the housing programme will engage Guyana's construction sector, including builders, suppliers and financial institutions, as work begins on delivering the new homes in Jamaica.

"Let us start with Jamaica in building that 300-plus homes," he said.

Beyond housing, President Ali said both countries are exploring wider cooperation in energy, culture and sport, including athlete

training exchanges and plans for a regional cricket academy. He described the discussions as part of a growing partnership between governments, private sector actors and citizens.

Hurricane Melissa, the most powerful storm in Jamaica's recorded history, struck in October 2025, causing extensive destruction. Guyana was among the first CARICOM states to respond, sending emergency supplies



Members of the Guyana Defence Force help restore hurricane-damaged homes in Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa

including generators, tarpaulins, chainsaws, food, water tanks and construction materials.

Since then, Guyanese engineering troops have been working alongside the Jamaica Defence Force on reconstruction efforts under a regional recovery mission aimed at restoring housing before Christmas.



Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall SC, meeting with the Guyana Association of Bankers Inc. (GABI) and other key stakeholders.

GOVT AND BANKS CLEAR PATH FOR CONDOMINIUM MORTGAGE FINANCING

The government and the banking sector have confirmed that Guyana's legal and institutional framework fully supports condominium mortgage financing, with no barriers to registration under the Condominium Act 2022.

This was established during a high-level meeting convened by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, at the

Attorney General's Chambers, involving representatives from the Guyana Association of Bankers Inc., (GABI), the Deeds and Land Registries, the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA), and legal officers.

Officials reviewed existing administrative processes and agreed that while greater coordination and staff training is needed across agencies, the legislation

itself is sound and fully operational.

The meeting concluded that there are no legal impediments preventing financial institutions from processing condominium-related mortgages.

The engagement forms part of broader efforts aligned with President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's directive for the banking sector to play a stronger role

in expanding financial inclusion and improving access to housing finance.

Participants also emphasised the need for closer collaboration among banks, CHPA and the Deeds Registry to improve efficiency and ensure consistent application of procedures within the housing finance system.

GUYANA-BARBADOS E-ID TRAVEL BEGINS AS FIRST PASSENGERS CROSS BORDER USING DIGITAL CARD



Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Senior Superintendent Stephen Telford

Guyana and Barbados have ushered in a new era of regional travel, successfully completing the first cross-border journey using electronic identification (e-ID) cards in a landmark move aimed at advancing Caribbean integration and digital transformation.

The historic exercise took place on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, through the Eugene F. Correia International Airport, where officials from both countries observed the full travel process using digital identification in place of traditional passports.

The initiative, championed by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, is designed to modernise public services, simplify travel and strengthen regional connectivity. It is the first practical application of a system that officials hope will eventually facilitate seamless travel across the Caribbean.

In a symbolic demonstration of



Officials from both countries observed the full travel process

the programme, Guyana's Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Senior Superintendent Stephen Telford; Barbados' Chief Immigration Officer, Margaret Innes; and Barbados' Minister of Innovation, Industry, Science and Technology, Jonathon Reid, became the first passengers to travel between the two countries using only their respective e-ID cards.

The exercise tested every stage of the travel experience, including airline check-in, immigration processing, boarding procedures and duty-free purchases, confirming the system's readiness for wider use. Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, described the launch as a major achievement born out of

the strong partnership between the two countries and the vision of their leaders.

He stressed that the programme will not be limited to travel between Guyana and Barbados.

"We are not going to stop here. This card will also be used for travel throughout the Caribbean,"

Minister Ally said, adding that discussions are underway with regional carriers, including Caribbean Airlines and LIAT, to expand the system across the region.

Reid said the initiative demonstrates how technology can be leveraged to improve efficiency, remove barriers and enhance the quality of life for Caribbean people.

Telford described

the development as an exciting milestone, noting that citizens can now travel between Guyana and Barbados using a secure digital identity rather than a passport.

Meanwhile, Innes said the initiative reflects the longstanding friendship between the two countries and represents a significant advancement in the region's integration agenda.

Implemented through collaboration among immigration authorities, customs agencies, airlines and other stakeholders, the e-ID travel system is expected to streamline border procedures, reduce travel friction and support the Caribbean's broader push towards digitalisation and the free movement of people.

GUYANA-US PARTNERSHIP STRONGER THAN EVER - PRESIDENT ALI



President Ali at the 250th Independence Anniversary celebrations

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to its strategic partnership with the United States, describing relations between the two countries as stronger than at any point in recent history. Speaking at celebrations marking the United States' 250th Independence Anniversary, President

Ali said the relationship is grounded in shared values, mutual respect and a common commitment to democracy, international peace and the rule of law.

"Our diplomacy is at its strongest, and make no mistake, our joint commitment to international peace, international order, democracy, and the rule of law is at its strongest," the president stated.

He credited years of sustained diplomatic engagement for building trust and creating the foundation for deeper cooperation between the two

nations. The president also commended US Ambassador Nicole Theriot and diplomatic representatives from both countries for strengthening bilateral relations.

Highlighting the growing scope of cooperation, President Ali pointed to major investments and partnerships supporting Guyana's development, particularly in the health sector. He noted that collaborations with leading US institutions, including Northwell Health and Mount Sinai, are helping to transform healthcare delivery through investments



President Ali at the 250th Independence Anniversary celebrations

in infrastructure, technology, training, regulation and emergency medical services.

"Our entire emergency medical system is being reorganised and rebuilt, not for today's standards, but for what will be required by tomorrow's standards," he said.

President Ali also emphasised the shared

responsibility of both nations to promote regional security, protect future generations and support sustainable economic growth.

He welcomed continued US investment and cooperation, underscoring Guyana's commitment to advancing a long-term partnership focused on peace, security and shared prosperity.

8,000-TONNE RELIEF VESSEL SET TO CARRY MAJOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO VENEZUELA

An 8,000-tonne humanitarian vessel is set to transport thousands of tonnes of food, medicine and emergency supplies from Guyana to Venezuela as part of a large-scale regional response to devastating earthquakes that have left widespread destruction, casualties and displacement.

The shipment includes pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, sanitation products, rice, water and other essential relief items intended to support affected communities as rescue and recovery operations continue.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the initiative reflects Guyana's commitment to assisting vulnerable populations, including children, women, the elderly and families impacted by the disaster.

The operation is being coordinated under the leadership of Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips through a multi-agency framework involving the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), Guyana Defence Force (GDF), Guyana Police

Force, private sector partners and volunteers.

Ahead of the vessel's planned departure, close to 100 containers of humanitarian supplies were assembled and processed through a central facility at the Muslim Youth Organisation (MYO) compound on Woolford Avenue, Georgetown. Additional packing operations were carried out at the John Fernandes Limited Container Terminal to ensure efficient distribution upon

arrival.

The humanitarian effort follows two powerful earthquakes that caused extensive damage across Venezuela. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez has expressed gratitude for regional support, including assistance from Guyana.

The operation underscores Guyana's commitment to regional solidarity and humanitarian cooperation as Venezuela continues recovery efforts.



Guyana coordinates major relief operation for earthquake-ravaged Venezuela.

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR FASTER JUSTICE DELIVERY - AS SIX PUISNE JUDGES SWORN IN



The Gas-to-Energy project remains a cornerstone of the Government's strategy to deliver reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy to Guyanese

Six new Puisne Judges were sworn in by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali at his Shiv Chanderpaul Drive office following their appointment by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), in a move aimed at strengthening the capacity of Guyana's judiciary.

The new appointees are Sueanna Lovell, Mandisa Breedy, Christel Lambert-Meertins, Renita Camille Singh, Sunil Scarce and Azeena

Baksh. They bring experience from across the legal and judicial system, including former registrars, magistrates, attorneys-at-law and commissioners of title.

President Ali noted that the latest batch of appointments follows a similar swearing-in of 10 Puisne Judges in June 2024, underscoring what he described as a deliberate effort to reinforce the court system amid rising demand for justice services.

"The swearing in of six more judges reflects a deliberate and necessary effort to strengthen the capacity of our judiciary to meet the demands of an increasingly rights-conscious society," the President said.

He emphasised that while the Executive facilitates judicial appointments in accordance with constitutional provisions, it does not interfere in judicial functions.

"The authority you wield is not your own. You are now arbiters of right and wrong, guardians of fundamental freedoms, and interpreters of law," he told the new judges.

President Ali urged the judges to approach their responsibilities

with urgency and compassion, pointing to the need to address court backlogs and ensure timely access to justice for citizens.

"Every case you dispose of is a citizen who receives closure," he said, adding that delays in the justice system erode public confidence.

Puisne Judges serve in the High Court of Guyana, presiding over civil, criminal and commercial matters. Under the Constitution, appointments are made by the President acting on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission.

The government said the latest appointments form part of wider efforts to modernise and strengthen the justice system and improve efficiency in the delivery of legal services nationwide.



Azeena Baksh



Sueanna Lovell



Christel Lambert-Meertins



Sunil Scarce



Mandisa Breedy



Renita Camille Singh



Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), Enrique Monize

The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) is currently surveying 8,000 acres of land to support the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) in its efforts to reduce the country's growing housing application backlog.

The disclosure was made by GLSC Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer Enrique Monize during the commission's 25th Anniversary and Awards Ceremony at Durban Backlands.

Monize said the land is being prepared for transfer to CHPA across all administrative regions except Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica), and will be used exclusively for housing development rather than commercial sale.

"We continue to provide and survey lands for every aspect of development that is currently unfolding in Guyana," Monize said, citing housing, hospitals, schools and other national infrastructure projects.

The intervention comes as Guyana faces a surge in housing demand, with applications between 2020 and 2025 increasing by more than 200 per cent compared



President Ali addressing the ceremony

to the previous five-year period. Regions Three and Six have recorded the sharpest increases.

The government is currently addressing a backlog of more than 80,000 housing applications. CHPA's Chief Executive Officer Dr Martin Pertab has estimated that approximately 5,500 acres of land, along with nearly \$30 billion in infrastructure investment, will be required to meet demand.

Housing Minister Collin Croal has pledged to clear the backlog nationwide, although Region Four alone accounts for about 52,000 applicants, requiring sustained land acquisition and inter-agency coordination.

Beyond housing, the GLSC said it has also supported several major national infrastructure projects, including the East Bank and West Demerara road networks, the new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River

Bridge alignment, the gas pipeline corridor, and national power transmission routes.

The commission reported that more than 9,000 lease approvals were processed and issued to citizens up to the end of 2025.

At the same event, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced a major modernisation drive for the agency, outlining plans to fully digitise the GLSC within four years.

He said the transformation will integrate advanced technologies across all departments to improve efficiency, transparency and service delivery, particularly as demand for land increases across housing, mining, forestry

and infrastructure sectors.

"Our objective in the next four years is to deliver an agency that is fully digitised and one which will fully implement the most advanced technology in every department," President Ali said.

He stressed that effective land administration is critical to national development, noting that delays in land management can slow major projects.

The GLSC, established in 2001 under the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission Act, manages state lands, mapping and surveying services, and supports national planning.

GUYANA SECURES SEAT ON EITI INTERNATIONAL BOARD- MINISTER BHARRAT TO REPRESENT LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Guyana will now be represented on the International Board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the next three years, following the appointment of Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat as a Principal Member of the

Implementing Country Constituency.

Minister Bharrat will serve as the representative for the Latin America and Caribbean region for the 2026-2029 term, according to an announcement by the EITI International

Secretariat on June 30, 2026.

His nomination followed a four-month regional selection process that ran from February to June this year.

The appointment comes as Guyana undergoes its 2026



Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat

EITI Validation process, which evaluates progress in transparency, data disclosure, and cooperation between government, industry and civil society.

Bharrat's elevation places Guyana in a stronger position within global extractive

governance structures at a time of rapid expansion in its oil, gas and mining sectors.

The ministry said the role will also reinforce Guyana's commitment to open data, revenue accountability and beneficial ownership transparency.

GOVT DELIVERS \$17 BILLION IN STUDENT SUPPORT THROUGH EXPANDED BECAUSE WE CARE PROGRAMME



\$85,000 'Because We Care' Cash Grant provides relief for families



\$85,000 'Because We Care' Cash Grant provides relief for families



\$85,000 'Because We Care' Cash Grant provides relief for families

Thousands of parents and guardians across Guyana have welcomed the successful nationwide distribution of the expanded Because We Care education support package, which delivered \$85,000 per child to students in the public and private school

systems. The programme combines a \$60,000 cash grant, a \$5,000 uniform grant and a \$20,000 transportation grant, aimed at easing the financial burden on families ahead of the new school year.

For many

households, the support has provided significant relief amid rising costs for books, uniforms, transportation and other school-related expenses.

The initiative is particularly impactful for single-parent families and guardians caring for children in vulnerable

circumstances.

Mark Knights, who is raising his son following the passing of the child's mother, said the assistance has helped ease the strain of managing education costs alongside daily responsibilities.

"It has been hard on me because I've got to work and bring him to school. This cash grant would help me out a lot," he said.

Foster parent Joycelyn Williams said the support ensures children in her care have equal access to school necessities and opportunities.

"This cash grant is going to be a boost... they won't feel less

than anybody else because they can get what they need," she said.

Parents across several regions reported using the funds to purchase uniforms, school supplies, laptops, mobile devices and transportation services to prepare children for the academic year.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag praised the efficiency of the nationwide exercise, noting that careful planning by the ministry and regional education teams ensured a smooth rollout.

The expanded programme fulfills a key commitment of the PPP/C administration and was reinforced

in Budget 2026 by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh.

Approximately 206,000 students are benefitting from the initiative this year. The government said the programme represents a \$12.4 billion investment through the cash grant component alone, alongside an additional \$2 billion in household support. Combined with the uniform and transportation grants, total investment in the programme amounts to approximately \$17 billion, aimed at strengthening access to education nationwide.

PRESIDENT ALI REJECTS SOLO BRIDGE PLAN, INSISTS CORENTYNE CROSSING REMAINS JOINT GUYANA-SURINAME PROJECT

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed that the proposed Corentyne River Bridge remains a joint undertaking between Guyana and Suriname, dismissing suggestions that either country could move forward independently with the transformative infrastructure project.

Speaking on the sidelines of the swearing-in ceremony of six Puisne Judge, President Ali underscored that the bridge continues to be discussed and advanced as a bilateral initiative between the

two neighbouring states.

"The bridge is a bridge that is being discussed jointly, as a joint project, by the Government of Guyana and the Government of Suriname, and that is how it will be," the president stated.

His comments come in response to recent remarks by Suriname's Public Works and Spatial Planning Minister Stephen Tsang, who reportedly indicated that Suriname was prepared to finance the project on its own.

President Ali said no



President Ali speaking to reporters on the issue

such proposal has been formally presented to Guyana.

"There is no other official position that is before me. There is no other official request that is before me," he said.

The head of state added that should any alternative proposal be submitted, the government would address it directly.

"If any other request is made, then at that time I will be in a position to pronounce on it, and you can rest assured that I will pronounce

decisively on it," he stressed.

The Corentyne River Bridge is expected to be developed under a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Maintain (DBFOM) model through a Public-Private Partnership arrangement.

Asked about Suriname's river-use charges imposed on local operators, President Ali said he has not received any recent complaints from users regarding challenges arising from the measure.

ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL TO GAIN STATE-OF-THE-ART ANNEXE WITH LABS AND SPECIALIST ROOMS



Visual of the new Annexe

Construction will soon begin on a \$421.2 million annexe at St Joseph High School in Georgetown following a ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of the major expansion project.

The 22,360-square-foot facility will add 10

classrooms alongside specialised spaces including physics and biology laboratories, an AutoCAD room, Allied Arts room, clothing and textiles and home management classrooms. It will also feature a sick bay, counselling room,

staff room and modern washroom facilities.

The project is aimed at easing overcrowding and expanding the school's academic offerings, according to Minister of Education Sonia Parag.

"If we are going to give you access, it is also extending existing schools so that we do not place you in a position where you are overcrowded and cannot thrive in that environment," she said at the ceremony.

The annexe will be constructed along the school's northern boundary, a location

selected to maximise space while preserving the functionality of the existing campus. The design includes improved lighting and ventilation, upgraded drainage, modern fire safety systems and elevated flooring to enhance flood resilience.

The two-storey structure is also designed to be fully accessible and compliant with disability standards.

First Lady Arya Ali, a former student of St Joseph High School, described the project as more than a physical development, calling it an investment in the country's future leaders.

"Each brick that will be placed... signifies our collective confidence in our young people,"

she said, noting the personal significance of returning to her alma

mater for the ceremony.

The annexe is expected to be completed within 10 months, significantly expanding the school's capacity and learning environment for incoming students.



Sod turning for new Annexe at St Joseph High School

GUYANA, UAE MOVE TO EXPAND COOPERATION

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre in Georgetown, alongside private sector representatives from both countries.

Discussions focused on expanding investment and cooperation

across agriculture and agro-processing, energy, security, digitisation, aviation and pharmaceutical development.

The President emphasised that technology and innovation remain central to Guyana's development strategy, underscoring the Government's focus



President Ali meeting with the United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Trade, Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, and private sector representatives from Guyana and the UAE.

on modernisation and diversification. He encouraged actors from both sides to move beyond transactional engagement and build lasting partnerships through exchange and collaboration deliver tangible results.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for

Finance Dr Ashni Singh and Minister of Public Service Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally, along with other officials, attended the meeting.

The engagement forms part of ongoing efforts to deepen economic ties between Guyana and the United Arab Emirates and attract investment.

UAE INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP TARGETS GUYANA'S GROWING ENERGY DEMAND

Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Arab Emirates-based Global South Utilities Power Enterprises Investment LLC (GSU), marking a significant step in the country's efforts to modernise and expand its electricity sector.

The agreement was signed following engagements between a GSU delegation, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, and key public and private sector

stakeholders.

The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation in three critical areas: power generation, renewable energy development, and smart electricity infrastructure.

Under the agreement, the two entities will work together to identify and assess potential energy projects, undertake feasibility studies, and

explore financing and technical cooperation opportunities. Specific projects will be governed by separate agreements.

GSU brings extensive experience in developing, financing and operating power infrastructure projects across emerging markets, positioning the company to support Guyana's rapidly growing energy needs.

The partnership is expected to advance

renewable energy integration, strengthen generation capacity, and introduce smart grid technologies designed to improve efficiency and reliability.

The agreement comes as Guyana continues to pursue major investments in energy infrastructure to support economic expansion and rising electricity demand across the country.



GPL signs strategic MoU with UAE's Global South Utilities to advance power generation, renewable energy and smart electricity infrastructure.

NEW AIRSTRIP SET TO TRANSFORM REGION TWO MOBILITY

Hundreds of residents gathered in the Mainstay/Whyaka Amerindian village to witness the commissioning of the newly upgraded Anna Regina Airstrip, a \$221 million project expected to significantly improve connectivity and economic opportunity across Region Two.

The upgraded runway, measuring 2,000 feet by 50 feet, was officially commissioned by President Dr

Mohamed Irfaan Ali, alongside Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works Deodat Indar Ramraj, other Cabinet ministers, and local residents as part of a two-day outreach to the region.

President Ali said the project reflects his Government's "One Guyana" philosophy, stressing that infrastructure development is central



The new airstrip.

to national inclusion and equal opportunity.

"Building an airstrip is about connection. It is about inclusion. It is about One Guyana in action," he said, adding that such investments help reduce travel time **"not by minutes, but by days."**

He noted that airstrips are vital lifelines for remote communities, pointing to examples where air access has enabled rapid emergency response

during disasters. **"When access improves, inequality shrinks,"** he said, underscoring infrastructure as a tool for national integration.

Toshao Marsha Williams, speaking on behalf of the Mainstay/Whyaka Village Council, welcomed the development, thanking the Government for its continued support and describing the airstrip as a key step in improving quality of life and expanding opportunities for residents.

ANNA REGINA STADIUM COMMISSIONED

The newly commissioned Anna Regina Stadium is expected to transform Region Two into a major sporting destination, according to President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who says the facility will unlock new opportunities for athletes while strengthening tourism and regional development.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony before hundreds of residents, President Ali described the stadium as more than a sports venue, calling it

a long-term investment in the people and future of Essequibo. He said it ends the long-standing reality where cricket fans in the region had to travel to Georgetown to witness international matches.

"We are celebrating not only the opening of a stadium. We are celebrating the beginning of something new," he said.

The President announced that the facility is already being positioned to host major events, including the Over-40 Men's World

Cup, while Guyana has also applied to host matches in the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) next year.

He reflected on the hardship previously faced by fans, who often endured hours of travel involving buses, boats and overnight stays just to attend matches at the National Stadium.

"Today, the children of Region Two can dream without first calculating transportation costs," he said.

The stadium,

equipped with ICC-standard floodlights, will accommodate cricket as well as football and athletics. Cricket legends Brian Lara and Shivnarine Chanderpaul attended the event, adding to its historic significance.

President Ali said the project forms part of a wider development push, including a new asphalt road to Mainstay, a planned four-lane highway from Supenaam to Charity, a medical school in Region Two, expanded tourism and agro-processing, and a projected 50 per cent



President Ali with residents during the commissioning of the Anna Regina National Stadium, which drew a large turnout despite heavy rain.

reduction in electricity costs.

He said these investments aim to ensure every region benefits from Guyana's

rapid development, building what he called **"a comprehensive ecosystem for the success of families and children."**



New regional pharmaceutical bond and Materials Management Unit (MMU) in Region Two

NEW DRUG BOND TO CUT MEDICINE DELIVERY TIMES ACROSS REGION TWO

Patients across Region Two and parts of Region One are set to benefit from faster and more reliable access to medicines following the commissioning of a new Ministry of Health Drug Bond at Onderneeming, Region Two.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali described the facility as a major advancement in the government's efforts to decentralise healthcare services, modernise pharmaceutical distribution and improve

patient care nationwide.

The new drug bond will serve hospitals, health centres and health posts throughout Region Two, including remote communities along the Pomeroon River, while providing additional support to neighbouring Region One.

According to President Ali, medicines that previously took days or even weeks to reach hinterland and riverine communities from Georgetown can now be delivered in less than a

day. "This facility changes that in a dynamic way," the president said, noting that the expanded storage capacity will allow health authorities to maintain adequate supplies tailored to the region's needs while strengthening emergency response capabilities.

The facility forms part of a broader transformation of Guyana's healthcare logistics network. Government is developing a fully digitised inventory management system powered by artificial intelligence to monitor

medicine stocks in real time, predict shortages, reduce waste and improve accountability throughout the supply chain.

President Ali said the investment supports wider healthcare improvements already underway in Region Two, including mammography services, CT scanning, eye care programmes and the imminent commissioning of dialysis services at the Suddie Public Hospital.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony said the bond will serve as a regional logistics hub, ensuring uninterrupted access

to essential medicines and supporting the government's initiative to provide patients living with chronic illnesses with up to three months' supply of medication at a time.

The facility also features modern cold-storage systems for vaccines and temperature-sensitive pharmaceuticals,

alongside a digital tracking platform designed to improve stock management and ensure medicines reach patients efficiently.

The commissioning marks another step in the government's push to build a more responsive and accessible healthcare system across Guyana.



Medication is being stored in the facility

OVER \$1.5B INJECTED INTO REGION TWO ECONOMY AS PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES NEW INVESTMENTS



Scene from the outreach.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced a wide-ranging package of investments for Region Two, combining more than \$400 million in direct grants for rice farmers with new commitments in housing, education, agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare and tourism aimed at accelerating development across the region.

The announcements were made during a Cabinet outreach that took the president and government officials

farmers at the Anna Regina Town Council, President Ali said over 5,100 farmers cultivating more than 235,000 acres nationwide will benefit from the cash grant programme aimed at strengthening profitability and



A new \$30 million health centre and completed \$30 million staff living quarters was commissioned at Red Hill.

resilience in the rice sector.

"This is a government you can trust. This is a government that continues to work alongside you," the president said, pointing to ongoing investments in drainage and irrigation,

assessment of agricultural infrastructure, upgrading farm access dams to all-weather roads, expanding drainage and irrigation systems, and opening new agricultural lands in Region Two.

Government is also advancing modern rice drying and storage facilities, expanding export markets, and promoting value-added rice production. The use of drone technology for fertiliser application and crop spraying is also being explored.

The outreach followed the distribution of more than \$1 billion under the "Because We Care" cash grant programme for students in Region Two. Officials said 12,801 students across 91 schools benefited, with more than \$235 million distributed in the Pomeroon alone.

The president said the combined education and agriculture cash transfers injected more than \$1.5 billion into the regional economy within

two days.

Residents were also briefed on support through the Small Business Bureau and the planned Guyana Development Bank, which will expand access to financing, including interest-free loans of up to \$3 million for small businesses and farmers.

Housing support formed part of the outreach, with 21 families receiving cement and steel vouchers on the Essequibo Coast to assist with home construction and improvement.

In Akawini,

facilities, improved internet connectivity, CSO facilities, and interventions to address delays in birth certificates and pension services.

At Mainstay/Whyaka, the president outlined plans to complete a more than four-kilometre access road, expand pepper production, and develop tourism infrastructure including lakeside cabins. He said production targets would be supported through financing from the Guyana Development Bank. Minister Deodat



Scene from the outreach.

commissioned including the new Anna Regina Stadium and Airstrip. At Red Hill, the Ministry of Health opened a \$30 million health centre and completed a \$30 million staff quarters project to serve about 500 residents of Manawarin and surrounding communities.

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development also commissioned the Bethany Nursery School, providing a modern learning environment for young children.

The series of interventions forms part of a broader government push to expand access to healthcare, education, housing and economic opportunities across Region Two.



The new Bethany Nursery School was commissioned.

government announced a housing improvement programme targeting more than 200 households, alongside support for beekeeping, honey production and coconut cultivation. Officials also ordered drainage clearance works, road improvements and the design of a secondary school for the community.

Additional commitments included upgrades to sports

Indar also announced that the village will be connected to the national grid within three months.

The outreach also saw new infrastructure



Scene from the outreach.

across communities along the Essequibo Coast, the Pomeroon River and inland Indigenous villages.

Addressing rice

infrastructure, tax relief and direct support to producers.

He announced additional measures including a nationwide



Scene from the outreach.

ACCOUNTANTS MUST ADAPT OR RISK IRRELEVANCE - PRESIDENT ALI WARNS AT ICAC CONFERENCE



President Irfaan Ali delivering the feature address at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Inter-American Accounting Association (ICAC).

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has warned that the accounting profession faces declining relevance unless it rapidly adapts to technological disruption, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging cybersecurity risks.

Speaking at the opening of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Inter-American Accounting Association (ICAC) in Georgetown,

President Ali said accountants must expand beyond traditional financial roles or risk being overtaken by systems and automation.

He told regional delegates that digital transformation is fundamentally reshaping business operations and professional expectations across the world.

“Professions around the world are changing because of systems...we have to decide whether people drive systems or the system is driving people,” he said.

A key focus of his address was the growing importance of cybersecurity and digital assurance within the accounting field. President Ali stressed that accountants will increasingly be required to understand digital systems, assess cyber risks, and contribute to organisational security.

“One area that will

undoubtedly grow is cybersecurity and digital assurance,” he said, warning that technical financial skills alone will no longer be sufficient in the future.

He went further, cautioning that

transition, President Ali announced that Guyana is prepared to work through the National Defence Institute (NDI), in collaboration with international partners, to develop a regional cybersecurity

to take a more active role in organisational leadership, including promoting cybersecurity awareness at executive level and supporting decision-making beyond financial reporting.

He said the profession is moving toward a model where accountants will be expected to interpret data, manage risk, and contribute to strategic planning in real time.

AI, he noted, is accelerating this shift. While acknowledging its benefits, President Ali warned against overreliance on automated systems.

“AI is a tool to help us, but if we allow AI to be the tool that directs us, then we will have challenges,” he said.

He also challenged the region to rethink how professionals are trained, calling for stronger alignment between education systems and evolving labour market needs. He

pointed to partnerships such as those between the University of Guyana and international accounting bodies as positive steps forward.

Beyond technology, President Ali urged Caribbean countries to develop innovative approaches to climate financing, environmental valuation, and regional investment models, including diaspora bonds and other financial instruments.

As Guyana undergoes rapid economic expansion, he said demand for accounting and advisory services will continue to grow, but success will depend on producing professionals equipped for a changing global economy.

He urged delegates to ensure the conference produces practical outcomes that strengthen competitiveness and reposition accountants as key drivers of development across the Caribbean.



Accounting professionals at the conference.

professional value will depend on adaptability. **“No accountant will be valued in the future if you are not trained in cybersecurity in its totality,”** he stated.

To support this

training programme for accountants. The initiative would be rolled out once regional accounting bodies express formal interest.

The president also urged accountants

NEW ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAMME SET TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL HUMAN CAPITAL

A new partnership between the University of Guyana (UG) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is expected to strengthen the country's skilled workforce as Guyana continues its rapid economic expansion.

Addressing the Memorandum of Understanding ceremony at UG, Minister of Education Sonia Parag said the

enhanced accountancy programme, scheduled to begin in September, marks a significant development for tertiary education in the country.

The initiative will offer students a double award qualification with ACCA, providing international recognition and improved technical competencies for graduates entering both the public and private sectors.

“Any country



New Accountancy Programme set to strengthen national human capital

that is transforming at the pace that we are transforming must also have the qualifications to match,” Minister Parag said.

She described the programme as a major advancement for Guyana and the wider Caribbean, noting that it will help meet growing demand for skilled professionals amid ongoing national development.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS W TO STUDY IN JAPAN UNDER NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Young Guyanese engineers, veterinarians and agricultural scientists now have an opportunity to pursue postgraduate studies in Japan under a new scholarship programme facilitated through the Government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Ministry of Public Service, Government Efficiency

and Implementation has opened applications for a limited number of awards for the 2027/2028 academic year, targeting early-career professionals in key technical fields.

The programme covers six areas aligned with Guyana's development priorities, including Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Information



Engineering, Construction and Environmental Engineering at the MEng level. At the MSc level, opportunities are available in Veterinary Science, Water Environmental Engineering, and Plant Genetics and Breeding.

Applicants must be 35 years or younger, hold a valid Guyanese passport, and possess a relevant bachelor's degree with a minimum

GPA of 3.0.

The scholarships are designed to strengthen national capacity by equipping young professionals with advanced technical skills in sectors critical to Guyana's growth.

Interested candidates must apply online via the Ministry of Public Service website. The deadline for submission is July 12, 2026.

GOAL SURPASSES TARGET WITH 54,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AS 3,800 STUDENTS GRADUATE



The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) fourth graduation ceremony

Approximately 3,876 Guyanese have graduated from the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) at its fourth graduation ceremony held at the National Cultural Centre (NCC), marking another milestone in the country's rapidly expanding online education programme.



The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) fourth graduation ceremony

The graduating class of 2,858 women and 1,018 men, reflects widespread national participation, with students completing programmes ranging from certificates and bachelor's degrees to master's and other advanced qualifications. The ceremony was split into two sessions, with undergraduate and certificate recipients honoured in the morning and postgraduate graduates recognised in the afternoon. Delivering the feature

address, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips said the occasion represented both personal achievement and national transformation. He said the GOAL initiative demonstrates Guyana's commitment to investing in its people and expanding access

Prime Minister said. He credited expanded internet access, including nationwide connectivity efforts and the deployment of Starlink devices in remote communities, for ensuring that students in all regions can participate

remote areas. "Education is the catalyst that makes those possibilities real," he said. The ceremony also recognised 1,150 graduates from the Getting Ready for Opportunities to Work

recorded the highest number of graduates with 2,004, followed by Region Three with 609 and Region Six with 350. She praised graduates for their perseverance, noting that many balanced studies with work and family responsibilities.

"It takes courage to return to the classroom," she said. "But today, no one can take this achievement from you."

President of the University of the Southern Caribbean, Dr Colrick Wilson, urged graduates to translate their education into national development, warning that economic growth must be matched by integrity and competence.

"Guyana does not need educated spectators. It needs educated builders," he said, stressing that development depends on discipline, skills and ethical leadership.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, said GOAL represents a central pillar of government's education strategy, alongside free tuition at the University



The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) fourth graduation ceremony

in online learning. "We had to ensure that people in every region and every community could get online and benefit from GOAL," he said, noting that between 2020 and 2025, Guyana achieved what he described as 100 per cent connectivity coverage across coastland and hinterland communities.

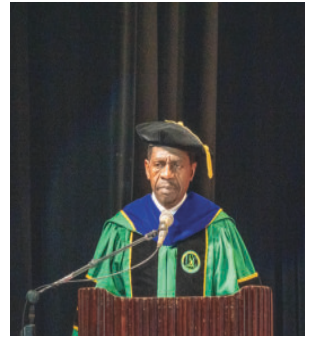
He added that initiatives under the National Data Management Authority and the LEO WiFiGY programme have connected all 253 Indigenous villages, benefitting more than 135,000 residents.

Prime Minister Phillips said these investments have removed geography as a barrier to education and opened opportunities for citizens in even the most

(GROW) programme, designed to support individuals who previously missed out on secondary education or CSEC qualifications. Since its launch, GROW has awarded 14,884 scholarships, with thousands already progressing into further studies or degree programmes.

Additional graduates included 1,308 participants from vocational and certificate courses, 76 students from the ACCA Foundation programme, and 61 cadets who completed Associate Degrees in Maritime Transportation.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag said all 10 administrative regions were represented, underscoring the programme's nationwide reach. Region Four



The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) fourth graduation ceremony

of Guyana and expanded technical training programmes.

He said the initiative was designed to remove long-standing barriers such as cost, geography and time constraints, allowing citizens to study from home.

"The future of Guyana is not something you inherit. It is something you help create," he told graduates.

Dr Singh added that as Guyana's economy continues to expand, opportunities will grow, but success will depend on citizens being prepared to seize them.

The ceremony highlighted GOAL's evolution into one of the largest education access programmes in the country's history, reshaping opportunities for thousands of Guyanese across all regions.



The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) fourth graduation ceremony



Roundabouts at both ends of the New Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge in Region Ten.

Construction of the road network linking the new Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge is advancing steadily, with major works on both approaches nearing completion as the Region Ten infrastructure project moves closer to opening. The Ministry of Public Works reported that the eastern

MAJOR PROGRESS ON APPROACH ROADS TO NEW WISMAR-MACKENZIE BRIDGE

secondary access road is about 60 per cent complete, while the western approach has reached over 77 per cent completion.

Officials noted that prolonged rainfall over the past three months slowed progress on several sections of the works.

Despite weather-related delays, construction continues on key features including a geo-carriageway, medians, and traffic

islands aimed at improving road safety and easing congestion.

Roundabouts are also being built on both sides of the bridge to ensure smooth integration with the Linden-Mabura road and the wider highway network.

Once completed, the bridge and its supporting road system are expected to significantly improve transport efficiency in Linden and strengthen regional connectivity for commuters and freight movement.



Roundabouts at both ends of the New Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge in Region Ten

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INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CONNECTIONS, I

The International Building Expo 2026 brought together innovation, investment and opportunity under one roof, attracting more than 50,000 visitors and over 350 exhibitors to the Guyana National Stadium at Providence.

Held under the theme “Guyana at 60: Building Strong Foundations for a Sustainable Future”, the four-day event showcased the rapid growth of Guyana’s housing, construction and infrastructure sectors while providing a platform for businesses to connect with potential customers, investors and partners.

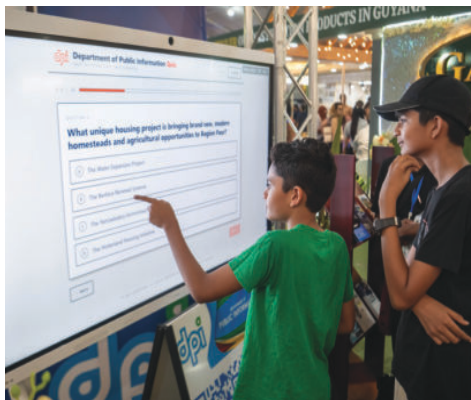
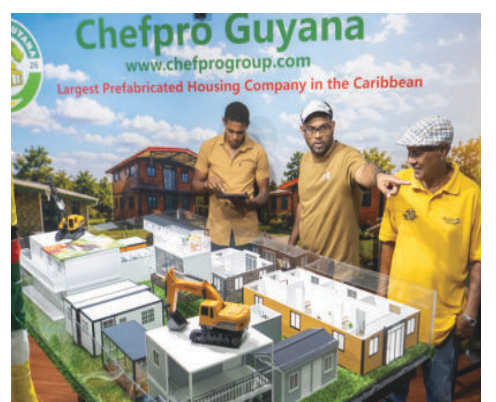
This year’s expo was the largest yet, featuring more than 25 additional booths compared to 2025 and increased international participation from companies representing Costa Rica, Mexico, Japan, the United Kingdom and India.

Visitors explored six model homes, the Small Business Village, heavy-duty equipment displays, a bustling food court, a children’s play area and a range of innovative products and services. The return of technical seminars also added an educational component, with experts delivering presentations on sustainable urban planning, climate-resilient construction, smart technologies and housing finance.

Beyond the exhibits, the expo served as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and economic growth, creating new opportunities for local businesses to expand their reach and showcase their capabilities to a diverse audience.



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GOAL GRADUATES SHARE STORIES OF RESILIENCE, SACRIFICE AND SUCCESS



Rebecca Singh holds a Master's Degree in Education Leadership

Inside the National Cultural Centre on June 23, 2026, thousands of graduates crossed the stage during the fourth graduation ceremony of the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL). While certificates, degrees and diplomas were handed out throughout the day, the occasion was about much more than academic achievement.

It was a celebration of perseverance, sacrifice and opportunity.

Among the graduates was Rebecca Singh of Annai Village in Region Nine, who completed a Master's Degree in Education Leadership during one of the most difficult periods of her life.

The same year she enrolled in the programme, Singh lost her husband.

"Mentally, I was not prepared for this programme, nor emotionally, because I would have lost someone who was one of the foundations in my life," she recalled.

At times, she questioned whether she could continue. Yet through determination and resilience, she completed the 18-month programme and proudly joined thousands of fellow graduates on graduation day.

For Yannick Small of Region Two, earning a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology was equally personal.

"One of the key reasons why I did this master's was for my mother," he said.

journey they undertook together.

Aliyah Allen, 24, Alanzo Allen, 22, and Andron Allen, 20, described their three years of study as challenging but rewarding. There were moments of doubt and long hours of coursework, but they persevered, encouraging one another along the way.

The experience, they said, pushed them beyond what they thought possible and

studying... balancing work and study and being parents," they reflected.

What stood out most, however, was the cost, or lack of it.

They explained that during their undergraduate studies overseas, they each paid approximately \$700,000 for a single year of university education. Through GOAL, they earned postgraduate qualifications without taking on debt.

"It was an exhilarating experience to have a high-level qualification and not have to pay," they said.

For Nicholas Hinds, the programme provided an opportunity to pursue higher education at home.

Born in Guyana but educated overseas, Hinds enrolled in the International Business Foundation Certificate programme while

dedicated time in the mornings and at night to continue my studies."

Like many graduates, he believes GOAL has opened doors for people who may never have had the chance to continue their education.

That sentiment was echoed by Kenneth Edwards, who completed a professional development and personal communication programme.

"It really helped me in my professional life as well. It was a great experience," he said.

He also highlighted the opportunities now available to residents of hinterland and indigenous communities, encouraging others to take advantage of them.

Across the hall, graduate Parmeshwar Netram offered another reminder that education has no age limit.

At 59 years old,



Yannick Small holds a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology

qualified for it," he said. **"It wasn't easy given my age, but I persevered, and I am here."**



(From right) Andron Allen, Aliyah Allen and Alanzo Allen

"She always wanted the best for all her children."

Small's mother, who raised her family as a single parent, died of cancer in 2021. Receiving his degree represented the fulfilment of a dream they once shared.

As a secondary school teacher, he believes the qualification will help him better understand and support students facing behavioural and emotional challenges.

Elsewhere in the auditorium, the Allen siblings from the Pomeroun reflected on a

allowed them to build lasting friendships while gaining valuable knowledge.

For husband-and-wife team Jermaine Joseph and Nikita Noble-Joseph, graduation represented a shared accomplishment.

The couple completed a master's degree in Agile Methodologies and Digital Transformation through Structuralia University in Spain while balancing work, parenting and academic responsibilities.

"Late nights, continuous



Jermaine Joseph and Nikita Noble-Joseph

managing several he returned to the businesses. the classroom and earned

"Time was the challenge because I manage different businesses," he explained. **"It was very difficult, but I**

logistics all my life but I was never



Nicholas Hinds

His smile said the rest.

For many gathered inside the packed auditorium, graduation day was more than a ceremony. It was proof that opportunity, combined with determination, can transform lives; whether for a young student seeking a brighter future, a professional advancing a career, a parent balancing family responsibility, or someone proving that it is never too late to learn.

TUSCHEN-RUIMZEIGHT BYPASS PROJECT ADVANCES AS BID PROCESS OPENS FOR CONTRACTORS

The government has advanced plans to ease long-standing traffic congestion on the West Coast of Demerara with the opening of the bidding process for a major alternative bypass road from Tuschen to Ruimzeight.

The Ministry of Housing and Water, through the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA), has invited sealed bids from eligible contractors for 13 lots under the project,

which is being procured through the National Competitive Bidding process in line with the Procurement Act 2003.

Bidding documents, were available from June 30, 2026, with submissions closing on July 13, 2026. A pre-bid site visit is scheduled for July 8 at the parking lot of the National Track and Field Facility at Leonora. The construction period for each lot is estimated at eight months.

The alternative



The \$15.1 Billion Schoonord to Crane Four-lane Highway on the West Bank of Demerara

route forms part of a wider national effort to improve transport connectivity, support housing expansion, and stimulate economic activity along the West Coast Demerara corridor.

The project is backed by significant investments outlined in Budget 2026, which allocated \$14.7 billion for development in Region Three. Of this, \$123 million has been earmarked for bridge

construction, while \$493 million is allocated for public works, including \$100 million for road rehabilitation.

The bypass is expected to significantly reduce travel times, improve traffic flow, and provide better access for residents as residential and commercial development continues to expand across the region.

New wave of investors eyeing Guyana beyond oil and gas

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali recently said more than four international delegations are set to visit Guyana in the coming days to pursue investments in tourism, food production, manufacturing, and value creation.

Speaking at the commissioning of two new aircraft for Jags Aviation and the celebration of the company's 12th anniversary, Dr Ali said that the world is now looking at Guyana in a fundamentally different way, with investors increasingly focused on the non-oil economy.

He disclosed that several delegations are due shortly, all targeting diversified opportunities.

"In the coming days, I'll be welcoming more than four international delegations, all interested not in oil and gas, but in investing in tourism, in investing in food production, investing in manufacturing, and investing in value creation. That does not happen by accident, but by a decisive understanding and a bold communication of the Guyana we want to build," he said.

The president stressed that this shift did not occur by accident, but is the result of "careful planning" and a decisive understanding of building a diverse economy.

Framing the moment as part of a broader development vision, Dr Ali said the country is on the cusp of an "unbelievable future" for every citizen, provided that Guyanese remain committed to hard work, sacrifice, and national cohesion.

"This country is going to have an unbelievable future. Every citizen of this country will have that, but it will not happen by accident. It is happening because of careful planning. It must happen because of the ability to sacrifice [and] hard work," he said, adding:

"Nothing can replace hard work. The essentials of success have never changed. Essentials of success remain the ability to work and work hard, the ability to sacrifice and commit, regardless of how much money a country have [sic], [or] how much revenue is coming in."

He maintained that the current investment wave reflects a deliberate effort to present Guyana internationally, not just as an oil producer, but as a hub for food security, sustainable tourism, and value-added manufacturing in the wider Caribbean and South American space.

"The world is discovering a Guyana that is completely different," the President said, adding that the focus on value creation and production is central to ensuring that prosperity is broad-based and sustainable.

The president used the occasion to situate aviation within the country's wider diversification agenda, describing air transport as a critical enabler of tourism, investment, and national cohesion.

He reminded the audience that Guyana's "vast forests, mighty rivers, scattered communities, and immense dis-



President Dr Irfaan Ali

tances" mean that aviation cannot be treated as a luxury reserved for a few.

"In such a landscape, aviation is not a luxury, it is a lifeline. It connects people to opportunities, it connects producers to markets, it connects families to essential services, it connects remote communities to the broader national economy," Dr Ali said.

To this end, the president highlighted plans to upgrade and expand airport infrastructure as part of a 10-point aviation strategy.

He pointed to ongoing work on Ter-

minal Two at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), which he described as a state-of-the-art facility designed to be not just a terminal, it is built as an "experience," showcasing Guyana's heritage, culture, biodiversity, and ecosystem.

In addition, he signalled that the long-discussed Rose Hall Municipal Airport and Lethem Municipal Airport are moving from aspiration to execution, calling them "no longer dreams of the past," but "realities of the present" that will be built to enhance regional connectivity.

"Visitors are arriving in increasing numbers. Investors are exploring opportunities across our regions. Tourists are seeking authentic experiences," he said.

These projects, he suggested, will make it easier for in-bound visitors to see opportunities first hand and for domestic producers to reach new markets.

President Ali sought to distance Guyana's global image from a single-sector story, insisting that the country must be seen and must present itself as a diversified production centre, a tourism destination and a logistics and aviation hub.

He noted that the government's focus on value creation, rather than mere extraction or import dependence, is central to ensuring that the benefits of growth are "broad-based and sustainable," and that communities across Guyana share in the gains from investment.

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Mustapha denies Mohamed's claim, says dirty politics

MINISTER of Agriculture Zul-fikar Mustapha has firmly rejected allegations made against him by businessman and political figure Azrudin Mohamed regarding the Black Belly Sheep Project, describing the claims as “false, malicious and entirely without merit” and part of a broader campaign of politically and personally motivated attacks.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Mustapha said the latest accusations represented the continuation of what he described as a sustained effort to spread misinformation and damage his reputation, as well as that of his family members and associates.

“The allegations against me are false, malicious and entirely without merit,” the minister stated, asserting that the accusations identified no wrongdoing on his part and instead sought to create public suspicion through speculation and innuendo.

Mustapha said he had largely refrained from responding to previous allegations and social media attacks directed at him and his family because many of them lacked credibility. However, he said he chose to address the latest accusations because they reflected what he described as an “emerging and troubling pattern” of public accusations aimed at advancing a narrative of political victimisation.

According to the minister, Mohamed's public statements and social

media activity appear designed to apply pressure, intimidate others, and reinforce claims that he is being politically persecuted.

“The people of Guyana should recognise these attacks for what they are,” Mustapha said, arguing that Mohamed became involved in politics long after legal proceedings and investigations involving him in the United States had already commenced.

The Minister of Agriculture further contended that Mohamed's allegations form part of a broader strategy to frustrate ongoing legal proceedings while targeting individuals whom he believes have distanced themselves from or declined to support him.

Mustapha also addressed allegations involving his son, describing him as a successful businessman, gold miner and qualified medical doctor who has never been involved in politics.

He claimed that his son had been subjected to repeated public attacks after deciding to sever ties with Mohamed, whom Mustapha said had harboured a personal grievance against him.

“When my son made the decision to no longer keep his company and to move forward with his own life, the attacks began,” Mustapha stated, adding that his son had suffered significant reputational damage as a result of sustained public criticism and allegations.

REGION TWO RESIDENTS PRAISE SWIFT RESPONSE AFTER SEVERE STORM



Immediate interventions to support the affected residents

When powerful winds tore across communities along the Essequibo Coast on June 24, 2026, many families



Immediate interventions to support the affected residents

feared they would spend the night exposed to the elements.

Roofs were ripped from homes, utility poles toppled, and debris scattered across yards and roadways as an unusual storm swept through parts of Region Two, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

For residents like Jen Bacchus, the experience was frightening and overwhelming.

Standing outside her damaged home shortly after the storm, Bacchus

recalled watching as strong winds peeled zinc sheets from her roof. Unsure of what would happen next, she joined dozens of other residents assessing the damage left behind.

But within hours, help began to arrive.

Government agencies, emergency responders, volunteers and regional officials quickly mobilised to assist affected families, bringing emergency supplies and beginning assessments of damaged properties.

Over the following days, what began as a disaster response evolved into a large-scale recovery effort that has helped more than 130 families return to safe and secure homes.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali travelled to the region shortly after the storm struck, meeting directly with affected residents in communities including Better Hope and Richmond. Accompanied by Cabinet ministers, regional officials and members of the Joint Services, he listened to residents' concerns and

coordinated immediate assistance.

"You come promptly and fix what you have to fix," Bacchus said, expressing gratitude for the support she received from response teams and government officials.

The government launched an emergency roofing assistance programme, distributing

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works Madanlall Ramraj emphasised that the wellbeing of affected residents remained the priority throughout the operation.

Emergency teams worked around the clock, conducting assessments, delivering materials and carrying out repairs, with special attention given



President Dr Irfaan Ali speaking with affected residents



President Dr Irfaan Ali visiting the injured teacher as she received treatment at the Lima Regional Hospital. The teacher was injured when a wall collapsed at Riverstown Primary School

more than 120 tarpaulins to provide temporary shelter while permanent repairs were organised. Families were also assured that zinc sheets and other building materials would be supplied to facilitate reconstruction.

Leading the recovery effort on the ground,

to vulnerable residents, including elderly persons, single mothers and people living with disabilities.

For many families, the assistance meant the difference between spending another night beneath a damaged roof and sleeping safely in their homes.

The storm's impact extended beyond private residences.

Public infrastructure, including the Friendship Health Centre, a nearby primary school, the Anna Regina Fire Station, sections of the Department of Education building, the Anna Regina Library and portions of the new Anna Regina Stadium, also sustained damage. Repair works are ongoing at these facilities.

The recovery effort brought together the Guyana Defence Force, Civil Defence Commission, Guyana Police Force, Regional Democratic Council, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Men on Mission volunteers, private

contractors and community members.

While recovery efforts continue, many residents say the swift response helped ease the uncertainty that followed the storm. For families, the arrival of emergency crews and repair teams brought more than materials and manpower, it brought reassurance that they would not face the disaster alone.



Repairs works conducted on affected homes and public buildings



Repairs works conducted on affected homes and public buildings



Repairs works conducted on affected homes and public buildings

COURT RULES STATE HAS NO LEGAL DUTY TO FUND IDPADA-G



The Hon. Mme. Chief Justice, Roxane George SC.

The High Court has ruled that the State is under no legal obligation to continue funding the International Decade for People of African

Descent Assembly – Guyana Country Coordinating Mechanism Inc. (IDPADA-G Inc.), dismissing the organisation's main claims against the Government.

In a written judgment delivered on June 24, 2026, Chief Justice Roxane George SC (Ag) held that IDPADA-G Inc. has no enforceable right to continued government subventions and rejected claims of breach of contract, legitimate expectation, constitutional property rights, and damages.

The case, filed against the Attorney General, the Minister

of Culture, Youth and Sport, and the Minister of Finance, centred on the cessation of State funding for activities linked to the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (UNIDPAD).

The Court found that no contract existed between the Government and IDPADA-G Inc., noting the absence of a written agreement, offer, acceptance, consideration, or sufficiently certain terms. It agreed with the State's position that any alleged arrangement would be "void ab initio" and unenforceable.

On the issue of legitimate expectation, the Court ruled that Government statements relating to UNIDPAD constituted broad policy pronouncements and not specific promises to the applicant. It further held that funding allocations were directed at a public cause, not a private legal entitlement for any single organisation.

Chief Justice George also rejected arguments that the cessation of funding violated constitutional property rights, finding no legal basis for a continuing entitlement to State subventions.

The Court, however,

granted limited procedural relief, ruling that the unincorporated body associated with IDPADA-G should have been given notice before the final cessation of payments. On that basis alone, it ordered payment of outstanding instalments for October, November and December 2022.

No costs were awarded against the State. The Court also noted that IDPADA-G Inc. was not the proper party to bring the claim and that its substantive case lacked merit.

In its reasoning, the Court emphasised that Government policy

on public funding remains within the executive's discretion. It stated that the State may determine how budgetary allocations for national programmes are implemented and through which agencies, without creating enforceable rights in any specific organisation.

The ruling effectively upholds the State's position that funding for UNIDPAD-related activities was intended for a broad public programme, not a permanent financial obligation to IDPADA-G Inc.

GUYANA ELECTED TO LEAD CARIBBEAN TRANSPORT BODY FOR FIRST TIME

Guyana has achieved a major regional milestone after being elected for the first time to the chairmanship of the Special Committee on Transport of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), strengthening the country's growing influence in regional aviation and transportation.

The election was held during the 31st Extraordinary Session of the ACS Ministerial Council on June 21, 2026. Deputy Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Dr. Saheed Sulaman, will serve as chairman of the committee for the 2026-2027 term.

The appointment places Guyana at the forefront of efforts to improve transportation and connectivity across the Greater Caribbean. Established in 1994, the ACS is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 25 member states and 10 associate members, focused on advancing regional cooperation, sustainable development, integration and connectivity.

Guyana's election aligns with the government's broader vision of positioning

the country as a regional aviation hub while strengthening links among Caribbean nations. The achievement also underscores Guyana's expanding role in regional and international aviation affairs.

Dr. Sulaman brings nearly two decades of aviation leadership and international negotiating experience to the post. Throughout his career, he has negotiated more than 50 Air Services Agreements with over 75 countries across five continents. He also served for more than 15

years on the CARICOM Technical Negotiating Team on Air Services, held the position of Vice Chairman of the ACS Special Committee on Transport from 2022 to 2023, and was appointed an ICAO Global Ambassador in December 2025.

Welcoming the election, Director General of the GCAA and Chairman of the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS), Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Egbert Field, said the appointment reflects the confidence

regional partners have in Guyana's leadership, technical expertise and commitment to regional integration.

As chairman, Dr. Sulaman will lead the committee's efforts to strengthen regional transport cooperation, improve connectivity, advance sustainable and resilient transport systems, and foster greater collaboration among ACS member states in support of economic growth and social development throughout the Greater Caribbean.



Deputy Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Dr. Saheed Sulaman was elected to lead the committee for the 2026-2027 term.

NEW RUNWAY WORKS MARK NEXT PHASE OF CJIA EXPANSION



A new round of being rolled out at major investment is the Cheddi Jagan

International Airport (CJIA), with runway and taxiway upgrades forming the latest phase of expansion aimed at strengthening Guyana's main international gateway.

The airport has invited bids for the reconstruction of Taxiway Charlie and its main runway as part of ongoing efforts to modernise infrastructure and accommodate increasing air traffic demand.

According to a tender notice issued by the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, the project will be executed through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) process under the Procurement Act 2003 and is open to eligible contractors.

The works form part of a wider transformation programme designed to position CJIA as a regional and international aviation hub, in line with

Guyana's expanding economic and tourism profile.

Among the major developments already underway is a new 150,000-square-foot Terminal 2, scheduled for completion by 2028. The project is being delivered through a partnership between UK-based BHM Construction and the Manchester Airport Group.

Planned upgrades also include a modern inline baggage

handling system with advanced screening technology, alongside the introduction of off-site check-in services to improve passenger processing efficiency.

The combined projects represent one of the most significant investments in the airport's history, reflecting government's drive to expand capacity, improve safety standards, and enhance international connectivity.

DESIGNERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AS ORIGINS 2026 KICKS OFF



Guyana Fashion Festival 2026 returns with three days of fashion, culture and creativity

Fashion met a pillar of national possibility in a burst of colour and sound as the Origins Fashion Festival 2026 opened, turning the Railway Courtyard into a stage for Guyana's rising creative voice.

The opening night of the festival marked the start of three days of runway showcases, cultural expression and culinary experiences, as Guyana continues its drive to expand the Orange Economy and position creativity as

development. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues said the event reflects a fast-evolving fashion industry that is steadily becoming structured, professional and export-ready.

"It is a clear signal that a structured fashion industry is no longer a future aspiration. It is emerging now before our very eyes," she

said. Minister Rodrigues said the vision of President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali is to move beyond celebrating culture and instead convert



Guyana Fashion Festival 2026 returns with three days of fashion, culture and creativity

it into opportunity, building industries from creativity and creating sustainable jobs across



Guyana Fashion Festival 2026 returns with three days of fashion, culture and creativity

the sector. Thirty designers are participating in this year's festival, with 10 taking to the runway on opening night. The lineup featured a blend of established designers and emerging creatives, each given a national platform to showcase their work.

Ahead of the event, participants benefitted

from intensive training in fashion design, branding, digital marketing and export readiness. Each designer also received a \$230,000 grant to support the development of their collections.

Minister Rodrigues said the initiative is aimed at building a full creative ecosystem that supports not only designers, but also models, photographers, makeup artists, hairstylists and other industry professionals.

Beyond the runway, visitors experienced a vibrant marketplace featuring locally made fashion pieces and a "Taste of Guyana" village showcasing local cuisine.

A designer panel discussion featuring local and international voices also explored what is required to make Guyana's fashion industry export-ready, focusing on opportunities,



Guyana Fashion Festival 2026 returns with three days of fashion, culture and creativity

challenges and global positioning.

The festival continues over three nights, with awards scheduled for the final showcase recognising excellence across the creative sector.

MAJOR NIS UPGRADE CUTS WAIT TIMES AND EXPAND PENSION ACCESS

Pensioners across Guyana are set to benefit from faster and more convenient access to their monthly payments following a major expansion of payment options announced by the National Insurance Scheme (NIS).

Under the new system, pension vouchers can now be encashed through additional partners Bill Express, MoneyGram and Mobile Money Guyana (MMG), significantly increasing access points nationwide and reducing the need for long queues at traditional payment locations.

The announcement was made during a ceremony at Herdmanston Lodge in Georgetown, which also marked the 60th meeting of the NIS Board, highlighting nearly six decades of service delivery.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, described the move as a major step toward improving dignity and convenience for more than 60,000 pensioners. **“This is a truly historic day in terms of delivery of**

service to Guyana’s pensioners,” he said, noting that there is **“no reason”** for pensioners to wait for long hours to access their benefits.

Previously, pension payments were available through 14 NIS offices, 63 post offices and selected commercial banks. The new arrangements expand access by thousands of additional points.

Bill Express adds 52 locations, MoneyGram contributes 55 outlets, while MMG introduces a digital option allowing pensioners to receive funds directly into mobile wallets and

withdraw cash through more than 4,600 agents nationwide. Combined, the new system adds approximately 4,779 additional access points.

The government has also been encouraging pensioners to transition to direct bank deposits. Data shows uptake has more than doubled, rising from 11,932 in 2020 to 24,415 in 2026.

However, about 39,000 pensioners still collect physical pension books, prompting renewed calls for further digital migration and public education.

NIS Board Chairman Ramesh Persaud said



The official launch of the National Insurance Scheme’s new payment methods.

the reforms form part of broader efforts to modernise operations and improve customer service. He noted that claims processing has also improved significantly, with turnaround times reduced from months to as little as one to two

weeks. The scheme is also advancing plans for further digital services, allowing contributors to interact with NIS remotely and track records more efficiently, as part of its wider modernisation drive.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS URGED TO TAP INTO GROWTH SECTORS AS GUYANA’S ECONOMY EXPANDS



Dr Singh delivering the keynote address at the ECONOME V.

Young entrepreneurs position themselves to have been urged to take advantage of the

expanding opportunities emerging from Guyana’s rapid economic transformation.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, delivered the charge while addressing the ECONOME V Business Conference at the Four Points by Sheraton, Houston, where he encouraged participants to think boldly, innovate and prepare for a changing economic landscape.

Dr Singh commended organisers

for providing a platform that connects young business leaders with policymakers and industry stakeholders, noting that strong participation reflects a growing appetite among youth to build and expand enterprises.

He highlighted key sectors expected to drive future growth, including energy, infrastructure, agriculture, technology, tourism and manufacturing, as Guyana continues its development trajectory.

“This is important for you because

entrepreneurs. You’re looking for opportunities... what you should invest, how much you should invest and where you should invest,” he said.

The finance minister pointed to recent economic developments, including expansion in the oil and gas sector, the gas-to-energy project and other large-scale investments, which he said will open new avenues for private sector growth.

He stressed that understanding the direction of the economy is critical for young

entrepreneurs as they position themselves for long-term success.

Dr Singh encouraged participants to embrace innovation and confidence in their business decisions, noting that the current period presents unprecedented opportunities for growth.

“This is the era for us to do things differently, and this is the era for us to be bold,” he said, urging young Guyanese to take an active role in shaping the country’s economic future.

SAFER WORKSITES TARGETED THROUGH EXPANDED SAFETY TRAINING AND INSPECTIONS



Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning conducting workplace inspection

The Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning has intensified its national workplace safety drive with the expansion of its “Putting Safety First” campaign, aimed at improving occupational safety standards across Guyana.

Led by the Occupational Safety

and Health Department, in collaboration with key stakeholders, the initiative initially focused on the construction sector but will now be extended to all 10 administrative regions.

The programme targets contractors, supervisors, and workers, and is designed to strengthen awareness,

improve compliance, and promote a stronger safety culture in one of the country’s fastest-growing and highest-risk industries.

According to the Ministry, construction was prioritised due to the sector’s rapid expansion and the increased risk of workplace accidents, making safety education and enforcement critical.

The campaign includes seminars where participants receive guidance on hazard identification, risk management, legal requirements, and best practices for maintaining safe worksites. The Ministry will also increase inspections to ensure compliance with occupational safety

standards.

A Ministry representative said construction workers play a vital role in national development and must be adequately protected.

“The thousands of Guyanese who help build our nation’s future deserve the confidence that they will return home safely,” the representative said, adding that even small lapses in safety can have serious consequences.

Stakeholders attending recent sessions, including Radhadevi Takchandra of Takchandra’s Safety Solutions, described the training as highly informative, noting that

it covered regulatory tools and safety systems.

She emphasised the need to treat safety as a core operational value rather than a shifting priority.

Another participant, Lestraza Joseph, said the sessions were practical and timely, adding that proper procedures must be consistently applied

across worksites.

The Ministry said the campaign will continue to combine education, enforcement, and stakeholder engagement, with plans to expand into other high-risk industries in the future as part of a broader national effort to improve workplace safety.



Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning conducting workplace inspection

GOVT ROLLS OUT NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY DEMAND BY ONE-FIFTH

Guyana has taken a major step toward strengthening energy security and reducing electricity consumption. The government has launched a comprehensive Demand Side Management (DSM) Action Plan aimed at achieving a 20 per cent reduction in electricity demand by 2030.

The strategic blueprint was formally presented to Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips and Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar by representatives of the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Incorporated

and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA).

The plan is expected to generate energy savings of 516 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2030, helping to curb demand growth while supporting Guyana's transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy sector.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Prime Minister Phillips said the initiative comes at a critical time as rapid economic expansion, increased investment and major infrastructure development continue to drive higher electricity demand across the country.

"If you have



The DSM Action Plan provides a strategic pathway for improving energy efficiency.

such high economic growth, you become a site for investment. The more investors you have, and the more social sector spending by government, everything demands some increase in electricity," the prime minister noted.

Hestressed that while government is investing heavily in expanding electricity generation through renewable and transitional energy projects, responsible consumption must play an equally important role.

"Smart consumption will

help us to meet that growth in demand," he said.

The DSM Action Plan forms part of Guyana's broader Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and seeks to optimise electricity use while reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Among its key initiatives are the rollout of smart and prepaid meters, upgrades to GPL's distribution network, promotion of energy-efficient appliances, energy audits for large consumers, expanded use of solar photovoltaic systems, installation of energy-

efficient street lighting, and the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The plan also promotes the concept of households becoming "prosumers," both producers and consumers of electricity, through rooftop solar installations that can feed excess energy back into the national grid.

The DSM Action Plan outlines 10 priority initiatives across the residential, commercial, industrial, government and community services sectors over the next five years. GPL and the GEA will lead implementation as Guyana advances efforts to build a cleaner, more affordable and energy-efficient future.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, has underscored that Guyana's ethnic and religious diversity remains a source of national strength that must be protected, celebrated, and fully harnessed for development.

Speaking at the Ethnic Relations Commission's (ERC) National Symposium held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Dr. Singh said the country's 60th year of independence marks an important moment to reflect on unity in diversity under President Irfaan Ali's "One Guyana" vision.

He said the

DIVERSITY IS STRENGTH, NOT DIVISION – DR. ASHNI SINGH AT ERC NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



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

diversity is a source of tremendous strength for our country and a strength that we have every intention of leveraging, of protecting, and of deploying in the collective national good," Dr. Singh stated.

The Minister urged political and civic leaders to distinguish between rhetoric and reality, stressing that sustained effort is required to build lasting harmony despite progress already achieved.

He also commended the constitutional reforms of 2000-2001, which led to the establishment of key

governance institutions, including the ERC.

According to Dr. Singh, these reforms strengthened Guyana's democratic framework and continue to support efforts toward social cohesion.

"We must not be shy to flaunt and to celebrate our diversity," he said, noting that generations of Guyanese, despite historical hardships, have contributed to building a shared national identity.

He added that all ethnic groups have played a role in shaping modern Guyana into what he described

as a "richly and beautifully diverse, kaleidoscopic tapestry."

The symposium, held under the theme "Guyana at 60: Unity, Diversity and the Path Forward", also featured remarks from United Nations

Resident Coordinator Ms. Jean Njeri Kamau, ERC officials, and representatives of the parliamentary opposition, alongside government ministers and former President Donald Ramotar.



The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) National Symposium

ONVERWAGT ABATTOIR FULLY OPERATIONAL - HAS ALREADY PROCESSED 112,000KG OF BEEF



Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) Chief Executive Officer, Dr Dwight Walrond

instead that the facility remains fully operational and has processed more than 112,000 kilograms of beef.

GLDA Chief Executive Officer Dr Dwight Walrond described the reports circulating in sections of the media as "completely false" and politically motivated, saying they were intended to mislead the public and undermine confidence in the livestock sector.

"The Onverwagt abattoir remains operational and continues to provide slaughtering and related services to livestock farmers. Anyone can gain

access and benefit from the services there," he said.

Dr Walrond reported that cattle processed at the facility are supplied by farmers from Regions Four, Five, Six, Nine and Ten, as well as limited legal imports from Bonfim, Brazil, through approved channels. Butchers are charged a minimum fee of \$3,000 per head for slaughtering services.

He said the abattoir's output reflects consistent activity within the sector. "To date, the abattoir has produced in excess of 112,000 kilograms of beef. These are verifiable figures and demonstrate that the



The abattoir at Onverwagt, West Coast Berbice

facility is functioning and contributing to the growth of the sector," he noted.

The CEO acknowledged that operations fluctuate throughout the year depending on livestock supply, seasonal demand and consumption patterns.

Dr Walrond also

dismissed claims of widespread cattle deaths following recent heavy rainfall, saying the authority maintains an active veterinary surveillance system across all ten administrative regions. The system includes disease monitoring, vaccination campaigns, diagnostic support and

emergency response services.

According to him, the surveillance department has provided assistance to 1,137 farmers in recent months, while more than 34,000 animals have received welfare and intervention support.

He added that government continues to invest significantly in livestock infrastructure, drainage and irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, veterinary services, aquaculture and genetic improvement programmes.

Dr Walrond urged that claims be supported by evidence and raised through proper channels, warning that "reckless accusations made for political headlines cannot replace facts."

SERIOUS CRIME DOWN AS POLICE EXPAND INTELLIGENCE-LED OPERATIONS



Commissioner of Police (ag), Clifton Hicken

Guyana has decreased an interview with the by 33.5 per cent, a Department of Public development Police Information (DPI), Commissioner Clifton Hicken has attributed to intelligence-led policing, enhanced surveillance and stronger community partnerships.

intelligence gathering and technology-driven operations.

According to the commissioner, crime mapping has enabled the force to identify hotspots and emerging criminal trends, allowing for targeted interventions and more effective deployment of resources.

He pointed to Region Four, where police observed an increase in robberies targeting Chinese-owned supermarkets and responded by intensifying mobile and foot patrols in affected

communities.

“We are using intelligence to drive our operations and deploy resources where they are needed most,” Hicken said, noting that the approach has helped police identify criminal patterns and respond quickly to threats.

The commissioner also highlighted the role of Regional, District and Hinterland Intelligence Committees, as well as Community Policing Groups, in providing information on suspicious activities and

criminal networks.

Technology has also become a key component of law enforcement efforts. Through the Safe Country Initiative, police have access to real-time CCTV footage across several regions, enabling faster responses and improved monitoring of crime-prone areas.

Hicken said increased surveillance and police visibility have contributed to a reduction in criminal activity in areas such as the Stabroek Market.

Meanwhile, the Guyana Police Force

is advancing plans to modernise policing services under its Strategic Plan 2027–2031 through the establishment of Smart Police Stations nationwide.

Currently, 142 of Guyana’s 157 police stations and outposts are connected to the internet, while 59 locations have CCTV systems and 72 are equipped with backup generators.

The commissioner said the initiative will improve service delivery, decentralise key police services and strengthen public safety across the country.

SPEEDING BEHIND 75% OF FATAL CRASHES AS POLICE PUSH SAFER ROADS AGENDA



Members of the Guyana National Road Safety Council and the GPF interacting with motorists as part of the White Night operation

Road accidents in Guyana have fallen by 24 per cent this year, a significant reduction that police say reflects the impact of stronger enforcement, expanded use of technology and sustained public education campaigns.

However, despite the decline in overall accidents, road fatalities continue to trend, prompting renewed calls for motorists to exercise greater caution.

Commissioner of Police, Clifton Hicken described the reduction as encouraging but stressed that the country remains far from its goal

of safer roads.

“We are encouraged by the reduction in accidents, but we are not satisfied. Our goal is to save lives,” he said.

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) has significantly expanded its traffic management systems, including the deployment of 21 operational speed cameras across Regions Three and Four. The initiative has already produced measurable results, with 27,337 electronic traffic tickets issued so far in 2026 and 22 drivers’ licences

suspended for serious traffic violations.

Police have also intensified road safety awareness campaigns targeting schoolchildren, commercial drivers, bus operators and patrons of entertainment venues. High-visibility patrols and targeted operations

are being conducted in

safer environment for all road users. Yet road safety officials warned that the challenge remains serious.

Speaking at the Guyana National Road Safety Stakeholders Consultation at the Police Officers’ Mess

year.

According to Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Andre Ally, 56 fatal accidents resulting in 62 deaths were recorded during the first 170 days of 2026. During the corresponding period in 2025, authorities recorded 54 fatal accidents and 58 deaths.

Speeding remains the leading contributor to road fatalities, accounting for 75 per cent of all fatal crashes recorded this year.

Budhram said the police force is implementing the internationally recognised Safe System Approach, which focuses on safer roads, safer vehicles, stronger legislation, effective enforcement and responsible road users. The strategy also incorporates artificial intelligence and data-driven policing tools to reduce serious injuries



Two Traffic Policemen conducting a breathalyser test on this driver during a road safety education enforcement exercise

are being conducted in accident-prone areas to combat speeding, impaired driving and other dangerous road behaviours.

Hicken said technology is transforming the way traffic laws are enforced and helping to create a

Annexe in Eve Leary, Deputy Commissioner of Police Ravindrat Budhram revealed that fatal accidents have increased by four per cent during the current reporting period, while road deaths have risen by seven per cent compared to the same period last

and deaths.

Additional reforms include the use of body-worn cameras during traffic enforcement and the digitisation of the learner driver programme through the Guyana Digital School platform.

Looking ahead, the GPF’s Strategic Plan 2027–2031 proposes tighter regulation of e-bikes, tougher penalties for dangerous driving and measures to reduce accidents involving heavy-duty vehicles, including the possible introduction of speed governors to limit large vehicles to 80 kilometres per hour.

Despite the technological advances, Budhram emphasised that lasting progress will depend on changing attitudes behind the wheel.

“Road safety is a shared responsibility,” he said. **“Technology and enforcement can help, but preserving lives requires every road user to make safer choices.”**

AG CAUTIONS OFFICERS ON MISUSE OF TRAFFIC STOP POWERS



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall, SC

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall, SC, has issued a warning to police officers, stating that they have no legal authority to detain motorists, seize vehicles, or retain personal documents when dealing with traffic offences that fall under Guyana’s ticketing system.

Speaking on his weekly *Issues in the News* programme, Nandlall

said amendments to the traffic laws were specifically designed to introduce ticketable offences, allowing drivers to be processed through an administrative system rather than prolonged detention.

He explained that under the law, police officers who believe an offence has been committed must issue a ticket, after which the motorist can either pay

the fine or challenge the matter in court.

“The whole purpose of creating those ticketed offences was to permit the police to issue tickets,” he said.

The Attorney General noted that there are about 37 such offences, including speeding, driving without a licence, failing to wear a seatbelt, and operating an uncertified



Police rank assisting with the traffic flow during peak hours

vehicle.

AG Nandlall cautioned that any officer who detains motorists or seizes property outside of the legal framework risks facing consequences.

He said the issue has generated public concern and stressed that law enforcement must operate strictly within the boundaries of the law.

HEALTH MINISTRY ROLLS OUT LIFE-SAVING CELL SAVER MACHINES ACROSS HOSPITALS



Health Ministry rolls out life-saving cell saver machines across hospitals

Patients undergoing major surgeries across Guyana are set to benefit from safer procedures and improved recovery outcomes following the rollout of advanced Cell

Saver technology by the Ministry of Health.

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony announced that nine Cell Saver machines have been acquired and are

being deployed across the public health system as part of ongoing efforts to modernise surgical care.

The technology allows blood lost during surgery to be collected, processed, and safely returned to the same patient during the operation. The process, known as autotransfusion, reduces reliance on donor blood and helps preserve limited blood bank supplies.

“Rather than us having to find blood from the blood bank to give to the patient, you can use the patient’s own blood,” Dr Anthony explained, noting that the approach improves safety while easing pressure on national reserves.

The first successful use of the system was recently recorded at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation during a high-risk surgery on a 85-year-old

patient with an aortic aneurysm, a condition associated with significant blood loss.

According to the Health Minister, the remaining machines are being distributed to hospitals nationwide to ensure wider access to the technology, regardless of where patients receive care.

He said the investment strengthens Guyana’s capacity to carry out complex surgeries locally,

reducing the need for overseas medical referrals and improving access to advanced care at home.

Over recent years, the health sector has also seen the introduction of robotic surgery, expanded cardiac services, improved diagnostic imaging, and the construction of new regional hospitals.

The Cell Saver rollout forms part of a broader push to modernise healthcare delivery through upgraded equipment, training, and expanded surgical capabilities.

For years, many Guyanese faced difficult choices when doctors recommended an MRI scan, pay thousands of dollars at a private facility or seek costly treatment abroad.

That reality is set to change with the installation of Guyana’s first Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine within the public healthcare system at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), marking another major step in the country’s ongoing healthcare

transformation.

The arrival of the state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment means that thousands of patients will soon have access to one of modern medicine’s most powerful imaging tools without having to leave the public health system.

MRI technology allows doctors to produce highly detailed images of organs, soft tissues, the brain, spine, joints and blood vessels without exposing patients to ionising radiation. It is

considered critical in the early detection and diagnosis of strokes, tumours, neurological disorders, spinal injuries and other complex medical conditions.

For patients and families, the impact extends beyond improved diagnostics. The availability of MRI services at GPHC is expected to reduce waiting times, lessen the need for overseas referrals and make advanced medical care more accessible to

those who may not have been able to afford it previously.

Healthcare officials say the technology will support faster diagnoses and more timely treatment, helping doctors make informed decisions that can improve patient outcomes and save lives.

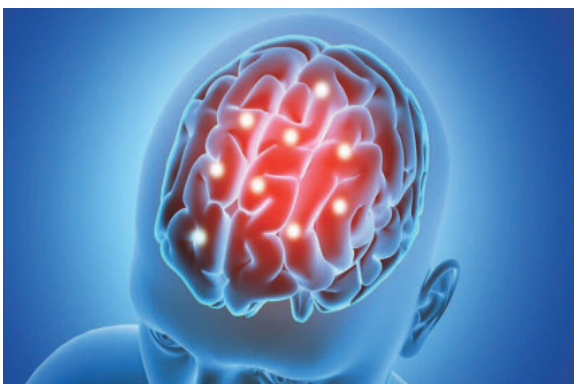
The investment forms part of the government’s wider effort to modernise healthcare nationwide.

GPHC GETS PUBLIC SECTOR’S FIRST MRI



Within the next week, this state-of-the-art system will be serving the people of Guyana.

NEW BRAIN AND SPINAL CARE CENTRE PLANNED



The government has taken a key step toward expanding specialised healthcare services with the opening of bids for the construction of a new neurological centre in Region Four.

The Ministry of Health is inviting contractors to submit proposals for the facility,

which is expected to provide advanced treatment for patients suffering from stroke, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and neuromuscular disorders.

The project is backed by a \$1.1 billion allocation in the 2026 national budget as

part of efforts to reduce the need for overseas medical referrals and strengthen local capacity in specialised care.

Officials say the new centre will improve access to long-term neurological rehabilitation and complement ongoing investments in hospitals,

diagnostic equipment, and specialist services across the country.

Bids must be submitted to the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board in Georgetown, with opening scheduled for July 9, 2026. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.



Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Pauline Sukhai, handing over the ATV

The newly commissioned Brian Sucre Junction Health Post in Region Eight is already making a significant impact, treating more than 100 patients within its first week of operation.

The facility, recently commissioned

by Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development Pauline Sukhai and Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs, was established to bring essential healthcare closer to

residents who previously had to travel long distances to Mahdia.

Regional Executive Officer Marti DeSouza said the health post is already easing both financial and logistical burdens for residents and miners in the area. Previously, individuals were required to travel about an hour to access medical care, often spending between \$60,000 and \$80,000 on transportation alone.

To support service delivery, an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) has been provided to assist with patient referrals, outreach services and the movement of healthcare workers, ensuring faster

REGION NINE YOUTHS JOIN PUSH TO SCALE UP ONION FARMING

response times in remote communities.

Constructed at a cost of over \$13 million, the facility is staffed by community health workers and currently serves several surrounding mining and hinterland communities.

The health post forms part of broader efforts to strengthen healthcare in Region Eight, alongside the ongoing construction of the \$5.4 billion Kato Regional Hospital, which is expected to further expand access to advanced medical services.



The commissioning of the health post.

FATHER-SON DUO AMONG RESIDENTS GAINING LIFE SKILLS THROUGH BIT ELECTRICAL PROGRAMME



Cadene Reid-Nelson

A government skills training initiative is helping residents of Sophia and surrounding communities gain practical, hands-on experience in electrical installation, with participants describing the programme as life-changing and empowering.

Through the Board of Industrial Training (BIT), 15 participants

are currently enrolled in an electrical installation course at the Sophia Training Centre, part of the Government's wider push to expand free technical and vocational training across Guyana.

Among the participants is a father and son duo who say the experience has not only strengthened their skills but also deepened their bond.

Devendranath Jawahir said joining the programme with his son has been both educational and meaningful. He explained that the training challenged long-held assumptions about household electrical work.

"You thought you were the do-it-at-home guy and whatever you did

was the correct way, but when you came here you get a whole different idea," he said, noting that he now understands the importance of proper



16 year-old Rual Jawahir and his father Devendranath

methods and safety standards.

Jawahir said he encouraged his son to enrol after learning about the opportunity at a job fair earlier this year, adding that he wanted him to use his

time productively after school.

His son, Rahul, described the experience as both enjoyable and useful. **"This is a stepping stone.**



When I finish the course, I will seek employment," he said.

Other participants also shared how the programme is opening new pathways. Police Officer Joel Newton said the training has boosted

his confidence and given him practical skills he can use at home and in the future workplace.

Participant Cadene Reid-Nelson, one of two women in the course, described the programme as transformative, saying the hands-on training has helped her understand electrical systems more clearly and confidently.

Marvin Layne said the skills gained have made him more independent, allowing him to carry out basic electrical tasks without relying on outside help. Jaunetta Walters added that she hopes to use her new skills to eventually start her own business.

Eighteen-year-old Mumtaz Hatton said the course has introduced him to a completely new field and inspired him to pursue further

technical studies at the Government Technical Institute.

BIT Training Officer Joshua Burnette said programmes like these are designed to equip participants with practical skills that can improve livelihoods and support community development.

He noted that many trainees go on to pursue further education, gain employment, or expand their skills through additional training opportunities.

The electrical installation programme continues to attract residents seeking practical training, with participants describing it as a stepping stone toward employment, entrepreneurship, and greater self-reliance.

FUTURE DIPLOMATS ENCOURAGED AT TED-STYLE DISCUSSION MARKING WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY DAY



Ambassador and Director of the Frontiers Division Donnette Streete.

Young women exploring careers in international relations were encouraged to pursue diplomacy with confidence after taking part in a TED-style discussion held in observance of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy in Georgetown.

The event was

hosted by the United Nations (UN), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Embassy of China at the Royal International Hotel, bringing together students and diplomats for an interactive exchange on the evolving role of women in global affairs.

For fourth-year International Relations student Mya Kendall, the discussion helped bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world practice.

"I learned so many things from women who experience what I study and really put into practice what I work so hard to learn," she said, noting

that topics ranging from culture to even personal presentation were linked to diplomatic work.

Fellow participant Keandrea Daniels said the forum reinforced her belief that women bring valuable perspectives to international leadership. **"It's an empowering way for women to speak on global platforms,"** she said, adding that diversity in decision-making leads to better outcomes.

Kiara Muridall described the session as an eye-opening, saying it reshaped her understanding of diplomacy beyond formal state representation.

"I learned that diplomacy is more

than travelling to represent your country on a global stage. It is about building and protecting people," she said.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ambassador Donnette Streete highlighted Guyana's commitment to advancing women's participation in international decision-making. She noted that Guyana co-sponsored the UN's resolution establishing the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

Chinese Ambassador Yang Yang emphasised the importance of

cultural exchange and trust-building in diplomacy, noting that women play a key role in strengthening people-to-people connections.

UN Resident Coordinator Jean Njeri Kamau said diplomacy is rooted in relationships, listening, and inclusion, urging young women to take up leadership

roles in shaping a more peaceful global community.

The forum ended with participants engaging directly with experienced diplomats, gaining insight into how culture, empathy, and inclusive leadership continue to shape modern international relations.



Young women at the TED-style discussion.

REGION FIVE FARMERS GAIN SKILLS TO GROW AGRIBUSINESSES



Farmers of Region Five participating in the workshop.

Farmers from Region Five are better positioned to expand their agricultural ventures after taking part in a capacity-building workshop aimed at strengthening agribusiness skills and improving market readiness.

The training was delivered by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) in

collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture as part of ongoing efforts to support women and young farmers and build more resilient agricultural enterprises.

Participants were exposed to practical sessions on farming as a business, access to finance, market opportunities, good agricultural practices, climate-smart farming

techniques, and nutrient management to improve productivity and sustainability.

The workshop also featured support from key agencies and private sector partners, including the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI), the National Agricultural Research

and Extension Institute (NAREI), and the Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC).

Organisers say the initiative is helping to bridge gaps between production, financing, and markets, while encouraging farmers to adopt modern techniques and explore new economic opportunities.

NEW HEALTHCARE OUTREACH PLAN TIED TO ISKCON PARTNERSHIP AND RATHA YATRA OBSERVANCE



The annual Hindu chariot festival-Jagannath Ratha Yatra 2026 at Leonora, West Central Mall

The government will partner with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) to expand primary healthcare services and promote preventative health awareness across communities.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

made the announcement during the observance of Jagannath Ratha Yatra 2026 at West Central Mall, Leonora, where hundreds gathered to mark the annual Hindu festival.

Under the initiative, health screening facilities will be introduced at ISKCON centres, encouraging devotees and surrounding communities to prioritise regular check-ups, healthier lifestyles and early detection of illness.

President Ali said the partnership reflects a broader national

approach that links healthcare, education and community engagement to improve overall wellbeing.

The announcement came as the Ratha Yatra, also known as the Festival of Chariots, was celebrated with devotion and cultural observance. The event symbolises unity, service and spiritual reflection as participants pull the ceremonial chariot of Lord Jagannath and his siblings.

Addressing the gathering, the president said the values of the festival remain relevant

in addressing modern social challenges, including mental health pressures and the need for stronger personal awareness.

He praised ISKCON for its longstanding contribution to Guyana through education, outreach and community service, noting that its work complements national development goals.

President Ali also called for stronger environmental responsibility, describing Guyana's natural resources as a shared trust that must

be protected alongside development.

He highlighted the importance of collective action, saying the symbolism of the chariot reflects how progress is achieved when people work together.

"The chariot

does not move by itself. It moves because people come together," he said.

The president encouraged citizens to carry forward the festival's message of compassion, service and unity into everyday life.



The annual Hindu chariot festival-Jagannath Ratha Yatra 2026 at Leonora, West Central Mall

OVER 20,000 COMMUNITY WORKERS BEGIN RECEIVING INCREASED PAYMENTS

More than 20,000 pathway and community enhancement workers across Guyana have begun receiving increased monthly payments, while about 1,000 local government officials are set to benefit from higher stipends in the coming days.

Minister of Local Government and

Regional Development Priya Manickchand confirmed that the government has implemented its commitment to raise monthly payments for community workers to \$50,000.

"We had promised that we would increase your salaries, wages,

stipends to \$50,000 and we have done that," she said, noting that the increases are now being rolled out nationwide.

The minister said the adjustment represents more than \$1 billion being injected into households across the country, benefitting thousands of workers

engaged in community development activities.

In addition, stipends for Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) and Regional Democratic Council (RDC) representatives are expected to be disbursed shortly, following completion of necessary approvals.

Under the revised

structure, NDC chairpersons will receive \$50,000 monthly, vice-chairpersons \$40,000, councillors \$30,000, and RDC councillors \$50,000.

The government said the increases are aimed at strengthening local democratic organs and improving support for officials serving communities nationwide.



Pathway and community enhancement workers in Region Two

The sound of traditional songs and stories now has a permanent home in one Indigenous village, where a newly constructed benab is helping to preserve culture, strengthen community bonds and revive the local language.

Built through government support under the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs' capital grant programme, the benab has quickly become a centre of village life. Named

Kambana Shikua, meaning "Butterfly House", the facility reflects the community's commitment to preserving its Indigenous identity for future generations.

Decorated with traditional butterfly motifs, the benab provides a dedicated space for cultural activities, community meetings and engagements with



The newly constructed benab in St Deny

CAMP STREET PARAPET UPGRADE COMPLETED - OTHER GEORGETOWN WORKS CONTINUE

partner organisations. It is also home to the village's cultural group, which regularly rehearses there to keep Indigenous traditions alive through music, dance and storytelling.

Toshao Keanu Thomas said the benab represents far more than a physical structure.

"The culture group that we also formed when we took

office in 2024 would have their rehearsals there as well," he explained.

As the first facility of its kind in the village, Kambana Shikua stands as a symbol of cultural pride and renewal, ensuring that traditions, language and community life continue to flourish for generations to come.

NATIONWIDE TALENT HUNT AS 20-TEAM FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF

A new 20-team football tournament has officially kicked off offering expanded opportunities for players from across Guyana to showcase their talent on a competitive stage.

The initiative is aimed at widening access for athletes, particularly those from hinterland and remote communities, and strengthening pathways

for sports development nationwide.

Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs attended the opening match at the Everest Cricket Club Ground in Georgetown and said the tournament will help identify outstanding talent across the country.

He noted that Guyana continues

to produce strong athletes, including from Indigenous communities, and said the competition reflects a commitment to inclusive sports development.

"We are giving opportunities to every single sportsman and sportswoman across the entire country," Jacobs said.

Teams participating

include Campbelltown BK Raiders and Westside Alliance, among others.

The tournament is part of ongoing efforts to expand sporting platforms and strengthen the development of athletes at all levels, supported through partnerships with private sector sponsors and corporate social responsibility initiatives.



Scene from one of the match

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DIAMOND RECREATIONAL PARK OPENS



The Diamond-Grove Recreational Park opens

What was once a neglected dumpsite has been transformed into a modern recreational space, as the Diamond Recreational Park officially opened its gates to residents of the Grove/Diamond community. The newly commissioned facility is expected to become a central gathering point for more than 40,000 residents, offering a

safe and welcoming environment designed to strengthen community life and improve overall well-being. Speaking at the opening ceremony, First Lady Arya Ali said the park forms part of the National Beautification Project, which focuses on creating inclusive public spaces that enhance quality of life. She noted that green spaces play

an important role in supporting physical, mental, and social well-being, particularly for families and young people.

“Parents can know that their children will be laughing and playing in a safe and secure environment,” she said, adding that the park is intended to serve as a hub for

cultural exchange, physical activity, and social interaction. She encouraged residents to take ownership of the facility, stressing that its long-term value depends on community care.

Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill also highlighted the transformation of the site, noting that more than 2,000 truckloads



The Diamond-Grove Recreational Park opens

of waste and debris were cleared to convert the former dumpsite into one of the country’s largest recreational spaces. He said the project reflects a people-centred approach to development and includes opportunities for small contractors to participate in national projects.

The modern park features children’s play areas, a multi-purpose court, outdoor gym, walking paths, seating areas, gazebos, lighting, and vending kiosks, offering residents a new space for relaxation, recreation, and community engagement.



The Diamond-Grove Recreational Park opens

FIRST COMMUNITY PARK FOR SKULL CITY, AREA L IN PATENTIA



The official sod turning by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Residents of Skull City and Area L, Patentia, are set to benefit from their first-ever recreational park following a sod-turning ceremony by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The project marks a milestone for the

community and is the first park initiative under Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand, who described it as part of a wider programme to develop “scores” of similar public spaces across the country.

Speaking at the

ceremony, the minister said community development must go beyond physical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, and include spaces that support social interaction, recreation and well-being.

She said properly designed parks help improve physical

and mental health while strengthening community bonds.

“There will be a day when you’ll be able to sit in this park and ‘gyaff’ about long ago, discuss the happenings of the present, make important decisions through conversation and learn about one

another,” she told residents.

Chairman of the Toevlugt/Patentia Neighbourhood Democratic Council, Mark Khan, welcomed the project, saying residents would take pride in maintaining and caring for the new facility.

“This is our park. We’re going to care for it, we’re going to beautify it,” he said.

Project Manager for Parks, Recreation and Public Spaces, Saeed Zameen, said the ministry recognises parks as essential community assets that provide safe areas for children, families and young people to gather

and engage in healthy recreation.

He said such spaces help build stronger social connections and encourage a more active lifestyle.

Minister Manickchand urged residents to take ownership of the project, describing the park as a shared space that should be preserved for future generations.

“Partner with us as we do this. We need each other,” she said.

The initiative forms part of the government’s broader push to improve public infrastructure while creating community spaces that promote healthier living, stronger neighbourhood ties and improved quality of life.



The official sod turning by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

The countdown is on for one of the biggest weekends on Guyana’s sporting calendar, with more than 20,000 spectators expected to flock to the South Dakota Circuit on July 11 and 12 for the GT Challenge de las Américas.

As preparations intensify, Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs said he is pleased with the progress being made to ensure the venue is ready for the highly anticipated event.

Following a recent inspection of the circuit, Minister Jacobs praised the extensive work undertaken by



Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs inspecting ongoing work on the South Dakota Circuit

the Ministry of Public Works and the efforts of organisers to prepare for the regional motorsport showcase.

“I am very pleased with what I have seen,” he said, noting that all stakeholders

are working together to deliver a memorable experience for competitors, spectators and visitors.

But the excitement will not be limited to the track.

Visitors can expect

a vibrant cultural programme designed to showcase the best of Guyanese heritage. Activities leading up to the event will include a parade of GT race cars through Georgetown, live art displays on Main Street and the Taste of Guyana experience, offering local cuisine and cultural attractions.

For Minister Jacobs, the event represents more than high-speed racing. He believes it will help strengthen Guyana’s growing sports tourism sector while

creating opportunities for businesses and promoting the country to international audiences.

More than 83,000 online viewers are expected to tune in, adding to the event’s global reach.

With GT race cars capable of exceeding 270 kilometres per hour and a packed schedule of entertainment, the GT Challenge de las Américas is shaping up to be a celebration of speed, culture and national pride.



Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs inspecting ongoing work on the South Dakota Circuit



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

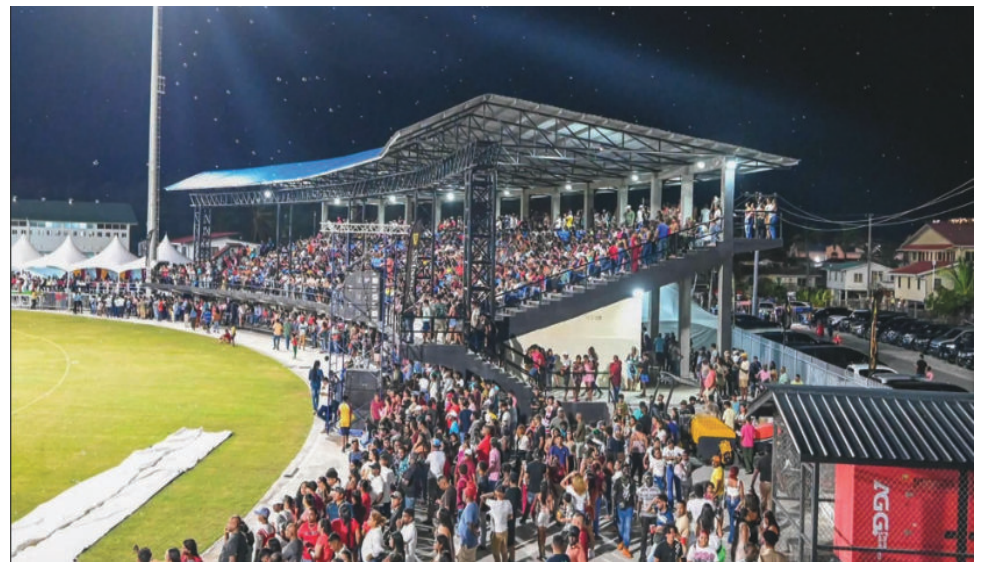


KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 122

HISTORY, LIGHTS, AND A PACKED HOUSE

The first game at the newly commissioned Anna Regina National Stadium ushered Region Two into a bold new era, bringing world-class sport right to Essequibo's doorstep. No more long journeys to Georgetown, international-standard cricket now has a permanent home, and the energy in the stands was electric.

From roaring families and young fans to the floodlit clash between the Shivnarine Chanderpaul XI and Brian Lara XI, the opening-night atmosphere was rich with nostalgia, pride, and possibility.



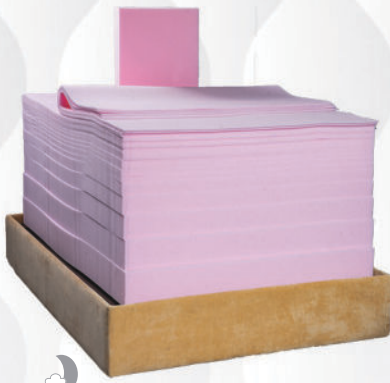
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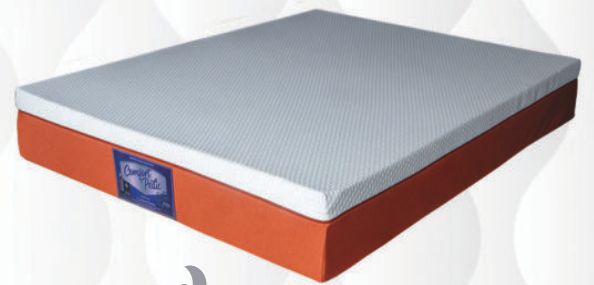
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China is the world's Great Hope

By Donald Ramotar
Former President of Guyana

We live in very dangerous times. War and threats of war, tensions within and between countries are on the increase. Not since the second World War have we seen such brutality and sufferings as we are witnessing today.

The Genocide and ethnic cleansing that is being meted out to the Palestinian people by the Israeli Apartheid regime continues unabated. Recent UN reports have shown the deliberate targeting of children in Gaza and the West Bank. The conscience of the world seems to be numbed by the sheer scale of the massacre.

This is now being extended to Lebanon.

In addition to the holocaust in the Gaza, we see the expansion of war caused by the unprovoked attack by Israel and the United States on Iran. Thousands of innocent civilians have perished in those attacks, billions of dollars in property have turned into cinders. Now we are in a state of a nervous ceasefire.

In the face of those terrible situation the People's Republic of China, led by the indefatigable President Xi Jing Ping, is a real silver lining in the dark clouds of war.

Once again China has come forward with proposals to change the direction from the global disaster which international relations seem to be heading.

In June of 2026 the PRC renewed its call for a "More Just and Equitable Global Governance..." These proposals are intended to chart a clear road toward a just and lasting peace in our world. The idea is not only to have peace, but enduring peace which would be anchored by economic prosperity and Global Governance based on equality and the rule of law.

This is most welcomed.

At the centre of the white paper which contains the propositions is the strengthening of Global institutions. This is an urgent demand since we have noticed what appears to be deliberate actions to weaken the United Nations and many other global bodies linked to the UN and play very important roles in global governance.

China is working strenuously to promote the United Nations as the main global institution. It has been involved in every aspect of its work to foster peace in our world and to ensure justice for all.

The People's Republic of China has become the second largest financial contributor to the UN. It is a leading number of its Peace Keeping Initiatives providing thousands of soldiers to the UN missions.

It has been advocating for reforms in the UN to reflect the changes in our world that has taken place since the formation in 1945. This will entail giving a more prominent role to former colonies that have joined the UN since the ending of colonialism in the late

1940s, the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

China is a very strong advocate of respecting every country's sovereignty and equality.

It is calling for the democratisation of many institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Those bodies have mainly served the United States interests and are known for imposing harsh structural adjustments measures on countries of the Global South.

However, China is not just making these calls, it is taking a leading role in the implementation of the proposals. It has set an example of win-win international relations.

The Belt and Road Initiative launched in 2013 is proving to be very transformative. Many countries have benefited from the infrastructure developments that have taken place in almost every part of the world. Those projects have helped to increase Global production considerably and it has improved the connectivity within and between countries and continents.

The Chinese nation has now become a leading player in the scientific

and technological revolution (STR).

The nation is leading in robotic and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In the past the benefits of the STR were derived by very few countries. It was used to enrich the elites in very few rich states. For the vast majority of the peoples in the global south, it was used to increase the exploitation of our countries and even to oppress the aspirations of the masses. It was used in destructive wars and to continue oppression using neo-colonial measures.

Now with China having a bigger role it is not only ensuring that its own people benefit from the ingenuity of its scientists and researchers, but it is sharing it with the rest of the world.

It is making very important proposals to ensure that these marvellous inventions are not used to endanger our world.

In this regard it is advocating that the United Nations play a central role in forming "a global AI governance system with broad consensus to benefit all humanity;..." This is to ensure that no country is left behind.

China is also wary of how technology was used in the past to enhance the military of some countries. It has therefore made a very important suggestion to prevent the misuse of AI in the military arena. Here is what it says "... China attaches great importance to preventing risks in the military applications of AI and proposes that all countries should adopt prudent and responsible approach in the development and use of relevant technologies, to ensure that weapons remain under human control at all times to prevent an AI arms race."

This is of vital importance to all mankind to ensure that these technologies serve the good of all mankind and not be held as a monopoly of any country or group of countries so that it/they can threaten and bully others to get its/their own way.

Today China has become the most responsible member of the global community. It is a beacon of hope for a world of peace, progress and prosperity.



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Fri 24	10:00 AST	LAHORE QALANDARS vs DESERT VIPERS
Sat 25	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs DESERT VIPERS
Sun 26	10:00 AST	SAN FRANCISCO UNICORNS vs PERTH SCORCHERS XI
Sun 26	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs LAHORE QALANDARS
Mon 27	19:00 AST	SAN FRANCISCO UNICORNS vs DESERT VIPERS
Tue 28	19:00 AST	DESERT VIPERS vs PERTH SCORCHERS XI
Wed 29	10:00 AST	LAHORE QALANDARS vs SAN FRANCISCO UNICORNS
Wed 29	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs PERTH SCORCHERS XI
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