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Diaspora Bond set for launch

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali on Tuesday announced that the Government of Guyana will launch a diaspora bond within one week, creating a new investment mechanism aimed at mobilising overseas Guyanese to help finance major public infrastructural projects.

The announcement, made during a press conference at the National Stadium, Providence, marks what could become one of the government's most significant diaspora-financing initiatives as Guyana accelerates its national development agenda.

"I want to announce that the Government of Guyana will launch a special bond, a diaspora bond, to raise funds from the diaspora for investment in public infrastructure projects in Guyana. Within one week, we'll be launching the diaspora bond" President Ali disclosed.

The President said the initiative is designed to give Guyanese living abroad a direct opportunity to participate in the country's transformation while contributing to national development projects.

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Guyana makes medical history

AS Guyana marked its 60th Independence Anniversary on Tuesday, the country also marked a historic breakthrough in healthcare, having successfully facilitated the longest-distance telesurgery procedure using advanced robotic technology.

President Dr Irfaan Ali made the announcement on Tuesday during a press conference, stating that the achievement signalled the country's intention to become a regional leader in modern healthcare and medical training. "At 6am, the team performed a coronary artery bypass graft," the President announced.

He explained that the surgery was remotely conducted by internationally renowned cardiac surgeon Dr Sudhir Srivastava, who operated remotely from Guyana on a patient located in India using the SSI Mantra 3 robotic surgical system.

According to the President, the procedure covered an estimated distance of approximately 20,000 kilometres, making it "the longest-distance telesurgery ever completed in the world."

President Ali explained that Guyanese medical teams were sent to India for specialised instruction and that Guyana would now establish an international training hub for robotic surgery in collaboration with the SSI Mantra ecosystem. He said that the initiative would allow Guyana to serve as the hub for robotic surgery and care within the Caribbean

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Gov't enacts border measures in response to viruses

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The government has announced temporary border

measures following the ongoing outbreak of the Ebola disease in Uganda. The precautionary measures are intended to minimize the chances of the virus spreading from Uganda to Canada.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the new measures target travelers who recently arrived in Canada from Uganda. Officials claim the measures are taken as a precautionary measure as authorities continue to observe the outbreak overseas.

Travelers coming from Uganda within the last 21 days may receive additional screenings and public health assessment once they arrive in Canada through major airports. Screening procedures will include identifying potential symptoms such as fever and other signs of illnesses in connection with the Ebola virus.

The measures are part of an agreement between the government of Canada, airport authorities, and border agencies. In addition, the government says the country has measures in place to manage infectious disease threats.

The outbreak was declared following the discovery and spread of the Ebola Sudan variant in Sudan. According to health authorities, this particular strain of the virus is different from the one that caused previous outbreaks in West Africa. The newly found strain is under constant surveillance by medical officials and doctors across the region.

The Public Health Agency of Canada noted that the overall risk to Canadians remains low. However, the agency says extra precautions at the country's ports of entry are intended to strengthen monitoring efforts



Health workers respond to Ebola in the DRC

and ensure rapid identification of any potential concerns related to international travel.

Federal officials also encouraged travellers to remain informed about public health guidance before travelling abroad. The government says individuals returning from affected areas should monitor themselves for symptoms and seek medical attention if they become ill after travel.

The World Health Organization and international health agencies have continued working with Ugandan authorities to contain the outbreak and limit further transmission.

According to Canadian authorities, the border measures will remain in place until the public health authorities analyze the developing situation. However, the government did not provide an estimated duration for the effectiveness of the screening procedure, instead it will depend on any further developments in relation to the crisis.

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Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 119

GUYANA CONFIDENT ICJ WILL UPHOLD 1899 BORDER AWARD

PAGE 3



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali engaging reporters at a press conference at State House



ENERGY AND INVESTMENT DEAL MOMENTUM BUILDS BETWEEN GUYANA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PAGE 2



U.S. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY VISITS GUYANA

PAGE 4



GUYANA FESTIVAL 2026 - THREE NIGHTS OF CULTURE, COLOUR AND CELEBRATION

PAGE 12-13

ENERGY AND INVESTMENT DEAL MOMENTUM BUILDS BETWEEN GUYANA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Guyana and the Dominican Republic have reaffirmed and expanded their strategic partnership in energy, agriculture and petrochemicals, as both countries move to deepen cooperation under a 2023 Memorandum of Understanding.

The agreement, which laid the foundation for collaboration across key sectors including oil refining, energy security, tourism and agriculture, continues to guide ongoing initiatives between the two nations, supported by increasing private sector engagement.



The deepening of the cooperation under the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding

At State House, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader Corona and a high-level delegation, including Samuel Pereyra, President of the Board of Directors of Refineria

Dominicana de Petróleo S.A. The discussions focused on advancing investment opportunities in Guyana's expanding oil and gas sector.

Among the key areas under consideration is potential investment linked to the Berbice

Block, formerly held by On Energy, alongside broader cooperation in refinery development, petrochemical processing and regional energy security.

President Ali said the engagement builds on momentum established in 2023, when both sides first explored the possibility of joint refinery development and wider energy cooperation aimed at strengthening Caribbean resilience.

He also highlighted Guyana's Gas-to-Energy project at Wales as a platform for future collaboration,

particularly in energy infrastructure and downstream development opportunities involving private sector partnerships.

Both governments welcomed growing collaboration between companies in Guyana and the Dominican Republic, with emerging consortia being explored in agriculture, energy and petrochemicals.

Officials from both sides expressed satisfaction with progress made under the existing framework and reaffirmed their commitment to

advancing projects that deliver mutual economic benefits.

President Ali described the meeting as "a very historic day," underscoring its importance in shaping a more integrated regional approach to energy security and development.

The engagement marks another step in Guyana's broader strategy to expand international partnerships as it leverages its natural resources to build long-term economic and industrial growth across the Caribbean.

In a high-level virtual engagement, President Irfaan Ali and President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons have agreed to intensify cooperation on key bilateral projects, setting a three-month timeline to advance several long-standing areas of collaboration between the two countries.

The meeting, held against the backdrop of heavy rainfall affecting both nations, also addressed immediate climate-related challenges and their wider impact on communities, infrastructure and economic activity.

Beyond the weather-related concerns, the two leaders focused heavily on strategic development priorities, including the long-anticipated

GUYANA AND SURINAME SET THREE-MONTH DEADLINE TO ADVANCE KEY BILATERAL PROJECTS



The virtual meeting with the President of Suriname, Her Excellency Jennifer Geerlings-Simons

Corentyne River Bridge, expansion of the fisheries sector, improved trade facilitation, energy cooperation and agricultural development.

Both presidents reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening ties and accelerating integration efforts aimed at boosting economic resilience and expanding opportunities

for businesses and citizens on both sides of the border.

A central outcome of the discussion was a shared agreement to work within a structured three-month framework to resolve outstanding issues and move projects closer to implementation.

The goal, according to both sides, is to translate long-discussed initiatives

into tangible outcomes that can directly benefit communities and industries in Guyana and Suriname.

President Ali described the engagement as reflecting a strong "shared commitment in deepening our partnership and friendship," adding that closer cooperation will help drive economic expansion, increased trade and greater integration of the two economies.

The Corentyne River Bridge project featured prominently in the discussions, alongside efforts to streamline cross-border trade and improve movement

of goods and services, which both governments see as critical to regional growth.

As climate pressures continue to affect both countries, the leaders also underscored the importance of coordinated responses to environmental challenges, particularly

those linked to heavy rainfall and flooding.

The meeting signals a renewed push by Georgetown and Paramaribo to move from dialogue to delivery, with both governments now working toward measurable progress within a defined timeline.



President Ali was joined by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd and Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha



President Ali and Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat at the launching ceremony

Declaring that Guyana must become "a nation of creation" rather than simply extraction, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali launched *El Dorado Reimagined*, a new national brand designed to push Guyanese gold into international luxury markets.

The launch, held as part of Guyana's

60th Independence Anniversary celebrations, also featured the unveiling of a special one-ounce commemorative gold medallion produced entirely in Guyana, from mining and refining to minting by local craftsmen.

Addressing miners, jewellers, diplomats and government officials,

NATIONAL GOLD BRAND UNVEILED IN PUSH TO MOVE GUYANA UP VALUE CHAIN

President Ali described the initiative as a turning point for the country's gold industry and a major step towards creating more jobs, skills and wealth locally.

"For decades, Guyana dug, washed, poured and waved goodbye," the president said. "Today, we are saying not anymore."

He stressed that Guyana can no longer remain only a supplier of raw materials while other countries profit from the higher-value stages of manufacturing and branding.

According to the president, *El Dorado*

Reimagined will represent the quality of Guyanese gold, local craftsmanship and the story of the Guyanese people in international luxury markets. Only producers meeting strict international standards and certification requirements will be permitted to use the brand.

President Ali said the long-term vision includes showcasing Guyanese jewellery at major international events, entering global luxury markets and opening duty-free outlets through Guyana's overseas missions.

Meanwhile, Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat said the initiative demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening traditional industries alongside the rapidly expanding oil

and gas sector.

He noted that the gold industry supports approximately 30,000 Guyanese directly and indirectly and remains a vital pillar of the economy.



The special medallion to commemorate Guyana's 60th independence anniversary

GUYANA CONFIDENT ICJ WILL UPHOLD 1899 BORDER AWARD



President Ali addressing the press conference

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali says Guyana is **“more confident than ever”** that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will uphold the 1899 arbitral award establishing the country’s border with Venezuela, as the decades-old territorial dispute moves toward a final judgment. Speaking at a press conference in Georgetown, President

Ali said Guyana’s legal and diplomatic teams had presented a strong case before the United Nations court, with a ruling expected by the end of the year.

“All that now remains is for the court to deliberate on the matter before it...and issue its final judgment, which will be legally binding on both parties,” the President said.

The case centres on the Essequibo region, a mineral- and oil-rich territory comprising roughly two-thirds of Guyana’s landmass and long claimed by

Venezuela despite the 1899 arbitration award. The ICJ began hearings on the merits of the case earlier this month after previously ruling that it has jurisdiction to hear the dispute.

President Ali described the proceedings as a victory for international law and peaceful dispute resolution, while warning that rejection of the ICJ’s authority would undermine obligations under the United Nations Charter.

His comments came amid heightened security concerns along Guyana’s western border following

recent armed attacks on Guyana Defence Force (GDF) patrols along the Cuyuni River. Guyana has accused armed men operating from the Venezuelan side of opening fire on patrols in separate incidents earlier this month.

“As you know, we have addressed this with our allies. We have addressed this diplomatically with Venezuela,” President Ali said, confirming that additional security assets have since been deployed to the border region.

The President declined to disclose operational details but

said Guyana remained confident in its ability to protect its territory and sovereignty.

Authorities are also advancing broader border monitoring efforts, including integrating community-based policing and intelligence systems into national border security operations.

Despite escalating tensions, President Ali said Guyana remains committed to peaceful relations with Venezuela while insisting that its territorial integrity and sovereignty must be respected.

FACIAL RECOGNITION, DRONES AND AI TO POWER GUYANA'S SECURITY OVERHAUL

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled an ambitious plan to transform Guyana into one of the region’s most technologically advanced security states by 2030 through the expanded use of artificial intelligence, smart surveillance systems, drones, robotics and predictive policing technology.

Speaking at a press conference in Georgetown, the President said the government is developing an integrated national security architecture that will digitally connect law enforcement and security agencies through a shared intelligence platform.

“One of the key features of modern security systems is the use of AI,” President Ali said.

The proposed system will incorporate predictive crime analytics, behavioural



President Ali speaking at the press conference

monitoring, facial recognition technology, automated threat detection, smart surveillance, drone integration and robotics aimed at strengthening crime prevention, investigations and border security.

According to the President, artificial intelligence will allow authorities to analyse large volumes of data and video footage in real time, improving

response times and reducing human bias during investigations.

“That does not say humans are not there. Humans are there in the backroom, but AI helps in doing analytics at a faster pace,” he stated.

The government also plans to establish nationwide CCTV coverage by 2030, with more than 20,000 cameras expected to be installed across

the country. The surveillance network will integrate cameras, drones, traffic systems and smart sensors capable of tracking vehicle movements and monitoring incidents in real time.

President Ali said drone technology will play a growing role in crowd management, emergency response and suspect tracking, particularly during major public events.

Alongside the security expansion, the government is accelerating the rollout of intelligent traffic systems, including sensor-controlled traffic lights that automatically adjust based on congestion levels and traffic flow patterns.

Authorities are also expanding AI-driven traffic enforcement. During a recent pilot exercise, mobile surveillance units reportedly identified more than 250 vehicles

linked to outstanding traffic offences.

“The system will pick them up, document them on the screen, put them in the database and even turn on the traffic sirens to stop the vehicle,” the President explained.

President Ali also revealed that approximately 1,600 letters have been sent

to individuals as part of an investigation into irregularities within the driver’s licensing system, following technology-driven audits that uncovered serious procedural breaches.

The measures form part of Guyana’s broader push to modernise public infrastructure and security systems amid rapid economic transformation.



President Ali speaking at the press conference



National assembly set to sit on June 5

NEXT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SITTING CONFIRMED FOR JUNE 5

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira has announced that the next sitting of the National Assembly will take place on June 5, 2026.

The announcement was made via social media and comes amid recent public comments from members of the diplomatic community

regarding the timing of parliamentary sittings.

Minister Teixeira said it was regrettable that some ambassadors and high commissions made public statements without first seeking clarification from the government, noting that the sitting had already been scheduled.

She emphasised that Guyana values its

diplomatic partnerships, but stressed the importance of prior engagement and accurate communication on matters relating to the country’s legislative programme.

According to Teixeira, more direct consultation would have avoided misunderstanding and ensured clearer

communication on Parliament’s calendar.

She expressed hope that future interactions on parliamentary affairs will be more **“profound and respectful,”** underscoring the need for balanced engagement between government and diplomatic partners.

U.S. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY VISITS GUYANA

Guyana's emergence as a fast-growing economy was again spotlighted during high-level talks with visiting U.S. Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg, who has concluded a working visit to the country aimed at strengthening economic cooperation between Georgetown and Washington.

The visit reinforced the growing partnership between Guyana and the United States, with discussions focused on expanding collaboration in energy, trade, security and broader commercial development as the country continues its rapid economic expansion.

Officials said the engagement highlighted continued U.S. support for Guyana's development trajectory, particularly in areas

such as investment facilitation, transparent business practices and sustainable economic growth.

At the centre of the discussions was Guyana's ongoing transformation, driven largely by the expansion of its energy sector and the increasing opportunities emerging across supporting industries and services.

The visit also served to deepen dialogue

on ways to enhance economic linkages, encourage private sector participation and strengthen frameworks that support long-term prosperity and job creation for citizens.

Both sides underscored the importance of maintaining strong cooperation as Guyana continues to attract international interest and investment,



President Ali and Cabinet members meeting with U.S. Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg and his delegation

positioning itself as a key emerging economy in the region.

The engagement concluded with a shared commitment to further

strengthen bilateral ties, with emphasis on practical outcomes that support development

priorities and sustained economic resilience.

WASHINGTON STANDS WITH GUYANA AS ICJ HEARINGS END



RM @RepGregoryMeeks: Any attempt by Venezuela's interim government—whose party lost the 2024 elections—to unilaterally claim authority over Essequibo is unacceptable. The Trump administration should make it clear that the United States stands with our democratic partner, Guyana.

Support for Guyana's sovereignty in the ongoing border issue with Venezuela is gaining powerful bipartisan backing in the United States Congress, with senior lawmakers from both parties forcefully rejecting Venezuela's claims to the Essequibo region.

Senior Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Gregory Meeks, called on the Trump administration to firmly support Guyana and condemn any unilateral attempt by Venezuela to assert authority over Essequibo.

In a statement posted on X, Meeks described Venezuela's actions as **"unacceptable"** and stressed that the United

States must continue standing with Guyana, which he described as a democratic partner.

His remarks came as hearings concluded before the International Court of Justice, where Venezuela maintained its position on the disputed territory.

Republican Congresswoman María Elvira Salazar, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee

on the Western Hemisphere, also voiced strong support for Guyana.

Salazar praised Guyana's management of its oil wealth and criticised Venezuela's posture toward the border controversy, arguing that Guyana's development path should serve as a model for the region.

The rare bipartisan alignment on Guyana

underscores growing international support for the country's territorial integrity at a time when political divisions often dominate Washington.

The controversy remains before the ICJ, where Guyana is seeking confirmation of the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award that legally settled the boundary between the two countries.

GUYANA TO ROLL OUT INSTANT PAYMENTS AS THREE GLOBAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ENTER MARKET

The licensing of three new international financial institutions to operate in Guyana is being hailed as another major sign of confidence in the country's rapidly expanding economy, as President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali says the nation is entering **"a new golden era of banking."**

Speaking at the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry's (GBTI) 190th Anniversary Dinner at the Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown, President Ali announced that the Bank of Guyana has approved licences for Citibank, Crown Agents,



President Ali at Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry's special celebration of its 190th anniversary at the Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown

and One American to begin operations locally.

While the institutions will not engage in retail deposit-taking, the president said their arrival will significantly strengthen Guyana's access to international capital

markets, trade finance, development financing, and corporate advisory services.

"This is a signal to the world," President Ali declared, noting that the approvals reflect growing international confidence in Guyana's

economic stability and financial governance.

The announcement comes as Guyana prepares to roll out two transformative payment systems that could fundamentally change the way citizens and businesses move money.

On June 2, 2026, Guyana's new real-time payment platform, FASTA, is expected to officially go live, allowing customers across participating banks to transfer funds instantly using mobile phones or internet banking services at any hour of the day.

Transactions that once took hours, or even days, to clear will now be completed in seconds.

President Ali said the system will reduce dependence on cash, lower transaction costs, and make financial services faster and more convenient for ordinary Guyanese.

At the same time,

Guyana is also integrating with India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI), one of the world's largest digital payment systems, which processes billions of transactions monthly.

Together, the two systems are expected to push Guyana to the forefront of digital banking innovation in the Caribbean.

Against that backdrop, President Ali praised GBTI for aggressively modernising and preparing not only for present demands, but for the next century of banking.

Celebrating 190 years of operations, GBTI remains one of the Caribbean's oldest financial institutions, tracing its roots back to the Colonial Bank era.

GUYANA AND CANADA COMMIT TO EXPANDING TRADE AND INVESTMENT LINKS



Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud meeting with the Director General of Central America and the Caribbean of Global Affairs Canada Mr. Mark Richardson, and High Commissioner, H.E. Sébastien Sigou

Guyana and Canada are moving to deepen their longstanding partnership following high-level talks between Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud and a Canadian delegation led by Mark Richardson, Director General for Central America and the Caribbean at Global Affairs Canada.

Richardson was accompanied by Canada's High Commissioner to Guyana, H.E. Sébastien Sigouin. The visit comes shortly after President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's official trip to Canada, where he met Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Persaud described the discussions as fruitful, noting

agreement to further expand cooperation in trade, investment, and security.

"We committed to expand our trade relations, scale up investment opportunities, and strengthen security cooperation," he said, adding that Guyana also expressed appreciation

for Canada's continued support on matters of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He emphasised that the bilateral relationship remains grounded in shared values and mutual respect, with both sides agreeing to intensify engagement in the coming period.

INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY AFTER FOREIGN WORKER COMPLAINTS SURFACE



Minister of Labour, Keoma Griffith

The Ministry of Labour has launched an ongoing investigation following complaints from foreign workers alleging poor working conditions and concerns over the handling of personal documents.

Minister of Labour

Keoma Griffith said the matter was treated as urgent once it was reported, prompting the immediate dispatch of a technical team to the site.

“From that time, we have been actively investigating the matter with the urgency it requires,” the Minister said.

He explained that early intervention allowed officials to quickly assess the situation, after which a formal investigation was launched. Griffith later met with the Indian High Commissioner and also engaged directly with the affected workers, who were interviewed and

provided statements.

Company representatives were subsequently summoned and instructed to return the workers’ passports. The Minister said he issued a firm directive that the documents be handed over by 1:00 pm that same day, a deadline which was met.

“All passports have since been returned to the workers,” he confirmed.

The Ministry is now examining a broader set of concerns raised by the workers, including employment contracts, accommodation arrangements, workplace safety, and payment

issues. The company was also given 24 hours to submit additional documentation, which has since been provided, with another meeting scheduled as part of the ongoing review.

“This is an ongoing process,” Minister Griffith said.

He noted that the investigation is being carried out in collaboration with other government agencies, including the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and the Ministry of Home Affairs, as part of an inter-ministerial response.

Griffith cautioned against drawing early conclusions, stressing

that both the workers’ accounts and the company’s response must be carefully assessed before any findings are made.

“They have denied the allegations. That is why we must investigate both sides before reaching conclusions,” he said.

While concerns include possible workplace safety issues and document handling practices, the Minister said all claims are being actively verified. He declined to comment on unverified allegations of human trafficking, stressing that the process must remain evidence-based.

“I will not make allegations without verified information. That would be irresponsible,” he said.

He added that some contractual and payment-related matters are still under review as the Ministry awaits further clarification from the company.

The Minister said officers remain actively engaged in the investigation, which is ongoing with no set timeline for completion.

“We are working around the clock to ensure the rights of every worker are protected,” he said, adding that updates will be provided once verified findings are available.

GUYANA EYES ICAO COUNCIL SEAT AS AVIATION PROFILE RISES



Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar

Guyana is stepping up efforts to secure a seat on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council by 2028, with a series of regional achievements strengthening its bid on the global stage.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar described the goal as a “North Star”

within the country’s civil aviation master plan, noting that recent milestones are helping position Guyana as an emerging aviation leader.

Among them is the election of Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Lieutenant Colonel (Ret’d) Egbert Field, as chairman of the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASOS,) the first time a Guyanese has held the

role. He also serves, along with Deputy Director General Dr Saheed Sulaman, as ICAO Global Ambassadors.

Guyana also recorded a 63.9 per cent score in its 2024 ICAO audit, the highest in the Latin American and Caribbean region at the time, and has since initiated corrective measures and invited a follow-up validation mission.

The country is also preparing to host the ICAO/European Union

Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Global Regional Safety Oversight Organisation (RSOO) and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organisation (RAIO) Forum, scheduled for September 29–30 at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre. It will be the first time Guyana hosts the high-level global aviation event.

Officials say the forum will bring together ministers,



Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Lieutenant Colonel (Ret’d) Egbert Fields

regulators and aviation professionals from across the Caribbean, Latin America and beyond, with discussions expected to shape safety standards, legal frameworks and operational efficiency across the sector.

“We want to make sure we sell the brand Guyana,” Minister Indar said, adding that the discussions will also address global pressures such as rising aviation fuel costs.

GCAA officials said the engagement signals confidence in Guyana as a trusted aviation partner and an emerging regional hub, while also reinforcing its long-term ambition to play a more influential role in global aviation governance.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BANK TO GO BEYOND TRADITIONAL LENDING



President Ali speaking at the press conference

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that the first disbursements from the proposed Guyana Development Bank are expected soon, as government moves to table the necessary legislation at the next sitting of the National Assembly.

Speaking at a press conference, the

President said the technical groundwork for the establishment of the bank has already been completed, positioning the institution to become operational once the legislative process is finalised.

“The development bank is on track. We are hoping to have the first set of disbursements soon, as soon as we get past the legislative aspect,” President Ali stated.

The proposed bank is expected to provide up to \$3 million in zero-interest, low-collateral financing aimed primarily at youths, women-owned businesses, persons with disabilities, and small entrepreneurs who often struggle to

secure funding through traditional commercial banks.

According to the President, the initiative forms part of a broader strategy to expand economic participation and empower Guyanese across all regions of the country.

The development bank was also recently highlighted during a private sector engagement hosted by the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA), where government officials outlined plans for a financing model that extends beyond conventional lending.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation



Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally

Zulfikar Ally said the institution is intended to address long-standing barriers to business growth by combining financial support with mentorship, financial literacy training, technical assistance, and broader business development services.

“This bank is not simply about getting

a loan,” Minister Ally said during the engagement, stressing that the goal is to translate Guyana’s rapid economic growth into tangible opportunities for ordinary citizens.

He also made clear that the programme will operate within strict accountability systems, emphasising that beneficiaries will still be

required to repay loans.

“This is not a handout. This is a loan, but one that is interest free and designed to help people succeed,” the minister said.

The initiative comes as Guyana continues to push for broader inclusion in its rapidly expanding economy.



Business owners that were in attendance

UN JOINS GUYANA-LED GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira and United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, Jean Kamau during the signing

Guyana and the United Nations (UN) have taken another step toward strengthening global biodiversity protection, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to sustainable development, conservation and climate resilience through the signing of a new Declaration of Intent. The agreement was signed at the

Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira and UN's Resident Coordinator Jean Kamau during a ceremony hosted by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The signing officially formalises the UN's participation in the Global Biodiversity Alliance, an initiative led by Guyana that focuses on conservation, sustainable investment, climate resilience and international knowledge-sharing.

President Ali said the partnership reflects Guyana's long-standing commitment to protecting its forests and natural resources while pursuing economic growth responsibly.

According to the president, the UN joining the alliance sends a strong message to the international community that biodiversity protection and sustainable natural resource management must remain at the centre of global development efforts.

UN Resident Coordinator Jean

Kamau described the partnership as closely aligned with the world's shared Sustainable Development Goals and said it also strengthens South-South cooperation among developing countries facing similar environmental challenges.

The agreement also places significant emphasis on the role of Indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting biodiversity, recognising that their traditional knowledge and stewardship are essential to sustainable environmental

management.

The partnership is expected to improve coordination, biodiversity data-sharing and environmental action under the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The agreement further reinforces Guyana's growing role in global climate and biodiversity diplomacy as the country continues balancing rapid economic growth with environmental stewardship.

GOV'T EXAMINING LARGE-SCALE FUEL STORAGE PROJECTS

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali says Guyana is actively exploring significant investments in fuel storage infrastructure as the government moves to strengthen both national and regional energy security amid rising global uncertainties.

Speaking recently on the country's long-term energy plans, President Ali said the initiative forms part of a broader strategy aimed at ensuring reliable fuel supply, improving

energy resilience and positioning Guyana as a key regional energy hub.

According to the Head of State, the government is assessing opportunities for large-scale fuel storage facilities that could support domestic demand while also serving neighbouring Caribbean markets during periods of supply disruption or price volatility.

He noted that the move comes as Guyana continues to expand its



President Ali speaking with the reporters

oil and gas sector and seeks to build supporting infrastructure capable of sustaining economic growth and enhancing regional cooperation.

President Ali said energy security remains a critical priority for the administration, particularly as global geopolitical tensions and fluctuating fuel markets continue to impact developing economies.

The proposed investments are expected to complement Guyana's wider energy

agenda, which includes expanding power generation capacity, advancing natural gas initiatives and improving fuel distribution systems across the country.

Guyana has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing oil producers in recent years, with government officials maintaining that the country's energy transformation must also create long-term benefits for the wider Caribbean region.

NEW BERBICE RIVER BRIDGE SET TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION BEFORE END OF 2026

Construction of the new Berbice River Bridge is expected to begin before the end of 2026 as the Government of Guyana advances plans to modernise national transport infrastructure.

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement during a press conference at the

Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, noting that the project is currently in its final stages of financial and pricing arrangements.

"The new Berbice Bridge is in its last phase of finalising the finances and also the price, and construction will

commence long before the end of this year," President Ali said.

The project, first announced in late 2025, will see the replacement of the existing floating bridge across the Berbice River, which was commissioned in 2008.

The new structure

is expected to be a large, modern fixed bridge, similar in design to the new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge, and is aimed at improving reliability, traffic flow and long-term connectivity between Region Five and Region Six.



The Berbice River bridge

FOOD COURTS, MARKET TARMACS PLANNED TO TACKLE ROADSIDE VENDING ISSUES

The Government of Guyana is moving ahead with plans to establish food courts, market tarmacs and commercial hubs nationwide to address roadside vending, sanitation and public order.

The initiative was announced by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali at a press conference at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

He said complaints about vending,

cleanliness and roadway misuse are among the most frequent issues raised by citizens.

"This is one of the things we are receiving complaints on every day," President Ali said.

The Ministries of Public Works and Local Government have been tasked with identifying urban sites for organised commercial spaces.

The plan will create structured vendor areas,

improve sanitation and strengthen public services, he said.

He added clustering vendors in designated areas would boost business by creating commercial hubs.

Government is also addressing heavy-duty trucks on roadways, with nearly 300 acres for parking facilities.

He said several facilities should be operational by year-end, including one in

each NDC area or major community.

The initiative forms part of a wider push to modernise urban infrastructure and improve orderly development across Guyana. It is expected to roll out in phases across major towns and NDC areas nationwide, implementation will begin this year.



President Ali addressing the press conference

FROM HOUSE LOTS TO NIS ISSUES, GUYANESE FIND ANSWERS AT VP JAGDEO OUTREACH



VP's Public Day brings relief, hope for hundreds at ACCC

For years, Leomie Jacobs held onto one dream, owning a piece of land where she could build a future for herself and her three children.

On Monday, May 11, after waiting since 2011, that dream finally moved within reach.

Jacobs was among hundreds of Guyanese who gathered at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Liliendaal for a Public Day outreach hosted by Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and members of the cabinet.

People arrived seeking help with a range of concerns, from housing applications and National Insurance Scheme (NIS) matters to contracts, community issues and business opportunities.

For Jacobs, the visit ended with confirmation that she had finally been allocated land.

"I came to talk to the minister himself," she told the Department of Public Information (DPI). "He was positive with me, and the process was very

good." By the end of the day, officials from the Central Housing and Planning Authority had arranged for her to visit the plot the following morning.

"The outcome really encourages me. It means a lot," she said emotionally.

Across the

Soesdyke-Linden Highway despite the rainy weather, said she was surprised by how many agencies were available in one place.

"I did not expect to see so many people," she said. **"I come to one person, and I end up going to different agencies**

government's effort to move beyond promises and focus on delivery.

"Hopefully, at the end of the day, we'll be able to resolve many of the issues faced by many of our people, and even if we can't resolve it today, set out a process through which we can resolve it," he told reporters.

The vice president noted that the outreach forms part of a wider development agenda that includes plans for 40,000 homes, expanded security infrastructure and increased opportunities for small contractors.

Singer Kaya, who raised concerns related to culture and tourism, said the event allowed

people to get information and assistance in real time.

"You find out a lot of things that are happening that you might not be aware of, and you get first-hand references being done right here on the ground," she said.

For some attendees, the biggest takeaway was simply being heard.

Miss Presta admitted she almost stayed home because of fear and uncertainty.

"People talk so much, but when you actually meet the persons, they are nothing like the people said," she remarked. **"I was here to see the VP and I'm out smiling."**



VP's Public Day brings relief, hope for hundreds at ACCC

conference centre, similar stories unfolded throughout the day.

Young mother Afaina Agaid also left relieved after receiving confirmation of her land allocation.

"I'm satisfied. I'm happy," she said with a smile.

Others came expecting long waits and uncertainty but instead found government agencies responding directly to their concerns.

Katrene, who travelled from the

and ministries where I would have gotten positive responses."

For Owen Ross, the outreach solved two major issues in a single afternoon, a pending house lot matter and an NIS issue connected to a former employer.

"I've been waiting a little while concerning my house lot, and I got it sorted out. It was very lovely," Ross said.

Vice President Jagdeo said the initiative is part of the



VP's Public Day brings relief, hope for hundreds at ACCC



VP's Public Day brings relief, hope for hundreds at ACCC

WALES PROJECT ADVANCES AS FIRST POWER TARGETED FOR 2026



OPM and GTE task force facilitate UG students' tour of Wales project site

Guyana's landmark 300 MW Wales Gas-to-Energy project is moving steadily ahead, with government officials confirming renewed construction momentum and a target to deliver first power to the national grid by the end of 2026.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips said recent months have seen significant progress on site, noting the contractor's commitment to meeting

key delivery milestones as the country advances its largest infrastructure project to date.

"The Wales Gas-to-Energy project represents a defining moment for Guyana and for the energy future of every citizen," the Prime Minister said, adding that the government remains focused on ensuring households and businesses benefit directly through reduced electricity costs.

The project

is expected to cut electricity tariffs by up to 50 per cent, while also doubling national power generation capacity and strengthening energy reliability across the country.

Beyond electricity generation, the initiative will support the production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), helping to reduce household cooking costs and lower dependence on imported fuels. This forms part of a broader shift toward a more diversified and resilient energy mix.

Following the resolution of outstanding contractual issues with contractor Lindsayca Guyana Inc., construction is now proceeding under revised milestones aimed at accelerating delivery. The first power turbine

is expected online by the end of 2026, with full commissioning of gas turbines targeted for early 2027 and combined cycle operations by mid-2027.

At peak construction, the project is expected to employ between 1,400 and 1,600 workers, creating significant job opportunities for Guyanese, with local hiring prioritised throughout all phases.

Beyond the site itself, the project is already stimulating economic activity in transport, logistics, construction supply, and supporting services, particularly in Region Three and surrounding areas.

The Wales Development Zone is also being positioned as a major industrial hub, with future plans including ammonia

and urea production, LPG bottling facilities, and marine storage infrastructure.

These developments will help reduce production costs across agriculture and industry, while boosting long-term competitiveness and creating new skilled employment opportunities.

With major infrastructure components underway and financing within approved limits, the project is being framed as a cornerstone of Guyana's push toward energy security, industrialisation, and sustained economic transformation.



OPM and GTE task force facilitate UG students' tour of Wales project site

NO FARE INCREASE APPROVED — GOVT MOVES TO PROTECT COMMUTERS FROM PRICE GOUGING



President Ali during a social media address

As rising global fuel prices are placing pressure on transportation costs worldwide, the Government of Guyana is urging transport operators to exercise restraint and avoid burdening commuters with unauthorised fare increases.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said although Guyana is now a major crude oil producer, the country

still depends heavily on imported refined fuel and remains vulnerable to international market disruptions linked to instability in the Middle East and challenges in global shipping systems.

In response, the government said it has spent hundreds of billions of dollars cushioning citizens from the full impact of rising energy prices.

According to the president, the removal of excise taxes on imported fuel products has saved Guyanese consumers more than \$100 billion annually, translating into roughly \$500 in savings on every gallon of gasoline or diesel purchased.

“For minibuses operating in

Georgetown and consuming an average of more than 12 gallons of fuel per day, the policy delivered savings of about \$6,000 daily directly,” President Ali explained.

The president noted, however, that despite government interventions when fuel prices previously declined, transportation fares largely remained unchanged.

“We expect that all of the operators will reduce their profit lines so as to mitigate that impact,” he stated.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni

Singh, echoed similar concerns, stressing that the administration has also absorbed increased fuel costs for utilities such as Guyana Power and Light Incorporated and Guyana Water Incorporated to avoid higher electricity and water charges for citizens.

Meanwhile, Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill made it clear during a public engagement at Stabroek Market Square that no increase in fares for minibuses, taxis, speedboats or hire cars has been approved by the government.

“No Guyanese citizen, tourist, child, or worker should be forced to pay increased rates,”

Minister Edghill warned, adding that operators who overcharge commuters or leave passengers stranded could face penalties.

Director General of the Maritime Administration Department, Captain Stephen Thomas, confirmed that sanctions are already being pursued against some speedboat operators accused of abandoning

passengers at the Parika and Bartica stollings during recent fare disputes.

The government has also ordered all public transportation operators to prominently display approved fare structures inside their vehicles and vessels, while encouraging commuters to report cases of overcharging to the relevant authorities.



The removal of excise taxes on imported fuel products has saved Guyanese consumers more than \$100 billion annually



Immigration ranks at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport wearing their body cameras

Guyana's drive toward modernised, technology-driven law enforcement has taken another step forward, with the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) introducing mandatory body cameras for frontline Customs officers across the country.

Under the new policy, officers stationed at airports, wharfs, transit sheds and deployed in law enforcement exercises

are now required to wear body cameras while performing their duties. The move is part of wider Customs modernisation efforts aimed at strengthening professionalism, improving transparency, and boosting public trust in day-to-day interactions between officers and citizens.

According to the GRA, the devices are expected to improve the processing of passengers and cargo while ensuring

CUSTOMS OFFICERS NOW MANDATED TO WEAR BODY CAMERAS

greater compliance with trade, tax and border regulations. The cameras will capture both audio and video recordings during inspections, seizures and any incidents that may later require review or investigation.

Authorities say the initiative is particularly timely, as Guyana continues to experience a surge in trade activity, cargo movement and international arrivals linked to its expanding economy. Officials believe the technology will help streamline operations while also protecting both Customs officers and members of the public during

enforcement procedures. Standard Operating Procedures have already been established to govern how footage is stored, managed and retained, ensuring accountability in the handling of sensitive recordings. The GRA has also encouraged the public to report any suspected misuse or abuse of the system directly to the Office of the Comptroller, with contact lines made available for complaints and inquiries.

The rollout reflects a broader national shift toward digital governance and modern enforcement practices. In parallel, the Guyana

Police Force is also advancing similar reforms, with recruits now undergoing training in body camera usage, computer literacy and digital reporting systems as part of a transition from traditional paper-based processes.

Chief Instructor at the Police Force Academy, Inspector Kareem Hoosein, said trainees are being equipped with skills to support a more paperless, technology-driven policing environment. Commissioner of Police Clifton Hicken has also emphasised that technology is now central to modern policing, noting that the Force is

actively working toward full digitisation under its 2027–2031 strategic plan.

Hicken added that expanded computer training through ZARA Computer Centres is helping ranks across divisions adapt to evolving demands, while reinforcing evidence-based policing and accountability.

Together, the parallel reforms in both Customs and policing signal a wider transformation across Guyana's security and revenue systems, one increasingly shaped by technology, transparency, and public confidence.

GPF ACADEMY GAINS ACCREDITATION AS IT EXPANDS SPECIALISED TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The Guyana Police Force Academy has secured both local and international accreditation and is preparing to renew its status as it expands its training programmes to meet the country's evolving security needs.

Director of the academy, Senior Superintendent Sonia Herbert, announced the development during the Police Round Up programme, noting that

new specialised courses are being introduced in collaboration with the National Accreditation Council.

Among the planned additions is tourism policing, alongside diploma and degree-level programmes aimed at strengthening professional standards within the force.

Herbert said the move is timely, given the rising number of foreign nationals visiting and

working in Guyana due to the expanding oil and gas industry and major national events.

“With the influx of foreign nationals that we are having... it is good for the ranks to have the knowledge in tourism policing,” she explained.

She also highlighted growing international cooperation, including training exchanges with CARICOM states, the Regional Security

System, the Miami-Dade Police Department, the New York Police Department, and agencies in India.

Recently, 25 officers completed specialised forensic interviewing training in India, reflecting the academy's push to modernise policing skills and strengthen operational capacity.



Director of the Guyana Police Force Academy, Senior Superintendent Sonia Herbert

REGION TWO RESIDENTS TAKE THEIR CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO GOVT MINISTERS



The engagement with the residents of Region Two during the Public Day exercise

Despite persistent rain and muddy conditions, hundreds of residents from across Region Two gathered at the Essequibo Technical Institute in Anna Regina to meet directly with government ministers, technical officers and state agencies during a major public outreach led by Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo.

For many residents, the event represented more than just another government exercise. It was an opportunity to finally have long-standing issues heard and addressed face-to-face by decision-makers. Housing quickly emerged as one of the most pressing concerns. Addressing the gathering, the Vice President announced that all pending housing applications in Region Two submitted up to

October 2025 will be cleared by 2027 as part of an aggressive housing expansion programme. He revealed that nearly 4,000 house lots are currently being developed in the region, with allocations already underway for applicants who applied before 2024. Among those waiting internet connectivity, roads and the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), many of which were addressed directly during the outreach. Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh described the initiative as part of the government's effort to maintain direct engagement with citizens



The engagement with the residents of Region Two during the Public Day exercise

we have to fix it for the children," he stated.

Residents also complained about unreliable internet and mobile connectivity in hinterland communities, while others requested upgrades to internal roads damaged by heavy rainfall and mining activity.

The Vice President proposed exploring a system where villages themselves could be contracted to undertake road works using equipment already available in communities.

Meanwhile, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said more than 100 persons engaged officials from his ministry alone.

"People want immediate action and this shows also that they want to engage not only officers, but directly with the decision-makers," he said.

As the outreach concluded, many residents left hopeful that their concerns would finally translate into action, viewing the exercise as a rare opportunity to speak directly with the people shaping national policy.



The engagement with the residents of Region Two during the Public Day exercise

the upcoming National Toshaos Council Conference.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs Sarah Browne said village leaders raised concerns about education, road access, healthcare, water systems and land demarcation issues.

One of the major concerns highlighted was the difficulty children in remote communities face in accessing secondary and tertiary education, particularly those who must travel long distances or stay in dormitories.

In response, Vice President Jagdeo acknowledged that some dormitory facilities require urgent repairs.

"If we are repairing the dorm, it means that we recognise there is a problem there and

and remove bureaucratic barriers. **"Being of service to people and delivering services directly to them allows the government to address concerns more efficiently,"** he said.

The outreach also provided an important platform for Indigenous village leaders to discuss challenges affecting Amerindian communities ahead of

patiently in the crowd was a single mother from Reliance who said she came out early hoping to move her housing application forward. **"I'm a single mom of two, and I really need this,"** she said softly. **"I want to give my children a home of their own."**

Residents also raised issues relating to agriculture, land disputes, water access, healthcare, contracts,



The engagement with the residents of Region Two during the Public Day exercise

SMALL CONTRACTORS AWAIT PROJECTS AS GOVT CLEANS UP PREQUALIFICATION LIST

Thousands of small contractors across Guyana are anxiously awaiting their opportunity to secure government work, as the administration moves to finalise a massive prequalification exercise aimed at opening state contracts to more citizens.

Speaking during Public Day activities at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo assured that every legitimately prequalified small contractor will receive at least one government contract this year once the verification process is completed.

The initiative has attracted nearly 12,000 applications from contractors nationwide, reflecting growing interest among small business owners hoping to benefit from Guyana's expanding development agenda. But according to the Vice President, the process has faced major setbacks due to attempts to manipulate the system. Authorities discovered cases where members of the same family submitted multiple companies under different names, while some larger contractors allegedly attempted to enter the programme intended specifically for small businesses.

"There are also some big contractors who are trying to get in with the small contractors," Dr. Jagdeo stated, explaining



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo engaging reporters at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

that technical teams and government ministers are now reviewing submissions to remove duplicate and ineligible entries. Despite frustration from some applicants over delays, the Vice President stressed that the government is trying to ensure fairness and transparency before projects are distributed.

"We can't award 10,000 contracts at the same time," he said. The programme marks a significant shift from previous years when government contracts were often concentrated among a smaller group of established contractors. Officials say the current initiative is intended to spread opportunities more broadly and allow smaller businesses to participate in national development projects.

Phase One of the contract awards has already begun publicly through the Ministries of Public Works and Local Government and Regional Development. However, the process in Region Four was temporarily paused after complaints triggered additional verification exercises.

Meanwhile, Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill said the high number of applications demonstrates the need for careful evaluation to ensure equal opportunity for all qualified applicants.

Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh also warned that contractors awarded projects will face stricter accountability measures. He said government

agencies have been instructed to closely monitor timelines, enforce liquidated damages for delays, and terminate contracts where contractors consistently fail to deliver.

The minister added that performance bonds must remain valid throughout the life of contracts, while tighter controls will now apply to contract variations and pricing adjustments.

Officials say once the verification process is completed, contract distribution will continue under the government's broader **"One Guyana"** vision aimed at expanding economic opportunity and participation nationwide.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has approved the appointment of new Regional Executive Officers (REOs) to strengthen governance and improve public service delivery across the country.

The newly appointed officers will work closely with regional administrations, local democratic organs, and communities to advance development programmes and ensure faster, more effective delivery of services.

The Government said the appointments reflect its continued commitment to building professional, responsive, and people-centred institutions that support inclusive development in every region of Guyana.

NEW REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS APPOINTED ACROSS GUYANA



Dr. Steven Cheefoon
Region One



Mr. Deolall Rooplall
Region Two



Mr. Surendra Kayume
Region Three



Mr. Juan Edghill Jr.
Region Four



Ms. Mary Samaroo
Region 5



Mr. Ronald Harsaywack
Region Six



Dr. Josh Kanhai
Region Seven



Mr. Marti DeSouza
Region Eight



Mr. Karl Singh
Region Nine



Dr. Gregory Harris
Region 10

PRESIDENT ALI WARNS PUBLIC OFFICIALS, MISUSE OF STATE FUNDS WILL BRING SEVERE CONSEQUENCES



The meeting with the public officials

Public officials entrusted with managing taxpayers' money were that accountability, transparency and strict compliance with procurement laws remain non-negotiable under the government's development agenda.

President Dr

Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered the message during a high-level meeting with Cabinet members, Regional Executive Officers, Permanent Secretaries, officers from the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB), and

accounting officers from all regions.

Joined by Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, the president stressed that holding public office comes with a "sacred trust" and warned that any misuse of public resources or breaches in procurement systems will attract severe consequences, including removal from office where necessary.

President Ali said every dollar spent by the State must contribute directly to improving the lives of citizens and advancing national

development.

He also underscored the need for all procurement systems, including regional tender boards, to operate with full transparency and strict adherence to the law.

As part of efforts to strengthen oversight, the head of state said government will increasingly utilise technology, including artificial intelligence, to monitor procurement systems, improve efficiency and identify irregularities in public spending.

According to the president, officials involved in financial misconduct, conflicts of interest or improper procurement practices, including the use of multiple companies, will face strict penalties.

"The Government remains committed to accountability, transparency, fiscal prudence, and improved service delivery across all levels of Government administration," President Ali stated.

Vice President Jagdeo echoed similar

sentiments, noting that every expenditure must be assessed against its impact on citizens and the country's broader development goals.

He said government continues to strengthen oversight systems to eliminate waste, improve efficiency and ensure taxpayers receive value from public investments.

The meeting forms part of broader efforts to modernise governance systems and reinforce accountability across the public sector as Guyana continues its rapid economic expansion.

NATIONAL DIGITAL ID DRIVE ADVANCES WITH STRONG UPTAKE ACROSS REGIONS



Data Protection Commissioner, Aneal Giddings

More than 21,000 Guyanese have already enrolled for the National Digital Identification Card (E-ID) as the country continues to scale up its electronic identity system aimed at modernising access to public and private services.

According to

Data Protection Commissioner Aneal Giddings, approximately 75 per cent of the issued cards have already been distributed, with the programme on track to reach its target of 200,000 enrolments by the end of 2026.

Speaking with the Department of Public Information (DPI), Commissioner Giddings said the digital ID system is designed to simplify everyday transactions by giving citizens a single secure form of identification that links essential records across government agencies.

"The intention here is to ensure that every citizen or every card holder is able

to conduct their day-to-day lives through government services and other types of services efficiently and quickly," he explained.

He said the system will significantly reduce the burden on citizens who currently have to submit multiple documents when accessing services. Using the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) as an example, he noted that claimants often have to provide supporting documents from several agencies, a process that could be streamlined through the digital ID platform.

Since the Digital Identity Card Act came

into effect on March 31, 2026, enrolment efforts have expanded nationwide through permanent registration offices and mobile outreach teams.

Offices are already operational in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, while additional facilities are being established in Regions One, Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten to ensure full national coverage.

Region Four currently leads in enrolments with more than 12,000 registrations, followed by Region Three with around 6,000 and Region Five with over 2,300. Mobile outreach teams have



also extended services to hinterland and riverain communities such as Bartica, Puruni and Lethem, contributing an additional 500 enrolments.

Commissioner Giddings said special arrangements are also being made to reach elderly and vulnerable citizens who are unable to travel.

"We would take that information and we would put in place systems that will enable us to go

to them," he said, noting that mobile teams work closely with village leaders and agencies such as the General Registrar's Office (GRO) to assist with documentation.

While the digital ID will not replace passports, driver's licences or GECOM identification cards at this stage, officials say it represents a major step toward more efficient and connected public service delivery.



The opening of the festival

As the lights illuminated the National Stadium at Providence on opening night of Guyana Festival 2026, President Irfaan Ali called on citizens to embrace cultural diversity not as a source of division, but as a powerful bridge toward unity and national development.

The three-night festival, held under the theme “Song, Soul and Taste”, formed part of activities marking Guyana’s 60th Independence Anniversary. It brought together performances, cuisine, and cultural

DIVERSITY MUST BECOME GUYANA'S STRENGTH - PRESIDENT ALI URGES AT GUYANA FESTIVAL OPENING

showcases that reflect the nation’s rich and diverse heritage.

Addressing the large gathering, the President said the milestone anniversary should serve as a moment of reflection and recommitment to the vision of “One Guyana.”

“The 60th anniversary of Guyana’s Independence is therefore a time for recommitment: a recommitment to unity; a recommitment to inclusion,” he said, stressing that it must be lived as a national reality rather than treated as a slogan.

He reminded citizens that independence in 1966 marked the beginning of a journey to define a national

identity shaped by unity rather than colonial divisions. According to the President, Guyana’s strength lies in the contributions of its six peoples; African, East Indian, Indigenous, European, Chinese and Portuguese, whose histories and cultures together form the foundation of the

to transform diversity into strength rather than separation.

“The promise of independence was never just political freedom. It was the possibility of the emergence of a new society,” he said.

President Ali urged Guyanese to reject the politics of suspicion and



The opening of the festival

nation’s identity.

He noted that while colonial rule deepened divisions, independence created the opportunity

division, emphasising that national progress must be inclusive and shared. He further stated that prosperity alone



The opening of the festival

cannot guarantee unity if its benefits are not fairly distributed.

“Through ‘One Guyana’, we say that unity is not sameness. Unity is respect for differences,” he said.

The President also appealed to young people to lead a new era free from inherited prejudices, underscoring their role in turning diversity into lasting national strength.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues

credited the revival of the festival to the President’s earlier vision when it was first introduced in 2014, noting its continued role in positioning Guyana as a cultural and tourism destination.

The opening night featured a cultural showcase, setting the tone for three days of celebration, reflection, and national pride through the Guyana Festival’s cookout competition and “One Guyana” concert.

From veterans to young recruits, ranks of Guyana’s security forces marched through the capital during the 60th Independence Anniversary parade, honouring six decades of sovereignty and the continued defence of the nation’s borders.

The Joint Services Parade brought together members of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), Guyana Police Force (GPF), Guyana Fire Service (GFS), Guyana Prison Service (GPS), the National Guard Corps,

GUYANA PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS GUARDIANS OF SOVEREIGNTY WITH INDEPENDENCE PARADE



The 60th Independence Anniversary Joint Services Route March

and other supporting agencies in a unified display of discipline, duty, and national pride.

The event formed one of the centrepieces of the 60th Independence Anniversary celebrations, as veterans, serving officers, and new recruits lined the streets in a symbolic passing of the torch across generations of uniformed service.

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed

Forces, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, delivered a strong message of gratitude and resolve, praising the Joint Services as the guardians of Guyana’s sovereignty.

“They are the reason our map is not negotiable,” the President said, framing their service as a daily defence of independence. He described sovereignty as a living responsibility rather than a historical achievement, anchored in the continued protection of Guyana’s territory.

President Ali underscored that Guyana’s territorial integrity remains non-negotiable, urging



The 60th Independence Anniversary Joint Services Route March

national unity behind the security forces. He also called on citizens to support the Joint Services even in moments of criticism, warning against abandoning those tasked with national defence.

Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier Omar Khan, speaking on behalf of the Joint Services, emphasised service as a shared national

purpose, describing it as a commitment to peace, duty, and the fulfilment of the nation’s aspirations.

Also present were Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond, and other senior officials, as the parade stood as a powerful tribute to Guyana’s past, present, and future in uniform.



The 60th Independence Anniversary Joint Services Route March

PRESIDENT ALI TOURS USS NIMITZ, PRAISES US-GUYANA SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

President Ali tours USS Nimitz, praises US-Guyana security partnership

President Dr. Irfaan Ali visited the US aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, where he underscored Guyana’s growing security partnership with the United States and praised the vessel’s crew for their service and discipline.

The President was accompanied by

members of his Cabinet and senior officers of the Guyana Defence Force during the visit aboard the carrier, which is currently operating in the Caribbean as part of an expanded American military presence in the region.

Speaking during the engagement, President Ali described the visit as a significant moment for regional cooperation and shared democratic values.

“It was my greatest honour to join some of the finest men and women in uniform on board the USS NIMITZ as we celebrate partnership, friendship, and our collective goal of ensuring a region built on peace, democracy, and the shared values of the members of the Shield of the Americas,” the

President said.

He also lauded the **“military power, precision, discipline, and unconditional commitment”** of the carrier’s crew.

During the visit, President Ali met four Guyanese serving aboard the vessel, saying the encounter filled him with pride.

“I pray for God’s blessing, guidance and protection for all our men and women



President Ali visits USS Nimitz as US Carrier expands Caribbean presence

in uniform as we work tirelessly in support of the development, prosperity and friendship of our two nations,” he added.

The USS Nimitz, the US Navy’s longest-serving aircraft carrier,

recently entered Caribbean waters following an extension of its operational service life, bringing additional naval capability to the region amid ongoing security cooperation initiatives.

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Green Bean 青豆仔 4.50 case	Lemon 18kg 黃檸檬 4.80 case	Celery 西芹 6.00 case	Sunkist Orange 新奇士橙 4.30 case	Avocados 32s 牛油果 5.00 case
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Frozen Whole Rabbit (Without Head And Feet) 冰鮮兔子 Reg: \$7.59 6.59 lb	Frozen Cow Tongue 冰鮮牛舌 Reg: \$8.99 7.99 lb	Quail 鷄鶉 Reg: \$13.99 12.99 pk

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GUYANA FESTIVAL 2026 THREE NIGHTS OF CULTURE

Across three unforgettable nights at the National Stadium, Providence, the Guyana Festival 2026 unfolded as a dazzling tribute to the nation's 60th Independence Anniversary, transforming the venue into a living canvas of heritage, rhythm and unity.

From Friday's opening to Sunday's grand finale, the grounds pulsed with energy as cultural groups, artisans, performers and exhibitors brought Guyana's multi-ethnic story vividly to life. Each space within the festival became a journey through identity, where African, East Indian, Indigenous, Portuguese, Chinese and European traditions stood proudly side by side, woven together by shared national pride.

LIVING EXHIBITIONS

Night after night, visitors moved through vibrant cultural booths and immersive displays, experiencing the textures of tradition through handmade crafts, ancestral storytelling, traditional fashion, and live demonstrations that honoured generations of knowledge. Indigenous craftsmanship drew admiration, with intricate handmade pieces reflecting a deep connection to land, legacy and identity. Across the festival, artisans worked in real time, reviving age-old skills and inviting younger generations into the creative process.

The air was constantly alive with performance, drumming that echoed like a heartbeat, dances that told stories without words, and music that carried the spirit of a diverse people united in celebration. Each performance added another layer to the festival's atmosphere, turning the stadium into a stage where culture was not just displayed, but felt.



FESTIVAL 2026 COLOUR AND CELEBRATION

FLAVOURS OF GUYANA

Sunday's cookout competition brought flavour to the forefront, as culinary artists showcased the richness of Guyanese cuisine. From cook-up rice and tuma pot to curry and garlic pork, the food spaces became gathering points of memory and meaning, where recipes told stories of heritage, migration and community. Patrons engaged directly with cooks, turning each tasting into an exchange of culture and knowledge.



ONE GUYANA CONCERT

As night fell on the final evening, the One Guyana concert closed the festival on a high note, filling the stadium with music, light and national pride. Guyana's leading voices lit up the stage, delivering performances that blended entertainment with cultural expression, while a massive audience celebrated in unison. For many artistes, the platform represented more than a performance, it was a moment of recognition, growth and national visibility. By the end of the three-night celebration, the Guyana Festival 2026 stood as a powerful reminder of a nation's journey; diverse in culture, rich in talent, and united in spirit as Guyana continues to mark 60 years of Independence with pride and purpose.





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3 Crown Peppermint Tea Bag 20's

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Ovaltine Biscuits 150 g

99¢ each



Kraft BBQ Sauce original or Chicken'Rib 455 ml

199 each



NuPak Browning Sauce 142 ml

149 each



Maggi Season-Up Fish Seasoning 125 g

299 each



Yupin Mushroom Flavoured Soy Sauce 500 ml

139 each



Holiday Luncheon Meat 340 g

229 each



Dunya Harvest Dry Pigeon Peas 540 ml

139 each



Dunya Harvest Green Lentils 10 lb

999 each



Grace Flavoured Fritter Mix 270 g

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NEW INDUSTRIAL POWERHOUSE COMMISSIONED AT COVENT GARDEN



MACORP opens US\$35M Training and Equipment hub on East Bank Demerara

Guyana's industrial sector received a major boost with the official commissioning of the Machinery Corporation of Guyana Limited (MACORP) new US\$35 million state-of-the-art facility at Covent Garden, East Bank Demerara.

Years in the making, the modern complex stands as one of the most significant private-sector investments in

the country's heavy equipment and technical training landscape. Built on nearly two million hours of safe, injury-free labour, the facility goes far beyond traditional warehousing of machinery.

It features fully equipped classrooms for hydraulics, electrical and electronic systems, alongside equipment simulators, self-directed

learning spaces, and internationally certified instructors. The centre is designed to strengthen MACORP's Technical Career Path programme, which trains young graduates from vocational schools and develops them into certified specialists capable of servicing increasingly complex

industrial systems across Guyana.

Over the years, the company has also trained hundreds of operators, feeding skilled labour directly into key sectors of the national economy.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony on behalf of President Dr Mohamed



MACORP opens US\$35M Training and Equipment hub on East Bank Demerara

Irfaan Ali, Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill described the investment as a strong signal of confidence in Guyana's rapid development trajectory. He stressed, however, that growth must be matched by skills development.

"Every heavy-duty machine is only as effective as the technicians, engineers, mechanics, and operators behind it," he noted, urging greater investment in apprenticeships, internships, and training partnerships across the private sector.

Minister Edghill also highlighted the economic risks of weak technical capacity, pointing out that equipment breakdowns can quickly delay major projects and drive up national costs.

MACORP President

and General Manager German Consuegra said the facility reflects a long-term commitment to Guyana's transformation, while Vice President for Distribution Latin America at Caterpillar Inc, Pablo de la Iglesia, described the investment as a strong vote of confidence in the local market.

More than 1,400 workers contributed to the project, including small and medium-sized enterprises and women-led businesses, which were recognised for their role in delivering the complex.

The new facility stands not only as an industrial milestone, but also as a signal that Guyana's development story is increasingly being built on both infrastructure and people.

GUYANA'S PREMIUM RUM INDUSTRY CELEBRATED AS SYMBOL OF NATIONAL PRIDE

Prime Minister Mark Phillips has praised the role of Guyana's rum industry in promoting the country internationally, describing El Dorado Rum as a symbol of national pride, resilience and excellence.

Speaking at the launch of the El Dorado 60th Anniversary Special Reserve Rum, the Prime Minister commended Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL) for using Guyana's 60th Independence Anniversary to celebrate both the country's heritage and one of its most recognised products.

He said the commemorative premium rum reflects the company's deep connection to Guyana's identity and journey as a



Launch of El Dorado Grand Special Reserve rum

nation.

According to the Prime Minister, El Dorado Rum has grown into a globally respected and award-winning brand that continues to elevate Guyana's image around the world.

"I will compare

it to the Guyanese passport because wherever this rum goes in the world, it opens doors, commands respect, and reminds everyone that something small can be world-class," he

stated.

Prime Minister Phillips also praised the company's master blenders and distillers, describing them as among the best in the Caribbean.

While celebrating the industry's achievements, he acknowledged that Guyana's rum sector has faced major challenges in recent years, including shifts in global demand, reduced consumer spending in export markets and increased competition from subsidised brands in the United States.

Despite those difficulties, he credited DDL for successfully

transitioning from bulk exports to premium bottled products, a move he said helped Guyana gain a foothold in the international premium rum market.

"You saw that the future was not in selling rum by the tanker, but by the bottle," the Prime Minister said.

He also encouraged Guyanese at home and abroad to support local products, noting that doing so helps preserve jobs, sustain economic growth and protect one of Guyana's historic industries.

The Prime Minister described

the commemorative blend as **"liquid independence"**.



Launch of El Dorado Grand Special Reserve rum

GUYANA'S JUBILEE BRANDING HEADED TO 400 NYC SUBWAY STATIONS



Lexington Avenue showcases Guyana's Diamond Jubilee Independence branding

Guyana's Independence Jubilee celebrations are set to take over New York City's subway system, with all 400 subway stations across the city expected to feature branding commemorating Guyana's milestone anniversary.

Guyana's Ambassador to the United States, Michael Brotherson, said the initiative aims to showcase Guyana's culture, achievements

and growing global presence while fostering pride among Guyanese living abroad.

"It really brings a sense of pride to the diaspora," Ambassador Brotherson stated.

The campaign across one of the world's busiest transit systems reflects the increasing visibility and influence of the Guyanese community in New York.

The subway branding forms part

of a wider calendar of Jubilee activities being held in the city.

Several Guyanese will also be honoured by the New York City Council for their contributions to the state.

According to Caribbean Life, honourees include Adrian Dutchin, Albert Baldeo, Alicia Hyndman, Alim Hassim and Aliyah Abrams among others.

No passport required: Barbadians, Guyanese to travel with ID cards from July

CITIZENS of Barbados and Guyana will soon be able to travel between the two countries using only their national identification cards under a new bilateral arrangement announced ahead of both nations' 60th Independence anniversaries.

The measure, which takes effect on July 1, 2026, will allow eligible citizens holding valid national ID cards to travel between Barbados and Guyana without the need for a passport.

In a joint announcement issued on Monday, the governments of Barbados and Guyana described the move as a major step towards deeper regional integration and closer people-to-people ties between the two CARICOM nations.

The arrangement was approved following the passage of the necessary orders by the cabinets of both countries after consultations involving government officials, CARICOM IMPACS and other regional stakeholders.

Officials said the initiative is ex-

pected to make travel easier and more affordable while supporting stronger family connections, increased tourism, cultural exchange, business travel, trade and investment.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley described the arrangement as a practical example of Caribbean integration benefiting ordinary citizens.

"This initiative represents another significant step forward in regional cooperation, south-south collaboration, and people-centred governance," Mottley said.

"As our two nations mark 60 years of Independence, it is fitting that we take this step together. This is the kind of practical integration that Caribbean people can feel in their daily lives. It will truly make Caribbean integration a lived reality."

President of Guyana Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali also welcomed the development, calling it a symbol of the close relationship between the two countries and their shared vision for a more connected Caribbean region.



Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Minister of Public Service Zulfikar Ally display their respective ID cards

"As Guyana and Barbados celebrate 60 years of Independence, this initiative symbolises not only the enduring friendship between our nations, but also our shared vision for a more connected, accessible, and united Caribbean community," Ali said.

The two governments said additional details regarding eligibility requirements and implementation procedures will be released ahead of the July 1 start date.

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NEW ROAD NETWORK TO LINK REGION THREE DEVELOPMENTS WITH SILICA CITY

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali says government is laying the groundwork for a transformative transportation network that will connect major developments in Region Three to the emerging Silica City, opening what he described as a new chapter in Guyana's urban and economic expansion.

During an inspection of road works along the West Coast of Demerara, the president used maps and drone imagery to show how new corridors stretching from Parika to Wales will eventually connect to cross-river links near Timehri, creating direct access to Silica City along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

The ambitious project forms part of a broader strategy to reshape how people move, live and do business across Regions Three, Four and Seven.

Silica City, one of



President Ali inspecting expanding road networks along the West Coast of Demerara

the country's flagship development initiatives, is being designed as a modern and sustainable urban centre aimed at reducing population pressure along the coast while creating opportunities for housing, commerce and industry.

The city's first phase includes 290 house lots, while a second phase is expected to add nearly 400 more lots alongside a retirement village, healthcare hub and sports tourism facilities.

President Ali explained that the

growing network of roads will also extend through Sand Hill Road and Del Conte Road towards Bartica, forming a continuous transportation corridor linking communities and economic zones across several regions.

Plans are also advancing for another bridge linking Regions Three and Four in the vicinity of Timehri, which would significantly improve access to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and nearby agricultural lands.

According to the president, the infrastructure push is about more than reducing traffic congestion.

"That is a whole new ecosystem that will be built around those plants," he said while referring to developments planned for the Wales corridor, including the Gas-to-Energy project, fertiliser plant, gas bottling facilities and a data centre.

At the same time, he stressed the importance of protecting wetlands and conservancy systems along sections of the proposed alignments.

"This wetland area is not only for protection; it's about ecotourism potential that can be developed with the infrastructure we are building," the

president stated.

The inspection also focused on severe traffic congestion affecting commuters between Ruimzeight and Tuschen.

President Ali said government is moving to expand and interconnect roads from La Jalousie to Tuschen to divert light traffic away from the heavily congested West Demerara Public Road.

The planned route will largely follow the old railway embankment

through communities including Meten-Meer-Zorg, Stewartville, Cornelia Ida and Hague.

Government estimates the project will involve the rehabilitation and widening of about 36 bridges.

"We are hoping that in six to eight months, we can bring relief for the traffic coming from La Jalousie all the way to Tuschen," the president said.



New corridors from Parika to Wales will connect to cross-river links near Timehri, creating a direct route into the emerging urban centre.

LINDEN'S NEW BRIDGE 95% COMPLETE AS FINAL WORKS PROGRESS



Aerial view of the progress on the construction

The long-awaited transformation of daily travel between Wismar and Mackenzie is now coming into clear view as construction of the

new Wismar/Mackenzie Bridge moves into its final stages.

According to the Ministry of Public Works, the massive infrastructure project is now 95.4 per cent complete and remains on track to become fully operational by June.

Towering above the Demerara River, the 220-metre-long precast structure has already seen 95 per cent of its concrete works completed, while

crews continue work on drainage systems, access roads and surrounding infrastructure designed to support smoother traffic flow for thousands of commuters.

Beyond the bridge itself, construction teams are also building roundabouts, wider connecting roads and reinforced box culverts to improve drainage and road safety in the area. Once completed, the upgraded network will feature four-

lane roadways, traffic islands and a geo-carriageway aimed at easing congestion and improving transportation between the two communities.

The project, being executed by China Railway Construction (Caribbean) Co Ltd, represents one of the largest infrastructure upgrades in Linden in recent years.

For many residents, the bridge is expected to mean shorter travel

times, easier access to businesses and services, and improved movement of goods in and out of the mining town.

The bridge forms part of a wider national push to improve transportation links across Guyana, with additional projects advancing for the Essequibo, Berbice and riverain communities.

But in Linden, attention remains fixed on the nearing completion of a structure many residents believe will reshape how the town moves and grows for decades to come.

REGIONS ONE, SEVEN, EIGHT AND NINE RECEIVE VEHICLES FOR MEDICAL OUTREACH

Healthcare workers serving Guyana's remote hinterland communities are expected to reach patients more efficiently following the distribution of a new fleet of vehicles by the Ministry of Health.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony recently handed over approximately 13 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), four utility vehicles (XUVs), and seven motorcycles to health authorities in Regions One, Seven, Eight and Nine to support medical outreach services.

The vehicles will assist hospitals and health centres in accessing difficult terrain and reaching villages



Health Ministry boosts Hinterland healthcare with new fleet of vehicles

where transportation challenges often delay healthcare delivery.

Dr Anthony said the investment forms part of the government's wider effort to strengthen healthcare systems in

hinterland and riverine communities.

Over the past several years, the government has expanded healthcare access in remote regions through the construction and

rehabilitation of health facilities, deployment of telemedicine services, training of community health workers, and improvements in emergency response capabilities.

Residents in these regions are already benefitting from expanded maternal and child healthcare, vaccination programmes, specialist clinics and routine outreach services.

According to the Ministry of Health, the additional vehicles will further improve the

ability of healthcare workers to travel safely and respond quickly during emergencies and scheduled outreach exercises.

The initiative reflects

the government's continued commitment to ensuring all Guyanese, regardless of location, have greater access to timely and reliable healthcare services.



Health Ministry boosts Hinterland healthcare with new fleet of vehicles

GUYANA ON TRACK FOR ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING YEAR IN RICE PRODUCTION

Rice farmers on the Essequibo Coast are celebrating another milestone for Guyana's agriculture sector after national rice production crossed the 800,000-tonne mark for the first time in the country's history.

Speaking during a series of engagements with farmers in Region Two, including at the Regional Democratic Council compound, Minister Mustapha said Guyana is now on course to set another production record in 2026.

"Since the inception of rice growing and rice planting in our country, we have now crossed the 800,000 tonne mark," the minister told farmers.

According to Mustapha, rice production has increased steadily over the past five years, climbing from approximately 500,000 tonnes in 2020 to about



The meeting with the farmers in Region Two

810,000 tonnes in 2025.

What makes the achievement even more significant, he noted, is that the acreage under cultivation has remained relatively stable at around 232,000 acres. Instead, increased yields and improved productivity have driven the expansion.

Farmers gathered at the meetings heard that investments in better seed varieties, fertiliser support, drainage and irrigation systems, bridges and farm-to-

market roads have all contributed to the growth of the industry.

"We have to make this industry more competitive. It is now the farmers, you have to play your part too, reducing the cost of production so more money will remain in your pocket," Minister Mustapha said.

The minister said approximately \$832 million has already been invested through the National Drainage and

Irrigation Authority (NDIA) for drains, canals, bridges and farm access roads in Region Two, while another \$3.2 billion was spent nationally on fertiliser support for farmers.

He also reminded farmers that more than \$2 billion in flood relief assistance was distributed following severe flooding in 2021.

But the meetings were not only about rice.

Onion farmers were informed that a pilot project involving approximately 48 acres of onions is expected to begin shortly on the Essequibo Coast as government pushes towards greater self-sufficiency in food production.

"We want to be

self-sufficient in onion," the minister stated, adding that technical support and training will be provided through the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI).

New shrimp and poultry projects are also expected to begin within weeks.

Under the shrimp initiative, participants are expected to produce at least 10 buckets

of shrimp every six weeks, while eight poultry operations are projected to become fully operational within four months, producing roughly 40,000 birds every six weeks.

Meanwhile, government is also moving ahead with plans for a \$1.5 billion grain silo in Essequibo, with the tender process already underway.



The meeting with the farmers in Region Two

MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECT TO UNLOCK 55,000 ACRES FOR FARMING EXPANSION



Farmers raising their concerns at the meeting

Farmers in Region Five are being urged to move beyond traditional rice cultivation and embrace a wider range of crops as the government accelerates its push for agricultural diversification across the region.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha made the appeal during an outreach with farmers from Number 10 Village, the Mahaica River, and Strathavon/Cane Grove areas, where he outlined major new opportunities expected to reshape

farming in the coming months.

Central to the expansion is the Hope-like Canal project, which is expected to bring approximately 55,000 acres of new farmland under cultivation once completed. The project will significantly improve drainage and irrigation systems, opening vast areas for intensified agricultural production.

"From Mahaica to Mahaicony, we will have 55,000 acres of new land become available for farmers," Minister Mustapha said, describing the initiative

as a major boost for rural livelihoods.

However, the minister stressed that land expansion alone is not enough, urging farmers to diversify into high-value crops and integrated farming systems. He encouraged producers to allocate at least one or two acres to crops such as onions, coconut, cauliflower, carrots, lettuce, and bell peppers.

"We are not only looking at one area of production. We want farmers to get involved in integrated production," he said. **"We want to**

diversify."

Minister Mustapha pointed to the success of onion cultivation in Region Nine, where production has expanded rapidly, describing it as a **"success story"** that Region Five farmers can replicate.

The minister also highlighted support systems available through agencies such as the GRDB, NAREI, GLDA, and NDIA, assuring farmers that technical assistance, inputs, and infrastructure support would be provided.

"If you are interested, we can

work along with you and start that immediately," he told attendees.

Farmers raised concerns about drainage, irrigation, and production costs, while also expressing interest in accessing more land and participating in new initiatives.

Minister Mustapha said government remains committed to supporting farmers through subsidies and incentives, but stressed that growth will depend on a shift in mindset.

"We have to change our mindset and take advantage of the opportunities available," he said.

NEW DAIRY PUSH BEGINS AS 89 PREGNANT HEIFERS LAND IN GUYANA

A shipment of 89 pregnant heifers has arrived in Guyana, marking the start of a major dairy project aimed at strengthening local milk supply.

The cattle were flown in under a US\$30 million investment by Demerara Distillers Limited and landed at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), where they were carefully offloaded and processed as the first batch for the company's dairy development at Moblissa along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha said the project supports



The arrival of the heifers

government efforts to reduce dependence on imported dairy products and strengthen national food security. He said the initiative also aligns with wider plans to expand both dairy and beef

production across the country.

According to Minister Mustapha, the investment forms part of a broader push that includes plans to import additional livestock to

scale up local production and support long-term growth in the sector.

Officials from the Guyana Livestock Development Authority worked alongside DDL representatives during the operation to ensure animal health and import standards were met.

The company said the heifers are being acclimatised in controlled facilities designed to support their health and productivity as the project moves into its next phase of development.



The arrival of the heifers

PRESIDENT ALI CHALLENGES IWOKRAMA TO BECOME GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH HUB



Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat

Thirty years after Guyana made the bold decision to set aside nearly one million acres of rainforest for conservation, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali is now challenging the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development to evolve into a global leader in biodiversity science, environmental data

officials, diplomats, community representatives and conservation stakeholders, Minister Bharrat outlined three direct challenges from the president to the Iwokrama board and management. The first is the creation of a National Biodiversity Research Programme anchored at Iwokrama, aimed at bringing together long-term ecological studies, species mapping and climate resilience research under one national platform. The second challenge is the establishment of an Iwokrama Biodiversity Data Platform that would make environmental

research openly available to scientists, students and policymakers.

“Knowledge must not only be generated, it must be shared,” Minister Bharrat stressed while delivering the president’s remarks.

Minister Bharrat noted that while conservation remains a national priority, the forestry sector continues to support approximately 25,000 families, many from indigenous and rural communities.

“The answer to that is value added and that is the direction we will be heading as a country,” the minister underscored, noting that Guyana’s oil and gas sector cannot absorb that workforce.

He pointed to agroforestry and eco-tourism as practical solutions that allow

communities to earn from the forest while preserving it for future generations.

Guyana currently maintains one of the world’s lowest deforestation rates, even below its targets under the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.

Minister Bharrat also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to placing 30 percent of Guyana’s landmass under protection by 2030, insisting that the administration remains serious about balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility.

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM TRAINING CENTRE TO WELCOME FIRST STUDENTS IN 2027



Director of the Guyana Technical Training College, Professor Clement Sankat

As Guyana’s tourism industry continues to expand at a rapid pace, a new Hospitality and Tourism Institute in Port Mourant, Region Six, is expected to begin welcoming its first students by September 2027.

The institute, which will operate under the Guyana Technical

Training College, is being designed to prepare Guyanese for careers in the country’s growing hospitality sector, where international hotels, eco-lodges and resorts are creating increasing demand for skilled workers.

Director of the college, Clement Sankat, said approximately 12 international hotels are either under construction or preparing to open across Guyana, making hospitality training more important than ever.

According to Professor Sankat, the new institute will offer programmes in hotel management, front desk operations,

reservations and billing, housekeeping, culinary arts, beverage services and cosmetology.

Students will also receive practical training



Construction is ongoing at the Tourism and Hospitality Institute in Port Mourant, Region Six

in areas such as manicure and pedicure services.

The facility is expected to feature specialised kitchens, laboratories, workshops and restaurant-style

training spaces that allow students to gain real-world experience in food preparation and customer service.

Professor Sankat

explained that programmes will range from short six-month courses to certificate and diploma programmes designed to provide internationally

recognised qualifications. Discussions are already underway with overseas partners and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation to ensure the training meets global tourism standards.

Beyond academics, the institution is also expected to improve access to technical education for students from rural and hinterland communities. A student residence capable of housing up to 100 is currently under construction and is expected to be completed latest early next year.

“They will be fully taken care of in terms of food,

board, lodging and meals, all living on campus,” Professor Sankat said.

He noted that the broader vision is to transform Port Mourant into a major centre for technical education and regional development while creating economic opportunities for surrounding communities.

Commissioned in February 2026, the US\$120 million Guyana Technical Training College already serves as a major training hub for the oil and gas sector through its advanced diploma programmes and offshore simulation facilities.

NEW GREEK VESSEL TO BOOSTS FERRY SERVICE IN REGION ONE



New Kalliopi N vessel to ply Region One route, offering improved services

Residents of Region One are set to benefit from improved marine transport services following the arrival of a new Greek-built vessel,

Kalliopi N, now added to the Transport and Harbours Department (T&HD) fleet.

Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill, while inspecting the vessel, said its introduction will significantly enhance ferry capacity and reliability along the Region One route.

“The people of Region One now have four boats to improve their service and to improve efficiency,” he noted, highlighting the expansion of the current fleet, which

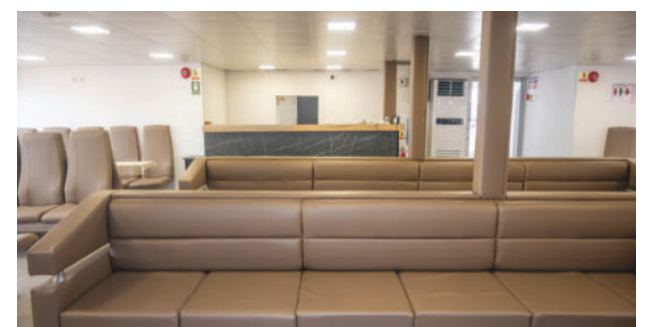
includes the MV MA Lisha, MV Kimbia, and MV Kanawan.

Built in 2024, the Kalliopi N can carry 264 seated passengers, around 82 cars, and 19 trucks, and is fully air-conditioned. It is expected to serve key hinterland locations such as Mabaruma and Port Kaituma, strengthening links for both residents and businesses.

The vessel was acquired through a partnership with the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), whose Director General

Stephen Thomas said the ship underwent several upgrades, including improved accommodation areas, sanitation facilities, and crew spaces.

The government is also exploring the introduction of WiFi services across its ferry fleet, further modernising regional transport. The vessel is expected to feature in upcoming 60th Independence Anniversary celebrations as part of the “Diamond Odyssey Cruise.”



New Kalliopi N vessel to ply Region One route, offering improved services



New Kalliopi N vessel to ply Region One route, offering improved services

REGIONS TWO AND FIVE STUDENTS STEP INTO DIGITAL DESIGN FUTURE WITH NEW AUTOCAD FACILITIES



Abram Zuil Secondary School became the first of many to receive a state-of-the-art AutoCAD Laboratory (3)

Students at Abram Zuil Secondary School in Region Two and Bygeval Secondary School in Region Five are now getting a firsthand look at the future of engineering and digital design through newly commissioned AutoCAD laboratories aimed at strengthening technical

education across Guyana.

The new facilities are equipped with modern technology, including more than 20 high-performance laptops at Abram Zuil and 18 at Bygeval, along with interactive smart screens and industry-standard AutoCAD software. The investment allows students to move beyond traditional drafting methods and develop advanced 2D and 3D

technical designs in a modern learning environment.

For many students, the labs represent more than just computers and software. They offer a pathway into growing sectors such as engineering, architecture and construction, industries that continue to expand as Guyana undergoes rapid transformation and development.

Minister of

Education Sonia Parag described the initiative as a historic investment in the country's education system, emphasising the importance of balancing academic achievement with practical technical training.

She noted that students must be equipped with real-world, job-ready skills that prepare them for future careers and innovation-driven industries.

Deputy Chief Education Officer for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Ritesh Tularam said the laboratories will serve as spaces where creativity and innovation can thrive.

Additional AutoCAD laboratories are expected to be commissioned soon at North Ruimveldt, Hope, Zeeburg and New Amsterdam Secondary Schools as the Ministry of Education continues expanding technical and vocational opportunities nationwide.

BETHANY GETS ITS FIRST-EVER NURSERY SCHOOL

Residents of Bethany on the Supenaam Riverbank in Region Two are celebrating a long-awaited milestone in early childhood education with the construction of the village's first nursery school. This \$26.5 million government-funded project is aimed at strengthening access to quality learning in riverain communities.

The new facility marks a significant step forward for the small community, where nursery pupils previously shared space

with Bethany Primary School students. That arrangement, according to local officials, had led to overcrowding and limited room for effective learning.

Now, with a dedicated building in place, young learners are benefitting from their own classrooms and improved facilities designed specifically for early childhood development.

Toshao of Bethany and Director General of the Ministry of

Amerindian Affairs, Sonia Latchman, described the project as a transformative achievement for the village, noting that it reflects continued efforts to extend educational development beyond coastal areas into hinterland and riverain regions.

She explained that while the school has not yet been officially commissioned, it is already in use by approximately 20 pupils. Minor interior works

are still ongoing, but these are not expected to disrupt classes or students' activities.

Latchman also highlighted the collaborative approach behind the project, pointing to consultations among the Village Council, head teacher, and regional engineers in determining the school's location adjacent to the primary school.

She praised the government for its commitment to improving education

infrastructure in underserved communities, saying the new nursery school represents a meaningful

investment in the future of Bethany's children and the wider Region Two riverain belt.



Bethany Nursery School

STEM ROBOTICS PROGRAMME EXPANDS TO REGION THREE - YOUTH TURN OUT IN NUMBERS

The Government of Guyana is continuing its push to prepare young people for a technology-driven future with the expansion of its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and robotics education programme, now officially launched in Region Three.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport hosted a workshop and registration drive in Leonora, where

large numbers of young participants turned out eager to explore robotics, coding and other areas of modern technology.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr. reaffirmed that the initiative is designed to equip youth with critical 21st-century skills needed to compete in an increasingly digital global economy.

He said STEM education is essential for building problem-

solving ability, creativity, teamwork and innovation among young Guyanese.

"The opportunities that the government is creating for you are bigger than ever before, and you get an opportunity here to experience what this field is like," he said.

The programme forms part of a wider national strategy

to expand access to innovation-based learning, ensuring that young people across all regions can benefit regardless of their location.

According to the minister, training will continue through October 2026, with instructors deployed across communities and transport support provided where necessary to ensure full participation.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr., engaging with participants at the workshop

Participants at the Leonora session engaged in hands-on activities, including basic coding exercises and introductory robotics construction in an interactive learning environment.



New well system in Adventure community

Residents of Highway Adventure along the Soesdyke-Linden are celebrating a major improvement in their daily lives following

GWJ'S INTERVENTION ENDS LONG STRUGGLE FOR WATER IN ADVENTURE COMMUNITY

the commissioning of a new well by the Guyana Water Incorporated, giving the community its first reliable access to treated water.

For years, residents relied on a nearby creek connected to the Moblissa Creek system, a source that was often unreliable and especially difficult to depend on during dry periods. Many families were forced to spend significant sums securing alternative

water supplies.

Community Chairman Alonzo Cornelius said the new facility represents a major transformation, noting that what once cost households thousands of dollars in water arrangements is now a burden of the past.

He explained that the intervention followed community consultations under the Community Development Council framework, where water

was identified as a top priority.

The Adventure community, officially recognised in 2020, has grown from about 13 households to more than 25, now home to roughly 60 to 70 residents.

Cornelius said technical assessments were conducted before the well was installed to determine the most suitable location and system design.

"The government

has been very responsive," he said, adding that the project was guided by population needs and distance considerations.

He also pointed to broader development underway in the community, including a multipurpose building, village shop, transport support for schoolchildren and improvements in roads and electricity.

GOVT EXTENDS CHILDCARE SUPPORT TO COVER NIGHT-TIME CARE FOR CHILDREN



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, interacting with children of the Anna Catherina Early Childhood Development Centre

Parents working late-night and overnight shifts are now receiving greater support as the government expands its pioneering Day and

Night Care and Early Childhood Development initiative to include full night care services for children.

The announcement was made at the Anna Catherina Early Childhood Development Centre in Region Three by Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, as part of efforts to strengthen childcare support systems for

working families.

The expanded service allows parents engaged in non-traditional work hours to leave their children in a safe, structured and supervised environment staffed by trained caregivers.

“So now parents, bring your children, it’s time for night care,” Minister Persaud said. “You can go to work on your shift and

know that your children are safe in this beautiful environment.”

Beyond basic supervision, the centre also focuses on early childhood development, ensuring children benefit from structured learning activities and achieve key developmental milestones.

The initiative, first announced in 2022, is aimed at supporting working families,

empowering women, and creating safer spaces for children.

Guyana’s first dedicated Day and Night Care Centre was commissioned at Anna Catherina in 2025, marking a regional milestone in childcare services.

Since then, the ministry has been expanding the programme nationwide, with additional centres already established and more planned across the country.

Representatives from across Guyana’s justice, health and social sectors gathered at Duke Lodge as a national symposium opened with renewed calls for stronger action against sexual assault, abuse and harassment.

The event, held in observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, brought together government agencies, members of the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil society organisations and international partners to examine Guyana’s progress and ongoing

EXPERTS, ADVOCATES GATHER TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

challenges in addressing sexual violence.

Hosted by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security through its Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Policy Unit, the symposium was held under the theme, “Looking Back, Moving Forward: A Roadmap to Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment.”

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister Vindhya

Persaud said sexual violence remains a deeply rooted issue that continues to affect families and communities across the country.

The minister highlighted several services introduced to support survivors, including the 914 hotline, which receives more than 14,000 calls annually, with nearly one-third linked to violence, abuse and

sexual assault cases.

She also pointed to initiatives such as the iMatter app and the Hope and Justice Centres, which provide counselling, legal aid, medical support, police reporting and temporary shelter services in one location.

Throughout the symposium, participants reflected on Guyana’s progress over the past five years while discussing ways to

strengthen prevention, intervention and long-

term support systems for survivors.



Symposium held to strengthen Guyana’s response to violence, abuse and harassment

LEONORA SERVICE CENTRE EASES LONG TRIPS AS THOUSANDS ACCESS KEY GOVT SERVICES

Thousands of Region Three residents are now benefitting from the government’s new service centre at Leonora, with many describing it as a major relief that has eliminated the long and costly trips previously required to access basic public services in Georgetown.

Since its opening by President Irfaan Ali in December 2025, the facility has remained busy daily, handling a steady flow of applicants



Florence Younge



Khemraj Deonarie



Zenelle Cobena

for passports, electronic identification (e-ID) cards, driver’s licences, birth certificates and other essential documents.

During a visit by the

Department of Public Information (DPI), residents could be seen moving efficiently through multiple services under one roof at the Leonora Mall

location.

For Uitvlugt resident Khemraj Deonarie, the centre has significantly reduced travel stress. He explained that what once required a full-day

journey to Georgetown can now be completed quickly and conveniently in one location.

“You get your documents so quickly... you could do three or four transactions in the same building,” he said.

Others shared similar experiences, including Leguan resident Rooprand Ramnarine, who described the process as **“fast”** and **“perfect,”** while visiting to renew his wife’s passport.

According to staff attached to the digital ID services, the centre

processes between 130 and 150 persons daily.

Residents such as Florence Younge and Zenelle Cobena said the convenience has reduced fatigue and time lost from work, while others described the facility as a **“lifesaver”** for families needing urgent documentation.

The Leonora Service Centre is part of the government’s broader push to decentralise public services, with more centres planned across other regions to bring essential services closer to citizens.

MOBILE GOVT UNIT TO DELIVER SERVICES, TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS GUYANA

The Ministry of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation has launched a mobile outreach bus designed to bring government services directly to citizens across Guyana.

The initiative, driven by the vision of President Irfaan Ali, aims to improve access to public services, particularly for

residents in communities who may face challenges reaching government offices.

According to a video posted on the ministry’s Facebook page, the bus will travel to communities nationwide, providing access to programmes such as CitizenConnect, GovConnect, SkillsConnect,

Coursera opportunities, scholarships and other public services.

The government says the project is part of its broader push to modernise service delivery and ensure citizens can easily access information, training and opportunities closer to where they live.

Officials noted that the mobile unit builds on

existing service centres already established in several regions, further strengthening efforts to decentralise government services.

The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to create a more connected and accessible Guyana, where essential services are delivered efficiently and equitably to all citizens.



Staff from the Ministry of Public Service, Government Efficiency & Implementation, in the communities of BV and Triumph, East Coast Demerara, engaging residents

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS TASKFORCE FORMED TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING AND LEARNING ACROSS SCHOOLS



Minister Parag at the first meeting of the taskforce at the National Centre for Education and Research Development (NCERD) auditorium in Kingston, Georgetown

The Ministry of Education has launched a National Mathematics Taskforce aimed at strengthening student performance and reshaping how the subject is taught across Guyana's schools. Education Minister Sonia Parag announced the initiative as the taskforce held its first meeting at the

National Centre for Education and Research Development (NCERD) auditorium in Kingston, Georgetown, bringing together specialists from all regions.

The group has been charged with analysing performance trends and developing a long-term national strategy to improve mathematics teaching and learning, with a strong focus on teacher preparation and classroom delivery.

Minister Parag said a key challenge lies in bridging the gap between

subject knowledge and effective instruction, noting that strong mathematicians are not always strong classroom teachers.

She stressed that reforms must begin at the Cyril Potter College of Education, where future teachers are trained, to ensure better alignment between content mastery and teaching skills.

"We still have to align those things so that you have more teachers who have the knowledge and can also deliver

in the classroom," she said, adding that improvements in training are not a criticism of teachers but a necessary system upgrade.

The Minister also called for a shift away from rote learning, urging a deeper focus on understanding and problem-solving. She further pointed to literacy barriers that affect students' ability to interpret mathematics questions correctly.

The taskforce is expected to consult

widely across all regions before finalising its recommendations. Proposed ideas include maths clubs, competitions, classroom **"maths walls,"** and structured weekly assessments.

Parag described the initiative as a **"new beginning"** for mathematics education, stressing that sustained improvement will require collaboration between educators, parents, and school leaders nationwide.

NEW STRATEGY TARGETS STRONGER MATHEMATICS PERFORMANCE OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS



Minister Parag being interviewed on MoE's strengthened Maths strategy with Kiana Wilburg

New opportunities are opening up for local musicians as the government rebuilds the National Music School and develops recording studios to strengthen the creative sector

Minister within the Ministry of Culture,

Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs said the music school is expected to become operational soon, marking a key step in expanding structured training and professional development for musicians.

Speaking on

the *"Starting Point Podcast,"* Minister Jacobs explained that the initiative forms part of a broader strategy to build a stronger creative ecosystem where artistes can learn, record and perform at a professional level.

He noted that several recording studios are also being developed and are expected to come on stream within the next year, providing musicians with access to high-quality production spaces and experienced engineers from both Guyana and abroad.

According to the

minister, the goal is to ensure local talent benefits from both international expertise and home-grown skills, helping artistes produce and refine their work in a professional environment.

The government is also expanding performance platforms through national events such as the One Guyana Concert, giving local performers exposure to large audiences and helping them build confidence on major stages.

Minister Jacobs added that efforts are also

underway to strengthen copyright legislation to better protect musicians and ensure they benefit financially from their creative work.

Alongside these developments, young artistes are also gaining exposure

through opportunities in hospitality and entertainment sectors, as part of a wider skills development push aimed at building a sustainable creative industry.



Local artistes performing at a recent One Guyana mega concert

Over 9,000 students and teachers across Region Three are now benefiting from safe and reliable drinking water following the commissioning of 15 school-based water purification systems under Project FLOW, a national education and sustainability initiative.

The systems were officially handed over between May 6 and 8, 2026, marking a significant expansion of FLOW, the National Water Purification Sustainability Initiative led by Recover Guyana, the Greater Guyana Initiative (GGI), and the Ministry of Education.

Implemented across secondary schools, the programme is designed not only to improve access to clean drinking water but also to reduce plastic waste and promote environmental responsibility among

students. Speaking at the official handover ceremony at Tuschen Secondary School, Project Lead and President of Recover Guyana, Dr. Dave Lalltoo, said Region Three now stands as a model for sustainable development.

He noted that the region now accounts for 16 completed FLOW sites, including a pilot at West Demerara Secondary School, which alone helped save more than 65,000 plastic bottles within nine months.

"Region 3 now stands as a national example of sustainable development done correctly," Dr. Lalltoo said, highlighting collaboration between schools, technical experts, communities, and partner agencies.

15 SCHOOLS IN REGION THREE GET CLEAN WATER SYSTEMS



The commissioning of the water purification systems across Region Three secondary schools under Project FLOW

President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge, said the initiative reflects the impact of the Greater Guyana Initiative, a 10-year, US\$100 million partnership between ExxonMobil Guyana, Hess, and CNOOC aimed at strengthening national development.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag also praised the project,

describing it as a strong example of partnership-driven development that improves both education infrastructure and student wellbeing.

"We believe in development through partnership," she said, noting that the systems contribute to cleaner, safer school environments while supporting the government's broader

education goals.

Beyond health benefits, FLOW is also expected to generate significant environmental and economic impact, including projected savings of \$87 million in the region over three years and a long-term reduction of approximately 25 million plastic bottles.

At school level,

educators say the impact is already visible. Headteacher of Leguan Secondary, Elizabeth Petrie, said students are better hydrated and more focused in class since the installation of the system.

Meanwhile, technical training institutions such as Leonora TVET Centre are using the solar-powered systems as hands-on learning tools for students studying renewable energy and engineering.

As FLOW expands toward 155 schools nationwide by 2029, the initiative continues to merge education, sustainability, and innovation into a growing model for national development.

PORT KAITUMA RESIDENTS GET LIFE-CHANGING SURGERY RIGHT AT HOME

For 66-year-old Denecia Abrams of Fitzburg, Port Kaituma, a 22-year battle with a hernia has finally come to an end, following a successful surgery at the Port Kaituma District Hospital during a government-led medical outreach in Region One.

Abrams is among 24 patients who underwent major surgical procedures at the newly commissioned operating theatre, receiving care free of cost within her own community after years of living with the condition.

“I had a hernia surgery last night and it was confirmed good and I am so



Cyprian Sampson

happy with the government sending people to help us in our community,” she said, expressing deep relief and gratitude. **“We don’t have money to go to Georgetown... so I am glad it happened here. This is development for our community.”**



Denecia Abrams

Another beneficiary, 64-year-old Cyprian Sampson of Canal Bank, also praised the initiative after successfully undergoing a cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal). He said the outreach spared his family significant financial and emotional strain.

“If I had to go to Georgetown, that would have been a lot of money and stress on my family,” Sampson noted, adding that he was thankful for the **“great job”** done by the medical team.

The outreach was led by Senior General Surgeon and Medical Superintendent of the Diamond Regional Hospital, Dr Sheik Amir, who highlighted the importance of bringing specialist care to hinterland communities that often lack such services.

He noted that treating patients within their familiar environment improves

comfort and post-operative recovery, while also allowing knowledge-sharing between visiting specialists and local medical staff.

The programme, first launched in 2008, was revived in 2021 and has since expanded to reach more hinterland regions. It forms part of a broader national effort

to strengthen healthcare delivery and reduce the burden of travel for specialist treatment.

From hernia repairs to gallbladder removals and other complex procedures, residents say the outreach is not only saving lives, but transforming access to healthcare in Guyana’s interior.



Dr Sheik Amir and team during a procedure

Patients at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) are expected to experience faster, more connected healthcare services as the Ministry of Health moves ahead with a major digital transformation of Guyana’s public health system.

Health Minister Frank Anthony announced that the digitalisation of patient records, first introduced at the Festival City Polyclinic, is now being expanded to the country’s largest public hospital.

The initiative aims to replace thousands of paper-based records with an integrated electronic system designed to improve efficiency, strengthen patient

care and reduce delays in accessing medical information.

Speaking on the *“Starting Point”* Podcast, Dr Anthony explained that implementing the system at GPHC is a far more complex process because of the hospital’s large patient volume and multiple departments.

“So, in another couple of weeks, we are going to be able to roll that out at the outpatient department,” the minister said.

Once completed, patients will be able to access their medical records digitally, even



Some of the features of the modern digital X-ray unit

from their phones, making it easier for doctors and healthcare providers to review histories, prescriptions and treatment plans across different facilities.

The minister said one major advantage of the system will be improved tracking of

medication histories and easier transfer of information between healthcare providers.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with plans already in place to expand the system to hospitals across the

country and eventually integrate private healthcare providers.

At the same time, the Ministry of Health is increasing the use of artificial intelligence within the healthcare system.

According to Dr Anthony, AI-powered systems are already being used at five hospitals to analyse digital X-rays and identify abnormalities within seconds.

The technology can also assist in reading CT scans and MRIs, helping doctors detect conditions more quickly and accurately.

“They can

perceive things that humans would have a challenge finding,”

Dr Anthony said, noting that the system currently operates with about 99 per cent accuracy.

Despite the growing use of AI, radiologists will continue reviewing scans to ensure reliability and strengthen diagnostics.

The combined use of digital records and advanced diagnostic technology marks another major step toward a more modern, efficient and patient-centred healthcare system in Guyana.



Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony conducts a site visit to Diamond Regional Hospital

The Ministry of Health is moving to strengthen accountability and improve the quality-of-care patients receive across Guyana’s public healthcare system through the introduction of a new quality audit programme.

Health Minister

Frank Anthony said the initiative will create an additional layer of oversight to ensure doctors, nurses and healthcare workers follow established medical guidelines and treatment protocols when managing patients.

Speaking on the

NEW AUDIT SYSTEM TO IMPROVE PATIENT TREATMENT

“Starting Point” Podcast, Dr Anthony explained that the audits will focus heavily on chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension, conditions that continue to affect large numbers of Guyanese.

Under the system, internal audit teams will conduct random reviews of patient records to determine whether the recommended standards of care are being followed at health centres and hospitals.

“Let’s say in diabetic care, we have these protocols,

but maybe somebody at a health centre is not following the protocol, our internal quality audit would go out, pull random charts, check the charts,” the minister explained.

If gaps or shortcomings are identified, healthcare providers will receive guidance on corrective measures, while additional training may also be recommended where necessary.

According to Dr Anthony, the monitoring process is expected

to lead to noticeable improvements in how patients are treated throughout the public healthcare system.

“You will start seeing a qualitative change in how our patients are being managed because everybody will be monitored,” he said.

Alongside the audit initiative, the government is also working to align Guyana’s healthcare facilities with international standards.

The ministry has already partnered with Joint Commission

International to place six newly built hospitals on a pathway toward international accreditation.

The process includes strict operational standards, clinical protocols and random inspections to ensure facilities maintain high levels of care and patient safety.

The long-term goal is to create a more modern, accountable and patient-centred healthcare system that delivers consistent quality care nationwide.

BARTICA FAMILIES SET TO RECEIVE KEYS TO NEW HOMES WITHIN WEEKS



Some of the V-roof units at Block CHPA Development

The dream of home ownership is now just weeks away from becoming reality for dozens of families in Bartica as the government moves closer to handing over newly constructed homes under a major housing development in Region Seven.

During a recent inspection of ongoing works, Housing Minister Collin Croal announced

that residents could begin moving into the homes within two weeks, with agreements for several units already being finalised.

The development at Block CHPA Housing Scheme forms part of a wider \$900 million investment aimed at expanding housing access in the mining town while boosting economic activity in the region.

Of the 55 homes under construction, about 41 have already been completed, with the remaining units advancing after portions

of the project were retendered following earlier contractual setbacks.

But beyond the concrete foundations and freshly paved roads, the project is also creating opportunities for local residents. Minister Croal noted that contractors from Bartica were heavily involved in the construction process, keeping jobs and investment within the community.

“We have all local contractors involved in building these houses,” the minister said during the visit.

The fully completed homes come equipped with water, electricity, road access and modern amenities, including tiled floors, kitchen cupboards and spacious yards. Two designs are available, bungalow and V-roof homes, with prices ranging from approximately \$11 million to \$13 million.

Project Engineer Jamaal Brotherson explained that each three-bedroom home sits on roughly 50 by 100 feet of land and is move-in ready.

Meanwhile, the government is already

preparing for further expansion as housing demand in Bartica continues to grow. Authorities are working with the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission to secure additional lands, while infrastructure works continue at the developing Tract BAR housing area.

According to Minister Croal, investments across Bartica’s four housing developments now exceed \$2.1 billion, reflecting what he described as continuing efforts to address the region’s housing backlog and create stable communities for families.

Shipping activity along the Demerara River is expected to become smoother and more efficient following the signing of a US\$11.2 million contract for dredging works on the Demerara Channel from Houston to Golden Grove, East Bank Demerara.

The Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), under the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, signed the agreement with Boskalis CPG Inc. during a formal ceremony attended by senior government and company officials.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, said the project reflects

US\$11.2M DREDGING PROJECT TO IMPROVE ACCESS THROUGH DEMERARA CHANNEL



Contract signing for the dredging of the Demerara River

direct feedback from stakeholders within the shipping industry, who have long highlighted the need for additional dredging to improve navigability along the channel.

He described the intervention as a key milestone in

strengthening Guyana’s maritime infrastructure as trade activity continues to expand.

The works will be carried out over a two-month period and will cover a nine-kilometre stretch of the channel. The project includes widening the

navigational route to 100 metres and deepening it to five metres to allow safer and more efficient passage of vessels.

Once completed, the upgraded channel is expected to improve vessel access, reduce shipping delays and enhance the overall efficiency of port operations, supporting the movement of goods and services across the country’s growing economy.

The project will also contribute to safer navigation conditions and improved reliability for commercial shipping along one of Guyana’s

key waterways.

Permanent Secretary Vishal Ambedkar, along with senior representatives from MARAD and Boskalis CPG Inc., witnessed the signing, marking the formal commencement of the project.

The dredging exercise forms part of ongoing efforts to modernise Guyana’s maritime sector in line with increasing economic activity and expanding trade demands.



Contract signing for the dredging of the Demerara River

RUPUNUNI ENTREPRENEUR EXPANDS HERBAL TEA BUSINESS THROUGH NEW AGRO-PROCESSING FACILITY



Entrepreneur Vanessa House-Khan displaying her traditional herbal tea product at the commissioning of the new facility in Region Nine

For years, Vanessa House-Khan had to travel long distances and overcome countless obstacles just to keep her small herbal tea business running in the Rupununi.

From printing labels to accessing equipment needed to package her products, operating a business in Region Nine often meant depending on services outside her community.

Today, however, the owner of Diva Herbal Teas says a new chapter is beginning for entrepreneurs across the region.

The opening of the new Business Incubator Centre and Agro-Processing Facility in Lethem is



Grinding and packaging of locally sourced and dehydrated leaves

already transforming opportunities for small businesses by giving them access to modern equipment, training and support services close to home.

House-Khan, who joined the Small Business Bureau in 2023, is among the entrepreneurs now benefitting from the facility.

Her business produces a range of traditional medicinal teas using locally sourced herbs grown in the Rupununi. Inside the new centre, every stage of production, from washing and dehydrating leaves to packaging and labelling, can now be completed in one location at no cost.

“Sourcing essential services is quite hard in the region,” House-Khan explained. **“Even the labels I would have printed, I would have to go over the border or to neighbouring communities to get what I needed.”**

Now, with access to industrial equipment and technical support, she believes her business can expand far more efficiently while remaining rooted in her community.

House-Khan currently produces nine herbal tea blends, including lemongrass, cinnamon, mango leaf, stone breaker, congo palm, Saint John’s bush and daisy teas.

“Now that we have this space, I only hope that I don’t run out of raw materials to be processed,” she said with a smile.

Beyond helping individual businesses, she believes the facility will strengthen partnerships among farmers, producers and entrepreneurs across Guyana.

“This facility encourages growth. It encourages partnership and linking,” she noted.

For small business owners in Region Nine, the new incubator centre represents the beginning of new economic possibilities in the Rupununi.

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PRESIDENT ALI EYES CARIBBEAN MOTOR RACING CAPITAL AS GUYANA PREPARES FOR HISTORIC GT CHALLENGE 2026



President Ali addressing the dinner hosted at State House, Main Street

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has set his sights on transforming Guyana into the motor racing capital of the Caribbean, as government deepens its investment in the South Dakota Circuit and prepares to host the country's first major international motorsport event.

Speaking at a State House dinner on Main Street with the leadership of the Guyana Motor Racing & Sport Club (GMRSC) and organisers of the 2026 GT Challenge de Las Americas, the President described the moment as **"the beginning of something great in motor racing."**

The event brought together private sector partners, diplomats, racing officials, drivers, mechanics and stakeholders, reflecting growing regional interest in Guyana's emerging motorsport industry.

President Ali made it

ambition is to reach EP3 status and eventually attract E1-level international racing events, positioning the country on the global motorsport map.

Citing global figures, the President noted that sports tourism is worth

Challenge de Las Americas, set for July 11 and 12, will be the first international motorsport event ever hosted in Guyana, featuring GT3-class vehicles from manufacturers such as Porsche, Lamborghini, McLaren, Mercedes-

Benz and Audi.

Organisers say the event is already driving strong demand, with hotels filling up as teams and support crews prepare to arrive.

GMRSC President Shairaz Roshandin said Guyanese fans can expect an unprecedented experience, while event leaders credited strong collaboration and belief in Guyana's readiness.

The evening also featured a charity auction of sporting memorabilia, raising \$81 million, with a portion directed to a charitable cause, further highlighting the growing link between sport, community and national development.



Motor racing cars on display

clear that government's investment in the South Dakota Circuit is not just about sport, but about economic transformation.

"We are spending a lot of money, and we are not spending this money without understanding the linkage to the economic spinoff it brings," he said, pointing to tourism, hospitality and small business opportunities tied to major sporting events.

He said Guyana's

hundreds of billions of dollars, with major racing events generating significant revenue for host cities around the world, a model he believes can be replicated in Georgetown and Timehri.

"When there is a major motorsport event, restaurants fill up, taxi drivers smile, mechanics work overtime, food vendors do brisk business," he said. **"This is the right thing for Guyana."**

The 2026 GT



The event also featured an auction of sporting memorabilia



The auction raised \$12.5 million which will go towards a charitable cause

PRESIDENT ALI INSPECTS FLOOD-HIT AREAS OVERNIGHT AMID INTENSIFYING RAINFALL



President Ali is visiting flood-affected areas in Georgetown following several days of heavy rainfall

As intense rainfall battered Georgetown overnight, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali moved through flood-affected communities inspecting drainage systems, monitoring pumps and speaking directly with residents impacted by rising floodwaters.

From Queenstown to Alberrtown and

Alexander Village, the president led late-night assessments while much of the city slept, as heavy rainfall left several low-lying communities inundated and residents watching worsening conditions around their homes.

Accompanied by engineers, drainage officials and members of the joint services,

President Ali assured citizens that a full-scale national response was already underway as authorities prepare for continued rainfall in the days ahead.

"We are not a government that hides from challenges," the president declared during one of the inspections.

Officials reported that 217 pumps are currently operating nationwide, including at least 15 working continuously across Georgetown to keep water levels under control. Another 11 pumps are expected to arrive soon to strengthen drainage efforts in vulnerable areas.

At the River View Pump Station in Ruimveldt, an additional

pump was installed following instructions from the president to improve drainage in nearby flood-prone communities, including Alexander Village.

Despite nonstop pumping operations, residents in several areas watched water levels rise in clogged drains and alleyways. During the inspections, President Ali pointed to blocked drainage channels, overgrown trenches and sand-filled drains, blaming poor maintenance by the Georgetown Mayor and City Council for worsening conditions in some communities.

"The lack of maintenance from the city, of course, is a major challenge for us," he said.

The government

has since activated a 24-hour monitoring room involving the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority, the Civil Defence Commission, the Guyana Police Force and other joint services agencies.

Special teams

were also dispatched overnight to inspect construction sites and clear blockages affecting drainage channels throughout the city.



President Ali is visiting flood-affected areas in Georgetown following several days of heavy rainfall



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



CRICKET MEETS CUISINE AS 519G OPENS IN GEORGETOWN

A new addition to Georgetown’s hospitality and entertainment landscape has officially opened its doors with the launch of “519G” at the AC Marriott Hotel.

The Caribbean brand, owned by West Indies cricket legend Courtney Walsh, is already a popular name in Trinidad and Tobago, known for its bold flavours, music-driven atmosphere, and vibrant island energy. Its expansion into Guyana brings that same signature experience to the capital.

The launch adds another dynamic layer to Guyana’s growing food, leisure and tourism scene.



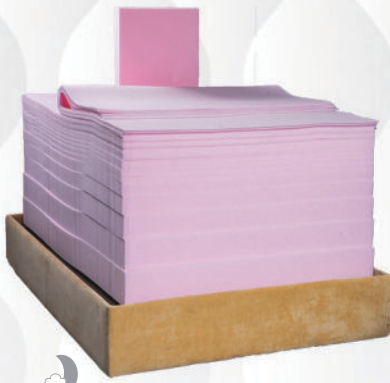
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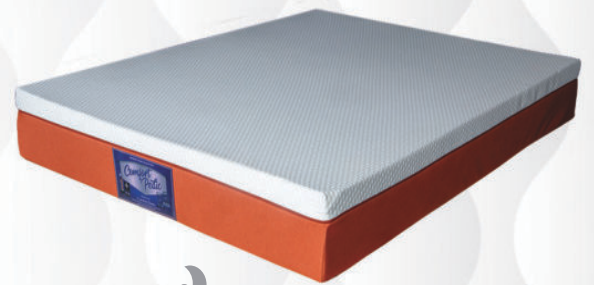
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New wave of development sweeping Region Ten

A NEW wave of development is reshaping Region Ten, with the government advancing projects aimed at improving connectivity and expanding economic opportunities across the region.

Speaking at the 60th Independence Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony in Linden on Sunday evening, Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, said the transformation reflects the PPP/C administration's long-term vision for national development.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, speaking at the 60th Independence Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday evening stated:

"You had your glory days of bauxite and the major role it played in contributing to our own national development and sustainability. But you are experiencing a new wave of development. We can still hold on to bauxite as a major item, or we could understand that the world has changed and we have to change with the world," the minister told the gathering.

The minister outlined several major infrastructural projects which he said are positioning Region Ten at the centre of Guyana's economic expansion and its integration with South America.

He noted that the first phase of the Linden to Mabura Hill road project, a vital link connecting Guyana and Brazil, is nearing completion and is expected to be finished by the end of August.

Minister Edghill disclosed that discussions are actively progressing for the next phase of the project from Mabura Hill to Kurupukari.

The government is also advancing



The completed 100 km stretch of the Linden to Mabura Hill corridor

plans for the construction of bridges and road networks linking Kurupukari to Annai and Annai to Lethem, to improve trade and transportation between Guyana and neighbouring South American countries.

Minister Edghill said the broader vision includes utilising Guyana's planned deep-water harbour at Palmyra in Berbice to move goods and services more efficiently and at lower costs across the region.

Another major development project highlighted was the new Wismar-Mackenzie bridge in Linden. He said the

bridge is more than 95 per cent complete and is expected to be opened by the end of June.

"We are getting ready in just a matter of weeks, by the end of June, to open for every Lindener and every Guyanese who passes through Linden, a bridge that we could be able to get across the Demerara River," he said.

Moreover, the minister pointed to other major infrastructural works aimed at strengthening Guyana's regional integration agenda as the country marks 60 years of Independence.

He announced that the process for

appointing supervisory consultants under the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) framework for the proposed bridge across the Berbice River has been completed.

Guyana also remains engaged with neighbouring Suriname on plans for the bridge across the Corentyne River, despite recent changes in Suriname's administration.

These projects form part of a wider national strategy to position Guyana as a major transportation and trade hub within South America.

Health Ministry ramping up training of staff

WITH dozens of new health facilities being opened and more hospitals under construction, Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony says the Ministry of Health is aggressively expanding training programmes for nurses, doctors and allied health workers to ensure the country has enough personnel to operate the growing health system.

Speaking on Starting Point, Minister Anthony said staffing has become a major focus as government continues to roll out new hospitals, health centres and health posts across Guyana. He noted that while infrastructure expansion is visible, the human resource push behind it often goes unnoticed.

"Because of this expansion in terms of the 30 new facilities, the health centres, the health posts, and of course the six new hospitals, it requires a lot of people to run the system," Minister Anthony said.

To meet growing demand, the ministry has significantly expanded nurse training, moving beyond Guyana's traditional three nursing

schools in Linden, Georgetown and New Amsterdam, which were only able to train about 200 nurses annually. Through partnerships with WHO/PAHO and a WHO collaborating centre at the University of São Paulo in Brazil, Guyana is being assisted in regards to training nurses online.

Additionally, nurses are being trained using a portal on the Coursera platform to rapidly increase capacity.

"Over the last three years, we have been training nurses using that portal. This year in July, we would graduate about 800 nurses and once they are successful, get their certification, all 800 would be employed by the Ministry of Health," Minister Anthony said.

To support practical learning, the ministry also established simulation centres in all 10 administrative regions, allowing nurses to complete hands-on training closer to home.

"A simulation centre would have mannequins and all these things, so as the nurses complete modules of theoretical training, we bring them into the



Dr Frank Anthony

simulation centres and we are able to teach them the practical components. That has been working very well and has helped us to improve how we train

people," the Minister explained.

Beyond nursing, the ministry is expanding training across multiple health disciplines, including registered nurses, midwives, nursing assistants, pharmacy assistants and other technical areas through approximately 20 separate programmes.

Training capacity has increased by about 100 percent over the last two to three years, while the ministry has employed close to 5,000 persons in the health sector.

Doctor training is also being scaled up to meet future staffing needs. The University of Guyana's medical intake has been expanded, while government is moving to roll out pre-medical and pre-clinical training in all 10 regions so students can begin foundational studies closer to their communities before advancing to clinical training.

The newly operational hospitals are also being equipped with classroom spaces to support on-site learning and clinical training.



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